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The just-released interim report by the Department of Veterans Affairs Inspector General's office substantiates some allegations and makes recommendations to address serious problems at the Phoenix VA medical care system and beyond.

NUMBERS ALSO TELL THE STORY.



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It was great to see the history of our squadron roll up. I'm just jealous that I can't fly it."

— Air Force Capt. Brian Shea, a C-130 pilot with the 37th Airlift Squadron, on seeing a C-47 that dropped Allied paratroops as part of the invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944

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MILITARY



MICHAEL CIAGLO, THE COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE/AP

Vice President Joe Biden walks to the stage during the graduation ceremony for the Air Force Academy class of 2014.

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Science & Medicine



Study: Men, women feel less stress at work than at home

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Biden: World needs new officer skills

Vice president speaks at Air Force Academy graduation

By DAN ELLIOTT
The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The military's newest officers need to be strategic thinkers as well as warfighters because the U.S. will have to choose carefully when deciding whether to act alone in the world or to build coalitions, Vice President Joe Biden told Air Force Academy graduates Wednesday.

Echoing President Barack Obama's remarks earlier in the day, Biden said the nation "must stay engaged with wisdom and humility." Obama, addressing Army cadets at the U.S. Military Academy graduation, urged restraint before any new military engagements.

Biden told the Air Force graduates that the nation needs a strong economy, a reputation for defending human rights and a presence in North Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific to remain a global power.

Biden said the U.S. and China can cooperate and avoid conflict.

He also warned of threats from cyberwarfare, extremism, terrorism and corruption.

For the first time, the world is faced with



JERILEE BENNETT, THE COLORADO SPRINGS (COLO.) GAZETTE/AP

The Thunderbirds fly over as cadets toss their hats at the end of the Air Force Academy graduation on Wednesday in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"the use of corruption and oligarchs in the conduct of a sinister foreign policy," Biden said. He did not elaborate.

Nearly 1,000 white-hatted cadets sat on the football field at the academy outside Colorado

Spring, their family and friends seated in the bowl of the grandstand behind them.

At the end of the ceremony, the Air Force Thunderbirds precision flying team roared overhead as the newly commissioned officers tossed their hats into the air. The Thunderbirds were absent last year after the military grounded them, citing budget cuts.

Biden joked about his own misadventures as a college student and told the cadets that minor infractions wouldn't keep them from succeeding.

"I hereby absolve all cadets who are on restriction for minor disciplinary violations," he said.

He congratulated the cadets on accepting gay and lesbian classmates and for fighting sexual assaults, a persistent problem in the service academies and the military. "No man ever has a right, except in self-defense, to raise a hand against a woman," he said.

At his speech to the U.S. Naval Academy graduating class last week, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel also urged the new officers to combat sexual assault.

In brief remarks at the Air Force Academy before Biden spoke Wednesday, Air Force Secretary Deborah L. James did not mention sexual assault but noted a number of upcoming weddings among the 2014 graduates, some to other graduates.

"I hear there's even been some Falcon love going on around here," she said, using the name of the school's mascot.

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MILITARY

The Whiskey 7 revival

D-Day C-47 stops at Ramstein en route to Normandy for invasion anniversary

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Parked on the flight line of this bustling military air field, the twin-engine, propeller-driven plane looked like a borrowed relic from an aviation museum.

Though it's old, the C-47 that dropped Allied paratroopers behind enemy lines before dawn on June 6, 1944, isn't done flying yet.

The plane, known as the Whiskey 7, landed at Ramstein on Monday after a smooth 3,600-mile trans-Atlantic crossing that marked its longest journey since shortly after World War II.

Its final destination is Normandy, France, where the aircraft and its crew will spend 10 days participating in commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of D-Day and paying tribute to the war's fallen and surviving soldiers.

Ramstein was an important stop along the way because of the plane's historical ties to the 37th Airlift Squadron.

During the war, Whiskey 7 was assigned to the 37th Troop Carrier Squadron, from which the 37th Airlift Squadron, now based at Ramstein, draws its lineage. The aircraft is believed to be the only remaining airworthy C-47 from the original carrier squadron, a distinctive status that sparked the bold idea for the plane's return to Normandy.

About two years ago, the squadron contacted the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, N.Y., and asked whether the museum might consider sending its flagship plane to Ramstein to help commemorate the squadron's own 70th anniversary, said Naomi Wadsworth, 55, one of the Whiskey 7's pilots.

"We just couldn't pull it together that fast," Wadsworth said. It was February, not a conducive time to cross the Atlantic due to the potential for wing icing and stormy weather. "And we didn't have the funding," she said.

"Then the whole Normandy thing came up," Wadsworth said. Around the same time, Gary Mitchell, a museum member and World War II buff who passed away in September, received an invitation from France to bring Whiskey 7 to the D-Day anniversary.

Though fundraising continues, the museum has almost reached its goal of \$250,000 needed for the trip, money that mostly covers fueling the slow, low-flying plane that so far on its journey to Normandy has guzzled more than 2,000 gallons. In Narsarsuaq, Greenland, the plane's third stop, the going rate for 100



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Members of the team responsible for bringing Whiskey 7, a vintage C-47, to Europe pose in front of the aircraft. From left are Craig Wadsworth, Lee Barber, Naomi Wadsworth, Mike Lindsay, John Lindsay, John Hyle, Austin Wadsworth, Dawn Schabile and Chris Polhemus.

low-lead fuel was \$20 to \$25 per gallon.

Countless Saturdays leading up to the May 15 departure were spent prepping the plane's engines, tires, landing gear, electrical systems and other components. After departing from Geneseo, a five-member volunteer crew — three pilots, a crew chief and a maintenance chief — made the short hop to Presque Isle, Maine, the northernmost piece of land on the eastern U.S. coast. The plane proceeded to follow the original Blue Spruce Route, an air route over the North Atlantic used to ferry aircraft between the United States and Great Britain during World War II.

"We were blessed with the weather on our trip," chief pilot Chris Polhemus, 58, said Wednesday while briefing reporters at Ramstein. "We're just tickled to death to be here."

Air Force Capt. Brian Shea, a C-130 pilot with the 37th Airlift Squadron, was also thrilled to see the plane parked a few steps outside the squadron's doors. "It was great to see the history of our squadron roll up," he said. "I'm just jealous that I can't fly it."

The C-47 will be available for public viewing by ID cardholders on Ramp 2-5 by the 37th Airlift Squadron from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday.

It's hard to imagine flying the plane like it was during the war, Shea said. "The courage that they had to be able to

take an aircraft like this and fly the way they did, not only with the flak and all the air defenses out there, but the number of aircraft that were in the air that day, the number of paratroopers; it's just something that we don't do anymore," he said. "I can't imagine putting it together."

Back then, after departing from RAF Cottesmore, England, the lead aircraft in the second wave across the English Channel, Whiskey 7, dropped a plane-load of paratroops from the 82nd Airborne Division on Drop Zone "0" near St.-Mere Eglise, France, shortly after 2 a.m. on June 6, 1944.

"It was one of a handful of airplanes that actually put its troops directly on the drop zone ... it was one of the very successful drops," Polhemus said.

After the war, the aircraft flew for the Canadian armed forces, then hauled commercial freight and later fell into the hands of a private aviator. The museum acquired the aircraft as a gift, with its current paint and markings from the former owner's family, said Whiskey 7 flight engineer Craig Wadsworth. "It's never been out of flying status since World War II," he said.

It has been given some upgrades, however. A modern radio and touch-screen navigation system made the crossing less challenging than it would have been 70 years ago, said Craig Wadsworth, Naomi's younger brother. But conditions

inside the plane on its most recent journey are still far from luxurious.

"It's not bumpy but it is cold," Craig Wadsworth said. "There is a heating system on board but it's really just effective enough to make sure the pilots' feet sweat."

The noninsulated cabin at one point dropped to 28 degrees Fahrenheit, Wadsworth and crew chief Mike Lindsay sat in the canvas jump seats bundled in sleeping bags and thermal underwear. The toilet was a five-gallon drum with a hole and seat on top.

Packed into the plane, just in case, are life rafts, parachutes and wet suits.

"Did I think we would make it? Absolutely," Wadsworth said. "Am I ecstatic, incredibly pleased and relieved at how well the airplane is operating? Absolutely."

At Goose Bay in Labrador, Canada, the crew had to change a defunct generator, one of two powering the aircraft's electrical systems. Other than that, the trip has been mostly smooth, with trailing winds boosting the plane's average speed of 130 knots (about 149 mph) to 180 knots (about 207 mph) — about one-quarter to one-third the average cruising speed of a commercial jet liner.

While in Normandy, the crew will meet up with Leslie Palmer Cruise Jr., 90, a paratrooper who jumped from Whiskey 7 on D-Day. Though the plane will execute several re-enactment parachute drops in Normandy, Cruise this time around has no plans for a flak-filled, nighttime free fall.

"We offered to let him jump out, but he said the last time he parachuted into France, he didn't get a very good reception," Craig Wadsworth said.

Thinking back on the young men who did jump 70 years ago is what inspired Polhemus, a longtime pilot for US Airways, to take the plane back to Normandy.

"I frequently sit in the back of this airplane and look at the ribs, the stringers, the rivets, the very same airframe" that those kids were looking at 70 years ago, he said. "They jumped from 700 feet into the night skies into German-occupied France, small-arms fire, not knowing what they were going to find."

"Bringing this airplane to Normandy this year, it puts the United States on the world stage. This airplane is nothing more than a symbol of where we were, what we did, why we did it ... it's who we are, our values."

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PACIFIC



PETER D. LAWOR/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert salutes as he passes the American and Japanese flags at the Ministry of Defense on Monday in Tokyo. Greenert is in Japan for a series of visits with Japanese political and military leaders.

Chief of naval operations: Number of ships to rise in the Asia-Pacific region

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy will increase the number of ships deployed in the Asia-Pacific region over the next few years, the chief of naval operations said Thursday.

“It’s not that big of a deal for us to think about rebalancing to

the Asia-Pacific because we have been here in numbers for some time,” Adm. Jonathan Greenert told an all hands call in Yokosuka.

Greenert stressed Japan as a focal point for the “Pacific pivot.”

“The most important part of the rebalancing is the relationship with the Japanese,” Greenert said.

“The security in Asia and the rebalancing, the center of gravity and the hinge-point is what we do here. Now the relationship with Japan starts in Yokosuka.”

He also stressed the importance of stronger alliances with Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand and Australia.

USFK, S. Korea to discuss threat of workers’ strike

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. and South Korean authorities are expected to discuss next month the treatment of thousands of Korean civilians who work for the U.S. military and what to do if they go on strike.

The Korean Employees’ Union threatened to walk off the job in April — coinciding with President Barack Obama’s visit to Seoul — over complaints ranging from shortened work hours to frozen wages. The walkout was postponed after a ferry disaster that left about 300 people dead.

U.S. Forces Korea said in an email that labor issues may be on the agenda for the June 11 meeting of the Joint Status of Forces Agreement Committee but the focus would likely be the impact that a strike would have on military readiness.

A union spokesman said the group has no plans yet to go on strike but has been told that Korean representatives plan to bring up the union’s concerns at the meeting.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs SOFA team said

the Korean government may discuss “better treatment” for civilian employees, though she would not specify what that meant.

Yonhap News recently reported the agenda may include job security for Korean employees concerned about losing their jobs when U.S. forces relocate to Pyeongtaek, as well as a wage increase.

The union, which claims to represent about 9,500 workers, has said it wants at least a 1.96 percent raise, retroactive to Jan. 1, with the expectation for additional negotiations this summer.

USFK announced in April that it was giving all South Korean workers a 1.7 percent raise, effective the beginning of May, calling it the maximum amount allowed by law.

USFK in March took steps to avert a mass furlough of its South Korean employees due to a shortfall in funding from Seoul. The South Korean government normally pays the bulk of their salaries but had not done so since a defense cost-sharing agreement between the two nations expired at the end of 2013. South Korea approved a new cost-sharing agreement in April.

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Japan looks to start housing project for US troop moves to Iwakuni

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Construction could soon begin on a controversial housing project for Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni as the realignment of U.S. forces in the region continues to consume this small base outside Hiroshima.

Japanese officials have declined to say when work will begin at Mount Atago — which was partially leveled for landfill to build a heavy-lift runway at the base — but contracts were awarded in March, and officials recently met with residents to address noise and safety concerns.

Plans call for the housing project to be completed by May 2015, said a Chugoku-Shikoku Defense Bureau spokesman, who spoke on customary anonymity.

The work is a critical step forward as Iwakuni prepares for its population to double to about 10,000 by 2017, following the move of Carrier Air Wing 5 from Naval Air Facility Atsugi as well as VMGR-152, a KC-130 squadron from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The moves are part of the realignment of U.S.

forces in the region that also includes moving 4,700 Marines and their families to Guam.

Atago will feature 270 officer housing units and a sprawling shared-use recreation complex complete with a cultural center, tea room, baseball and soccer fields and indoor volleyball and basketball courts.

Local Japanese residents sued the Japanese government in 2009 over the proposal after plans for a public housing project fell through, leaving the city and prefecture governments in debt. Prefecture officials then balked at selling the property to the national government before relenting in March 2012. City officials at the time requested the sports facilities and no additional burden on residents.

Both Carrier Air Wing 5 and VMGR-152 were supposed to relocate to Iwakuni by 2014 but were delayed by complications in securing the land rights, moving support facilities and building on- and off-base housing.

Iwakuni residents have complained about safety and disruptions as roads and facilities were changed or their use prohibited over the past few years.

“When you rebuild 77 percent

of a base in just a few years, there are going to be challenges for everyone.” MCAS Iwakuni spokesman Gunnery Sgt. Nathaniel Garcia wrote to Stars and Stripes. “We believe the base population understands the situation and continues to pull together.”

A heavy-lift runway was completed in 2010, and a commercial flight terminal followed a year later. The new Marine Aircraft Group-12 flight line has been commissioned, and its aviation maintenance facilities have been completed. Unit relocations are underway. A new steam generation plant and tactical aircraft refueling system also are finished.

“Soon, the old aviation facilities will be demolished to support additional construction,” Garcia wrote. “Although the facilities commissioned to date have been mostly operational, we will soon receive services and quality of life-related facilities. ... The good news is that the majority of utility work will be finished this year, and the amount of major road changes and impacts should begin to stabilize, if not decline, in the relative near term.”

Iwakuni residents also can expect construction to wrap up shortly on a new commissary,

post office and expansions of the Kintai Inn and the Command Assembly Hall.

New elementary, junior high and high schools are expected to be completed by March 2016. There are plans to build 790 on-base housing units by 2017; work already has begun.

There will also be a larger Marine Corps Exchange, a new firefighting facility, a new flight simulation facility, gate improvements and administrative and flight operations-related infrastructure.

“Overall, we are on track,” said Garcia, adding that the overall project is about two-thirds complete.

The defense bureau spokesman said it was premature to provide a final cost as some items are still in the planning stages; about 90 billion yen (approximately \$900 million) has been budgeted for fiscal 2014.

Another sign that the plan is on track was revealed this week when Japanese Ministry of Defense officials announced that facilities related to the KC-130s, including the aircraft parking apron and hangars, had been completed and turned over to the U.S. military as of May 30, a spokesman told

Stars and Stripes.

Advanced products from VMGR-152 began moving to Iwakuni from Futenma in March, Marine officials in Okinawa said this week. The main body of the squadron, including 870 Marines, civilian employees and family members, is tentatively scheduled to begin moving in June and be completed by the end of September. Their 15 KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft are expected to have full operational capability by April 2015.

Despite the move, the aircraft will still maintain a presence on Okinawa, officials said.

Stars and Stripes reporters Hans Kusumoto and Chiyoui Sumida contributed to this report.

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MILITARY

Compensation curbs likely in 2015 budget

By TOM PHILPOTT

In shaping a 2015 defense authorization bill, Congress has decided to protect the prized commissary benefit from the most worrisome budget threat to base grocery stores in decades.

But military personnel are not likely to escape other key compensation curbs to include a second consecutive annual pay raise cap in January of 1 percent versus 1.8 percent needed to match private sector wage growth.

Also, 1 million recipients of Basic Allowance for Housing are likely to see BAH increases dampened for the next three years until rates, on average, cover 95 percent of local rental costs versus 100 percent today.

Finally, beneficiaries with prescription drug needs likely will face sharply higher out-of-pocket costs as they rely on retail pharmacies, or if they choose to use brand name medicines over less costly generic drugs.

The pay raise cap, BAH raise slowdown and higher drug co-pays are all found in the Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the defense policy bill (S 2289) but not in the House-passed bill (HR 4435).

The Republican-led House Armed Services Committee continued its recent yearly pattern of leaving no fingerprints on any rollback in compensation growth sought by the Obama administration and military leaders to accommodate lowered defense

spending targets.

But the political rhetoric of protecting troops and families from budget cuts eventually has to give way to budget realities created by the bipartisan 2011 Budget Control Act, as amended last January, with its sequestration tool to force automatic cuts if Congress doesn't comply.

The Senate committee's embrace of plans to raise member out-of-pocket costs are likely to become law because the House, in rejecting any compensation curbs, failed to identify alternative cuts to avoid creating a \$2 billion hole in the defense budget. That means House-Senate conferees, in ironing out differences in separate versions of the bill, also must certainly will have to accept the Senate panel's menu for slowing compensation growth.

Both the House and the Senate committee agreed to reject authorization plans to consolidate TRICARE options and to raise TRICARE fees to include Medicare-eligible beneficiaries under TRICARE for Life. But pharmacy co-pay increases, to be phased in over 10 years, would mean higher out-of-pocket costs mostly for older retirees, spouses and survivors.

The Senate Armed Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., who is retiring, reshaped the administration's compensation package with an eye to soften the impact on enlisted members and their families, sources explained. It did so

MILITARY UPDATE

by rejecting a three-year plan to slash the \$1.4 billion annual subsidy for the Defense Commissary Agency.

A second theme was to avoid significant structural changes to compensation, including TRICARE reforms, until after the blue ribbon Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission releases its report with final recommendations next February.

Here's a rundown of compensation changes in the Senate committee bill, which House-Senate conferees will find difficult to derail in negotiating a final defense authorization bill this summer.

Raise cap. The Senate bill projects saving \$534 million in 2015 by capping the January military pay raise at 1 percent. Freezing the pay of generals and admirals at current levels would save another \$1 million.

Dampening BAH. No individual would see stateside housing allowances fall but annual increases would be smaller for three years until BAH, on average, covers 95 percent of average rental costs instead of 100 percent. Also, BAH rates no longer would be set to cover renter's insurance. In 2015, that would save

taxpayers \$391 million in housing allowances.

Prescription co-pays. The Senate bill accepts a plan to "fully incentivize" use of mail order and generic drugs. The current \$17 co-pay to get a 30-day supply of a brand name drug on the military formulary at a retail outlet would jump to \$26 in January. Co-pays at retail would increase by another \$2 annually over the next seven years to hit \$40 by 2022, and \$45 by 2024.

Beneficiaries now have a co-pay of \$44 to get nonformulary drugs at retail outlets. Under the Senate plan, nonformulary drugs could only be obtained by mail order. The co-pay for a three-month supply of pills by mail would be raised from \$43 to \$51 in January and increase annually thereafter to reach \$66 by 2017 and \$90 by 2024.

Co-pays for a brand name drug on formulary, when filled by mail order, would double from \$13 to \$26 next January and increase by \$2 to \$4 annually to reach \$34 by 2019 and \$45 by 2024.

Beneficiaries could continue to have prescriptions filled for free at base pharmacies. Generic drugs would continue to be provided at no charge by mail order until 2019 when a co-pay would be set at \$9 for a 90-day supply. The current \$5 co-pay for generic drugs at retail would be increased by \$1 a year starting in 2015 and reach \$14 in 2024.

In its 2013 defense bill, Congress ordered TRICARE to begin

a pilot program that requires older beneficiaries to obtain all maintenance drugs for conditions like high blood pressure through home delivery for at least a year. The plan took effect this spring. The Senate bill would replace the pilot with a requirement that all retirees and family members, regardless of age, use mail order or base pharmacies for maintenance meds.

Defense officials estimate that the higher drug co-pays, ignored by the House but moving toward enactment, will save \$829 million in 2015 alone.

Commissaries. Only the House bill would lower the commissary subsidy, by \$100 million, in fiscal 2015. But the cut is to encourage efficiencies and doesn't allow stores to set higher prices for patrons.

COLA minus-one. Under current law, members who enter service for the first time on or after Jan. 1 this year and serve until retirement would see retiree cost-of-living adjustments capped at 1 percentage point below inflation. The Senate bill would push the effective date of the COLA minus-one formula out two years to affect new entrants starting in 2016, giving the compensation commission time to reject or bless the change.

Sent comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120, email philpott@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

Army staff sergeant faces multiple assault charges

By DAN LAMOTHE

The Washington Post

An Army staff sergeant is accused of sexually assaulting several female soldiers since 2011, including at least one while he was deployed to Afghanistan and others while he recently while he served as a drill sergeant, according to military officials and court documents.

The accusations are detailed in a charging document filed against Staff Sgt. Angel Sanchez, who appeared at a pretrial hearing at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., on Wednesday. Sanchez has served at the base since August, training new soldiers with the 14th Military Police Brigade.

The Pentagon said this month that military's sexual assault problem is more widespread than commanders had realized. The Sanchez case is singular because he is alleged to have assaulted a dozen women, and he used his position as a drill sergeant to threaten some of his alleged victims, according to military documents.

Ernesto Gapasin, Sanchez's attorney, said in a phone interview that his client was formally notified of the charges by his commanding officer on May 13. Several of the women involved in the case testi-

fied Wednesday and Gapasin said he had questions about the reliability of some of them. Sanchez has served one deployment each in Iraq and Afghanistan, earning a Bronze Star, Army officials said. He has been removed from drill sergeant duty, and currently serves in an office job with his unit, said Tiffany Wood, a base spokeswoman.

Sanchez is accused of sexually assaulting four women and assaulting eight others by touching them inappropriately, said Wood.

Sanchez's alleged crimes date to when he was deployed to Afghanistan between March 2011 and March 2012, according to charging documents. Several incidents were said to have occurred at Outpost Dandar, in Kunar province.

While in Afghanistan, Sanchez also kept up a steady stream of obscene commentary aimed at his female colleagues, military prosecutors said.

"I know you guys are married, but it's OK if you have a deployment buddy," he allegedly told one lower-ranking soldier while raising the prospect of sexual contact.

"If you give me two minutes, it will be the best two minutes of your life," he told another woman, according to charging documents.

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VA SCANDAL

House grills VA officials on hidden records

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — For more than four hours Wednesday night, House lawmakers hammered VA officials to turn over internal documents on off-the-books wait lists at a Phoenix hospital.

Earlier Wednesday, an interim Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general investigation found inappropriate scheduling practices such as those in Phoenix are “systemic” in the nationwide veterans’ health care system, adding fuel to what was already set to be a very tense hearing on Capitol Hill.

The IG announced it found that 1,700 veterans — 54 percent — who were waiting for primary care at the Phoenix VA hospital had not actually been added to official electronic waiting lists. By not adding the patients to the waiting list, the staff at the hospital significantly understated wait times and boosted job performance evaluations, which were connected to employee awards and salary increases, the IG reported.

The House Veterans’ Affairs Committee said Wednesday it has tried for weeks to obtain emails and other documents from the VA after issuing a subpoena May 8 and charged that the VA was still improperly withholding some records related to wait lists and allegations of veteran deaths at the Phoenix hospital.

“Why wouldn’t you turn over the documents ... just tell the truth?” asked Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn. “In my mind, I am thinking right now, ‘They’re hiding something from me,’ and I have no reason to think you are not.”

Three VA executives, including Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations Thomas Lynch, who flew to Phoenix to conduct initial investigations in April, told the lawmakers that four off-the-books lists were used and destroyed

at the facility between 2012 and 2013.

The VA provided the committee 5,500 pages of documents following a May 8 subpoena but said Wednesday that some documents were withheld by VA legal counsel under attorney-client privilege, angering committee members.

‘In my mind, I am thinking right now, “They’re hiding something from me,” and I have no reason to think you are not.’

Rep. Phil Roe
R-Tenn.

are deadly serious, you can expect us to be over your shoulder every single day,” Miller said.

Miller continued to press the three officials, saying the VA has still not filled 110 committee requests for information, some of which are related to Phoenix.

Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs Joan Mooney said the VA’s office of legislative affairs is working with the committee and over past five years has responded to about 100,000 requests for information.

“Ma’am, veterans died,” Miller said, al-

luding to the allegations. “Get us the answers, please!”

“I understand that, Mr. Chairman, and I will look into getting you that request,” she said.

“That’s what you said three months ago!” Miller responded. “This has been going on since January.”

Between late 2012 and mid-2013, Lynch said the hospital had created a “work product” with its electronic scheduling software that listed patients whose appointments had been canceled. He said the lists were used to keep track of those who needed to be rescheduled and denied that the list was kept secret.

“Once the rescheduling has occurred, the list is no longer necessary, so it is appropriately destroyed because it does contain patient identifiable information such as Social Security numbers, Lynch testified.

In addition to that electronic temporary record, the VA had created three other lists that included new enrollee requests for an appointment, requests for consultations from the emergency room and requests for appointments made through the VA telephone hot line, he said.

Lynch said all 1,700 veterans who had requested care but had not been added to the VA waiting list would be contacted by Friday and offered covered health care outside the agency health system.

The VA also will reach out to veterans affected by inappropriate scheduling at other facilities and make the same offer, he said.

The VA is engulfed by a scandal that began in April at Phoenix. Similar allegations have surfaced in at least 10 other states, angering veterans and triggering a string of bills in Congress aimed at punishing alleged VA wrongdoing.

The IG examined a sample of 226 veterans at the Phoenix facility and found they waited 115 days, on average, for their first primary-care appointment. The IG said it

For additional coverage of the Department of Veterans Affairs, go to stripes.com/news/veterans



is also looking into allegations of improper hiring practices, sexual harassment and bullying at the Arizona facility.

Meanwhile, its investigation has expanded to various other VA facilities, which constitute the largest integrated health care system in the United States, serving 200,000 veterans each day.

“To date, we have ongoing or scheduled work at 42 VA medical facilities and have identified instances of manipulation of VA data that distort the legitimacy of reported waiting times,” said the interim report, which was issued after urging from Congress. A final report is expected by August.

The ongoing investigation and VA testimony failed to satisfy House lawmakers that enough is being done.

At the House hearing, Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Ind., said after two hours of testimony she learned little from the VA executives about who was responsible for the inappropriate hospital scheduling that may be linked to veteran deaths.

“Dr. Lynch, does the buck stop with you on these deaths? Are you responsible?” Walorski asked.

“I don’t know if it does but I consider myself responsible,” Lynch said.

Mooney and VA Congressional Relations Officer Michael Huff did not directly answer Walorski’s pointed question.

“Yes, I am responsible for ensuring our focus at this point — our focus remains on caring for our veterans,” Mooney said.

Huff said: “I am a staff level congressional relations officer who is a civil servant and also a veteran. I am not a supervisor, I’m a staff level federal employee and I do the best job I can.”

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Shinseki faces growing demand for resignation

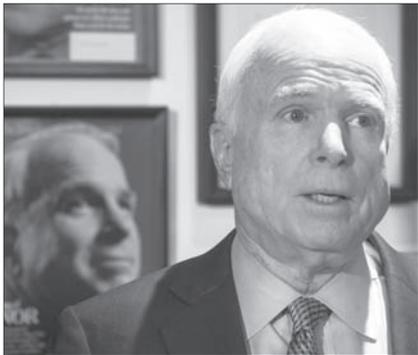
By Patrick Dickson
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Embattled VA Secretary Erik Shinseki faced a growing chorus of calls for his resignation following a detailed and scathing report from his own inspector general, which found that veterans in Phoenix waited an average of 115 days for an initial doctor visit.

Coming soon after a whistleblower in Phoenix claimed that “secret” waiting lists might have contributed to the deaths of 40 veterans there, the Veterans Affairs IG released an interim report Wednesday with still more stinging revelations, including that scheduling staffs at as many as 42 VA hospitals nationwide are using “gaming strategies” to hide long delays in care.

Soon after, Sen. John McCain, who until Wednesday had urged a wait-and-see approach, called for Shinseki to step down.

“I haven’t said this before, but I think it’s time for Gen. Shinseki to move on,” the Arizona Republican said during an interview on CNN. “I was going to wait for the hearing that’s going to take place here very soon. But this keeps piling up.”



CHARLIE LIGHT/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., on Wednesday joined a growing chorus of lawmaker demands for the ouster of VA Secretary Eril Shinseki.

At least 58 members of Congress, 20 of them Democrats, now have called on Shinseki to resign.

Six Democratic senators have called for Shinseki’s resignation: Al Franken, of Minnesota; Mark

Udall, of Colorado; Kay Hagan, of North Carolina; John Walsh, of Montana; Mark Warner, of Virginia; and Jeanne Shaheen, of New Hampshire.

McCain and Walsh are the Sen-

ate’s only combat veterans.

“The Inspector General’s report is so troubling that I have come to the conclusion that the Department of Veterans Affairs needs new leadership. I believe it would be in the best interest of veterans for Secretary Shinseki to step down,” Franken said in a statement.

In the House, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and Rep. Howard (Buck) McKeon, R-Calif., outgoing chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, also said Shinseki should go.

House Speaker Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, remained a high-profile holdout, saying he still does not see how Shinseki’s ouster helps uncover and fix the underlying problems plaguing the VA.

“The question I ask myself is, ‘Is him resigning going to get us to the bottom of the problem?’” Boehner told reporters Thursday. “Is it going to help us find out what is really going on? And the answer I keep getting is no.”

Boehner stressed instead that the VA’s problems are the responsibility of the president.

“The real issue here is that the president is the one who should

be held accountable,” Boehner said.

The American Legion was the first major veterans organization to call for Shinseki’s resignation.

On May 5, Legion commander Daniel Dellinger said Shinseki and other top department leadership should step down following reports of delays and neglect at VA health centers around the nation.

Soon after, President Barack Obama, in a televised address, offered what many felt was tepid support for Shinseki. Asked if Shinseki offered to resign, Obama would only say that the secretary “cares deeply about veterans and he cares deeply about the mission, and I know that Rick’s attitude is if he doesn’t think he can do a good job on this and if he thinks he’s let our veterans down, then I’m sure that he is not going to be interested in continuing to serve.”

NBC News late Thursday morning was reporting that Shinseki’s resignation was a question of when and not if, and that the White House was already considering replacement candidates.

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MILITARY

Obama presents caution as strength

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Short of direct threats to national security, the U.S. military isn't the first tool to reach for when conflicts arise around the globe, President Barack Obama told West Point graduates on Wednesday.

Coming after nearly 13 years of nonstop fighting in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, the president's speech appeared to be calibrated

for a war-weary America — civilian and military alike — willing to side with him over critics who argue that failing to take more direct action forsakes U.S. leadership in crises from Syria to Ukraine to Iran. In defending his measured approach to conflicts around the globe, Obama said working with the international community for diplomatic solutions is not a sign of weakness. The United States will act unilaterally to defend itself, he said, but short of that, the country will seek partners and work with allies to accomplish its overseas goals.

"U.S. military action cannot be the only — or even primary — component of our leadership in every instance," he said. "Just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail."

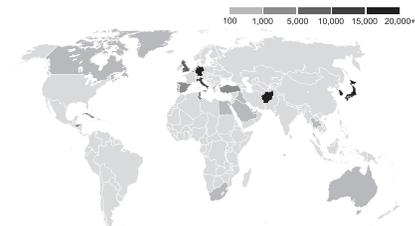
Obama has endured harsh criticism over his administration's refusal to provide more U.S. military support to rebel fighters in Syria, where Western-backed fighters are contending both with the repressive regime of Syrian president Bashar Assad and al-Qaida affiliated insurgents bolstered by foreign jihadists. But it was the right decision, he said.

"As frustrating as it is, there are no easy answers, no military solution that can eliminate the terrible suffering anytime soon," he said. "As President, I made a decision that we should not put American troops into the middle of this increasingly sectarian war."

Other calls have come from Republicans and Democrats alike, demanding a greater show of force against Russia for annexing part of Ukraine, or for military action against Iran, or terrorist groups in Africa. Soon after the speech, House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Ed Royce, R-Calif., issued an email statement that Obama has not done enough to deal with global threats, including Syria and North Korea, sacrificing U.S. leadership and

US troops around the globe

American military forces are stationed in dozens of countries. Deployments overseas of 100 or more U.S. troops as of March 31:



Post-Cold War presidents and military interventions

George H.W. Bush
1989-1993
Took office amid fall of Berlin Wall and dissolution of Soviet Union. Military actions against Panama, Iraq, Somalia.

Bill Clinton
1993-2001
Ended Somalia mission; launched military action in Haiti; backed NATO airstrikes against Serbia; launched strikes against al-Qaida targets.

George W. Bush
2001-2009
After 9/11 attacks, launched military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq that lasted for the duration of his presidency.

Barack Obama
2009-
Iraq War; drew down U.S. forces from Afghanistan; supported NATO military action against Libya; launched attacks against al-Qaida.

SOURCES: AP reports; Defense Department; ISAF

credibility.

"The Obama Administration has consistently underestimated the threats we face: Iran, North Korea, al-Qaida, and others," Royce said. "In many corners of the globe, the world is growing more unstable, with a tide of military facing the United States and our allies."

Rushing to use the military with an unclear view of consequences has caused repeated blunders, Obama said at West Point. He vowed to the graduates — whom he pointed out were members of the last class graduating before the scheduled end of combat operations this year in Afghanistan — that he would not initiate military operations for the sake of appearances.

"I would betray my duty to you and to the country we love if I ever sent you into harm's way ... because I was worried about critics who think military intervention is the only way for America to avoid looking weak," he said.

Obama's theme — when and how to use the military — is not a new one, but analysts said it has never been put forth as forcefully or prominently as the West Point speech, which aides said would lay out Obama's approach to foreign policy in his final years as president.

"I think the reason he had to give the speech is that both here in

Washington think tank with close ties to the Obama administration.

Funding diplomatic and civilian initiatives is frequently difficult, while the Pentagon's comparatively large budget places undue emphasis on military solutions — something he said military leaders themselves have long recognized.

"The big issue is not a disagreement over policy, but the challenge is turning this policy into action," Stokes said.

A human rights advocate said that while Obama's theme has been off-discussed, it has never sunk in.

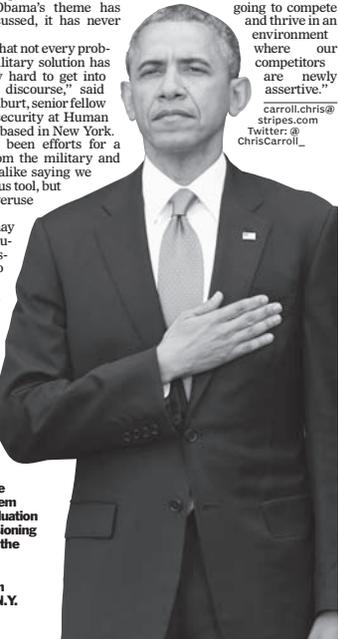
"The idea that not every problem has a military solution has proven really hard to get into our national discourse," said Heather Hurlbut, senior fellow for national security at Human Rights First, based in New York. "There have been efforts for a long time from the military and civilian side alike saying we have a fabulous tool, but let's not overuse it."

Obama may feel it particularly necessary to try to steer U.S. foreign policy in a slightly different direction as the U.S. trims its defense budget and po-

tential adversaries flexing their muscles.

"One reason for him to do this now is that both Russia and China are acting in pretty aggressive ways, and there's a sort of knee-jerk reaction that to counter that, we should steam around the Black Sea and build more aircraft carriers to counteract China," she said. "The Obama framework is that that isn't necessarily the right approach. He's explaining to Americans how we're going to compete and thrive in an environment where our competitors are newly assertive."

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President Barack Obama stands for the national anthem during a graduation and commissioning ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy on Wednesday in West Point, N.Y.

MIKE GROLL/AP

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U.S. military action cannot be the only — or even primary — component of our leadership in every instance. Just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail.

President Barack Obama in his West Point speech

MIDEAST

Obama's Afghanistan plan omits unmet goals

By ERNESTO LONDONO

The Washington Post

Calling the approaching end of America's combat mission in Afghanistan an "enormous achievement," President Obama on Wednesday seemed intent on shifting the burden squarely onto the Afghans and putting Washington's longest war farther in the nation's rearview mirror.

ANALYSIS "Our reduced presence there allows us to more effectively address emerging threats in the Middle East and North Africa," Obama told the graduating class of West Point cadets, the first since Sept. 11, 2001, that is unlikely to see combat in the near future.

Left largely unmentioned were the myriad goals the United States set out to accomplish in

Afghanistan and, to varying degrees, is now quietly abandoning. While the president said future U.S. military engagements should avoid creating more enemies than they eliminate, he neglected to mention the formidable strength of the Afghan insurgency as the United States prepares to downsize from 32,800 troops to 9,800 by the end of the year, and then to nearly none by the time he leaves office.

A small but consequential cell of al-Qaida fighters also remains operational in northeastern Afghanistan despite a years-long, dogged effort by the United States to completely dislodge the group founded by Osama bin Laden.

Al-Qaida's relationship with local factions of the Taliban "remains intact and remains an area of concern," according to the Pentagon's latest report to Con-

gress on the state of the Afghan war. The report was released last month. The Haqqani network, a faction of the Taliban that the Defense Department calls "the most virulent strain of the insurgency," serves as a "critical enabler" of al-Qaida, straddling the porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Afghan insurgent groups continue to operate with the acquiescence of segments of the Pakistani government, U.S. defense officials say. The prospect of a negotiated settlement to the conflict—something Washington explored by allowing the Taliban to open a political office in Qatar—appears entirely doomed.

David Sedney, who served as the Pentagon's top official overseeing policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan until last year, said the Taliban has proved to be a re-

markably resilient foe.

"Their core leadership is just as strong as they were before," Sedney said in an interview Wednesday. "Their funding has gotten better because they are getting more and more opium profits by seriously taxing every stage."

Despite a U.S. investment of nearly \$7 billion to combat the opium trade and to deprive insurgents of drug proceeds, Afghanistan's poppy industry is thriving, according to the latest assessment of U.S. defense officials, who said in the report that "insurgent penetration of that market is extensive and expanding."

The establishment of Afghanistan's 340,600-strong security forces is arguably the U.S.-led international coalition's signature achievement. Although they remain stymied by weak logistics systems, nepotism and wide-

spread corruption, the Afghan army and police in some ways have exceeded expectations on the battlefield during the past year. They were instrumental in ensuring a relatively safe voting environment during the first round of Afghanistan's presidential election last month, which was hailed as a success.

But as a period of political transition in the country begins, Sedney and other former senior officials involved in Afghanistan policy see a danger of disengaging too quickly.

"We've built up lots of militaries that have ended up in ways that are not consistent with our values, and the Afghan military is at high risk of that," Sedney said. "The Afghan military going bad is just as dangerous for us as the possibility of the Taliban taking over."

Hagel: Afghan anti-terror planning still underway

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

The Associated Press

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Wednesday it was not clear yet how many troops the U.S. will use to battle terrorists in Afghanistan in the coming two years, but he expressed some confidence that the Afghan forces will improve enough to secure and govern their own country.

In his first public comments about the drawdown plans unveiled by President Barack Obama this week, Hagel acknowledged there still were a lot of unanswered questions about how many of the nearly 10,000 U.S. forces remaining in the Afghanistan next year will be devoted to the counterterrorism mission. He said it also was unclear how many troops NATO and other international partners would contribute and what exactly those forces would do.

But he said he expected allies would make their decisions about the numbers and types of troops they would commit to the post-

2014 mission in Afghanistan by the end of June. Hagel, who spoke to reporters traveling with him on a 12-day trip to Asia and Europe, expects to meet with NATO defense ministers next week.

Speaking in a hangar to a crowd of U.S. troops, Hagel also said he will be traveling to Afghanistan during this overseas trip.

President Barack Obama announced Tuesday that the U.S. would leave 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan at the end of this year to continue training the Afghans and conduct counterterrorism missions. That number would be cut in half by the end of 2015, and most of the remainder would leave by the end of 2016.

Hagel said U.S. military commanders believe those numbers are adequate to train and advise the Afghans and to fight terrorists. And while he said "there are no guarantees," he suggested the plans laid out by Obama were enough to keep Afghanistan from backsliding into more terrorist violence like what has happened in Iraq since U.S. troops left there.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel greets military personnel Wednesday while visiting Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.



ALLAUDIN KHAN/AP

An Afghan policeman stands guard Thursday after a bomb explosion in Kandahar province Afghanistan.

Bombs kill 4; NATO soldier dies in helicopter accident

By MIRWAIS KHAN
AND AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Roadside bombings across Afghanistan killed 4 people on Thursday as officials reported that a NATO soldier died in a helicopter crash in Kandahar the previous day.

The crash, in which 15 coalition servicemen were injured, happened after the helicopter accidentally struck a communications antenna on Wednesday, an Afghan official said.

In northern Jawzjan province, a roadside bomb hit the car of the intelligence chief of Aqcha

district on Thursday morning, police officer Paqir Mohammad Jawzjani said.

The explosion killed the district chief, Manzurullah, and his bodyguard, and wounded three other officials who were travelling with them, Jawzjani said. Like most Afghans, Manzurullah used only one name.

Jawzjani blamed the Taliban for the attack, saying the bomb used in Aqcha district was very powerful and completely destroyed Manzurullah's vehicle.

Also on Thursday, two roadside bombings minutes apart killed an Afghan policeman and wounded four others in the city of Kandahar, said police officer Shamsull-

ha, who also uses one name.

The first explosion struck a police car as it drove down a street, killing one officer and wounding two. Then, as other policemen who were nearby rushed to the site of the blast, a second explosion went off, wounding two more policemen, said Shamsullaha.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks Thursday. The Taliban have launched their annual spring offensive, promising to step up attacks against Afghan security forces in a bid to undermine the Western-backed government as foreign combat troops prepare to withdraw from the country by the end of the year.

NATION

CIA halts drone strikes in Pakistan

By KEN DILANIAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just after midnight last Christmas, Pakistani officials say, two Hellfire missiles from a U.S. drone slammed into a house in Miramshah, Pakistan, killing four militants.

It was an otherwise unremarkable episode in the sixth year of a relentless unmanned aerial campaign by the CIA. Unremarkable, except for this: There hasn't been a drone strike reported in Pakistan in the months since.

The secret, targeted-killing program that once was the mainstay of President Barack Obama's counterterrorism effort appears to be winding down. In a major foreign policy speech at the U.S. Military Academy on Wednesday, Obama said the U.S. would continue to carry out occasional drone strikes, but he cited Yemen and Somalia, not Pakistan, where drone missiles once rained down at a rate of two per week.

Armed U.S. drones are still flying regularly over Pakistan's tribal areas, and CIA targeting officers are still nominating militants to a kill list, according to U.S. officials regularly briefed on the covert program who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss covert programs publicly. But over the past five months, no militants have been gathered in U.S. bases in Afghanistan that would then be closed.

And while the CIA won't say the program has ended, Obama announced this week a plan to pull nearly all American troops out of Afghanistan by the end of 2016. The targeted-killing program in Pakistan relies on drones flown from, and intelligence gathered in, U.S. bases in Afghanistan that would then be closed.

"The program (in Pakistan) appears to have ended," said Peter Bergen, who has closely studied drone strikes for the New America Foundation, a Washington think tank.

Several factors are driving the change, U.S. officials say. Many of the senior al-Qaida figures in Pakistan have been killed. Those who remain are much harder to target because they are avoiding mobile phones and are traveling with children, benefiting from strict targeting rules designed to prevent civilian casualties.

Also, the tribal areas of Paki-



MOHAMMAD SALIHA/AP

Pakistan women take part in an April 2011 rally against the U.S. drone strikes in Pakistani tribal areas in Peshawar, Pakistan.

stan are no longer the hotbed of al-Qaida activity they once were, officials and outside analysts say. Hardcore al-Qaida militants from Pakistan have gone to Syria and Yemen, home to al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which U.S. officials consider the most dangerous al-Qaida affiliate.

And Obama administration officials are pushing to have the U.S. military, not the CIA, carry out drone strikes. Because the military generally requires permission from a country to operate on its territory, most analysts don't believe it could carry out regular drone attacks in Pakistan.

The White House and CIA declined to comment for this story.

For as long as they are able to fly over Pakistan, CIA drones will hunt for senior al-Qaida figures, including Ayman al-Zawahiri, al-Qaida's leader, U.S. officials say. If the agency gets a clean shot at such a target, it will push the button, they say.

But as the CIA closes its remote Afghanistan outposts where case officers met with Pakistani sources and technicians eavesdropped on cellphones, intelligence collection will dry up, making militants harder to track.

"By the end of this year, we will have a noticeable degradation in our ability to collect intelligence on people of concern," said Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. Without commenting explicitly about drone strikes, Rogers criticized what he calls "a pullback in the counterterrorism strategy," a move he says "has made Americans a little less safe."

The current drone cease-fire in Pakistan is by far the longest pause since President George W. Bush ordered a stepped-up campaign of targeted strikes in that country's tribal area in the summer of 2008. The pace intensified under Obama. All told, there have been 354 strikes in Pakistan since 2004, according to the Long War Journal, an online publication that tracks the strikes through media reports.

But the rate of strikes began falling in 2011 and decreased each year since. Last year, Obama announced stricter targeting criteria, including a provision that no strike would occur unless there was "a near certainty" that civilians would not be harmed.

Even before that, American officials appear to have made the calculation that it was no longer worth it to attack lower-level militants in Pakistan, given the bitter

opposition to the attacks in that country. Last year, an analysis by the New America Foundation found that just 58 known militant leaders had been killed in drone strikes in Pakistan, representing just 2 percent of the total deaths.

Obama seemed to allude to the backlash Wednesday when he said, "Our actions should meet a simple test: We must not create more enemies than we take off the battlefield."

In December, the Obama administration reached an informal deal with Pakistan that the CIA would suspend drone strikes — except against the most senior al-Qaida leaders — while the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif pursues peace talks with the Taliban. The talks have sputtered, and last week Pakistani fighter jets killed more than 60 people in North Waziristan, a militant stronghold, according to local media reports.

But Pakistani officials say the cessation in drone strikes has strengthened support for counterterrorism operations among a public that deeply resented an American bombing campaign on its soil. A senior Pakistani official said the hiatus made the government feel like the U.S. was hearing their concerns.

leases were directed by an immigration judge or were prompted by other legal requirements. His written testimony did not provide additional details.

The White House said this week it asked Johnson to delay completing his review of deportation policies until the end of the summer. It was a move aimed at salvaging hope for Congress to act on an immigration bill before November's midterm elections.

White House touts energy policy as new rules loom

By JIM KUHNHENN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's administration, setting the stage for upcoming restrictions on coal-fired power plants, is making a concerted effort to cast its energy policy as an economic success that is creating jobs, securing the world's biggest oil consumer against international upheavals and shifting energy use to cleaner sources.

In a 42-page report to be released Thursday, the White House argues that significant increases in the domestic production of natural gas and reductions in oil consumption have better positioned the United States to advance its economic and environmental goals. The U.S. is a top oil importer, second only to China, and remains the No. 1 consumer of oil.

Few of the report's conclusions are new, but it includes a detailed analysis of how past reliance on petroleum imports made the U.S. economy especially susceptible to oil price shocks, a vulnerability that White House economists say has been diminished by a reduced U.S. demand for foreign oil.

The report, obtained in advance by The Associated Press, is designed to inoculate the administration against criticism that new Environmental Protection Agency regulations on coal-fired power plants, expected to be unveiled Monday, will increase electricity costs, cost jobs and be a drag on economic growth. Conservatives and business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have argued that the reductions in emissions will be too small and the consequences to the economy too large to justify new restrictions.

While the White House economic report does not address those criticisms directly, it says greater domestic energy production, the use of wind and solar power and the reduction in oil consumption "have had substantial economic and energy security benefits, and they are helping to reduce carbon emissions in the energy sector and thereby tackle the challenge posed by climate change."

DHS secretary asks to study immigration releases

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson is asking for an internal review of the Obama administration's release of tens of thousands of immigrants in the country illegally who were convicted of crimes and facing deportation. He's telling lawmakers he wants a deeper understanding of the releases.

Federal data published this

month showed that the Homeland Security Department released 36,007 convicted criminal immigrants last year who are facing deportation, including those accounting for 193 homicide and 426 sexual assault convictions. The immigrants nearly all still face deportation and are required to check in with immigration authorities while their deportation cases are pending.

News of the releases, which

came amid an ongoing review of the Obama administration's deportation policies, incensed Republican lawmakers who contend that President Barack Obama has not properly enforced immigration laws. The House Judiciary Committee chairman, Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., said the releases "needlessly endanger Americans' lives."

In testimony sent to Congress ahead of a hearing by the com-

mittee Thursday, Johnson said he was "committed to enforcing our immigration laws in a manner that best promotes and ensures national security, public safety and border security." He said he has asked for a "deeper understanding" of the releases, and he pledged to continue to work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to ensure public safety.

Johnson said many of the re-

NATION

8 cars earn a top rating for collision warnings

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
The Associated Press

DETROIT — The 2014 Chevrolet Impala was the only non-luxury car to earn the highest safety rating in new tests of high-tech crash prevention systems.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety tested cars equipped with collision warning and automatic braking systems. It gave a "superior" rating to cars that both warned the driver of a potential collision and applied the automatic brakes to significantly slow the cars.

The BMW 5 Series, BMW X5, Mercedes-Benz E-Class, Buick Regal, Cadillac CTS, Cadillac XTS and 2015 Hyundai Genesis also earned "superior" ratings in the test results released Thursday.

Collision warning and automatic braking systems use radars, cameras and lasers to determine if a vehicle is getting too close to the car in front of it. Most of the systems warn the driver — audibly, with vibrations in the seat, or both — and prepare the brakes to maximize their effect when the driver presses them.

In some cases, the vehicles brake themselves. That action may not prevent a crash, the institute said, but reducing the speed before the car hits something can help make crashes — and injuries — less severe.

The Impala's rating wasn't affected by a government notice to one of its driver's report that the automatic braking system went off several times without warning, eventually causing an accident. Insurance Institute spokesman Russ Rader said the group is aware of the investigation but had no issues with the Impala in testing.

The Virginia-based institute, which is funded by insurers, began testing and rating the systems last fall in hopes of pressuring automakers to adopt them as standard equipment.

Tests are conducted at 12 miles per hour and 25 miles per hour. In the highest-rated cars, the brakes slowed the cars to 2 or 3 mph or less.

Thirteen 2014 models earned "advanced" ratings, meaning they warned drivers but their brakes reduced the speed only moderately. Those vehicles were: the BMW 3 Series, Buick LaCrosse, Lexus IS, Audi A3, Audi A6, BMW 3 Series, Dodge Durango, Ford Focus, Mercedes-Benz C-Class, Infiniti QX50 and Infiniti QX70. The BMW 5 Series and BMW X5, which won superior ratings when equipped with a radar and camera, earned "advanced" ratings when equipped with City Brake, a camera-only system.

Three models earned "basic" ratings, meaning they warned drivers of a potential collision but reduced the car's speed by less than 5 mph. They were: the BMW 3 Series (without City Brake), the Infiniti Q70 and the Toyota Avalon.



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Steven Paska, 26, center, of Arlington, Va., asks his girlfriend Jessica Deegan, 27, to marry him in April in Washington. Society's actual gender roles are shifting, with more women being breadwinners than ever before. But when it comes to dating, Americans' attitudes toward money and gender roles bow to the traditional and sometimes conflict, according to a new poll.

Contradictions abound in the new dating game

By JENNIFER AGRESTA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Who ever said the dating game was logical? A new Associated Press-WE tv poll turns up all kinds of contradictions when people lay out their thoughts on dating, especially when it comes to money and gender roles.

Seven in 10 of those surveyed say it's unacceptable to expect a date to pay for everything. But most still say it's a man's job to pay for the first date.

Most say it's OK to ask someone out because he or she seems successful. But even more say it's unacceptable to turn down people because they haven't had much success.

One-third think it's OK to search for online clues about a potential first date's success in life. But very few say daters should pay attention to each other's finances before they are exclusive.

Overall, the traits that men and women rate as important help to traditional gender roles.

Men and women agree that personality is the most important trait to consider when deciding whether to go on a first date with someone, and very few overall say money is a top consideration. Yet men are more apt than women to prioritize looks, while most women place greater emphasis on a suitor's financial situation and career ambitions.

It's not just older people who feel that way: The differences are amplified among younger singles.

About half of single men under age 45 say looks are a priority; 70 percent of single women under 45 call career ambitions key.

There's a clear gender gap on finances.

Men are less likely than women to say they're comfortable dating someone who makes significantly more money than they do — 71 percent of women would be comfortable in that situation compared with 59 percent of men. Women are more wary of dating someone who earns less — 43 percent of men would be OK dating someone with a significantly lower salary; just 28 percent of women would.

More broadly, uncoupled Americans are squeamish about dating those whose financial situations may not equal their own. A shaky financial past is generally acceptable (more say they're comfortable dating someone who grew up in a poor family than in a wealthy one), but a questionable present inspires doubt. Just 16 percent say they would be comfortable dating someone who is unemployed, 23 percent someone with significant student loan debt.

Once dating turns to commitment and love, money is a bigger consideration for women when deciding whether to wed. Among men who aren't married or living with a partner, 84 percent say they'd marry someone they love regardless of whether she or he could provide financial security. Women are more cautious — just 61 percent would choose marriage for love without regard to financial

standing.

Over time, Americans' views on how women ought to balance family and career have shifted in favor of greater choice for women. But the new poll also finds a more restrictive view on how men with a family ought to view their career, suggesting the rules many apply to dating continue once families are formed.

A Time/Yankelovich survey conducted in March 1978 found that about three-quarters of Americans felt women ought to put their husbands and children ahead of their careers and felt women with young children shouldn't work outside the home unless it's financially necessary. Now, about half hold those views.

But the new poll also found that half of Americans believe a man with a family has a responsibility to choose a higher-paying job over one that is more satisfying, up from 42 percent who felt that way in 1978.

The poll was conducted in conjunction with WE tv ahead of the launch of the show "Mystery Millionaire."

The AP-WE tv Poll was conducted May 16-19 using KnowledgePanel, GfK's probability-based online panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It involved online interviews with 1,354 adults, including an oversample of 310 adults who have never been married. Results for all respondents have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Calif. town votes to end dispute over hot sauce

The Associated Press

IRWINDALE, Calif. — The fiery fight is apparently over between the makers of a popular hot sauce and a small Southern California city that said its factory's smells were unbearable.

The Irwindale City Council voted Wednesday night to drop a public nuisance declaration and lawsuit against Huy Fong Foods, makers of Sriracha hot sauce. The dual moves brought an effective end to the spicy-air dispute that had Sriracha devotees worried about future sauce shortages and had suitors including the state of Texas offering Huy Fong a friendlier home.

The closed-session council vote was unanimous with one councilman abstaining due to a conflict of interest, the San Gabriel Valley Tribune reported.

Residents and business leaders praised the vote that some called overdue.

"Thank you so much for saving Irwindale because we were headed in the wrong direction," Fred Barbosa, who lives in Irwindale, told the Tribune after the vote.

Bob Machuca of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. said the resolution showed California is "open for business" and is "what we needed to do a long time ago."

The city of about 1,400 people had been at odds with the company, which recently moved its main operations there, after residents complained last year of spicy odors burned their throats and eyes.

It wasn't immediately clear what prompted the council change its position, but the company had been asking the city for more time to address regional air quality officials on a plan to make the smell go away.

But city officials met behind closed doors Tuesday with company CEO David Tran and representatives of Gov. Jerry Brown's Business and Economic Development Office. Afterward, Mayor Mark Breceda said he would ask the council to end the fight.

Tran, an immigrant from Vietnam whose company produces several chili sauces based on the flavors of his native country, said Tuesday that he installed stronger filters at the plant, and he's confident they will block fumes when the chill-grinding season begins in August.



Nick Ut/AP

The Irwindale City Council voted Wednesday night to drop a public nuisance declaration and lawsuit against Huy Fong Foods, makers of Sriracha hot sauce.

NATION

In a class of its own

New Orleans district closes public schools in favor of all-charter model

By LYNDESE LAYTON

The Washington Post

NEW ORLEANS — The second-graders paraded to the dumpster in the rear parking lot, where they checked boxes of old work sheets, notebooks and other detritus into the trash, emptying their school for good.

Benjamin Bancker Elementary closed Wednesday as New Orleans' Recovery School District permanently shuttered its last five traditional public schools this week.

Sharell Washington was absorbing the school closing.

"I'm sad. I like this school," said Sharell, a bright-eyed 8-year-old who does not know where she will attend school in the fall. "I've been here since kindergarten, and I know a lot about this school. I have friends here. They always have my back."

With the start of the next school year, the Recovery School District will be the first in the country made up completely of public charter schools, a milestone for New Orleans and a grand experiment in urban education for the nation.

It has been two decades since the first public charter school opened in Minnesota, conceived as a laboratory where innovations

could be tested before their introduction to public schools. Now, 42 states encourage charters as an alternative to conventional schools, and enrollment has been growing, particularly in cities.

In New Orleans, under the Recovery School District, the Louisiana state agency that seized control of almost all public schools after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city in 2005, the traditional system has been swept away.

The creation of the country's first all-charter school system has improved education for many children in New Orleans, but it also has severed ties to a community institution, the neighborhood school, and amplified concerns about racial equality and loss of parental control.

An all-charter district signals the dismantling of the central school bureaucracy and a shift of power to dozens of independent school operators, who will assume all the corresponding functions: the authority to hire and fire teachers and administrators, maintain buildings, run buses and provide services to special-needs students.

Of the Recovery School District's 600 employees, 510 will be out of a job by week's end. All 33,000 students in the district must apply for a seat at one of the



EDMUND D. FOUNTAIN/For The Washington Post

Ashiria Glasper, 6, and her peers take part in a physical education class May 27 at the Akili Academy charter school in New Orleans.

58 public charter schools, relying on a computerized lottery to determine placement.

Critics of the all-charter New Orleans model say it is undemocratic, because leaders of charter schools are not accountable to voters. They also say the system is challenging for parents, who have to figure out logistics that were not an issue when their children walked to neighborhood schools.

"They don't answer to anyone," said Sean Johnson, the dean of students at Bancker, whose father attended the school while growing up in the Black Pearl neighborhood. "The charters have money and want to make more money. They have their own boards, make their own rules, accept who they want and put out who they want to put out."

Advocates say the all-charter model empowers parents.

"We've reinvented how schools

run," said Neerav Kingsland of New Schools for New Orleans, which promotes and supports charter schools. He is leaving the organization to try to export the model to other cities. "If I am unhappy with service I'm getting in a school, I can pull my kid out and go to another school tomorrow. I don't have to wait four years for an election cycle so I can vote for one member of a seven-member board that historically has been corrupt."

Snowden calls his actions patriotic

By FRED BARBASH

The Washington Post

Edward Snowden, in an hour-long television interview broadcast Wednesday night, portrayed himself as a "patriot" who broke the law in an act of "civil disobedience" directed at "massive" constitutional violations by the U.S. government.

While Smith theft and espionage he would like to return to the United States from Russia, where he sought asylum after leaking thousands of documents detailing the extent of the government's sprawling surveillance program, he said he was not about to "walk into a jail cell." That, he said, would serve as a "bad example for other people in government who see something happening, some violation of the Constitution, and think they need to say something about it."

Snowden, a fugitive, has been charged with theft and espionage by the U.S. government.

Asked directly by NBC's Brian Williams whether he was looking for "clemency or amnesty," Snowden said, "I don't think there's ever been any question that I'd like to go home. I mean, I've from day one said that I'm doing this to serve my country,

Now, whether amnesty or clemency ever becomes a possibility is not for me to say.

"That's a debate for the public and the government to decide," said Snowden, whose leaked documents detailing the U.S. government's sprawling surveillance efforts sparked an additional debate over that program's future.

He said disclosing those documents was an act of patriotism. "Being a patriot doesn't mean prioritizing service to government about all else," said Snowden, who was interviewed in Moscow. "Being a patriot means knowing when to protect your country and knowing when to protect the Constitution against the encroachment of adversaries. Adversaries don't have to be foreign governments. They can be bad policies."

Asked about his relationship with the Russian government, he said he had none.

On Wednesday, Secretary of State John Kerry characterized Snowden's actions as "betrayal," telling him to "man up" and return home.

The government has charged the one-time National Security Agency contractor with theft and violation of the 1917 Espionage Act for disclosing the details of the



Edward Snowden speaks to NBC News anchor Brian Williams during an exclusive interview.

government's electronic spying program to news organizations.

The former analyst, who now describes himself as someone who was a "spy" when he did work for the NSA, said he didn't bring any documents to Russia because he thought that would make him look like "Tweety Bird to Sylvester the Cat. I [would] look like a little walking chicken leg with all these documents."

The course that ultimately brought him to Russia, Snowden says, began with the September 11, 2001, attacks. The attack, he claimed, changed him. In 2004, he enlisted in the U.S. Army special forces, but an injury sidelined his military aspirations. NBC reported he had broke both his legs, but didn't provide additional details.

White males dominate workforce at Google

By MARTHA MENDOZA

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — In a groundbreaking disclosure, Google revealed how very white and male its workforce is — just 2 percent of its Googlers are black, 3 percent are Hispanic, and 30 percent are women.

The search giant said Wednesday that the transparency about its workforce — the first disclosure of its kind in the largely white, male tech sector — is an important step toward change.

"Simply put, Google is not where we want to be when it comes to diversity," Google Inc. senior vice president Laszlo Bock wrote in a blog.

The numbers were compiled as part of a report that major U.S. employers must file with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Companies are not required to make the information public.

The gender divide is based on the roughly 44,000 people Google employed throughout the world at the start of this year. The company didn't factor about 4,000 workers at its Motorola Mobility division, which is being sold to China's Lenovo Group for \$2.9

billion. The racial data is limited to Google's roughly 26,600 workers in the U.S. as of August 2013.

Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg recently said the social networking company is headed toward disclosing science education to women and girls, he said. The company also is working with historically black colleges and universities to elevate coursework and attendance in computer science.

Gender and ethnic disparities are reflected throughout the tech industry.

Since 2010, the firm has given more than \$40 million to organizations working to bring computer science education to women and girls, he said. The company also is working with historically black colleges and universities to elevate coursework and attendance in computer science.

Gender and ethnic disparities are reflected throughout the tech industry.

About 7 percent of tech workers are black or Latino in Silicon Valley and nationally. Blacks and Hispanics make up 13.1 and 16.9 percent of the U.S. population, respectively, according to the most recent Census data.

WORLD

Ukraine military held shot down; at least 12 dead

By PETER LEONARD AND ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO
The Associated Press

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine — Rebels in eastern Ukraine shot down a government military helicopter Thursday amid heavy fighting around Slovyansk, killing at least 12 soldiers including a general, officials said.

Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov told the parliament in Kiev that rebels used a portable air defense missile to bring down the helicopter. He said 14 died, including Gen. Serhiy Kulchytskyi, according to the Interfax news agency.

Ukraine's National Guards put the death toll at 12 including the general, but said information about the crash was still being clarified. It said one soldier was badly wounded.

Slovyansk, a city of 120,000 residents 100 miles from the Russian border, has become the epicenter of fighting between pro-Russia insurgents and government forces in recent weeks. It's in the Donetsk region, one of the two provinces in eastern Ukraine that has declared independence from the central government in Kiev.

An Associated Press reporter said the helicopter go down amid a trail of black smoke. Gunshots were heard in Slovyansk near the crash site and a Ukrainian air force jet was seen circling above. It was too dangerous to visit the site itself.

Turchynov said the helicopter was rotating troops into a check-

point when it came under rebel fire. Residential areas in Slovyansk have regularly come under mortar shelling from government positions on a hill above the city, causing civilian casualties and prompting some residents to flee.

Interfax said Kulchytskyi had once served in the Soviet army and was in charge of combat training for Ukraine's National Guards.

Billionaire candy magnate Petro Poroshenko, who just won Ukraine's presidential vote, has promised to negotiate with people in the east but has also vowed to uproot the armed rebels. He is not yet in charge however — a date is still being set for his swearing-in early next month — and has not spoken about the insurgency since his victory speech Monday.

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Thursday denounced the use of aircraft and artillery against the rebels and demanded that Kiev end a "fratricidal war and launch a real political dialogue with all political forces and representatives of the regions."

The ministry said it would be impossible to restore peace in Ukraine without ending the government's military action against the rebels and withdrawing Ukrainian troops from the east. It called on the West to use its clout with Kiev to "stop Ukraine from sliding into a national catastrophe."

The separatists in Ukraine have pleaded to join Russia, but President Vladimir Putin has ignored their appeal in an apparent



A Ukrainian soldier smokes a cigarette while guarding a checkpoint outside Slovyansk, Ukraine, on Thursday.

bid to de-escalate tensions with the West and avoid a new round of Western sanctions.

Putin has denied sending any troops into Ukraine, but fighters from Russia, including from the battle-hardened region of Chechnya, have been appearing among the separatists.

An insurgent in Donetsk, who identified himself only by his nom de guerre, Baran (Ram), told re-

porters Thursday that 33 Russian citizens were among the rebels killed earlier this week.

Dozens of rebels were killed — insurgent leaders said the death toll might be up to 100 fighters — when Ukrainian forces used combat jets and helicopter gunships Monday to dislodge those trying to seize control of Donetsk airport, Ukraine's second-largest.

Kazakhstan, Belarus set new alliance with Russia

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The leaders of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan on Thursday created an economic union that intends to boost cooperation between the ex-Soviet neighbors, a pact which was at the source of the crisis in Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the Eurasian Economic Union — which Moscow had pushed Ukraine to join, helping spark the worst crisis in relations between Russia and the West since the Cold War — takes the countries' cooperation to a "new level" while respecting their sovereignty.

"We are creating a powerful and attractive center of economic development, a major regional market bringing together over 170 million people," Putin said during talks in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana.

He added that the pact would allow the countries to exploit their economic potential and strengthen their positions in global markets.

With a combined annual economic output of \$2.2 trillion a year, the alliance's economic size would be close to that of Britain and well below that of the U.S.' \$17 trillion.

The union is the development of the existing Customs Union including the same nations. In addition to free trade, it coordinates the members' financial systems and regulates industrial and agricultural policies along with their labor markets and transport systems. The deal stops short of introducing a single currency and delays the creation of a common energy market.

The signing followed years of tense negotiations, and many differences have remained.

Former military chief el-Sissi wins Egypt presidency in a landslide

The Associated Press

CAIRO — With nearly all ballots counted, Egypt's former military chief has won a crushing victory over his sole opponent in the country's presidential election, his campaign said Thursday. But the results were stained by questions about turnout despite a robust government effort to get out the vote.

Retired field marshal Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi won more than 92 percent of the votes, compared with 2.9 percent for his sole opponent and 4 percent of invalid votes, according to a tally released by his campaign.

His victory was never in doubt, but the career infantry officer had pushed for an overwhelming turnout as well to bestow legitimacy on his ouster last July of Egypt's first freely elected president, the Islamist Mohammed Morsi.

Turnout was more than 46 percent, after officials extended voting to a third day, according to interim President Adly Mansour.

That figure was lower than the 52 percent turnout in the 2012 presidential election that vaulted Morsi to power. It also was lower than the bar el-Sissi himself set in his last campaign interview, when he said he wanted three-quarters of the country's 54 million registered voters to cast ballots so he could "show the world" his support.

Still, el-Sissi can genuinely claim he comes into office with an impressive vote tally of 23.38 million votes — significantly more than the 13 million won by Morsi two years ago. His sole opponent, leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, received 736,000 votes.

It was telling that Sabahi, who came in third in the previous elec-

tion, garnered less than the 1.03 million spoiled ballots cast.

Official election commission figures will likely be released next week but are not expected to change much due to the wide gap in results.

Addressing a news conference on Thursday, Sabahi accepted defeat. But he said the turnout figure was not credible, adding, "It is an insult to the intelligence of Egyptians." Earlier, when voting was extended to a third day, he protested that it aimed to "distort" the people's will.

Hesitant serious violations marred the balloting itself — though not enough to significantly change the outcome. His campaign pulled its representatives from polling stations Wednesday to protest what it called intimidation and arrests of its staffers, one of whom was referred to a military tribunal.



Election workers count ballots at a counting center in Cairo on Wednesday.

WORLD

Jonathan pledges to save girls

The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — Nigeria's leader vowed on Thursday to "do everything possible to bring our daughters home," referring to the mass abduction of more than 300 schoolgirls, and said the Islamic extremists who kidnapped them threaten the country's democratic gains.

"It is a sad fact that as I address you today, all the gains of the past 15 years of democratic governance in our country are threatened by the presence of international terrorism on our shores," President Goodluck Jonathan said in a speech marking Nigeria's transformation from decades of military dictatorship. He also blamed the Islamic uprising on "extremist foreign elements" and offered amnesty to those who renounce violence.

Jonathan gave no details of what is being done to rescue the girls who the military claimed this week it has located. But the military chief said he fears using force to rescue them could get them killed. Jonathan has ruled out swapping the girls, who were kidnapped from a school in the town of Chibok on April 15, for detained insurgents.

Boko Haram started off as a moderate religious sect that preached Western influences have corrupted Nigerian society and called for a massive graft that impoverishes the nation and keeps people in the northeast among the poorest of the poor.

Jonathan has promised to address the poverty that helps fuel the uprising — but only once the insurgency is put down.



SUNDAY ALAMBA/AP

Women sing slogans in Abuja, Nigeria, on Wednesday while calling on the government to rescue the girls kidnapped from the school in Chibok.



WASON WANICHAKORN/AP

Thai schoolgirls have their photographs taken with soldiers guarding the area to prevent an anti-coup demonstration at Victory Monument in Bangkok on Thursday.

Thai troops block coup protests

By THANYARAT DOKSONE

The Associated Press

BANGKOK — More than 1,000 Thai troops and police sealed off one of Bangkok's busiest intersections Thursday to prevent a planned protest, as authorities said they would no longer allow any demonstrations against last week's military coup.

Truckloads of soldiers blocked all incoming roads to the capital's Victory Monument in a massive show of force at the height of evening rush hour in an area that serves as one of the city's commuter bus hubs.

More than a dozen police prisoner trucks were parked along the emptied roundabout, but there was little sign of protesters, who have come out almost daily to defy a ban on political gatherings.

A Belgian man was detained for wearing a T-shirt saying "PEACE PLEASE," and two Thai women were taken away on a police truck after they showed signs with anti-coup messages.

The anti-coup demonstrations have been generally small and mostly leaderless but protesters had planned to gather Thursday and called for a mass rally on Sunday.

Gen. Somyot Poompanmuang, the deputy national police chief, said the small protests would no longer be allowed. He said nine companies of soldiers and police — about 1,350 — were deployed in Thursday's operation.

"We know their rally is mainly for symbolic reasons, but it's against the law," he said. "We have to keep the law sacred."

Somyot warned that if protesters change their tactics, "we are ready to tackle that."

Earlier, in another part of the city, about 100 students held an anti-coup protest on the campus of prestigious Thammasat University which ended peacefully.

The large army deployment came a day after hundreds of protesters gathered at Victory Monument and outnumbered soldiers. Scuffles broke out in which water bottles and other objects were hurled at

soldiers, and a green army Humvee was vandalized with large white letters reading, "NO COUP, GET OUT!"

The mounting tension comes a week after the army seized power, overthrowing a government that won a landslide election victory three years earlier. The army says it had to act to restore order after seven months of increasingly violent political turbulence.

Earlier Thursday, the army told foreign media that it eventually plans to hold elections, but offered no time frame for guiding the country back to democratic rule.

"We neither have any ambition nor desire to cling to power," said Lt. Gen. Chatchalerm Chalermsook, the army's deputy chief of staff. "We will definitely have an election," he said, but "this will take some time. If you ask me how long it will take, that's difficult to answer."

In the past week, the junta has acted to silence its critics and has warned that it will not tolerate dissent.

N. Korea OKs kidnap probe

TOKYO — North Korea has agreed to open a new investigation into the fate of Japanese citizens whom it abducted in the 1970s and 1980s, Japan and North Korea said Thursday.

North Korea's official news agency KCNA said that Japan voiced its intent to lift sanctions on the country. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters that lifting sanctions would depend on progress in the investigation.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the agreement was just a first step toward resolving the kidnapping issue that has long kept the nations at odds.

It came after three days of talks between North Korean and Japanese officials in Stockholm earlier this week.

From The Associated Press

By BARBARA DEMICK

Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — The case of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 became ever more mysterious Thursday as Australia claimed that the missing airliner is not in the more than 300-square-mile patch of ocean where authorities have been searching since early April.

The admission came after a U.S. Navy official disclosed that the four "pings" once described as the most promising clues to the plane's supposed location in the southern Indian Ocean seem most likely did not come from the plane's black boxes.

"I wouldn't say we are back to square one, but maybe to square one-and-a-half," said Ron Bishop, an Australian search-and-rescue expert and head of aviation at Central Queensland University.

The flight disappeared March 8 on its way from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people aboard. Between April 5 and

April 8, officials announced that an Australian ship equipped with a U.S.-made towed pinger locator had detected four signals that matched the frequency of the missing Boeing 777's black boxes.

The U.S. Navy's deputy director of ocean engineers, Michael Dean, said in an interview late Wednesday with CNN that the pings probably didn't come from the plane.

"Our best theory at this point is that the pings were likely some sound produced by the ship," he was quoted telling CNN.

The Australian task force coordinating the search indirectly confirmed Dean's assessment in an obliquely worded statement on Thursday.

"The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has advised that the search in the vicinity of the acoustic detections can now be considered complete and in its professional judgment, the area can now be discounted as the final resting place of MH370," read

Officials: Missing jet is not in search area

the statement from the Joint Agency Coordination Center.

The announcement bolstered various conspiracy theorists who believe that the plane was hijacked, and heartened some family members who believe that passengers might still be alive and held hostage elsewhere.

"To a family member, it is good news that the plane is not under the water of the Indian Ocean... the hope has come back," said Sarah Bajc, an American teacher working in Beijing whose partner, Philip Wood, was one of the passengers.

One of the most vocal of the passengers' relatives, Bajc said that the initial announcement that signals had been detected from the plane struck many family members as too convenient.

"Wow, the first time the ping tracers went into the water to find the ping, like it is magical," Bajc said.

WORLD



PHOTOS BY KHIN MAUNG WIN/AP

Left: Land grab victims from Michauing Kan village stage a sit-in April 28 at their protest camp in front of City Hall in Yangon, Myanmar. They were protesting land confiscation by the military many years ago. **Above:** Photos, flowers, bananas and coconuts are offered by the protesters to the “Demon of Earth” at a makeshift altar in front of their camp. With their petitions to the government going unanswered, the villagers have turned to black magic for help.

‘This is our last weapon’

Myanmar villagers petition the supernatural to punish entities who seized their homes

By AYE AYE WIN
The Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar — Victims of land grabs in Myanmar have eagerly tested newfound freedoms by protesting and sending petitions to the president and parliament, to no avail. Now some are turning to old ways: Curses and black magic.

Coffins marked with the names of those who seized property have been set ablaze. In rugged central regions of the country, aggrieved villagers have prayed for mountain gods to unleash their wrath. “This is our last weapon,” said Sein Than, who was among 200 families evicted from homes at Michauing Kan in eastern Yangon, where they had lived for generations. He and dozens of others presented offerings — and pleas — to “demons of the Earth.”

“Punish those who grab our land and desecrate the pagoda,” they chanted in front of a Buddhist temple. “Drag them to the lowest level of being and keep them there forever.”

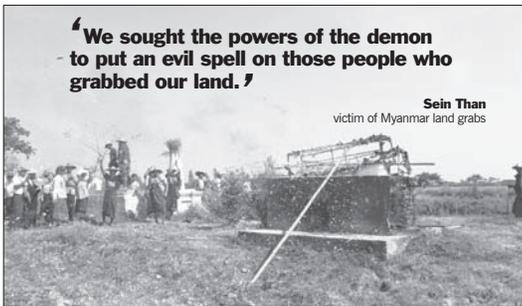
Land seizures by the military, the government and private companies linked to junta cronies have long been commonplace in this Southeast Asian country, whether for development or the extraction of natural resources.

Many of those who lost their land in the biggest land grabs in the 1990s were relocated to remote areas. Some became squatters on their own land, or were allowed to continue farming if they paid rent. Some houses of farmers who did not give up their land have been bulldozed.

The elected government that ended a half-century of dictatorship in 2011 has restored speech freedoms, released political prisoners and implemented other changes

‘We sought the powers of the demon to put an evil spell on those people who grabbed our land.’

Sein Than
victim of Myanmar land grabs



DAILY ELEVEN/AP

Farmers set fire to three coffins as they perform the “funeral” for those who confiscated more than 1,000 acres of their farmland in Bago, Myanmar.

that have prompted the international community to ease sanctions. Many victims of land grabs had hoped new government would help them, but evictions have continued.

Some who have challenged the system have been charged with disrupting public tranquility or violating a new law on peaceful assemblies, offenses punishable by up to two years in prison.

Sein Than and other families from Michauing Kan were among those staging frequent protests in front of Yangon’s city hall. Their sit-in protest is in its second month, but with few options available to them, some now see appealing to mystical forces as a last resort.

“We sought the powers of the demon to put an evil spell on those people who grabbed our land,” said Sein Than.

Myanmar is predominantly Buddhist, but spirit worship and animists are tolerated and deeply embedded in the society. People worship spirits either to ward off evil befalling them or to bring good fortune. Belief in black magic and supernatural powers are more common in rural and ethnic areas.

It was uncommon, if not unheard of, to see people attempt to use black magic against Myanmar’s former military rulers. Though successive Myanmar leaders have consulted astrologers for advice and guidance, there has been little to suggest that

the tactics have upset officials.

About 120 miles north of Yangon, Myanmar’s biggest city, farmers in Thegone township in Bago region went to a cemetery in mid-April and burned three mock coffins, wishing for the deaths for those who confiscated more than 1,000 acres of farmland. They prayed that their tormentors would go through the same pain and distress the farmers have felt.

In central Myanmar’s Magwe region, where hundreds have been displaced by a copper mine project, people have held ceremonies calling on the guardian spirits of the mountains to punish those responsible for their suffering.

Women went to a spirit house at the edge of Wet Hmay village to ask the guardians of the region’s 33 mountains to turn the people who stole their land into stone statues. They carried bamboo baskets filled with offerings such as coconuts, bananas, pickled tea leaves and cheroots, a sort of cigar made with ingredients such as tamarind, charcoal and the stem of an indigenous plant.

“We have appealed to various levels of government, we have appealed to the company, but our demands remain unanswered so far,” said Than Than Htwe, a villager from Tone village whose 4 acres of farmland was taken by the mine company, a joint venture between a military-controlled holding company and China’s Wanbao Mining Ltd.

“We now turn desperately to the spirits to help us and we believe those evil people will be punished,” he said.

That was one case in which officials did react. Five organizers of the coffin burning have been charged with disrupting tranquility.

WORLD

‘Our children are getting fatter’

Report: 30 percent of world is now overweight; no country is immune

By MARIA CHENG
The Associated Press

LONDON — Almost a third of the world is now fat, and no country has been able to curb obesity rates in the last three decades, according to a new global analysis.

Researchers found more than 2 billion people worldwide are now overweight or obese. The highest rates were in the Middle East and North Africa, where nearly 60 percent of men and 65 percent of women are heavy. The U.S. has about 13 percent of the world's fat population, a greater percentage than any other country. China and India combined have about 15 percent.

“It’s pretty grim,” said Christopher Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, who led the study. He and colleagues reviewed more than 1,700 studies covering 188 countries from 1980 to 2013. “When we realized that not a single country has had a significant decline in obesity, that tells you how hard a challenge this is.”

‘Parts of the world are quite literally eating themselves to death.’

Dr. Margaret Chan
WHO's director-general

accompanying spikes in diabetes and that rates of cancers linked to weight, like pancreatic cancer, are also rising.

The new report was paid for by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and published online Thursday in the journal *Lancet*.

Last week, the World Health Organization established a high-level commission tasked with ending childhood obesity.

“Our children are getting fatter,” Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO’s



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

Two overweight women hold a conversation in New York in 2012. Researchers reviewed more than 1,700 studies covering 188 countries covering over three decades and found more than 2 billion people worldwide classified as overweight or obese. The highest rates of obesity were found in the Middle East and North Africa, with the U.S. having about 13 percent of the world's fat population.

director-general, said bluntly during a speech at the agency’s annual meeting in Geneva. “Parts of the world are quite literally eating themselves to death.” Earlier this year, WHO said that no more than 5 percent of your daily calories should come from sugar.

“Modernization has not been good for health,” said Syed Shah, an obesity expert at United Arab Emirates University, who found obesity rates have jumped five times in the last 20 years even in a handful of remote Himalayan villages in Pakistan. His research was presented this week at a conference in Bulgaria. “Years ago, people had to walk for hours if they wanted to make a phone call,” he said. “Now everyone has a cellphone.”

Shah also said the villagers no longer have to rely on their own farms for food.

“There are roads for (companies) to bring in their processed foods and the people don’t have to slaughter their own animals for meat and oil,” he said. “No one knew about Coke and Pepsi 20 years ago. Now it’s everywhere.”

In Britain, the independent

health watchdog issued new advice Wednesday recommending that heavy people be sent to free weight-loss classes to drop about 3 percent of their weight. It reasoned that losing just a few pounds improves health and is more realistic. About two in three adults in the U.K. are overweight, making it the fattest country in Western Europe.

“This is not something where you can just wake up one morning and say, ‘I am going to lose 10 pounds,’” said Mike Kelly, the agency’s public health director, in a statement. “It takes resolve and it takes encouragement.”



BEN CURTIS/AP

Customers of all shapes and sizes sit at street cafes in Egypt.

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WORLD

Amid Asian feuds, Japan eyes bigger role in security

By Ken Moritsugu
The Associated Press

TOKYO — China's moves to assert its territorial claims in the South China Sea are giving fresh impetus to Japanese plans to play a bigger role in regional security, adding to the growing strains between the two Asian rivals.

Japan said this week it is exploring whether it can accelerate a proposal to supply patrol boats for Vietnam, which is embroiled in a tense standoff at sea with China after Beijing moved an oil rig into disputed waters. In a similar deal, Japan agreed in December to lend \$183 million to the Philippines to purchase 10 Japanese-made boats.

The vessels are a tangible sign of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's effort to deepen ties with Southeast Asia in the face of China's expanding maritime ambitions. He is likely to stress Japan's commitment to regional stability in a speech to Asia-Pacific-region defense ministers in Singapore on Friday night.

"China's recent behavior has enabled Abe to push coopera-

tion in a much more conspicuous way," said Corey Wallace, a Japan and maritime security expert at the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, bringing it into conflict with others in the region. The Philippines accused China in May of reclaiming land around a reef that both countries say is their own. The feuds mirror the dispute in the East China Sea over a group of uninhabited islands known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China.

"What Japan is doing is being sympathetic to us, at the same time it's also protecting its own interests, which is the Senkaku islands," Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said in an interview in Manila.

The Philippines welcomes Japan's expanded role, though the legacy of Japan's brutal occupation of much of Asia before and during World War II make Gazmin wary of letting Japan go too far.

"We have to see," he said. "We will have to follow it up so the di-



Koji SASAHARA/AP

Japan's military flag flutters Tuesday near the guided missile destroyer USS Lassen in Yokosuka, Japan, during preparations for Pacific Partnership 2014.

rection would not be toward what happened before."

Japan's pacifist constitution limits what it can do beyond its own self-defense, but the patrol boats for coast guards technically fall under policing, not military assistance.

Japan is also playing a larger role in a U.S.-led disaster relief exercise in Southeast Asia. A Japanese military ship, the Kuni-saki, is the lead vessel for the

exercise for the first time. It departed the U.S. naval base in Yokosuka, Japan, on Thursday with 10 Australian and 130 U.S. troops aboard, headed for Vietnam, the Philippines and Cambodia.

Also, preparations are underway for a first-ever meeting between defense ministers from Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said this week. ASEAN

leaders were noncommittal when Abe first proposed the meeting in December, wary of angering China.

For Japan, it's about both taking on more of the burden of its own defense, as the U.S. wants, and preparing for the possibility that the U.S. may not be the dominant force it has been in the Pacific, not immediately, but perhaps 10 to 15 years from now, Wallace said.

China plans for 2M more babies per year

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China is preparing for 2 million more babies per year as a result of a loosening of its "one child" birth limits that will allow more couples to have two children, health officials said Thursday.

The ruling Communist Party introduced birth limits in 1980 to curb population growth and demand for water and other resources. Most urban couples are allowed one child and face fines and other penalties for additional births. Pressure to enforce lim-

its has led local officials to force women to abort fetuses or to be sterilized, even though such measures are illegal.

The party announced in November that couples in which one parent was an only child would be allowed to have a second baby in some areas. Previously, both parents had to be only children to qualify for this exemption.

China already faces a shortage of maternity beds, said Wang Guoqing, a deputy minister of the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

Local authorities have been

told to build more health facilities for women and children and to add maternity beds, said Zhang Shikun, an official with the commission in charge of women and children's health.

China had 18.5 million births in 2013, according to the U.N. children's agency UNICEF. The forecast increase would be the equivalent of about 11 percent of that.

The figure of 2 million additional births is at the top end of forecasts by experts based on the less restrictive policy.

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WORLD



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

A riot police officer walks in front of a burning van from a TV station during a protest against the eviction of squatters from a building in Barcelona, Spain, on Monday.

Spanish police, gangs clash

The Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — Police clashed with gangs of hooded youths who threw rocks and set fire to trash containers in the third night of violence in Spain's northeastern city of Barcelona.

Twenty-five people have been arrested.

A police spokeswoman said Thursday the disturbances began after a peaceful protest the previous evening in the central Sants

district of Barcelona when police prevented some protesters from approaching a town hall office.

She spoke on condition of anonymity because of police rules preventing staff from being identified.

The demonstration, which drew supporters from around and outside the city, was to protest Monday's closing of a social center that was occupied by squatters for 17 years.

Queen to mark D-Day's anniversary in Normandy

By GREGORY KATZ
The Associated Press

LONDON — The queen's joints are creaky and her husband has recently battled serious illness, but the royal couple won't let aches and pains keep them away from a grand overseas commemoration: the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

Elizabeth II and Prince Philip have for the most part stopped traveling abroad — a reluctant concession to their advanced years — but next week they intend to be in Normandy for ceremonies to honor those who sacrificed their lives to liberate Europe from the Nazi grip.

The perils of World War II directly shaped the lives of Elizabeth, 88, and Philip, 92. The anniversary is so heartfelt that the royal couple is preparing to cross the English Channel once more, this time on a Eurostar train through the Channel Tunnel that Elizabeth helped inaugurate 20 years ago.

Historian Antony Beevor, a re-

nowned chronicler of World War II, said Elizabeth and Philip want to show their solidarity with the dwindling number of living veterans, including those still strong enough to attend the events next week. They will bring younger royals as well, including Prince Charles, heir to the throne, and Prince William, second in line.

"I think it will mean a huge amount to the veterans," Beevor said. "To have the queen there makes all the difference. The veterans' loyalty is very deep and their admiration is very deep. The queen and Philip are both well aware that this is the last time a reasonable number of veterans will be able to attend. So it's very important to both of them."

The queen was a teenager during the war. As a princess she contributed by joining the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, where she served as a driver and mechanic. Philip was on active duty in the Royal Navy.

Beevor said many believe that this may be the final overseas trip for the queen, whose impressive

stamina and mobility have lately been affected by joint pain.

The monarch, head of state since the sudden death in 1952 of her father, George VI, has recently ceded more of her duties to Charles in what has been characterized as a "soft succession" or partial transition. Charles has stepped in for his mother at an increasing number of investitures and also represented her at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting gathering in Sri Lanka.

Charles also filled in for the queen at the last minute at an event in May when royal planners became concerned about the number of steps she would have to ascend.

Despite these changes, Elizabeth is expected to carry on in the office she has held since 1952. She continues her private weekly meetings with the prime minister — Winston Churchill was the first — and plans to read the Queen's Speech announcing her government's program at the formal opening of Parliament next week.

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FAITH

‘We’re going to get more of the post-gang era’

Gang members take fewer seats over the years at Christian center

By HECTOR BECERRA
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Pastor Pete Bradford, a reformed “dope fiend” from San Diego, went out into the streets of Boyle Heights looking for gang members to pray over. Finding them wasn’t hard.

It was the early 1990s, the era of “Boyz n the Hood” and “Colors” and gangsta rap. Everything about gang life in Los Angeles was loud — the jagged slashes of graffiti, the thrum of police helicopters, the percussion of gun blasts.

Bradford, who said God had called him to L.A.’s Eastside, opened the Boyle Heights Christian Center in a low-slung building on 1st Street. The Pentecostal church became known as a house of worship for gang members, drug addicts and lost souls.

“It was not unusual to hear gunshots every day,” recalled Bradford, 66, who decided to retire last spring when Parkinson’s disease made it difficult to control his body. “We had windows shot out. They weren’t shooting at us. They were shooting at each other.”

Now, the loudest sound isn’t gunshots, but the insistent, clattering roar of the Gold Line train that sometimes fuzzes out the sermons of Bradford’s young successor, Joey Oquendo. The streets where gang members once prowled are dotted with cafes, wine bars, community theaters, art galleries and bookstores.

On a recent morning, Oquendo hoisted drywall sheets into the church. The pulpit was bounded by the two-by-four skeletons of walls laid bare.

The gang members who once made up the bulk of the parish are mostly gone, leaving a congregation that can number fewer



PHOTOS BY BARBARA DAVIDSON, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Eliasar Avalos, left, and his sister, Angelina, wait for their parents after Pastor Joey Oquendo’s service at the Boyle Heights Christian Center in Los Angeles.

than 20. Some of the old-timers thought the 29-year-old Oquendo — who was born in New York to Puerto Rican parents but grew up in San Bernardino — too young, too inexperienced, not battle-hardened enough.

Oquendo said if they want to come back, he’ll welcome them. But the church will be different, because the neighborhood is different.

“There’s members who have been here forever, but in essence, a new church is starting,” Oquendo said. “Gang members want better things too. But because of who I am, and because of who my members are, we’re going to get more of the post-gang era.”

When the reconstruction of the church is finished, Oquendo said, even the name won’t be the same.

Gangs over time

Few neighborhoods influenced the way that gang members look, act and talk from New Mexico to El Salvador as much as the Eastside neighborhoods that include Boyle Heights. Some of the gangs went back to the Great Depression.

Even now, 34 gangs are squeezed into the 15-square-mile Hollenbeck area largely made up of Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights and El Sereno. But when Bradford came to Boyle Heights, L.A.’s gangs were especially bold.

In each of the three years after Bradford arrived in 1990, there were more than 2,000 homicides in L.A. County. In 1992, the LAPD’s Hollenbeck Division, which patrols Boyle Heights, had 86 killings, most of them gang-related. Father Gregory Boyle, the founder of Homeboy Industries, called the years from 1988 to 1998 “the decade of death.”

“One summer, someone died like for a month straight, every weekend,” said Charles Williams, 36, a drummer in the church band who joined when he was 15. “You couldn’t play basketball because they were shooting at the backboards.”

When Oquendo arrived, in 2013, L.A. County had 592 homicides, about a quarter as many as when Bradford began. Hollenbeck recorded just 14 homicides last year — a sharper decrease than in the rest of the county.

“The reputation of Boyle Heights to me was pretty much ‘American Me,’ you know, ‘Blood In, Blood Out,’” Oquendo said, referring to movies about Eastside street gangs. “But gang activity has died down a lot, not just

in L.A. and Boyle Heights, but across the nation.”

Neighborhood changes

After he was busted for drug possession in the late 1960s, Bradford was a fugitive for seven years, living in a hippie colony in Northern California and a tepee in New Mexico.

He became a minister and by the late 1980s was drawn to the stories of the gang violence in L.A. He arrived in a neighborhood dominated by housing projects and four gangs warring in close proximity.

Gang members at the time didn’t worry about so-called gang enhancements that levied tougher penalties for even basic crimes if someone was on a gang list. Proudly proclaiming gang fealty was the norm.

Bradford met Mike Garcia, now 69 and a retired gang member, who became his guide to the neighborhood’s wild side.

With Garcia’s help, he opened the back of the church as a gym, which attracted members of one gang and then others. Many joined the church.

“He would read you a Scripture from the Bible, and from there he would run with that Scripture into the streets, and related it to what he went through and what a lot of the guys went through,” Garcia said.

When the housing projects got torn down in the late 1990s, replaced with tidy condominiums and public housing, many of the gang members who had lived in the neighborhood or hung out there left.

Oquendo was preaching at a traditional church in San Antonio

when he got the call about a small church in Boyle Heights.

He talked to his wife and said they had been in Texas eight months and had only begun to feel settled. But after consulting with her again — and God, he said — Oquendo changed his mind, and traded his slacks, dress shirt and tie for jeans, polo shirts and a New York Yankees cap.

Garcia said he decided to give the young pastor a chance. Oquendo had been in a tagging crew when he was a teenager, ending up in juvenile hall, and told a story about pulling a shotgun at a party — a moment that he said helped lead him to God.

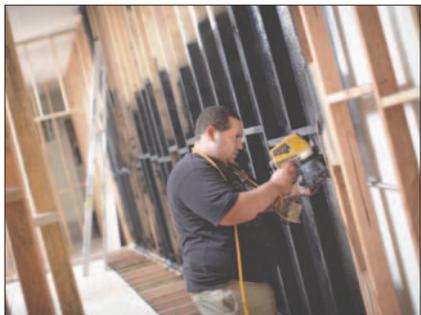
But Garcia was surprised by his youth, and Oquendo’s sermons didn’t resonate with an experience shaped by the gang life.

Garcia left, but his daughter — whom he first took to the church when she was 10 — stayed as one of the Sunday school teachers.

For the moment, the church is diminished. Only a handful of the remaining parishioners ever claimed direct membership in a gang. You’ll still see a man or two with his old gang loyalties inked into his body. But now he may sit just a few feet from a 13-year-old girl wearing a Nirvana shirt.

The two pastors each carried messages for their time, Garcia said. But one message hasn’t changed: Come as you are. He’s confident that the church will grow again, even if it’s a different house of God.

Oquendo said he expects that the church’s new membership will be more diverse. He’s chosen a new name — Cityscape: Church of Los Angeles — that he hopes will help “redefine how people see our city.”



Pastor Joey Oquendo helps renovate the worship center in March.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Council approves liquor license for gun range

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Bullets and beer could soon become a reality at a gun range in Oklahoma City. As long as the bullets come before the beer, that is.

The Oklahoma City City Council approved a liquor license on Tuesday for the Wilshire Gun Range, a planned 40,000-square-foot establishment that will include 24 firearm lanes, 10 archery lanes and a cafe where food and alcohol can be served.

Co-owner Jeff Swanson said the gun range will be the first in the state where people can shoot and enjoy libations — and do it safely.

People must shoot first, and then drink, Swanson said. To ensure that, customers' driver's licenses will be scanned before he or she operates a lane or orders food, alcohol or merchandise.

"Once you order a drink your driver's license is scanned and you are red-flagged and you're not allowed into any of the shooting facilities, either as a spectator and certainly not as a shooter for the remainder of the day," Swanson said.

Anonymous cash man creates Twitter frenzy

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Someone is dropping envelopes full of cash across San Francisco — and causing an international frenzy on social media.

An anonymous man with the Twitter handle #HiddenCash has been hiding money throughout the city since Friday, leading scores on a scavenger hunt. His Twitter following exploded from a few hundred Friday to more than 80,000 and counting by midday Tuesday.

One of his clues Tuesday told San Francisco followers to "find Mr. Franklin along the 'crookedest street,' (towards the bottom)." Translation: There was a \$100 bill at the bottom of Lombard Street, the popular tourist thoroughfare that's best known as the "Crookedest Street in The World."

Hidden Cash's anonymous creator said his giveaways are a "social experiment for good." He claims to make his money off San Francisco's hot and lucrative real estate market and hopes that winners also "pay it forward."

Police chase naked man near ferry terminal

WA SEATTLE — Police said a naked man who ran from officers on Seattle's waterfront and then jumped into Elliott Bay was fleeing a hospital where he had been taken for a medical evaluation.

Now he's back in a hospital for another medical evaluation.

Police said the man fled Harborview Medical Center on Tuesday, took off his clothes and headed downhill toward the water.

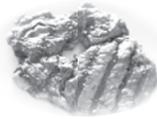
Police were chasing him as he ran toward Colman Dock and jumped into the water near the

THE CENSUS

298

so Schuyler ate those side dishes as well.

The number of seconds it took — just under five minutes — for a Nebraska woman to break a Texas steakhouse's speed record for eating a 4½-pound steak. The Amarillo Globe News said that competitive eater Molly Schuyler, 5-foot-7 and 125 pounds, celebrated her feat by polishing off a second steak of the same size. The previous record was 5 minutes and 52 seconds. The restaurant foots the bill for anyone who can eat one of the steaks, a baked potato, shrimp, a salad and bread roll in under an hour,



RICK WEST, (SUBURBAN CHICAGO) DAILY HERALD/ AP

Daredevil deer totals van

Heidi Conner, of West Dundee, Ill., views the shattered windshield of her minivan at her home in West Dundee, Ill. Conner said she and her four children were traveling on the Jane Addams tollway Sunday when a 200-pound deer leapt from an overpass and landed on her vehicle. Conner said the accident totaled the van and caused minor injuries. Illinois State Police said the deer died.

ferry terminal.

Fire boats responded and pulled the man from the water.

Sacred Indian site eyed for national park

VA RICHMOND — Land along the York River that archaeologists believe was the center of a vast Indian empire before the first Europeans settled in Virginia is gaining White House attention as a possible addition to the National Park System.

President Barack Obama has set aside \$6 million to acquire more than 250 acres of the former Indian village in Gloucester to achieve that goal. Congress must approve the funding in the 2015 funding proposal.

Called Werowocomoco, the land is believed to have been the seat of power for Powhatan.

Powhatan oversaw an empire that included 30 political divisions and 15,000 to 20,000 Indians at the time Capt. John Smith and his fellow settlers established the first permanent English settlement in North America in 1607. Some Virginia Indians have called the site "our Washington,

D.C."

It is also believed to be where Pocahontas appealed to Powhatan, her father, to spare the life of Smith.

Reported mountain lion turns out to be a dog

NE KEARNEY — Nebraska wildlife officials have determined that a reported mountain lion near The Archway in Kearney was actually just a dog.

The Kearney Hub reported that a man fishing on a lake north of the monument, which spans Interstate 80 at Kearney, called Kearney police around noon Sunday to report seeing a mountain lion in the area.

Local law enforcement officers and a conservation officer from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission searched the area and found a set of animal tracks, but determined those tracks came from a dog, not a cougar.

Dale Johnson, a Buffalo County conservation officer, took photographs of the animal's tracks and will forward them to a state biologist for a second opinion.

Man holding breath in tunnel causes crash

OR MANNING — A 19-year-old man told investigators he caused a three-car crash when he fainted while holding his breath as he drove through a tunnel northwest of Portland, Oregon State Police said.

Daniel J. Calhoun, of Snohomish, Wash., told investigators he fainted Sunday afternoon while holding his breath in the Highway 26 tunnel near the community of Manning, according to a news release. His car, a 1990 Toyota Camry, drifted across the center line and crashed head-on with a Ford Explorer.

Both vehicles struck the tunnel walls before a pickup hit the Camry.

Calhoun and his passenger suffered non-life-threatening injuries, as did the two people in the Explorer. The two people in the pickup were not hurt.

Calhoun was cited for reckless driving, three counts of reckless endangerment and fourth-degree assault in Washington County Circuit Court.

State Police Lt. Gregg Hastings

said Monday he's not sure why Calhoun was holding his breath, but some people hold their breaths in tunnels as part of a game or superstition.

Man fails 3 times in effort to rob laundromat

KS WICHITA — Three strikes and you're out for a man who tried to rob a Wichita laundromat.

Wichita police said the man walked into the Fabric Care Center early Sunday and gave the employee a note saying "This is a robbery." The unimpressed employee said he had a gun, and the man left.

Police Sgt. John Ryan said the man returned a second time and told the employee that he, too, had a gun. But he left again when they argued.

About 10 minutes later, the man returned. This time, he poured himself a cup of coffee, took the robbery note from the counter and left. The employee then called 911. Other than the coffee, nothing was taken from the business.

From wire reports

MILITARY



PHOTOS BY TED S. WARREN/AP

Training area aids conservation

A Taylor's checkerspot butterfly rests May 7 on a leaf on a prairie area used for live-fire exercises at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash.

Wash. military base among last remaining habitats for butterfly species

By PHUONG LE
The Associated Press

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — An undeveloped stretch of native prairie in south Puget Sound offers one of the few habitats in the world where a 2-inch, checkered butterfly thrives. It also happens to be the main artillery impact range for Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The Army's Stryker combat brigade and other troops regularly practice military maneuvers and live-fire training on acres of scenic, open grassland where a small population of Taylor's checkerspot butterfly feeds on nectar of native blooms, mates and lays eggs.

The butterfly's listing as a federal endangered species last fall "has the potential to cause major restrictions on training," said Jeffrey Foster, an ecologist at the military installation.

That has the Army working to boost the numbers of butterflies, once found at more than 70 sites in Puget Sound, Oregon and British Columbia but are now reduced to 14 sites. The effort mirrors others by the Army at installations around the country.

From Maryland to Louisiana to Colorado, the Army has been conserving buffer areas around bases to limit urban development, while also preserving and restoring habitat for rare species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and the golden-cheeked warbler.

So far, the program has preserved over 200,000 acres of lands.

At JBLM, 44 miles south of Seattle, the program is helping not only the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, but also the streaked horned lark and Mazama pocket gopher.



Poles are marked to constrain vehicle traffic and human travel near a bullet-pocked bunker on a prairie area used for live-fire exercises at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., that also happens to be one of the few areas in the country where the federally listed endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly lives.

Last October, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service concluded the Taylor's checkerspot was in danger of becoming extinct and designated nearly 2,000 acres in Clallam County, Puget Sound and Oregon's Willamette Valley as critical habitat for the creature.

The agency said it considered "military training under present conditions a threat to the short-term and long-term conservation of the Taylor's checkerspot." The eight-wheeled, armored Stryker vehicle and soldier foot traffic can crush larvae and can damage plants the butterflies rely on.

The Army has been working with the

Center for Natural Lands Management and others to preserve and restore habitat, both on and off the military installation, so that the butterflies could be reintroduced.

The military and its partners have committed about \$35 million and have protected several thousand acres of land in and around JBLM for multiple species. It likely will take years to increase the butterfly's numbers, but those working on the effort are already seeing some success.

Taylor's checkerspot butterflies are establishing at two of three sites at JBLM and on two other sites near Olympia where they have been reintroduced.

"We're in a much better position now than were five years ago," said Mary Linders, a conservation biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Army is working with the Center for Natural Lands Management, a nonprofit group that manages lands that are purchased, works with partners who raise the butterflies in captivity, propagates native prairie plants and prepares sites where the checkerspots can be reintroduced.

Hannah Anderson, rare species program manager at CNLM, said the military's program helped "protect lands off the base, restore them to high quality and bring the animals there so we could protect these animals but also the military's ability to train."

On a recent day, Linders and others walked a section of prairie at the artillery impact area to count adult butterflies and monitor the timing of the flight season.

It is prime season for the butterflies to mate, and their orange-and-white-checked wings flutter as they move from one plant to another. They fly in groups and dip into the center of Puget balsamroot — bright, sunflower-like plants that are in full bloom.

Nearly, pockmarked bunkers bear evidence of artillery fire. White stakes mark areas where vehicles must stay on the road and where soldiers and others are prohibited from digging or camping. Linders points out a cluster of eggs at the base of a red harsh paintbrush.

"You can see lots and lots of them as we're walking through here," she said. "It's the largest population left in the checkerspot's range."

WEEKEND



Marvelous MUTANTS

X-Men young and old unite in 'Days of Future Past'

Page 24

Timber & towers

German architecture abounds in Idstein

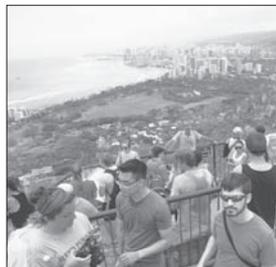
Quick Trips, Page 30



Diamond in the rough

Trail on Oahu leads to gorgeous Hawaiian views

Travel, Page 34



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

Good old days?

Software can show us what aging has in store

By ERIC LACITIS
The Seattle Times

Let's assume you are, oh, 25 years old. Wrinkle-free, bag-free, sag-free. Would you want to see a pretty realistic image of what you'll look like at age 70? A little hesitation?

In a couple of months you'll be able to do just do that. Just upload a photo of you, at any age — 2, 10, 25 — into a free program created at the University of Washington's Computer Science & Engineering department.

In about a minute, you'll see the old you. If you dare. Or put in a photo of anyone. Certainly, it worked quite well when we tested it with photos of former President Clinton as a kid, and compared what the program said he'd look like now with a real photo of the old Clinton.

We also asked the program to age a number of others — from Miley Cyrus to Russell Wilson to Maclemore — to show them in their 60s. It showed us what Jimi Hendrix and Kurt Cobain would have looked like had they lived, to 71 and 47 this year, respectively.

No wonder so many plastic surgeons get rich. But it also means that, as the main researcher who put together this age-progression software has not run her own photo.

"I didn't do that, no," says Ira Kemelmacher-Shlizerman, an assistant professor who helped create the program.

She's 33. It just wasn't something that interested me, she says. Not an unexpected reaction, according to pioneering research by Tony Greenwood, a psychology professor at the University of Washington. He's part of a team that has done unrelated research about how we react to a photo of an old face, versus a photo of a young face.

We react more negatively to elderly faces. It makes it clear that being old is not a pleasant thing. Why should we want to know what unpleasant faces us?" he says.

Kemelmacher-Shlizerman says there will be real uses for the software, such as in helping find long-missing children who've now become adults.

Right now, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has four full-time forensic-imaging artists who do their best at depicting what a child missing at age 5 might look like at age 25. The center says it has more than 2,000 open, long-term missing cases.

Their artists use Photoshop, pictures of the



ELLEN M. BANNER, THE SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Ira Kemelmacher-Shlizerman, 33, is an assistant University of Washington professor who helped create the sophisticated software that estimates the aging process.

child's parents and relatives, and "part science and part art" to create their images of the child at an older age, says a spokesman.

The center says it's eager to give the university's program, which is based on the science of imaging, a try.

In putting together the program, the researchers used photos they found online in which they could determine the age of the person — images from soccer-team photos and beauty competitions, for example.

Over two years, they came up with 40,000 photos. Then they divided the subjects by gender and 14 age groups, and put math to how their faces change over time.

They found that, over time, our faces simply get bigger. Our eyes get narrower. Lips get narrower. Noses get larger.

And, of course, our skin sags, we get wrinkles, and we get bags under our eyes. The research paper goes into all the math involved, with references to "illumination subspace," "lighting-aware flow" and "aspect ratio progress."

Bottom line, the program works very well. The researchers had people look at computer-generated images of somebody at an older age, versus real images of the person at that age. The participants basically couldn't tell them apart.

The program even works when the starting image is that of a baby, a much harder task because the face changes so much into adulthood.

In a couple of months, when the program is publicly available, probably on the school's site, it'll be a matter of do you or don't you want to know? Maybe run that photo of a girlfriend or boyfriend?

Says psychologist Greenwood, "When I got married, and you had asked me if I wanted to know what my wife would look like in 50 years, I probably would have said no."

GADGET WATCH

Garmin develops fitness tracker

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

My editor, a runner and busy mom of a 2-year-old, tested the Garmin Vivofit, a fitness tracker, for me. Here is her review after trying it out for 15 days:

I wore the Vivofit side-by-side with my year-old Fitbit Flex, which both work as pedometers to track your steps and also calculate calories burned by your efforts, based on information you input into an account profile. There are a couple of differences:

One, the battery — the Flex is rechargeable, while the Vivofit takes two CR1632 batteries. Two, the Vivofit has a screen to display information, while the Flex has five lights to indicate your day's achievements. Both fitness trackers have similar band closures — and both are equally likely to be accidentally knocked off.

Compared to the Fitbit, the Garmin seems a bit stingy on the steps: In the 12 days I was able to compare (thanks to the battery needing to be recharged on the Flex), the difference ranged from 2.1 percent to 13.8 percent. Neither is probably completely accurate.

Bottom line, I prefer the Vivofit not only because of the battery type, but because the screen shows you the information you want to know with a quick scroll using the surface button. Syncing is as easy as opening the app, holding the button on the device until "sync" appears and confirmed that any firmware updates will be sent automatically to the device while syncing. Also, if you already own an ANT+ heart rate monitor, you can pair it with this device (though I didn't try).

Online: garmin.com; \$130 for just the Vivofit, or \$170 for the tracker and a heart rate monitor

The Kenu Highline is a case and leash system to keep your iPhone 5/5s attached to you at all times, preventing it from being left behind, stolen or accidentally dropped.

One end of the braided Kevlar-reinforced elastic coil can attach to a belt loop, for example, and stretches more than an arm's length, up to 36 inches. Taking photos or talking on the phone won't be a problem. The other end attaches to the snap-on case, a proprietary Lightning tip lock system that goes into the iPhone's lightning port and locks into a tiny leash connector at the bottom of the back of the case.

The case itself is made of polycarbonate and has a protective rim.

The Highline is a complete system; the leash cannot be used independently with other cases.

Online: kenu.com, \$34.95

The ECOXGEAR Ecoterra Boombox is the perfect summer sound system.

The waterproof Ecoterra floats on its own, without additional hardware, and can be temporarily submerged without interrupting play.

Just put your media player (most smartphones will fit) and whatever else you want — as long as it's relatively flat (keys, cash, etc.) — inside the waterproof compartment, which also protects the items from sand.

(The compartment measures 5.2-by-4-by-0.75 inches.) To play your music, connect the 3.5mm audio jack to your media device, which pumps sound out of 3-inch forward-facing speakers.

It works off of AC on land or eight AA batteries on land, sea or air, which is good for about 25 hours of use. There are also multiple carabiner clips on the shell to attach it to almost anything, helping it stay in place.

It measures 7.5 inches tall by 14.5 inches wide and is 5 inches deep. It weighs in at just a pound, so if you want that '80s' feeling of carrying it around on your shoulder, go for it.

Online: ecogear.com, \$149.99

ON THE COVER: Hugh Jackman, Michael Fassbender and James McAvoy are three of the biggest names in the star-studded blockbuster "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

20th Century Fox

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for May 28:

- "Good Girls," 5 Seconds of Summer
- "Problem," Ariana Grande (feat. Iggy Azalea)
- "Fancy," Iggy Azalea (feat. Charli XCX)
- "Ain't Wron'g," Nico & Vinz
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Wiggle," Jason Derulo (feat. Snoop Dogg)
- "I'm a Me," John Legend
- "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
- "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
- "Summer," Calvin Harris

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for May 19-25:

- Iggy Azalea, "Fancy"
- Ariana Grande, "Problem"
- Calvin Harris, "Summer"
- John Legend, "All of Me"
- DJ Snake & Lil Jon, "Turn Down for What"
- Disclosure, "Latch"
- Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
- Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
- Ain't Wron'g, "Nico & Vinz"
- Bastille, "Pompeii"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for May 28:

- "The Monuments Men"
- "The LEGO Movie"
- "Lone Survivor"
- "The Monuments Men"
- "Non-Stop"
- "3 Days to Kill"
- "All Is Lost"
- "Thomas Was Alone"
- "Frozen"
- "Endless Love"
- "The Wolf of Wall Street"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer magazine rank the top 10 iOS games for May:

- "Hearthstone: Heroes of Warcraft," Blizzard
- "FTL: Faster Than Light," Subset Games
- "Monument Valley," Ustwo
- "The Walking Dead Season 2 Episode 3 — In Harm's Way," Telltale Games
- "Kero Blaster," Studio Pixel
- "Thomas Was Alone," Bossa Studios
- "Botanicula," Amanita Design
- "Hitman Go," Square Enix
- "Trials Frontier," Redlynx
- "Republic Episode 2 — Metamorphosis," Camofaj

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for May 28:

- ANDROID
- 11 Ballz
 - Malificent Free Fall
 - Elements: Epic Hero
 - PEPI Skate 3D
 - Soul Guardians: Age of Midgard
- Top 5 free apps for May 28:
- APPLE
- Dragons: Rise of Berk
 - F1 Race Stars
 - Microsoft Word for iPad
 - FIFA 14 by EA Sports
 - Watch_Dogs Companion: iOS Mobile

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

See Mr. Moviefone's 'Six-Second Reviews'

Russ Leatherman, best known as the co-founder and voice of Moviefone, has found his new calling: extremely short movie reviews.

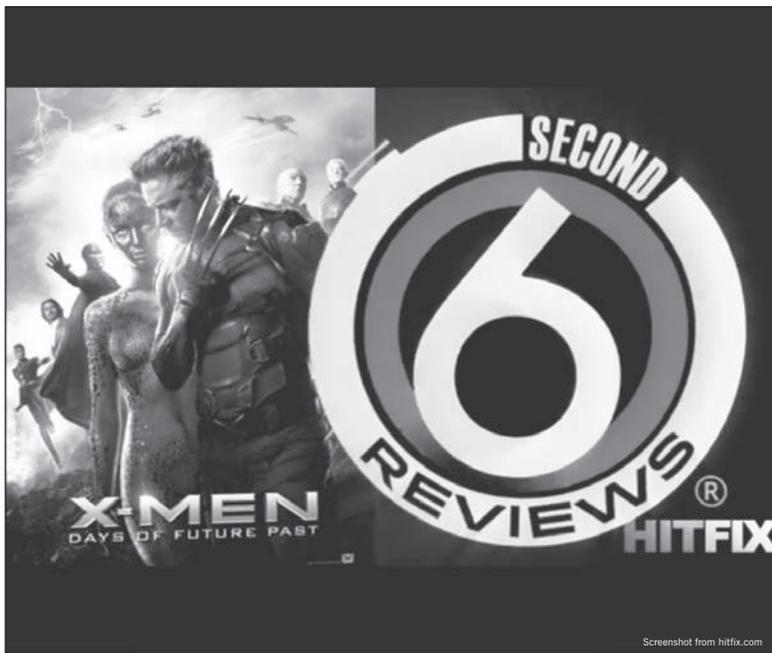
Leatherman's bellowing intonations are getting a new outlet with "Six-Second Reviews" on the entertainment website Hitfix.com, featuring short videos that give visitors bite-sized takes on films and end with his verdict of whether he's "in" or "out."

"'Godzilla' comes a little late to the party but makes up for it in pure movie monster badassery! I'm in!"

This marks Leatherman's first venture since he left Moviefone in November after a 25-year stint. There, he provided the oft-parodied "Hello! And welcome to Moviefone!" greeting on its call-in service.

— Los Angeles Times

• For six-second reviews, go to hitfix.com/videos/ssr



Screenshot from hitfix.com

2

Fire-breathing family fun

Mutants ("X-Men") are violent and kind of weird, and Adam Sandler ("Blended") is at least a little obnoxious. What to do if you're looking for family-friendly movie fun? Consider renting the special edition Blu-ray combo pack of "How to Train Your Dragon."

The tale of young Viking Hiccup and his dragon friend Toothless is entertaining for all, and you'll be caught up on the story just in time for the sequel, which comes out in June.

• Other new DVD releases on Page 39.



3

Battle Nazis in latest 'Wolfenstein' title

Everybody's favorite bad guys, the Nazis, are back in "Wolfenstein: The New Order." And this time, they won their war after getting their nasty hands on some superior technology. This iteration of the game is a definite step forward, and a must for fans of first-person shooters.

• Full video game review on Page 26.



4

Donate to charity for shot at 'Star Wars' cameo

Do you love 'Star Wars'? And being charitable? Director J.J. Abrams (right) is giving fans a shot at a cameo in the film being released next year. For every \$10 donation (funds go to UNICEF), contributors get a chance to win a film shoot in London. The promotion runs through July 18.

• Donate at Omaze.com/StarWars



WEEKEND: MOVIES



'Days of Future Past' merges old and new

By JOHN ANDERSON
Newsday

Marvel's X-Men franchise involves multiple characters, multiple aliases, multiple storylines, comic books, TV shows, seven blockbuster feature films and a legacy of esoteria dating back to 1963. One would need an anti-perplexity superpower to keep all the history straight.

Now, they're mutating history itself. "Days of Future Past," which brings the latest X-venture to theaters, involves traveling through time, changing the past and several characters meeting not only younger versions of themselves, but Richard Nixon. It's like a runaway supertrain.

And yet ... so many things remain the same — and have, since the mutant outsider X-Men were birthed at the height of the Civil Rights era.

One of the great things about the films is that they've always been about something," said Patrick Stewart, who has long played the patriarchal Charles Xavier. "From the first moments of the first film, when we found ourselves outside the gates of Auschwitz, the films have been fundamentally serious about the nature of prejudice and discrimination, and otherness. That has never been far from any of the X-Men movies."

Stewart and Ian McKellen are the grand old men of the franchise, Stewart having played Charles since "X-Men" of 2000, with McKellen ever-present as his frenemy, the metal-manipulating Magneto. Among the younger members of what seems to be a movie-making fraternity is Ellen Page, who returns as the time-tampering Kitty Pryde/Shadowcat. She agreed with Stewart.

"The series explores otherness," she said. "And difference. And how the fear that we have about people who are different manifests itself in inequality and violence and suffering in the world today."

"It's what I find cool about the franchise, and why it's had the longevity it's had — the X-Men are deeply grounded and relatable and moving."

And they blow stuff up, and fight bad guys in 3-D. "Days of Future Past," directed by Bryan Singer — who withdrew from the media campaign for his film because of recent sex-abuse allegations — is a sequel to both "X-Men: First Class" (2006) and the prematurely titled "X-Men: Last Stand" (2011). It marks a return to the series of Stewart, Page, Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry, Anna Paquin, Michael Fassbender, Nicholas Hoult, Jennifer Lawrence and James McAvoy. Given the ruddy health of the ongoing enterprise ("X-Men: Apocalypse" arrives in 2016) and the way actors and characters come and go in its various chapters, it seems like some kind of club.

"It's a sweet club to be in," Page said. "A club? I don't know," said newcomer Evan Peters,



Peter Dinklage as Trask in the latest "X-Men" film.

'X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST' HAS NEW CHARACTERS

There haven't been quite as many X-Men (or Women) in the X-Men movies as there have been in the X-Men comics, but the cast grows each time around. Presenting your 2014 mutants, "Days of Future Past" edition, and one memorable villain:

Trask: The X-Men's worst enemy, Trask (played by Peter Dinklage, "Game of Thrones"), is an evil industrialist who sees mutants as a threat to humanity and liquidating them the only option.

Bishop: The energy-channeling/energy-absorbing Bishop is played by French import Omar Sy, whom foreign-film audiences will remember from the Oscar-nominated French film "The Intouchables." Playing a mutant is a long way from pushing an aristocrat in a wheelchair. "It's my first Hollywood movie and my first movie at all with this level of special effects," Sy said. "I learned a lot."

Quicksilver: Played by Evan Peters (FX's "American Horror Story"), Quicksilver has moves that are literally quicker than the eye: An extended sequence in "Days of Future Past" involves his saving his new X friends by moving around a security team, altering the trajectory of their bullets and doing it at such a leisurely high speed it becomes low comedy. How the character will develop seems unclear. "It would definitely be fun playing a bad guy," Peters said. "He has a mischievous side. He could go both ways. He's kind of teetering ..."

Blink: Played by Chinese starlet Bingbing Fan ("Iron Man 3"), Blink isn't given much screen time, but she has dimension-warping powers that give her the ability to teleport her fellow mutants.

Warpath: With his super strength, agility and stamina, Warpath will provide an enormous asset on the battlefield. With his previous appearances in the "Twilight" series, Booboo Stewart will provide an enormous asset at the box office for the X-Men.

who plays the faster-than-light Quicksilver. "They don't have any cars."

"I pray every morning I'll stay in the club," laughed another newcomer, Omar Sy, who plays the energy-channeling Bishop.

Some of the established regulars appear fleetingly, others centrally — Jackman, for instance, who is playing the razor-taloned Wolverine for the seventh time. McAvoy plays the younger version of Xavier, whom Wolverine encounters when Shadowcat sends him back to 1973.

I have to be honest and say I have not, over the years, projected my youth onto James McAvoy," Stewart said. "But having seen it, I think it's brilliant."

The goal of time travel is to prevent the development of a super race of mutant-killing robots, based on the DNA of the shape-shifting Raven, aka Mystique (Lawrence). She has not yet become the assassin she would be when played by Rebecca Romijn in several earlier "X-Men" movies, but is certainly hot under her scaly, royal-blue collar: She has discovered the horrors inflicted on mutants by Bolivar Trask (Peter Dinklage), an industrialist who has whipped the Nixon White House into a froth of mutant phobia and who must be stopped, lest the future become a hellish nightmare for our heroes. The idea that Trask is the Josef Mengele of the X-Men story won't be lost on many viewers.

"Trask is an interesting character," said Hoult, who plays the younger Beast (and did so previously in "X-Men: First Class"). "But he's driven by fear, almost everyone is. Even the relationship between Xavier and Magneto. They take different means to the same end, but they both fit into the same world, and are alternately friends and enemies."

One of the more mundane aspects of "Days of Future Past" was getting the older/younger characters to correspond correctly with each other vocally: One can hear Stewart and McAvoy, for instance, modulating their accents — British and Scottish, respectively — to sound more alike. Hoult already had experience prepping to play the younger Beast, who in an earlier incarnation ("X-Men: Last Stand") was played by Kelsey Grammer (who has an uncredited cameo late in the film). "I watched a lot of 'Frasier,'" Hoult said, quite seriously. "But what I sounded like was more like Niles."

Comedy is no small part of "X-Men: Days of Future Past," or, for that matter, any of the films in the franchise. "We're always concerned with making it too serious, too dark," Hoult said. "We all warm more to people who may be in a terrible situation but try to cope — and have a sense of humor about it all."

From top left: Michael Fassbender, Hugh Jackman, Jennifer Lawrence and Nicholas Hoult star in Marvel Comics' "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALAN MARKFIELD, 20TH CENTURY FOX/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES

The latest chapter in 'X-Men' saga a worthy 'Past' time

BY CARY DARLING
Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

There are many superhero feats on display in the latest installment in the "X-Men" saga, "Days of Future Past."

Time travel. Saving the world from big, angry robots. A beautifully restored 1973 Buick Riviera.

But the nod for the most stunning accomplishment goes to director Bryan Singer and writer Simon Kinberg for taking what could have been a formulaic superhero sequel and giving it humor and life — while remaining true to the original "X-Men" message of the outcast finding strength in their differences.

The plot mechanics grow increasingly creaky in the latter half, as the special effects grow bigger, but there's still enough resonance to keep it from lapsing into being, say, "X-Men" Origins: Wolverine," perhaps the most reviled of all the recent Marvel Comics related films.

This "X-Men" installment begins in an alternative near-future where humanity — mutants and regular Joe's alike — has been targeted to extinction by the rise of superbots originally designed by mad scientist Dr. Trask (Peter Dinklage) to wipe out the mutants.

But Professor X (Patrick Stewart) and Magneto (Ian McKellen)

have a plan.

Kitty Pryde (Ellen Page) is a mutant whose special power is the ability to send people back in time. Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) is selected to travel to the early '70s, when Dr. Trask was first peddling his ideas before a skeptical Congress and the mutants were disorganized and unknown to the general population. His mission is to stop the robots, called sentinels, from being created in the first place — and change the future. No biggie, right?

But Wolverine only has a limited amount of time in the past because a battalion of sentinels is bearing down on our heroes in the apocalyptic future.

In order to succeed, Wolverine must convince the younger versions of X and Magneto (James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender, respectively), both of whom dislike each other at this point, to put aside their differences for the sake of humanity and mutants. X, known as Charles Xavier back then, is especially dubious as he's living in desheveled seclusion (with another mutant, The Beast, played by Nicholas Hoult) and his school for mutants (seen in "X-Men: First Class") has been shuttered.

Wolverine has to convince them to reel in rogue mutant Raven — aka Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence) — who is planning to assassinate Dr. Trask. It's that action, which sparks mass



ALAN MARKFIELD, 20th Century Fox/AP

Jennifer Lawrence stars as the mutant Raven — aka Mystique — in "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

panic, that ultimately prompts the government to green-light the production of the sentinels.

Everyone got that? Well, it doesn't really matter as it's a cool excuse for Singer to have fun with the '70s. It's superhero muscle meets "American Hustle." From Roberta Flack's "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" to America admitting defeat in Vietnam, from Richard Nixon to "Sanford & Son," Singer makes inspired use of the decade as a cultural backdrop.

The high point is the introduction of the mutant Quicksilver (Evan Peters), whose special power is to move at the speed of light — though, to him, it's every-one else who seems to be in slow motion.

His big action scene, set to Jim Croce's folk ballad "Time in a

Bottle," is the movie's showpiece.

The time-travel scenario proves to be a clever way for Singer to meld the two X-Men universes — the veterans introduced in "X-Men" in 2000 and their younger selves first seen in "X-Men: First Class" in 2011 — into one coherent world.

As the film moves to its conclusion, there's predictably less fun and more effects. But, even here, the acting abilities of McAvoy, Fassbender, Stewart and McKellen can make even the most cliché comic-book dialog pulse with importance. In fact, McAvoy and Fassbender work off each other especially well.

And, if nothing else, there's always that Buick Riviera.

"X-Men: Days of Future Past" is rated PG-13 for intense sci-fi violence and action, suggestive material, nudity and language. Running time: 134 minutes.

New on base

"X-Men: Days of Future Past" is playing at:

- Europe**
Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilsack, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunnsum.
- Atsugi, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futema, Hansen, Kadena, Kinsler, Schwab, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: x-menmovies.com

'Blended': Actors grow up, but comedy doesn't

BY STEPHANIE MERRY
The Washington Post

Adam Sandler's Happy Madison Productions churns out some of the most idiotic comedies to land on the big screen. To wit: Last year's "Grown Ups 2" was one of the worst movies since 2012's "That's My Boy," which was at least slightly better than Razzie winner "Jack and Jill" from 2011.

Compared to its forebears, the romantic comedy "Blended" looks like "Annie Hall." Of course, the bar is low. But when the fire alarm started ringing an hour into a recent screening of the movie and the whole audience had to file out to the street, just about everyone appeared to return for the final hour. So that's something.

Sixteen years since Sandler starred opposite Drew Barrymore in "The Wedding Singer" and a decade since they wedded together in "50 First Dates," the pair have grown up, even if the comedy hasn't. They play Jim and Lauren, two single parents who go on a disastrous blind date. Not only does Jim take Lauren to Hooters and drain her beer while she's in the bathroom, but he only pays for his half of the tab. Worse, he beats Lauren to the punch getting an "emergency" call halfway through the date, which is exactly the exit strategy she was planning.

New on base

"Blended" is playing at the following military facilities:

- Europe**
Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilsack, Wiesbaden, Vicenza and Brunnsum.
- Pacific**
Yokota, Zama, Foster, Hansen, Kadena, Kinsler, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: blendedmovie.com

Basically, Jim is a schlubby Mr. Darcy, antagonizing Lauren only to potentially win her over later, when the two, each with their children, coincidentally end up on the same African safari vacation for Brady Bunch-esque blended families.

There are a lot of misses when it comes to the comedy, whether it's seeing rhinos mid-coitus or the recurring gag of Lauren carrying one of her sleeping sons to bed and slamming his head into door jambs.

One extended scene involving crocodiles seems to exist solely so Sandler can say he

got so scared he made a "zebra stripe" in his underwear. One of the most dependable jokes comes courtesy of Terry Crews: The "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" star plays a spirited and muscled resort troubadour who shows up singing at the oddest moments, always with a huge group of backup singers.

"Blended" is more successful when it lets itself be sentimental. Jim's middle daughter, Espn (Emma Fuhrmann) — pronounced "Espin," her namesake is the television network — talks constantly to her dead mother, even saving seats for Jim's late wife at the breakfast table. And his youngest daughter, Lou (Alyvia Alyn Lind), is in such desperate need of a mom figure, she latches onto Lauren the moment they meet.

But the filmmakers, including director Frank Coraci (who also did "The Wedding Singer"), seem terrified to dwell in sensitive territory for too long. Each sweet moment is inevitably punctuated by some in-your-face joke that's at least as stupid as the preceding moments were heartfelt.

"Blended" has other problems, too, including some faulty editing and a typically predictable finale. But there are some genuinely sweet and funny moments, which are more than enough to exceed expectations.

"Blended" is rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content and strong language. Running time: 117 minutes.

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THUR MAY 29 / WED JUNE 4
In Digital 3D: Godzilla (PG-13) - Sat & Sun 13:30
In Digital 3D: Maleficent (PG) - Thur 18:00, 20:30, Fri & Sat 16:00, 18:00, 20:30, 22:30, Sun 16:00, 18:00, 20:30, Mon - Wed 18:00, 20:30
In Digital 3D: X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG-13) - Thur & Fri 15:45, Sat & Sun 15:30, Mon & Wed 16:00
A Million Ways to Die in the West (R) - Thur 18:00, 20:30, Fri & Sat 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, Mon - Wed 16:00, 18:15, 20:30
In 2D: Godzilla (PG-13) - Thur 16:00, Fri & Sat 15:45, Sun - Wed 16:00
In 2D: Maleficent (PG) - Fri 16:00, Sat & Sun 15:30, Mon & Wed 16:00
In 2D: X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG-13) - Thur 18:00, 20:30, Fri 17:45, 20:00, 22:00, Sat 15:30, 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 17:00, Mon - Wed 18:00, 20:30
Also showing: Rio 2, The Other Woman, The Amazing Spiderman: Rise of Electro

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broadwaykino.com/mkc

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Destroying Nazi dreams

'Wolfenstein: The New Order' lets players rewrite history

BY TIM BOWERS

Special to Stars and Stripes

Desperate times call for determined heroes. "Wolfenstein: The New Order" takes players to a hypothetical version of the 1960s, where the Nazis have won World War II because of superior technology. It revolves around a hulking hero named William B.J. Blaskowicz and his struggle against the Nazi war machine.

The mature-rated game from Bethesda Softworks starts off with an assault on a Nazi leader's compound in 1946, immersing the player in a bloody battle through the deadly trenches and dark corridors of the tyrannical leader's castle.

During this intense first chapter of the game, the player is presented with a choice that leads down two separate storylines. In these lines, Blaskowicz will encounter slightly different NPCs, gain different kinds of upgrades, experience new dialogue and unlock different areas. After the choice has been made, Blaskowicz receives a head wound in the fighting and loses consciousness.

All of this is only the first chapter of Blaskowicz's tale. The player can experience Blaskowicz's bravery through a total of 32 incredibly addictive chapters — 16 chapters per storyline.

When Blaskowicz awakens, he finds himself in a Polish mental hospital. It's 14 years later, and the Nazis have conquered the world. And Blaskowicz knows he has a difficult job before him.

To accomplish missions, players must use a combination of stealth and firepower.

The idea of being a silent stalker might seem very appealing in the game's dismal settings. However, stealth kills with a knife or a suppressed pistol can take you only so far before you're forced into a gun fight. Enemies tend to bunch up or watch over each other at many spots. And to make the stealthy approach even harder, there is no way to hide dead enemies after a successful knife kill, which leaves their bodies exposed for other Nazis to find. This forces the gamer to really plan out stealth assassinations — and even then there is a chance that they might be seen during the process. But even though the stealth aspect has its problems, it's still enjoyable.

The gunfights are just as fun and they are generally jaw-dropping in their intensity. Explosions, destructible cover and even dismemberment are present in the firefights with Nazi troops. And to make things even more epic, the player

is able to dual-wield weapons. Now there are plenty of games that allow players to dual-wield pistols or submachine guns, but there is something supremely satisfying about running toward a handful of Nazi soldiers firing two automatic shotguns, destroying their cover and their dreams.

Each level and chapter was masterfully created to give the player a feeling of the overpowering Nazi rule. From the constant swastika flags to the Nazis actually speaking German to each other, it is easy to feel a sense of despair while fighting almost single-handedly against what is history's most feared regime. The developers also have placed newspaper clippings and photos with captions that provide the gamer with more

information on how the Nazis "won" the war and what life is like underneath the iron fist of the Third Reich.

There is no multiplayer for "Wolfen-

stein," but that does not mean that it's lacking in playability. Each chapter has secrets and collectibles for the player to find, and some of them are only accessible by playing through both of the storylines and finding the secret rooms in them.

The secret rooms provide ammo, health, armor and even an area that might provide the player with a tactical advantage. Players are also able to find Nazi Enigma codes that allow the player to unlock different game modes.

Inquisitive players can even find a playable glimpse of the original "Wolfenstein" game, complete with old-school game music and pixelated Nazis.

"Wolfenstein: The New Order" is a fantastic game that will both shock and entice gamers to play through the addictive storylines. With each mission, with each Nazi slain, a sense of accomplishment is achieved and a feeling of some ultimate goal being fulfilled draws the player in. It is challenging, yet fun, and does not have any truly significant faults with the game play. The only thing that could have been improved upon is the capability to hide bodies.

Bottom line: A There was never a dull moment throughout the entirety of the game.

Platforms: PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, PC
Online: wolfenstein.com



Overall grade: **A**



"Wolfenstein: The New Order" is set in an alternate history, where the Nazis were the victors of World War II.

Photos courtesy of Bethesda Softworks



WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

Nathaniel Parker as King Henry VIII, left, holds court with Thomas Cromwell, played by Ben Miles, in a scene from "Wolf Hall" at the Aldwych Theatre in London. The show is one of two plays adapted from Hilary Mantel's novels about deadly intrigue in the Tudor dynasty.

SEE THESE:

'Wolf Hall' and 'Bring Up the Bodies'

More than 1,000 pages of Hilary Mantel's novels "Wolf Hall" and "Bring Up the Bodies," about deadly intrigue in the Tudor dynasty, have opened in stage form at the Ald-wych Theatre in London following a much-praised run in Stratford-on-Avon, England. The books have been adapted into plays that plunge audiences into a world of murky Tudor machinations. As the shows moved to London's West End, Mantel said the characters' complex motives and shades of gray were key to the stories' adaptability.

The Guardian newspaper called "Wolf Hall" "the more exciting of the two, but says that seeing both productions — at a combined running time of about five and a half hours — is well worth the time. Booking is available through Sept. 6. Find information at aldwychtheatre.com.

Meanwhile, Mantel is working on adapting the final book in the trilogy, "The Mirror and the Light," into stage form. Anticipation also is building for a BBC Two miniseries adaptation of the novels, which will air in 2015.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Art in Berlin

Visitors seeking the eighth edition of the Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art won't find it in one place; rather, it's spread over a wide range of venues, from private apartments to former horse stables.

Running through Aug. 3, the Biennale explores the contemporary art scene. With Berlin as its starting point, this year's event aims to shed light on the city's relationship to its physical environment, labor and issues surrounding citizenship.

An additional focus of the program is the way in which the Berlin of past centuries is viewed within the current cultural landscape.

Organizers point out that the German capital is a magnet to artists from all over the world, many of whom make Berlin their home. The artists showing their works at the Biennale reflect the international character of the city.

The KW Institute for Contemporary Art on Auguststrasse 69 serves as the main venue, easily reached by public transportation. Some 23 additional premises house exhibitions. A ticket allowing entry into all spaces costs 16 euros (about \$21.90).

The KW Institute is open from noon to 10 p.m. daily except Mondays. German Rail offers special prices on journeys to



Karen Bradbury

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

Berlin for those holding Biennale tickets; inquire at one of its travel bureaus, located in the main train stations of Germany's larger cities.

Learn more at www.berlinbiennale.de.

Steam trains to chug on German Wine Road

A pair of events taking place near military communities over the decades could trick visitors into thinking they have traveled decades back in time.

In Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, trains of a bygone era take center stage as the city hosts a Dampfspektakel celebrating steam-powered locomotives through Sunday.

The party will celebrate the 25th birthday of the Rhein-Neckar Transport Association and 20

years of Rheinland-Pfalz-Takt, a project that promotes public transportation.

Although the event centers on Neustadt, steam trains will pass through villages in the Pfalz, Odenwald and Mid-Upper Rhine. Visitors will be able to not only admire the trains, but also climb aboard for a ride. Train tickets like those purchased to ride a normal train are valid, but organizers note that due to high demand, there's no guarantee you'll manage to find a seat, or even a place, on board.

Careful planners can take a look at the trains and the routes they would like to traverse by visiting dampfspektakel.info/en/timetables-and-locomotives.

In addition to train spotting, live music provides entertainment around the Neustadt train station from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

Information in English is available at dampfspektakel.info.

Classic cars in Wiesbaden

Names such as Aston-Martin, Jaguar and Porsche are known to most, but if Riley, Hotchkiss or Morgan

ring any bells, the place to be is Wiesbaden, Germany, where rallies involving more than 100 vintage automobiles will kick off. While many of the participating cars were manufactured in the 1950s and '60s, the oldest vehicle on this year's participant list is a 1910 Cadillac.

On Friday, the vehicles in the Oldtimer Rallye Wiesbaden will take a scenic drive through the Rheingau wine region, pausing for lunch in Eltville-Erbach and

arriving at Wiesbaden's City Hall at about 4:45 p.m.

On Saturday, the antique cars travel through the hilly Taunus region, with a midday pause planned in Bad Nauheim and arriving at Wiesbaden's Kurhaus at 4:45 p.m.

On Sunday, yet more vintage cars amass in front of the Kurhaus for the Concours d'Elegance at 10:30 a.m.

Read more at wiesbaden.de/en/sports/events.



Courtesy of Wiesbaden Marketing GmbH

Through Sunday, 180 historical motor vehicles will transform Wiesbaden, Germany, part of the Taunus Mountains and the Rheingau wine region into a rolling museum of engineering achievements in the annual International Oldtimer Rallye. The city has hosted the rally for more than 25 years.



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

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Row, row, rowing my boat

Learning to steer a gondola in Venice requires coordination

By PAUL ABERCROMBIE
Special to *The Washington Post*

It was true, as the staff at Venice's five-star Luna Hotel Baglioni graciously indicated, that my family and I could hail a water taxi from the hotel's private dock. But faced with another day of criminally delightful pampering, I decided instead to try something that I'd long wanted to do here: row my own boat.

Ever since I first visited this Italian city as a backpacking teen several decades ago, I'd wondered how the gondoliers were able to so nimbly navigate its watery warrens in their iconic slender black boats.

But it wasn't until this trip that I learned that anyone can be his or her own gondolier by taking lessons in Venetian rowing.

Many of the city's two dozen or so rowing clubs offer instruction in the skill. With a brief email exchange, I scheduled a lesson the next day with the folks at Row Venice. The cost for an hour and a half lesson is 80 euros (about \$110), a fraction of the fare for riding in a gondola for the same amount of time. And, as I soon learned, rowing instead of riding is way more fun.

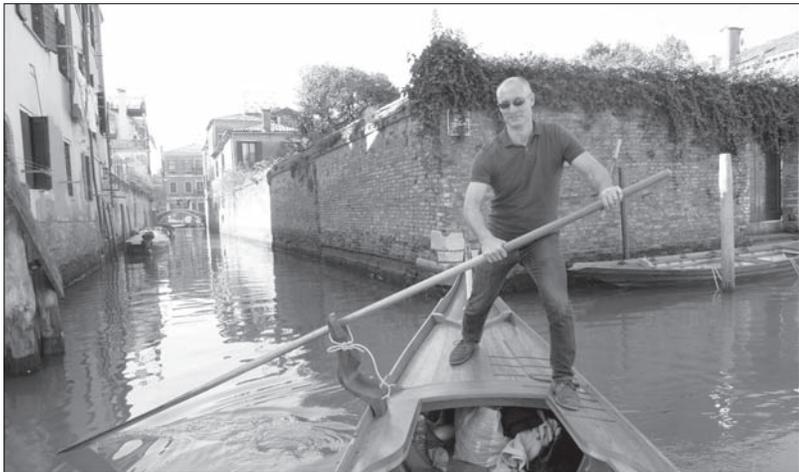
The next morning, as my wife and 11-year-old son slept in, I walked through the quiet and narrow waterside streets to meet my teacher. Fortified with several *capuccini* and slices of fresh blood oranges from my hotel, I gave myself a pep talk.

I'd rowed in college. Done a little kayaking at home in Florida. Even tried stand-up paddleboarding. This couldn't be so different, right? OK, at least don't fall into the canal.

My American-born teacher, Nan McElroy, met me at the marina in Sacca Misericordia on the city's north side. As she prepared the boat, we went over the basics. First, our vessel is not a gondola but a two-person *batellina coda di gambero*, or small shrimp-tail boat. Like a gondola, it's flat-bottomed, but it's also wider and therefore less tipsy. "It makes a great first-time rowing boat," Nan said.

As is the case with dozens of other kinds of local people-powered boats, ours was all about *voga alla Veneta*, the traditional Venetian standing rowing technique. "Not all Venetian boats are gondolas, but any Venetian boat you row, you row the same way," Nan said.

The origins of this kind of rowing are as



Courtesy of Paul Abercrombie

Paul Abercrombie practices the traditional Venetian standing rowing technique. Its origins are as murky as the waters of Venice.

murky as Venetian waters. Nan's account traced it to early waterborne settlers who wanted to be able to see where they were going. Whatever the truth, it sure looks more dignified than sitting bent over your oar, galley-slave-style.

Nan started me out rowing in the bow, which is easier, because in the rear you also have to steer. Up front, she showed me how to set the long oar in the *forcola*, or oar rest. Next, she made sure that my feet were properly positioned—right foot pointing forward, toes about even with the *forcola*, so that I can use it as a fulcrum against which to push the oar. She also gave me pointers on how to hold the oar palm-down and how to follow it high and with my body as I pushed for a more efficient stroke.

"Think of it as taking a step forward that you don't quite complete," she said of the correct motion. "You're just taking a walk in the boat."

A dozen or so awkward strokes later, I realized that I was actually doing it. Rowing a boat in Venice. Not well, of course. I was still too stiff, mostly with fear that I'd make us capsize. "None of our students has yet to fall in the water," Nan assured me. "But they've come close."

We glided through the narrow canals, past grand *palazzi*.

Nan rowed in back, deftly steering us around corners and other boats.

Several water blocks later, I was feeling more at ease. My oar popped out of the *forcola* less frequently. I was putting more of my legs into my strokes. I wanted to believe I was getting the hang of it.

We ducked as we slid beneath a low bridge and emerged into sunlight. Even with the sounds of the awakening city, the gentle creek of oars and Nan's occasional words of encouragement, I was struck by the quiet. Venice was nicknamed *La Serenissima*—the most serene of cities—for a reason. "For a thousand years, this was the only way to get around the city," Nan said, gently flicking her wrist to send us around another impossibly narrow corner. "It's the best way to experience the city today."

Nan is a recreational rower, although she's on the water nearly every day. "I never go to the gym," she said. "This is the best exercise ever."

On any given day, she and a handful of other instructors introduce Venetian rowing to visitors eager to experience Venice's waterways without the usual tourist trappings. "We get every type of person, from almost every country," she said. "Athletes. Never-been-in-a-boat-of-any-kind types. Retirees. Teenagers. Honeymooners." Women, she teased, tend learn quicker

because guys often expect instead mastery or use force when what's needed is finesse. "We perform minor miracles," she joked. "In an hour and a half we can teach anyone to row."

Lessons are given in neighborhood canals or out in the more wide-open lagoon, depending on weather and student aptitude. "Out in the lagoon, you don't have to worry about running into anything," she said with a laugh. "But you don't get to experience the neighborhoods."

About halfway through our lesson, Nan told me that I was ready to row in the back. To make it easier on me, she lashed the oar to the *forcola* with a piece of rope—a kind of aquatic training wheels.

The technique for rowing in back is much the same as for the front, except for changing sides and the added duty of steering, which I discovered is a little like rubbing your belly and patting your head at the same time.

The stroke forward is similar. But when you finish, instead of lifting the oar out of the water, you leave it in, twisting it slightly so that it's parallel with the surface of the water. Then you gently push down on the oar as you pull back, careful to keep it in the *forcola*, so that the blade drags through the water on the right side of the boat. In this way, you compensate for the motion of the initial stroke forward.

To turn right, after you finish the forward stroke, you twist the blade so its points toward the bow of the boat. To turn left, you make a stronger forward stroke and ease off—or skip—the correcting downward pressure after.

Gaining in confidence, if not competence, I exchanged nods and "Ciaos!" with passing boatmen, fantasizing that they mistook me for a local. That dream was soon shattered when I nearly ran us into a wall, and Nan casually kicked a sneakered foot off it, sending us back in the right direction.



MARCO SECCI/BLOOMBERG NEWS

A gondolier navigates his vessel near the luxury retail district in Venice. Many of the city's rowing clubs offer instruction.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe

After Hours: Germany

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines "idyll" as "a happy and enjoyable scene or experience." Google Translate reveals that it means the same in German. Two German-speaking colleagues verified as much.

After visiting Hotel-Restaurant Idyll in Kaiserslautern, I can confirm that the definition is accurate.

What attracted my wife and me to the place was its name. "Idyll" isn't a strong word like "exciting" or "magnificent" or "amazing." It's a pleasant word, like "calm," "peaceful" or "relaxing."

As I've grown older I've found myself drawn more to those things peaceful and pleasant.

Some of the sweetest moments in life are tranquil, relaxing experiences. Also, for me anyway, food should be involved.

So we walked into Idyll for a recent weekday lunch in search of relaxation and good stuff to eat. We were satisfied on all counts.

Idyll sits in a picturesque forest northeast of Kaiserslautern. Towering trees surround the attractive, three-story building that houses the hotel and restaurant. A small body of water lies behind the structure, inaccessible but nice to look at. The entire setting is one of serenity, despite the noisy presence of a beverage truck making its delivery. You've got to have beverages, so I wasn't complaining.

The restaurant's interior perpetuates the laid-back vibe. A stocked bar, sticking out from a humble, homey kitchen, is decorated with bottles of wine and glasses. Our table offered a nice view of the balcony and the forest beyond. Farmhouse-style tables dot the large dining room under the soothing glow of large hanging lamps.

Sufficiently comfortable, my wife and I each ordered a schnitzel with the intention to share. I had the turkey schnitzel, a straightforward, but succulent, slice of meat with a generous bowl of thick-cut fries on the side.

My wife got the better of our dueling orders, though, with the canny selection of the Parmesan schnitzel. Her entree arrived smothered in melted cheese, drizzled with a delicious Bolognese sauce and paired with a bowl of pasta noodles. Some people may be put off by the idea of a meat sauce on top of a cut of meat. But we are not those people.

The menu is sure to please anyone craving a schnitzel, offering pork, turkey and even a vegetarian choice.

Idyll had a nice, steady flow of diners on our recent Friday visit. It was slow enough to maintain the restaurant's aura



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes

A sign in an idyllic setting points the way to Hotel-Restaurant Idyll, located along a narrow road leading into the forest outside of Kaiserslautern, Germany.



The Parmesan schnitzel is a standout menu option at Hotel-Restaurant Idyll. The restaurant has a wide selection of schnitzel, including a vegetarian version.

of calm, but busy enough so I didn't have to feel sad that maybe the restaurant wasn't doing well, which I do a lot.

There were several tables of uniformed servicemembers enjoying leisurely lunches, along with a smiling German couple. Apparently the restaurant does

a brisk business with both demographics.

We didn't get to the coffee or dessert on this trip, but we heard good things. Next time, perhaps, I'm always up for a nice, uneventful lunch.

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Farmhouse-style tables dot the eatery's large dining room.

HOTEL-RESTAURANT IDYLL

Location: Dauborner Weg 41, Kaiserslautern.

Directions: From downtown Kaiserslautern, follow Mainzer Strasse/L95 to the east. Stay on the road under the autobahn and through the traffic circle, following signs for Mehlingen. The turn to Idyll is easy to miss; just turn into the neighboring hotel-restaurant Barbarossa and follow the road as it winds into the forest. You'll see signs from there.

Hours: Open for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 5-10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and Sundays. Open 5-10 p.m. for dinner Saturdays.

Dress: Casual.

Costs: For starters, Idyll offers a variety of vegetable soups for 3.50 euros. For a quick and filling meal, try one of the salads, with many meat options such as salmon, roast beef, chicken, shrimp and turkey, starting at 8.50 euros. The main courses run from 12 euros to 17 euros, and include a basket of bread and a healthy-portion salad.

Menus: In German and English.

Information: Telephone: (+49) (0)631-46025 or visit the restaurant's website at idyll-kaiserslautern.com. Staff speaks English.

— Gregory Broome

Smoked food brings out the cave chef in all of us

By JIM SHAHIN

Special to The Washington Post

It is a glorious spring day, windless and warm, and I am out back at the grill getting drunk. Not on alcohol. On smoke.

The aroma curling up from the grill makes me practically tipsy. As it happens, I am smoking beef short ribs. A leisurely bath in the vapors deepens their beefy flavor and softens their chewy texture. But I could be smoking any meat. The alchemy of low-and-slow smoking would intoxicate, no matter the meat.

That isn't just me talking. That is all of humanity. So say chefs and food scientists when I set out to answer a simple question: Why do we love smoke?

It could be connected to the fact that it's elemental, and universal. As Korean-American-Southern chef Edward Lee writes in his 2013 cookbook, "Smoke & Pickles," the appeal spans the continents. But he goes further. "Some say umami is the fifth [taste], in addition to salty, sweet, sour, and bitter," Lee writes. "I say smoke is the sixth."

Science has other ideas. Jonathan A. Zearfoss, a professor of culinary science at the Culinary Institute of America, shoots down Lee's theory: "A specific compound works with a specific receptor for the basic tastes," Zearfoss says. "There isn't a responder in the taste buds for smoke."

But if we don't taste it, how are we responding to it?

The answer is a little complicated, and it first requires us to distinguish between flavor and taste. Flavor comprises three elements: taste (which we detect via receptors found in the taste buds), physical stimulation (such as texture, sound, appearance and pain — think jalapenos) and smell.

"Most of the flavor of smoke is smell," says Marcia Pelchat, a sensory scientist at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia. Of the three elements of flavor, it's smell that rocks our dawn-of-man world. That's because the sense is lodged in an ancient part of the brain called the limbic system, which houses emotion. Smells trigger personal as well as ancestral memories. "In evolutionary terms, we all started cooking with fire," Pelchat says. "That smoky smell is a really strong stimulus."

There are lots of smoked products on the market — salmon, ham, cheese, sausages, seasonings. Again, why?

"I don't know if we come into the world loving these smells or if we come into the world prepared to love it because of evolution," says Paul Breslin, a professor of nutritional science at Rutgers University. "But the connection is profound."

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

König-Adolf-Platz in Idstein, Germany, features half-timbered houses, including the richly decorated Killingerhaus, second from right.



NOVA AMI-NAV/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Idstein is north of Wiesbaden, just off Autobahn A3 heading toward Koblenz.

TIMES

You can visit the town any time, but it's nicer when it's warm, especially because of the many outside cafes. Monday through Saturday is better if you want to shop.

COSTS

Parking is cheap, only 50 euro cents per hour at the parking in the center of town. If you drive a large American car, or even a European SUV, beware that the parking slots are relatively narrow.

FOOD

There are plenty of restaurants in the center of town in all price ranges. Cafes abound, and if you are there during the week, the choice is bigger with the bakeries/cafes open during normal shopping hours.

INFORMATION

City website is idstein.de, with an English option.

— Michael Abrams

Half-timbered heaven

Idstein showcases traditional German architectural style

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

If you don't like half-timbered houses, stop right here because this is a trip to an old town that has some of the finest old buildings around. Idstein, north of Wiesbaden and nestled in Germany's Taunus Mountains, dates to at least the early 12th century. Over the years the town was a center for civil services and education and home to a well-known school of architecture. Idstein also had an important leather industry. Today, it's a popular destination and place to live for those working in the Rhine-Main area.

But back to those half-tim-

bered houses. They get their name from the way they are built. A frame of wooden beams is filled with a mixture of branches, clay and straw and then plastered over. The houses are called *Fachwerkhäuser*, *Fachwerk* being the filling between the beams.

The oldest residential building in Idstein dates to 1410, a good 80 years before Christopher Columbus set sail for the New World. Many of the houses are adorned with exquisite carvings. The best example is Killingerhaus on König-Adolf-Platz with its colorful faces and birds. It was built in 1615 and is a beautiful example of late Renaissance half-timbered architecture.

König-Adolf-Platz is lined with

half-timbered houses, such as the Schiefes Haus, or Crooked House, an 18th-century building with two gables. It is indeed crooked, due to some construction miscalculations.

Obergasse, leading from König-Adolf-Platz, is lined with many half-timbered houses, but one of Idstein's other jewels is at the top of the lane. The Höerhof, built in 1620, is today an upscale hotel and restaurant. Check out the strange faces carved into its timber.

While visitors can get their fill of half-timbered houses here, Idstein has plenty of buildings that aren't this design, or at least not completely.

The Renaissance Palace was built between 1614 and 1634 on remnants of an ancient castle. It was home to the counts and princes of Nassau-Idstein. It has since been used, among other things, as military barracks, a hospital and teachers training school. Today it is a public school. Take a walk through its beautifully groomed garden.

To get to the palace from König-Adolf-Platz, pass through the late 15th-century Kanzleitor, the gatehouse that was the



Colorful carvings adorn the early 17th-century Killingerhaus in Idstein.

entrance to the palace district. The 16th-century buildings here were once part of the original castle and are today used by Idstein's city administration.

The city's trademark structure — the Hexenturm, or Witches Tower — is here also. It is Idstein's oldest building, with construction starting in 1170. While the tower has gone through many variations over the centuries, today's look dates

to the early 19th century. Despite its name, the tower has nothing to do with Idstein's 17th-century witch trials.

At least two other sights are worth mentioning. The tannery on Löherplatz is the last of 30 similar buildings that once stood here when the town was home to a large tanning industry. The other is the Protestant Union Church. Built in 1340, it is the burial place of the counts and princes of Nassau, and features a ceiling painted with 38 biblical scenes. Unfortunately, it is closed for renovations until 2015.

abrams.mike@stripes.com



The Hexenturm, or Witches Tower, center, is Idstein's oldest building and is the town's trademark. Construction on it began in 1170.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Museum captures the mystery of Holmes

By JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

The Museum of London is turning its magnifying glass on the most famous Londoner who never lived: Sherlock Holmes.

The museum has announced an exhibition devoted to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Victorian detective, featuring everything from hand-written manuscripts to the coat worn by Benedict Cumberbatch in the BBC series "Sherlock."

Alex Werner, the exhibition's lead curator, said that with a new generation discovering Holmes through the series, the time seemed right for a major retrospective.

The exhibition, which opens Oct. 17 and runs to April 12, will examine the character's origins in a series of stories by doctored-up writer Conan Doyle, and the detective's evolution through myriad stage and screen adaptations.

Werner said the aim is to "peel back the layers" of a character

who is simultaneously cerebral sleuth, forensic scientist, drug-taking bohemian and archetypal Englishman.

The show draws liberally from the museum's large collection of Victorian costumes and artifacts, including a 19th-century syringe; Holmes infamously relieved boredom with a seven-percent solution of cocaine in water.

The Free Library of Philadelphia has loaned pages from Edgar Allan Poe's handwritten manuscript for the 1841 story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue." It's often considered the first modern detective yarn and was a childhood favorite of Conan Doyle.

There's also an oil portrait of Conan Doyle, painted in 1897 by Sidney Paget, whose illustrations for the original stories in Strand magazine created the lean, hawkish Holmes of a popular imagination.

Pat Hardy, the museum's curator of paintings, prints and drawings, noted that the solid, mustache-sporting

Conan Doyle looks a good deal like the fictional Dr. Watson.

Victorian artifacts will be set alongside paintings, prints and photographs of late 19th-century London, which, like the stories, evoke a vast, polluted metropolis of foggy streets, bustling crowds and horse-drawn hansom cabs.

Werner said the exhibition will end with a "near-death experience" inspired by the detective's demise over the Reichenbach Falls in the 1893 story "The Final Problem." Even then, Holmes did not stay dead for long. A fan outcry led Conan Doyle to revive him in 1903.

"Almost as soon as Conan Doyle created Sherlock Holmes, he was trying to kill him off," Werner said. "He thought the Sherlock Holmes stories were a minor form of fiction."

History has proven him wrong. Find ticket information at museumoflondon.org.uk.



Sherlock Holmes creator and author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as depicted in an oil painting.

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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

ON BASE

Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

Astugi ITT Tours has a trip June 8 featuring Asakusa sightseeing, Tokyo cruise & Epsom Aquarium. See Tokyo SkyTree and take a Sumida riverboat ride with **Yokosuka** Tours on June 21. Visit Kamakura with Comp. **Zama** Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service on June 14.

Guam

Hotspot at **Andersen** Air Force Base is showing the PG movie "Free Birds" outdoors at 7:30 p.m. June 14. Coral Reef Fitness Center has a beach volleyball tournament on June 6 and a Zombie 5K Fun Run on June 11. Both are at Tarague Beach. Take a deep sea fishing trip on June 21 with Outdoor Recreation.

Okinawa

Enjoy the free friendship festival Flightline Fair, 2-10 p.m. June 7 and 8 with MCAS **Futenma**.



TOSHIO SUZUKI/Stars and Stripes

Tokyo SkyTree looms over nearby landmarks, including the Asakusa Shrine in Sumida Ward. Visit the tower with **Yokosuka** Tours.



Courtesy of Hie Jinja Shrine

DO THIS: Sanno Matsuri in Tokyo

This festival is June 13 at Hie Jinja Shrine. A procession of 500 people starts at 7:45 a.m. from the shrine in Akasaka and after visiting the Imperial Palace at noon, the procession returns to the shrine at 5 p.m. For more: tinyurl.com/kq4p33y

ON BASE: FATHER'S DAY

Japan

Dads bowl for \$1 at **Atsugi** Lanes 11 a.m.-11 p.m. June 15. ITT Tours has two trips on June 15: one to a lunch buffet at Gotemba Kogen Resort and another to Hakone. **Yokosuka** Tours has a trip June 15 that features Mount Fuji sightseeing, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation and brunch at New Sanno. At **Yokota**, enjoy a steak

dinner 5-9 p.m. June 14 at the Officers' Club. On June 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the Enlisted Club has a special brunch for Father's Day.

Okinawa

See an Okinawan bullfight with Camps **Foster**, **Courtney** and **Kinsler**, noon-4 p.m. June 15. For more: tinyurl.com/m6dd2su.

To see your events here: SSPEDTlibrary@stripes.com.



KEEP COOL: Ueno Zoo, Tokyo

A young Japanese macaque tries to reach water in a pond this month at Ueno Zoo. For more on the popular destination: tinyurl.com/mq99wma

EUGENE HOSHINO/AP



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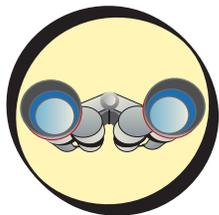


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WEEKEND: TRAVEL



Tour or chill? DO BOTH!



By JOSH NOEL
Chicago Tribune

When we want to relax, we head to the beach and do nothing. When we want culture, we travel to a new country and dive into museums, neighborhoods and restaurants. The former is relaxing. The latter is enriching and memorable but the source of an unfortunate truism: Travel can leave us exhausted and needing a vacation from our vacation.

But before a recent trip, my travel companion and I decided that our visit would be as refreshing as a week of poolside lounging. We were intent on new sights, people and

food, but we would be deliberate enough to come home recharged. Happily, it worked. After basking in the charms of three cities during 10 days, and despite a few inevitable bumps from not being familiar with those foreign winding streets with far too many letters, we came home ready to jump back into life.

Here are suggestions for taking a vacation that is more stimulating than staring at the ocean but just as relaxing.

Make peace with the plan

Travel becomes exhausting due largely to the self-imposed strain of seeing and doing as much as possible. "When will we be in X-country again? Therefore, we must do everything!" Unless you want to return home a haggard mess, resist this temptation (and if you don't mind returning home a haggard mess, feel free to skip

the rest of this column). Part of a relaxing cultural vacation requires accepting at the outset that you will not do everything you want. And that is OK. When back home, you'll remember what you did more than what you didn't do anyway.

Sleep: Yes! Sleep!

Fundamental, I know, but also antithetical to writing as much from travel as we can. But dearly needing a break from the stressors and routines of life, I gave myself permission to sleep as much as needed. That resulted in something I didn't even know was physically possible — two nights of sleeping 12 hours. Sure, at first I felt guilty; it seemed absurd to have flown 4,000 miles to sleep so much. But despite sacrificing the handful of hours that could have been spent exploring castles and churches, getting necessary sleep made the waking hours much more enjoyable.

Don't plan too much

Sketching out every moment of a trip

can lead to a stultifying grind; what seemed like a good idea at your home computer might not seem quite as enjoyable in the moment. Leaving flexibility in the schedule allows for the vacation you truly want.

But don't plan too little

Showing up in a city without a hotel room would have added stress we didn't want or need. We didn't plan far in advance, but we always knew where we were sleeping a night ahead. Lessening the basic anxieties is essential.

Do what you like

Obvious, right? But limiting yourself to what you truly value rather than what you feel like you should do is just as liberating as it is relaxing. We spent far more time exploring neighborhoods, chatting with local shop owners and sipping beer in sidewalk cafes than shuffling through museums — and without regret.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Stairway to heaven

Diamond Head offers spectacular views of Honolulu and Waikiki

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

After about four days of lying on the soothing sands of Hawaii's Waikiki Beach, you might feel a yearning to get up and stretch your legs.

If so, look to your left and in the distance soars the wall of the Diamond Head volcanic crater. In about an hour, you could be standing atop its crest looking down on all of Honolulu.

OK, make that two hours because you can never be sure whether Oahu's infamous traffic might slow your journey to the entrance of Diamond Head State Monument. But once you're standing on the crater floor, the just-less-than-1-mile hike up Diamond Head Summit Trail is surprisingly quick and, except for a couple sets of grueling staircases, fairly easy.

The crater was formed about 300,000 years ago in what is believed to have been a single, massive eruption. Because the sea level was high at the time, it quickly cooled the volcano, leaving its distinctive full-circle wall intact.

In ancient times, early Hawaiians built five heiau, or places of worship, on and around the crater. The heiau that was on the peak is believed to have been dedicated to the god of wind.

The U.S. government bought the roughly 700 acres holding Diamond Head — so named because early European explorers mistook calcite crystals for diamonds — for \$3,300 in 1905. The trail to the summit was built in 1908 as part of Oahu's defense system. During the decade after purchasing it, the government developed Fort Ruger on the site, which was part of the U.S. Army Coastal Artillery defense system.

Two of the fort's batteries — Harlow on the north slope and Birkhimer on the crater floor — were designed to fire toward ships at sea. Others faced the east and north to prevent land-based attacks.

A friend and I made the hike to the top on a recent Sunday, first driving a car through Kahala Tunnel, the one public road into the crater.

It was then we realized the first of two big mistakes of the day: The tiny parking lot was full. We'd gotten a late start and it was almost midday, but the lot holds so few cars that it would be unwise to depend on parking there even if you arrive in time for the park's 6 a.m. opening.

We parked for free outside the crater, walked the half-mile to the trailhead ticket booth and paid our admission fee. Most climbers arrived by trolley bus or taxi, and many cabs waited near the entrance for fares.

The trail is a single path for most of the climb, but as you near the ridge it becomes a loop. The small park that surrounds the beginning of the path is dotted with picnic tables for eating before or after the hike.

The semi-arid climate and rocky soil make the landscape anything but lush. You have to feel sorry for the twisted trees



PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Looking back at the trail leading to the peak of Hawaii's Diamond Head, the ancient remains of the circular volcanic rim are visible.



Sweaty hikers catch the breeze and the views from atop the peak of Diamond Head. Waikiki Beach and the Honolulu skyline can be seen in the background.

beside the path, many half-dead from thirst under a beating sun and absence of breeze on the crater's floor.

This highlights the second mistake of the day: lack of water. Sure, on the scale of hiking peaks around the world, the 761-foot-tall Diamond Head is a snap. But there's nowhere to get water on the trail, so bring more than what you think you'll need, particularly if the sun is blazing. Our water was gone before we got halfway up, and even though the round trip took only a couple of hours, it seemed longer without enough to drink.

By the time we reached a concrete landing just before the ridge loop, we felt the ocean breezes kick in. The landing anchors a cable-and-winch system that has been used to lift building materials to the ridge, although it looks abandoned now. After a steep set of stairs, we reached a

dimly lit 225-foot-long tunnel that led to the bottom of the peak holding the vacant remains of a fire control station built 100 years ago. We still had to climb another 100 steps and a spiral staircase to reach the interior of the station.

The station was once used to direct artillery fire from several batteries in the Waikiki area. Built in four levels and camouflaged to mimic a volcanic outcropping, the fire station was considered an engineering marvel in its day — but no artillery was ever fired during wartime from Diamond Head batteries.

Today, the station is used only as a perch for the thousands of hikers who reach the peak, crowding the station's concrete top to snap photos of the Honolulu skyline, Waikiki Beach and the Pacific Ocean.

It's a blast — the only one left here.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com

NOGA AM-RAV/Stars and Stripes

KNOW & GO

DIRECTIONS

Entry is through Kahala Tunnel off Diamond Head Road between Makapu'u Avenue and 18th Avenue, Honolulu.

TIMES

Hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hikes are not allowed to begin past 4:30 p.m.

COSTS

Admission \$1 per person, \$5 per vehicle.

FOOD

Restrooms and vending machine beverages available at trailhead.

INFORMATION

Pets, camping and biking not allowed.

— Wyatt Olson

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

From beaches to Bangkok, tourists ask

'What coup?'

PHOTOS BY SAKHAI LALIT/AP

Motor-tricycle, or tuk-tuk, drivers wait for customers outside the temple of the Emerald Buddha, a popular tourist spot in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 27. Bookings are down after six months of anti-government protests in Bangkok, and hotel and industry experts say the turmoil could continue to bruise tourism in the country.

By JOCELYN GECKER
The Associated Press

When Thailand's military staged a coup last week, Phil Koenighaus was on a beach enjoying the debauchery of the country's infamous "Half Moon" festival.

Not a soldier was in sight on the white sands of Koh Phangan, and the raucous party that attracts revelers from around the world carried on for hours. After shaking off the effects of too much celebration, the German backpacker headed from the island to Bangkok, unfazed by the military takeover.

"I figured if I survived the Half Moon Party, I could go to Bangkok and brave the coup," said the 19-year-old, tanned and relaxed as he strolled through one of the capital's bustling bar and nightclub districts. "This is not how I imagined a coup."

So far, the drama of Thailand's military takeover has played out mainly in the political arena. As the army summons journalists and academics seen as anti-coup, detains ousted political leaders and issues stern warnings on TV, tourists are kicking back on the country's famed beaches and sightseeing in Bangkok. The main impact on visitors has been a 10 p.m. curfew, though it was being eased.

"It's really like nothing's changed, except you have to go home before 10," said American tourist Rosemary Burt.

Burt and her daughter, from Gilbert, Ariz., were roaming around the ornate Grand Palace in Bangkok, before heading off to other sites and then a pre-curfew dinner. It was a normal day at the Grand Palace as tuk-tuk drivers outside tried to swindle tourists with



Tourists check out Wat Pho, left, and a confrontation between Thai soldiers and anti-coup protesters at the Victory Monument in Bangkok, Thailand. While the army detains political leaders and issues stern warnings on TV, tourists are kicking back on the country's famed beaches and sightseeing in Bangkok. The main impact on visitors for now is a 10 p.m. curfew, which forces nightlife to close four hours earlier.

inflated rates and only the usual security stodd guard.

Daughter Dior Tidwell, 36, said her initial concerns had dissipated: "I thought it was going to be a little dangerous."

Photos posted to Twitter show scenes of white-sand tranquility and crystal clear waters in Phuket, Samui and other idyllic beach resorts. One post was titled, "What Coup?"

For Thailand's tourist industry, however, the situation is more ominous. Bookings were already down after six months of anti-government protests in Bangkok, and the combination of coup plus curfew along with uncertainty over how long the crackdown will last could be bruising, hotels and industry experts say. It's a blow the economy, already struggling, could do without.

Tourism accounts for about 7 percent of Thailand's economy and provides more than 2 million jobs. The industry has been resilient despite a decade of political turbulence. A record 26.7



million visitors came last year, up 20 percent from the year before.

But political protests that escalated in November led to a 6 percent drop in foreign tourist arrivals from January-April this year, said Piyaman Tejjapabul, president of the Tourist Council of Thailand. In a sign of fallout from the coup, Taylor Swift canceled a sold-out concert in Thailand scheduled for June 9.

Piyaman has petitioned the ruling junta to lift the nightly curfew at beach resorts including Phuket, Samui, Krabi and Pattaya.

"Everyone in the country, especially in the tourism sector, hopes military rule is lifted soon and democracy restored," she told the Phuket Gazette newspaper.

More than 40 countries have issued travel alerts, including the U.S. and Hong Kong, which have advised citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Thailand.

In Hong Kong, a major source of visitors to Thailand, the Travel Industry

Council reported that travel agents canceled at least 70 tour groups this week involving 1,300 people.

Hotels in Bangkok say the coup has kept them busy "with nonstop cancellations. "We have received more than 650 cancellations in the past five days,"

said Deepak Ohri, chief executive of the 358-room Lebuva hotel, whose dizzily high rooftop Sky Bar was featured in "The Hangover Part II."

The 5-star hotel is offering promotions it calls "Staycations" to entice locals to come for drinks or dinner and spend the night — and avoid rushing home for curfew. The Swissotel Nai Lert Park has announced a similar "Beat the Curfew" rate for residents through June.

Hotels say they are waiting for events to unfold before slashing rates for overseas visitors. The junta warned this week that it won't tolerate dissent or protest, raising concerns of a crackdown on anti-coup protesters.

"If this continues another week, there will be a price war," Ohri said. "Then again if civil war happens, hotel price wars have no significance."

Other businesses that cater to tourists are finding various ways to adapt. The go-go bars in the Patpong red-light district are opening three hours earlier than usual because the curfew clears out customers by 9:30 p.m. From Wednesday, the curfew will be eased to a window of midnight to 4 a.m.

As the 10 p.m. curfew approached May 26, the blaring music stopped along Silom Road, where side streets are crammed with clubs, pubs and restaurants. As the neon lights switched off and tourists emerged trying to flag down taxis, a few bars tested the curfew and stayed open.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS

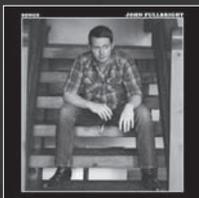
John Fullbright

Songs (Blue Dirt/Thirty Tigers)

The 12 songs on John Fullbright's "Songs" are so sturdy they need little adorno, and many are performed solo on piano or guitar, which makes them easy to underestimate.

That would be a mistake. These songs capture the world through the eyes of a 26-year-old, with all of its complicated contradictions. As such they're modest and ambitious, bold and shy, intimate and grand. They're conversational, confessional and confident, free of frills and full of good advice. As a bonus, one of them rhymes "Fauntleroy" with "Laz-Boy."

These songs have been performed in coffeehouses and at festivals, on a cruise ship and at the Grammys pre-show, where Fullbright's studio debut competed against Mumford & Sons, Bonnie Raitt and others. Their descendants date to the 1970s, when singer-songwriters ruled the pop charts, and also the 1930s, when timeless tunes came from an Oklahoma troubadour



named Woody Guthrie.

The singer here is another Oklahoma troubadour, and his topics include the price of love, the need for hope, the hazards of farm tractors and much more. His songs are sad and serious and wise and wonderful, well written, well played and well sung. Well done.

— Steven Wine
The Associated Press



KATE BURN/Courtesy of johnfullbrightmusic.com



Natalie Merchant

Natalie Merchant (Nonesuch)

Natalie Merchant has never been one to pull punches.

From her start singing deceptively jovial-sounding tunes about tough topics like child abuse and air pollution with seminal 1980s alternative rock band 10,000 Maniacs through her 21 years as a solo artist, Merchant has made her mark as an unflinchingly honest artist.

That fearlessness continues on the self-titled and self-produced "Natalie Merchant," her first collection of entirely original songs in 13 years.

On the haunting "Giving Up Everything," Merchant sings about mercy-killing her craving, giving up her "cursed search for meaning." Think of it as her version of John Lennon's "God."

With her distinctive voice still in strong form as she enters her 50s, together with the lush backing of strings, piano, organ and the occasional woodwinds, Merchant creates a rich musical tapestry that transcends the typical vagary of pop music.

— Scott Bauer
The Associated Press



Phillip Phillips

Behind the Light (19/Interscope)

Phillip Phillips takes a giant leap forward on his sophomore album, "Behind the Light." Phillips hasn't abandoned the formula that landed him the smash hit "Home" and made him "American Idol's" biggest success since Carrie Underwood. His updating of Dave Matthews-like musicianship and rock crooning combined with Mumford & Sons' driving, thump-oriented folk is as winning as ever. The first single, "Raging Fire," shows how he's mastered that combination, as do a string of radio-friendly anthems such as "Midnight Sun" and "Alive Again Me." But it's the bluesier, more experimental numbers such as "Thicket" and "Trigger" where "Behind the Light" really starts to shine.

— Glenn Gamboa
Newsday



Neil Young

A Letter Home (Reprise)

Neil Young's sporadic concept records aren't for everyone. "A Letter Home" should be.

While still an esoteric venture — Young recorded it in a refurbished 1947 Voice-O-Graph — the songs he chose are familiar ones, making this more accessible than previous out in left-field Young releases.

Among the songs: Bob Dylan's "Girl From the North Country," Bruce Springsteen's "My Home Town," Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again" and "Crazy," and Gordon Lightfoot's "Early Morning Rain." They are a reflection of Young's roots and musical backbone, made more clear by the heartfelt, intimate delivery.

Young, 68, was captivated by the Voice-O-Graph that Jack White restored and made available at his recording studio in Nashville. Typically used by amateurs to record one song at a time, which is immediately laid down on vinyl, Young decided to cram himself into the phone booth-sized contraption and record an entire record.

The songs sound like they came from another age — complete with scratches, pops and imperfections usually only heard on old vinyl records.

It's clear these songs are a part of Young's musical DNA, and it's almost as if the listener is being invited into his living room for a private concert.

— Scott Bauer
The Associated Press



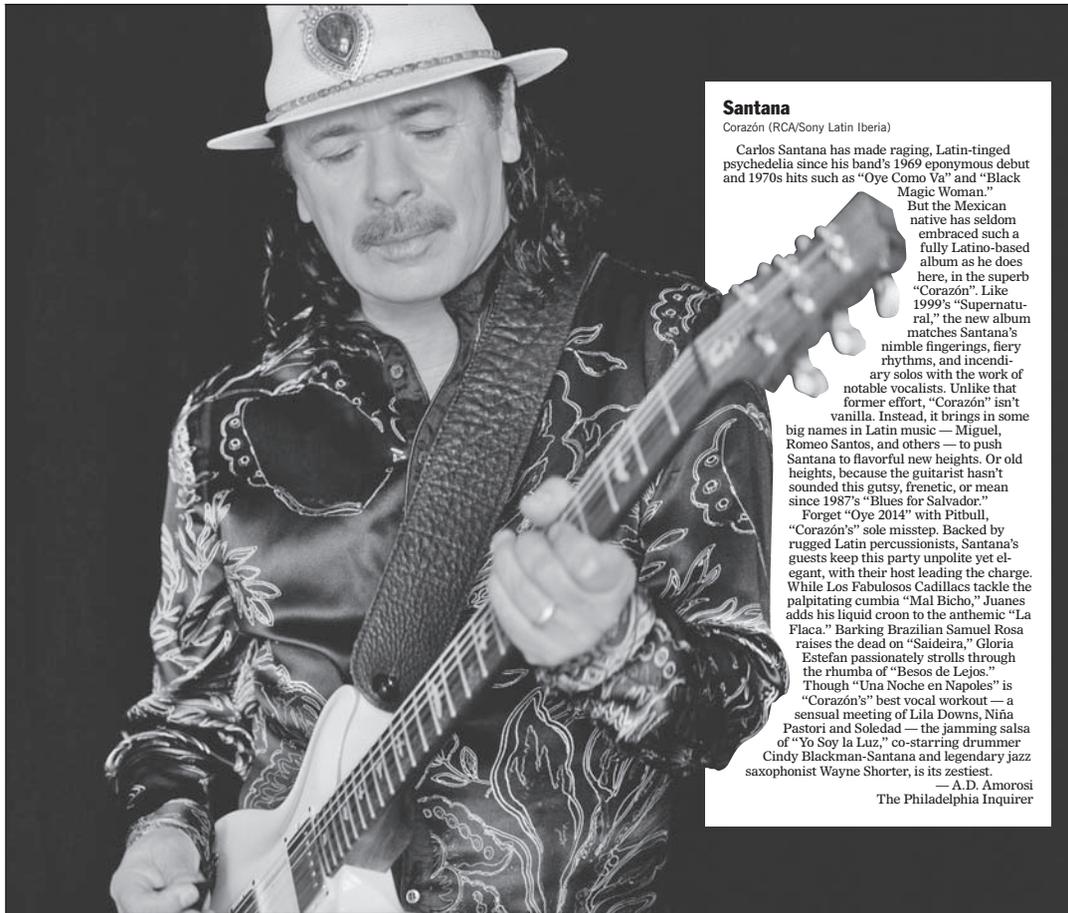
Conor Oberst

Upside Down Mountain (Nonesuch)

Bright Eyes frontman Conor Oberst's "Upside Down Mountain" doesn't take too many chances and, while it's usually all for evolution, this is a good thing for Conor Oberst. He's seemed a little off course lately — and revisiting the past is never a bad choice when searching for answers. Especially when it feels like such an effortless transition.

— Scott Recker
PopMatters.com

WEEKEND: MUSIC

**Santana**

Corazón (RCA/Sony Latin Iberia)

Carlos Santana has made raging, Latin-tinged psychedelia since his band's 1969 eponymous debut and 1970s hits such as "Oye Como Va" and "Black Magic Woman."

But the Mexican native has seldom embraced such a fully Latino-based album as he does here, in the superb "Corazón". Like 1999's "Supernatural," the new album matches Santana's nimble fingerings, fiery rhythms, and incendiary solos with the work of notable vocalists. Unlike that former effort, "Corazón" isn't vanilla. Instead, it brings in some big names in Latin music — Miguel, Romeo Santos, and others — to push Santana to flavorful new heights. Or old heights, because the guitarist hasn't sounded this gutsy, frenetic, or mean since 1987's "Blues for Salvador."

Forget "Oye 2014" with Pitbull. "Corazón's" sole misstep. Backed by rugged Latin percussionists, Santana's guests keep this party unpolite yet elegant, with their host leading the charge. While Los Fabulosos Cadillacs tackle the palpitating cumbia "Mal Bicho," Juanes adds his liquid croon to the anthemic "La Flaca." Barking Brazilian Samuel Rosa raises the dead on "Saideira," Gloria Estefan passionately strolls through the rumba of "Besos de Lejos."

Though "Una Noche en Nápoles" is "Corazón's" best vocal workout — a sensual meeting of Lila Downs, Nífa Pastori and Soledad — the jamming salsa of "Yo Soy la Luz," co-starring drummer Cindy Blackman-Santana and legendary jazz saxophonist Wayne Shorter, is its best.

— A.D. Amoroso
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Carlos Santana wants to save the world with music

By MESSIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

Try to speak with Carlos Santana about his new album, and he'll want to talk about another topic: changing the world. The veteran musician says he is planning a concert aimed at encouraging and motivating the development of young black and Latino men in the wake of Trayvon Martin's death and Donald Sterling's racist comments. He wants to hold the event next year in Florida and is working with Harry Belafonte.

"I'm not show biz and entertainment, I'm an activist," he said. "I'm a person who with passion believes that we can change the world; we can transform hate and fear forever with the right songs and the right timing."

Santana's latest album, "Corazón," debuted at No. 9 on the Billboard 200 albums chart last week. It features Juanes, Gloria Estefan and Miguel.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Santana, 66, had advice for Jay Z, and talked about his tour with Rod Stewart.

How does it feel to release another album?

I feel really, really honored to gain people's trust.



People opened their hearts and their wallets. ... It allows me to do more things with my brother Harry Belafonte and (activist) Dolores Huerta. ... And so we want to have a concert and bring Jamie Foxx and different kinds of artists, musicians of all colors and utilize

this attention and this energy. ... Obviously (with) what happened with Donald Sterling and what's happening with people throwing bananas at soccer stadiums, you know, we have a lot to heal.

How did your tour with Rod Stewart come about?

I can say it the way Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock would say it, 'Both of us love to play spiritual music to touch all hearts.' That's one thing. The rascal in me ... says, 'We both love black music. We like to play black music for white people.'

There are a number of collaborative tours this summer, from Kiss and Def Leppard to Beyoncé and Jay Z. Who would you like to see hit the road together?

I'd like to see Metallica and Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock to broaden the wings. Metallica did a thing with a symphony, so they're capable, of course, of playing without volume or with volume. I just like to expand popularity with genius. ... I invite brothers like Jay Z who have the money to start bringing the African brothers back to the United States. Since 9/11, if your name is Idrissa Diop or if you have a Muslim name, they won't let you in. But they let the Irish people in and they let the Canadian people in and people from Australia. Man, how come you don't let the African people come in? ... If I had the money and the means that Jay Z has, I would bring African musicians. ... I'm going to invite them. We're going to create something like this in Las Vegas where we can co-headline, because these brothers need to be taken to schools in America so the brothers (here) can learn how to play the drums again. That's the thing I have in common with Africa — I understand the drum ... it's in my DNA.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

WWI flying ace lauded in 'Enduring Courage'

By TISH WELLS
McClatchy News Tribune

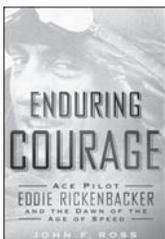
In his book "Enduring Courage," John F. Ross aims to revive the memory of World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker, who was also an early racecar driver of renown, and the creator of now-defunct Eastern Air Lines.

"I spent a lot of time reading about Eddie Rickenbacker, his buddies, the kids, the flyboys," said Ross at a book gathering, "and the early American air service over northern France flying against the real pros, the Germans, the Flying Circus. You read their journals and their letters home, they're talking these life-and-death things."

Rickenbacker was born in 1890 in Columbus, Ohio, the oldest son of two poor Swiss immigrants. His mother was the strongest influence on Rickenbacker.

"Eddie grew up watching his fiercely self-reliant mother doing whatever it was to survive," says Ross in the book. Rickenbacker was no slouch on his own, selling newspapers as a 5-year-old and keeping

goats to sell their milk. After his abusive father died in 1904, he lied about his age and got a job at a glass factory.



Ross devotes most of "Enduring Courage" to two sections of Rickenbacker's life: the automobile and the airplane.

In the early 20th century, "there was this incredible intersection in America... and the airplane," Ross said. He discovered something he never knew: "Eddie Rickenbacker was a racecar driver."

Rickenbacker's love of the automobile

started in his early teens when he got a job with one of the small garages in Columbus, learning about all the vehicles of the early automotive industry.

This led to racing cars during a very dangerous time. The auto industry was in its infancy, and racecars weren't made for safety. The drivers were often casualties in the pre-seatbelt, pre-windshield era. "In cars they went from these amateurs to this new breed of professionals," said Ross.

Rickenbacker was a top racecar driver before turning his abilities a different way: flying. In the early 1900s, airplanes had evolved quickly from the cloth-and-baling wire of the Wright Brothers to the warplanes of the Western Front of World War I with their open cockpits and lack of parachutes. It was also mostly for the upper crust, and Rickenbacker faced discrimination from his immigrant background. That didn't matter in the long run; flyers died on a daily basis in dogfights between the Allies and Germany's flashy-painted squadron, the "Flying Circus," led

by Baron Manfred von Richthofen. "Pilots were largely on their own, picking up insights from fellow fliers and always, if they wished to live, paying attention," writes Ross.

Rickenbacker would become the American ace, with 26 kills to his name.

After the war, he went into business, succeeding and failing, but finally building Eastern Air Lines. He still ran into risks. During World War II, on a trip to Asia, he was on a B-17 that crashed into the Pacific Ocean. It took them more than three weeks to be rescued, and many of the survivors credited Rickenbacker for keeping them alive.

He died at 82.

"I think writing a book is, at its best, a kind of a voyage of exploration," Ross said. "You're surprised and baffled and challenged."

"This book is about courage. This book is about new things, new technologies, adopting and what it was like to take them to their end. This was the first 'Right Stuff.'"



Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?

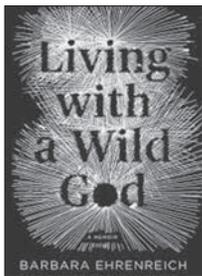
Roz Chast

Chast's work as a cartoonist has always focused on the crazy-making dilemmas and absurdities of modern life, from the political to the personal. Chast's memoir takes on another zeitgeist-y topic: caring for aging parents.

The story unfolds over 18 chapters, using both cartoon panels and paragraphs of handwritten text. There also are scrapbook-style pages of family snapshots, typescripts of Chast's mother's rhyming poems, and photographs of the old shavers, eyeglasses and piles of paper left behind when the couple moved out of their Brooklyn apartment of 48 years. Most powerfully, the book closes with a series of portraits Chast drew at her mother's bedside in the last days of her life.

Chast's unflinching self-awareness and black humor take the edge off the harsher aspects of this difficult story, but perhaps nothing is more touching than how much the cartoon Roz resembles the cartoon Elizabeth, her mother. The truth of this book goes deeper than words.

— Marion Winik/Newsday



Living with a Wild God

Barbara Ehrenreich

"I was born to atheism and raised in it, by people who had derived their own atheism from a proud tradition of working-class rejection of authority in all its forms, whether vested in bosses or priests, gods or demons." That sounds like the Barbara Ehrenreich we know — the political activist and author of "Nickel and Dimed," the feisty champion of the working poor, the professional cynic who punctured the balloon of positive thinking in "Bright-Sided."

So who, exactly, is the Barbara Ehrenreich of "Living With a Wild God"? When did a supreme deity enter the picture?

Drawing from a journal that she kept as a teenager in the 1950s, "Living with a Wild God" tracks the serious young Ehrenreich's attempts to understand what she calls "the situation": "What is the point of our brief existence? What are we doing here and to what end?"

Suffice it to say that Ehrenreich has not fit herself neatly into organized religion. But this dyed-in-the-wool skeptic has allowed her thinking to evolve in ways that will surprise her readers.

— Tom Beer/Newsday



The Heaven of Animals

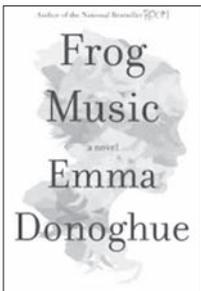
David James Poissant

"The Heaven of Animals," Poissant's self-assured debut story collection, takes a penetrating look at the anxious state of manhood in the new century. In almost all of the 15 tightly plotted entries, bruised and agitated men strive to rise above their reptilian brains and channel more nurturing mammalian instincts. The unspoken argument often driving the action comes down to the age-old debate of nature vs. nurture, and not only in terms of genetic predisposition. Poissant's everyman cast — mechanics, teachers, telemarketers — long to find emotional connections, but the forces of (human) nature keep getting in the way.

Poissant demonstrates that mankind, especially American males, might not be so separate from the animal kingdom after all. However, he wisely resists a heavy-handed polemic on millennial angst. His finest stories focus on the nuts and bolts of narrative. Despite the preponderance of scales, tails, fangs and feathers that occupy "The Heaven of Animals," its real subject is all too human.

— Tray Butler

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



Frog Music

Emma Donoghue

Donoghue's last novel, her best-selling "Room" (2010), brought readers fiercely, spellbindingly into the world of a captive small boy and his mother. With her latest, "Frog Music," Donoghue employs similar literary alchemy to depict the lives of two Frenchwomen, immigrants to San Francisco in the 1870s.

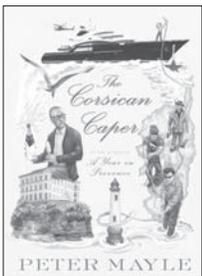
It begins with a real-life, never-solved 1876 murder, that of 22-year-old (or thereabouts) Jenny (nee Jeanne) Bonnet, pronounced "bone-AY," a la Francaise. She's shot at a railway-station boardinghouse near San Francisco, with her friend, 25-year-old Blanche Beunon, sitting nearby.

The women had fled the city fearful that Blanche's ex-paramour, Arthur, and his partner-in-mayhem, Ernest, had murdered on their minds. "Frog Music" fits between 1876, as Blanche tries desperately to solve her friend's killing, and their recent past, showing us how Jenny and Blanche's relationship developed.

This is a book to cherish, to share with your friends and to read again in a few years.

— Joy Tipping

The Dallas Morning News



The Corsican Caper

Peter Mayle

Mayle's newest novel, "The Corsican Caper," is a breezy account of an evil Russian tycoon and his plot to murder a buddy of Sam Levitt — Mayle's "master sleuth" — and Levitt's efforts to foil the plot, which is set in France. A lot of drinking and dining goes on as well.

"The Corsican Caper" goes for locale — most of it being Provence with some scenes in Corsica, which seems wonderfully stuck in a time warp — at least as much as a plot. Don't expect riveting suspense.

The novel is pleasant escapism, and you're in good company with Mayle's cast of characters. You eventually start to feel as if you're in this circle of friends who have lots of money and the time to enjoy it in and around Marseille. Meals are prominently featured in this novel by the author of "A Year in Provence."

You can enjoy many dining experiences with Levitt and his acquaintances, and spicing things up is the effort to prevent a homicide. And you won't go away too full.

— Andrew O. Selsky/AP

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“Covert Affairs: Season 4”: This season of the cable channel spy series deals with the battle between CIA agents Auggie Anderson (Christopher Gorham) and Annie Walker (Piper Perabo) with the shifty Henry Wilcox (Gregory Itzin). Along with the generally well-written stories and TV’s top spy couple, this season includes: Annie faking her death and going rogue to track Wilcox; the arrest of their boss (Peter Gallagher) and the pregnancy of their other boss (Kari Matchett); a new leader (Hill Harper) who mistrusts and then trusts the pair; and Auggie’s cheating on Annie with the wife (Michelle Ryan) that he thought was dead. It all goes together to make a first-rate series.

“How to Train Your Dragon”: An 11-year-old Viking must train a dragon in this animated adventure. Satisfying both kids and adults isn’t easy, but “How to Train Your Dragon” hits the mark dead-on with the right mix of silly and serious. Toss in dazzling computer-generated animation and a perfect score by composer John Powell, and this is the best work from DreamWorks animation since “Shrek” in 2001. The sequel opens in June. The special edition Blu-ray combo pack includes “The Making of How to Train Your Dragon: Finding the Story” and “Ultimate Book of Dragons.”

“The Bob Newhart Show: The Complete Series”: The show remains one of the smartest TV comedies of all time. It was a gamble setting the show in a psychologist’s office, but the series worked because of the dry and witty brand of comedy Newhart brought to the title role. The supporting cast of Suzanne Pleshette, Bill Daily, Peter Bonerz, Marcia Wallace and Jack Riley added layers of laughs to the 142 episodes that are in the boxed set. Bonus material includes cast interviews and the original unaired pilot.

Also out on DVD:
“Stalingrad”: Drama set during one of the most important battles of World War II.

“Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries, Series 2”: Series based on the detective novels by Kerry Greenwood.

“Ride for Lance”: Four Navy SEAL bikers share their own stories of pride and heartbreak.

“Suits: Season 3”: USA Network legal drama.

“Saving Grace B. Jones”: Couple fights for the release of a family member from an asylum.

“Gambit”: Art curator and rodeo queen pair up to con a wealthy collector.

“Made in Cartagena: Parte 2”: Powerful band of thieves are dedicated to spectacular robberies.

“Hitler and the Nazis”: A look at Adolf Hitler’s brutal rise to power.

“Red Widow: Season 1”: Woman enters a dark world after the death of her husband.

“House in the Alley”: A couple slowly lose their sanity after the death of their son.

“Tapped Out”: Karate prodigy trains so that he can get revenge.

“Coming Back with Wes Moore”: Wes Moore searches for answers to some of the most difficult questions related to returning from war.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



CBS FILMS/MCT

Cameron Diaz and Colin Firth are in cahoots in the recent DVD release “Gambit.”



FOX

Gritty action-drama “Gang Related” follows Ryan Lopez, played by Ramon Rodriguez, fourth from left, a rising star in Los Angeles’ elite Gang Task Force who, long before he was a cop, pledged allegiance to a different band of brothers. The show also stars, from left, Jay Hernandez, Cliff Curtis, Rey Gallegos, RZA, Shantel VanSanten, Terry O’Quinn, Sung Kang and Linae Lavi. The show airs Fridays on AFN-Prime. O’Quinn and VanSanten play father and daughter on the show. “He’s a very loyal man, so I would assume that he cares deeply about his daughter. But as far as the relationship at the moment and at the outset, it’s a little rocky,” Emmy winner O’Quinn says about his character.

Complex characters

Actors love their roles on TV drama ‘Gang Related’

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

Terry O’Quinn has one rule when taking on a new acting role—he wants the character to be multi-leveled. His role on “Lost” had more levels than a video game, which made it hard to find a part that would be as complex.

He found it with the new series “Gang Related,” which airs Fridays on AFN-Prime.

“I want a character to have as wide a range of colors as possible,” O’Quinn says. “Whether that occurs in me naturally, or it’s a muscle that I developed over a course of a career, I don’t really know. I just always think it’s interesting.”

O’Quinn plays the leader of Los Angeles’ elite Gang Task Force. He has a tough job, but his life is made more complex as the surrogate father figure to the rising star on the task force (Ramon Rodriguez) and being estranged from daughter (Shantel VanSanten), the city’s assistant district attorney.

One of the big complications for O’Quinn’s character is his relation-

ship to his daughter.

“Their relationship is a little rocky. I think he’s a good cop. He was a driven cop. I think he’s one of those people who was great at his job and not so good at his family,” O’Quinn says. “He’s a very loyal man, so I would assume that he cares deeply about his daughter. But as far as the relationship at the moment and at the outset, it’s a little rocky.”

Family is a major theme in the series from the father-daughter situation to members of the gang. O’Quinn likes that none of these relationships are shown as purely black and white, but with a lot of gray areas. That’s definitely the coloring for how father and daughter get along.

VanSanten will be a great acting partner for O’Quinn because she has the same serious approach to her character. Even before filming started, she was active in making sure everything—from the way the character dresses to her history—was just right.

“One of my biggest questions was why is the character working as an assistant district attorney alongside

my dad,” VanSanten says. “We finally decided that my character was in San Francisco and she transferred to Los Angeles to keep an eye on her father. She knows that her dad had worked in a gray area all his life and while she really wants him to be a good guy, the main thing is to make sure he’s not a bad guy.”

She loves that the family stories are as complex as her character. There’s so much going on that VanSanten has compiled six files on her computer that detail every action and bit of history about her character.

VanSanten has always gravitated to strong parts. To make sure her character on “Gang Related” is as well developed as possible, she spent weeks watching real court proceedings, shooting guns with the local police and going on ride-alongs.

“I wanted to play something that scared me. That’s what I always want to play,” VanSanten says. “I want to see a character and think, ‘I don’t know how the hell to do this.’ Then I get into it, figure out the complexities and then breathe life into something that scared me before.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Tame your temper

Uncontrolled emotion can damage health, relationships

By PAMELA KNUDSON
Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald

Anger is a natural and normal reaction to life's unavoidable irritations, but uncontrolled, it can escalate and end up damaging one's health and relationships.

"Generally, (anger) is unhealthy coping," said Jill Calderon, a doctoral student in counseling psychology at the University of North Dakota.

And how we handle our anger is something we learned as children, she said.

Calderon recently led a six-week class on anger management for The Village Family Service Center in Grand Forks, N.D.

"Usually, what we see in people who (express) anger when stressed or upset is that they have grown up in a home where that was modeled."

The behaviors we see and experience as children become the model for how we behave later in life, she said.

"If you grew up with abuse, where anger was the predominant emotion in the home, you've learned that that's how you deal with stressors that come up by getting angry."

"Everybody can feel when something doesn't feel good," she said. But "those are learned behaviors. It's a cycle."

That's not to say that people who were exposed to uncontrolled anger early in life automatically repeat that behavior as adults, she said.

"There are people definitely who made changes (due to) awareness. They get therapy and are conscious of how they're reacting to their kids."

"A lot of people consider anger a 'safe' emotion," Calderon said. "What we find under anger is hurt, most often."

In an anger-stressed household, "children learn that saying 'you hurt me' is not going to be received in a valid way," she said. "If they are open and vulnerable, their reaction will not be taken seriously. So, they learn other ways to react, she said.

"They may not say anything at all or they may not react. As kids, we learn how to protect ourselves."

Children who grow up in abusive situations feel powerless, she said. If they received the brunt of the abuse, later "they use anger as a way to regain control, that power (to prevent) being taken advantage of or being put in a vulnerable position."

"They become this intimidating, angry type of person."

Tension-relieving tips

Think before you speak. In the heat of the moment, it's easy to say something you'll later regret. Take a few moments to collect your thoughts before saying anything — and allow others involved in the situation to do the same.

Once you're calm, express your anger. As soon as you're thinking clearly, express your frustration in an assertive but non-confrontational way. State your concerns and needs clearly and directly, without hurting others or trying to control them.

Take a timeout. Give yourself short breaks during the day that tend to be stressful. A few moments of quiet time might help you feel better prepared to better handle what's ahead.

Identify possible solutions. Instead of focusing on what made you mad, work on resolving the issue at hand. Is your partner late for dinner every night? Schedule meals later in the evening — or agree to eat on your own a few times a week. Remind yourself that anger won't fix anything and might only make it worse.

Don't hold a grudge. Forgiveness is a powerful tool. If you allow anger and other negative feelings to crowd out positive feelings, you might find yourself swallowed up by bitterness or a sense of injustice. But if you can forgive someone who angered you, you might both learn from the situation.

Know when to seek help. Learning to control anger can be a challenge for everyone. Consider seeking help for anger issues if your anger seems out of control, causes you to do things you regret or hurts those around you.

— Source: The Mayo Clinic

The angry behavior becomes a habit, she said.

The first step to getting anger under control is awareness, Calderon said. Increased awareness gives a person insight into where the behaviors come from, she said.

In her anger management class, Calderon teaches aspects of mindfulness, a type of meditation that calms chaotic thoughts and feelings and focuses the mind on the present.

"It helps people get in touch with what's happening internally," she said.

drugs and physician-prescribed therapies work, at least in part, because patients believe they will.

The "nontraditional" placebo effect has been found to cause pain relief in test subjects exposed to fake plants, physical improvements in people who'd undergone fake surgeries and a coffee high in those imbibing placebo caffeine. A team of Harvard researchers even found that a group of motel maids' beliefs that they were logging significant exercise for the day led to weight loss, improved blood pressure and decreased body fat over the course of the monthlong study.

"We've known about the regular placebo effect for thousands of years, but most of the time we hear about it in drug studies," said Kristi Erdal, a psychology professor at Colorado College and faculty supervisor for the study. It's only been in the last decade or two that people have begun exploring the nontraditional placebo effect, branching out and pushing the envelope to see how far that can take you. I think our mindset affects a lot more of our behavior and our physiology than we ever thought."

For her senior thesis in neuroscience, Draganich decided to see if the same con-

cepts and manipulations could be applied to sleep.

"Throughout college, I saw how students focused on their lack of sleep before taking an exam. I wondered if their scores were maybe influenced by their attitude regarding how tired they thought they were," said Draganich, who graduated in 2012.

Because the study hinged on students' believing researchers could assess the quality of their previous night's sleep, Draganich had to devise a legitimate-seeming fabrication. She first asked participants to fill out a questionnaire about how well they believed they'd slept the previous night; then, they were brought into the lab for a five-minute lesson about sleep.

"I told them sleep quality can be measured by the percent of time spent in REM sleep, and sleep quality often predicts cognitive functioning," Draganich said. She then told them about a new, cutting-edge technique that allows researchers to assess an individual's REM sleep from the night before by measuring lingering biological markers such as heart rate and brain wave frequency.

"I know that some far fetched — I did make it up," said Draganich, "but we had

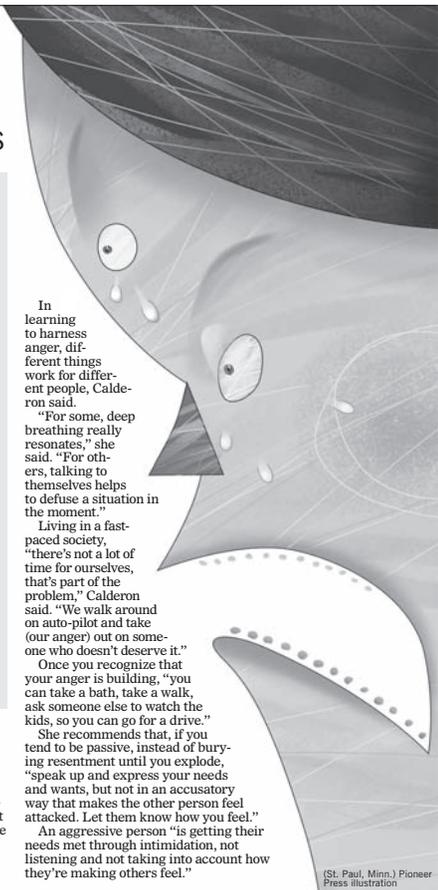


The Modesto (Calif.) Bee illustration

A study has found that students who were told they'd taken a good night's sleep performed better on tests than those who were told they'd slept poorly.

a lot of things on our side to lend authority." There were "complicated drawings" up on the board in the lab and students were connected to an EEG machine that responded to their movements.

Participants then were given real tests to measure cognitive functioning. Generally, those who were told they didn't get enough sleep scored lower, while people who were told they'd slept well achieved higher-than-average marks.



In learning to harness anger, different things work for different people, Calderon said.

"For some, deep breathing really resonates," she said. "For others, talking to themselves helps to defuse a situation in the moment."

Living in a fast-paced society, "there's not a lot of time for ourselves, that's part of the problem," Calderon said. "We walk around on auto-pilot and take our anger" out on someone who doesn't deserve it."

Once you recognize that your anger is building, "you can take a bath, take a walk, ask someone else to watch the kids, so you can go for a drive."

She recommends that, if you tend to be passive, instead of burying resentment until you explode, "speak up and express your needs and wants, but not in an accusatory way that makes the other person feel attacked. Let them know how you feel."

An aggressive person "is getting their needs met through intimidation, not listening and not taking into account how they're making others feel."

(St. Paul, Minn.) Pioneer Press illustration

WEEKEND: FAMILY



PHOTOS BY JAY JANNER, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/MCT

Educational assistant Stacey Beswick works with Zach Whitworth, 7, at Forest North Elementary School in Austin, Texas. Zach's mother, Abby Whitworth, founded Zach's Voice, an organization that donates iPads to autistic children in Central Texas with communication deficiencies, like Zach.

More than fun and games

iPads give children with autism a voice

BY LUCIA BENAVIDES

Austin (Texas) American-Statesman

Jaime Morin, 9, was diagnosed with autism at age 2 and has been nonverbal his whole life. When the therapy he was receiving at school became insufficient, his mother, Lupe Santander, sent him to Big Sky Pediatric Therapy in Austin, Texas, where he went with the iPad. Santander says, "When he first figured it out, the look on his face was priceless. We could finally understand him, we didn't have to say 'Yes' or 'No' when he pointed to things."

With nonverbal autistic children, the thoughts occupying their heads are unable to come out—that's where the iPad comes in. Through the application of their choice, the children can form sentences by putting together words, which come in the form of buttons and a picture to match the word. Then, they play it back for others to hear. The iPad becomes their voice.

"It facilitates their understanding of the world around them," says Danielle Skala, functional communication classroom teacher at Forest North Elementary in Austin. Zach's Voice became an official organization last May. Their mission is to provide iPads to children ages 3 to 21 with autism spectrum disorder who have communication disabilities. They take iPad donations from the community, as well as money donations to use toward buying refurbished iPads.

Zach's Voice was founded by Abby Whitworth, who named the organization after her 7-year-old son. Whitworth was inspired by Zach's initial interaction with the



Zach's Voice works with speech-language therapists at schools to find families who would benefit from the program.

iPad. Prior to the Apple product, he used DynVox, a heavy device that was hard to program, Whitworth said. Besides being clunky, it also drew attention to him. With an iPad, however, he blends in.

"They're the coolest kids in school," Skala says. "The iPad gives them a social status."

A particular incident at the grocery store prompted Whitworth to spread the positive effects of the iPad to other families with nonverbal kids in the community. While shopping, she saw an autistic child walking around with note cards, which he used to communicate. The number of words available through this approach, however, is limited.

"The iPad lets kids use all the words they want," Whitworth says. "It's an unlimited amount of options, as opposed to what you get with handwritten note cards."

The application recommended by Zach's Voice is Proloquo2Go (\$219.99 at the iTunes store). The organization provides its recipients with a gift card that covers the cost of whatever

app they decide to download.

Proloquo2Go lets its users add words to the program, such as family members' names and their favorite cartoon characters. Adding a button is instantaneous, and kids can customize them by taking a picture of the word they add.

"The kids start off using the app to communicate about the things they love," Whitworth says. "It's rewarding and motivates them to use the program."

The iPad can do more than just help children with autism communicate; sometimes it can facilitate them to talk.

According to a study done by Ann Kaiser, researcher at Vanderbilt Peabody College of Education and Human Development in Tennessee, children with autism who are minimally verbal can "learn to speak later than previously thought, and iPads are playing an increasing role in making that happen." The speech-generating devices can encourage children ages 5 to 8 to develop speaking skills, Kaiser wrote.

SPOUSE CALLS

'His Wife' dedicates life to service, too

Two words can say a lot about a military spouse. Especially when those words are on a gravestone.

On my first visit to Arlington National Cemetery, while walking through section 13, I noticed a row of very similar markers. Each of the gravestones facing me had a woman's first name, a date and two words: "His Wife."

"Whose wife?" I wondered for a moment. As we walked farther on, I looked back and realized I had read the backs of the markers first.

On the front of each was carved the name of a soldier, sailor, airman or Marine. The names on the opposite sides indicated that each of these servicemembers shared a resting place with his mate, joined in life, reunited in death. The carvings I had first seen memorialized a wife who was buried in a plot with her husband.

After I realized the significance, I began to notice similarly marked headstones throughout the cemetery. This is often how military couples are buried at Arlington, to make the most of coveted—and finite—halcyon ground.

Every stone that marks the burial of a military member represents a story that one grave marker could never tell. It might be a story of a loss that came early or one about a long life of service. Either way, each one represents memories that could only be etched on the hearts of loved ones.

Every stone that marks the burial of a military member also represents the other side of the story. The other side of the gravestone, reserved for the name of a spouse, represents an important part of the story of every servicemember, also one that doesn't fit in such limited space.

The two words—possessive pronoun and noun—repeated on many headstones, "His Wife," convey more than marital status. For the spouse of a servicemember, they indicate another life dedicated to military service.

His wife: The one who stayed home during wartime, who took care of the rest of the family while her husband was away; the one who was strong during difficult days, making the best of the worst times and celebrating the better ones.

His wife: The one who sent letters, packages or emails to overseas addresses and prayed for replies that would prove her husband was still out there, somewhere; the one who received the telegram, the knock on the door or news from the doctor that he wouldn't come home again.

His wife: The one who took pride in her family's service and who—throughout a military career—packed and unpacked her life over and over again; the one who carved out a career or took a job to help make ends meet; the one who worked to make each new community a better place.

In every sense, there's more to military spouses than the bare description "His Wife." Those words on the opposite side of a veteran's gravestone record more than a marriage and a death. They also record the shared service and sacrifice demanded by military life. I didn't see any stones marked "husband," but I'm sure they are there, too.

Even the headstones whose backs are still smooth and unmarked are expressive, the empty space perhaps indicating a spouse who lives without the one he or she lost.

On a visit to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., I noticed the monuments in our nation's capital bear witness to sacrifice as much as to victory, from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Abraham Lincoln. This is especially true for military memorials. Each name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, each star at the National World War II Memorial represents lives offered and lost in service to our nation.

Reading the backs of the gravestones at Arlington brought home the reality that the names, the stars and the stones also represent the sacrifices of military families.

Terri Barnes is a military wife and mother of three. She writes *Spouse Calls* weekly for Stars and Stripes and is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com.



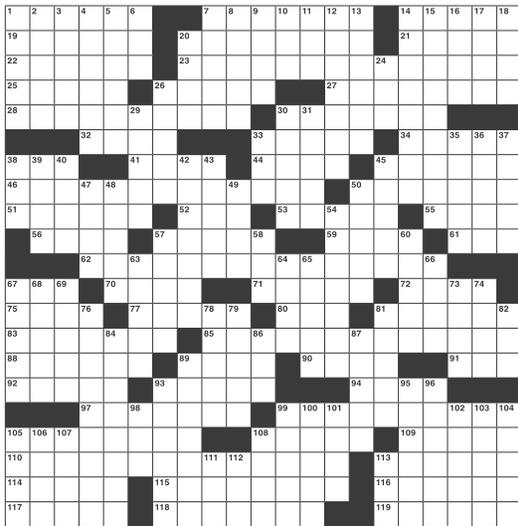
Terri Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

CHANGE OF PROGRAM
By Dan Schoenholz / Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS
1 Part of a rainbow
7 Blanket
14 Rear admiral's rear
19 Invader of 1066
20 Comment upon heading off
21 Catch ___ (surf)
22 Like farmland
23 Stoners' memoirs?
25 ___ New Guinea
26 Freud disciple
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30 Mixologist
32 Went from black to red, say
33 Home with a view
34 Whinny
38 Sound in a hot tub
41 Mallard relative
44 Berth
45 Theater opening
46 Dumbstruck duo?
50 Moolah
51 Blemished
52 Admit (to)
53 Calculus calculation
55 Makes the connection
56 Zero-star movie
57 Balkan capital
59 ___ Beach, Fla.



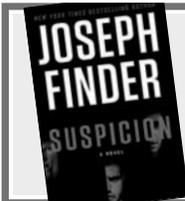
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62 Tale of metropolitan diversity?
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70 Yam or turnip
71 They're big in bars
72 Huskers' targets
75 '12 or '13, now
77 Western followers?
80 Wire service inits.
81 Some lapses
83 Like many men's ties
85 Grant Wood portrayal?
88 "The Canterbury Tales" inn
89 Yemeni port
90 Wrapped (up)
91 Conciliatory gesture
92 Kitchen drawer?
93 Some sites for sightseers
94 Eke ___ living
97 Maltreated
99 Having trouble slowing down?
105 Like radon among all gaseous elements
108 Popped up
109 "Appointment in Samarra" novelist
110 Cobbler's heirloom?
113 Bet
114 Aplomb
115 "Spamalot" writer and lyricist
116 Forward
117 Heavens
118 Clear-cuts, e.g.
119 Off course
121 "The Tempest" spirit
33 Hieroglyphic symbol
35 "... Love," 1987 LL Cool J hit
36 Stylist's goop
37 ___ fit
38 Rest stop convenience, for short
39 1956 Gregory Peck role
40 "Don't be a ___!"
42 Confronts
43 Certain backscratcher
45 "The Rapture of Canaan" author Reynolds
47 See 49-Down
48 Big name in barbecue grills
49 With 47-Down, angry
50 Building needs, informally
54 Not straight up
57 Tolerated
58 Focusing problem, for short
68 Wedding site
69 Engine booster
73 Tropicana Field team
74 W.W. II invasion site
76 Tight spot in South Florida?
78 ___ Hawkins Day
79 Correct
81 Tedium vitae
82 View from Lake Como
84 Relatives of turtles
86 Neon frame?
87 Stirred
89 Spare
92 Part of an old military alphabet
93 In a hurry
95 Govt. securities
96 Left open-mouthed, say
98 Rent
99 Wedding sight
100 Fancy wheels, familiarly
101 "... so long ___ both shall live!"
102 Part of an old military alphabet
103 Big band's booking
104 Pops
105 Comes to pass, old-style
106 "Star Wars" furball
107 Others, to Ovid
108 In
111 End of an film
112 Puncture preceeder
113 Mmc.'s cousin

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Single dad Danny Goodman finds himself unable to afford the private school his teenage daughter adores and accepts a loan that brings the DEA into his life and leads to an impossible choice: indictment for accepting drug money or an unthinkable treacherous undercover assignment.

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FACES

Prankster arrested for rushing, touching Pitt

The Associated Press

A man arrested after rushing up and touching Brad Pitt on the red carpet at the Hollywood premiere of the movie "Maleficent" is a Ukrainian journalist with a history of getting too close to celebrities.

Los Angeles police officer Sally Madera identified the suspect Thursday as Vitalii Sediuk. He was taken Wednesday on suspicion of misdemeanor battery at the El

Capitan Theatre and was held in lieu of \$20,000 bail.

Witnesses saw the man from the fan area jump over a barrier onto the red carpet and rush at Pitt, touching him briefly before security guards wrestled him back across the barrier. He was led away in handcuffs. Police could only confirm that he made contact with Pitt, and could not classify it any further.

Pitt, who was apparently unhurt, resumed signing autographs before walking into the theater.

In February Sediuk, 25, was cited for trespassing after grabbing the microphone before Adele accepted an award at the Grammys. Last year, Will Smith slapped Sediuk after he tried to kiss him on a red carpet, and he drew Madonna's ire a year earlier by presenting her a bouquet of flowers.



JOHN SHEARER, INVISION/AP

Angelina Jolie, left, and Brad Pitt arrive at the world premiere of "Maleficent" in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Bella Thorne plays a tomboy in 'Blended'

BY RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

The first time Bella Thorne slipped into the look she would wear through the majority of the romantic comedy "Blended," she reacted the way any other teenager would. "The thing that ran through my mind was that this was not a cute look," Thorne says of the boyish clothes and wig. "But, while it was a look I would have never picked, it did show me how much I like playing characters. I now know I don't just want to play the pretty girl all the time."

Thorne's transformation is so complete that she looks nothing like the aspiring dancer she played in the Disney Channel series "Shake It Up."

She plays Hilary, the daughter of the character played by Adam Sandler. He's a single father of three girls — Thorne playing the oldest — who has done his best but treats the girls as if they were boys.

Thorne's character goes along with this until she meets a young man on a mixed-up family vacation.

"Blended" is the story of a single dad (Sandler) and a single mom (Drew Barrymore) who meet on a disastrous first date. But through a series of comic twists, the couple — and their children — end up sharing an African vacation.

Filming in Africa was a fun learning experience for Thorne. She found it a great opportunity to learn from Sandler and Barrymore, whom she's been a fan of since she first saw "The Wedding Singer."

"I definitely learned a lot from them because they are both such great comedians and famous for making people laugh. For me, it was just a matter of you hope they think you are funny. I was way too nervous around them because of that," Thorne says. "But, it

ended up being a very fun set."

During the weeks she was in Africa, Thorne found Barrymore to be somewhere between a mom and sister in the way she treated her. But even with all of the strong on-set connections, Thorne found it tough to be away from her real home for so long.

The 16-year-old actress has a lot of projects going. Along with six more feature films waiting to be released, she's the new Candie's girl, has just released the new single "Call It Whatever" and signed a three-book deal with Random House. Thorne loves everything she's doing, but she is particularly proud of the upcoming "Autumn Falls" book series because she had to overcome dyslexia when she was younger. That conquest is a main motivation in her becoming an author.

"I love writing my book series because I want kids all over the world to know that if I can write a book — three books — then they can do anything," Thorne says.

So far, there's nothing that Thorne's attempted that she's not been able to conquer. The only hurdle is that she's her own worst critic. It's a trait she got from her father.

"He was never satisfied and knew he could always do better," Thorne says. "He told me that you are never on top. There's always someone above you and that I should always work to do better."

Bella Thorne appears in the movie "Blended." The movie stars Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. "I... learned a lot from them because they are both such great comedians and famous for making people laugh," Thorne says.

Richard D. Shotwell, Invision/AP



READING RAINBOW/AP FILE

LeVar Burton's campaign to bring "Reading Rainbow" to the online masses reached its fundraising goal within hours of its launch Wednesday on Kickstarter, according to the website.

Burton makes a fundraising plea for online version of 'Reading Rainbow'

The Associated Press

LeVar Burton's fundraising effort to bring "Reading Rainbow" to the online masses is a by-the-book success.

The goal of raising \$1 million by July 2 was reached within hours of the campaign's launch Wednesday on Kickstarter, according to the website. More than 23,000 donors had pledged \$1.1 million and counting.

Burton was the host of "Reading Rainbow," the children's literacy program that aired on public TV through 2009.

"It was my mother who taught me that, by picking up a book, I could go anywhere and be anything," Burton said in a posting on Kickstarter.

Contributors can claim rewards ranging from autographed memorabilia to a private dinner with Burton to a chance to put on the visor that the actor wore on "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

"We're not just getting pledges, but so much email love that our server froze," said Mark Wolfe, Burton's business partner. "I'm so happy to help. LeVar taught me to read," is among the typical messages, he said.

A tablet version of "Reading Rainbow" was released in 2012 and became a top-selling education app. It provides access to hundreds of books and Burton's videotaped "field trips," to historic and other places, said Wolfe, who co-founded the for-profit RRRKid company with Burton. The Kickstarter campaign is intended to help bring an online version to more children for a \$5 monthly subscription fee, Wolfe said.

Group's lawyers looking into video

A representative for One Direction says the band's lawyers are dealing with a video showing two band members smoking what the singers referred to as an "illegal substance."

British tabloid The Daily Mail posted the clip Tuesday of Zayn Malik smoking and speaking with Louis Tomlinson, who is filming the video.

"This matter is in the hands of our lawyers," their publicist said Wednesday.

In the video, 22-year-old Tomlinson says "joint lit, happy days," and asks his bandmate, "What do you think Zayn about that kind of content?" The 21-year-old Malik responds: "Very controversial."

The video led some angry fans to post photos of them burning One Direction's concert tickets.

Other news

■ Fox News host Bill O'Reilly's fourth book in his multimillion-selling history series will examine the mysterious death surrounding famed World War II Gen. George Patton. Stephen Rubin, president and publisher of Henry Holt and Company, announced Wednesday that "Killing Patton" will be published Sept. 23. Martin Durgard will be the co-author.

■ John Janick, 36, is to replace Jimmy Iovine at Interscope. Janick, one of the youngest executives to lead a top label, made his stamp on the industry when he founded the independent label driven by Ramen in 1996 when he was just 18.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

US volunteers monitor Ukraine vote

By TRUDY RUBIN

When Ukrainians voted Sunday for a president, Reno Domenico, of South Jersey, was a poll monitor in Kherson, on the border of occupied Crimea. Ulana Mazurkevich, a mainstay of Philly's Ukrainian-American community, was poll-watching in Odessa. Marta Fedoriv, of Allentown, Pa., was checking polls in Dnipierpetrovsk.

All are volunteers, paying their own way. And all agree that Sunday's presidential election was crucial if Ukraine is to withstand crippling pressures from Russia.

"Ukraine desperately needs this election to succeed," said Domenico, who led training sessions for 222 U.S. pollworkers organized by the Ukrainian Congress of America.

If this election is credible, as attested to by international observers, that will undercut Russia's efforts to dismember Ukraine and compel the Kremlin to recognize Ukraine's elected president. Those three monitors from the Philly area are on the front lines.

Domenico got interested in Ukraine when it was part of the Soviet Union, after he set up a long-running exchange program between St. Joseph's High School, in Somerdale, N.J., and a Ukrainian secondary school. When he retired in 2006, he moved to Kiev and opened the Sterling Business School, partnering with Rowan University; the program trains midcareer administrators. He has been involved in election monitoring since Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, which ousted a president who won by massive cheating.

Ukraine's second revolution in a decade, this one prompted by Russian pressure of Kiev to renege on planned links to the European Union, has brought economic life here to a standstill.

"If Ukraine is going to get a fresh start, it will be with this election," Domenico said. "As Americans who know how to do this, I feel we are obliged to do something.

"I have 40 years' experience (with political activity) in Camden County, and there are no tricks here I haven't learned," he



EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

Election commission officials count ballots at a polling station in Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday.

said.

He will really be on the front lines: Crimeans who still want to and are gutsy enough to vote in Ukraine can cross their new Russian-imposed border to this nearby Ukrainian town.

Fedoriv has an equally compelling reason for hoping this election is a free and fair one. She was one of the first American investors in Ukraine in the 1990s, just after it became independent following the breakup of the Soviet empire. She invested her family's life savings into renovating and running the Grand Hotel in Lviv. Her parents had fled western Ukraine when the Soviets arrived, and she wanted to return to their homeland.

Her dreams were destroyed by the deadly brand of Russian mafia-style corruption that still undermines Ukraine. Legally required to take on a Ukrainian partner and offer him a 51 percent share in the business, she was told six months later that he had taken the business over. Her husband's cousin, a local who had been hired as the hotel director, was shot dead. Neither police nor courts would help her.

She hopes a new Ukrainian president will finally tackle this corrupt system, and said, "That's why I came back." She was

pollwatching in a key city with long ties to Russia, that Moscow had hoped but failed to destabilize.

The dynamic Mazurkevich has long been active in Ukrainian-American affairs. She monitored Ukrainian elections three times and was in Kiev for the Orange Revolution. Ukrainian leaders who come to the United States often visit Philly's large Ukrainian-American community and usually stay in her home. Only recently, a parliamentarian who was one of the leaders of the Euro-Maidan revolution was her houseguest.

"Why do I do this? Because my life has been dedicated to human rights," she said as the group of monitors prepared to leave the Dniipro Hotel, located near a still-standing barricade of tires where several Maidan demonstrators died.

"The most basic human right is to have a choice of leaders," she said, before leaving for Odessa, where provocations by pro-Russian separatists recently led to the tragic death of more than 40 people.

All three Philly-area residents are hoping a successful election will help Ukraine move past this recent trauma. They are doing their part.

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Ernie Gates

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 30 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

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The other side of campus sexual assaults

By CATHY YOUNG

It's a familiar story: A student is suing a university over the alleged mishandling of a sexual assault report. But the suit filed in federal court in New York City last week against Columbia University has a different twist: The student is male, and his complaint's ex-plaintiff is in the bathroom of her dorm room, shortly before the end of the 2013 spring term. He claims that the young woman invited him to her dorm room for a sexual encounter. In the next several days, he says, she texted him to express concern about how their encounter would be perceived in their social circle if it became known.

According to the suit, the student, identified only as John Doe, had a consensual "hookup" with his accuser, a fellow student and his roommate's ex-girlfriend, in the bathroom of her dorm room, shortly before the end of the 2013 spring term. He claims that the young woman invited him to her dorm room for a sexual encounter. In the next several days, he says, she texted him to express concern about how their encounter would be perceived in their social circle if it became known.

After both students returned to school, in September, Jane Doe filed charges within the university's disciplinary system, accusing the young man of "nonconsensual sexual intercourse." After what John Doe claims was an extensive biased investigation, in an atmosphere of heightened attention to

the problem of campus sexual assault and university inaction, he was found responsible and punished with a suspension until fall 2015.

The lawsuit claims that John Doe was railroaded because Columbia University was anxious to shield itself from criticism for being too lenient with male students accused of sexual assault, particularly student-athletes. (He was a member of the crew team.) The complaint also alleges sex discrimination, asserting the student was singled out for unfair treatment because he is male.

Far from being an oddity, this suit is part of a growing trend. Similar complaints are pending against other schools, including the University of Michigan and Vassar College. A Pennsylvania federal judge this month refused to dismiss such a lawsuit against St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. In April, Ohio's Xavier University settled a lawsuit from basketball player Dez Wells, who was expelled in 2012 over what he says — and the county prosecutor agrees — was a false accusation of rape.

Are all of these male plaintiffs innocent of wrongdoing? Nobody knows; just as nobody knows whether all of the female students who are suing schools for not taking their reports of sexual assault seriously were re-

ally assaulted. But the lawsuits from men highlight issues that tend to be neglected in the campaign for the worthy cause of preventing and punishing sexual violence. Among these issues is the tendency in college hearings to presume guilt in he said, she said cases, particularly with strong pressure from the federal government for schools to use the lowest evidentiary standard. This is exacerbated by disciplinary codes which define "nonconsensual sex" so broadly that even slight intoxication can negate consent and verbal persuasion can be deemed coercive.

The claims by male plaintiffs are reminders that there is another side to the story. The complaint from Columbia's John Doe says he had to get counseling for suicidal thoughts as a result of the sexual assault accusation, that his academic and athletic career has been irreparably damaged, and that the university ignored his complaint of being harassed on campus by the accuser's friends. If true, his plight deserves as much sympathy as that of a woman who is ignored and harassed when she brings an accusation against a popular campus athlete.

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason magazine and the website RealClearPolitics. She wrote this for Newsday.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

China-Russia natural gas deal (The Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

It's always a mistake to read too much into body language, but in a Financial Times photo of the Russian and Chinese presidents signing a huge 30-year, \$400 billion natural gas deal Vladimir Putin looks slightly discomfited while Xi Jinping looks like the proverbial cat that swallowed the canary.

The deal eased pressure on Russia from Western Europe's dependence on Russian gas, which Putin has been willing to wield as a diplomatic weapon in his efforts to get his way in Eastern Europe, a fact surely not lost on the Chinese.

The Chinese, whose booming economy seems to be an inexhaustible demand for energy, are looking for alternative sources of natural gas. Given the up-and-down relations between the Russians and Chinese, it's inconceivable China would allow itself to become wholly dependent on Russian supplies, especially after the European example. Meanwhile, Russia, whose treasury is resource-dependent, must have markets for its gas.

Owing to problems Russia and its gas company, Gazprom, have had with the European market, the Chinese were apparently able to drive a hard bargain, forcing concessions they would not have gotten in normal times. Gazprom has committed to a \$5 billion pipeline to the Chinese border and develop its eastern Siberian gas fields to supply the Chinese.

Putin faces a thorny long-term problem. Russia's population is shrinking, especially in its far East. China's population is growing, desperate for work, and right next door is resource-rich but underpopulated eastern Siberia. Already illegal Chinese immigrants have begun to leak across the border.

There's a saying in Western financial circles: If I owe you \$10,000 I don't sleep at night; if I owe you \$10 million, you don't sleep at night. Outside observers can only wonder: Who's sleeping more soundly over this deal: Putin or Xi?

Gun rights in America (Anniston (Alabama) Star

What America needs are common-sense gun-control laws that respect both sides of the argument and do whatever's necessary to thwart preventable gun-related violence.

Last Friday, a young man in an upscale California community killed six people and then committed suicide with legally bought handguns. Elliot Rodger, the gunman, was the trail of some media explanations for why he sought revenge against those he felt had shunned him. In the last few days it's become apparent that Rodgers' previous encounters with law enforcement and mental health officials weren't enough to stop this unsteady young man from committing another of those all-too-common American mass murders.

The Second Amendment — regardless of your modern-day interpretation of it — doesn't touch on one of gun control's biggest problems: how to keep firearms out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them because of health concerns.

This passage from Monday's Los Angeles Times is particularly wise. "The mental health system is imperfect, by design — a teeter-totter that weighs patients' civil lib-



ANDREW MEDICHINI, POOL/AP

Pope Francis talks to journalists aboard the papal flight on his way back to Rome on Monday at the end of a three-day trip to the Middle East.

erties against public safety. Rodger existed in the middle, on the fulcrum, shimmering and disturbed, just beyond arm's reach."

When it comes to gun violence in the United States, statistics are both helpful and confusing. Since the Sandy Hook shootings in Connecticut in December 2012, there have been at least 44 additional school shootings in America, according to gun-control advocacy groups Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Nevertheless, Bureau of Justice data released last summer show that the number of gun-violence deaths dropped 39 percent between 1993 and 2011.

If you want a verified statistic involving guns in America, you can find it.

Devoid of spin or political influence is this fact: Guns are readily available to too many people with mental health issues. Databases designed to prevent the mentally ill from legally purchasing guns work well in too few states. And from the law-enforcement perspective, there's this: Half or more of the people shot and killed each year by police have mental health problems, according to a study from the National Sheriffs' Association and the Treatment Advocacy Center.

America's quest for a safer nation compels us to rethink the "teeter-totter" that's allowing guns to legally get into the hands of the wrong people. The death toll rises, yet again.

The pope's Mideast diplomacy (Chicago Tribune

Pope Francis was guaranteed to make headlines on his visit to the Middle East just by the fact that the head of the Roman Catholic Church was going to one of the most tense regions in the world. He did make headlines ... but he also showed he has a remarkable talent for diplomacy and a flair for the dramatic gesture.

The safest course would have been to script every moment of his itinerary and reduce the risk of controversy.

So what did he do? Made an apparently impromptu invitation Sunday to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli President Shimon Peres to visit the Vatican to pray for peace. Both men accepted. Since Peres does not lead Israel's government — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does — this is not likely the stuff of a big diplomatic breakthrough. Still, it was a grand symbolic gesture — raising the prospect of Jewish and Palestinian leaders praying together at the seat of Roman Catholicism.

Apparently at Abbas' urging, Francis made an unexpected stop Sunday at a graffiti-covered section of Israel's security barrier on the edge of Bethlehem, where

the pope touched his forehead to the wall and said a prayer. Palestinians view the security wall as evidence of Israel's intolerable control over their territory. Israel sees the wall as essential to its defense against Palestinian attacks. The stop rankled Netanyahu.

A day later, at the suggestion of Netanyahu, Francis made an unscheduled visit to a memorial to victims of terrorism. He also visited the grave of Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism who espoused the idea of the modern Jewish state. That visit rankled some Palestinians. Overall, though, Palestinians had to be pleased that the pope during this trip repeatedly supported their bid for statehood.

The journey created no breakthrough in the long and immensely vexing process of reaching peace between Israel and the Palestinians. But the pope did force leaders on both sides, at least momentarily, out of their comfort zones. There's value in that. The pope should take his show on the road again soon.

Calling out the cyberbully (Neb.) World-Herald

Pretty hypocritical — that's how some commentators are characterizing the U.S. government's decision to indict five Chinese military officials for hacking into U.S. companies' computer systems to steal economic secrets.

The critics argue that the far-ranging National Security Agency spying, as revealed by Edward Snowden, shows that the United States has its own hands dirty and lacks the moral standing to lecture China on cyberwrecking.

To which the answer is this: The indictment by the U.S. Justice Department was fully justified. The scale of economic theft being carried out by China's military hackers amply warrants a frank and robust U.S. response.

While the Snowden revelations did raise civil liberties concerns about some national security-related spying by our country, when it comes to cyberenablement economic theft, there is no moral equivalence between our country and China.

The Pentagon doesn't have 120,000 computer specialists in the Washington area and elsewhere doing nothing but hacking into the databases of foreign companies, then distributing the corporate information to U.S. firms.

That's precisely what China's military does to unfairly aid companies in its own country. Indeed, it does so on a colossal scale, all as part of a coordinated, state-sanctioned strategy.

"By any measure, it's the largest theft in human history," said P.W. Singer, a tech-

nology expert at the Brookings Institution. "The scale of the IP theft is massive." The theft costs U.S. companies more than \$100 billion a year.

"They're not paying for the R&D, but they're getting the benefits of the R&D," Singer said.

Take the example of SolarWorld, our country's largest manufacturer of solar panels. To succeed, the company depends on its own initiative and its own research, spending heavily on research and development. It obeys global trade rules. In short, it's an honest company operating responsibly in the marketplace.

China took a different approach to developing its solar panel sector.

No one expects the Chinese officials to be hauled into court in Pennsylvania, where the indictment was filed. Instead, the aim is something else: to begin a process by which the United States builds broad support in the corporate world and international community, to push back against China's irresponsible behavior to the extent possible.

End the Redskins insult (Los Angeles Times

What's in a name? In the case of the Washington Redskins, a lot of history — and an embarrassing slur that ought to embarrass the National Football League enough to finally force some action.

Citing the speed with which the National Basketball Assn. reacted to Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling's racially charged remarks about blacks, 50 U.S. senators on Thursday urged the NFL to put pressure on Redskins owner Dan Snyder to drop the franchise's offensive name.

It is regrettable that Virginia's two Democratic senators, who represent a large portion of the team's fan base, opted not to sign the letter. (Republicans, for some reason, were not invited to sign.) Tim Kaine said he supports the name change but didn't feel pressure on Redskins owner Dan Snyder to drop the franchise's offensive name. "We're not invited to sign," Tim Kaine said he supports the name change but didn't feel pressure on Redskins owner Dan Snyder to drop the franchise's offensive name. "We're not invited to sign," Tim Kaine said he supports the name change but didn't feel pressure on Redskins owner Dan Snyder to drop the franchise's offensive name. "We're not invited to sign," Tim Kaine said he supports the name change but didn't feel pressure on Redskins owner Dan Snyder to drop the franchise's offensive name.

Warner is right in one regard: It is not up to Congress to dictate this change. But this was not a piece of legislation; it was a personal statement of 50 senators' objections to a patently racist term. It's hard not to conclude that Kaine and Warner, unlike Maryland Sens. Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, put fear of losing fan votes and not taking a preparatory step for a very long time. "And it is a shielded term of name point to an etymology that began with Native Americans calling themselves "red skins" to differentiate themselves from the European settlers, the "white skins." Those linguistic roots, however, do not trump the evolution of the term into an ethnic slur, and it's been a preparatory step for a very long time. "The National Congress of American Indians and other tribal organizations have strongly objected to the term, and as targets of the slur, they are in the best position to call it so.

The team has been called the Redskins since moving from Boston in 1937. That's 77 years, and it's been a preparatory step for a very long time. "The National Congress of American Indians and other tribal organizations have strongly objected to the term, and as targets of the slur, they are in the best position to call it so.

The team has been called the Redskins since moving from Boston in 1937. That's 77 years, and it's been a preparatory step for a very long time. "The National Congress of American Indians and other tribal organizations have strongly objected to the term, and as targets of the slur, they are in the best position to call it so.

We should note too that the NFL, as a business association, is tax-exempt (though the individual teams are not), which means American taxpayers are an unwilling party to this embarrassment. This page has argued before that Snyder should drop the offensive name, and we renew that call now. Change the name, and end the insult.

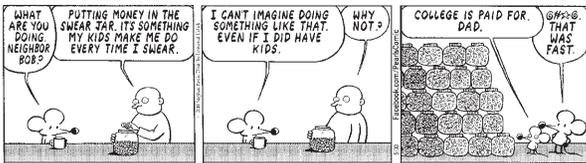
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



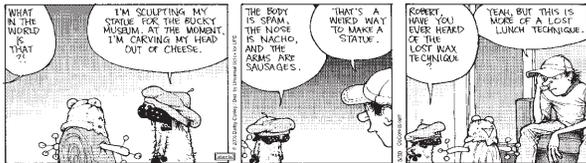
Non Sequitur



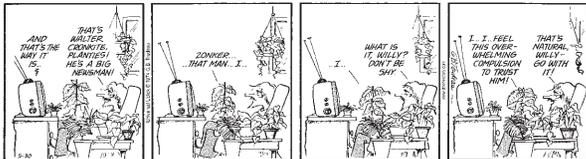
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Engene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
		18							19			
20	21				22	23						
24					25					26	27	28
29					30					31		
32					33					34		
					35					36		
37	38	39						40				
41					42	43					44	45
46					47						48	
49					50						51	

ACROSS

- 1 "Caught ya!"
- 4 Freeway (out)
- 8 Arportion access
- 12 GPS display
- 13 Valhalla VIP
- 14 Met melody
- 15 Moving along slowly
- 17 Penny
- 18 Bird food
- 19 Take to the ice
- 20 Monopoly building
- 21 Puzzle feature
- 22 Caspian feeder
- 25 Farmer's chore
- 29 Wrestling surface
- 30 Targets for some kids
- 31 Neither mate
- 32 In supplication
- 34 Diamond corner
- 35 Show stubbornness
- 36 Cagney's partner
- 37 Pat down
- 40 Saucy
- 41 Mineral deposit
- 42 Pipes and such
- 46 "— for Christmas ..."
- 47 San —, Italy
- 48 Japanese sash
- 49 Rind
- 50 Arabian gulf
- 51 Run-down horse

DOWN

- 2 "2001" computer
- 3 Religious defector
- 4 Prototype
- 5 Tend manuscripts
- 6 Can matter
- 7 U.K. lang.
- 8 Din
- 9 Vicinity
- 10 Mouthwash flavor
- 11 Party spread
- 16 One-on-one battle
- 19 Gets some rays
- 20 Camel feature
- 21 Exam format
- 22 Toasting sound
- 23 Singer k.c.
- 25 "Modern Family" husband
- 26 Nothing out of doing?
- 27 Beezer
- 28 "Riders of the Purple Sage" writer
- 30 Neb. neighbor
- 33 Engage in rappelling (Brit.)
- 34 Zinger
- 35 Zinger
- 36 Air freshener scent
- 37 Envelope part
- 38 Characterization
- 39 Cleeze cohort
- 40 Cougar
- 42 Expert
- 43 Moon vessel
- 44 Cagers' org
- 45 Showbiz job

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	A	G	S		B	O	P		M	A	L	T			
A	L	A	N		I	R	A		I	D	E	A			
C	O	L	A		T	A	J		L	O	O	P			
H	E	L	P		M	E			A	T	O	P			
					P	A	S	S		M	U	S	T	E	R
S	H	A	L	E		W	A	X		I	D	O			
T	U	B	E		H	I	S		P	O	G	O			
O	L	A			Y	E	S		P	A	N	E			
P	A	S	T		M	A	S	T		E	R				
					H	E	A	T		Y	A	R	R	O	
S	P	I	N		H	O	P		I	O	W	A			
H	I	N	T		E	W	E		S	L	E	D			
E	G	G	S		R	E	D		H	E	N	S			

5-30

CRYPTOQUIP

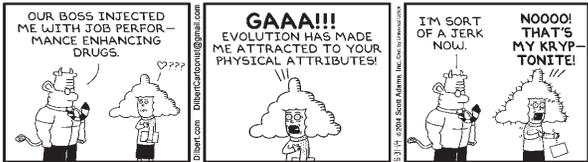
Z VUEEYIUR DXH PSK
 OUZIHH YGUL RVUFYNYF
 GYELR KN EXBR PZR FOHYED

"ZIQKELR NKO BSU VKKO!"
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WE COLOR THESE SOFT GOOSE FEATHERS WITH A CRIMSON PIGMENT, WE'LL PAINT THE DOWN RED.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

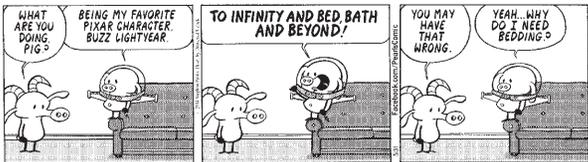
Frazz



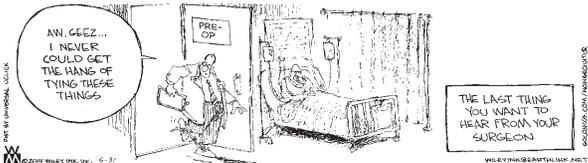
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
18					19			20			
		21	22			23	24				
25	26	27				28		29	30	31	
32								33			
34						35		36			
								37			
								38			
39	40	41			42	43		44	45	46	47
48						49			50		
51						52			53		
54						55			56		

ACROSS

- 1 Griffin of game shows
- 9 React in horror
- 5 Use a ray gun
- 12 Bocelli showstopper
- 13 Not pizzicato
- 14 Yalie
- 15 Ormen
- 16 Imperfection
- 17 Tear
- 18 Connelly or Penn
- 19 In favor of
- 20 November responsibility
- 21 Mimic
- 23 Lawyers' org.
- 25 Bloom
- 28 Cleanser brand
- 32 Strips of wood
- 33 Lubricated
- 34 Minor DJIA improvement
- 36 Says
- 37 Haley's "Oz" costume
- 38 Bashful
- 39 Robert's "Raging Bull" role
- 42 Somewhat (Suff.)
- 44 Go angling
- 48 Work with
- 49 Look lecherously
- 50 Con
- 51 Chaps
- 52 Spinning sound

DOWN

- 1 Church service
- 2 A Great Lake
- 3 Latvia's capital
- 4 Woman of letters?
- 5 Electrician in Hollywood
- 6 Woody's son
- 7 Ornamental beetle
- 8 "Bam!"
- 9 Naught
- 10 Settled down
- 11 Meerschaum, for one
- 12 Thackeray novel
- 13 Actor Joe
- 24 1865 villain
- 25 No mere cold
- 26 Once around
- 27 Mel of Cooperstown
- 29 Hearty quaff
- 30 Mai de —
- 31 Egos' counterparts
- 35 Chess piece
- 36 Groomsman, often
- 39 Bound
- 40 Cruising
- 41 Superman alter ego
- 43 Approached home, maybe
- 45 Actress Swenson
- 46 Put the kibosh on
- 47 Smacks
- 49 Be in debt

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	H	A	M	E	T	E	R	A	M	P
M	A	P	O	D	I	N	A	R	I	A
P	L	O	D	D	I	N	G	C	E	N
		S	U	E	T		S	K	A	T
H	O	T	E	L		C	L			
U	R	A	L		P	L	A	N	T	I
M	A	T		S	H	I	N	S		N
P	L	E	A	D	I	N	G		B	A
		B	A	L	K		L	A	C	E
F	R	I	S	K		P	E	R	T	
L	O	D	E		P	L				
A	L	L		R	E	M	O		O	B
P	E	E	L		O	M	A	N	N	A

5-31

CRYPTOQUIP

RM TRE CNI YE Y CJWXR MJF
 J MLR MJJF . TJ SYE
 G JURMRWJXK RMEWRXXJG
 SRWT Y EJMEJ NU SJXX -
 I NJRML .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A PENILESS GUY WHO REALLY LIKED SPECIFIC KINDS OF NUTS WAS CRYING "ALMONDS FOR THE POOR!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals A

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Apple adds swagger in \$3B Beats deal

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AND RYAN NAKASHIMA
The Associated Press

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple is buying more flair, swagger and song-picking savvy with its \$3 billion acquisition of Beats Electronics, a headphone and music-streaming specialist founded by rapper Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine, one of the first recording executives to roll with the hip-hop culture.

Wednesday's announcement came nearly three weeks after deal negotiations were leaked to the media. It's by far the most expensive acquisition in Apple's 38-year history, a price that the company is paying to counter a threat posed to its iTunes store.

The price consists of \$2.6 billion in cash and \$400 million in Apple stock that will vest over an unspecified time period. The deal is expected to close before October.

With \$1.1 billion in revenue last year, Beats is already making money and will boost Apple's earnings once and the new fiscal year begins in October, Apple CEO Tim Cook said in an interview.

Iovine, 61, and Dre, 49, were the keys to the deal. They began working with Apple in the early days of its iTunes store and now will become key in Apple's music divisions, though Cook said their roles haven't been determined yet. "We have known these guys for

ever," Cook said of Iovine and Dre. "We've dated, we've gone steady and now we are getting married. This relationship started a decade ago, so we know there is an incredible cultural fit. These two guys have a very rare set of skills. It's like finding a particular grain of sand on the beach. It's that rare."

Cook indicated Beats' music streaming service was the main selling point in the deal, though the headphone line also is expected to continue growing, too.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Military rates
Euro costs (May 30)	\$1.3976
Dollar buys (May 30)	€0.7155
British pound (May 30)	\$1.712
Japanese yen (May 30)	99.00
South Korean won (May 30)	995.00

	Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6715/0.5983
Canada (dollar)	1.0854
China (Yuan)	6.2380
Denmark (Krone)	\$5.4870
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3603/0.7351
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7529
Hungary (Forint)	222.20
Israel (Shekel)	3.4720
Japan (Yen)	101.69
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2825
Norway (Krone)	5.9606
Philippines (Peso)	43.86
Poland (Zloty)	3.05
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2546
South Korea (Won)	1,020.90
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8977
Thailand (Bath)	32.81
Turkey (New Lira)	0.0016

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.92	\$4.01	\$4.248	\$4.171
Change in price		changes unavailable		
Netherlands		\$4.885	\$5.182	\$5.059
Change in price		changes unavailable		
U.K.		\$4.016	\$4.183	\$4.106
Change in price		changes unavailable		
Azores			\$4.174	
Change in price			-\$0.8 cents	
U.K.		\$4.084	\$4.343	\$4.215
Change in price		changes unavailable		
Turkey			\$4.672	\$5.006*
Change in price			+\$2.0 cents	+\$96.7 cents*
U.K.		\$3.974		\$4.239
Change in price		changes unavailable		

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan		\$3.339		\$3.819
Change in price		no change		-1.0 cents
Okinawa		\$3.669		\$3.919
Change in price		+1.0 cents		-1.0 cents
South Korea		\$3.929		\$4.179
Change in price		+1.0 cents		no change
Guam		\$3.919**	\$4.259	
Change in price		+1.0 cents	no change	

MARKET WATCH

May 28, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-42.32
	16,633.18
Nasdaq composite	-11.99
	4,225.07
Standard & Poor's 500	-2.13
	1,909.78
Russell 2000	-5.52
	1,136.88

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	W/P	Chatanooga	87	64	Rain	Fort Wayne	80	56	Clr	Louisville	86	65	Pcldy	Pocatello	83	44	Pcldy	Sioux City	86	65	Pcldy	Sioux Falls	84	63	Pcldy
Ablene, Tex	87	66	Pcldy	Cheyenne	72	54 <td>Rain</td> <td>Fresno</td> <td>91</td> <td>61</td> <td>Clr</td> <td>Lubbock</td> <td>85</td> <td>63</td> <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>64</td> <td>46</td> <td>Clr</td> <td>South Bend</td> <td>80</td> <td>55</td> <td>Clr</td> <td>Springfield, Ill.</td> <td>84</td> <td>62</td> <td>Pcldy</td>	Rain	Fresno	91	61	Clr	Lubbock	85	63	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	64	46	Clr	South Bend	80	55	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	84	62	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	78	54	Clr	Chicago	78	50	Clr	Goodland	85	57	Clr	Macon	88	65	Clr	Pueblo	86	57	Clr	Springfield, Mo.	80	64	Clr	Springfield, N.J.	78	58	Clr
Albany, N.Y.	73	51	Cldy	Cincinnati	81	62	Clr	Grand Junction	81	57	Cldy	Madison	86	76	Clr	Reno	81	58	Clr	Spartanburg	76	44	Clr	Shreveport	86	67	Clr
Albuquerque	84	62	Cldy	Cleveland	75	55	Clr	Grand Rapids	78	51	Clr	Medford	81	48	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	77	63	Clr	Tampa	88	73	Clr	Tucson	100	68	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	73	50	Cldy	Colorado Springs	81	55	Cldy	Great Falls	73	41	Pcldy	Memphis	88	68	Clr	Rapid City	71	58	Clr	Tulsa	83	64	Clr	Waco	85	67	Clr
Amarillo	85	60	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	88	67	Rain	Green Bay	89	69	Clr	Miami Beach	86	76	Pcldy	San Diego	80	52	Clr	Washington	78	58	Clr	Wichita	84	66	Clr
Anchorage	52	48	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	88	67	Clr	Harrisburg	73	63	Clr	Midland-Odessa	90	68	Pcldy	San Jose	87	74	Clr	Wichita Falls	86	67	Clr	Wilmington, Del.	73	54	Clr
Asheville	81	59	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	81	60	Clr	Hartford	74	55	Clr	Milwaukee	71	49	Clr	St. Louis	85	67	Clr	Wilmington, N.C.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, Va.	78	58	Clr
Atlanta	86	67	Clr	Concord, N.H.	69	46	Rain	Hartford Spfld	70	48	Clr	Mpls-St Paul	89	61	Clr	St. Thomas	88	78	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Atlantic City	86	69	Clr	Corpus Christi	88	71	Cldy	Hennepin	77	44	Pcldy	Missoula	71	49	Pcldy	St. Louis	85	67	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Austin	86	69	Clr	Baltas-Rt Worth	85	67	Cldy	Key West	88	73	Clr	Mobile	88	73	Clr	St. Louis	85	67	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Baltimore	75	56	Cldy	Dayton	79	58	Clr	Houston	84	69	Cldy	Montgomery	88	68	Clr	St. Louis	85	67	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Baton Rouge	86	70	Rain	Daytona Beach	88	70	Cldy	Davtona	85	66	Cldy	Nashville	87	66	Clr	St. Louis	85	67	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Bilings	74	52	Cldy	Denver	77	57	Clr	Indianapolis	81	60	Clr	New Orleans	85	73	Rain	St. Petersburg	87	74	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Birmingham	88	69	Cldy	Des Moines	84	62	Pcldy	Jackson, Miss.	87	68	Rain	New York City	71	54	Clr	St. Thomas	88	78	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Bismark	78	62	Rain	Detroit	78	55	Pcldy	Jacksonville	86	69	Clr	Newark	73	55	Clr	Salem, Ore.	75	49	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Boise	81	44	Clr	El Paso	76	52	Clr	Juneau	59	44	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	72	61	Clr	Salt Lake City	86	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Boston	66	50	Cldy	El Paso	94	71	Pcldy	Kansas City	84	66	Cldy	North Platte	87	57	Pcldy	San Diego	90	62	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Bridgport	69	50	Cldy	Elkins	78	58	Pcldy	Key West	87	78	Cldy	Oklahoma City	83	65	Clr	San Antonio	90	70	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Brownsville	89	76	Cldy	Erie	71	55	Pcldy	Knoxville	86	64	Cldy	Omaha	85	66	Clr	San Jose	87	74	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Buffalo	74	54	Cldy	Fargo	76	54	Clr	Lake Charles	84	68	Rain	Orlando	91	69	Cldy	San Jose	87	74	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Burlington, Vt.	66	48	Rain	Eugene	74	46	Cldy	Lansing	78	50	Clr	Pasadena	87	68	Clr	San Jose	87	74	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Caribou, Maine	66	48	Rain	Evansville	86	67	Cldy	Las Vegas	99	76	Clr	Pendleton	79	45	Pcldy	Santa Fe	81	53	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Casper	74	49	Cldy	Fargo	89	61	Rain	Lexington	81	63	Pcldy	Peoria	83	59	Clr	St. Marie	75	50	Pcldy	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Charleston, S.C.	87	68	Cldy	Flagstaff	76	45	Pcldy	Lincoln	85	65	Cldy	Philadelphia	73	54	Clr	Savannah	88	69	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Charleston, W.Va.	82	61	Pcldy	Flint	78	50	Pcldy	Little Rock	83	67	Rain	Phoenix	104	77	Pcldy	Seattle	73	49	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr
Charlotte, N.C.	82	66	Cldy	Fort Smith	81	67	Cldy	Los Angeles	75	61	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	79	56	Pcldy	Shreveport	83	68	Rain	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, W.V.	78	58	Clr

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 112, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 28, West Yellowstone, Mont.



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Table with 4 columns: Advertising, Circulation, Reader Letters, and Reader Emails. Includes contact info for Kathryn Peterson, Van Rowley, Robert Reisman, Wayne Victor, and Maru Matsumoto.

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Announcements 040

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- People wanting to agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

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Auto Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles www.AutoAutos.com

BMW 328i, 2008. LOCATED AT US EMBASSY PRAGUE. Blue metallic. 150K miles. 4-cyl. car starts up. This 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

BMW 520i, 2013 \$30000.00. 6 Cyl. 2.0L. Silver. 100K miles. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

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Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 530i, 2008 \$15000.00. Monaco blue metallic. 272 HP. Blue metallic. 150K miles. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

BMW 520i, 2011. Sedan. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

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Chrysler Dodge Grand Caravan SXT. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Corvette, 2005. 6-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 6-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 6-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

Corvette, 2004. 6-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 6-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 6-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

Dodge Durango, 2003. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

Dodge Grand Caravan SXT. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

Honda Civic Si, 2012. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

Honda Jazz, 85000.00. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Ford Mondeo Ghia Wagon. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Mercedes E200, 2011. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours. 4-cyl. engine has 1000+ hours.

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Motorcycles 164

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1 YR. EXP. REQ.
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Jobs Offered 630
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES NEEDED IN AVIANO, ITALY!
EXCELLENT COMPENSATION! LPN/LVN LICENSE REQ.
1 YR. EXP. REQ.
Contact Nichol at 001-513-984-1800

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Jewelry 610
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS NEEDED IN AVIANO, ITALY!
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1 YR. EXP. REQ.
Contact Nichol at 001-513-984-1800

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LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES NEEDED IN AVIANO, ITALY!
EXCELLENT COMPENSATION! LPN/LVN LICENSE REQ.
1 YR. EXP. REQ.
Contact Nichol at 001-513-984-1800

Furniture 510
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Person to Person 800
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Contact Nichol at 001-513-984-1800

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Autos for Sale - Korea 148
BMW F800GS DAKAR, 2005 \$4950.00 Excellent condition All original Only 8089 miles ABS heated grip, Hand guards Engine guard New front and rear fenders \$2500 010-2027-7059 010-2027-7059
Ford, Escape, 2006 \$6000.00 New! New! New! New! weather floor mats. Waterproof seat covers, sun roof, No floor panel scratches. Metal dinging on front rear passenger door, Tint of high. Running Xcelors, KBS to k.belts.mil mail mil
Land Rover, Range Rover Sport HSE, 2010 \$37000.00 Gray Metallic w/ black leather 20 wheels, Sunroof, Driver and Passenger electric controls, 3.0L V6 375HP, 6 speed Automatic-LOADING, low mileage, Menu-actuated, Warranty, Kelly Blue Book, MSRP \$45,000. \$35,000. Best offer over \$37,000. Call 010-9355-2666 010-9355-2666 harrocas@hotmail.com
Mercedes, ML 55 AMG, 2002 \$2500.00 V8 5.5L, Automatic, Heated Leather Seats, Power Sun Roof, Power Windows, 6-Speed, Great Highway Car and Mile for Fueling, Excellent Ride. Call 010-9355-2666 010-9355-2666 harrocas@yahoo.com

Motorcycles - Korea 168
BMW F800GS DAKAR, 2005 \$4950.00 Excellent condition All original Only 8089 miles ABS heated grip, Hand guards Engine guard New front and rear fenders \$2500 010-2027-7059 010-2027-7059
Harley-Davidson, Ultra Classic (FLHTCU), 2009 \$15000.00 2009 Harley-Davidson, Ultra Classic, (FLHTCU), for sale. The bike is loaded, has very low mileage, and has been well maintained. It is turquoise & black in color. Some of the extras include a brand new battery, passenger swing out arm, red/wax clip holder, oil cookery, thermometer, storage bins, front & rear, blue accent graphics, it has only 8K miles on the odometer. Call Bluetooth call. If for \$14800, Im only doing \$15000 This is a DEAL! Call Scott at 010-5442-0519. 010-5442-0519 scottlee

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GOLF/MLB



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the 12th hole during the final round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament in Doral, Fla. in March. Woods withdrew from the U.S. Open on Wednesday as he recovers from back surgery that has kept him out of golf for nearly three months. It will be the second U.S. Open, and sixth major, he has missed because of injury over the last six years.

Woods withdraws from US Open

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ohio — Tiger Woods withdrew from the U.S. Open on Wednesday as he recovers from back surgery that has kept him out of golf for nearly three months.

It will be the second U.S. Open, and sixth major, he has missed because of injury over the last six years.

The U.S. Open is June 12-15 at Pinehurst No. 2, where Woodstied for third in 1999 and was runner-up in 2005. The announcement on his website was not surprising. A week ago at a promotional event for the Quicken Loans National at Congressional, Woods said he still had not taken a full swing with a golf club and did not know when he could.

He had microdiscectomy sur-

gery to relieve a pinched nerve on March 31.

"Unfortunately, I won't be there because I'm not yet physically able to play competitive golf," Woods said. "I'd like to convey my regrets to the USGA leadership, the volunteers and the fans that I won't be at Pinehurst. The U.S. Open is very important to me, and I know it's going to be a great week."

Woods last played on March 9 at Doral, where he closed with a 78 while suffering what he called back spasms. He withdrew in the middle of the final round at the Honda Classic with back pain a week earlier.

Woods is a three-time U.S. Open champion, one short of the record shared by Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan, Bobby Jones and Willie Anderson.

Ace: Rookie pitcher's velocity a nightmare for opposing batters

FROM BACK PAGE

And it's no wonder the Royals were concerned when Ventura left Monday night's start against Houston because of elbow discomfort. Ventura departed after Jose Altuve fouled off a pitch in the third inning.

Manager Ned Yost and trainer Nick Kenney went to the mound and Ventura was led off without attempting another pitch.

Ventura will miss his next start after an MRI exam taken Tuesday on his sore right elbow showed no ligament damage.

He was diagnosed with a mild valgus extension overload, a condition in which the repetitive stress on the elbow can cause pain in the joint.

Trainers went out to examine Ventura in the third inning when they noticed a decrease in the velocity on his fastball. But they were confident there was no ligament damage when Ventura said the pain was on the outside of the elbow, rather than on the inside of it.

"It happens. It happens to everybody. It happens to infielders, it happens to outfielders. It's just a freak thing," Yost said. "The pain was on the other side of the elbow, and he only felt it on extension on his fastball. He didn't feel it on his breaking ball or his changeup."

Before his outing Monday night, people were interested how Ventura could throw so hard at his size.

Glenn Fleisig, an expert in medical and mechanical engineering, has been studying pitchers for years at the American Sports Medicine Institute, the nonprofit founded by renowned surgeon Dr. James Andrews. While Fleisig has not examined Ventura specifically, he may be able to explain in general terms what makes the right-hander stand out.

"More than anything it has to do with the timing of the different motions," Fleisig says.

"You watch it by the naked eye," he continues, "and it looks like the guy steps, his body moves forward and he throws. But if you do it in slow motion, it's really a sequence of events."

"When a pitcher's stride foot lands, his arm, totally not connected to his leg, has to be at a certain position, and his hips and trunk has to be at a certain position. And if we break these things down to a very small fraction of a second, the best pitchers are sequencing right."

In science, that sequencing is called a kinetic chain. Ventura's is nearly perfect.

"What a pitcher has to do to maximize his ball velocity is maximize his timing of different body parts," Fleisig explains. "That's not the only thing but it is the most important thing."

Another important element is what Fleisig calls functional strength.

Even though Ventura is about as husky as a foul pole, the muscles, ligaments and tendons that it takes to throw hard have been honed over the years, and not just by pitching.

Unlike youngsters in America who specialize at a young age, Ventura played shortstop — and other sports — along with pitching as a child, and that developed his body into that of a well-rounded athlete.

"His body just figured it out right," Fleisig says.

This matters because, while many pitchers throw hard, very few throw as hard as Ventura. And the difference between a 95 mph fastball and one that hits triple-digits is astounding.

Alan M. Nathan, a physics professor at the University of Illinois, has found that a pitch released at



JOHN SLEEZER, KANSAS CITY STAM/MLB

Kansas City pitcher Yordano Ventura was clocked throwing a four-seam fastball at 102.816 mph last September — the fastest thrown by a starter since the PitchFX system began tracking the velocity and trajectory of pitches in every major league ballpark during the 2006 playoffs.

95 mph will cross the plate in about four-tenths of a second, and that each additional mile per hour trims that flight time by about 1 percent.

While that may not seem like much, keep in mind the margin of error for putting the ball in play is about seven milliseconds.

"So if a pitcher throws at 100 mph but the batter perceives the pitch at 98 mph, the batter will swing later by about 8 milliseconds," Nathan concludes, "and that is outside of the margin of error for hitting the ball fair."

In other words, Ventura makes batters swing and miss a lot.

"I'm thankful I have a good arm," Ventura says with a shrug, "and I'm going to keep working hard to be healthy, but nobody has ever explained to me why I'm able to throw so hard."

During a September call-up last year, Ventura was clocked throwing a four-seam fastball at 102.816 mph — the fastest thrown by a starter since the PitchFX system began tracking the velocity and trajectory of pitches in every major league ballpark during the 2006 playoffs.

This year, the 22-year-old leads the major leagues in average fastball velocity by a wide margin, ahead of power pitchers such as Stephen Strasburg and Justin Verlander. He had a 2.80 ERA through his first nine starts, with 56 strikeouts in 54 1/3 innings.

While there may be a scientific explanation for the way Ventura brings the heat, Royals general manager Dayton Moore offers another suggestion: "I think it's God-given," he says.

In truth, the reason Ventura throws hard may be a mixture of science and dogma.

"He was throwing hard at 18, 19 years old," Royals pitching coach Dave Eiland says. "That's not something where you can go, 'Deliver the baseball this way and you'll throw 100.' It's genetics. It must be God-given, you know?"

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

LOSING THE GROUND GAME

Money woes, declining talent plague historically black college programs

By DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

Years before Jackie Slater was a Hall of Fame offensive lineman, he was playing for Wingfield High School in Jackson, Miss., and hoping to attract the attention of college scouts.

This was in the early 1970s — about the time Southeastern Conference football teams were just beginning to recruit black players — so this massive teenager was mostly ignored by the big schools. But Jackson State welcomed him.

“It was where I was wanted,” Slater recalled. “And it’s where I could excel.”

Slater was one of many players who thrived at the nation’s historically black colleges and universities, particularly from the 1960s through the 1980s. NFL superstars Jerry Rice and Walter Payton were part of that wave.

But HBCUs have slowly turned into an afterthought on the college football landscape.

For the first time in the NFL’s common draft era, which started in 1967, not one player from the Southeastern Athletic Conference or Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference was selected this month. The two conferences combined to produce at least 20 NFL draft picks every year from 1967 to 1976, according to research by STATS. That output has slowly declined since.

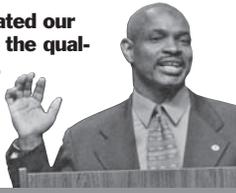
Now storied programs such as Grambling, Southern, Florida A&M and Mississippi Valley State are known more for crumbling facilities, player boycotts and struggles to meet NCAA academic standards than for what happens on the field.

College sports revenue and spending have become increasingly unequal over the past three decades and HBCUs have a hard time keeping up.

The lack of money is especially pronounced for schools in the SWAC, which have yearly athletic

‘We haven’t cultivated our fan bases and now the quality has gone down. It’s going to be hard to get those people back.’

Eddie Payton
Former Jackson State player



budgets as low as Mississippi Valley State’s \$3.6 million.

That’s about half the salary coach Nick Saban earns at Alabama, where the school’s total athletic budget is well over \$100 million. Even other Football Championship Subdivision schools have athletic budgets twice as large as many at those at HBCUs.

Like his late brother Walter, Eddie Payton played football at Jackson State, where he is now the golf coach.

Payton said bringing HBCUs back to some level of prominence is possible, but it will be difficult. As TV contracts for college football have grown, the bigger schools have been able to pour money into facilities and programs that make it nearly im-

possible for HBCUs to compete for elite athletes. And, as recruiting has grown more sophisticated, schools from around the country have been taking star football players out of the South, the main talent base for the HBCUs.

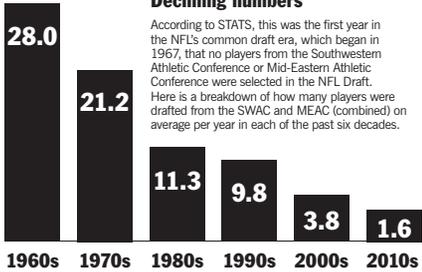
“It’s not that we’re getting less money — it’s that everybody else is growing while we’ve basically stayed the same,” Payton said. “We haven’t cultivated our fan bases and now the quality has gone down. It’s going to be hard to get those people back.”

Payton traced the SWAC’s downfall back to the 1980s and 1990s, when programs started playing “Classic” games on the road in places like Chicago and Indianapolis. Payton said in an effort to spread the HBCU brand and earn a little extra money, leaders focused too much on the schools’ popular marching bands and the parties surrounding the games instead of the football.

“When you go to a steakhouse, the thing that makes or breaks your meal is the steak,” Payton said. “It’s not the salad or the baked potato. We haven’t been focusing on the most important issue — and that’s the quality of

Declining numbers

According to STATS, this was the first year in the NFL’s common draft era, which began in 1967, that no players from the Southeastern Athletic Conference or Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference were selected in the NFL Draft. Here is a breakdown of how many players were drafted from the SWAC and MEAC (combined) on average per year in each of the past six decades.



1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s 2010s

SOURCE: The Associated Press

the football.”

But lack of money makes it hard to compete on and off the field. Shoddy facilities at Grambling led to last fall’s player boycott. Mississippi Valley State’s football stadium was deemed so unsafe it was temporarily closed in 2010 and the team had to play at a high school 45 miles away while repairs were made.

Five of the SWAC’s 10 football schools were recently declared ineligible for the NCAA’s postseason after failing to meet requirements for the Academic Progress Rate.

Schools such as Alabama and Texas

have sprawling academic facilities with dozens of tutors and advisers committed to helping athletes stay eligible. Athletes at most HBCUs don’t have the same support. Teams in big conferences fly charters to games while HBCUs still take long interstate bus rides.

But officials at HBCU schools say things can improve quickly.

HBCUs still attract the biggest crowds at the FCS level. The SWAC has led the division in attendance 35 times in 36 years, drawing more than 12,000 per game last season.

A little extra money for the academic side can help. Jackson State had APR problems a few years ago, but has recovered in part because of a \$900,000 grant from the NCAA. The funds were part of \$4.3 million the NCAA has spread to six schools to help boost APR performance.

SWAC Commissioner Duer Sharp said he hopes it’s the beginning of leaguewide improvement that can start in the classroom and carry over to the field.

“Our goal is to be a progressive Division I conference,” Sharp said. “Jackson State is a perfect example of how these problems can be turned around. They worked along with the NCAA, got some grant money and now have improved tremendously.”



Storied programs such as Florida A&M and Mississippi Valley State are now more known for crumbling facilities, player boycotts and struggles to meet NCAA academic standards than for what happens on the field.

JACOB LANGSTON, ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

HORSE RACING

Past winners ready to hand over title

36 years after back-to-back Triple Crowns, Seattle Slew, Affirmed owners root for Chrome

By BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

Patrice Wolfson is ready to give up her title as the co-owner of the last Triple Crown winner.

She will get the chance if California Chrome is successful in his bid to join Affirmed and 10 other horses atop racing's pinnacle.

No horse since Affirmed in 1978 has swept the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. Since then, 11 have won the first two legs only to fail in the 1 1/2-mile Belmont, the longest and most grueling of the three races that are run over a five-week span. Wolfson and other connections of Triple Crown winners believe this may be the year they get to induce another member into their exclusive club.

"You just like to see a great horse win and I think he's got the potential to be a great horse, so we'll be cheering for him," Wolfson said Tuesday by phone from New York.

Wolfson, who owned Affirmed with her late husband Louis, will be at Belmont Park on June 7. She'll be joined by others with ties to Triple Crown winners, including 92-year-old Penny Chenery, who owned 1973 champion Secretariat.

"If this horse can win the Triple Crown, I want to be there," Chenery said from her home in Boulder, Colo.

The jockeys who rode the last three Triple Crown winners will be at Belmont, too: Steve Cautchen (Affirmed), Jean Cruguet (Seattle Slew) and Ron Turcotte (Secretariat).

The 1970s produced three Triple Crown winners, with Secretariat breaking a 29-year drought. Seattle Slew followed in 1977 and Affirmed came along the next year, leading many to believe the Triple Crown was an easy feat.

Now 36 years have passed since Cautchen, who was then 18, teamed with Affirmed to hold off Alydar in three thrilling races, capped by their victory by a head in the Belmont.

"It was one of the greatest races of all time to watch and to be involved in," he said. "Two great horses continuing a great rivalry, never giving up. It lived up to the



PHOTOS BY AP AND SETH WENIG/AP

Above: In this June 12, 1978 photo, Steve Cautchen raises his whip to speed Affirmed, right, toward the finish line as Alydar is driven home by Jorge Velasquez in the final stretch of the Belmont Stakes at Belmont Race track in Elmont, N.Y. **Right:** California Chrome has galloped 2 miles at Belmont Park, with the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner preparing for the final leg of the Triple Crown. No horse has swept the Derby, Preakness and Belmont since Affirmed in 1978.

hopes and expectations of everybody."

At 3-5, Affirmed was the last odds-on favorite to win the Belmont. California Chrome figures to be a low price, too, just like in the Preakness, where he was the overwhelming favorite.

Cautchen has watched California Chrome from afar and the chestnut colt reminds him of Affirmed. Cautchen and his horse got along well, and he sees California Chrome and jockey Victor Espinoza doing the same.

"He's got a lot of options with him. The horse seems to settle wherever he wants him and can pick up in an instant," said Cautchen, who runs a breeding operation in Verona, Ky. "This horse has got a great chance of pulling it off."

Billy Turner carries a title of his own:

the last living trainer of a Triple Crown winner. He's gotten a close-up view of California Chrome, who has been training at Belmont Park where Turner's stable is based.

"That's such a nice horse," he said. "He goes out there, jogs off, gallops around, does whatever they like him to do, sort of notices the crowd and just seems to really enjoy what he's doing."

Turner had his hands full with Seattle Slew, describing the colt as "an absolute monster."

"All he wanted to do was train. He wasn't loved-homey," Turner said. "Once you trained him, he'd settle right down. My biggest concern with him was trying to figure out how to get him settled down enough to go a mile and a half in the Belmont."



That's a distance no 3-year-old has ever run before and few will be asked to go that far again in their careers. California Chrome has proven adaptable in the 1 1/4-mile Derby and 1 1/16-mile Preakness, where he got good trips and wasn't bothered by the noise of large crowds.

"He's proven already that he's the dominant horse in the 3-year-old ranks today," Turner said. "He would be unlucky not to win the Belmont."

Unlike some of the more regal bloodlines that produced the 11 Triple Crown winners, California Chrome comes from a modest pedigree as the product of a \$2,500 sire. Top pedigree stallions typically cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

But he does have some Triple Crown connections. His father's side of the family traces back to both Seattle Slew and Secretariat.

"That makes it exciting for me," said Jim Hill, who co-owned Seattle Slew.

The last two horses to win the first two legs of the Triple Crown were never factors in the Belmont. Big Brown failed to finish the race in 2008 and two years ago I'll Have Another was scratched the day before with an injury.

"You never know," Cautchen said. "That's why they have to run the race."

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR: SOCCER



ANJU YAMANAKA/Special to Stars and Stripes

Gaku Lange, playing in last week's Far East tournament against Humphreys' Yancarlos Sabonit, had 51 goals and 25 assists this season. Lange closes his career with 154 goals and 76 assists and three straight D-II titles.

Gaku Lange, M.C. Perry

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Tall, lanky and possessing a deft touch with either foot, Gaku Lange was, literally and figuratively, "the straw that stirred the drink," his father and coach Mark Lange said.

The two have made a dream pairing where M.C. Perry is concerned the last four years.

The last three of those seasons have ended with the Samurai hoisting the Far East Division II Tournament banner and another star on the crests of their jerseys. And Perry captured its first DODDS-Japan tournament title as a bonus.

For his work, Gaku Lange has been named Stars and Stripes Pacific boys soccer Athlete of the Year for the second straight year.

Just the numbers alone are impressive enough. Following the opening week of the season in which the Samurai went 1-2-1 at the Western Japan Athletic Association tournament, the Samurai went 21-1 the rest of the way. Of Perry's 98 goals, Gaku was involved in 76 (51 goals, 25 assists) of them.

"That's large. That speaks volumes," Mark Lange said.

Most of his goals came from the center-midfield position, and he could be seen moving "all over the pitch" during matches, Mark Lange said. "He was the main guy, no question."

Lange's season and the Samurai's drive for that third straight star began with what was anything but an auspicious start. But that start wasn't time for worry, either, Mark Lange said.

The Samurai opened by falling 3-0 in the Western Japan Athletic Association Tournament semifinals to Canadian Academy's A side, then losing 2-0 in the third-place

match to Senri-Osaka International.

"They did not keep their initial goal" of beating CA, so "there was a lot of disappointment (but) nobody panicked," Mark Lange said. "Looking back, I think it was that we needed, that we realized we had a lot of work to do. I think it was a good thing."

Gaku Lange, in his role as team captain, made it clear to his teammates that such a start was not acceptable. Not for a team trying for its first DODDS-Japan and third straight D-II titles.

Aside from his numbers, Lange the player brought to the table intangibles that one sometimes can't coach, his father said. Patience in working with younger players. Keeping emotions in check and putting the team first.

That stemmed, Mark Lange said, from a conversation he had with his son last year after the latter had become frustrated over some of his teammates' level of play and took it out on them.

"You can't talk to other players that way," Mark Lange said he told his son after that episode, and soon after, change began taking root. The transformation into team leader was complete coming into this season.

"The biggest thing about him was his leadership ability, his maturity," Mark Lange said. "He motivated other players. He's going to be very difficult to replace."

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All-Far East boys soccer team

Calvin Barker, Justin Hill, Perry; Yuji Callahan, Kai Heckerman, Kadena; Imani Washington, Kubasaki; Kyle Smoker, Lawrence Yamaguchi, Christian Academy Japan; Brady Yoder, Kinick; Ben Cook, JoJo Byrnes, Zama; Manasseh Nartey, Humphreys.



LISA TOURTELOR/Stars and Stripes

Kubasaki goalkeeper Harleigh Lewis, with ball, during last week's Far East tournament final. Lewis allowed two regulation goals this season to American players and one more in a shootout. She posted eight shutouts, four by 1-0 scores in Far East alone.

Harleigh Lewis, Kubasaki

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

In four regular-season matches against American and international schools, she gave up just one goal, none after March 30. In last week's Far East Division I Tournament, she gave up one goal in regulation and one in a penalty-kick shootout, each to her opponents' top goal scorers.

And sophomore goalkeeper Harleigh Lewis fashioned her 11-1 mark against U.S. and international teams for a Kubasaki girls side that was ravaged by injuries all season, which began with turmoil and ended in triumph.

For her efforts, including backstopping Kubasaki to the Okinawa regular-season title and the school's fourth Far East D-I Tournament title in history, Lewis has been named Pacific girls soccer Athlete of the Year by Stars and Stripes.

"She's obviously the anchor for us defensively," coach Terry Chumley said of Lewis and her ability to position players on the field to have the best chance of success, and to positively motivate and encourage players off the field.

All of Lewis' abilities were "a big part of our success," Chumley said. "We're happy to have her on the team."

It was far from numbers that made observers of Kubasaki throughout the season refer to Lewis as a human wall in the Dragons' net.

She was one of the keys to a Kubasaki team that employed three coaches in just a three-week span to start the season. Rob Loyd began at the head post, but resigned due to undisclosed reasons.

Todd Hyson served as interim coach for one match, then Chumley, who had coached the Dragons to Far East titles in 2002, '03 and '07, took over.

While all that was going on, the Dragons lost 1-0 at Kadena on March 30. They didn't lose again the rest of the way. Aside from three goals in a 3-3 draw in a rematch with Misato, Lewis was nearly perfect, racking up eight shutouts against U.S. and international teams.

"I just did my job, to protect the net and keep any other team out of my 'house,'" Lewis said. "I wanted to better myself and prove to everyone that we have what it takes to be champions and that I have what it takes to lead them to victory."

Lewis gave up a regulation goal to Guam's top scorer Kayla Kinney in a 2-1 Far East pool-play win. Then in the final, which went to penalty kicks, Lewis only allowed a PK by American School In Japan's leading scorer Katey Helwick. The Dragons won the shootout 3-1.

And this despite losing striker Sydney Johnson to a knee injury just before Far East, and Lewis' sister, Peyton, to a groin injury during Far East.

"Though we did lose key players along the way, we weren't defeated by any means," Lewis said. "It just meant we would have to work harder and we did and that overall paid off. We worked together as one unit, one team, one family which led us to be Far East champions."

ornaue.dave@stripes.com

All-Far East girls soccer team

Marissa Mesquita, Alex Townsend, Kubasaki; Katey Helwick, Joey Yamada, American School In Japan; Katie Johnson, Kinick, Kayla Kinney, Guam; Michelle Richardson, Seoul Foreign; Vanessa Black, Edgren; Katrina Reid, Zama; Andrea Carandang, Osan; Bobbi Hill, Perry.

HIGH SCHOOL/FRENCH OPEN

DODDS EUROPE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



MATT WILLIAMS/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Matt Sharp readies for a pitch in the Royals' 2-1 DODDS Europe Division I championship win over Patch. The senior captain was selected Stars and Stripes baseball athlete of the year.

Baseball: Matt Sharp, Ramstein

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Picturing a perfect high school athletic career might approximate something that resembles Matt Sharp's whirlwind tour through Ramstein High.

Recently, the Royals won the Division I DODDS Europe Baseball Championships, 2-1 over Ramstein's greatest rivals, the Patch Panthers. In that finale, Sharp drove in the winning runs with two outs and bases loaded in the final inning. For that reason — and his .714 batting average during the tournament — Sharp was selected as the MVP of the baseball finals.

"I still can't even believe it ended like that," he said. "It was over so quick. It was a great way to end my high school career."

And what a career it was.

Sharp is a three-sport varsity champion, lettering in wrestling, football and perhaps most notably, baseball. He finished top of his weight division in the European championships in February and his football team came home champions after drubbing Wiesbaden in 2012. However, his performance on the field of play is just one reason why Royals' coach Tom Yost says Sharp deserves recognition.

"The thing that separates Matt from the rest of the pack is his work ethic," Yost said. "It's simply unparalleled — once he sets his mind to doing something, it's going to get done, no matter what."

Yost recounted times when Sharp would approach the coaching staff with problems he was having with his swing. Instead of shrugging off the lessons Yost and the rest of the coaches gave him, Sharp would spend hours during his lunch period and after school working on his technique, breaking down film and most importantly, passing on what he was learning to his teammates.

That work ethic and interest in improving the

game of everybody around him is why the Royals coaching staff made Sharp — the Stars and Stripes baseball Athlete of the Year for Europe — the team captain this past midseason.

"From that moment on the team took off to a whole other level," Yost said.

While that level of dedication is impressive all on its own, what may be more so is the fact that he was able to juggle excelling in three different sports, while at the same time maintaining a 4.2 GPA with an honors and AP-heavy course load.

"It's just part of that work ethic I picked up in sports," he said. "You have to set high goals and not allow yourself to set low expectations. If you set those high goals, then anything is possible."

With his DODDS sporting career at an end, Sharp will now move on to the next stage in his life. At the beginning of the year, he had applied to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, but an old sports injury had left that particular avenue up in the air. The day before the baseball championships, he received the waiver that allowed his acceptance into the prestigious military academy to go through. Now, he'll be attending the school that his father, Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sharp, graduated from back in 1987.

"It's like you set a big goal for yourself and when you accomplish it, there isn't a better feeling," Sharp said. "My dad told me that he'd support me in whatever decision I made. He was still extremely proud when I was accepted."

Now that he knows the direction he's going, the people who know Sharp says he's going to excel at leading troops one day, much in the same way he's excelled at nearly everything else.

"He's the kind of kid who knows what's right and he'll always do the right thing," Yost said. "He is the definition of leading by example."

darnell.michael@stripes.com

Serena looks ahead after 2nd round loss

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

PARIS — The last time Serena Williams left the French Open after an early loss, in 2012, she went on to win the next two Grand Slam tournaments — and four of the next six.

So what might the tennis world see from Williams now that she was beaten in the second round at Roland Garros?

"I'm going to go home and work five times as hard," she said, "to make sure I never lose again."

Well, that last part might be far-fetched, but the point was pretty clear nonetheless: Watch out when play starts at Wimbledon next month.

Williams, seeded No. 1 in Paris and the defending champion, endured the most lopsided loss of her 288-match Grand Slam career Wednesday, beaten 6-2, 6-2 by 35th-ranked Garbine Muguruza, a 20-year-old from Spain.

It's only the third time the 32-year-old Williams has exited a major tournament before the third round. She lost to her older sister Venus in the second round of the 1998 Australian Open, and lost to Virginie Razzano in the first round of the French Open two years ago. Right after that setback, Williams began working with French coach Patrick Mouratoglou, a relationship that immediately paid dividends.

Over the rest of that season, she won Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and two gold medals at the London Olympics. Then, in 2013, Williams went 78-4 with 11 titles, including at the French Open and U.S. Open.

"She's definitely the kind of person that, when something bad happens to her, is always able to react.

It's really something that she has in herself," Mouratoglou said. "When she has a bad loss or she's really down ... it's also a source of motivation for her to come back even stronger. So I have no doubt that she will tell me very soon that she wants to get ready to go back to work and win again."

Mouratoglou doesn't think Williams will enter a grass-court tournament to prepare for Wimbledon — she almost never does — but he's already got a list of things to focus on that he wrote down during the loss to Muguruza.

Her serving was only OK; she lost all five points she played at the net; she sprayed 29 unforced errors and, of more concern, only produced eight winners.

"Obviously, I'm super-disappointed and it's hard. I worked really hard. But, hey, maybe I can do better," said Williams, whose match was starting on Court Suzanne Lenglen right around the time her sister's 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 loss to 19-year-old Anna Schmiedlova of Slovakia was ending in the main stadium.

"I know for a fact I can work harder," Williams continued. "I know for a fact I can play so much better than what I did today."

The pair of losses by the siblings prevented them from playing each other in the third round at the French Open, which would have been their 25th meeting on tour — but first at a major tournament since the 2009 Wimbledon final.

Now Williams' thoughts will turn to the All England Club.

"It's great sometimes ... to get knocked down, because you have to get back up," she said. "I love getting back up. I love the challenge."



DARKO VOJNOVIC/AP

Serena Williams endured the most lopsided loss of her 288-match Grand Slam career Wednesday, beaten 6-2, 6-2 by Garbine Muguruza, a 20-year-old ranked No. 35 in the world.

AUTO RACING



R BRENT SMITH/AP

Kurt Busch finished sixth in the Indianapolis 500, his first time competing in the race.

Around the track

Emotional Busch earns top Indy rookie award

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

After his whirlwind month, Kurt Busch earned a one-day trip to Virginia International Raceway for a day of road course testing with Stewart-Haas Racing.

His first day off finally came Wednesday, when Busch finally got to reflect on becoming the fourth driver to run both the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day. Although he came up short in his bid to complete all 1,100 miles, he earned widespread praise for his strong showing in his first career IndyCar race.

An engine failure cut short his run in the NASCAR race, but Busch was sixth in the Indy 500 and earned the rookie of the year honors at the post-race awards banquet. Busch fought back tears as he accepted his award and thanked team owner Michael Andretti for the opportunity.

"This whole dream of mine started two years ago when my career was at a crossroads," said Busch, who lost his ride with Roger Penske after the 2011 season. "Michael Andretti, I met up with him, and I'll tell you, it was a unique chance to talk to him about running a NASCAR team and it was like, 'Hey, if you've got an open-wheel ride, I'd like to try out that Indy 500.' And he said, 'Kid, you can come race for me anytime.'"

Rare red-flag: When Townsend Bell crashed with 10 laps to go in the Indianapolis 500, race control took the unprecedented step of stopping the race to clean up debris.

The move came two days after top team owner Chip Ganassi called on IndyCar to adopt NASCAR's policy of using green-white-checked flag finishes to ensure fans see a race to the end, instead of events ending under caution.

IndyCar did not go that route, instead choosing to red-flag the race for a delay that lasted a little more than 10 minutes. The restart led to a six-lap sprint to the finish and Ryan Hunter-Reay beat Helio Castroneves by 0.06 seconds, the second-closest finish in Indy 500 history.

"In previous 500s, we would have just run out under caution, so kudos to race control for giving the fans the finish they wanted to see," reigning IndyCar champion Scott Dixon said.

Juan Pablo Montoya, who spent the past seven seasons in NASCAR, said he was "shocked" by the red flag. But, the 2000 Indianapolis 500 winner believed it was the right call.

Dover grand marshals: Dover International Speedway has named country music star Luke Bryan co-grand marshal of Sunday's race along with Joey Principe, a 17-year-old Delaware native with Asperger's syndrome. The race is sponsored by FedEx and is called the FedEx 400 benefiting Autism Speaks. Principe is about to complete his junior year at Delcastle Technical High School in Newport, Del. He has a 15-year-old sister, Samantha, who has autism.

Engine penalties: Honda was docked 50 engine manufacturer championship points for unapproved engine changes on five cars at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The engines were changed on the cars for Takuma Sato, Graham Rahal, Justin Wilson, James Hinchcliffe and Carlos Munoz. IndyCar also issued 10-point penalties to four teams and drivers for unapproved engine changes. They were Jacques Villeneuve and Schmidt Peterson Motorsports, Oriol Servia and Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, Martin Plowman and A.J. Foyt Racing, and Alex Tagliani and Sarah Fisher Hartman Racing. Later, Chevrolet and Honda were penalized 10 engine manufacturer points for engine changes under mileage in the Ed Carpenter Racing entry driven by Carpenter and the Andretti Autosport car driven by Marco Andretti.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: FedEx 400 at Dover, Del.
TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday, CET; 2 a.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Dover International Speedway (oval, 1.0 miles).

Race distance: 400 miles, 400 laps.
Last year: Tony Stewart ended a 30-race victory drought, racing to the last of his 48 Cup victories.

Last week: Jimmie Johnson won the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte for his first victory of the season. The six-time series champion won the race for the fourth time for the most Cup victories at the track with seven.

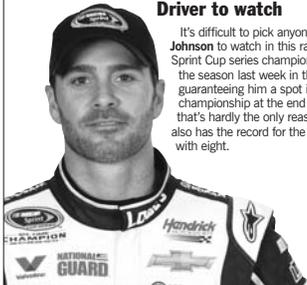
Next race: Pocono 400, June 8, Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, Penn.
Online: nascar.com

Driver standings

1. Jeff Gordon	432
2. Matt Kenseth	421
3. Kyle Busch	408
4. Carl Edwards	408
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	394
6. Jimmie Johnson	378
7. Joey Logano	378
8. Brian Vickers	365
9. Brad Keselowski	361
10. Ryan Newman	361
11. Greg Biffle	351
12. Kevin Harvick	345
13. Kyle Larson	344
14. Denny Hamlin	340
15. Austin Dillon	334
16. Paul Menard	328
17. Kasey Kahne	324
18. A.J. Allmendinger	314
19. Aric Almirola	312
20. Clint Bowyer	309

Driver to watch

It's difficult to pick anyone other than Jimmie Johnson to watch in this race. The six-time Sprint Cup series champion won his first race of the season last week in the Coca-Cola 600, guaranteeing him a spot in the Chase for the championship at the end of the season. But that's hardly the only reason to watch him. He also has the record for the most victories at Dover with eight.



CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: Lucas Oil 200 at Dover, Del.

Track: Dover International Speedway (oval, 1.0 miles).

Race distance: 200 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch won the third of his five 2013 series victories.
Last race: Busch raced in his third victory this year, dominating at Charlotte on May 16.

Next race: WinStar World Casino and Resort 400, June 6, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, Texas.
Online: nascar.com

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Buckle Up 200 at Dover, Del.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m. Sunday, CET; 4 p.m. Monday, JKT.

Track: Dover International Speedway (oval, 1.0 miles).

Race distance: 200 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Joey Logano won the race and the September event at the track for Penske Racing.

Last week: Kyle Larson raced to his second Nationwide victory of the season, at Charlotte.

Next race: Michigan 250, June 14, Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, Mich.
Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Canadian Grand Prix, June 8, Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Montreal.

Last week: Nico Rosberg won the Monaco Grand Prix. Lewis Hamilton was second.
Online: formula1.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Chevrolet Indy Dual in Detroit.

TV: AFN-Xtra, Race 1 (live), 9:30 p.m. Saturday, CET; 4:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT. Race 2 (delayed), 3 a.m. Sunday, CET; 10 a.m. Monday, JKT.

Track: The Raceway at Belle Isle Park (street course, 2.36 miles).

Race distances: 164.22 miles, 70 laps.

Last year: Mike Conway won the doubleheader opener, and Simon Pagenaout took the second race.

Last week: Andretti Autosport's Ryan Hunter-Reay won the Indianapolis 500.

Next race: Firestone 600, June 7, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, Texas.
Online: indycar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Summer Nationals at Englishtown, N.J.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 5:30 a.m. Monday, CET; 12:30 p.m. Monday, JKT.

Track: Old Bridge Township Raceway Park.

Last year: Shawn Langdon won Top Fuel. Other winners were Matt Hagan (Funny Car), Mike Edwards (Pro Stock) and Michael Ray (Pro Stock Motorcycle).

Last week: Courtney Force won the Kansas Nationals in Funny Car, Spencer Masses won Top Fuel, and Allen Johnson won Pro Stock.

Next event: Thunder Valley Nationals, June 13-15, Bristol Dragway, Bristol, Tenn.
Online: nhra.com

COLLEGE BASEBALL



MARK CORNELISON, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/MCT

Kentucky starting pitcher A.J. Reed leads the nation in home runs (23) and slugging percentage (7.58) and is fourth in RBIs (70).

10 things to know

Top seed faces long odds

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The NCAA baseball tournament starts Friday with regionals. The 16 winners advance to super regionals next week, and the final eight go to the College World Series in Omaha beginning June 14.

Here are 10 of the tournament's top story lines:

1 Year of the Beaver: Oregon State has lived up to preseason expectations, and now it's time to see if the overall No. 1 seed can finish the job. Ben Wetzler and Jace Fry are two of the nation's best starters, and left fielder Michael Conforto will be a first-round MLB draft pick. The Pac-12 champs have survived with freshmen in prominent roles — Logan Ice at catcher, Trevor Morrison at shortstop and Caleb Hamilton at second base.

2 The No. 1 problem: As good as Oregon State has been, the Beavers are up against some bad history. Since the tournament was expanded to 64 teams in 1999, Miami is the only top-seeded team to win the national championship — and that was in 1999.

3 Who's hot: Louisiana-Lafayette has won 10 straight thanks to its high-scoring offense. The Sun Belt Conference's Ragin' Cajuns also had a 10-game winning streak the first month of the season and a 14-gamer in March. Their 53 wins are eight more than any other team. SEC tournament champion LSU has won eight straight, and Cal State Fullerton

and Kennesaw State have won seven in a row. **4 Who's not:** The Anteaters of UC Irvine are sucking air right now. They've lost six in a row and eight of their last nine. The good news is they made the tournament. The bad news is they played their way into Oregon State's regional.

5 The guy everyone knows: Florida State's Jameis Winston is the first Heisman Trophy winner to play college baseball since Auburn's Bo Jackson in 1986. Winston has been a shutdown reliever with his 95-mph fast ball, striking out 29 and allowing four earned runs in 30½ innings for a team-best 1.17 ERA. Winston, who has started two games in left field and three as designated hitter, is batting .132 in 38 at-bats.

6 The guy you've never heard of: Max Pentecost is first-time tournament participant Kennesaw State is the best draft-eligible catcher. He chose to go to the Georgia school instead of turning pro after the Texas Rangers drafted him in the seventh round in 2011. His .423 batting average is second nationally — and best among players in the tournament — and he's batting .481 since March 15. Pentecost has driven in 55 runs with nine homers and 21 doubles, and he's thrown out 21 of 41 base stealers.

7 The guy who does it all: Kentucky's A.J. Reed is by far the top two-way player in the nation. He's blossomed from a 25th-round draft pick coming out of high school to the SEC player of the year and probable first- or second-

round pick. The left-handed Reed leads the nation in home runs (23) and slugging percentage (.768) and is fourth in RBIs (70). Oh, and the pitcher is tops in the SEC in wins (11).

8 Penguin power: Horizon League champion Youngstown State enters the national tournament 16-36 and, at .308, with the lowest winning percentage of a participant since at least 2001. The Penguins got 25 percent of their wins in their conference tournament. Before last weekend, they had won back-to-back games just three times. Two other teams with losing records are in the field: Siena and Bethune-Cookman, which are both 26-31.

9 You look familiar: Texas A&M's move from the Big 12 to the SEC didn't sit well with Texas and led to the end of their famous football rivalry. Since the Aggies' SEC membership took effect in 2012-13, the schools have met in a sport just once, that being women's basketball last season. It took the Division I Baseball Committee to bring the Longhorns and Aggies back together on the diamond. They'll play Friday in Houston in one of the most anticipated regional matchups.

10 Home sweet home: The host team has won 70 percent (169 of 240) of the regionals held since the tournament went to its current format in 1999. Last year 14 of the 16 hosts made it to super regionals. No year has come close to matching the debacle of 2007, when only seven hosts advanced.

Gwynn on minds of Aztecs

By BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn isn't with his San Diego State Aztecs as they head to the NCAA regionals for the second straight season.

Then again, he is there.

Gwynn has been in his players' hearts and minds since he began a leave of absence in late March to recover from cancer treatment.

And for the better part of May, the Aztecs have rallied around a bobblehead of their coach.

The bobblehead was in the dugout in Las Vegas last weekend — with Gwynn's credential around its neck — as the Aztecs rallied to win the Mountain West Conference tournament and an automatic berth in the NCAA regionals. Freshman infielder Ryan Alvarez is in charge of packing it on the road, which this week means a trip to Lafayette, La., to face 2013 College World Series runner-up Mississippi State on Friday. Louisiana-Lafayette plays Jackson State.



Gwynn

Assistant coach Mark Martinez was looking for something to pump up the Aztecs after they played poorly in a three-game series at New Mexico in early May, including being outscored 19-6 in losing the last two games.

He wanted the Aztecs to wear their all-black, pinstriped uniforms at Long Beach State the following Tuesday, but they couldn't because the 49ers wore black jerseys.

So he asked an athletic department staffer for a Gwynn bobblehead, which was a giveaway item at a basketball game several years ago, early in the tenure of coach Steve Fisher.

"It actually worked out good. We wrapped up little Tony in a towel and went out to the pregame meeting and kind of poked his head out and said, 'Guys, we brought Tony with us. And they went crazy,'" Martinez said Wednesday.

SDSU won 6-3 that night and is 10-3 since Martinez brought out the bobblehead. The Aztecs (42-19) went 3-1 in the MWC tournament, coming back through the losers' bracket to win it.

In 20 seasons since the San Diego Padres, the lefty-throwing Gwynn had 3,141 hits, a .338 average, won eight NL batting titles and played in the franchise's only two World Series.

Gwynn has had two operations for cancer in his right cheek since August 2010. In a complicated surgery in February 2012, surgeons removed a facial nerve because it was intertwined with a tumor inside his right cheek. They grafted a nerve from Gwynn's neck to help him eventually regain facial movement.

Gwynn was last with the Aztecs on March 25, when they beat Santa Clara 12-4.

Martinez said the staff tries to talk with Gwynn every day.

"For me, it's why I come to work, and I know it's why these guys come. We're trying to do him proud," Martinez said.

NHL PLAYOFFS/NFL

Hawks go 2 OTs to keep title defense alive

Handzus' game-winner sends Stanley Cup champs back to LA for Game 6 of Western finals

By JAY COHEN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Brandon Saad and Patrick Kane were everywhere, and the Chicago Blackhawks needed every last play to keep their title defense alive.

The Western Conference finals are headed back to California.

Saad and Kane each picked up an assist when Michal Handzus scored 2:04 into the second overtime, and the Blackhawks beat the Los Angeles Kings 5-4 in Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Saad made a nice pass to the middle and Handzus beat goaltender Jonathan Quick with a backhand for his second goal of the playoffs. The Slovak center celebrated by pounding the boards behind the net as the sell-out crowd of 21,871 roared.

"I saw him for a second there, and threw it," Saad said. "He handled it off his skate and made a great move. It was all good on him. He's a leader out here, does all the right things, so it's good to see him get rewarded."

Handzus has been all over Chicago's lines all season long as the Blackhawks searched for a second-line center behind captain Jonathan Toews. His biggest value right now is on the penalty kill, but it was his offense that kept Chicago's title defense alive.

"I want to help the team as much as I can," Handzus said. "I'm playing on the PK a lot. I'm not playing very well offensively. I'm glad I came through."

Saad had a pair of two assists to help Chicago stop a three-game losing streak. Brent Seabrook, Johnny Oduya and Ben Smith also scored, and Kane set a playoff career high with four assists.

"Personally, I thought Saader was the best player on the ice



ANDREW A. NELLES/AP

Chicago's Michal Handzus, center, celebrates his game-winning goal in the second overtime with teammates as the Blackhawks beat the Los Angeles Kings 5-4 in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals on Wednesday in Chicago. Game 6 is Friday in Los Angeles with the Kings ahead 3-2.

tonight," Kane said. "He was bringing so much speed and puck protection."

Game 6 is Friday night in Los Angeles.

"We go home and we come out with a better effort," Kings defenseman Jake Muzzin said. "We've got some experience and veterans in here who know what it takes to stop it."

Marian Gaborik and Dustin Brown each had a goal and an assist, and Jarret Stoll and Tanner Pearson also scored for the Kings, who led 4-3 after two pe-

riods. It was Gaborik's NHL-best 11th playoff goal.

Quick and Chicago's Corey Crawford each stopped 40 shots.

Los Angeles was in position to advance to its second Stanley Cup finals in three years before Smith drove to the net and swept in a rebound 1:17 into the third. Smith's third goal of the playoffs set the stage for a frantic finish as both sides pushed for the winning score.

"It's not easy," Kings forward Justin Williams said. "Attaining your ultimate goal is never easy

and we're going to do our best to get it done."

Quick made a solid stop on Marian Hossa in overtime and the loose puck was swept away by the Kings. Los Angeles star Anze Kopitar had a chance to win it about nine minutes into the first overtime, but his shot went off the side of the net.

"Overtime, I've seen a lot of games, been involved in a lot of games," said Chicago coach Joel Quenneville, a former NHL defenseman. "That might have been the greatest overtime I've seen."

Scoreboard

Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)



EASTERN CONFERENCE

N.Y. Rangers 3, Montreal 2
N.Y. Rangers 7, Montreal 2
N.Y. Rangers 6, Montreal 1
Montreal 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT
N.Y. Rangers 3, Montreal 2, OT
Montreal 7, N.Y. Rangers 4
Thursday: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Saturday: at Montreal



WESTERN CONFERENCE

Los Angeles 3, Chicago 2
Chicago 3, Los Angeles 1
Los Angeles 6, Chicago 1
Los Angeles 4, Chicago 3
Los Angeles 3, Chicago 2
Wednesday: Chicago 5, Los Angeles 4
Friday: at Los Angeles
x-Sunday: at Chicago

Wednesday

Blackhawks 5, Kings 4 (2OT)
Los Angeles 2 2 0 0 0-4
Chicago 3 0 1 0 1-5

First Period—1, Chicago, Seabrook 3 (Toews, Kane), 1:13 (pp), 2, Chicago, Oduya 4 (Gaborik, Kane), 3:40, 3, Los Angeles, Stoll 2 (King), 9:49, 4, Chicago, Saad 5 (Gibson, Kane), 11:19, 5, Los Angeles, Gaborik 11 (Kopitar, Brown), 13:16.
Second Period—1, Los Angeles, Brown 4 (Gaborik), 1:08, 2, Los Angeles, Pearson 4 (Carter, Richards), 13:08.
Third Period—3, Chicago, Smith 3 (Saad, Oduya), 1:17.
Second Overtime—3, Chicago, Handzus 2 (Saad, Kane), 2:04.
Shots on goal—Los Angeles 9-16-8-10-14, Chicago 9-11-16-9-6.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 2, Chicago 1 of 4.
Goalies—Los Angeles, Quick 11-8-0 (45 shots-40 saves), Chicago, Crawford 10-7-0 (44-40).
A—21,871 (19,717), T—3:32.

Prosecutors: Spilled drink led Hernandez to kill

By DENISE LAVOIE
The Associated Press

BOSTON — In the months leading up to a fatal double shooting, Aaron Hernandez had become increasingly convinced that people had been "testing, trying or otherwise disrespecting him" when he went to nightclubs, prosecutors said.

When a man bumped into Hernandez while dancing, spilling his drink, that may have been the last straw. Authorities say the former New England Patriots star followed the man and his friends, then fired on their car, killing two men and wounding a third.

"I think I got one in the head and one in the chest," Hernandez said to a friend as they raced from the intersection where the victims were shot as they sat in their car, prosecutors said at the former tight end's arraignment.

Hernandez, already charged with killing another man last year, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to seven charges — including two counts of first-degree murder — in the 2012 shooting that killed Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado.

The night de Abreu and Furtado were killed, Hernandez and a friend drove from Connecticut to a Boston nightclub called Cure, Suffolk County First Assistant District Attorney Patrick Haggan said. They were standing at the edge of the dance floor when de Abreu accidentally bumped into Hernandez, smiled at him and did not apologize, according to prosecutors. Haggan said de Abreu and his friends did not appear to recognize Hernandez and had no idea he was upset.

Hernandez became increasingly agitated and told his friend that de Abreu had deliberately bumped into him and "was trying



DOMINICK REUTER/AP

Former New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez listens to the prosecution's summary of facts as he is arraigned on homicide charges at Suffolk Superior Court in Boston on Wednesday.

him," Haggan said. Hernandez and his friend then went to another nightclub, where

Hernandez thought he saw de Abreu and his friends come in, Haggan said, but de Abreu and his friends had not left the other club.

Haggan said Hernandez later drove around with his friend until he saw de Abreu, Furtado and others going to their car, then followed them and pulled up alongside their car at a red light.

Hernandez leaned out the driver's side, said "Yo, what's up now," followed by a racial slur, then fired at least five shots into the car, killing de Abreu and Furtado and injuring a man in the backseat, Haggan said.

Hernandez's attorney, Charles Rankin, objected to the description, saying the prosecutor's account of the shooting was an attempt to poison the jury pool. Clerk Magistrate Gary Wilson dismissed the objection, saying it is standard procedure for prosecutors to describe evidence during

arraignments in murder cases.

Family members of the victims filed four rows in the courtroom. One woman sobbed loudly as Hernandez entered his not guilty plea.

Hernandez was released by the Patriots last summer after he was charged in the June 17 killing of semi-pro football player Odin Lloyd, who was dating a sister of Hernandez's fiancée. Lloyd's body was found in an industrial area near Hernandez's home in North Attleborough, Mass.

Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley would not comment when asked if Lloyd's killing was linked to the earlier killings of de Abreu and Furtado. He said Lloyd was not the friend who was with Hernandez the night the two men were killed.

Hernandez will continue to be held in court jail. He is due back in court June 24.

NBA PLAYOFFS



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Indiana center Roy Hibbert, left, is defended by Miami center Chris Bosh during the first half of Game 5 on Wednesday in Indianapolis.

Spurs try to avert repeat of history

By Cliff Brunt
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The San Antonio Spurs have seen this nightmare before.

In 2012, the Spurs won the first two games of the Western Conference finals against the Thunder, then lost four straight and were bounced out of the playoffs. This season, the Spurs were cruising in the West finals, winning two blowouts against Oklahoma City before Thunder defensive wiz Serge Ibaka unexpectedly came back from a left calf strain. With renewed confidence and energy, Oklahoma City's youngsters rolled past their veteran counterparts in Game 3, and the reminders started coming.

The Thunder dominated Game 4 to tie the series, and now the Spurs again face a most uncomfortable scenario. They hosted Game 5 on Thursday in danger of falling behind 3-2. If they lose, they'll travel to Oklahoma City on Saturday facing elimination.

Just like 2012. "Reminding people about what happened in the past helps in some way, but we have to go out there and execute and do things," Spurs forward Tim Duncan said.

The Thunder also have tried to distance themselves from their rare comeback, though they said it helped them remain hopeful when they were down 0-2.

"We can't think about the past," forward Kevin Durant said. "We have to focus on right now. [San Antonio] is well-coached and has a great group of guys. They'll make it tough."

Duncan and the rest of the Spurs must match the intensity of their youthful opponents. Russell Westbrook, just 25, was all over the place in his 40-point, 10-assist, five-steal effort in Game 4.

"It doesn't matter what we do tactically if we don't up that determination, that attitude, that persistent, aggressive, ugly, hard-nosed attitude and I think that was embodied in them in Russell Westbrook," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

Ibaka has provided a morale boost. In the two games since his return, the 6-foot-10 power forward has averaged 12 points, 7.5 rebounds and 3.5 blocks.



Western Conference finals
Oklahoma City vs San Antonio
Game 6
AFN-Sports
3 a.m. Sunday CET
10 a.m. Sunday JKT

Pacers avoid elimination

Indiana survives at home, hits road now

By Michael Marot
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Paul George and the Pacers got one win Wednesday night.

Now comes the hard part: Winning an elimination game at Miami against LeBron James and the Heat.

George scored 21 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter and inspired his teammates to withstand the Heat's frantic late charge to help keep the Pacers' once-promising season alive with a 93-90 victory in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals.

"We have to go and basically do the impossible, which is go down there and beat them in front of an unbelievable crowd with unbelievable energy and knowing that LeBron is going to come back and try to respond," Pacers forward David West said after finishing with 19 points and nine rebounds. "We've got an ultimate challenge in front of us. I think guys are just for it."

While George fell just short of his career playoff high (39) and four points short of Reggie Miller's franchise record for points in an NBA playoff game, he also had six rebounds, six steals and only three turnovers in 45 minutes. And he helped limit James to a career playoff-low seven points in 24½ minutes, largely because the



Eastern Conference finals
Indiana vs. Miami
Game 6
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Saturday CET
9:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

four-time MVP spent most of the night in foul trouble.

It was good enough, barely, to get within 3-2 in the best-of-seven series. Game 6 is Friday night at Miami.

"The Heat haven't lost back-to-back playoff games since the 2012 conference finals against Boston, and the Pacers know they have to continue playing the way they did in Game 5 if they intend to get Game 7 back in Indy."

"Coach told me, 'Green light. Stay on target.' David West kept telling me, 'Don't keep no bullets in the chamber' so I really just came out firing," George said. "My teammates found me and I got hot."

Even without James going full throttle, the Heat still had a chance.

After falling into an 11-point

hole early in the fourth quarter, the Big Three — James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade — rallied the Heat. James' only three-point shot of the night tied the score at 81 with 3:51 left, and after Indiana answered with five straight, the Heat twice closed to within one in the final 1:16. They even had a chance to take the lead with 4.9 seconds left, but a three-pointer from Bosh that would have given Miami the lead was off the mark.

Bosh finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Wade and Rashard Lewis each had 18 as the Heat went 15-for-31 on three-pointers.

Now the Heat will get a second chance to clinch their fourth straight conference championship at home, where they've won 10 straight postseason games. The last team to reach the NBA Finals four straight times was Boston from 1984-87, and Miami is eager to make sure it doesn't have another trip back to Indianapolis.

"It's the Eastern Conference Finals," James said. "There should be urgency, no matter what."

George was the personification of urgency Wednesday as he delivered the most clutch shooting performance of his young career. The 24-year-old All-Star was 12-for-19 from the field in the second half and was 5-for-14 on three-pointers in the game.

Scoreboard

Conference finals (Best-of-seven; 4 if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Miami 3, Indiana 2
Indiana 107, Miami 96
Miami 87, Indiana 83
Miami 99, Indiana 87
Miami 102, Indiana 90
Wednesday: Indiana 93, Miami 90
Friday: at Miami
WESTERN CONFERENCE
San Antonio 2, Oklahoma City 2
San Antonio 122, Oklahoma City 105
San Antonio 112, Oklahoma City 77
Oklahoma City 106, San Antonio 97
Oklahoma City 105, San Antonio 92
Thursday: at San Antonio
Saturdays: at Oklahoma City
Monday: at San Antonio
NBA Finals
Thursday, June 5: Eastern champion at San Antonio or Oklahoma City
Sunday, June 8: Eastern champion at San Antonio or Oklahoma City
Tuesday, June 10: Western champion at Indiana or Miami
Wednesday, June 12: Western champion at Indiana or Miami
Thursday, June 13: Eastern champion at San Antonio or Oklahoma City
Friday, June 14: Western champion at Indiana or Miami
Saturday, June 14: Eastern champion at San Antonio or Oklahoma City

Wednesday Pacers 93, Heat 90
MIAMI — James 2-10 2-3 7, Lewis 6-10 0-8, Bosh 9-21 0-0 20, Chalmers 3-4 1-1 8, Wade 7-18 2-7 18, R.Allen 5-11 2-2 15, Haslem 2-2 0-0 4, Cole 0-2 0-0 0, Battier 0-0 0-0 0, Douglas 0-0 0-0 0, Reddick 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 34-75 7-8 90.
INDIANA — George 15-28 2-3 37, West 7-11 5-8 19, Hibbert 4-11 2-3 10, G.Hill 4-9 0-2 9, Stephenson 4-11 1-2 12, Scola 3-6 0-2 9, Watson 0-1 0-0 0, Madsen 0-0 0-0 0, Butler 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 37-78 13-29 93.
Miami 16 26 15 32-90
Indiana 22 11 31 29-93
Three-Point Goals—Miami 15-31 (Lew- is 6-9, R.Allen 3-6, Wade 2-3, Bosh 2-7, Chalmers 1-2, James 1-3, Cole 0-0), Indiana 6-21 (George 2-4, G.Hill 1-2, Butler 0-1, Watson 0-1, Stephenson 0-3), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Miami 40 (Bosh 10), Indiana 52 (Hibbert 13), Assists—Miami 22, Indiana 13 (Stephenson 5), Total Fouls—Miami 24, Indiana 16. A-18,165 (18,165).

SPORTS


Still alive

 Blackhawks top Kings in 2OT to force Game 6 | **NHL Playoffs, Page 62**
MLB

Freak of nature

Royals' ace Ventura defies expectations with 102-mph heat

 By **DAVE SKRETTA**
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo.

He looks unassuming as he steps on the mound, the lithe kid with the limber arm. He tugs at his hat, bounces a rosin bag playfully in his hand, toes the rubber and proceeds to throw what can only be described as a blur toward the plate.

The unsuspecting hitter never lifts his bat off his shoulder: The ball smacks the catcher's glove and the radar gun on the outfield scoreboard blinks: 102 mph.

No wonder he's nicknamed "Ace."

It doesn't seem natural what Yordano Ventura does. Only the biggest, burliest pitchers are supposed to throw triple-digit heat. Certainly not a 6-foot, 180-pound-dripping-wet rookie who signed for \$25,000 out of the Dominican Republic and not long ago was playing shortstop.

Yet there he is, standing on the mound at Kauffman Stadium, watching as another failed hitter walks slowly back to his dugout, shaking his head in disbelief.

"That kid's special," Orioles star Adam Jones says, "to say the least."

SEE ACE ON PAGE 55

Kansas City Royals rookie pitcher Yordano Ventura

JOHN SLEEZER,
 KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT


 George's inspired play lifts Pacers over Heat | **NBA Playoffs, Page 63**

 Perry's Lange, Kubasaki's Lewis named Pacific soccer players of the year | **Page 58**
