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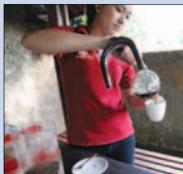
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A GIANT AMONG MEN

San Francisco Giants' Madison Bumgarner, right, and Buster Posey celebrate after winning the World Series on Wednesday in Kansas City, Mo.

DAVID ELLIOTT, KANSAS CITY (Mo.) STAR/MCT

Bumgarner leads San Francisco to dynasty status

BACK PAGE

Pentagon developing Ebola quarantine measures

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Troops who deploy to Africa to fight Ebola will likely return to their home bases before they undergo 21 days of quarantine, including those from a number of major installations in the United States. And simply passing through the Ebola zone

in West Africa, or making a quick flight in and out, isn't enough to require quarantine.

Military planners are working out the details of the Ebola quarantine order Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel issued Wednesday, but some broad measures have already emerged from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which must deliver an implementation plan within about two weeks. "We're developing that now, and some of it

we already know," Air Force Col. Edward W. Thomas Jr., spokesman for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, said Thursday.

One returning group already has been placed in what the Pentagon calls "enhanced monitoring" at their home base.

SEE QUARANTINE ON PAGE 9

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is having a very serious impact on the way we live our lives."

— Emily May, of an anti-street harassment organization, on comments women receive from strangers.

See story on Page 10

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EUROPE

NATO responds to Russian flyovers

By JOHN VANDIVER Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Russian jets are conducting a growing number of patrols near NATO territory, prompting a spike in the intercepts carried out by alliance aircraft this year and raising concerns about air traffic safety, alliance officials said.

Since Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula in March, Russian aircraft have increased their activity near Russia's borders with NATO, according to the 28-nation alliance. In the past two days, Russian aircraft formations have grown in size, prompting NATO to scramble multiple fighters in response.

"These sizable Russian flights represent an unusual level of air activity over European airspace," Lt. Col. Jay Janzen, a spokesman with Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium, said in a statement.

So far this year, NATO has conducted more than 100 intercepts of Russian aircraft, which is three times more than were conducted in all of 2013, according to NATO. In response to Russia's increased activity in the region, NATO has beefed up its air policing mission in the Baltics from four to 16 jets.

Scrambles and intercepts are standard air policing procedure when an unknown aircraft nears NATO airspace. However, NATO officials say flights over international airspace also pose a potential risk to civil aviation since the Russian military often do not file flight plans and fly with their onboard transponders turned off, making them invisible to civilian air traffic control.

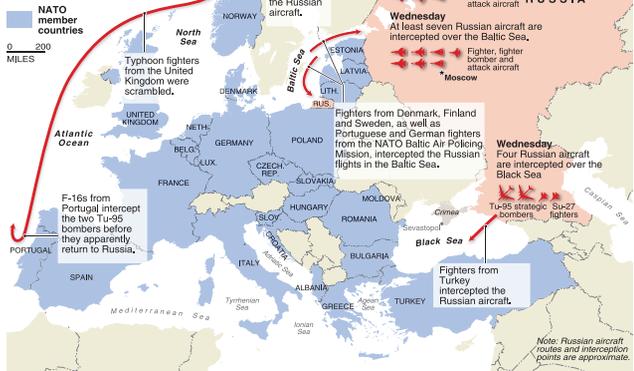
On Wednesday, NATO radars detected and tracked eight Russian aircraft flying in formation over the North Sea. In response, F-16 aircraft from the Royal Norwegian Air Force were scrambled to shadow the formation that included four Tu-95 Bear H strategic bombers and four Il-78 tanker aircraft.

Six of the Russian aircraft then turned back to the northeast toward Russia, while two of the bombers continued southwest, parallel to the Norwegian coast, NATO said in a statement.

That set off a series of NATO in-

Increased Russian air activity

In the past two days NATO detected at least 19 Russian aircraft in international airspace. NATO has conducted over 100 intercepts of Russian aircraft in 2014 to date, which is about three times as many as were conducted in 2013.



SOURCE: NATO

GENE THOMP/THE WASHINGTON POST

tercepts from multiple countries as alliance fighters monitored the two Russian aircraft, which traveled over the North Sea and over the Atlantic Ocean west of Portugal before turning north for the west coast of the United Kingdom. By late Wednesday, the Russian aircraft appeared to be headed back to Russia, NATO said. F-16s from the Portuguese air force and British Typhoons were scrambled while military radar tracked the movements of the Russians.

"The bomber and tanker aircraft from Russia did not file flight plans or maintain radio contact with civilian air traffic control authorities, and they were not using on-board transponders," NATO stated.

Also on Wednesday, NATO radars detected and tracked four Russian aircraft — two Tu-95s and two Su-27 Flanker fighter jets

— flying over the Black Sea in international airspace. Turkish air force fighter jets intercepted the planes, NATO said.

The Russian air force routinely uses its Tu-95s, powered by massive counter-rotating turboprops, for long-range maritime reconnaissance and search-and-rescue patrols. Like the B-52 Stratofortress, its U.S. counterpart from the 1950s, the Bear has been continuously modernized and upgraded and is expected to remain in service for another two decades.

Meanwhile, German Typhoon aircraft on Tuesday intercepted seven Russian fighters flying in international airspace over the Baltic Sea. In that case, Russian aircraft had filed a flight plan and were using transponders, but did not maintain contact with civilian air control as is standard protocol, NATO reported.

A German air force spokesman said allies have grown accustomed to scrambling jets in response to Russian activity, but said what is unusual in recent instances is the size and scope of the Russian formations.

"The special character of this situation was that we not just had to deal with one, but with seven, planes," the German spokesman said.

Russia maintains a major air force base in Kaliningrad, home to Russia's Baltic fleet, and training flights are routine in the region. NATO officials have stated they don't oppose Russian maneuvers in international airspace but that they should follow flight protocols such as filing flight plans and making their movements visible to civil air traffic control.

Marcus Klöckner contributed to this story. vandiver.john@stripes.com

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PACIFIC

IG: Hundreds of housing violations on USFK bases

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — An inspector general's report has cited hundreds of potentially dangerous housing code violations, ranging from missing sprinkler systems to exposed copper wiring, in U.S. military housing in South Korea although only 11 were considered serious.

Most of the violations were related to inadequate upkeep of housing facilities, according to the Tuesday report, which found that "housing visits and inspections were not being conducted in accordance with established instructions and procedures."

Twelve percent of the occupied buildings at 13 U.S. Forces Korea military installations — ranging from family housing to barracks and dormitories for unaccompanied servicemembers — were reviewed during the IG's March 10 to April 24 inspections. The checks found 646 deficiencies in 277 units, mechanical rooms and common areas.

The 11 "critical" deficiencies included an out-of-order fire alarm system at U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, which left the occupants of one building with no means of fire detection. Furnaces in two of other buildings at the Seoul base were leaking heating oil onto an electric blower motor, posing a fire hazard.

At Camp Jackson, one building was not electrically grounded according to code, posing the possibility of electrocution. Four buildings at Camp Bonifas lacked carbon monoxide alarms.

An improperly bonded conductor at Camp Stanley posed a

fire, shock and electrocution risk, and four buildings lacked carbon monoxide alarms.

Camp Humphreys had three fire or electrocution risks, including a building that was not grounded per code and an extension drop cord in another that was improperly wired. Energized copper wire was exposed in an elevator equipment room.

The 11 violations were deemed critical enough to require immediate attention; all have been completed or were expected to be completed last summer, according to correspondence from installation officials included in the IG report.

"The health and safety of our service members and their families in Korea is a top priority," USFK said in an email. "As a result, the affected service components have taken and continue to take corrective action."

Overall, the IG inspection found poor record keeping and overworked housing workers.

Among the other findings: ■ At U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, the inspection found a lack of follow-up reports on three housing units previously found to have high radon levels.

■ At U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, mold — a common problem during South Korea's humid summers — was found in housing units due to inconsistent upkeep of air handling and ventilation systems, and no data on levels of radon, a gas linked to lung cancer, were available.

■ Osan Air Base had not addressed elevated radon levels at some buildings, and along with

Camps Walker and Henry, did not have mandated radon reduction programs in place.

■ Osan had only one Airman Dormitory Leader per 340 rooms; the Air Force's maximum ratio is one ADL per 145 rooms. At Kunsan Air Base, each ADL was responsible for an average of more than 200 rooms.

Overall, the report said installation personnel who deal with housing recognize the need for improvements but noted "challenges such as the lack of training, and short deployments, which increased turnover and reduced continuity in housing services. Contributing factors included a lack of translation (English to Korean) of standards, codes, procedures, and instructions, and their implementation."

The IG reiterated a call it made earlier this month in a report on military housing in Japan for the creation of a uniform policy on mold and radon control and remediation.

"Based on our inspection, the significant presence of mold and DoD's current ad hoc approach to radon mitigation places unnecessary risk on the warfighter and their dependents," said a Tuesday memo to top military officials, included in the report. "The OIG DOD firmly believes that serious health hazards such as these need to be addressed at the DoD level."

The under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics disagreed with the recommendation, saying there was no U.S. federal standard for mold and radon.

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MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

An ambulance arrives on the scene just after 1 p.m. Thursday as a standoff on Okinawa's Camp Lester housing area came to a peaceful end. A lone Marine had barricaded himself in his home Thursday morning.

Marine barricaded in Camp Lester housing on Okinawa surrenders

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — A Marine barricaded himself at his home in Okinawa's Camp Lester housing area Thursday, setting off a standoff with military police that ended peacefully, Marine Corps officials said.

Residents said they were evacuated early Thursday from the isolated cluster of military housing on a hill in the rear of the Marines base and had been told the man had an M-16 rifle.

The scene was secured by emergency personnel and MP's so there was no danger to nearby

homes, neighboring residents or the Camp Lester middle school, which observed normal class hours, Marine officials said.

About a dozen more MPs arrived later as spectators gathered across the street, which was closed off to nonresidents. Toward the end of the standoff, law enforcement officials approached the house on the back of a truck, carrying rifles and wearing body armor and helmets.

A Marine Corps statement said the situation was safely de-escalated by 1 p.m. and the Marine was walked outside.

burke.matt@stripes.com

Judge: TEPCO suit over alleged radiation exposure can proceed

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. federal judge has ruled that a class-action lawsuit filed by about 200 Navy sailors and Marines can proceed against Japanese utility TEPCO and other defendants who they blame for a variety of ailments from radiation exposure following a nuclear reactor meltdown 3 1/2 years ago.

In a decision released Tuesday, Southern District of California Judge Janis Sammartino ruled that the suit can be amended to add the builders of the Fukushima-Daichi

Nuclear Power Plant reactors — General Electric, EBASCO, Toshiba and Hitachi — as defendants.

Sammartino also denied a change of venue to Japan and dismissed several minor aspects of the suit. The plaintiffs' lawyers have until Nov. 18 to make changes to their filings. "It is not over, but we have won the major battle," lawyer Charles Bonner wrote in an email to his clients that was provided to Stars and Stripes.

"THANK GOD!!!!" responded Lindsay Cooper, the first USS Ronald Reagan sailor to come forward and report an illness.

Sammartino's ruling was a bit of a surprise. The Defense Department, including Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson, have concluded that the illnesses are not a result of the servicemembers' work in Operation Tomodachi, in which a massive earthquake on March 11, 2011, spawned a tsunami that swamped the nuclear plant.

The suit was first filed in 2012 by a small group of sailors off the USS Ronald Reagan, who alleged that TEPCO's misinformation coaxed U.S. forces closer to the affected areas and made them sick. More ailing ser-

vicemembers came forward citing exposure-related ailments such as unexplained cancers, excessive bleeding and thyroid issues. The suit has been refiled a number of times, adding plaintiffs and, more recently, additional defendants.

TEPCO tried to have the case dismissed. Oral arguments were presented Aug. 25.

Bonner and a fellow attorney for the sailors, Paul Garner, said additional plaintiffs are continuing to come forward with "serious ailments from radiation," according to a statement released by the legal team.

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MILITARY

'Value Brand' key to DeCA's revival plans

By TOM PHILPOTT

The Defense Commissary Agency faced a tough operating environment in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 as sales fell by 4.3 percent.

The drop was due in part to commissaries closing for six days during a government shutdown last fall. But patrons also saw the worth of their benefit debated for months after the Obama administration proposed cutting DeCA's annual appropriation of \$1.4 billion to \$400 million by 2017, with the idea that average shopper savings of 31 percent could be pared by one third.

Congress rejected the plan this year, but commissaries are expected to be targeted again in the 2016 defense budget to be unveiled next February.

On Tuesday, in a speech to the American Logistics Association's annual convention in Washington, DeCA Director Joseph H. Jeu shared his plan for mashing past budget uncertainty with fresh cuts to sustain the benefit including a full-throttle modernization of its business operations over the next five years.

"There's been a lot of bad publicity," Jeu said after his speech. "But the point is, now we have a lot of good things going on."

Jeu reviewed for vendors and brokers a host of initiatives to enrich the shopping experience worldwide, including a new "Value Brand" program to take effect this November. Shelves worldwide will be stocked with 350 brand name

goods priced to match or to fall below prices of generic or "private label" products being sold by commercial grocers outside the gate.

Discounts on Value Brand items, to be identified with bright orange shelf tags, could be as much as 50 percent below private label, Jeu said. The average added savings across all Value Brand items will be about 20 percent, he said, and that's below normal commissary discounts.

"We are really excited about this," Jeu told attendees.

Though Jeu refused to confirm it, the Value Brand initiative appears to have been sparked by controversial testimony last May of Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., the Joint Chiefs vice chairman, before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In defending the plan to cut the commissary subsidy and to free up \$1 billion a year by 2017 to protect training and readiness, Winnefeld argued that commissaries could be run more efficiently. At one point he recounted his recent experience shopping for ibuprofen and finding a dramatically better price at a commercial grocery chain store.

Winnefeld said the commercial grocer sold ibuprofen for \$4.49 under a private label while the commissary price was \$7.98 for a brand name, just a dollar less than the price at a commercial grocer. Winnefeld used that to urge Congress to drop a requirement that commissaries stock only recognizable brand name goods.

Hours after his testimony, lob-

MILITARY UPDATE

bysts for the military resale community let it be known the four-star officer had his facts wrong. Had Winnefeld shopped more carefully, he would have found the Good Sense brand of ibuprofen, in 100-tablet bottles, selling at the commissary for only \$2.39.

Jeu didn't reference that in discussing the Value Brand rollout with industry representatives. They knew the issue well, however, because Winnefeld's ibuprofen story had caused headaches for defenders of the commissary benefit.

Jeu did explain that more than a decade ago DeCA had launched a "very similar" program to compete with private labels called Best Value Items. But it wasn't explained well to patrons and lost momentum, he said. Value Brand "re-energizes" the concept by clearly defining that the orange tag means a price equal to or below private label. Also, every Value Brand item will be stocked next to a recognizable national brand so shoppers "can compare prices to see the value."

Initially the items will span 30 product categories including cereal, peanut butter, canned seafood, detergent, paper products and health care items. By January, up to 15 more categories will

be added.

"So this program is going to grow not only in emphasis but in variety as well as number of items" Jeu said.

He acknowledged that budget challenges remain. The administration sought a cut of \$200 million in commissary funds for fiscal 2015 and also a change in law to allow DeCA to begin to mark up prices "to make up the difference."

The Senate committee rejected the first year cut entirely. The House-passed version of the defense bill accepted only half of it, but directs DeCA to absorb the \$100 million cut without raising prices, and to hire a grocery industry expert to study the impact on patrons of making far deeper cuts to commissary funding.

Despite a "disappointing" drop in store sales in fiscal 2014, Jeu said DeCA has many initiatives to increase customer traffic. Besides Value Brand it has begun "lot product" sales, popular with customers seeking deeper savings.

To increase the number of items purchased per customer, DeCA is urging vendors to offer more multi-purchase discounts, incentives and packaging.

"All those things will encourage people to buy maybe multiple items versus just the one item they are thinking about buying," Jeu said.

In January, commissaries began scanning patron ID cards at entrances. Besides verifying shopping eligibility, DeCA is using the scans to collect data on

customers including rank, family size and whether they are active duty, retiree, reserve component member or dependent.

Personal identifiable information is not collected, Jeu said. DeCA wants the data it collects in order to better understand and serve patrons, he said.

DeCA also has a consultant conducting a branding study to advise on how to create a "commissary culture" that would be valued by patrons, consistent across all stores and delivers a "constant brand experience" shoppers value. The research involves focus groups with patrons, meetings with managers and tag-along shopping, Jeu said.

Early findings are that "the commissary is really more than a grocery store. It provides a sense of military community," Jeu said.

Commissaries also are moving into e-commerce with development a secure "commissary app" to shop by smart phones and other mobile devices. Soon, he said, patrons will be able to review all commissary prices remotely, order groceries electronically and pick up full shopping orders at commissary docks.

Sales data from patrons testing this "click-and-go" technology and digital coupons at select commissaries show they spend almost three times as much per shopping trip as patrons pushing carts inside the stores, Jeu said.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 2311, Centerville, VA, 20120, email philpott@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott@Military_Update.

2 men are convicted in scheme to sell silencers

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A Navy intelligence official and a California hot-rod mechanic were found guilty Wednesday on federal conspiracy charges stemming from a mysterious scheme to manufacture hundreds of AK-47 rifle silencers for a secret military project.

Lee M. Hall, a civilian Navy intelligence official at the Pentagon, and Mark S. Landersman, the mechanic, were convicted of conspiring to build 349 untraceable silencers — without a firearms license — and shipping them across state lines for a sensitive mission that was never fully explained in court.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema, who delivered the verdicts after bench trials in Alexandria, Va., said she was unconvinced by defense attorneys' assertions that the silencers were needed for a clandestine purpose and were necessarily obtained outside of normal channels. "I do not accept the argument that because this might have been covert, that somehow that excuses the participants from playing by the rules," she said.

Prosecutors had argued that

the silencer contract was a \$1.6 million sweetheart deal intended to enrich Landersman, a struggling auto mechanic and machinist from Temecula, Calif.

His brother, David Landersman, served as Hall's boss at the Pentagon as the senior director for intelligence in an obscure Navy office. Prosecutors have accused David Landersman of masterminding the contract to help his brother, who had been mired in bankruptcy. He has been labeled an unindicted co-conspirator in the case but has not been charged.

According to trial testimony, Hall and the Landersman brothers went to unusual lengths to conceal the silencer purchase from other Navy officials and contracting representatives. Three Navy officials said they had approved David Landersman's request to spend the money on intelligence studies, not a weapons deal.

Hall later told another Navy official that the silencers were intended for Navy SEAL Team 6. Representatives for SEAL Team 6 told agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that they had not ordered the silencers and didn't know anything about them.

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WAR ON TERRORISM



Cheering locals surround a group of Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga troops arriving Wednesday in Nusaybin, Mardin, in southeastern Turkey.

1st peshmerga fighters enter Syrian town as clashes rage

By ELENA BECATOROS
By Associated Press

SURUC, Turkey — Ten Iraqi peshmerga fighters entered a northern Syrian border town, crossing over from Turkey on Thursday, the first from among a group of 150 Kurdish troops on their way into the embattled Kobani, activists said.

The development followed heavy overnight clashes as Islamic State fighters unsuccessfully tried to capture the border crossing point, the only gateway into and out of the strategic Kurdish town besieged by the militants.

Kobani-based activist Mustafa Bani said the 10 entered Kobani first and that the rest would follow gradually later in the day because the border crossing point had been targeted by Islamic State fighters. Bani spoke to The Associated Press just minutes after the peshmerga forces arrived.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the 10 peshmerga fighters entered Kobani about noon through the Turkey-Syria border crossing.

The mission of the peshmerga troops is to help Kurdish fighters inside Kobani try to break the siege by Islamic State militants who launched the attack on Kobani six weeks ago.

The ability of the small force to turn the tide of battle will depend on the effectiveness of their weapons and on continued U.S.-led airstrikes against the extremists.

On Wednesday, a group of 50 Syrian rebels entered Kobani — also from Turkey — in a push to help Kurdish fighters there against the Islamic State militants. The rebels are from the Free Syrian Army and were meant to help the long-awaited Iraqi peshmerga fighters and the town's Kurdish defenders.

The FSA is an umbrella group of mainstream rebels fighting to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad. The political leadership of the Western-backed FSA is based in Turkey, where fighters often seek respite from battle.

Despite dozens of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, the Kurdish fighters in Syria — known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG — have been struggling to defend Kobani against the Islamic State militants since mid-September.

The IS group's offensive on Kobani and nearby Syrian villages has killed more than 800 people, activists say. The Sunni extremists captured dozens of Kurdish villages and control parts of Kobani. More than 200,000 people have fled into Turkey.

The coalition has carried out

more than 150 airstrikes against the militants in and around Kobani, helping stall their advance. U.S. officials said the airstrikes have killed hundreds of Islamic State fighters.

The U.S. Central Command said that American air force conducted 12 airstrikes in Syria of which 10 were in the Kobani area since Wednesday. The airstrikes near Kobani struck two small Islamic State units and destroyed seven militants fighting positions and five buildings occupied by the jihadists, it said in a statement.

Under pressure to take greater action against the militants — from the West as well as from Kurds in Turkey and Syria — the Turkish government recently agreed to let the fighters cross through its territory. But it is allowing only the peshmerga forces from Iraq, with whom it has a good relationship, and not those from the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK.

Ankara views the Syrian Kurds defending Kobani as loyal to what it regards as an extension of the U.S. and NATO.

Kurdish fighters in Syria have repeatedly said they did not need more fighters, only weapons.

US-Turkey ties show signs of fraying over Syria

By LIZ LUY
The Washington Post

ANKARA, Turkey — The increasingly hostile divergence of views between Turkey and the United States over Syria is testing the durability of their 60-year alliance, to the point where some are starting to question whether the two countries still can be considered allies at all.

Turkey's refusal to allow the United States to use its bases to launch attacks against the Islamic State, quarrels over how to manage the battle raging in the Syrian border town of Kobani and the harsh tone of the anti-American rhetoric used by top Turkish officials to denounce U.S. policy have served to illuminate the vast gulf that divides the two nations as they scramble to address the menace posed by the extremists.

Whether the Islamic State even is the chief threat confronting the region is disputed, with Washington and Ankara publicly airing their differences through a fog of sniping, insults and re-orientation over who is to blame for the mess the Middle East has become.

At stake is a six-decade relationship forged during the Cold War and now endowed with a different but equally vital strategic dimension. Turkey is positioned on the front line of the war against the Islamic State, controlling a 780-mile border with Iraq and Syria. Without Turkey's cooperation, no U.S. policy to bring stability to the region can succeed, analysts and officials on both sides say.

"If Turkey is not an ally, then we and Turkey are in trouble," said Francis Ricciardone, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Turkey until the summer. "It is probably the most important ally."

The airdrop by U.S. warplanes last week of weapons to a Kurdish group Turkey regards as a terrorist organization crystallized the apparent parting of ways. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has not disguised his anger at the way President Barack Obama ordered the airdrop. The U.S. president informed him of the decision

in a telephone call barely an hour after Erdogan had declared to journalists that Turkey would never allow such assistance to take place.

On a tour of the Baltic states last week, Erdogan blasted Obama at every stop. "Mr. Obama ordering three C-130s to airdrop weapons and supplies to Kobani right after our conversation cannot be approved of," he said during a news conference in Latvia. "The U.S. did that despite Turkey," he fumed on another leg of the journey.

"If Turkey is not an ally, then we and Turkey are in trouble."

Francis Ricciardone
former U.S. ambassador to Turkey

U.S. officials have sought to reassure Turkey that the airdrop was a one-time action, and the two countries have agreed on a plan to reinforce the beleaguered Syrian Kurds with Iraqi peshmerga fighters, which Tur-

key does not object to, because it has friendly relations with Iraqi Kurds.

But the Kobani dispute masked more fundamental differences over a range of issues, some of which have been brewing for years and others that have been brought to light by the urgency of the U.S.-led air campaign, analysts say.

"The Syria crisis is exposing long-unspoken, unpleasant truths about the relationship that were put to one side," said Bulent Aliriza, a Turkish analyst with the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "We have this kabuki dance where Washington and Ankara say they agree, but they don't."

The tensions are not unprecedented, nor are the doubts about an alliance born in a different era, when fears of Soviet expansionism brought Muslim Turkey under NATO's umbrella and extended the Western bloc's reach into Asia.

Sapporo Snow Festival

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EUROPE

Berlin Wall's demise yielded a changed world

By **TEDDIE WEYER**
Stars and Stripes

On the night of Nov. 9, 1989, thousands of Germans swarmed along both sides of the Berlin Wall — opened under massive public pressure by an East German leadership that realized its days were numbered. Within a year, the East German communists were gone. Germany was a reunited country again.

The ugly, gray wall that sliced through the heart of Adolf Hitler's former capital had come to symbolize the division of Europe — one side communist, one side free.

The communists built the wall to keep their people from fleeing the Soviet bloc. By allowing the wall to open, the communists acknowledged that they could no longer stem the tide of freedom that would ultimately sweep away the Soviet Union itself by the end of 1991.

The fall of the wall paved the way for the end of the Cold War, the momentous confrontation between the United States, the Soviet Union and their many allies and satellites. The constant fear of nuclear holocaust that had hung over the world for more than a half-century was gone.

The Cold War was only cold in the sense that there was no direct combat between the two superpowers. But conflicts involving proxies of the two military blocs — NATO and the Warsaw Pact — were waged across the world and claimed millions of lives.

In the years that have followed, much of the euphoria that surrounded the fall of the wall has dissipated.

Relations between the West and a revived Russia have soured since Moscow's seizure of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine this year. Leaders across Western Europe and the United States have warned darkly of a return to the Cold War.

But the Iron Curtain — flung open with the domino collapse of one communist regime after another in 1989 — is no more, and countries once behind it as

The Wall may have come down, but that doesn't mean you can't visit the site. Information on the area can be found in **Weekend**, Pages 28 and 30.

See more stories, photos and an interactive map at www.stripes.com/go/wall25

part of the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact military alliance are now members of NATO, the U.S.-dominated Western military alliance the Warsaw Pact was formed to counter.

Old nations re-emerged and new ones were born out of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Those included the Baltic states — whose integration into the Soviet Union the U.S. never recognized — which now fear Russia's intentions most.

The proliferation of new nations continued with the peaceful split of Czechoslovakia in 1993 into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. But brutal wars in ethnically diverse Yugoslavia — a communist country not under Soviet domination — led to the creation of seven new nations. Two of those nations have since joined NATO, further swelling its ranks from the 12 founding members to 28 today.

While Western European nations fret over Russia's aggression and intentions, Poland has been urging its erstwhile adversaries to fortify NATO's eastern flank. The Poles and other East Europeans who now populate Germany's cities are no longer refugees from communism, but industrious tradesmen helping to drive Germany's formidable economy.

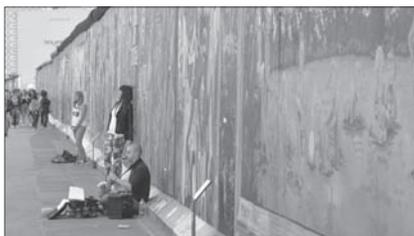
A united Germany, once cleft in two by the Iron Curtain, has become Europe's economic and political powerhouse.

It was the jubilant tearing down of the Berlin Wall that dramatically symbolized the collapse of communism, but the fabric of the Iron Curtain began to fray months before that — its inevitable demise secured when communist Hungary opened its border to allow thousands of East Germans who sought refuge there to travel to Austria and on to West Germa-



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A hole in the Berlin Wall along Niederkirchner Strasse draws the attention of a photographer in August. At left is an infamous site from a different era, the "Topography of Terror," a documentation center on the grounds of the Nazi SS headquarters.



A saxophonist plays as visitors to the Eastside Gallery have their photos taken in front of graffiti on the Berlin Wall. The section of the wall that makes up the gallery is the longest stretch still standing.

ny. West German diplomats were issuing passports at the border as families, crammed with their belongings in their tiny Trabant cars, waited to cross to freedom. Many sobbed over both their new liberty and the prospect they would never see their old homes again. Little did anyone know

how soon the barrier between the two Germans would disappear completely.

The collapse of communism also drastically changed the U.S. presence and focus in Europe. During the Cold War, more than 300,000 personnel stared down adversaries in Eastern Europe.

That number has now fallen to about 80,000, and many train side-by-side with troops from those very nations that were once on the opposing side. Whether the drawdown continues likely will depend on Russia.

But whether or not a new Cold War is in the offing, Europe has vastly changed since the Iron Curtain's collapse. National boundaries have disappeared together with ideological differences. Thanks to common European Union membership, people once held at border crossings between East and West — sometimes for hours of searches and interrogation — now travel across those same borders the way motorists traverse state lines in the U.S.

Countries once held hostage behind the Iron Curtain have made clear they prefer the political and economic freedoms the EU offers and the defensive protection of NATO's umbrella.

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Esso card limited for upgrade

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Esso fuel card service will be limited on Sunday morning because of a system upgrade, according to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

From 4 to 11 a.m. Sunday, customers will not be able to acquire new fuel or replacement cards, nor will they be able to add, edit or delete any online payments, AAFES said, though existing payments will process as scheduled.

Because that could affect Esso fuel card holders who may want to upload funds or get new cards, "we want to get the word out and make sure the information is there to help factor in time for buying fuel before the weekend," said Lt. Col. Tom Davison, deputy commander for the Exchange OCCUS Region—Europe and Southwest Asia.

From staff reports

NCO demoted for maltreatment of subordinate

By **MATT MILLHAM**
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A military police dog handler found guilty of maltreatment of a subordinate was sentenced Thursday to 60 days of hard labor and was busted down two pay grades.

Staff Sgt. Justin Wolfschlag, who previously served as the U.S. Army's kennel master in Stuttgart, also was sentenced to receive a reprimand for his treatment of a female private he supervised.

Stars and Stripes is withholding the accuser's identity because she reported she was the victim of sexual assault.

Wolfschlag was the senior-ranking soldier at the kennel in Stuttgart at the time of the incidents.

His accuser testified that he repeatedly commented on the size of her breasts, called her inappropriate names and made vulgar jokes about her.

Two other soldiers who worked for Wolfschlag at the time offered similar accounts.

Wolfschlag admitted to calling the private an inappropriate name but said the term wasn't meant to be abusive.

After the verdict and before he was sentenced, he told the panel of officers and enlisted members hearing his case that he'd acted unprofessionally and that "you can't have that in today's Army."

The private also alleged that while they were alone together on a mission, Wolfschlag exposed himself to her, asked her to perform oral sex on him and threatened to

pull to the side of the road if she didn't.

The private testified she feared that if he pulled over, he would try to force her into other sex acts, so she complied.

"I just felt like I had no choice," she said.

Wolfschlag's defense team maintained the oral sex and exposure never happened, and there was no physical evidence presented to support the allegations.

The panel acquitted Wolfschlag of those more serious charges.

On the maltreatment charge alone, Wolfschlag faced up to a year in confinement, a dishonorable discharge, reduction to the lowest enlisted grade and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

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EBOLA OUTBREAK



ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

Nurse Kaci Hickox leaves her home Thursday on a rural road in Fort Kent, Maine, to take a bike ride.

Maine nurse defies Ebola quarantine with bike ride

By ROBERT F. BUKATY
The Associated Press

FORT KENT, Maine — A nurse who vowed to defy Maine's voluntary quarantine for health care workers who treated Ebola patients followed through on her promise Thursday, leaving her home for an hourlong bike ride.

Kaci Hickox and her boyfriend stepped out of their home Thursday morning and rode away on mountain bikes, followed by a state police cruiser.

It was the second time Hickox broke quarantine. She left her home Wednesday evening briefly to speak to reporters, even shaking a hand that was offered to her.

Hickox contends there's no need for quarantine because she's showing no symptoms. She's also tested negative for the deadly disease.

"I really hope that we can work things out amicably and continue to negotiate," she said Thursday morning while riding on a dirt trail.

There was no immediate comment from state health officials, who were going to court to detain Hickox for the remainder of the 21-day incubation period for Ebola that ends on Nov. 10.

"There's a lot of misinformation about how Ebola is transmitted, and I can understand why people are frightened. But their fear is not based on medical facts," Norman Siegel, one of her attorneys, said Wednesday.

Hickox, who treated Ebola patients while volunteering in Sierra Leone with Doctors Without Borders, was the first person

forced into New Jersey's mandatory quarantine for people arriving at the Newark airport from three West African countries. Hickox spent the weekend in a tent in New Jersey before traveling to the home she shares with her boyfriend, a nursing student at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

"I'm not willing to stand here and let my civil rights be violated when it's not science-based," she said Wednesday evening.

Word spread quickly around the town of 4,300 residents on the Canadian border.

Fort Kent resident Priscilla Staples said some residents are "fearful" of Hickox's presence in the community, but she believes Hickox "has done nothing wrong and she has every right in the world to go for a bike ride."

Generally, states have broad authority when it comes to such matters. But Maine health officials could have a tough time convincing a judge that Hickox poses a threat, said attorney Jackie L. Caynon III, who specializes in health law in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"If somebody isn't showing signs of the infection, then it's kind of hard to say someone should be under mandatory quarantine," he said.

Ebola, which is spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person, has killed thousands of people in Africa, but only four people have been diagnosed with it in the United States. People can't be infected just by being near someone who's sick, and people aren't contagious unless they're sick, health

officials say.

Guidelines from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend daily monitoring for health care workers like Hickox who have come into contact with Ebola patients. But some states like Maine are going above and beyond those guidelines.

In the very early stages of Ebola, patients may still test negative because the virus has not yet reached detectable levels in the blood. The CDC says it may take up to three days after the onset of symptoms for the virus to reach detectable levels in some patients, prompting repeat testing in some cases.

The Defense Department is going even further. On Wednesday, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered military men and women helping fight Ebola to undergo 21-day quarantines that start upon their return — instead of their last exposure to an Ebola patient.

President Barack Obama warned that overly restrictive measures imposed upon returning health care workers could discourage them from volunteering in Africa.

But Maine Gov. Paul LePage, who canceled campaign events to keep tabs on the situation, maintained that the state must be "vigilant" to protect others.

State law allows a judge to grant temporary custody of someone if health officials demonstrate "a clear and immediate public health threat."

The state's court filing was expected Thursday, officials said.

Quarantine: Decision still needed for civilians, DOD says

FROM FRONT PAGE

Several dozen Army soldiers were ordered into quarantine Sunday in Vicenza, Italy, by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno. The troops, including U.S. Army Africa commander Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams, deployed from Vicenza in September to set up a headquarters in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, and to begin construction of treatment units.

As many as 4,000 troops eventually could be sent to Africa from installations including Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Fort Carson, Colo.

The idea of setting up mass quarantine centers overseas could be politically problematic, with some officials in countries that host U.S. bases expressing reservations about hosting U.S. troops fresh from the Ebola zone.

Thomas confirmed that aircrafts and other transient personnel who go briefly to West Africa to support Operation United Assistance can avoid the quarantine requirement.

They likely will be subject to an earlier policy put into place Oct.

10 that allows transient personnel who remain at U.S.-controlled facilities and who come into contact only with people monitored daily for Ebola symptoms to monitor themselves for signs of the disease.

But Pentagon officials said a decision still needs to be made on whether DOD civilians working in the Ebola area need a quarantine. On Thursday, the American Federation of Government Employees criticized the lack of guidance for civilian employees.

"The two groups should be treated the same," said J. David Cox Sr., the union's national president. "If DOD considers service in Ebola-affected countries to pose such a high risk for members of the military that they are required to be monitored or quarantined for 21 days upon arrival in the U.S., then civilians with similar exposure should be guaranteed 21 days of administrative leave for either self-isolation and monitoring or quarantine, whichever medical authorities decide is appropriate."

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Liberia sees progress; Sierra Leone in 'crisis'

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY
AND JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLE
The Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — Liberia is making some progress in containing the Ebola outbreak while Sierra Leone is "in a crisis situation which is going to get worse," the top United States officials in the two countries said.

The people of both countries must redouble efforts to stop the disease, which has infected more than 13,000 people and has killed nearly 5,000, the officials said. Their assessments underscore that Ebola remains a constant threat until the outbreak is wiped out. It can appear to be on the wane, only to re-emerge in the same place or to balloon elsewhere if people don't avoid touching Ebola patients or the bodies of those who succumb to the disease.

"We need to go ahead to stop the transmission in order to arrest the situation," Palo Conteh said late Wednesday in the Sierra Leone capital in his first news conference since the president this month appointed him CEO of the National Ebola Response Center. Conteh previously was the defense minister.

"Today we have a new and vicious enemy, an enemy that does not wear uniform, that ... attacks anyone that comes into contact with (it) and if unchecked will ravage our beautiful land and its fine people," he said.

The outbreak has taken a particularly high toll on health workers, sickening more than 520, and

greatly reducing the health system's capacity to respond in the three most affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Those countries already had too few health workers before the crisis. Now many health workers are too frightened to treat Ebola patients because they often have inadequate protection.

The World Bank announced Thursday that it will give an additional \$100 million to help bring in more foreign health workers. That raises the money it has given to the Ebola fight to \$500 million.

The new funds will be used to train, pay and house health workers while they're in the Ebola hot zone and to provide medical care or evacuation for anyone infected.

If the virus continues to surge in the worst-affected countries and spreads to neighboring countries, the financial impact could reach \$3.6 billion by the end of 2015, the bank has warned.

But there are some signs of hope. Although the outbreak is now hitting areas in and around Sierra Leone's capital, areas of the country's east have seen the disease wane.

"If people in other areas of the country copy the example of eastern Kailahun and Kenema Districts, then the spread of the disease will subside like in Kailahun and Kenema. As I speak, people (near the capital) are still touching people suspected with the Ebola disease, people are still burying corpses at night of those who have died of the disease," Conteh said.

NATION

2 independents could shape Senate control

By CHARLES BABINGTON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After millions of Americans vote next week, it's possible that one or two men will decide which party controls the Senate.

One is Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent who generally "caucuses" — or cooperates — with Democrats but said he might switch to the Republicans. The other is Great Orman of Kansas, an independent candidate trying to oust Republican Sen. Pat Roberts.

If he wins, Orman said, he will caucus with whichever party holds the majority when the new Congress convenes in January. He has not said, however, what he would do if he could decide, by himself, which party that will be.

That could happen if Republicans win 50 seats and Democrats control 49 seats (including King's and that of another independent,

Vermont's Bernie Sanders, who also caucuses with Democrats). If Orman sided with the Democrats, they would control a 50-50 Senate, thanks to Vice President Joe Biden's ability to break the vote.

But if Orman sided with the Republicans, they would hold a 51-49 majority.

King, who's not up for election this year, could complicate things even further. In the same scenario as above — a 50-49 GOP advantage with Orman undecided — King could put the Republicans in charge by switching to their caucus. Orman's decision, either way, would not change that.

In a different scenario — in which Democrats held a 50-49 edge awaiting Orman's decision — both he and King could choose to caucus with Republicans, giving the GOP a 51-49 majority.

Congressional insiders see that as unlikely. First, Orman would have to win an election that many

Republicans believe Roberts will survive. Then, all the other races would have to produce a 50-49 split, awaiting Orman's declaration. And King would have to switch party leanings and hand minority status to Democrats, with whom he generally seems comfortable.

"Changing who you caucus with is akin to changing parties," said Antonia Ferrier, a former GOP House and Senate aide. "It is no small thing, is deeply personal and exceedingly rare."

King occasionally hints he would consider such a switch. He told reporters in April that he will do what is "best for Maine" in the next Congress. He made similar remarks last week, stirring a Senate campaign pot already about to boil.

Currently, Democrats control 55 Senate seats to the Republicans' 45. Republicans need to gain six net seats to seize the majority.

King repeatedly calls for more bipartisanship and cooperation in government. He has urged Orman and another third-party candidate — former Sen. Larry Pressler, of South Dakota — to refuse to say which party they'd caucus with in Washington. Pressler's chances seem to be fading, but Orman is giving Roberts a tough fight.

People close to King say they'd be surprised if he joined the Republicans' caucus, especially if doing so handed the GOP the majority. He supported President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election, and his voting record leans more Democratic than Republican.

But King has endorsed some Republicans for re-election, including Sens. Susan Collins, of Maine, and Lamar Alexander, of Tennessee. In Maine, where Republican Gov. Paul LePage seeks re-election, King originally endorsed independent candidate Eliot Cutler but then switched to

Democrat Mike Michaud. Even a remote hint of a caucus switch creates buzz in Senate circles.

"If — and it's a big if — control of the Senate is determined by two independents, then there will be some quiet outreach by both sides over which party they should caucus with," Ferrier said.

Inducements from party leaders might include promises of plum committee assignments. Former Democratic Senate aide Jim Manley said party leaders also might try to address King's concerns with overtures such as pledging more bipartisanship or a more open process for legislative amendments. Manley said the entire party caucus would weigh in on such matters.

Senate aides say it would be virtually impossible for either party to offer a committee chairmanship to King, who has been a senator only two years.

Viral video documents NYC street harassment

By DEEPTI HAJELA
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A video recording the comments a woman hears as she walks around the nation's biggest city is a testament to the pervasiveness of street harassment woman face, its creators said.

The comments come continuously as the woman walks through the streets of Manhattan — "What's up, Beautiful?" and "Smile!" — and there's even a stretch when a man just silently wright right next to her for several minutes.

The video, shot over 10 hours one day in neighborhoods all over the borough and edited down to a two-minute final product, has set off a storm of outrage on its way to more than 10 million views since it was released online Tuesday.

This is a very serious impact on the way we live our lives," Emily May, executive director of Hollaback!, the anti-street harassment organization that put out the video, said Wednesday.

The footage, which was shot and edited by Rob Bliss, was captured by a camera Bliss had in his backpack as he walked several feet from actress Shoshana Roberts, who was dressed in jeans and a T-shirt and walked silently along.

At no point did Roberts make eye contact with any of the men she passed or talk to any of them. That didn't stop the comments from coming. When she didn't re-

spond, one man told her, "Somebody's acknowledging you for being beautiful. You should say, 'Thank you, guys!'"

Roberts said the number of comments the day the video was shot was nothing out of the ordinary for her.

"The frequency is something alarming," she said.

Martha Sauder, walking on a Manhattan street on Wednesday, agreed that street harassment is a problem and said it happens to her frequently.

"It's inappropriate. It's like an invasion of your space," she said. "I'd like it to stop."

But the video also has faced some online criticisms, among them that the men shown all seem to be minorities. Bliss and Roberts emphasized that the comments came from all racial groups, and Bliss said some interactions that were filmed couldn't be used for reasons like the audio was disrupted by passing sirens.

"My experience, what we documented, it was from everybody," Roberts said.

Another criticism was that some men's comments seemed innocuous: "Good morning," "Have a nice day."

Some men could have been "genuinely being nice," said Gerard Burke, a Brooklyn resident who readily acknowledged street harassment exists and has seen it happen to women in his family. He said he thought the video shed light on a bigger problem, "but some people just genuinely want to say, 'Hello.'"

That's the problem with street harassment, May said, because when there's a fear that a simple "Good morning" could escalate into sexual comments or actions, there's a reluctance to engage at all.



Boxes containing more than 46,000 signatures for an initiative to make recreational use of marijuana legal in Alaska sit outside a hallway Aug. 19 at the state Division of Elections office in Anchorage.

Oregon, Alaska are ground zero in fight over marijuana

By JEFF BARNARD
AND RACHEL D'ORO
The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — From slick video ads online to scrawled chalk messages on college campus sidewalks, intense get-out-the-vote drives are mobilizing in Oregon and Alaska to legalize retail sales of marijuana to anyone old enough to drink.

But backers of the legal-pot ballot measures in both states have a challenge that their predecessors in Colorado and Washington state didn't face two years ago — increasing turnout of young voters in a midterm election.

Young voters, who as a genera-

tion are more likely to support recreational marijuana, usually turn out during presidential years like 2012, but stay home during midterms, when the electorate skews older and more conservative.

If young people ages 18 to 29 vote like they did in 2012, Oregon's Measure 91, for example, would pass, said Ethan Nadelmann, head of Drug Policy Action, a major contributor in the national campaign to legalize marijuana.

"That's really what it boils down to," he said.

Washington, D.C., is voting on whether to make it legal to possess marijuana, but not to sell it. Whatever happens in the states and the nation's capital, advoca-

tes plan to quickly shift their attention to the 2016 presidential elections and the big prize: California, where hopes are high for approval of legal pot despite a 2010 rejection.

"Even if all those things go down to defeat, I still think it's a clear slate in 2016," said Jeffrey Miron, an economist at Harvard University and the Cato Institute who follows national drug policy.

Mark Kleiman, a drug policy consultant who helped Washington state set up its legal marijuana industry, said the outcomes in Oregon and Alaska "will help determine the enthusiasm of funders financing the legalization campaign in California."



Roberts

NATION

Deaths of Utah family of 5 are not accidental

BY LINDSAY WHITEHURST
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The deaths of five members of a Utah family found last month do not appear to be accidental or natural, according to search warrants obtained Tuesday.

The five members of the Strack family, including three children, were found covered in bedding in a single bedroom with cups of liquid next to them, according to the warrant filed in Utah court.

It appears someone positioned the bodies after they died, according to the warrant.

Benjamin and Kristi Strack were in the bed when they were found in their Springville home on Sept. 27. Three of their children were lying around it, the bedding pulled up to their necks.

Police found a red liquid coming out of Kristi Strack's mouth. It is probable that these deaths were not accidental or natural in any way," Detective Jeff Ellsworth wrote in the search warrant affidavit.

Bob McGee, a spokesman for the rest of the Strack family, declined to comment on the case until after the report is complete.

The bodies were discovered by an older son and his girlfriend, both of whom also live in the home. Kristi Strack was last seen alive at 6 a.m.

The house was quiet when the couple left the house after noon, but when they returned at 7 p.m., they realized all the cars were still at home. They knocked on the master bedroom door, but after no one answered they called Kristi Strack's mother and her friend, who helped them force it open.

Investigators removed 14 drinking cups and bottles from the home, a pitcher of red juice and a purple bucket with yellow liquid.

They also seized a bag of marijuana, three cellphones, an iPod, a laptop computer, pill bottles, a bag of medications and empty boxes of sleep aids. One pair of slippers with a spot of blood and a towel with a red substance on it were also removed.



AUDREY McAVOY/AP

Police block traffic on Wednesday where officials expect lava to flow across the main road in Pahoa, Hawaii. Rain fell on a red hot river of lava as it threatened to consume its first home on its slow advance into the rural Hawaii town.

Hawaii lava flow is slow, gentle yet unrelenting

BY AUDREY McAVOY and
JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
The Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii — Pele, the Hawaiian volcano goddess, moves gradually and persistently as she deposits lava across the Big Island of Hawaii. People in the small town lying in its path say the lava will reshape the community yard-by-yard as it slides toward the ocean.

"She is so gentle, but so unrelenting. She is just slow and steady," said Jamila Dandini, a retiree who stopped at a coffee shop down the road from where scientists have forecast the lava will likely cross.

Lava from a vent at Kilauea volcano has been sliding northeast toward the ocean since June. Last month, scientists said it was two weeks away from hitting the

main road in Pahoa, a small town of about 950 residents. The lava slowed but has largely remained on course.

Late Wednesday, it was about 225 yards away from Pahoa Village Road, Hawaii County civil defense officials said.

It was traveling about 5 to 10 yards an hour.

The languid pace has given residents time to pack their valuables and get out of the way. Yet it's been agonizing for those wondering whether the lava might change directions and head for them. And stressful for those trying to figure out how they will cope once the lava blocks the only roads in and out of town.

"It's like slow torture. It speeds up, it slows down. It speeds up, it slows down," said Paul Utes, who owns and operates the Black Rock Cafe. "It's not like any other

event where it comes and goes and it gets over with and you can move on."

For the time being, business is up because more people from around the island and tourists from outside Hawaii have been streaming into town hoping to get a glimpse of the molten rock.

"The anxiety building up is kind of hard to deal with," Utes said.

Once the lava crosses the road and the bypass road, effectively slicing Pahoa in half, most residents won't be able to get to the area's only supermarket even though it's only a mile from the town center.

The rural, mostly agricultural community of Puna, for which Pahoa is its commercial center, will be cut off even more if the lava makes it all the way to the ocean, some 6 miles away.

Calif. town seeking an exit from bankruptcy

BY SCOTT SMITH
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Stockton residents will likely learn Thursday if they can put more than two years of financial uncertainty behind them.

Marking a critical moment in the bankruptcy city's financial recovery, Stockton will ask U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Klein to approve a plan for reorganizing more than \$900 million in long-term debt over objections from a lone creditor that argued it was treated unfairly.

Franklin Templeton Investments argues the city isn't touching a massive employee pension, while asking the investment firm to walk away from collecting on nearly \$32.5 million still owed. Klein ruled earlier this month that bankruptcy law allows the city to treat pension obligations like any other debt, meaning the city could trim benefits.

Marc Levinson, the city's lead bankruptcy attorney, declined to comment on the city's treatment of its contract with California Public Employees' Retirement System, or CalPERS, in light of Klein's ruling.

"I don't know that it will come into play," said San Francisco-based bankruptcy attorney Michael Sweet, who has closely watched the case. He said there have been no Chapter 9 bankruptcies that attacked pensions.

In his ruling, Klein can approve the city's plan of adjustment, send the city back into negotiations with Franklin or reject the plan.

An inland port city, 80 miles east of San Francisco, Stockton filed for Chapter 9 protection in 2012, making it the nation's largest bankrupt city before Detroit filed for bankruptcy last year. Vallejo went through bankruptcy before Stockton. San Bernardino filed shortly after Stockton, but it has yet to present an exit plan.

City leaders have said they turned to bankruptcy as a last resort, blaming an unforgiving boom-and-bust economic cycle.

Survey: Shrimp rife with murky labeling

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Consumers around the nation can't be sure what kind of shrimp they're buying if they simply look at the label or menu at supermarkets, grocers and restaurants, an advocacy group says.

Oceana did a DNA-based survey of shrimp sold at outlets in New York City; Washington; Portland, Ore.; and various spots around the Gulf of Mexico.

The group said it found about 30 percent of 143 shrimp products bought from 111 vendors were not what the label said. Cheap

imported farm-raised shrimp is being sold as prized wild-caught Gulf shrimp, common shrimp sold as premium shrimp and shrimp of all kinds sold with no indication whatsoever about where they came from, the group said. Oceana is urging Congress and regulators to enforce proper labeling.

The group acknowledged that the survey was a small sample, but said the survey using DNA techniques is the first of its kind.

The group did a similar survey last year for fish and made similar findings. A laboratory tested each sample to identify what kind of

shrimp each was by species.

"It was a first good look at shrimp," said Kimberly Warner, a marine scientist with Oceana. She went out and obtained many of the samples.

Misleading and illegal labeling of food is considered a major problem among food purists because it cheats consumers and puts them at risk of tainted foods, hurts honest vendors and tarnishes an industry's product. The report said that because of mislabeling, consumers are not guaranteed they are eating shrimp that meets high, chemical-free standards.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

A commercial fisherman picks through a pile of shrimp on his boat in 2011 in Grand Isle, La.

NATION



Horse power gains favor with small-scale farmers

By MARY ESCH
The Associated Press

WHILE most modern farmers work their fields accompanied by the rumble of a trusty tractor, sheep farmer Donn Hewes labors to the faint jingling of harnesses in rhythm with the hoofbeats of horses and mules.

He readily admits that horse-powered farming takes more time and effort than tractor farming. But as one of a growing number of small-scale farmers dedicated to keeping alive the art of the teamster, he's fine with that. "People always want to know how many dollars an hour can I make, and can I really profit from farming with horses," Hewes said. "We can, but to me, that's the wrong question. I benefit in so many ways. I benefit from working with young stock, building fertility for the farm, and all the time I get to spend enjoying doing what I'm doing."

Hewes and his wife, Maryrose Livingston, own Northland Sheep Dairy on a hilltop in central New York, 40 miles south of Syracuse. Livingston milks grass-fed sheep and sells handmade cheese.

Hewes, who has a night job as a firefighter, works about 100 acres of land with Percheron and Suffolk draft horses and mules pulling implements for haymaking, compost spreading, snow-plowing and log-hauling.

Horse-powered farmers cite a number of reasons for eschewing engines. For example, horses don't use fossil fuels, their manure contributes to the farm's fertility, and they cost less than tractors.

As president of Draft Animal Power Network, Hewes is dedicated to mentoring and sharing experiences with other farmers who want to work with horses.

"Young people are starting organic vegetable farms, realizing there's an opportunity to make healthy food for local

markets," Hewes said. "A segment of that movement is finding out about draft animal power. That's creating new demand for horse-powered equipment, and Amish businesses are responding [by] making equipment that's smaller and more accessible to beginning farmers."

Dalton, Ohio-based Pioneer Equipment, an Amish manufacturer of horse-drawn farm implements, recently came out with the Homesteader for small farms. It has interchangeable parts for plowing, harrowing, discing, planting, cultivating and harvesting row crops such as carrots,

onions and potatoes.

It's hard to quantify how many horse-powered farmers there are. Stephen Leslie, who runs a horse-powered dairy and vegetable farm in Hartland, Vermont, said he has seen a big increase since he and his wife started Cedar Mountain Farm 20 years ago.

"When we started it was hard to find anyone with knowledge or equipment," said Leslie, whose book, "The New Horse-Powered Farm," was published in 2013. "Now, the networking is incredible."

Leslie said horse-powered farm equipment manufacturers, most of which are Amish, all report increasing sales and a growing number of non-Amish customers. "That's one way to gauge the health of horse farming," Leslie said. The Draft Animal Power Network has grown to 400 members since it was formed in 2010, Hewes said. "We've had draft animal field days in the Northeast five out of the last seven years, and attendance keeps growing. There were over 1,000 last year at the event in Barton, Vt."

On a recent afternoon, Hewes put a collar and harness on a young mule he bred from his mammoth jack donkey and a Percheron mare.

Hitching the mule to a chain attached to a heavy log, Hewes began a training session, communicating with whistles, low voice commands, and long leather lines attached to a bit.

"When people want to get into this, I really encourage them to look for some mentorship so they can have safe beginnings," Hewes said. "That can be a challenge, because most of the old-timers who were born to farming with horses are gone. Today, it's up to people like me to fill the gap and provide mentorship. That's something I really enjoy."

Donn Hewes uses draft horses and mules on his farm in Marathon, N.Y. Popular among small-scale farmers, horse-powered farming costs less than tractors and doesn't pollute the environment.

PHOTOS BY HEATHER AINSWORTH/AP



NATION

The Vixen Workout

Dance workout puts moves on women's self-esteem



RICHARD DREW/AP

Janet Jones, second left on stage, leads a Vixen Workout fitness concert at the Highline Ballroom in New York in July. Jones, a former Miami Heat dancer created the Vixen Workout two years ago. The high-energy routine has caught on in New York and other cities.

By VANESSA A. ALVAREZ
The Associated Press

When Janet Jones was laid off from her job as a financial assistant two years ago and hit rock bottom, inspiration struck.

The former Miami Heat dancer decided to create a women's-only workout with a safe space to let loose with girlfriends, listen to hip-hop and rap music, curse and even scream.

She called it the Vixen Workout. As a woman "you need some type of release," said Jones, who has a 5-year-old daughter.

"And you're not a bad mother for thinking that, you're not a bad wife, you're not a bad anything," said Jones, 33, who is based in Miami but also leads workouts in New York and other cities. "You're gonna be a better person, in turn, to your family if you are the best version of yourself."

Jones' business grossed nearly \$1.5 million in its first year, popularized through Instagram and word of mouth. Her classes have expanded nationally and fitness concerts in Miami and New York, which hosted nearly 500 women each, sold out in just hours.

The workout has a nightclub vibe, complete with low lighting, strobe lights, foggy mirrors and the sounds of Beyonce, J.Lo, Busta Rhymes and other high-voltage artists. The moves and music Jones selects are meant to empower women, making them feel like stars, she said.

At each class, Jones and her dance assistants ask the women to scream such phrases as "Yes, I'm fierce. Yes, I'm sexy. Yes, I got this!" Jones reminds them to live their lives with intention and to always reach for more.

And then they dance. Jones teaches a repertoire of dance numbers choreographed to the newest hip-hop, R&B songs and house music.

Her Vixen Army, as she affectionately calls her following, is encouraged to show up dressed in tight, funky T-shirts and sneaker wedges; their hair loose, lips painted and their girlfriends at their sides, ready for night-out-on-the-town excitement.

"It makes me feel good, it makes me feel sexy. It makes me feel energized," said Jessie Diaz, 27, an admissions counselor from Harlem who started doing the workout last December with a group of 15 girlfriends.

The classes have spurred big changes for Teena Marie DiBartolo, 25, who travels nearly three hours roundtrip from the Bronx to midtown Manhattan to take the class with her mother, Mayra DiBartolo, 53.

Teena Marie has lost nearly 50 pounds since she started doing the workouts last October. More than the

weight, she says the positive messages have helped her see herself in a new way.

"It's definitely made me more confident, and inspired me to, as the slogan says 'Stay hungry, live fierce,'" said DiBartolo. "I was so shy if you had met me a year ago, but it sparked something in me. It motivated me to reach higher."

Classes cost \$15 in Miami and \$18 in New York for hourlong sessions. Each week nearly 2,000 women show up to take at least one of the many classes offered in Miami, New York, Hoboken, N.J., Chicago or Los Angeles.

As word of Vixen Workout spreads so do plans for expansion, Jones said. Up next: Texas.

"It needs to be worldwide," she said. "I feel like it's my responsibility to even try to change a speck of what a woman feels about herself."

As
a woman
"you need some
type of release. And
you're not a bad mother for
thinking that, you're not a bad wife,
you're not a bad anything. You're gonna be
a better person, in turn, to your family,
if you are the best version of yourself."

— Janet Jones, creator of the Vixen Workout

WAR/MILITARY

From victims to 'stars'



PHOTOS BY MASSOUD HOSSANI/AP

Players from Balkh province, in white, celebrate Tuesday during a match against the team from Herat province in Afghanistan's national wheelchair basketball tournament organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Afghanistan war amputees find new life, pride in sports

BY LYNNE O'DONNELL
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — From her wheelchair, Maryam Samimi punched the air as the referee's whistle signaled her basketball team's win in an Afghan national tournament, a moment of joy in a country often unkind to those missing limbs.

Many amputees in Afghanistan languish without access to care and become depressed and isolated. And with mines and unexploded ordnance still scattered across this country ravaged by decades of nonstop war, more will be maimed from explosions.

However, an International Committee of the Red Cross program offering sports to amputees has seen hundreds sign up to play wheelchair basketball.

"From my experience, I know that when you lose a part of your body, big or small, for the first month, you don't want to be alive anymore. You don't want to see the future, everything stops," said Shukrullah Zeerak, a supervising physiotherapist at an ICRC center who lost his right leg below the knee in a mine blast in 1995. "But slowly you adapt; you survive."

Afghanistan is often described as one big minefield, with experts estimating that 10 million mines — mostly from the former Soviet Union but also from the United States, Britain, Belgium and Italy — have been dropped or laid across the country. The explosives, including those planted by the Taliban, continue to kill and maim.

Some 40,500 amputees have registered with the ICRC's Orthopedic Project in Afghanistan since 1988. Of that figure, 67



A Balkh province player shoots the ball Tuesday during a match against the team from Herat province in Afghanistan's national wheelchair basketball tournament.

percent are victims of mines and 76 percent are civilians, statistics of war that has lasted more than 30 years and which, even as most of the U.S.-led foreign combat forces are withdrawing, shows no sign of ending. The true number of amputees living in Afghanistan is likely even higher.

Four years ago, the ICRC decided to recruit amputees for sports teams as a way to help them both physically and mentally. Now, hundreds of amputees play wheel-

chair basketball in teams in six of the country's 34 provinces, with the best of them playing in the national league.

"They become stars that they wouldn't have been if they hadn't been disabled," Zeerak said.

Jess Markt, of Boulder, Colo., served as a referee at the national tournament. He has been traveling to Afghanistan to coach wheelchair basketball players since 2009 and now spends up to four months per year



Players cheer Tuesday during the wheelchair basketball tournament organized in Kabul.

in the country. At home, he plays point guard for the Denver Rolling Nuggets in the National Wheelchair Basketball Association and coaches the women's team.

Markt compared Afghanistan with the United States after World War II, when people with disabilities who had been marginalized from society began organizing activities that are now, like the Paralympics, part of mainstream sport.

"This is changing society," he said.

And for Samimi, who lost both her feet above the ankle after stepping on a land mine when she was 6, the joy of her Mazar-i-Sharif beating Herat 33-9 wasn't just for the final score.

"I am very happy that we won, but I am happy for them, too," she said.

WORLD

Winter outlook bleak for Donetsk

The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Dark tunnels in the basement of a bombed-out hospital in the eastern city of Donetsk lead to a makeshift shelter. Opening the door hardly alleviates the gloom, for the only lighting inside is the flicker of handmade oil lamps.

The inhabitants move around like shadows, eyes dull and faces weary with hardship, dressed in several layers of worn-out sweat-shirts, vests and jackets. The tiny rooms are lit with sunflower oil poured into saucers and set aflame. These people took refuge in the abandoned hospital's basement after their own homes were destroyed. They are either too poor or old to flee the brutal separatist war that has ravaged Ukraine's east.

Their dire situation is about to



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

Vladimir Tumanov, whose home was destroyed in late August, hides from shelling with his dogs in the basement under a hospital near Donetsk airport in eastern Ukraine. Damage to critical infrastructure is expected to have a harsh effect on residents of Donetsk as winter approaches.

become much worse as Donetsk, which has lost nearly half of its 1 million-strong population, braces for winter. In eastern Ukraine, where temperatures typically stay below freezing all winter, damage to critical infrastructure and lack of adequate shelter for the newly homeless could mean death from cold for many.

"We have nowhere to go," said Vera Dvornikova, 70, a janitor who has been living in the basement of Hospital 18 since her apartment was obliterated by shelling in late July. Her murky room is cluttered with shabby relics of the past, battered old chairs and something with a blanket on it, which could be a bed.

The basement that Dvornikova

shares with 19 others has no running water or heating, and electricity has been cut off for a month.

The hospital lies in a residential area full of five-story blocks with missing roofs, gaping holes in the walls and gutted windows. The neighborhood is across the bridge from the airport which has been an epicenter of heavy fighting between pro-Russia rebels and government forces for weeks.

A few blocks away, a repair team is fixing a hot water pipe that will soon switch heating on for one of the damaged houses. Alexander Zuyev, the team's supervisor, said it is not within his power to help Dvornikova and her fellow lodgers because the hospital, like many buildings in the neighborhood, has

been too heavily damaged. Without the roof and windows, he said, fixing the heating is pointless.

About 1,000 houses and apartment blocks, some 10 percent of the city's total, have been damaged by shelling, according to Maxim Kovinsky, a former official in the Donetsk City Hall. Many are beyond repair.

Ukraine's Social Affairs Ministry says the government has compensation measures in place for damaged houses, adding that regional governments are obliged to provide temporary accommodation for people in need. But in reality, residents of destroyed homes find no officials to turn to — forcing them to find their own shelter.

Sri Lanka: Unlikely to find mudslide survivors

KOSLANDA, Sri Lanka — There was no hope of finding survivors after a mudslide tore through a tea plantation, a Sri Lankan disaster official said Thursday, amid widely conflicting reports about how many people had been buried alive under the mud.

Disaster Management Minister Mahinda Amaraweera estimated the number of dead in Wednesday's disaster at the Koslanda tea plantation would be fewer than 100, although villagers said the figure could easily exceed 200.

"I have visited the scene and from what I saw I don't think there will be any survivors," Amaraweera told The Associated Press on Thursday. "But that number is less than 100."

Initial reports from Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Center said some 250 people were missing. But Amaraweera has cut that figure significantly, saying some people believed to have been buried were actually at work or school when the mudslide struck at 7:30 a.m. in the island nation's central hills.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited the disaster site Thursday and spoke to residents who have been kept in schools and temples.

Heavy monsoon rains caused the mudslide, which wiped out 120 tea workers' homes in Badulla district, said Lal Sarath Kumara, an official from the Disaster Management Center.

From The Associated Press

STARS AND STRIPES

25 YEARS LATER THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Revisit the dramatic breach of the wall that kept East and West Berliners apart for nearly three decades. Stripes photographer Michael Abrams and reporter John Vandiver document the transformation of Berlin since 1989 in this commemorative piece.

FEATURE STORIES

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- Lights, camera, action! A converted U.S. Army movie theater highlights the days of Western star power

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- East Side Gallery: Artists renderings on the largest piece of the Wall remaining

VIDEO

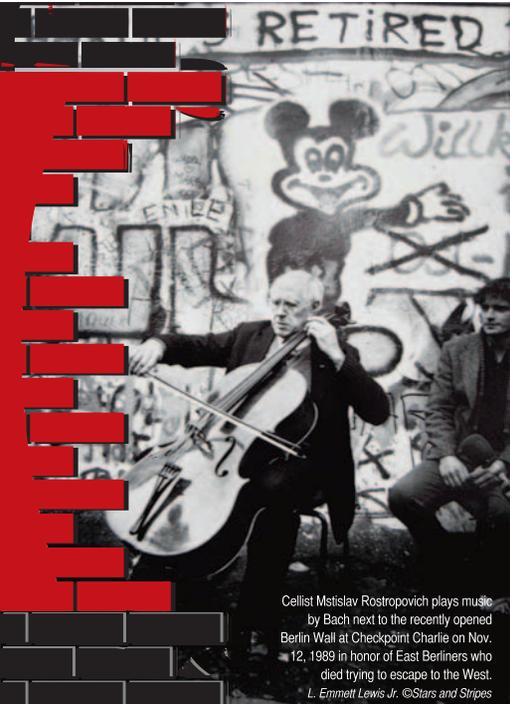
Footage of the Wall from beginning to end

ILLUSTRATIVE MAPS

Berlin and Europe then and now

READER MEMORIES

Unique collection of stories and images through our readers' eyes



Cellist Mstislav Rostropovich plays music by Bach next to the recently opened Berlin Wall at Checkpoint Charlie on Nov. 12, 1989 in honor of East Berliners who died trying to escape to the West. L. Emmett Lewis Jr. ©Stars and Stripes

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NATION

EXPOSED!

North Carolina museum chronicles history of tattoos

By LYNN FELDER
Winston-Salem Journal

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Once, tattoos were the exclusive territory of “loose women, sailors and prisoners,” Harriett Cohen said.

But that started to change in the 1980s when rock stars and rock-star athletes started sporting skin art. Now, soccer moms and rock fans are equally likely to display skin that is adorned with permanent images — from mothers to monsters, from deities to demons.

Cohen and her partner in life and love of ink, C.W. “Chuck” Eldridge, own and operate The Tattoo Archive and The Book Mistress on Fourth Street. The storefront houses two businesses and a nonprofit organization.

The Book Mistress portion is a book store where you can browse through big, gorgeous, collectible books full of tattoo designs and smaller, soft-cover books that show specific tattoo and artifact collections. Many are out of print or hard to find. Cohen sells them in the store and online at bookmistress.net.

The Tattoo Archive is a tattoo museum; it’s a collection of tattoo memorabilia, gadgets, machinery and flash, which is what drawings and paintings of tattoo designs are called. There is the tattoo shop in the back, where Eldridge does custom tattooing.

The nonprofit, The Paul Rogers Tattoo Research Center, was formed in 1992 when Eldridge, who already had a large tattoo collection, inherited a “huge collection” from Paul Rogers, a legend in the tattoo world.

Ed Hardy, a tattoo artist who achieved international fame when he developed a popular line of apparel and accessories, is one of four directors of the board of the nonprofit, the Paul Rogers Tattoo Research Center. Eldridge is another. Their stated mission is to “safeguard his (Rogers’) collection and his legacy in the tattoo world.” A book about Rogers by Don Lucas calls him “The Father of the American Tattooing.”

Born in 1905 in western North Carolina to a family of textile workers, Rogers went to work in cotton mills when he was 13. He didn’t make it past third grade, but started drawing around the age of 20 and became interested in gymnastics and acrobatics.

His curiosity about tattoos was piqued by an uncle and a traveling salesman. They had both

gotten tattoos when they were in the military. Rogers had a long memory and kept good records. He told Lucas that he bought a tattoo kit that ran off dry-cell batteries and started tattooing on Oct. 11, 1928. At first, he tattooed only himself because “There was nobody getting tattooed around there then.”

But then he tattooed anyone who would let him — until he got good enough to be hired by a traveling carnival. There, he met his wife, Helen, the boss’ daughter, who was a Hawaiian dancer and snake dancer.

Rogers traveled throughout the ‘30s and ‘40s up and down the east coast to Portsmouth and Norfolk, Va., and Charleston, S.C., to name just a few, building his reputation as a tattooist. In the 1950 and ‘60s, he spent time in Spartanburg, S.C., Jacksonville, N.C., and Anchorage, Alaska, finally settling in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., in the 1970s. There, he tattooed less and worked more on tattoo machines, eventually building them.

“His tattoo machines were sold around the world,” Eldridge said, “and are still selling as collectors’ items.”

And Rogers collected items. “What’s unique about Paul’s collection is that it was intact at the time of his death in 1990,” Eldridge said.

Eldridge, also a native North Carolinian from Elgin, joined the U.S. Navy when he was 18 to “see the world.” He got out of the service in 1969 and knocked around the San Francisco Bay area, washing dishes in a soul-food cafe and building custom bicycles until he discovered tattooing the 1970s and made that his life’s work.

Eldridge got some tattoos and learned the trade from an artist in San Francisco and opened the first Tattoo Archive in Berkeley in 1982.

“Even then, the history was the main focus,” Eldridge said. “Tattoos paid the bills.” As they do now, along with the book sales. Eldridge said that he does about two tattoos a day. He met Rogers in the ‘70s



PHOTOS BY DAVID ROLFE, THE WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL/AP

Chuck Eldridge and Harriett Cohen pose at their business, The Tattoo Archive, in downtown Winston-Salem, N.C., in August. The Tattoo Archive is a museum featuring tattoo memorabilia, gadgets, machinery and flash — drawings and paintings of tattoo designs. Among the items in the museum are a 1960s photograph of tattoo artist Doc Forbes with a young client at left, and a tattoo-centered postcard, at top, from the 1940s.



“He knew the effort I was putting in the history of tattooing,” Eldridge said. Rogers’ family didn’t share his passion for the art of tattooing. He wanted his collection to go to someone who would care for it.

“I was getting sick of the Bay area after 36 years,” Eldridge said, and he felt that Rogers’ collection belonged in western North Carolina where it had its genesis. That was the impetus for creating the nonprofit in 1993, and Eldridge started raising money to move and house the collection here.

Cohen and Eldridge met when

she went into his shop in Berkeley in 2000 to get a tattoo to commemorate her dog who had recently died.

She ended up getting a dog-wound blossom, somewhat coincidentally that’s the North Carolina state flower.

They were married in 2005, and moved to Winston-Salem and opened shop in 2007.

About 250 pieces of art and artifacts are hanging on the walls of the Tattoo Archives, including an exhibit on “Patriotic Tattooing” area that spotlights patriotic tattoos. It will be on display until Oct. 31.

through mutual acquaintances and they communicated throughout the years, running into one another at occasional tattoo conventions.

WORLD

Hero is honored for saving London from WWII flooding

The Associated Press

LONDON — Every day, boats full of tourists and commuters float by a pale patch on the wall that lines the River Thames near Britain's Houses of Parliament.

Few notice the concrete mark, or recognize it as evidence of how close London came to drowning during World War II. It is a piece of hidden history that has been uncovered by a team of professional and amateur archaeologists.

On Wednesday a group of engineers and civic dignitaries were to unveil a plaque commemorating Thomas Peirson Frank, leader of a secret squad of engineers and laborers who worked night after night during World War II to repair flood defenses hit in German air raids.

As bombs fell and fires raged, teams managed by Frank used rubble, sandbags and finally concrete to mend breaches in the Thames wall that threatened the

inundation of thousands of businesses and homes.

"It could have brought London to its knees very, very easily," said Gustav Milne, director of the Thames Discovery Program, a project that brings together experts and volunteers to explore the archaeology of London's river.

"Not just people drowning — we would have lost buildings, it would have flooded the sewers and brought up all the sewage, it would have contaminated the water supplies, cut off gas and electricity. There would have been widespread devastation and huge loss of life."

London burned during the war, but it never flooded, due in large measure to Frank, chief engineer for the London County Council, and his crews.

But their story is little known — obscured first by wartime secrecy, then by gradual forgetting. That began to change when



MATT DUNHAM/AP

River Thames archaeology expert Gustav Milne on Tuesday stands next to a repaired section of the embankment river wall that was damaged by a German bomb dropped during World War II in London.

Milne and his team noticed the large concrete patch, 30 feet across at its widest, in the 19th-century river wall. Chunks of the wall's granite parapet lie scattered along the muddy river fore-shore nearby.

The researchers suspected the damage had been done by a Luftwaffe bomb, but the agency in charge of the river did not have any record of it.

Deep in the London Metropolitan Archives, the researchers found files revealing the truth that had been hidden from Londoners during the war and later

forgotten — the river wall was hit 121 times between 1940 and 1945, 84 of them during the Blitz of September 1940 to May 1941.

The number of bomb strikes on the river was suppressed at the time so as not to alarm Londoners or alert Nazi Germany to the city's vulnerability.

London was fortunate to have Frank, a ferociously well-organized and industrious civil servant who had served in World War I and by the 1930s was warning of the city's vulnerability to floods.

When war broke out, Frank was put in charge of maintaining

London's roads and utilities. He set up four depots along the river, staffed by engineers and road repair crews, augmented by troops from the Royal Engineers.

Each time the river defenses were hit, Frank's teams were sent in, often while bombs were still falling and with little protective equipment.

"They were working in their own clothes ... in black toxic gunge," Milne said. "They didn't even have overalls provided, much less Wellington boots."

Great Britain opens National Sperm Bank

LONDON — Britain opened a National Sperm Bank on Thursday to help meet rising demand for donors.

Officials said it is designed to help single women, men with fertility problems and same-sex couples to build families.

The bank was set up to counter a national shortage of sperm donors at a time when the number of patients seeking sperm donation is increasing. One goal is to increase donors from inside Britain to lessen reliance on sperm from other countries. Both Denmark and the United States supply large quantities of sperm to Britain to offset the shortage.

Japan trying to pick up pace to restart reactors

TOKYO — Japan quickened its pace to restarting its idled atomic reactors after local officials voted Tuesday to resume operations at Sendai's nuclear plant on the nation's southern island.

Council members for the town

of Satsumasendai on the island of Kyushu voted 19-4 to restart the reactors as soon as possible in an almost 3½-hour meeting interrupted frequently by the shouts of protesters opposing the measure.

Sendai's two reactors are the first of Japan's atomic plants in line to restart under tougher safety rules set by the Nuclear Regulation Authority, the agency created after the Fukushima disaster to restore confidence in the industry. Japan's 48 operable reactors are offline and their future has created a deep divide over atomic power.

Protesters storm Burkina Faso parliament

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso — Protesters stormed Burkina Faso's parliament Thursday, dragging furniture and computers onto the street and setting the main chamber ablaze, forcing the government to cancel a vote to allow the president to seek another term next year.

Protesters swarmed other areas of the capital, Ouagadougou, and the country.

From The Associated Press

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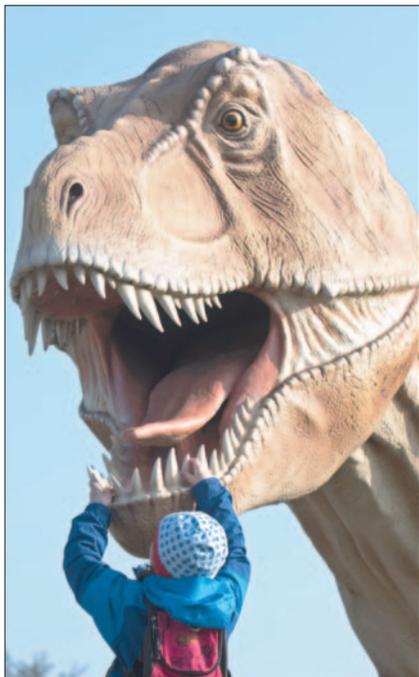
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WORLD



Dino-mite

A child touches the model of a dinosaur, above, while workers transport a model, left, at the exhibition "World of Dinosaurs" in a former surface mining area in Grosspoesna near Leipzig, Germany, on Wednesday. More than 50 exhibits of different species of dinosaurs are on display until Nov. 30.

PHOTOS BY JENS MEYER/AP

Sweden stirs controversy by recognizing Palestinian state

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's new government on Thursday recognized a Palestinian state at a time of increased tensions between Arabs and Jews over Israel's plans to build about 1,000 housing units in east Jerusalem.

The EU member country joined only two other Western European countries — Malta and Cyprus — that have officially recognized a Palestinian state.

Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom said the Scandinavian country had decided on the move because the criteria of international law required for such recognition had been fulfilled.

"There is a territory, a people and government," she told reporters in Stockholm.

Wallstrom said she hopes Sweden's "excellent cooperation with

Israel" would continue "nevertheless and that the decision would be met in Jerusalem "in a constructive way."

Israel was quick to condemn Sweden's move.

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman described it as "a miserable decision that strengthens the extremist elements and Palestinian rejectionism."

"It's a shame that the government of Sweden chose to take a declarative step that only causes harm."

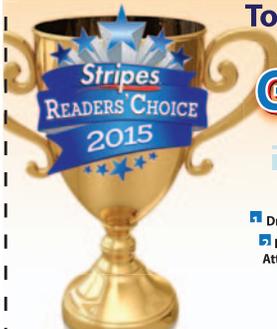
The 28-nation European Union has said it would recognize a Palestinian state "when appropriate," and has urged that negotiations to achieve a two-state solution be resumed as soon as possible.

In a symbolic move, British lawmakers earlier this month voted in favor of recognizing Palestine as a state.

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- American Restaurant
- Asian Restaurant
- Bar/Pub
- Brewery
- German Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Mexican Restaurant
- Restaurant (on base/post)
- Special-Occasion Restaurant

SERVICE (Continued)

- Immobilien/Realty Service
- SHIPPING
- Auto Dealership
- Electronics Store
- Exchange Store (on base/post)
- Furniture Store
- Grocery Store
- Home Improvement Center
- Motorcycle Dealership

LEISURE

- Amusement Park
- Dance/Yoga Studio
- Fitness Center (on base/post)
- Hobby Center (on base/post)
- Mineral/Thermal Spa
- MWR/FSS Service (on base/post)
- Pool

TRAVEL

- Castle
- Christmas Market
- City
- Day Trip
- Festival
- Free Activity
- Fußgängerzone/Mall/Shopping Area
- Lodging (on base/post)
- Zoo

SERVICE

- Bank/Credit Union (on base/post)
- Beauty Salon
- Day Spa
- Dentist
- Doctor

COMMENTS

No purchase necessary to enter. Promotion open to U.S. Government ID cardholders and authorized dependents.

FAITH

Peeling back the secrecy

By BRADY MCCOMBS
The Associated Press

The Mormon church is addressing the mystery that has long surrounded undergarments worn by its faithful with a new video explaining the practice in-depth while admonishing ridicule from outsiders about what it considers a symbol of Latter-day Saints' devotion to God.

The four-minute video on The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' website compares the white, two-piece cotton "temple garments" to holy vestments worn in other religious faiths such as a Catholic nun's habit or a Muslim skullcap.

The footage is part of a recent effort by the Salt Lake City-based religion to explain or clarify on some of the faith's more sensitive beliefs. Articles posted on the church's website in the past two years have addressed the faith's past ban on black men in the lay clergy; its early history of polygamy; and the misconception that members are taught they'll get their own planet in the afterlife.

Mormons address mystery surrounding undergarments

The latest video dispels the notion that Latter-day Saints believe temple garments have special protective powers, a stereotype perpetuated on the Internet and in popular culture by those who refer to the sacred clothing as "magical Mormon underwear."

"These words are not only inaccurate but also offensive to members," the video says. "There is nothing magical or mystical about temple garments, and church members ask for the same degree of respect and sensitivity that would be afforded to any other faith by people of goodwill."

The video and accompanying article feature more detailed information about the garments than has ever before been released to the public, Mormon scholars say.

It was made to fill a void on the In-

ternet, which has little, if any, accurate information about the undergarments, church spokesman Eric Hawkins said in a statement.

The video, also available on YouTube, explains that the undergarments are worn daily by devout adult Latter-day Saints as a reminder of their commitment to God to live good, honorable lives.

The garments, which resemble a T-shirt and shorts, are shown laid out on a table in what marks a rare public glimpse at clothing that normally is hidden from outsiders.

Members are taught not to hang the garments in public places to dry or display them in view of people "who do not understand their significance."

The video comes two years after jobs about the undergarments were lobbed

at Mitt Romney in 2012 with the intent to damage his candidacy as the first Mormon presidential nominee of a major political party.

The video's focus on the offensiveness of flippant remarks about the undergarments shows the church no longer will tolerate them, said Armand Mauss, a retired professor of sociology and religious studies at Washington State University.

The church has some 15 million members worldwide.

Latter-day Saints seem pleased by the refreshing transparency from the church on a topic that has been the source of much curiosity among outsiders, some of whom are rude about, said Jana Riess, who blogs about Mormonism for the Religion News Service.

She wrote that she hopes the footage will "persuade gawkers that there's nothing to see here, folks."

"They now have something official to point to if people ask questions," Riess said in an interview. "I love that they put it on YouTube for the entire world to see. I think that's very brave."



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS/AP

These photos taken from a video provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints shows the temple garment, a white, two-piece cotton clothing worn by church members. The four-minute video, posted recently on the church's website and available on YouTube, compares the garments to holy vestments worn in other religious faiths. The undergarments are worn daily by devout adult members of the church to remind them of their commitment to God to live good, honorable lives.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Unopened mail to judge found under desk

TX DALLAS — Dallas County officials say some mail addressed to a criminal court judge went unopened for two years.

Workers last week found about 700 unopened pieces of mail stuffed inside boxes and a bag under a court coordinator's desk after her last day of work.

Some letters were from defendants about their cases and contained checks to pay fines and court costs.

The messages were addressed to 282nd District Court Judge Andy Chatham, who is leaving the bench by year's end. He said the district clerk's office is reading each letter, and so far, it appears that no cases have been affected.

Injured hawk ready for release after recovery

WI ONALASKA — A red-tailed hawk has been rehabilitated and is ready to be released in the Chippewa Valley after it survived a 140-mile journey stuck in the grill of a vehicle.

A.J. the hawk was rescued in July after it collided with a vehicle north of Chippewa Falls. The driver initially thought the bird was dead and was unable to remove it from the grill.

The hawk had two broken bones in one wing, according to Kathy KasaKaitas, animal control protection and rescue supervisor at the Coulee Region Humane Society in Onalaska. Although raptors with badly broken wings are usually euthanized, A.J. was given a chance to recover after surviving such odds, she said. KasaKaitas will try to bring the hawk back to where it originally came from to rejoin its former surroundings and companion.

The raptor was named after Green Bay Packer linebacker A.J. Hawk.

'Hello Kitty' arrested on drunken driving charge

ME GORHAM — Police say a Maine woman who was pulled over while wearing a Hello Kitty costume was arrested on a drunken driving charge.

Gorham police say officers stopped Carrie Gipson, 37, of Westbrook, at about 2 a.m. Sunday because she driving in the wrong lane.

They say she refused to take a breath test and was arrested for operating under the influence. She was taken to the Cumberland County jail.

Her police mugshot shows her wearing a red and white Hello Kitty costume, minus the doll's mammoth head.

Heiress leaves \$40M to boarding school

VA MIDDLEBURG — A small boarding school in northern Virginia is the recipient of the largest ever gift to a secondary girls' school: a \$40 million bequest from a



MARK BUONASKI, KALAMAZOO (MICH.) GAZETTE/AP

Giant mummy haunts Mich. town

Richard Underly looks up at his giant mummy in Portage, Mich., on Thursday. At 23 feet high, the mummy is nearing twice the size as last year's Halloween decoration. "It made me popular and put me on the map," Underly said.

Standard Oil heiress who liked to drive around in an Oldsmobile station wagon.

Ruth Bedford of Westport, Conn., died in June at age 99. She volunteered with the Red Cross in England during World War II, worked as a stage manager on Broadway, and was known to enjoy a glass of Scotch.

She had informed her alma mater, the Foxcroft School in Middleburg, that she planned to remember it in her will, but school administrators were stunned when they learned she had bequeathed \$40 million. The gift doubles the school's endowment.

Falling coconut sends lifeguard to the hospital

HI HONOLULU — A Honolulu lifeguard is recovering from a head injury after he was struck by a falling coconut at Hanamau Bay.

KHON-TV reports Harold Teshima on Friday afternoon had climbed down from his lifeguard tower to start cleaning up when he was hit in the head. He woke up in a daze, felt his

forehead and discovered blood dripping down his nose. Fellow lifeguards found a 3- to 4-pound coconut the size of a softball nearby. Teshima was taken to a hospital and diagnosed with a concussion, cut, neck strain and nausea.

Teshima said lifeguards two or three weeks ago reported coconuts the size of golf balls or bigger were falling.

Mayor: City plow blades will keep Jesus theme

SD SIOUX FALLS — The mayor of Sioux Falls said the city will not paint over religious messages that parochial school students put on city-owned snow plow blades unless it is legally forced to do so.

Mayor Mike Huether told KELO-AM radio on Tuesday that the city is holding firm in its position. "Unless, I guess, I get some Supreme Court case (that) says that I have to."

Students at Lutheran High School and Sioux Falls Lutheran School painted the plow blades as part of the city's Paint the Plows

program. One blade includes the words "Jesus Christ" and the other "Happy Birthday Jesus."

The Siouxland Freethinkers complained to the city, saying the religious artwork on publicly owned vehicles violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

City Attorney David Pfeifle said officials are still doing a "delicate balancing test" between competing clauses within the First Amendment, including free speech, freedom of religion and the separation of church and state.

"Our goal is to not paint them over, and we're exploring every option," he said.

Large flightless bird closes highway

IN PERU — Police say a large flightless bird forced the closing of a northern Indiana highway for about 10 minutes while officers and motorists tried to corral it.

The 5-foot-tall bird called a rhea escaped from a farm Monday and ran onto U.S. 24 near

THE CENSUS



12 The number of children a western Michigan couple have — all boys.

And another child is on the way, due May 9. Even though Jay and Kateri Schwandt of Rockford are sticking to their tradition of not finding out in advance whether they're having a boy or girl, they said they'd be shocked if their streak is broken. Jay said he would love to have a girl, but they're just going for a healthy baby. Still, he would like to see the effect of adding a girl to the family of 12 boys, ages 1 to 22. "I've experienced all the boy stuff," he said. "... It would be really neat to experience the other side." Kateri said she would lean toward having one more boy. "A little girl would be neat to have in the house, but a little boy kind of takes the pressure off," she said. "We know what we are doing. Why change things up?"

Peru, about 80 miles north of Indianapolis. Rheas are native to South America and similar to ostriches and emus.

State Police 1st Sgt. Bob Burgess tells the Kokomo Tribune an animal control officer shot the bird with a tranquilizer dart but the bird fled into traffic. Meanwhile, officers contacted the previous owner of the bird, who arrived on the scene and was able to tackle it.

Burgess says the previous owner loaded the bird into a pickup truck and returned it to its new owner.

Low supply has road salt provider scrambling

OH TOLEDO — An Indiana company that supplies road salt to Ohio is importing shipments from the northern African nation of Morocco because of the short supply and high prices.

Midwest Salt plans to bring in 171,000 tons through the port of Toledo.

"Typically, we're purchasing from domestic producers as well, but this was the next-best option," said Andrew Thiele, president of Midwest Salt, which is based in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Most of the salt that typically comes through the Toledo port is from mines in northeast Ohio or southern Ontario, not from overseas.

Ohio used more than 1 million tons of salt on state roads last year — a nearly 60 percent increase over the average. The average price per ton was \$35 a year ago. This year, it's up to more than \$100 per ton. A few counties received no bids from suppliers.

From wire reports

WEEKEND



Taylor Swift goes full-blown pop

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"The Evil Within"

"Ouija"

"FREAK SHOW"

"American Horror Story"

SCREAM TIME

Chill with these seasonally appropriate frights

Gadgets – 22

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WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

Using avatars, apps to help troubled vets

By **TODD SOUTH**
The Record (Hackensack, N.J.)

Hector hasn't left his house in weeks, and he's been drinking alone. Hector is a veteran who needs help.

Hector also is an avatar, a virtual character, featured in one of the scenarios presented in a new online and mobile application called Together Strong.

The app is an interactive game designed to aid those who are close to a veteran — to sharpen skills to notice warning signs and guide troubled vets to seek help. It allows users to role-play situations involving troubled military veterans with virtual characters, and to choose responses that might help them.

Find out more and get the app at jointogetherstrong.com

People who have had traumatic experiences or fall into substance abuse might avoid seeking help as a rule, but veterans are especially vulnerable, worrying that they might be seen as weak if they seek help or tell others their problems, experts said.

The app — developed by Kognito, a Manhattan-based company that creates virtual situations to help improve health care, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs — helps the player navigate each scenario, offering tips and information. It awards gold stars when the player makes a good decision.

The app was developed over seven months with teams of VA staff, military servicemembers and veteran volunteers, said Ann Feder, manager of the VA's New York/New Jersey mental health programs. While available to anyone free until the end of the year, the app was developed for the mental health system's veterans.

VA staff and Kognito wanted the app to have as real a feel as

possible, so they adjusted the program based on feedback during several rounds of tests. They got notes about specific issues, such as how a despondent veteran might speak to others, dress, or take care of himself or herself.

Inside Hector's apartment, for example, there's a dead houseplant, multiple six-packs of beer atop the refrigerator and clothing scattered about. Hector looks tired, there are bags under his eyes and he slumps into the couch. The main character — activated by the player — knows this is not Hector's usual demeanor.

A common thread in each scenario is the way in which veterans downplay their problems or avoid asking for help.

This is common to many people who have had traumatic experiences, said Sam Spinelli, chief of the Substance Use Disorder Services at the VA Medical Center in East Orange.

Spinelli worked in the VA development team to give feedback on the behaviors he's seen in his nearly 25 years of working with veterans.

"What are they going to listen to? What are they not going to listen to?" Spinelli said, noting that those concerns always are the focus of building the conversations in developing the application.

This is the second app produced by Kognito with the New York/New Jersey system. The first, Family of Heroes, was released in 2011, to help families of veterans learn how to talk with their veteran about potential problems and how to seek help.

Since its release, it has been used by more than 62,000 people, Feder said.

It cost \$200,000 to produce. The Together Strong program was made at a cost of \$215,000.

ON THE COVER: Halloween-appropriate delights and frights. "The Evil Within," from Bethesda Softworks; "Ouija," from Universal Pictures/AP; "American Horror Story: Freak Show" from FX.

GADGET WATCH



MCT

With the Rachio Iro system, users can control sprinklers from any smartphone, tablet or computer.

Wi-fi sprinkler system a refreshing idea

By **GREGG ELLMAN**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

I was emailed an offer to try out the Rachio Iro sprinkler system, described as easy to set up and use. "As for the sprinkler, you plug it in where your old controller was and then it helps create a customized watering schedule with you home Wi-Fi network. You then can change or update it from your phone anywhere you have a signal."

Sure enough, it was pretty much that easy. "There are instructions for the setup, including step-by-step instructions and video tutorials on the website, which are a great help."

Since it did involve electrical work (connecting wires), I had a friend over who has much more electrical knowledge. There seemed to be nothing to it, however. Rachio recommends that users take a photo of the wiring before you do anything, so you remember how everything should go back together.

With the Rachio Iro system, you need a constant Wi-Fi signal hitting the box. That allows control of the system from any smartphone, tablet or computer anywhere in the world.

Before you begin the physical setup, you might need to relocate your Wi-Fi router or extend your existing Wi-Fi signal to reach the Rachio box.

The box has flashing LEDs to indicate whether you have a good signal.

I've always wanted the greenest lawn on the street, and controlling the water schedule is always a challenge.

The Rachio system replaces your existing controller without needing to do anything to the sprinklers.

Once you're hooked up, set up your zones for what days you want it to run and for how long.

If you're on the other side of the country and you get a warning for heavy rain coming on a day the sprinklers are set to turn on, no problem. Just turn on the app (free at the Apple App Store and Google Play) and shut your system down for the day.

Online: rachio.io, \$249

Epson's new luster metallic inkjet photo paper presents one big problem: I like it so much that I keep printing and printing and printing. That means using more and more ink, but with the look of this metallic paper, it's worth every drop.

When metallic photo papers were first introduced to the consumer market, they raised a lot of eyebrows from skeptics. But the finished prints certainly bring the wow factor.

If you're not familiar with metallic paper, this description, as printed on the outside of the box, will either explain it well or make your head spin:

"Designed with an incredible Dmax and rich color gamut, this semi-gloss E surface, photographic paper features a unique metallic surface that provides extreme sharpness and depth."

What this high-quality paper does is make colors incredibly vibrant. In some ways you can say it has a 3-D look; the colors are so vibrant it kept me printing for hours.

A friend in the photo industry described it this way: "The flexible paper has a see-through reflective coating that allows vibrant colors to come alive."

I added a touch of extra saturation in Adobe Photoshop, which made the prints (sporting events, landscapes) even better.

The paper is available with luster or glossy finish in sizes from 8.5 by 11 inches, 25 sheet packs for \$24, up to 36 inches by 100-foot rolls for \$359.

Online: Epson.com

ITUNES MUSIC

- Top 10 albums on iTunes for Oct. 29:
1. "Partners," Barbra Streisand
 2. "Sundown Heaven Town (Deluxe Edition)," Tim McGraw
 3. "RUN WILD. LIVE FREE. LOVE STRONG..." for KING & COLOUR
 4. "Anything Goes," Florida Georgia Line
 5. "Bulletproof Picasso," Train
 6. "The Cowboy Rides Away: Live From AT&T Stadium," George Strait
 7. "World On Fire (Featuring Myles Kennedy & The Conspirators)," Slash
 8. "Old Boots, New Dirt," Jason Aldean
 9. "Title — EP," Meghan Trainor
 10. "Guardians of the Galaxy: Awesome Mix, Vol. 1," Various Artists

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

- The most streamed tracks on Spotify from Oct. 20-26:
1. "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
 2. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
 3. "Animals," Maroon 5
 4. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
 5. "Bang Bang," Jessie J
 6. "Cool Kids," Echoes III
 7. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
 8. "Don't Tell 'Em," Jeremih
 9. "Take Me To Church," Hozier
 10. "Blame," Calvin Harris

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

- Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for October 29:
1. "Transformers: Age of Extinction"
 2. "Godzilla"
 3. "The Fault in Our Stars"
 4. "Captain America: The Winter Soldier"
 5. "Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow"
 6. "Fed Up"
 7. "Chef"
 8. "The Lunchbox"
 9. "Blended"
 10. "Draft Day"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

- Game Informer ranked the Top 10 horror games for Halloween:
1. "The Evil Within," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
 2. "Alien: Isolation," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
 3. "The Vanishing of Ethan Carter," PC
 4. "Metro Redux," PS4, Xbox One, PC
 5. "Five Nights at Freddy's," PC, iOS
 6. "The Walking Dead: Season Two," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC, iOS
 7. "PT," PS4
 8. "Neverending Nightmares," PC
 9. "Lifeless Planet," PC
 10. "Among the Sleep," PC

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

- Top 5 new free apps for Oct. 29:
- ANDROID
1. Clash of Gangs
 2. New Worlds With Friends
 3. Bubble Shooter Galaxy
 4. Gods Rush
 5. RETRY
- Top 5 free apps for Oct. 29:
- APPLE
1. Facebook Messenger
 2. Spider-Man Unlimited
 3. Yik Yak
 4. Amazing Thief
 5. Bicolor

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



So much 'Simpsons,' it's scary

The world first heard about the all-encompassing Simpsons World app in July — and NOW IT'S HERE. The app and website contains 25 years worth of programming, plus so many

extras based on everyone's favorite yellow-skinned family from Springfield, it's truly nuts. As "Simpsons" producer Al Jean said, "Hello, Simpsons World, goodbye free time."

- Website: Simpsonsworld.com
- Bonus "Simpsons" stuff: 10 greatest "Treehouse of Horror" movie parodies at tinyurl.com/pkldf4.

2

Watch the end of an 'Empire'

"Boardwalk Empire," which some critics have called one of the best television shows of all time, ends its run this weekend on AFN. Character actor Steve Buscemi (at left) stars as the most intimidating mobster in Atlantic City during the Prohibition Era. Buscemi's

Nucky Thompson prepares for his downfall, and the end of bootlegging, as this series, executive produced by Martin Scorsese, closes.

- The show's series finale, "Eldorado," airs Nov. 1 and 2 on AFN-Spectrum.



3

Find out why that Potter teacher was so creepy



Imelda Staunton as Dolores Umbridge

J.K. Rowling has a Halloween treat for "Harry Potter" fans. The British author has penned a new, 1,700-word short story about former Hogwarts professor Dolores Umbridge, aka That Sadistic Pink-loving Cat Lady. The story is available online as of today.

- Read it on Rowling's website, pottermore.com.

4

Matching 25 films with phobias

Got a phobia? There's probably some sort of weird or scary movie based on it. Halloween is either a great time to face those fears in the name of good fun, or to run and hide under your pillow. If you're in the first camp, read this list compiled by Paste.com of movies both well-known and obscure. Spiders, heights and clowns, sure. But we've also got you covered with films about fears of books, plants — even beautiful women.



- See the list at tinyurl.com/kaqrvy7.

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Adriane Palicki co-stars in the action thriller "John Wick."

By **JOSH ROTTENBERG**
Los Angeles Times

If you've ever watched some chiseled action hero coolly taking out bad guys onscreen and thought to yourself, "How hard could that be?" I have two words for you: Try it.

On a recent afternoon, I paid a visit to 87Eleven in Inglewood, Calif., a stunt choreography studio run by Chad Stahelski and David Leitch, two of Hollywood's most in-demand stunt coordinators and co-directors of the bloody Keanu Reeves revenge thriller "John Wick." Here in this unmarked warehouse near Los Angeles International Airport, Stahelski, 46, Leitch, 42, and their team have trained numerous actors to look like fearsome warriors in films such as "300," "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," "The Bourne Legacy" and "The Hunger Games."

A mild-mannered, middle-aged father of two who is never wielded a weapon outside of an Xbox game, I am no one's idea of an action star. Could Stahelski and Leitch do for me what they've done for Brad Pitt, Hugh Jackman and Jason Statham—in less than an hour?

We started with Action Movie 101: handling a pistol. After some brief instruction, I managed to get down the basics of ejecting the magazine from a handgun,

stolen his car and killed his dog. To portray this assassin whose very name strikes terror in the cold hearts of fellow killers required Reeves, who recently turned 50, to pull off a series of physically grueling and highly complex action scenes involving high body counts—and make it all look effortless.

For the actor, who most recently starred in the martial-arts films "47 Ronin" and "Man of Tai Chi" but hasn't done this type of full-tilt action in years, the prospect of making a gonzo, guns-blazing film like "John Wick" with Stahelski and Leitch, who are making their directorial debut, was a daunting but exciting one.

"There was some judo and jujitsu I had never done, and I hadn't done anything with weapons in a long time," said Reeves, who first got to know Leitch and Stahelski when they performed stunts on the "Matrix" films. "Working with Chad and Dave, there was an ambition to do something at a high level. They've wanted to direct a film for a long time, and they wanted to raise the bar, have a style, have a vision."

Stahelski and Leitch first met in the early 1990s at a martial arts academy and soon segued into the movie business as stuntmen. "A stunt coordinator saw me compete one day, and he asked me to double a guy on a low-budget Kris Kristofferson movie," Stahelski remembered. "I got the paycheck and I realized I could get paid more not getting hit in the head than getting hit in the head."

Over the years, performing stunts, choreographing onscreen mayhem and directing second unit on action-heavy movies, Stahelski and Leitch had experimented with blending flying fists

and firearms into a hybrid they call "gun fu." With "John Wick," they saw an opportunity to give this fighting style full expression.

"That mix of gunplay and martial arts was something we always wanted to put in a movie," said Stahelski. "We just needed the right world, and we needed the right actor."

'It's all about getting the rhythm. With experience, you know a bit more about your body and where you have to end up. The timing is everything.'

Keanu Reeves
star of 'John Wick'

In Reeves, they found an actor who not only possessed tremendous facility with various types of action but was also willing to push his body to the limit. "We've had the pleasure to work with a lot of actors, but Keanu is as hard-core as they come," Leitch said. "He's as hard-boiled as John Wick. We asked more of him than we'd ever asked of any actor, and he never let us down."

Not that it was easy. "Being older, there were moments when it was really tough," said Reeves. "You want to be able to do everything, but there were certain times during filming, when you're in the 16th hour of

the third day of shooting (a big action sequence), when I just couldn't do something. That was depressing."

To help his body recuperate, Reeves had the kind of cold plunge bath used by high-level athletes installed in his guest bathroom. "I first learned about ice on 'The Matrix,' but this was another level. I'd get home from a day of filming, get the water to 37 degrees and lie in it up my neck." He smiled. "Heaven."

Of course, not every actor Stahelski and Leitch works with possesses Reeves' skills and fortitude. There are some, Stahelski says diplomatically, "who may not possess the physical attributes to be what's on the page." And then there is me. Despite Stahelski and Leitch's efforts to make me look like one of the stars of the "The Expendables," even after a series of clumsy repetitions, I was still about at the level of Don Knotts in "The Shakiest Gun in the West."

Stahelski told me not to feel bad: "You've done this eight or nine times. If we're working with an actor, we'll rehearse something like this 400 times."

Indeed, no matter how un-gainfully someone might be when they first walk into 87Eleven, with enough training and a dash of movie magic, he or she can be made to look like a fierce killing machine onscreen. "We will bring them as close as we can physically, and then through stunt doubles or camera work or VFX (visual effects) or whatever we can do, we will help create the hero," Stahelski said.

In other words, there might be hope for me yet. "Some editing, a little slow-mo, some blood effects—you'd look great," Stahelski said. "Trust me, there were moments of coolness in there."

Watch your back, Reeves.



Keanu Reeves stars as an ex-hitman who comes out of retirement to track down a group of thugs who killed his dog in "John Wick." Reeves, who performed a series of highly complex and physically grueling action scenes as the title character, trained with stunt choreographers-turned-directors Chad Stahelski and David Leitch.

PHOTOS BY DAVID LEITCH

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Hasbro in high spirits over new board game flick

BY RYAN FAUGHNDER
Los Angeles Times

Hollywood has a fascination with turning classic board games into movies.

There was "Clue" and "BattleShip" and now "Ouija." Filmmakers are working to get "Monopoly," "Candy Land" and "Risk" off the toy store shelves and into cinemas.

The big studios hope to cash in at the box office as these familiar titles resonate with grown-ups and teenagers alike who played the games as children. And, for toy makers like Hasbro Inc., it could help boost sales of games that have been around for decades.

"What they're hoping is that if they can figure out a way to turn

these games, which are essentially interactive, into narratives and possibly luck into a franchise," film historian Wheeler Winston Dixon said. "Even if they only hit one, it still works for them."

The problem: Audiences often seem unwilling to buy in. Previous movies based on board games have not done much business at cinemas, in contrast with the hits Hasbro has generated with some of its toys and action figures. "Transformers" movies have grossed about \$3.75 billion in ticket sales worldwide, according to Box Office Mojo, and "G.I. Joe" was also become a film franchise.

Hasbro is not alone in trying to profit off the toy craze. This year, rival Lego broke into Hollywood in a big way with Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow's "The Lego Movie." Barbie and Hot Wheels maker Mattel Inc. is also busy making TV shows and movies based on its toys. But board games have proved to be tricky. Of the multiple games Hasbro has primed for development in the last few years, just one has been



The Kansas City Star



RICARDO DEARATANNA, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Hasbro Studios CEO Stephen Davis has high hopes for the board-game-inspired horror film "Ouija."

released — the 2012 dud "BattleShip." Much earlier, the campy 1985 version of "Clue" bombed at the multiplex.

"Ouija" succeeded where "BattleShip" had failed by keeping a relatively tiny budget (\$5 million), premiering with \$19.9 million in its opening weekend.

Analysts say one problem with making movies out of games is the difficulty of translating the thin source material for the big screen, when filmmakers have just a title, basic premise and plastic game pieces to start with.

Hasbro Studios President Stephen Davis said inspiration from a game shouldn't be a handicap.

"With any re-imagining of a brand, you may have core characters, you may have a lore and canon like with Transformers, but you also want to create a more expansive world because it's about creating something new, something fresh," Davis said. "That holds true for brands like Transformers as much as it does for Ouija."

After Michael Bay's first "Transformers" movie blew up at the box office, Hasbro took an aggressive swing at the film market. Hasbro and Universal Pictures in 2008 announced plans to turn at least four game titles into feature films, including "Monopoly," "Candy Land" and "Magic, the Gathering."

Universal had committed huge sums to make tent-pole features out of "BattleShip" and "Ouija" and pledged to churn out one board game movie a year.

"BattleShip" ran aground at the U.S. box office with just \$65 million in ticket sales on a production budget of more than \$200 million. At one point, "Ouija" was expected to cost more than \$100 million, and a top-notch director had been brought on to see the movie through. Universal scrapped the grand plans in 2011 over concerns that the budget would make it hard to turn a profit, and the film's budget was trimmed to \$5 million.

The Hasbro-Universal pact

has since fallen apart. Although Hasbro is still planning movies for Universal, other projects have been scattered throughout the studio system.

"Candy Land" is in the hands of Adam Sandler and his company, Happy Madison Productions, which is developing the film for Sony Pictures Entertainment. Sony also has "Monopoly," 20th Century Fox Film has "Magic: The Gathering," based on the fantasy trading card game.

"Ouija" came back to life under the hand of low-budget horror producer Jason Blum, who runs Blumhouse Productions. He said the board, which has made memorable appearances in the first two "Paranormal Activity" movies he produced, offered plenty of fodder for a scary movie.

"It's literally a board for talking to dead people," he said. "It lends itself to a movie in a very natural way, certainly more naturally than a lot of other board games."

'Ouija' geared to spook out tween audience

BY BARBARA VANCHERI
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"O"uija might just be an example of anti-product placement. If you have a Ouija board at home and see the new movie inspired by the Hasbro toy, you will want to blow the dust off the box, toss it into the fire or trash and hope it doesn't reappear and freak you out.

As girls, best friends Debbie and Laine fooled around with a Ouija board and the planchette, which slides around the surface as you lightly rest your fingertips on it. But when teenage Debbie (Shelley Hennig) unexpectedly commits suicide while home alone, Laine (Olivia Cooke, "Bates Motel") and "Me & Earl & the Dying Girl") decides to use the board to say goodbye and to ask some questions.

She entices her sister, Hannah (Ana Coto), and three friends (Daren Kagasoff, Douglas Smith and Bianca Santos) to go to Debbie's conveniently unoccupied house and try to communicate with her dead friend. Bad idea,

New on base

"Ouija" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

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

Pacific

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

Online: ouijamovie.com

just like when the expectant dad buys the Annabelle doll or Janet Leigh pulls off the highway in "Psycho," although "Ouija" isn't in the same category as either of those movies.

Still, the fivesome unleash a dark force that wants to pull more of them across the curtain

separating life and death or, here, the spirit world.

"Ouija" is aimed squarely at the PG-13 audience with its teen targets, its standard lack of adult supervision — except for Laine's housekeeper, Nona, played by Vivica Colobetti, who counsels, "Do not go seeking answers from the dead. Get rid of the board" — and its efforts to make moviegoers jump with figures who appear in the dark or are yanked across the floor or forced to make unsanctioned use of dental floss.

Adults who quaked at "The Exorcist" or "The Night of the Living Dead" or "The Conjuring" might feel underwhelmed or find some effects laughable, but it seemed it had a sweet spot with many of the tweens and teens at a preview. Why, some of them even quit speaking peeks at their phones and one could be heard asking as she filed out, "Are they saying this is a true story?"

No, that was just a creepy coda, but there was a note of trepidation in her voice.

"Ouija" is rated PG-13 for scary images, violence and mature thematic material. Running time: 99 minutes.

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THUR OCT 30 - WED NOV 05

Annabelle (R) - Thur 20:00, Fri & Sat 18:00, Sun 20:45
The Boxtrolls (PG) - Thur & Fri 16:00, Sat & Sun 13:30, Mon - Wed 16:00
Dracula Untold (R) - Thur 19:00, Fri 19:00, 22:45, Sat 15:45, 19:00, 22:45, Sun - Wed 18:00
Gone Girl (R) - Thur 20:00, Fri 19:45, Sat & Sun 14:00, 19:45, Mon - Wed 20:00
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG13) - Sat & Sun 13:30
The Equalizer (PG13) - Thur 18:00, Fri & Sat 17:30, 22:30, Sun 17:30, Mon - Wed 18:00
The Giver (PG13) - Sat & Sun 15:30
The Maze Runner (PG13) - Thur 18:00, Fri 17:45, Sat & Sun 17:00, Mon - Wed 18:00
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WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

'THE EVIL WITHIN'

By MICHAEL DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Shinji Mikami, the creator of "The Evil Within" and legendary mind behind much of the "Resident Evil" series, has created one beautifully cluttered desk with his most recent foray into the survival horror genre.

See, to the owner of a messy desk, the jumbled array of papers, pens, unwashed coffee mugs and day-old doughnuts is ordered. To everybody else, it's just chaos. Work alongside a Messy Marvin long enough, and eventually their sense of disorder will eventually begin to make sense.

So it goes with "The Evil Within," a game that at first blush appears to be a mess, but by the end its chaos and disharmony becomes an enjoyable rhythm all its own.

The game is immediately recognizable as the work of Mikami, even if you aren't able to place a name to his indelible style. The sense of dread and claustrophobia found in his previous games is also found here, as is his fondness for using blood as an ink to tell a tale.

So too is his love of mixing genres while still treading familiar ground.

A GROTESQUE WORLD PACKED WITH SCARES

"The Evil Within" opens as three police officers are called to investigate a murder at the Beacon Mental Hospital. Once they arrive, something appropriately creepy happens that causes them to split up. From there on, the game largely centers on Detective Sebastian Castellanos, an officer with a troubled past.

As Castellanos investigates the mental hospital, he uncovers experiments being conducted by an evil scientist, a young woman unjustly killed and reanimated as a monster and a chainsaw-wielding behemoth looking to massacre everything in sight.

Stop me if any of this sounds familiar.

Its gameplay is equally familiar, as it borrows very heavily from Mikami's "Resident Evil 4." As Castellanos makes his trek through the landscape of "The Evil Within," he'll explore darkened rooms, fight off "undead" hordes with limited ammunition and use the environment to fend off otherwise invincible foes.

Both games also use the now fairly common over-the-shoulder camera viewpoint that "Resident Evil 4" popularized in the horror genre. That mechanic, unlike the story, is more a refinement than a copy. At least Castellanos can move while shooting, a trick Leon Kennedy couldn't quite master until later versions of the game.

While the mechanics are very much "Resident Evil 4," the rest of the gameplay adheres a little less strictly to that formula. Any formula, really.

In fact, it takes a while for "The Evil Within" to know what genre it wants to be. In the early stages, Castellanos is the hero of a stealthy mystery game. He'll have to sneak around, hiding under beds and stealthily eliminating foes in order to survive.

The very next chapter will load him up with enough

ammunition to take down a small army, which shifts the game into action territory. Right after that, it goes to some odd middle ground where stealth isn't an option and ammunition isn't abundant, so it then becomes a "running away from everything" simulator. The loading screens inform players that sometimes running away is the best option, so this is obviously an intentional part of the game design.

Castellanos will never have to hide under beds or in closets after the initial chapters and some of the enemies from those levels never appear again, so the genre shift is fairly pronounced.

About a third of the way through, the game uses a close camera angle that adds to the claustrophobic environments and the invasive sense of danger. Dark is actually dark in "The Evil Within," and Castellanos will have to use his ever-present lantern to

enhance the sense of horror shines bright. The game uses a close camera angle that adds to the claustrophobic environments and the invasive sense of danger. Dark is actually dark in "The Evil Within," and Castellanos will have to use his ever-present lantern to



Photos courtesy of Bethesda Softworks

avoid traps and the monsters that lurk in the shadows.

Compound that with the fact that every enemy is dangerous and you have a game packed with scares and a tense feeling of dread that never leaves.

The finite resources make exploring every corner both a necessity and a gamble, as that room off the beaten path might hold much-needed healing items and ammo, or simply a gruesome death.

And make no mistake, you will die often. "The Evil Within" is a hard game. While some of that difficulty is organic — in the way of smart enemies who give chase and will even duck when the situation demands it — some of it feels artificial.

Enemies and crates randomly carry items, so sometimes you'll simply be out of ammo because the creatures you killed dropped nothing to use. On reload, you might find yourself flush with ammo. Add to that the numerous instant-death scenarios and monsters that can kill with one hit, and you are left with a very uneven experience that might frustrate some players.

It's worth pushing past that frustration, though, as the game does reward the patient and the diligent with some of the best gameplay the horror genre has seen in some time.

If you can shove aside the stack of genres, brush off the stale story crumbs and re-familiarize yourself with its layout, you might just find an enjoyable place to sit and enjoy a bloody good time among the chaos that is "The Evil Within."

Bottom line: B- Horror game fans will enjoy this, even if it's a little rough around the edges.

Platforms: PC, Xbox 360, PS3, Xbox One, PS4
Online: theevilwithin.com



While investigating the scene of a gruesome mass murder, Detective Sebastian Castellanos and his partners encounter a mysterious and powerful force. Thrown into a deranged world where hideous creatures wander among the dead, Castellanos tries to unravel what's behind this evil force as he fights for his survival in "The Evil Within."

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

SPOOK-TACULAR!

Frankenstein Castle hosts a fright fest

Warning! Frankenstein's Castle in Mühlthal, south of Darmstadt, Germany, says it cannot guarantee the safety of guests during its Halloween fright fest, which runs through Nov. 9.

Friday through Sunday and Nov. 7-9, shuttle buses will ferry brave visitors to the castle via a dark and winding road to an elevation of 1,200 feet.

At the top, 99 monsters and witches will roam the castle grounds (you're likely to see Dr. Frankenstein's monster himself), ready to give guests what they came for. On its website, the castle vows that it will "make your nightmares come true" with dungeons, things jumping out of dark corners and stage shows. The ghouls are tamer on Sundays, when a Halloween show is held for children.

Book tickets, which include parking, shuttle and unlimited access to the castle, at frankenstein-halloween.de. Information is available in English. The castle is easily accessible via Autobahn A5, exit Darmstadt-Eberstadt.



Courtesy of Burg Frankenstein

They don't call it Frankenstein Castle for nothing. Here, the monster himself roams the grounds of the famous ruin in Mühlthal, south of Darmstadt, Germany. For the next two weekends, the castle hosts a fright fest complete with witches, ghouls and evening shows. The U.S. military started the fun in 1978 with a party that has grown into one of the most popular Halloween celebrations in Europe.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Auto show in London

Motor enthusiasts in London won't want to miss the Regent Street Motor Show on Saturday, a showcase of more than 300 vehicles spanning some 125 years of automotive history.

Many of the classic vehicles will be taking part in the following day's Bonhams London to Brighton Veteran Car Run, a 60-mile course for cars manufactured prior to 1905. Modern vehicles will be represented by the manufacturers BMW, Infiniti, Morgan, Tesla and Renault. Top Grand Prix motorcycle racers also will make an appearance, alongside some of the bikes that propelled them to victory. Regent Street, located in the city's West End, is a chic shopping destination offering prestigious global brands, listed architecture, galleries and other upscale establishments. On the day, the street will be closed to traffic from Piccadilly Circus to Oxford Circus.

This hugely popular show, now in its fifth year, typically attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors. It opens at 10:30 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m. There's no charge to view the cars. See regentstreetmotorshow.com.

World War I installation

Another sight worth a look while in London is a poignant art installation marking the cen-



Karen Bradbury

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

tenary of the outbreak of World War I.

"Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red" is made up of 888,246 handmade red ceramic poppies filling the moat surrounding the Tower of London. Each flower represents a fatality of the war.

Following the installation's closure on Nov. 11, the poppies will be distributed among those who pre-purchased them at a cost of 25 pounds (about \$40) each. Proceeds will go to six charities supporting the country's armed services.

Tower Hill and the path by the moat both make optimum viewing sites, and there's no charge to enter either of these areas.

Names of some of the fallen are read out from the Roll of Honour at 4:55 each evening. Learn more at poppies.hrp.org.uk.

Basel's autumn fair

The residents of Basel, Switzerland, treasure the traditions passed down by their forefathers. Festivities particularly close to their hearts include Carnival and the annual autumn fair. Through Nov. 9, about 1 million visitors will attend the 544th edition of the Basler Herbstmesse in its 16-day run.

Switzerland's biggest event of its kind offers amusement rides, stalls peddling a vast range of goods, games, shows and other amusements. Traditional tasty treats to watch for include the funnel cake known as Rosekiedli or the cheesecakes called Käskiedli.

The fair's sprawling presence covers much of the city. Opening times vary by area, with most activity getting under way at noon and ending at 10 p.m. weekdays and later on the weekends.

Running through Sunday only in Hall 4 of the Messe Basel fairgrounds is a wine and culinary fair where some 4,500 wines can be sampled, along with beer, cocktails and regional specialties.

Opening hours for the Basler Weinmesse are 3-9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. Admission costs 15 Swiss francs (about \$15.80). Visitors must be age 18 or older to enter. Learn more at baslerweinmesse.ch.

St. Martin's Day

A beloved autumn tradition in Germany, particularly among younger children, are the St. Martin's Day parades. St. Martin was a Roman soldier-turned-monk, who, legend holds, cut his cloak in half to share with a beggar during a snowstorm.

His feast day falls on Nov. 11, and communities throughout the land mark the day with parades and festivities on and around this date. Children look forward to singing traditional songs and bring their painstakingly handcrafted paper lanterns to light up the night.

Heidelberg's St. Martin's Day Parade will take place Sunday evening. It sets off at 5 p.m. from St.-Anna-Gasse, making its way along the main street toward the Kornmarkt. There, the legend will be reenacted upon a stage, and a children's chorus will sing familiar songs as the public eagerly joins in. Martinsmännchen — baked goodies in the shape of the saint — are then distributed among the children.

Similar festivities take place in communities small and large. To find one near you, search online for "St. Martinsumzug 2014" with the name of your town.



Courtesy of MPA Creative, Surrey, England

The 2013 Regent Street Auto Show put the spotlight on Porsches.



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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The East German observation tower, seen in the distance at left, and the American tower, on the right, stand almost face to face across what was once the inner-German border during the Cold War. Today, both are part of the Point Alpha Memorial.

Freedom's watchtower

Memorial marks U.S. observation post on East German border

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

It was a lonely outpost on a chilling border that could go hot at any time.

On a hillside observation tower overlooking East German fields, a small band of U.S. Army soldiers would keep watch across a tall wire fence that was a part of the Iron Curtain.

Across from them, East German border police in a similar tower watched over the inhumane death strip with guard dogs and fragmentation mines meant to keep their fellow citizens from escaping. And they would train their binoculars on the Americans at Observation Point Alpha.

OP Alpha, on the border between West and East Germany, was first manned by U.S. Army constabulary units, remnants of the once giant World War II fighting force, in 1946. In 1951 they were replaced by soldiers from the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and they, in turn, were replaced through reflagging of the unit by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The observation point was manned by about 40 men who rotated in for four to six weeks from posts in Fulda, of "Fulda Gap" fame, about 19 miles away. The area was seen by NATO planners as the most likely invasion route into Western Europe for Soviet bloc forces.

The soldiers spent their days patrolling the border and observing it from the tower. If the Cold War had gone hot, they could have been the first to feel the brunt of a Warsaw Pact attack.



A map in the museum at Point Alpha Memorial shows forces of NATO, left, and Warsaw Pact face-to-face across the Fulda Gap.

Then one day, Nov. 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall crumbled, the Iron Curtain fell, the Cold War was over and Observation Point Alpha was obsolete.

By March 1990, the patrols and observation of the border had ceased.

Today the OP, a reconstructed strip of the border fortifications with the East German tower and a new building, the House on the Border in what is now the German state of Thuringia, make up the Point Alpha Memorial.

It's best to start on the eastern side of the border where the House shows what life on

that side was like. You can then walk the former patrol road past reconstructed samples of the border fortifications over the decades until you get to the East German guard tower and the final wire fence. Signs along the way describe what you are seeing.

Near the American tower stands a birch cross that marks a failed attempt by an East German in 1975 to escape to the West. Today it is dedicated to all of the victims of German division.

At OP Alpha, to get an idea of what the soldiers saw, climb the tower to the viewing platform for

More about the Berlin Wall:
stripes.com/go/Wall25
More photos of the Point Alpha Memorial:
stripes.com/go/Wallalpha



ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The address for Observation Point Alpha is Hummelsberg 1, 36169 Rasdorf. It is about 19 miles northeast of Fulda, about a two-hour drive from Wiesbaden.

TIMES

Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. November and March; 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday December to February; daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April to October.

COSTS

Adults 5 euros; reduced-fee admission (students, disabled persons) 4 euros; family ticket (two adults, minimum of two children) 15 euros. Group discounts. Parking is free.



NOVA AMP-RW/Stars and Stripes

FOOD

There is a small cafeteria on site. There are restaurants in Rasdorf and Geisa.

INFORMATION

The Point Alpha Foundation website is pointalpha.com.

— Michael Abrams

a look at the border and the town of Geisa. Then walk around the outpost. Check out the red line across the pavement, a barrier between East and West Germany that American tanks were not allowed to cross. Only jeeps and other small vehicles were allowed to cross.

An M60 tank, an M113 armored personnel carrier and a tent, similar to ones used before the barracks were built, also help visitors get an idea of what life was like at the outpost.

Inside one of the barracks is a museum that features the history of the Cold War and soldiers'

uniforms and equipment. Also on display is a barracks room (note the pin-up girl) and what would have been the commander's office. A motor pool hangar and a guardhouse stand at the original entrance to the outpost.

The Memorial of German Division and Reunification, erected in 2000, stands as a reminder of the country's history.

Today the Point Alpha Memorial is a monument to a reunited Germany and the soldiers who once served at a lonely outpost on freedom's border.

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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



Left: Smoked breast of goose, a thinly sliced appetizer served at Il Rifugio, is similar to prosciutto. Above: "L'impiccato," or "the hanged," is made up of Angus beef, venison and pork suspended on a spit.

PHOTOS BY JASON DUHR/Stars and Stripes

Queen's scones enjoy a place in history

By ANDREA WEIGL
The News & Observer
(Raleigh, N.C.)

Elaine Szlosberg of Raleigh, N.C., shared her recipe for Queen Elizabeth's Drop Scones, which has a fascinating history. As Szlosberg noted in her letter: "The queen served tea to General Eisenhower at Balmoral. He requested the recipe, and she sent it to him."

In 1959, Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie, visited Queen Elizabeth II at Balmoral, an estate house in Scotland that has been a private residence for the royal family since the 1800s. In January 1960, the queen wrote a widely documented letter: "Dear Mr. President, Seeing a picture of you in today's newspaper, standing in front of a barbecue grilling quail, reminded me that I had never sent you the recipe of the drop scones that I promised you at Balmoral. I hope you will find them successful."

These drop scones are not what Americans think of as scones, which are similar to biscuits. Their other name, Scotch pancakes, describes them best.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S DROP SCONES

Superfine sugar can be found in specialty grocery stores, or you can blitz regular sugar in a food processor.

Ingredients:

2 eggs
1/4 cup superfine sugar
1 1/2 cups whole milk, divided
3 cups all-purpose flour
3 teaspoons cream of tartar
2 teaspoons baking soda
6 tablespoons butter, divided

Directions:

Stir together eggs, sugar and 1/4 cup milk in a medium bowl until fully combined. Add flour and stir until completely wet. Add remaining 1/4 cup milk, cream of tartar and baking soda. Stir to combine. Melt 2 tablespoons butter and fold that into batter. Heat a large skillet over medium-low heat. Melt 1 tablespoon butter as needed. Spoon about 1/4 cup batter into pan and cook until bubbles appear, about 2 to 3 minutes. Flip, and cook until lightly browned, about 1 to 2 minutes. Serve with strawberry jam and English clotted cream or cream cheese.

Yield: 16 pancakes.

After Hours: Italy

By JASON DUHR
Stars and Stripes

If you're seeking a peaceful meal away from the bustle of Aviano Air Base, Italy, a narrow road that bends through the towns of Budoia and Dardago will lead you to the right place: Il Rifugio.

Trees from Val de Croda Park and the absence of street lights created a tranquil setting as I parked my car and enjoyed the sounds of nearby rushing water and the aromas of smoked meat from the kitchen.

The interior, which boasted stone walls and wooden beams across the ceiling, seemed to blend in perfectly with the restaurant's scenic, mountainous backdrop. A few pictures of Il Rifugio from 1953 to 1998 cover a portion of one wall, showing the transformation it has undergone since it was built in 1842 and used as a refuge for people seeking shelter and wanting to trade goods in the park.

Manlio Signora, who is Il Rifugio's chef, and his wife, Marina, opened the restaurant in 1992, and have embraced it as a member of their family.

"I have one son and one daughter, and Il Rifugio is our third son," Manlio said, as he explained how much time and work he puts into the restaurant. "It's a big part of our life and part of our family."

The Signoras grow vegetables for use at the restaurant and make the flour for an assortment of breads, including the soft and moist white flour bread I enjoyed with a creamy chive-and-butter spread before my appetizer. All of the breads served at Il Rifugio are baked at the restaurant.

Many of the cheeses, meats and fish served are locally acquired and are prepared depending on the seasons.

November happens to be the



Il Rifugio offers an inviting place to dine that blends in perfectly with the restaurant's scenic backdrop in Budoia, Italy.



Perfectly prepared pieces of venison, accompanied by a potato and zucchini, make up part of a delicious meal at Il Rifugio.

month of the goose in Italy. Manlio explained, and that will be a great time to order it from the menu.

I decided to take the advice — even though it wasn't November yet — and ordered an appetizer of smoked breast of goose, which was thinly sliced, much like prosciutto, accompanied by walnut bread and lightly salted butter.

I allowed Manlio Signora to choose the main course — L'impiccato, which translates as "the hanged." "Hanged" refers to the meat, which is suspended from a spit. He explained that his special recipe is a favorite among

patrons — in particular American guests, who typically enjoy a healthy serving of meat.

This specialty was no exception: three pieces of meat — Angus beef, venison and pork — hung from a spit, separated by a mildly seasoned potato and a bold tomato.

Although dessert isn't included with the combination meal, a query about what they're serving that day is a must. Much like the rest of my meal, the hazelnut-and-buckwheat cake, stuffed with raspberry jam, was more than fitting for this countryside restaurant.

With the outstanding quality

IL RIFUGIO

Address: Via San Tomè, 85, Val de Croda, Budoia, 33070 (PN), Italy

Times: 12:15-2 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Closed Wednesday; closed for lunch on Thursdays.

Costs: Appetizers run from 10 euros to 18 euros; first courses 9 euros to 12 euros; main courses 12 euros to 18 euros.

Attire: Casual.

Menu: In English and Italian. Menus do not change between meals, but some items can be served gluten-free upon request. For large groups with reservations, menus can be adjusted to meet the special event.

Information: Telephone: (+39) 0434 654915, website: Ilrifugio.net/uk. Reservations are highly recommended but not required. If interested, groups of 6-10 people can request a cooking lesson on Thursday nights, covering four recipes and dessert, plus a tasting afterward. Price is 150 euros for a group of six and 25 euros for each additional person up to 10 people.

— Jason Duhr

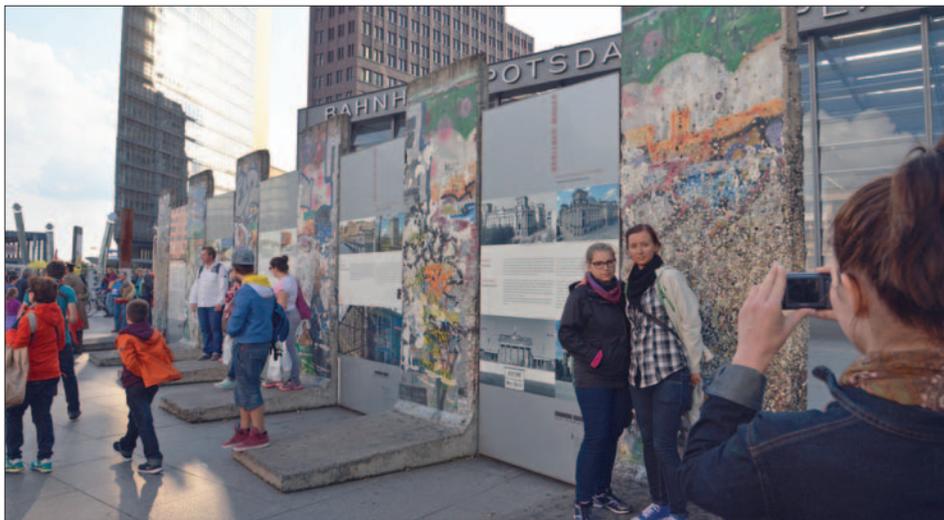
of its menu, it's no wonder that President Bill Clinton paid Il Rifugio a visit during a trip to Aviano in 1999.

"One of the best joys I have in life is when people come back after 15 or 20 years and still remember my dishes," Manlio Signora said. "You will find me here as long as I enjoy myself, and the day I stop enjoying myself you will find Il Rifugio closed."

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



On Potsdamer Platz in the German capital, visitors pose in front of re-erected pieces of the Berlin Wall. Before World War II, Potsdamer Platz was the busiest traffic junction in Germany, but throughout most of the Cold War, the area was a wasteland. Today it is once again a busy section of the city, with offices, theaters, hotels, restaurants, subway stops and lots of vehicular traffic.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS Stars and Stripes

Divided no more

A quarter century ago, Germany became one with the fall of the Berlin Wall

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

Nov. 9, 2014, will mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

On that evening in 1989, a chance remark by a midlevel East German government bureaucrat sent first a score, then hundreds, of people to the Wall's east-west border crossings.

Spokesman Günter Schabowski announced that the government had passed a regulation that would allow East Germans to travel to the West.

By midnight, thousands were crossing into West Berlin, and within days the inhuman barrier that for 28 years had separated families and friends and a great city was no more.

Soon afterward, the so-called *Mauerspechte*, or Wall (Wood)Peckers, attacked the Wall for souvenirs. Huge sections were removed to let traffic again move freely through Berlin.

By the time the two Germans were reunited on Oct. 3, 1990, much of the Wall had disappeared. Today, almost all of the barrier that had run nearly 97 miles through the city and

around West Berlin is gone, torn down, in part, to erase the bitter memory of Germany's Cold War division.

But there are places where you can still see the Wall. The best place to get a feel for how the Wall was 25 years ago is at the Berlin Wall Memorial Complex that runs for almost a mile along Bernauer Strasse.

The monument, unveiled in 1999 for the 10th anniversary of the Wall's fall, is made up of two tall steel walls that enclose a section of the original Wall, a guard tower and some of the obstacles a person would encounter trying to escape East Berlin.

Over the past 2½ decades, the complex has been expanded and includes the Chapel of the Reconciliation. Note the outline in stones in front of it that marks where the Church of Reconciliation, destroyed by the East German government in 1985, once stood.

Perhaps the most moving part of the complex is the Window of Remembrance, a memorial dedicated to 136 people who died at the Berlin Wall, including eight East German border guards. A photo of each person adorns the rust-covered steel wall. Family, friends and visitors often leave flowers or remembrance stones by the photos.

A line of steel poles marks where the Wall once stood, and information tablets explain the sites.

Although the Wall is no longer standing in most spots, you can



The Window of Remembrance at the Berlin Wall Memorial is dedicated to the 136 people who died at the Wall. The first was Ida Siekmann, pictured above, who tried to escape East Berlin by jumping from a third-story window in 1961.

sometimes see where it ran. Look down, and you will often find a double row of cobblestones running along the street, crossing sidewalks and sometimes even running into the sides of buildings. These mark where the Berlin Wall once stood.

The longest stretch of the Wall still standing is along Mühlenstrasse and the Spree River. The remnants have been turned into what is considered the world's largest open-air art exhibit, known as the East Side Gallery.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



Checkpoints and border crossings in and around Berlin

NOGA ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

FROM PAGE 30

The eastern side of the Wall is adorned with more than 100 murals painted by international artists. In some places, the Wall has been re-erected. At Potsdamer Platz and across from Checkpoint Charlie, graffiti-covered slabs have been set up, popular spots where tourists pose for pictures. Inside the Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus, a German parliamentary building across the Spree from the Reichstag, a section of the Wall has been re-erected where it once ran.

A remarkable remnant of the Wall stands along Niederkirchner Strasse, near Checkpoint Charlie. Covered with graffiti and scarred by souvenir hunters, this block-long stretch has been fenced in on one side to save it from scavengers.

On the other side it is within the grounds of an infamous site from a different era, the

"Topography of Terror," a documentation center on the grounds of the former Nazi SS headquarters. Some of the graffiti on this side is original, from the days it faced West Berlin.

The Berliner Mauerweg, or Berlin Wall Trail, traces the course of the Wall and the former East German border fortifications that encircled West Berlin. It is about 100 miles long and can be biked or

hiked. Maps and information markers dot the trail.

Along the way, you'll pass memorials to people who fled East Germany. One, on Zimmerstrasse, remembers Peter Fechter, a young man who was shot and killed by East German border guards on Aug. 17, 1962, while trying to escape to the West. The lower line of the marker reads "... he only wanted freedom."

abrams.mike@stripes.com

Story and photos about the East Side Gallery:

stripes.com/go/Walleast

More photos of the Berlin Wall Memorial: stripes.com/go/Wallmemorial



KNOW & GO

- For information on the Berlin Wall, including its history and maps, go to berlin.de/mauer/index.en.html
- Information on the Berlin Wall Memorial can be found at <http://berliner-mauer.com>

mobi/startseite.html?&L=1
 • Thousands of illuminated balloons will be lit the weekend of Nov. 9, tracing a more than nine-mile-long segment of the Wall.

— Michael Abrams



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A plaque in the cobblestones that mark where the Berlin Wall once stood gives the dates it existed.

Restaurant Directory

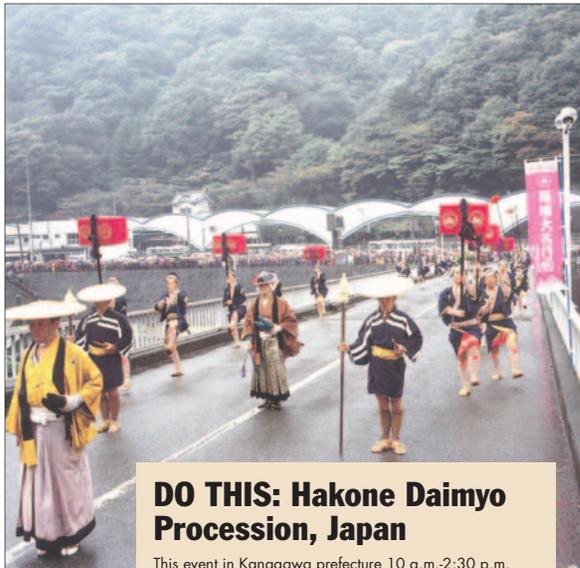
GERMANY

<p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Since 1978</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>China Restaurant Peking</i> Chinese and Mongolian Buffet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nikolaitan: 8-92637 Weiden/Of Tel. 0961-33896 Fax. 0961-34073/www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Kaiserslautern area</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">QUACK</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Enterweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-kl.de Tel. 0631/42828</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">PAPPELHAUS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steinernstrasse 22 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-5649669 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
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<p>Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Garmisch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open Wed-Mon: Noon-11pm Tues. Closed! Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 08821-57486 www.storienteat-restaurant-garmisch.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	<p>Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seewog</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Waldstr. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 063719522954 Fax: 063719522944 www.seewogpizzeria.de</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Villa im Tal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fine Dining - Events - Catering Adamstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
<p>Idar-Oberstein</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Restaurant Alte-Kasle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The place to go for the original open fire grilled Gaucho style steaks! Hauptstrasse 43-2, 55743 Idar - Oberstein 06781-28059/367733 www.restaurant-altekasle.de</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saytouni Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">SMOKETRIFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nassaustrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketribbq.com</p>
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<p>Hotel Am See</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kirchenhubacher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: +49 (0)9645-8444 - Mobil: +49 (0)175-402203 www.hotelamsee.de - hotelamsee@usa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Situating on the shore of the Räußwäher</p>	<p>Hotel de France</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's Taunusstraße"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tel: +49 (0)611-95 97 30 welcom@hotelfrance.com www.hotelfrance.com VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Joden's Diner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Seerobenstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainberg) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodens-diner.de</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodens</p>
<p>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 - Email: h5425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com Near the beautiful city park, close to Kelly & Patch Barracks. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Gabriel's Restaurant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden - Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriels-restaurant.de</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Brauhaus Castel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Ono-Saß-Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-castel.de</p>

WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



DO THIS: Hakone Daimyo Procession, Japan

This event in Kanagawa prefecture 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Nov. 3 features a procession from Hakone Yumoto Elementary School to Fujiya Hotel, re-enacting an Edo-period procession of daimyo warlords on their way to Edo Castle to pay their respects to the shogun.

Photo courtesy of Hakone Town

Japan: Autumn Rose Festivals

- Autumn Rose Festival in Ikuta Ryokuchi Garden (Kanagawa prefecture): Through Nov. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 9 a.m. on weekends, closed Monday; free.
Autumn Rose Festival in Jindai Botanical Garden (Tokyo): Through Nov. 4, closed Monday; 100,000 trees and shrubs, and 5,100 varieties of roses grow here; 500 yen to enter; Tokyo-park.or.jp.
Autumn Rose Festival at Keisei Rose Garden (Chiba prefecture): Through Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., open at 8 a.m. Nov. 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9; concerts and more.



Okinawa: 34th Tsuboya Pottery Festival

Tsuboya pottery masters exhibit their finest works, including jars and other goods sold at a 20 to 30 percent discount, and make shisa (lion dog) masks and use the pottery wheel at this festival at Naha Tsuboya Elementary School 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Nov. 21 to 24.



South Korea: Cheongsong Apple Festival

This event in North Gyeongsang province Nov. 7-10 is held to promote the excellent quality of apples grown in Cheongsong. For more: invil.org/english.

Wine festivals For a list of these events in Japan: stripes.com/go/pacwine



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



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Calendar titled 'ESCAPE TO THE HEART OF TOKYO!' showing reservation availability for November, December, and January. Includes a legend for available and not available dates.

Advertisement for 'Harvest Moon ESCOFFIER DINNER' featuring a couple in formal wear and details about the dinner event, including seating and dress code.

RESERVATIONS FOR ROOMS: room_rsv@thenewsanno.com or DSN 229-7121 CML 03-3440-7871 EXT.7121

We will respond with a confirmation number or contact you if your first choice of dates is not available. For current availability, call our Reservation Desk or check our website: www.thenewsanno.com Available dates on the above calendars are subject to change without notice.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



Courtesy of KTO NY

South Korea: Seoul Lantern Festival

This event Nov. 7 to 23 features hundreds of lanterns, each with a unique design and story, floating on Cheonggyecheon Stream. The festival started in 2009. For more: tinyurl.com/mgwprjn.

Utrip.com helps plan your next trip

It's OK to ask for a little hand-holding when planning your next trip.

Name: utrip.com

What it does: Acts as a virtual concierge to help you plan a day-to-day itinerary based on your travel style. Available for five cities in the United States and 28 cities across Europe.

What's hot: There are two ways to dive in. You can begin at its Destinations page, where you can get a great overview of a city, find out what it's known for and explore 16 ways to see it — through sports, entertainment, food, culture, history, etc. I preferred the other option: You type in your city and the dates, then check the Trip Profile selector to see its suggestions. You can toggle between "The First Timer," "The Returning Traveler," "The Luxury Traveler," "The Backpacker," use its picks or build your own. It's easy to refine the picks by using the scroll bar to indicate your activity interest level.

What's not: More cities, please. I'd love to see cities in Asia, Australasia, South America and Canada as well. Once the suggestions were in the day-to-day planner, I wanted to be able to manipulate their order throughout the day by clicking and dragging them in the itinerary planner.

— Jen Leo/Los Angeles Times



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



From poop to precious in a few simple steps: You start with arabica beans, above, which turn deep red when ripe. An Asian palm civet, right, a catlike mammal with a long snout, then eats them. Once workers collect the feces of the civet (or "luwak," as it's called in Indonesia), they remove the beans, wash them and turn them into grounds using a heavy mortar and pestle. The beans are roasted and steeped in water, resulting in a smooth-tasted cup of coffee.



This coffee is crap — and that's a good thing

Smooth Indonesian brew uses coffee beans excreted by the catlike civet

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Aesop's goose that laid golden eggs was, alas, a fable.

But Indonesia's catlike civet that poops a perfect cup of coffee?

That you can actually see, or more precisely, taste, in Indonesia.

Yes, *kopi luwak* coffee is now imported by and served in cafes around the world at exorbitant prices — it can go for as much as \$100 a cup in tonier establishments — but it's another thing entirely to venture into the belly of the beast for a sip, so to speak.

During a recent visit to Bali, I made my way to ground zero of this exotic version of coffee — a plantation named OKA Agriculture near Tirta Empul temple.

OKA is a kind of farmers co-op in central Bali, where they grow coffee, tea and cocoa on the sweeping slopes of volcanic mountains, the kind of terrain where both coffee trees and the Asian palm civet, or *luwak*, as it's called in Indonesia, thrive.

OKA, like many other coffee plantations in Indonesia, Vietnam and other neighboring countries, harvests coffee beans that have been eaten, semi-digested and then defecated by the *luwak*, which is a mammal about the size of a very large house cat.

Kopi luwak is said to be of superior taste for two reasons. First, the enzymes in the *luwak's* digestive tract are supposed to reduce the beans' bitterness and harshness. Second, the picky *luwak* chooses to eat only the highest-quality beans.



The undigested remains of coffee beans pass through the civet's gut, leaving chunks like these for cleaning and processing before being roasted.

OKA claims to run a free-range *kopi luwak* operation, which means they pick up the excreted beans left pell-mell by the nocturnal-eating animals, rather than force-feeding them in cages — a practice decried as inhumane by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

They did have a couple of *luwaks* on display in large cages near the co-op's tasting area, which is a warren of unadorned pavilions tucked under thickets of coffee trees. The pair spent most of their time curled up and sleeping in lumber perches in high branches.

Near the cages was a row of wicker baskets displaying the various stages of processing *luwak-luwak* beans. First was a batch of feces-bound chunks of beans about the size of dates. Next they were thoroughly

scrubbed. Whatever skin of the bean remained after that was then peeled off, and the beans were ready for roasting, which takes about an hour.

Time for brewing. Sampling all the coffees and teas at OKA is free — except the *kopi luwak*, which costs 50,000 rupiah (about \$4) — for a small, freshly made cup.

On the far low end of the caffeine scale, a cup of hot chocolate from pure ground cocoa beans is also served for free. The cup of *kopi luwak* is prepared in a vacuum coffee maker, a contraption that wouldn't be out of place in Frankenstein's laboratory. The grounds are placed in an upper chamber, which is connected by a tube to a cup of water in a thin glass chamber below. As a flame heats the water, the change in pressure



PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

A cup of "kopi luwak" coffee sells for 50,000 rupiah, or about \$4, at OKA Agriculture in Bali.

forces it up through a tube to the grounds, where it steeps.

The woman making my cup of coffee removed the flame after the blend had steeped for about a half-minute. As it cooled, it flowed back into the lower chamber.

It truly was one fine cup of coffee.

It did lack bitterness, particularly compared with a typical cup of coffee in Indonesia. It contained less acid than most coffees, but some java fans highly value coffee's acidic bite.

The smoothness of the *kopi*

luwak allowed more levels of flavor to stand out, such as an overtone lying somewhere between caramel and cashews. It also had a long finish so that a small sip lasted a long time.

Certainly the drinking experience was enhanced by the minute serving size. After all, one small sliver of expensive chocolate is exquisite; chomping on a two-pound bar dissipates the tasting's charm. So, I didn't have a second cup. I departed while just a touch of *kopi luwak's* mystique remained alive.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

Pizza Slice's slice of the day is always a treat, with interesting options such as Caesar salad pizzas occasionally making their way to the menu.

After Hours: Japan

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

Tokyo isn't exactly known for amazing pizza.

An endless sea of pizza joints and chain restaurants smother the sprawling metropolitan area, very few of which are particularly satisfying.

However, Pizza Slice, located on a quiet street in Shibuya's Sarugaku-cho neighborhood, brings authentic New York-style pizza to the busy city — and it does so in style.

The restaurant's white tile walls are decorated with large mirrors that run the span of the dining area, as well as racks of wine bottles that rest near the very high ceilings. Long wooden tables are the centerpiece of the room, practically inviting large groups to share a pie, though

PIZZA SLICE

Address: 1F Kamishin Building; 1-3 Sarugakucho, Dai-kanyama; Shibuya, Tokyo. Located about 10 minutes by foot from Shibuya Station.

Hours: 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Information: Phone: +81-3-5428 5166. Web: slice01.businesscatlyst.com

— Eric Guzman

smaller tables for pairs are along the walls.

The pizza, sold by the slice or by the 20-inch pie, is thin and crispy with just the right amount of cheese and sauce.

Cheese slices run about 400 yen. The pepperoni, mushroom, Italian sausage and olive and anchovy slices sell for about 500 yen. For 650 yen, you can get a

slice of white pizza or the slice of the day, the crowd favorites being the chorizo and mozzarella and Caesar salad slices. Pizza Slice also offers a popular lunch deal that includes two slices and a drink for about 1,000 yen.

Soft drinks are available, as well as coffee, wine, draft and bottled beer and liquor.

guzman.eric@stripes.com



Beers at Pizza Slice are served with optional paper bags.



A slice of mushroom pizza at Pizza Slice runs about 500 yen, but for 1,000 yen you can get two slices and a drink for lunch.



The restaurant's white tile walls are decorated with large mirrors that span the dining area.



Photos by Yomiuri Shimbu

The voices of chatting guests can be heard from inside Toco Tokyo Heritage Hostel in the Shitaya district in Tokyo.

Tokyo guest houses keep room costs low

By KOTARO NUMATA
The Yomiuri Shimbu

Reasonably priced guest houses in Tokyo have been attracting travelers from overseas since Tokyo won the bid to host the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.

Such accommodations are popular among foreign visitors because they provide a relaxing atmosphere where it is easy to communicate with other travelers as well as locals, although shared rooms, lavatories and shower facilities are the norm.

The Toco Tokyo Heritage Hostel in the Shitaya district in Tokyo opened four years ago in a renovated 90-year-old traditional private house. A Japanese-style garden outside the veranda of the wooden house creates the atmosphere of Japan's good old days.

Though guests do share rooms, lavatories and showers, the cost is affordable, starting from 2,700 yen (about \$25) per night. The living room includes a minibar that opens at 7 p.m. every night, so guests can enjoy chatting with other guests and Japanese locals who visit the lounge.

Guest house owner Takuya Kirimura, 29, said: "About 80 percent of our guests are

foreigners. Talking with local residents who come to drink at the bar provides a source of pleasure for them."

Another popular guesthouse is Khaosan World Asakusa Ryokan & Hostel in the Nishi-Asakusa district of Tokyo. As the renovated building was formerly a "love hotel" built during the economic bubble years, the guest house has intentionally maintained some rooms with their amorous atmosphere.

The cost of such rooms, which are popular among tourists, starts from 2,200 yen (about \$20) per person.

General manager Masahiko Magome, 32, said that not only the guests, but also "most of our staff are backpackers who go traveling on holidays. That's why we can be a little 'out of the box' in the services we offer to guests."

One of the guests, Christian Curj, 30, a graphic designer from Mexico, said with a smile that the guest house is reasonable and unique with friendly staff members, adding that he plans to tell his friends and family all about the charming lodging. Such affordable accommodations, which even many locals have not heard of, may give foreign travelers a chance to get to know the real Tokyo.



Foreign travelers chat in a guest room with bunk beds, tatami mats and an irori fireplace at a Tokyo guesthouse.

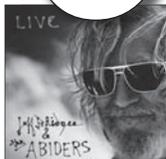
WEEKEND: MUSIC

6

Country albums worth a listen

By Joy Tipping/The Dallas Morning News

I spend a LOT of money on country music every fall, and this year has been no exception, with an amazing crop of new CDs. (Yes, I still buy CDs. So sue me. Listen to them however you like, legally, just listen!) These are the six recent (and about to be released) ones I'm enjoying most right now.



"Jeff Bridges & The Abiders Live." Never thought I'd say it, but I love Jeff Bridges even more as a singer than I cherish him as the Dude in *The Big Lebowski*. Of course, the band's name refers back to "The dude abides," as he always will. This CD is chock-full of Americana/Country that'll tear at your soul.

Top download: "To Live Is To Fly," by Townes Van Zandt.



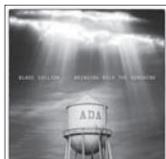
"747," Lady Antebellum. I used to good-naturedly (at least I hope it was taken that way) tease Hillary Scott a bit for her squeaky, Minnie Mouse-ish stage voice (she sounded much better in a recording studio). But she's obviously taken vocal training seriously and now she (and her bandmates) sound simply terrific, onstage or on record. Listening to this CD, I was reminded of Little Big Town, which is the highest compliment I can pay a country band.

Top download: "Down South."



"Sundown Heaven Town," Tim McGraw. I had to warm up to this one with a few listens, but now I'm totally adoring it. It's infectious, kinda-old, kinda-new country that will give you endless earworms.

Top download: "Mearnwhile Back at Mama's," a duet with wife Faith Hill.



"Bringing Back the Sunshine," Blake Shelton. He's a superstar because of "The Voice," but this guy's been building a career forever, and it shows. Every CD gets better, and he gets just a little more lovably, er, plucky on each one. Love the shout-out to his hometown of Ada, Okla., whose water tower is on the CD cover.

Top download: "Kiss My (expletive)," See what I mean about "plucky"?



"Old Boots, New Dirt," Jason Aldean. It's got not only top-notch musicianship and writing, it's passionate, hot (as in sexy) and loaded with cool musical riffs.

Top download: "Burnin' It Down," an unexpected ballad that'll have you bringing out your lighter to hold up, even if you're just listening in your dark living room.



"Pain Killer," Little Big Town. I saved this one for last, even though it's my favorite of the bunch, because it just dropped last week. The critic's advance copy was playing in my car and in my head pretty much nonstop since I got it, this harmony-focused band has never sounded better. My big wish: That sweet-voiced Kimberly Schlapman would get as big a hit off this album as the other three members have had previously (the four take turns on lead vocals).

Top download: Honesty? Every single one of them. But I'll choose the Schlapman-led "Good People," because I want people to notice her fabulousness.



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

Trippy tribute

Flaming Lips fail with full-length 'Sgt. Pepper' cover

The Flaming Lips

With a Little Help from My Fwends (Warner Bros.)

Ever wonder what "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" would sound like sung by robots? Me neither, but here's the answer.

The Flaming Lips have recorded a full-length tribute to the Beatles' 1967 album, and the music is even more far-out and psychedelic than the landmark original. This daft pop is silly, bombastic, druggy, irreverent and rude, with lots of bleeps and blasts, but it's not much fun or funny.

The songs lack the melodic charm and rhythmic bounce of the Fab Four renditions. Instead, there's so much distortion not even "Lovely Rita" is pretty.

And if the goal is merely to be weird, the Lips don't come close to matching William Shatner, who established the standard for bizarre Beatles covers when he sang "Lucy In the Sky With Diamonds." There's no Shatner here, but guest appearances by Miley Cyrus,



Moby, My Morning Jacket and J Mascis — among others — fail to salvage the set. The Lips forgo the famous sustained chord to conclude "A Day in the Life." Instead, the song and album end abruptly, as if someone finally wised up and pulled the plug.

— Steven Wine
The Associated Press

Jessie Ware

Tough Love (Interscope)

Jessie Ware's "Tough Love" is lovely, and that's not a tepid endorsement. No, the English singer's sophomore disc is lovely in the way of a sunset or a cruise around the lazy river after a long day at the waterpark.

The whole thing is a pleasure to enjoy, with Ware laying bare her aches and pains over a series of down-tempo tracks, her vocals easing listeners from song to song like a gentle current.

The title track and lead single, produced by BenZel (the duo that includes heavy-hit

ter Benny Blanco), has Prince-in-the-'80s written all over it, and Ware certainly does the vibe justice. She channels the music icon again on "You & I (Forever)," a gem that credits fellow Prince fan, R&B singer Miguel, who also lends his songwriting help on the deliciously sultry R&B track, "Kind of... Sometimes. Maybe."

"Sweetest Song" nearly lives up to its title, thanks to lush layers of guitars and echoing background vocals. "Champagne Kisses" is fun, and the vocal harmonies of "Keep on Lying" are nothing short of beautiful.

Ware's easygoing pace sometimes works against her, increasing the likelihood that

listeners are lulled into listening on autopilot. But an unexpected musical build-up or twist, such as in the final minute or so of the Ed Sheeran-assisted "Say You Love Me," does a good job of keeping ears engaged.

Other times, like on "Pieces," Ware arrests attention from the beginning. "It's illogical, I was nothing without you, you oughta know, I was lost when I found you," she sings, exerting her voice over a striking arrangement of strings.

"Tough Love" isn't for everyone, but of course, neither are sunsets or lazy rivers.

— Melanie J. Sims
The Associated Press



WEEKEND: MUSIC



Haters gonna H.A.T.E., H.A.T.E., H.A.T.E., H.A.T.E., H.A.T.E.

Taylor Swift's '1989':
A pivot into pop,
a misstep into
conformity

Taylor Swift

ANDREW ESTEY, INVISION/AP

By CHRIS RICHARDS
The Washington Post

Taylor Swift's "1989" — an antiseptic pop album scrubbed of any greasy country music fingerprints — qualifies as a rare and exquisite dud. When it's triumphant, it's like that Super Bowl Sunday when your team is up 42 points at the half. When it's bland, it's like noshing on empty calories in a dream you won't remember. Sometimes, somehow, it's both.

But above all, it's shrewd. The album's first single, "Shake It Off," preemptively shushes any criticism Swift might have shouldered for officially renouncing Nashville — and she does it with a cascading refrain that's pure pop. "Haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate," she chirps. "Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake — shake it off."

She sure sounds comfy inside that armor. Which is weird, right? One of the most powerful entertainers on the planet shouldn't have to sing in a defensive crouch. But in addition to penning re-talk mega-hits about breakups, make-ups, flame-outs and happily-ever-afters, Swift is always honing the illusion that she's an underdog — a global superstar earnestly beseeching our sympathies, our ears and our dollars.

"1989" makes that illusion seem more ridiculous than ever. Named after the year she was born, the 24-year-old's fifth album has all the pomp and razzmatazz of a big career pivot. But as a pop record, it's ultimately a declaration of conformi-



Taylor Swift

1989 (Big Machine Records)

ty. Swift wants to sound like everybody else. And she wants to be the best at it, too.

In a society that seeks constant validation through social media, "1989" serves as a conformist power fantasy that might resonate more than we'd like to admit — because it's also a big, dull gesture we're expected to applaud no matter what. Clap a little louder or be excommunicated to the valley of the haters. Those are your options in this ludicrous world.

Sonically, the world Swift curates on "1989" couldn't sound more familiar. She's assembled an arsenal of weapon-grade radio pop, largely with the help of Max Martin, the Swedish producer

who knows how to make Swift's hooks sound like reincarnated new-wave hits. Drum machines and synthesizers, good; acoustic guitars and decorative mandolins, bad.

These new environs feel light-years away from old Nashville, and they invite Swift to twist her voice in new ways. Unfortunately, her mild vocal acrobatics frequently expose the clunkiness of her lyrics. "Darling, I'm a nightmare dressed like a daydream," she talk-sings with an awkward wave of the finger on "Blank Space," a buzzy song that rightfully bites back at the bogus, boy-crazy image the tabloids have been burnishing off of Swift in recent years.

Meantime, her worst lyrics lurk in the album's book-ended odes to life in her new home of New York City. The chorus of "Welcome to New York" rings out like a desperate and over-cafeinated tourism jingle ("Welcome to New York — It's been waiting for you!"), while the hook of "New Romantics," a feisty bonus track, registers somewhere between moly and the back pages of a high school literary magazine. ("Heart-break is the national anthem/We sing it proudly.")

She's gone from describing adolescence like an adult to describing adulthood like an adolescent — all of which begins to undermine the long-running Swiftian myth that there's a secret power in being profoundly uncool.

Where is Taylor taking us on this grand odyssey of uncoolness? To a rom-com fairy-tale Manhattan that doesn't actually exist? To a new wave '80s she never

got to live through? To contemporary pop music's most tame and mundane center?

For a hint, flash back to 2008 when Swift was memorializing the battle for some forgotten boy's heart on "You Belong With Me," a masterful song about the misfit life: "She wears short skirts, I wear T-shirts/She's cheer captain and I'm on the bleachers." In light of "1989," that second line is the prophetic one. Young Swift wasn't off doing whip-its behind the Wawa or reading Kafka at Starbucks. She was on the sidelines, wishing she fit in, standing by.

And now here she is, ruling over all of popland, projecting the dim aura of an unbeschreiblich. Because yes, Swift is a woman thriving at the summit of a pop culture largely shaped by men. And yes, she's a truth-telling songwriter who's done some truly brilliant work. And yes, she's only 24 and her future remains bright and unwritten. All of those things are true and good.

But is it wrong to wish that Swift — at this point — was just the itty-bittiest bit cooler? Is it wrong to wish "1989" didn't sound so anonymous? Is it wrong to demand our leaders not make follower music? Is it wrong to feel disoriented and disheartened by the effusion of suck-uppy articles dutifully praising these unimaginative songs? Is it wrong to squirm knowing that those same songs will likely saturate our public spaces for years — or maybe even the rest of our lives?

Asking these questions doesn't make you a hater. It makes you a listener.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

By ROHAN PRESTON
Star Tribune

It's around 3 p.m. on Oct. 1, the biggest day in Marlon James' career — if not his life. His third novel, "A Brief History of Seven Killings," hit bookstores with more buzz than a swarm of bees.

James is on his phone with prominent Jamaican blogger Annie Paul, who has just published her interview with him online. The blog post, in which James discusses his novel about the 1976 attempted assassination of Bob Marley in Kingston, has upset editors at The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, each of which has a story on James coming out soon.

"Can you please take it down?" James asks Paul, no sign of panic or upset in his voice.

She wonders why anyone would care about her little blog in Jamaica.

"It's just for a little bit," he says. "It's an embargo thing."

Reluctantly, Paul agrees. "Alright, cool," he says, signing off. "The Times, I've worked with them — they always have to be first."

The media storm is all about "Seven Killings," a nearly 700-page novel published by Riverhead, a Penguin imprint. The press is sending James on a multi-week national tour to support a work that blunt New York Times critic Michiko Kakutani called "epic in every sense of that word: sweeping, mythic, over-the-top, colossal and dizzyingly complex."

Novelist Russell Banks has been similarly effusive, saying that "Seven Killings" is "scary and lyrically beautiful — you'll want to read whole pages aloud to strangers."

The book is "an indispensable and essential history of Jamaica's troubled years," said Publishers Weekly.

Make no mistake: "Seven" is no easy airport read. The novel, which James has been thinking about for decades and which he completed over the past four years, radiates from the Dec. 3, 1976, assassination attempt on Marley, the reggae superstar. Two days after dodging most of the bullets, an injured Marley headlined a peace concert in Kingston, the Jamaican capital, standing between the leaders of the two political parties like, he would later say,

Jesus between the two thieves.

James uses the assassination attempt as a touchstone to create an imaginative, Joycean mosaic of social history that pulls in a dizzying cast of characters.

"Seven Killings" takes place in 1970s Jamaica, where the CIA, intent on Jamaica's not becoming a socialist country, armed rival political gangs that would morph into the posses that ruled parts of New York and Miami in the 1980s and 1990s. There are spies, gang bosses, politicians, musicians, lovers and dreamers.

James' first novel, "John Crow's Devil" was published by small, independent Akashic Press. He moved to Riverhead for "The Book of Night Women," a novel set in the 19th century and told in a woman's voice. That one has been optioned for a film, but it didn't approach the rapturous reviews that make "Seven Killings" a breakout book for the 43-year-old author.

James has the physique of the track runner he once was (his specialty was the 200 meters, although he could not cut it in the land of Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce). To tame his dreadlocks, he sometimes wraps his hair in a bandanna. And he inspires awe in his students at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn.

It seems that he has been living for this moment. On his official publication day, as he bounds into his rented loft atop the Midtown Global Market in south Minneapolis, he is greeted by a blast of bright light coming in large windows that give a panoramic view all the way to St. Paul. Framed posters and photographs of primitives and nudes cover the walls, along with framed album covers — Hendrix, the Stones, Grace Jones.

It's the kind of place where Jean-Michel Basquiat and David Bowie would feel right at home.



PHOTOS BY RENEZ JONES SCHNEIDER/Star Tribune

Marlon James teaches a class at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn. The author is drawing rave reviews for his latest novel, "A Brief History of Seven Killings."

James sits at a table and flips open his MacBook Air to see what all that fuss is about. He clicks on the article in the Times, hoping aloud that he hasn't used up his 10 free stories this month. The author photo strikes him first.

"That's the one they chose?" James says. "I thought I was smiling; I'm not that serious."

His phone buzzes constantly, and there also are dings coming from his computer indicating social-media updates from friends and followers. He switches to Facebook, and exclaims as he sees who has posted on his page: "Victor Chang!" he says. "He was my first writing teacher at UWI," the University of the West Indies.

As he reads, he pauses to address a question of language that comes up about this work. The book is told in

voices from a wide strata of Jamaican society, from slang and Patoa to the queen's English. Patoa, he says, is not some dialect of English or, worse, "broken English," but its own language.

"It has its own rules, grammar, everything that a language needs to function," James says. "True, it's not written down, but not every language is written."

"Seven Killings" is James' imaginative attempt to make sense of his formative years. He was born in 1970, two years before Michael Manley swept to power, promising a Sweden-style socialist paradise. On the other side was American-born Edward Seaga, often referred to as CIA-ga. More than a thousand people died in political violence that brought Seaga to power in 1980. Manley returned to power from 1989 to 1992.

'Epic in every sense of the word'

Marlon James examines 1976 assassination attempt on Bob Marley in 'Seven Killings'

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF SEVEN KILLINGS
A NOVEL BY
Marlon James



WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“Wish I Was Here”: A man (Zach Braff) faces personal and professional crossroads. Braff has had TV and film success with “Scrubs” and “Garden State.” Even as good as those were, nothing compares to the quality of performance, writing and direction he brings to “Wish I Was Here.” Writing what he knows, Braff plays Aidan Bloom, a kind-hearted actor who just can’t get a big break. That’s not been a problem because his successful and supportive wife Sarah (Kate Hudson) has always been there to take care of the family and home. Things change when Aidan must home school his children. Braff’s film pulls you into a multi-generational story that will make you laugh as hard as you cry.

“WRRP in Cincinnati: The Complete Series”: Did you every wonder what became of this TV show? Wonder no more. The entire series is being released in a 13-disc set. It not only features the bizarre antics of the staff of the low-rated radio station, but it also includes first-rate music from The Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen, The Doors, Grateful Dead, Blondie, Paul McCartney and Wings, Van Morrison and The Police. The music might be dated, but the comedy remains fresh. That’s because the cast is one of the most underrated of all time. Tim Reid and Howard Hesseman remind us how fun radio was in the ‘70s, while Gary Sandy and Gordon Jump provided many heartfelt moments. If nothing else, the DVD set should be in your collection for the show’s classic Thanksgiving episode.

Also new on DVD:

“Deliver Us from Evil”

“Plastic”: Young criminals come their way into a luxurious life.

“Accused, Series 1&2”: Anthology that follows a different character each week.

“America: Imagine the World Without Her”: Documentary that looks at what the world would be like without America.

“Behaving Badly”: Selena Gomez stars in this tale of a teen’s attempts to find love.

“Rumours of Glory”: DVD set taken from the pages of the coming autobiography by Bruce Cockburn.

“Lovejoy, Series 3”: Ian McShane plays the crime-solving antiques dealer.

“A Most Wanted Man”: Illegal immigrant gets caught in an international war on terror.

“Nightbreed: The Director’s Cut”: Clive Barker tale of terror.

“How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson”: Six-part series hosted by science and technology author Steven Johnson.

“Miss Marple: Volume One”: Miss Jane Marple (Joan Hickson) solves four baffling mysteries.

“Squirm”: Town’s terrorized by crawling creatures.

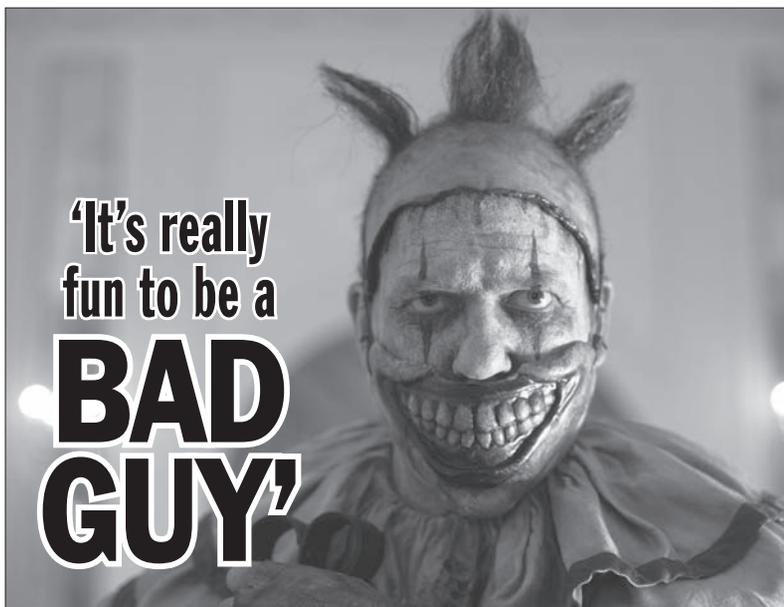
“The Reckoning”: Memory card reveals details behind death of a sibling in an unsolved hit and run case.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



FOCUS FEATURES/AP

Pierce Gagnon, left; Joey King; and Zach Braff in the DVD release “Wish I Was Here.”



FX

John Carroll Lynch stars as Twisty the Clown on “American Horror Story: Freak Show,” which airs Thursdays on AFN-Spectrum.

‘American Horror Story’ actor John Carroll Lynch is scary good

BY GINA MCINTYRE
Los Angeles Times

When “American Horror Story” creator Ryan Murphy first contacted actor John Carroll Lynch about a possible role on the fourth season of his gleefully deranged hit, he was upfront about his aims for a new character, a silent, grinning killer straight out of a child’s nightmare.

“He described it in a way that I understood it to be somebody calling me up and going, ‘We’d like you to play my version of the Phantom of the Opera,’” Lynch recalled recently. “He said he wanted to create the most terrifying clown in the history of television.”

By all accounts, he succeeded. Lynch’s Twisty the Clown has become the chief talking point of “American Horror Story: Freak Show,” quite an achievement considering Murphy’s stocked the latest season of his Emmy-winning anthology series with conjoined twins, a bearded Kathy Bates and a three-breasted hermaphrodite played by Angela Bassett.

The artistic grandchild of Tod Browning’s “Freaks” and Katherine Dunn’s culty “Geek Love,” “Freak Show” centers on stardom-obsessed Elsa Mars (Jessica Lange), who brings her carnival to Jupiter, Fla., in 1952 and soon recruits conjoined sisters Dot and Bette Tattler (Sarah Paulson) into her revue, certain that they’ll revive lagging interest in the show.

But the locals greet the performers with hostility and suspicion, which only intensifies after a series of inexplicable murders and abductions shocks the sleepy Southern town.

Unlike Elsa’s circus, “Freak Show” had no trouble attracting viewers when it debuted this month. A total of 10 million people watched the season premiere,

making it the most watched program in the history of FX.

Not surprisingly, the show already has been renewed for a fifth season, and Murphy is also creating a companion series, “American Crime Story.”

Not everyone was pleased with what they saw, however — some children’s entertainers complained that Twisty was likely to exacerbate coulrophobia, the fear of clowns. And they might have a point.

In his first moments on screen, Twisty, wearing stained satin ruffles and a mask of giant teeth, interrupts a lovers’ lakeside picnic, presenting a young woman with plastic flowers before stabbing her boyfriend to death on their red, checkered blanket. He imprisons his living victims in an abandoned school bus hidden in a remote locale.

Lynch insists, though, that while Twisty is a terrifying villain, he’s more than just a movie slasher, and upcoming installments of the show, including a two-part Halloween episode, will reveal telling details about his personal story.

“It’s great to play a character that is so starkly drawn, and it’s really fun to be a bad guy,” Lynch said. “In this case I really like that Ryan and the writers have provided not only a really terrific, scary character, but also they provided a lot of humanity that you’ll learn about as the season progresses.”

“I think a lesser actor would have thought of it as a ghoul or something two-dimensional and just walked around and wore the makeup and would have done nothing else,” said Finn Wittrock, who plays Twisty’s “acolyte” Dandy Mott on the series. “John, even when he’s just walking around, he’s really doing the work of an actor and finding some emotional depth. As the episodes go on, you learn a lot more about Twisty’s humanity, so he gets to show his chops a little bit more.”

Originally from Colorado, Lynch, 51, has been a working actor for decades, with dozens of credits to his name. He played the cross-dressing, down-on-his-luck older brother on “The Drew Carey Show,” contract killer Varlynn Stroud on HBO’s earlier sideshow-themed series “Carnivale” and, more recently, a KGB informant on FX’s acclaimed spy drama “The Americans.”

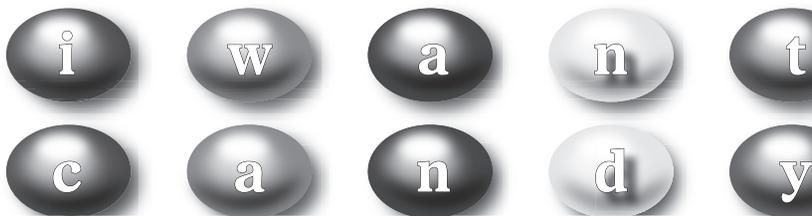
When weighing whether to play Twisty, Lynch said he found himself intrigued by the hurdles he’d need to leap for the role.

“I knew that the character was going to be primarily silent, and that was a challenge,” he said. “I knew the character, most of his face was going to be covered, and that was a challenge. It’s like if you were buying and somebody said, ‘We’d like you to fight that guy, but we’d like you to fight that guy just with your feet and we’ll tie your hands behind your back.’ I would say no to that challenge, but I said yes to this one.”

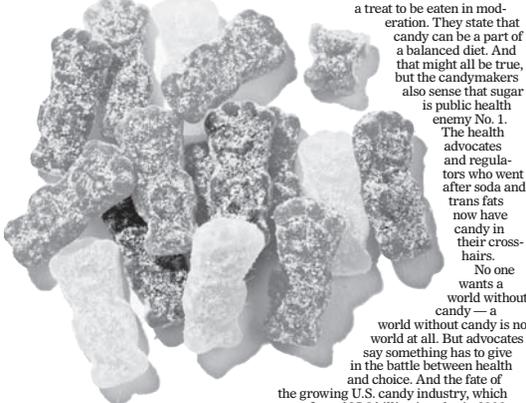
The actor described the experience of seeing himself for the first time in full costume as “macabre, to say the least.” He made balloon animals during the roughly 90 minutes it took for makeup artists to apply the character’s skullcap and sadistic smile, a prosthetic appliance that covers the bottom portion of Lynch’s face.

Given Twisty’s extreme look, the character is one sure to inspire legends of Halloween costumes. But Lynch has a suggestion for fans considering dressing as the murderous clown for the holiday — maybe don’t. “I heard from other people on Twitter that they’re very excited about Twisty Halloween costumes, and all I can think is, ‘You people are nuts!’” Lynch said with a laugh. “You have no idea what you’re getting yourself into. How’re you going to have a nice apple cider? Go as a princess. Come on.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



Are sweet treats the next battleground in America's health war?



By JOE HEIM
The Washington Post

We take joy where we find it in life, and I've almost always found joy in candy. Unwrapping a frozen Charleston Chew, biting into the sweet, salty perfection of a Reese's peanut butter cup or daintily consuming a handful of unjustly maligned candy corn reaffirms the world's wonder for me. I seek out candy's company, near and far. In 1992, I wrote a letter to Cadbury executives in England urging them to make more of their British brands available in the United States. "If we find that enough members of the public share your enthusiasm, you may well find the Cadbury range will be expanded," they wrote back. Who, I wondered, could possibly not share my enthusiasm?

When the candymakers tell me their product is about fun and pleasure, I not only believe them, I want to be one of them. And yet.

And yet America is a nation of scale-busters. Two out of every three of us are overweight. We're No. 1 with a bullet on the world's obesity chart, and no one is catching us anytime soon. A sugar-fueled diabetes epidemic looms. Public health advocates long ago took notice of this rising fat and sugar tide and have pushed for changes to stem a health disaster. Soda companies have come under siege; trans-fats were punished into near oblivion. The phrase "high-fructose corn syrup" is now uttered with lip-curling contempt.

America's candymakers insist that they aren't the problem. They point out that Americans get only 2 percent of their daily calories from candy. They argue that Americans understand that candy is

a treat to be eaten in moderation. They state that candy can be a part of a balanced diet. And that might all be true, but the candymakers also sense that sugar is public health enemy No. 1. The health advocates and regulators who went after soda and trans fats now have candy in their cross-hairs. No one wants a world without candy — a world without candy is no world at all. But advocates say something has to give in the battle between health and choice. And the fate of

the growing U.S. candy industry, which went from \$25.8 billion in sales in 2013 to almost \$34 billion last year, might tell us something about where America is headed in terms of health, regulations and the freedom to choose whatever we want to eat whenever we want to eat it.

The future of food takes shape daily across Washington, D.C., in the offices of lobbyists, industry regulators, senators, representatives, think tankers, policy analysts and public health advocates. The stakes are high for everyone.

For 15 years, Margo Wootan, director of nutrition policy at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, has been pushing hard on the anti-sugar front. She worked with a large coalition to bring about the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act in 2010, which brought vast changes to nutrition requirements at all schools that receive any federal funding.

In addition to improving the standards of food served in schools and increasing fruit and vegetable servings, a portion of the law that went into effect in September required that all candy, sugary drinks and non-nutritional snacks be removed from school cafeterias and vending machines. "By taking candy out of schools we're saying candy is not an everyday food, and it's something you should be eating a lot less of," Wootan says.

By the end of the lobbying process on that bill, the candy industry was aligning with parents and with an overall push toward healthier eating that has been led in no small part by first lady Michelle Obama's fitness-awareness efforts. For a few advocates, the law didn't go far enough, but with its passage, the anti-sugar forces had notched their first significant piece of legislation.

Just as schools were shedding candy, a less-noticed effort was taking place at

state and local levels. From Seattle to Los Angeles to Chicago to New York to Washington, governments began implementing programs that reduced or eliminated the sale of candy and unhealthy snack food in public buildings. "Governments are deciding that it really doesn't make sense for them to have obesity campaigns, which are often high-profile and a big priority, and then you walk into the health department or any public building and they have these vending machines that are chock-full of candy and soda and chips," Wootan tells me.

Wootan senses momentum and doesn't want to see the sugar-removal effort stop at the boundaries of schools and public buildings. She is preparing a campaign to rid candy and unhealthy snacks from all checkout aisles of grocery and convenience stores. This strategy is borrowed from Great Britain, where earlier this year Tesco, the United Kingdom's largest supermarket and convenience store chain, announced it would remove all candy at checkouts. Other U.K. chains are doing the same, says Malcolm Clark, coordinator of the London-based Children's Food Campaign, which led the effort.

Could candy removal work on this side of the Atlantic? Currently, most supermarkets in the United States have one or two checkouts where candy is not sold. Those are mostly intended for parents who have small children and don't want to endure the ruthless negotiating of 4-year-olds with visions of Sour Patch Kids in their heads.

But Wootan isn't just worried about whiny kids; she's also thinking about weak-willed grown-ups. "Companies know that at the end of a shop, your willpower is at a very low point, and then they assault you with this huge display of candy, knowing that it will induce impulse buying. Pushing people to buy food that they didn't want, that is going to harm their health, just doesn't seem appropriate, given the high rates of obesity."

Of course, the idea of restricting choice simply because Americans might not want to make a healthy choice is not roudly popular, particularly not with ... Americans.

But what is to be done, and who should decide? Is America capable of going on a diet and eating healthier without being pushed and prodded and punished to do so?

There's a clean-cut sameness to the offices of most Washington trade groups. In a button-down town, a lobby shop shouldn't stand out too much. Unless you represent candy.

The National Confectioners Association painted its Georgetown office with a swirl of colors that borrows from every shade of Skittle. Imagine a workplace designed by Willy Wonka. Every piece of

art in this brightly lit office is candy-themed. There's an American flag fashioned from Tootsie Pop wrappers, Hershey Bar coasters on the tables. There is also a glass-enclosed, climate-controlled candy room where visitors are invited to help themselves from a staggering assortment of the best-known names in American confectionery. Full disclosure: I helped myself. (I couldn't help myself.)

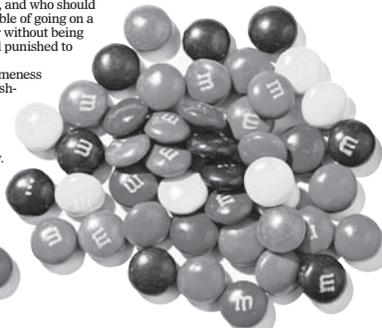
John Downs took the reins earlier this year as the NCA's new chief executive. Sitting on a couch in his executive suite across from the candy room, the former Coca-Cola executive sips from a Diet Coke and makes candy's argument against regulation.

"There is so much negative publicity around sugar," he says. "So we've got to do a better job, obviously, in articulating our case in the role that candy plays in a balanced lifestyle. ... I think our message is clear. It's about balance and moderation."

"Balance and moderation" is a phrase he will repeat numerous times over the next half-hour, and it is a phrase echoed mantrically by industry leaders. The health and wellness issue is a sensitive topic, and candymakers have become accustomed to playing defense and occasionally giving ground. When criticized for aiming television advertising at children, most candymakers agreed to pull back. Brands have also created sugar-free offerings and reduced portion sizes.

But candy can change only so much before it stops being candy. And the NCA is pushing back against demands to further limit its marketing or availability to customers. Removing candy from all checkout aisles would be a big blow to the industry.

"The majority of consumers don't want government to restrict their access to food; they want education around how to consume indulgent foods," says Alison Bodor, the NCA's executive vice president. "Even dieters will say there's a role for candy in the diet, albeit a small one. And we're all fine with that. We agree. But removing access or trying to remove choice is an unfortunate outcome, and I think most consumers reject that policy and feel that they can make that decision themselves."



The World Health Organization this year changed its maximum daily recommended intake of sugar for the average adult to 25 grams, the equivalent of 47 M&M's.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT SUCHMAN/For The Washington Post

WEEKEND: FAMILY

Second time around

Grandparents raising grandkids describe joy, isolation

By KATE SANTIHI
Orlando Sentinel

Terresa Apgar once envisioned her senior years as a time of globe-trotting travel and a busy social life. Instead, she's chauffeur-ing an 8-year-old to taekwondo, learning about attention deficit disorder and supervising math homework.

"Look, I'm 58. My husband is 67. This is not where we'd planned on being in this stage in life," the Deland, Fla., resident said. "Everything in our lives revolves around the school schedule. It's not like you can just dash off to Vegas."

Like 2.9 million grandparents across the country, 150,000 of them in Florida, Apgar and her husband, Deland Mayor Bob Apgar, have become the main caretakers for their grandchild. Their numbers have climbed steeply in recent years — 12 percent from 2000 to 2010 — and demographers have tracked a continuing increase going back three decades.

Financial pressures are blamed for the trend during the Great Recession, but other reasons range from parental drug abuse to incarceration to death and tragedy.

Apgar was awarded custody when her younger son was diagnosed with brain damage in a suicide attempt.

"I immediately read everything I could find on grandparents raising grandchildren," she said. "Almost all of it was this touchy-feely stuff that doesn't tell you what it's really like. It's very idealistic."

The complaint is a common one. After all, it's one thing to dote on your grandkids during a visit. It's entirely another to be responsible 24/7 — especially at a time in life when you might not have the energy you did a generation earlier.

But for Sharon Hampton, 58, the biggest struggle is financial. Granted custody of her two grandsons in 2010 when the parents could no longer care for them, the former Central Florida social worker had to quit work to take care of the toddlers when she couldn't afford child care. Husband Trevor, 10 years her senior, then went back to work during what was supposed to be his retirement.

"There are a lot of grandparents out there like us who will do whatever it takes to raise their grandchild," Hampton said. "But it's expensive. And I have to look at every penny I spend on myself. We have good insurance, but there's a \$30 co-pay to go to the doctor. For \$30, I can pay for their tennis lessons for a week."

After a severe stomach ailment sent her to the hospital recently, she ignored a doctor's recommendation that she be admitted, instead opting to return home to care for the boys.

"When you see the smiles on their faces, when you see them laugh, when you see them run, or help or crawl into the bed with us at 1 or 2 in the morning — well, you can't beat that kind of love," she said. "If they were to be taken away now, it would break our hearts."

That doesn't mean, though, that she wouldn't like a little more help. If she were to turn the 5- and 6-year-



JOE BURBANK, ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

Sharon Hampton, 58, embraces her two grandsons at their home in Sanford, Fla. Granted custody of the boys in 2010, Hampton, along with her husband, Trevor, says the biggest struggle in raising them is financial.

old boys over to the state, foster parents would be paid about \$780 a month to care for them, and the children would be eligible for four-year college scholarships.

“When you see the smiles on their faces, when you see them laugh, when they run to you for help or crawl into the bed with us at 1 or 2 in the morning — well, you can't beat that kind of love.”

Sharon Hampton
raising grandchildren, ages 5 and 6

As a guardian, Hampton can get only \$211 a month.

"I think more grandparents would do this — and more children would be kept out of foster care — if not for the financial burden," she said.

The nonprofit advocacy group Generations United estimates that grandparents save taxpayers \$6.5 billion a year in child-welfare costs — money the government would otherwise pay to strangers to take care of the children.

"Most of these grandparents are not doing this with guardianship or custody — most are doing it informally," said Amy Goyer, AARP's

designated grandparenting expert. "Some of them are really, really struggling."

On the other hand, Goyer said, many grandparents don't realize there is some help available. The federally funded Temporary Aid to Needy Families, for instance, will give grandparents a small stipend based solely on the child's income, which is typically zero. And in Florida, grandparents raising their grandchildren can apply for respite care so the elders can take short breaks from parenting duties.

State officials say they're doing everything the law allows them to do.

"It's a delicate subject when you talk to these relatives," said William D'Aiuto, managing director for the Florida Department of Children and Families' central region. "I understand their concern, and we appreciate them stepping up and sacrificing for these children, but the Legislature has set the caregiver and foster care rates, and that's what we use."

The sacrifices can be considerable. "The biggest hurdle my granddaughter and I had was my husband," said Joan Hansen, a 75-year-old Orlando retiree. "He had never had children before — and to have a child come in when we were pretty set in our lifestyle was hard for him. When she got to be a teenager and they didn't get along, he said, 'I don't need this' and left."

Hansen was 61 when her daughter — near the end of a battle with breast cancer — called the family to her bedside to announce her wishes for her then-5-year-old daughter. "There was really no discussion," Hansen said. "And I would do it all over again, no question. Sure, her rebellious years caused me some grief, but she brought me so much joy."

SPOUSE CALLS

Books to help children understand military life

Today's the day for treats, and there's no better treat than a good read, in my book. Reading together is a good place for parents to begin talking to their children about the stresses of military life, particularly about war and deployment when those events touch their lives. This collection of books celebrates the experiences of military families, both past and present, giving children a perspective and a sense of their place in history as military kids.

"My Daddy is a Marine," by Alia Reese
This board book, also available as "My Mommy is a Marine," was created by Marine wife Alia Reese, inspired by the needs of her own children during her husband's frequent deployments. The book's sturdy pages have slots where photos can be inserted to personalize this military life story. Reese's master's degree in psychology taught her that photographic images of an absent parent combined with frequent stories told to children helped maintain a closer memory of a parent who is far away, so the book doubles as a personal photo album.

Reese is developing books for other service branches as well. Visit heartstarpress.com for more information.

"Knit Your Bit: A World War I Story," by Deborah Hopkins

This story about a family during WWI illustrates the challenges of the homefront. "It takes just as much courage to stay behind," Mikey's soldier father tells him before he heads overseas. Encouraged by his sister, Ellie, Mikey and his pals take up knitting to meet the urgent need for warm socks for troops serving overseas during a cold European winter. The book is based on actual events, like a community knitting competition in New York's Central Park in 1918, and includes historical information and photos.

"The Year of the Jungle," by Suzanne Collins
Drawing on her own experience when her father served during the Vietnam War, Collins tells the story from her perspective as a 6-year-old. Collins, author of the bestselling "Hunger Games" series, treats this topic seriously. Collins describes her fears for her father and the ways he has changed when he returns home. Parents should review this picture book before sharing it with young children and be prepared for the questions it might inspire. A good catalyst for conversations with children about war.

"Coming Home," by Greg Rutch
With few words, this picture book creates the experience of homecoming day, as a boy waits for his parent to come home from deployment. Expressive illustrations convey the anticipation, showing various kinds of reunions — with pets, friends and spouses — until finally the boy is reunited with his mother. The uniforms suggest this story was set during Desert Storm, but the emotions depicted are applicable to any deployment.

"Night Catch," by Brenda Ehrmantraut
A soldier father about to deploy invents a game of catch with the North Star to connect him with his son while he's away. This book, written by a military sister, illustrates the connection as well as the distance, showing the time difference between the father's location and the son's. "Night Catch," which includes background information about the North Star, is also the basis for a planetarium production at the Hayden Planetarium and the Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas. www.starsnight.org

"Born an Angel," by Briley Rosstter
This story, written by the 12-year-old daughter of a Marine, is about overcoming a different kind of challenge. Briley writes the true story of her sister, Ainsley, who has a disabling disease, and how the family takes Ainsley along to run races and other events. "Born an Angel" in spite of adversity. Proceeds of the book go to Ainsley's Angels of America, a foundation that builds awareness about the special needs community.

"Sometimes We Were Brave," by Pat Brisson
This picture book is about Jerome, whose mom Navy mom is away at sea. Before leaving, Jerome's mom told him to "be brave." Jerome learns that being brave is different than he first thought.

Many of these books are available at militaryfamily-books.com, some military exchanges, bookstores, as well as local and base libraries.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Wife." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

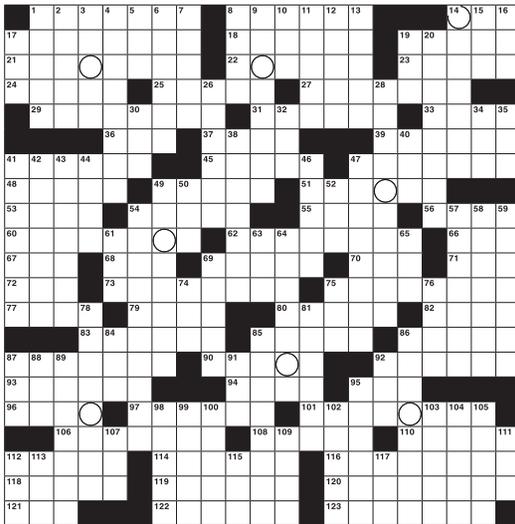
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

WINNERS' CIRCLE

BY CALEB EMMONS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Note: When this puzzle is completed, the eight circled letters, starting in the upper left and proceeding roughly clockwise, will spell an appropriate word ... or a different appropriate word.

- ACROSS
- 1 Boors
- 8 Latin dances
- 14 Opponent of 14-Down, in sports
- 17 Park place
- 18 Woodworker's vise
- 19 Flip ___
- 21 Opponent of 3-Down, in Greek myth
- 22 Opponent of 9-Down, in classical literature
- 23 Certain marked-down item: Abbr.
- 24 Like court testimony
- 25 Product once pitched by Michael Jackson and Mariah Carey
- 27 Where some "Kiss-514-V-G" is done
- 29 Least taut
- 31 The "L" of "A = L x W"
- 33 Mexico City sight
- 36 Any ship
- 37 Banjoist Fleck
- 39 Steep slope
- 41 March birthstone, traditionally
- 45 "Siegfried," e.g.
- 47 Yellow diner packet
- 48 Cue user, maybe
- 49 Google ___
- 51 Opponent of 28-Down, in comics
- 53 Martial artist Jacki e
- 54 Animal also known as a hog-nosed coon
- 55 "___ sur" ("Of course": Fr.)
- 56 Mouth, slangily
- 60 Opponent of 49-Down, in film
- 62 18 or 21
- 66 NPR's Shapiro
- 67 It may be taken from the neck of a superhero
- 68 Red topper
- 69 Snaps
- 70 Rough track condition
- 71 Baja aunt
- 72 Female gametes
- 73 A case might be made for one
- 75 Relative of neo-soul
- 77 Challenge
- 79 Hatfields or McCoys
- 80 "What ___?" (Mark Twain essay)
- 82 The works
- 83 Unusual diacritic used in Portuguese
- 85 Jack on "24"
- 86 Long-distance swimmer Nyad
- 87 Lila ___ Oscar winner for "Zorba the Greek"
- 90 Opponent of 64-Down, in the Bible
- 92 Breachlike water locales
- 93 Missouri tributary
- 94 Chirpy greeting
- 95 Knot
- 96 Opponent of 78-Down, in fabl e
- 97 Cousin of ibid.
- 101 Opponent of 86-Down, in games
- 106 Ornamental pond feature
- 108 Tickl e
- 110 Pasta seasoner
- 112 Rear
- 114 Where to emulate the locals, it's said
- 116 English city where the Magna Carta originated
- 118 Take over
- 119 Ideal worl d
- 120 Soothed
- 121 Part of a clown outfi t
- 122 Second
- 123 X's
- DOWN
- 1 A whole lot
- 2 Wassal l
- 3 See 21-Across
- 4 Part of many a silo
- 5 Address letters
- 6 Obsolete summer holder?
- 7 Postpaid encls.
- 8 The 12 of the Pac:12: Abbr.
- 9 See 22-Across
- 10 Inc.'s cousi n
- 11 Subbed (for)
- 12 ___ friends
- 13 Sardinelike fish
- 14 See 14-Across
- 15 Sleep (with)
- 16 Dutch financial giant
- 17 Acidity measures, informally
- 19 Diver's suppl y
- 20 The ___ City (New Orleans)
- 26 W.W. II craft
- 28 See 51-Across
- 30 Prefix with plunk
- 32 Wavy catcher?
- 34 Windy City terminal code
- 35 Collection of marks, for short?
- 38 Leader of ancient Ephesus?
- 40 '70s radical grp.
- 41 Good thing to hit
- 42 Attai n
- 43 What "America" has four of
- 44 Beer ___
- 46 Ararat successor
- 47 Stanley, for one
- 49 See 60-Across
- 50 Be behind
- 52 Not to do well
- 54 By force
- 57 Knock
- 58 Renovation holder?
- 59 Squares
- 61 One of the brands of Yum! Brands
- 63 What fog might delay, for short
- 64 See 90-Across
- 65 Hall-of-Fame outfielder Roush
- 69 Getting just a slap on the wrist, say
- 74 Loony
- 75 ___ Zion Church
- 76 Lock up
- 78 See 96-Across
- 81 3 x 3 x 3 container?
- 84 Day-care attendee
- 85 Riboflavin, e.g.
- 86 See 101-Across
- 87 Autobahn speed meas.
- 88 She, in Ri o
- 89 Sweetie pie
- 91 Tuna often served seared
- 92 Start of a bear market
- 95 ___ fly
- 98 Vice of Dorian Gray
- 99 "The Divine Comedy" division
- 100 Download alternative
- 102 Civil war president
- 103 North African capital
- 104 Missouri tributary
- 105 Creepers
- 107 Latin law
- 109 Essential part
- 111 Drug sold in microdots
- 112 Like some talent and emotions
- 113 Singer DiFranco
- 115 Reveal, poetically
- 117 Form of digital communication?: Abbr.

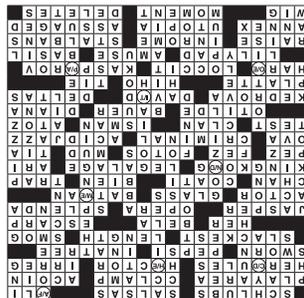


GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. ARCHIVE PHOTO OF THE DAY

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PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

FACES

Total recall

Nicole Kidman says memories are essential to her work

BY RYAN PEARSON
The Associated Press

Nicole Kidman didn't land the part she wanted in her first formal acting gig.

She had been angling to play Mary or perhaps an angel in the school nativity play, but was cast as a sheep. The 5-year-old actress' costume: a decorated car seat cover.

"Not my finest moment. But I felt amazing," Kidman said in an interview, laughing. "It's the beginning of my whole career. I bleated through the whole play, and got my first laugh. And I was hooked."

Kidman is reminiscing while promoting her thriller "Before I Go to Sleep," in U.S. theaters Friday. The 47-year-old actress plays a woman whose memory is wiped clean every night, and begins questioning her husband and others as she tries to unravel what happened to her.

Memory is key to Kidman's work. Tapping into feelings from past personal experiences — love, trauma, heartbreak, whatever — is essential to acting, she said.

"That's what we're made of is our memories, right?" she said. "Actors of course have to use things that trigger our emotions."

Kidman's very first childhood memories are apropos for the release date of her latest film.

"I remember Halloweening when I was about 3 with my parents when we lived in Washington, D.C.," she said. She was a ghost, dressed in a sheet with eyeholes cut out by her mother. "And then I remember eating snow when I was about 3 as well — wanting to taste it and being told I wasn't allowed to but still secretly doing it," she said. "Isn't that crazy? And I have a vivid memory of both of those things."

Kidman demurs when asked about her most memorable and forgettable filmmaking experiences. Certain characters do stick with her, though.

"A lot of times you stagger out of there. And sometimes it's sad to leave a character. Sometimes it's like ahhh, I can't wait to shed this," she said.

The one role she wanted to hold on to the longest: her Oscar-nominated turn as Satine in Baz Luhrmann's 2001 musical, "Moulin Rouge!"



Actress Nicole Kidman says among her first childhood memories is a Halloween in Washington, D.C., when she was 3. The actress has a new movie out about memory, a thriller called "Before I Go to Sleep," also starring Colin Firth and Mark Strong.

Taylor Swift talks books, music with kids

BY LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

Who says kids don't read? Not Taylor Swift.

The superstar made a stop Tuesday night on her busy tour promoting her new album to share her passion for reading and writing with a gaggle of New York City public school kids and 100 more giggling on computer screens via Skype from classrooms in Michigan and California.

Swift, whose "1989" was expected to debut at No. 1 next week, is a lifelong lover of books and writing, particularly songwriting, but she told The Associated Press after chatting with the tweens and teens at Scholastic that she isn't turning out other writing projects.

She's already an unpublished novelist! At 13 or 14, she wrote a 400-page book



STUART RAMSON, SCHOLASTIC/AP

Taylor Swift talks with New York City public school children about the power of reading and writing at Scholastic's headquarters in New York on Tuesday.

based on her life and friends, whom she had left behind during a summer away with her family.

"But since then, I've discovered music and that's the form of writing that inspires me the most. It's not to say that I wouldn't expand the mediums and the ways that I choose to write," Swift said. "What if I end up writing a script or a book, or a book of poetry or something? That would be so amazing. I would love to see that happen."

Her meetup with the kids, six surrounding her on cozy couches at the book publisher's Soho headquarters, was turned into a 30-minute video at Scholastic.com that has her urging more young people to "open a world of possible" through books.

The students on Skype from Troy, Mich., and Poway, Calif., had made signs declaring the superstar awesome. The in-person New Yorkers offered Swift their book recommendations. Among them: "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls and "Out of My Mind" by Sharon Draper.



Orson Welles

Orson Welles' last film might finally be released

Orson Welles' last film might finally be nearing release after decades as one of cinema's most storied unfinished creations.

The New York Times reported Wednesday that a Los Angeles-based production company, Royal Road Entertainment, has agreed to buy the rights to Welles' largely unseen "The Other Side of the Wind." Producers are planning to unveil the film in time for the centennial anniversary of Welles' birth on May 6.

The semi-autobiographical film is about a movie director, played by John Huston, feuding with Hollywood over an ambitious film. Welles shot the movie in 1971 and spent the rest of his life editing it, before dying in 1985.

Director Peter Bogdanovich, who appears in the film, will help edit the footage, which includes a roughly 45-minute edited print.

'House of Cards' actress dies

Actress Elizabeth Norment, who portrayed the secretary to Kevin Spacey's hard-driving politico Frank Underwood in the Netflix series "House of Cards," has died. She was 61 years old.

Netflix confirmed the death on Wednesday but offered no details. Beau Willimon, the show's co-creator, called Norment a "talented actress, a warm soul and a good friend to us all."

Norment appeared as a guest in many other TV shows, including "Doogie Howser, M.D.," "ER," "Party of Five" and "Law & Order." She also appeared in the movie comedies "The Woman in Red" and "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion."

Other news

■ Prosecutors in Poland have questioned filmmaker Roman Polanski at the request of U.S. prosecutors who are seeking his extradition on charges from 1977 of having sex with a minor. A spokeswoman for the prosecutors in Krakow, Boguslawa Marcinkowska, said Thursday the filmmaker remained free but available for further proceedings.

■ Suge Knight and co-median Katt Williams were arrested and charged with robbery Wednesday after a celebrity photographer reported the men stole her camera last month. Prosecutors say Williams and Knight, who founded Death Row Records, were arrested Wednesday. Knight has a prior conviction for assault with a deadly weapon and could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted.

■ PBS' average prime-time household rating for the 2013-14 season was up 5 percent over the year before, but the public TV service said Wednesday. Among all broadcast and cable networks, PBS said it ranked fifth in the Nielsen audience measurement, compared with eighth for the previous season and 11th for 2011-12.

From The Associated Press



Knight



Williams

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OPINION

Fixing the VA requires fresh thinking

BY JIM MARSHALL

Six months ago, the nation was appalled to learn of a wide-ranging Department of Veterans Affairs scandal in which department officials had systematically falsified records on patient wait times and appointments with physicians for performance bonuses. Veterans waited months to receive care, and instead of fighting to cut those wait times, a shell game ensued to cover them up.

The challenges facing veterans' health care have since slipped from the front pages, but the department still has a long way to go when it comes to providing timely and quality care to veterans. Unreasonably delayed care can rise to the level of denied care; it's certainly diminished care. The VA must do better. It's up to veterans — and those who fight for their best interests — to hold both the department and our elected representatives accountable for better results.

I speak from experience. After the Tet Offensive in 1968, I left college and enlisted to serve in Vietnam. Thankfully, my disability from combat wounds is minor, but it led to a number of contacts with the VA over many years, leaving me with the impression of an organization that is well-intentioned, but hugely bureaucratic and often slow and sloppy. This impression is consistent with additional insight I've gleaned from fellow veterans, particularly those who contacted me as a member of Congress, literally by the hundreds.

Of course this wasn't a random sample of those served by the VA. People in general root and share with others they had experiences more often than their good ones. Veterans are no different. When they contact a member of Congress, it is almost always to lodge a complaint. But even taking this imperfect sample into account, I could

only conclude that the VA has lots of room for significant improvement, a view widely shared by other members of Congress.

This summer, Congress passed legislation aimed at reforming VA health care by demanding greater accountability and transparency from the department bureaucracy and extending health care choice options for beneficiaries. And the VA has new leadership in the form of a new secretary, Robert McDonald, who is experienced in health care administration.

But I believe these steps are only the beginning of what must be a journey toward transformation of the way our nation delivers health care to veterans. And given the repeated calls for reform over decades, it is unrealistic to expect the much-needed road map for appropriate transformation to come from within the VA. Like other large, long-lived bureaucracies, VA planning inevitably gives too much weight to the status quo and institutional expectations. So the planning process to fix VA health care should be led by experts and stakeholders outside the agency who will not give undue weight to the needs of the VA bureaucracy.

Toward that end, Concerned Veterans for America launched a bipartisan initiative in September: the Fixing Veterans Health Care policy task force, of which I am proud to serve as one of four co-chairs.

My co-chairs on this task force are three distinguished health care policy leaders: Dr. Bill Frist, a cardiothoracic transplant surgeon who represented Tennessee in the U.S. Senate from 1995 until 2007; Dr. Mike Kussman, who served as the VA's undersecretary for health from 2007 until 2009, and Avrik Roy, a noted health care scholar with the Manhattan Institute.

The goal of this bipartisan task force is simple: We want to identify the challenges to veterans' health care, identify solutions, and propose concrete reforms to improve

care delivery. Later this year, we will issue a set of concrete recommendations that we hope will serve as the basis for reform legislation in the next Congress in 2015.

In developing our recommendations, we intend to draw from a wide range of perspectives. We will consult with the foremost health care management experts, former and current VA employees, veterans organizations, members of Congress, and — most importantly — veterans themselves and their families.

Through the "submission portal" on our task force website (taskforce.cvva.org), we are asking veterans to tell their stories and offer their advice. We want to get the most accurate accounting, directly from veterans and their loved ones, about what the VA system is doing well, and what needs to be changed. This testimony will play a valuable role in shaping the direction of the task force's recommendations.

Having been the beneficiary of VA services, I know that the department is fortunate to have a large number of employees who are deeply dedicated to veterans and their needs. These professionals are often stymied by the department's calcified culture, and they can be counted on to embrace positive change that empowers them to do their best on behalf of veterans and their families.

But for that vision to become a reality, the VA and its congressional overseers would benefit from forward-looking reform suggestions that put the veteran at the center of their care, and empower them to receive the best possible outcomes. It is our goal to provide that guidance through this task force.

Jim Marshall, a Georgia Democrat, served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003 to 2011. He was a recon platoon sergeant in the Vietnam War and is a member of the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

Democratic candidates should embrace Obama

BY PENEL E. JOSEPH

The Root

Less than one week before the midterm elections, President Barack Obama has, in many parts of the country, become the man who wasn't there. Swing-state Democrats are afraid to mention his name in public, and consultants are cringing over interviews in which Obama has proclaimed that the upcoming election represents a referendum on his administration's policy initiatives.

Welcome to midterm elections featuring an unpopular incumbent.

Obama's low approval ratings, predictions of low voter turnout and the president's own halting performance on foreign policy matters have given Republicans a perfect storm of fear and anxiety as the election approaches.

Journalists and pundits are having a field day, with conservatives and liberals alike blasting the president as the bystander in chief who appears clueless as the world around him burns.

The Ebola outbreak, the Islamic State insurgency and racial tensions in Ferguson, Mo., have inspired cautious deliberation rather than bold leadership from the Obama administration — a posture that has caused his enemies to pounce and friends to retreat.

The Obama brand is undeniably damaged, but it's still the best brand the Democratic Party has.

The coalition of voters who elected Obama to the White House in 2008 and

2012 seek more, not less, progressive government, public policy reforms and social justice. Yet Democratic candidates currently running away from the president and his record now do so out of a belief that this is the pragmatic route to getting elected in typically red states like Alaska and purple states like New Hampshire.

But states are not nations. The Democratic Party nominee in 2016, like it or not, will effectively be running for Obama's third term. Similarly, George H.W. Bush promised a continuation of Ronald Reagan's legacy in 1988 and won; by contrast, Al Gore distanced himself from popular but scandal-plagued Bill Clinton in 2000 and lost.

The likeliest Democratic presidential contenders — Hillary Rodham Clinton, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, et al. — can win only by convincing the almost 67 million Americans who voted for the president in 2008 and the almost 65 million who re-elected him four years later that they share Obama's priorities.

Obama steered Democrats to two consecutive presidential election wins, not by appealing to moderates and centrists but by expanding the pool of voters and following the demographic wave that made voters of color more powerful than ever.

Democrats would be wise to concentrate on this more virtuous side of the ledger on this election season. The administration's policy legacy includes the Affordable Care Act, the stimulus bill, environmental reforms and efforts to wind down two wars

started by Republicans.

The idea that Obama has become an albatross around the necks of Democrats is true only so far as midterm elections go. In two short years, amid assessments of the president's accomplishments, failures and ultimate legacy, Democrats will be scrambling to raise funds and expand the electorate for the next election cycle. Obama's stature will seem more formidable, once again, as voters look to see which candidate the president whom they supported ultimately endorses.

Yes, at times, the president has been his own worst enemy, appearing tired and disinterested in recent stump speeches for Democratic candidates in places like Maryland, where his presence on the campaign trail is still seen as a positive. He's never enjoyed the handshaking, schmoozing and social interaction that Bill Clinton loved — something that still inspires resentment among elected officials and Washington insiders.

But like it or not, Obama and the Democratic Party are stuck with each other. Democrats in 2014 and 2016 can continue to distance themselves from the president at their own and the party's peril. Obama's brand, however flawed, is already guaranteed a powerful legacy of its own.

Penel E. Joseph, a contributing editor at The Root.com, is founding director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy and a Tufts University history professor. He is also a fellow for Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute and author of "Race and the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America," "Dark Days, Bright Nights: From Black Power to Barack Obama" and "Stokely: A Life."

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.

Why risk new subprime crisis? The Orange County (Calif.) Register

Are we really this imprudent? Mel Watt, currently head of the Federal Housing Finance Authority, recently announced plans — in a speech at a Las Vegas casino, of all places — to allow mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which he regulates, to purchase loans with down payments as low as 3 percent. The goal is to enable more borrowers with bad credit or low income to buy homes, which may be good for banks and the housing industry in the short term, but would be an unmitigated disaster for the American people.

And it's one we already lived through a few short years ago. It's been dubbed "the Great Recession." We know exactly what had lending policies led us up to the brink of that precipice and, yet, here we go again.

We've accepted as a culture that it was greedy bankers who sparked the crisis, and they were certainly happy to join the party. However, it was just this type of deliberately loose standards at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, encouraged at the time by the big banks, that got us here. They actually lit the fuse by promoting and buying high-risk loans from banks because the government was on a political crusade to encourage homeownership, even for those who fundamentally could not afford it.

Watt is a longtime Democratic congressman appointed to the FHFA by President Barack Obama in January, and he is clearly more interested in pursuing ideological goals than keeping lending policy stable and sensible.

"Through these revised guidelines... enterprises will be able to responsibly serve a targeted segment of creditworthy borrowers," Watt said. "Lower down-payment mortgages by taking into account compensating factors," Watt said to mortgage bankers gathered in a ballroom at the Mandalay Bay hotel and casino.

What are those "compensating factors"? We have no idea. We do know he could not have picked a more inopportune venue to announce his plan than a casino, because this is gambling on a breathtakingly reckless level.

Banks love to write lucrative loans to people with little financial understanding, then sell the risk of holding them to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which had to be bailed out by the government to the tune of \$187 billion the last time this was tried.

And make no mistake, the pervasive and perverting influence of ideological social-justice initiatives will prove an economic disaster for the very people they intend to help. Lending money to mortgage borrowers with identical credit circumstances as white borrowers, as the Urban League and others who have been agitating for these policy changes assert, that is already illegal. Prosecution is the answer, not lower standards.

Ukrainians' mandate: Go west Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Ukraine's parliamentary election, which coincided with a modest 51 percent turnout, constitutes a victory for the country's pro-Western political parties.

The results, however, fail to deal with three major problems. The first is the fighting that continues to sputter in the east, centered on the self-declared independent Donetsk People's Republic. Donetsk, which did not participate in Sunday's vote, has



EVGENY MALOLETKA/AP

A woman reads a ballot paper in her house during parliamentary elections in Konstantinovka, Ukraine, on Sunday.

scheduled its own election for next month. Fighting there pits Ukrainian government forces against separatist forces supported by Russia.

The second unresolved problem is the bruising that remains from Russia's annexation of Crimea, also in Ukraine's east, on the Black Sea. What happened there is a violent modification of Europe's post-World War II borders and is difficult for the European Union, particularly its former Warsaw Pact members, to accept as a done deal. Continuing EU sanctions against Russia still turn in part on the Crimea question.

The third problem is the dire straits that Ukraine finds itself in as a result of the political and other turmoil there since a popular uprising in Kiev ousted elected President Viktor Yanukovich in February. The departing president and his cohorts had looted the country's treasury of an estimated \$70 billion. Russia has taken the position, based on anger at the sanctions levied against it by the U.S. and the EU, that it will provide the natural gas that Ukraine needs this winter only with advance payment.

Ukraine's two key leaders, Petro Poroshenko and Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who will likely form the coalition that will now rule Ukraine, are probably more honest than Yanukovich was but are not especially inspiring in their capacity to deal with Ukraine's problems. It's a positive sign, though, that they received a fairly clear mandate in the part of Ukraine where their governance is accepted.

Tagging Yosemite is not art The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

In the 10 million years since the Sierra Nevada heaved from the earth and the colossus that is now Yosemite National Park was created, the artifacts of many life forms have come and gone.

So it will be, no doubt, for the work of "CreepyTings," the tagger whose graffiti appeared this summer along Yosemite's Mist Trail.

Done in acrylic on a formerly pristine mountain, the stupid white head with the snake in its mouth is just one in a series of marks left, authorities believe, by a 21-year-old New York woman who apparently spent her summer vandalizing Western landmarks and posting pictures of her handiwork on Instagram and Tumblr.

The images, signed with her moniker, created a furor last week after they showed up on Reddit, the techie website. Appalled, Los Angeles blogger Casey Schreiner posted an assortment of screen grabs on his site, Modern Hiker.

And what an assortment: a woman's

head scrawled onto Telescope Peak in Death Valley. A blue-haired profile, like something from the back of a teenager's notebook, overlooking the sapphire waters of Oregon's Crater Lake.

A line drawing the size of a backpack on a Zion National Park outcropping. Photos of the woman taking a black magic marker to the stunning rock formations in Canyonlands National Park and crawling heedlessly over protected Native American pictographs in Joshua Tree National Monument.

In the long view, the vandalism, which has prompted a National Park Service investigation, might be viewed as just an extreme version of the graffiti that has shown up worldwide in breathtaking places for as long as those places have been accessible to humans.

To experience beauty is to yearn to possess it. ... And it is true that, as John Muir once wrote, "Nature is always lovely, invincible, glad, whatever is done and suffered by her creatures." Yosemite, over the years, has outlasted all manner of human trespass, including a car dealership that once sold Cadillac and 21st-century shuttles buzzing the park with drone cameras. Any landscape that can survive the Rim fire can handle this.

Nonetheless, the Park Service should throw the book at CreepyTings when they find and arrest her. The great landscapes of the West are national treasures. They were preserved to inspire generations to come.

Drawing on them isn't art. It's theft. And it's the worst sort of theft, because graffiti is an invasive species. One mark encourages the next, until the urge to claim turf ruins a whole vista.

If the stark grandeur of the West offers one gift for our ephemeral life form, it's the gift of experiencing, for a moment, the presence of something bigger than humans.

Too bad CreepyTings didn't feel big enough to look up from that rock while she was defacing a place that has been there for eons. The view from the Mist Trail offers a whole new perspective. One might even call it art.

Hard to limit health care costs Los Angeles Times

Critics of the 2010 Affordable Care Act complain that it doesn't do much to control the health care costs that are becoming unsustainable for families and businesses. In fact, the law does many small things; the latest is the grant program announced last week to teach Medicare and Medicaid doctors new ways to offer higher-quality, better-coordinated, more cost-effective

care. The four-year goal is to turn \$840 million in grants into \$5 billion in savings — a number that sounds big until it's compared with the nearly \$4 trillion in annual health care spending in the United States. The modesty of the effort reflects the reality that there's just no easy way to put a lid on health care costs.

The Congressional Budget Office projects that major federal health programs could cost 85 percent more in 10 years than they do today. That's because multiple forces are driving up health care expenditures, including new technologies and medications, the prevalence of chronic disease, and payment systems that give doctors and hospitals incentives to perform ever-more procedures.

Those forces can't be counteracted by simply placing a limit on how much people spend on health care or how much doctors and hospitals charge. Such approaches would ration care, directly or indirectly. Instead, any effort to slow the growth in spending has to shift the incentives in the system so that doctors and patients alike are motivated to reduce the demand for care.

The 2010 law starts that process, but it's not clear how fast to change the economics of the health care system. Part of the challenge is figuring out how doctors can prosper by delivering better care at lower cost. The grant program announced Oct. 23, which is funded by the 2010 law, aims to identify those techniques and spread them to roughly 150,000 doctors across America.

Cuba embargo still needed The Miami Herald

In October 1960, the United States imposed an embargo on exports to Cuba covering all commodities except medical supplies and certain food products. That was the beginning of a trade embargo that still endures and still inspires heated debate.

The anniversary of the embargo this week, plus the United Nations' annual vote condemning it, have prompted calls for a reassessment. Dropping the embargo altogether would require action by Congress. Meanwhile, anti-embargo advocates say, there's a lot the president can do to soften or minimize its effects and open the door to restoring full ties with Cuba.

We disagree. Such a move would be premature and utterly lacking in justification at this time.

Granted, Raúl Castro has loosened the reins on the tightly controlled economy to permit more individual businesses. Some citizens can own property, and new rules are designed to encourage foreign investment. But it's only because Cuba has been frozen in time for so long that such minimal change seems so dramatic. The Cuban economy, in the presence of a Soviet-style planned economy that largely remains in place, and its members remain its major beneficiaries.

Some see vague government statements from Havana welcoming renewed diplomatic ties with the U.S. as a sign that it's willing to negotiate longstanding differences. We would attribute that to not any goodwill but rather to Cuba hedging its bets as it nervously watches the slide in oil prices and the rise of political instability in Venezuela.

Another Cuban country has been the Castro brother-in-law benefactor in the last few years, helping prop up Cuba's chronically weak economy with cheap oil. But if oil prices continue to drop, Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro ... won't hesitate to throw Cuba under the bus if it means survival for the Chavista regime. The timing of any move by Washington toward Havana particularly inappropriate. Why throw it a lifeline now ...

Is there any doubt that the Castro brothers remain committed to maintaining their dictatorship over Cuba? Of course not. As long as that remains the case, the U.S. has no incentive to extend a welcoming hand.

Frazz



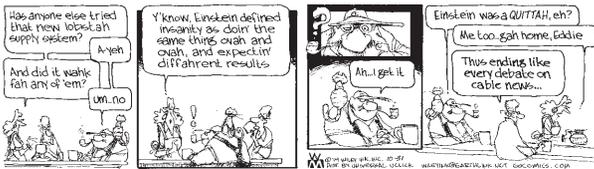
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13			14	
15						16			17	
		18				19			20	
21	22			23				24		
25			26			27		28		
29				30				31		32 33 34
						35			36	37
38	39	40				41		42		43
44						45			46	
47						48			49	
52						53			54	
55						56			57	

ACROSS

- 1 Singing ability, slangily
- 6 What couch potatoes do
- 9 Chapeau
- 12 Chris of tennis fame
- 13 AOL or MSN
- 14 Ostrich's cousin
- 15 Intrinsically
- 16 Stretchy fabric
- 18 Just great
- 20 Curved molding
- 21 Crony
- 23 Chess piece
- 24 States with conviction
- 25 Couturier Cassini
- 27 Asian cuisine staple
- 29 Singer
- 31 Fishing gear
- 35 Exuberance
- 37 Verbe
- 38 Pancoetta, e.g.
- 41 Fish eggs
- 43 Type measures
- 44 First victim
- 45 Bottle attachment
- 47 Obsolescent file
- 49 Mideast peninsula
- 52 Prior night
- 53 Afternoon, in a way
- 54 Portents

DOWN

- 1 Energy
- 2 "Got a Secret"
- 3 Baffle
- 4 Gaelic
- 5 Watt's power
- 6 Hindu god
- 7 Catch sight of
- 8 Coll. transcript
- 9 Bet both ways
- 10 Eastern potentate (Var.)
- 11 Formal wear
- 17 Tyro
- 19 Docket entries
- 21 Lap dog, for short
- 22 Chicken-king link
- 24 "Eureka!"
- 26 Paid escort
- 28 Condescend (to)
- 30 Sister
- 32 Tissue brand
- 33 Felon's flight
- 34 Halves of 43-Across
- 36 "The Honeymooners" role
- 38 Exposed
- 39 Over
- 40 Star
- 42 — salts
- 45 Rhinelander's refusal
- 46 Peru's capital
- 48 Trivial Pursuit prop
- 50 Violinist Kavafian
- 51 Doctrine

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	I	L	L	W	I	Z	S	W	I	G
E	R	I	E	A	R	E	T	A	R	O
L	O	N	G	T	A	R	E	T	A	L
I	N	T	I	M	E	O	F	F	E	N
	O	U	R	A	F	R				
D	A	W	N	S	A	W	M	I	L	L
U	S	A	K	I	A	O	A	O	A	K
O	P	T	I	M	I	S	T	L	O	G
	E	G	O	E	P	A				
S	P	R	U	N	G	R	O	S	T	E
C	U	B	A	L	A	B	T	R	A	Y
A	M	E	N	I	D	O	L	U	R	E
D	A	D	A	B	A	Y	Y	E	N	S

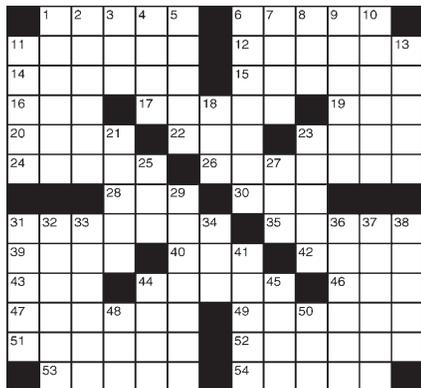
10-31

CRYPTOQUIP

BMOP GMO RMDXFLIM GMLOE
 BYI QYXRMG IGOYFLPR
 SYNLDXI MOYCIGDPOI, MO
 EYQOC RNYSO QMYNROI.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'D BARELY AWOKEN
 WHEN I NOTICED WATER DRIPPING THROUGH
 MY CEILING. THIS MUST BE MY LEAKY DAY!
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals H



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Complaint
- 6 Approximately
- 11 — over (fainted)
- 12 Esteems
- 14 Comparison
- 15 Garland
- 16 Canto lead-in
- 17 Fits in snugly
- 19 "CSI" evidence
- 20 Scraps
- 22 Speck
- 23 Wingle
- 24 Louisiana back-water
- 26 Most lascivious
- 28 Curved line
- 30 Mainlander's memento
- 31 Have some com-ground
- 35 Quake
- 39 Luck, old-style
- 40 Clear the tables
- 42 Doing
- 43 First X or O?
- 44 Chop finely
- 46 Blunder
- 47 Darth, when younger
- 49 Painkiller brand
- 51 Oust from the throne
- 52 Whitman's door-

yard bloomers

- 53 Believer of a sort
- 54 Proclamation

21 Takes to the

- skies
- 23 "Bye"
- 25 Web address
- 27 Director Craven
- 29 Presidential ad-isors
- 31 Eightsome
- 32 Having striations
- 33 Flee
- 34 Bit of wordplay
- 36 Poison remedy
- 37 Unyielding
- 38 Early periods
- 41 Climb
- 44 Fail to hit
- 45 Oklahoma city
- 48 Japanese pond fish
- 50 Boxing legend

DOWN

- 1 Categories
- 2 Buildings
- 3 Under the weath-er
- 4 Lowly worker
- 5 Two- sword
- 6 Property
- 7 Tiny particles
- 8 Cousin of 19-Across
- 9 Pamper
- 10 Sports venues
- 11 Skewered entree
- 13 Agent 86
- 18 Fa-la connector

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-1

CRYPTOQUIP

LNY DXQMCUDXSS UCXW UAXU
 AXQ X QWYMC0 ACNNRZB XQ
 RUQ SYBY XZO WXQTYU: UAC
 SYQ XZBSCQ MRLLCNQ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE GHOULISH THIEF WAS CAUGHT STEALING VARIOUS HEADSTONES, HE FACED GRAVE CHARGES.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals A

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Samsung vows changes as profit falls

By **YOUNG LEE**
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Samsung Electronics Co. admitted errors in its smartphone strategy and vowed Thursday to overhaul its handset lineup after profit from those devices tumbled last quarter to the lowest in more than three years.

The South Korean company, which climbed from smartphone laggard to top seller in the past

three years, had prided itself on responding quickly to market demand and its ability to tailor handsets to the needs of users and mobile carriers around the world.

But its rapid success with a product category pioneered by rival Apple Inc. is undergoing an equally stunning reversal. Earnings from Samsung's mobile phone business began declining this year, undermined by lukewarm sales of the Galaxy

S5 smartphone and the competitive onslaught from cheaper local brands in China and India. Apple also eroded Samsung's leading market share in developed nations.

In a rare acknowledgment of a misstep, the company's head of investor relations told an earnings conference call that Samsung had lagged behind changing market conditions. The company's response "was not quick enough," said the executive, Robert Yi.

It plans a significant change in smartphone strategy for next year to seek more "efficiency," implying that the number of new handset models might be reduced. That will allow the company to better focus on each product and to purchase components at cheaper prices to save costs.

The drop in earnings from the mobile business battered the South Korea company's quarterly net profit, which tumbled 49 percent to \$4 billion.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	\$1.2937
Euro costs (Oct. 31)	€0.7736
Dollar buys (Oct. 31)	\$1.64
Japanese yen (Oct. 31)	¥106.00
South Korean won (Oct. 31)	₩1,028.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6008/€0.6247
Canada (dollar)	1.1191
China (Yuan)	6.1145
Denmark (Krone)	5.9060
Egypt (Pound)	7.1506
Euro	\$1.2610/€0.7930
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7556
Hungary (Forint)	244.92
Israel (Shekel)	3.7704
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7516
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2896
Norway (Krone)	6.7220
Philippines (Peso)	44.85
Poland (Zloty)	3.3234
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7516
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2779
South Korea (Won)	1,025.04
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9564
Thailand (Bath)	32.57
Turkey (New Lira)	0.2083

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.05

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.359	\$3.551	\$3.728	\$3.538
Change in price	-0.4 cents	-7.1 cents	-7.4 cents	-2.1 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.294	\$4.565	\$4.494
Change in price	---	-13.0 cents	-13.6 cents	-1.5 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.521	\$4.057	\$3.908
Change in price	---	-7.1 cents	-8.0 cents	-2.1 cents
Azores	---	---	\$3.748	---
Change in price	---	---	-8.2 cents	---
France	---	\$3.753	\$3.952	\$3.976
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	---	---	\$4.109	\$4.718*
Change in price	---	---	no change	no change
Italy	---	---	\$4.465	---
Change in price	---	---	---	---
Italy	\$4.428	---	---	---
Change in price	+22.7 cents	---	---	+18.9 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.509	---	\$3.719
Change in price	---	-8.0 cents	---	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.359	---	---	\$3.719
Change in price	no change	---	---	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.179	---	---	\$3.759
Change in price	-7.0 cents	---	---	-8.40 cents
Guam	\$3.169**	\$3.359	\$3.539	---
Change in price	-7.0 cents	-8.0 cents	-8.0 cents	---

MARKET WATCH

	Oct. 29, 2014
Dow Jones Industrials	-31.44
	16,974.31
Nasdaq composite	-15.06
	4,549.23
Standard & Poor's 500	-2.75
	1,982.30
Russell 2000	-3.08
	1,146.37

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Nov. 1-7

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 24 Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlene, Tex	67	46	Cir	Chatanooga	62	41	Cldy	Fort Wayne	45	40	Snow	Louisville	52	46	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	49	39	Rain	Cheyenne	54	32	Pcldy	Fresno	74	56	Cldy	Lubbock	63	41	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	52	33	Cldy	Chicago	41	36	Cir	Goodland	52	27	Pcldy	Macon	70	43	Cir
Albuquerque	68	43	Pcldy	Cincinnati	46	43	Rain	Grand Junction	68	39	Cir	Madison	40	32	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	57	34	Cldy	Cleveland	48	41	Rain	Grand Rapids	41	40	Snow	Medford	56	50	Rain
Amarillo	59	36	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	57	31	Cir	Great Falls	71	40	Pcldy	Memphis	62	48	Cir
Anchorage	33	24	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	70	42	Pcldy	Green Bay	62	41	Cldy	Miami Beach	85	70	Pcldy
Ashville	59	36	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	46	41	Rain	Harrisburg	55	38	Cir	Midland-Odessa	68	47	Cir
Atlanta	66	46	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	52	33	Cldy	Hartford	54	39	Cir	Milwaukee	42	36	Cir
Atlantic City	59	40	Cldy	Corpus Christi	83	66	Pcldy	Helena	68	37	Pcldy	Minneapolis	57	29	Cir
Austin	56	41	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	66	63	Cir	Honolulu	86	74	Rain	Mobile	65	48	Cir
Baltimore	58	41	Cldy	Dayton	44	42	Rain	Houston	75	56	Cir	Montgomery	71	44	Cir
Baton Rouge	73	49	Cir	Daytona Beach	79	62	Pcldy	Huntsville	59	43	Pcldy	Nashville	54	45	Cir
Biloxi	66	36	Cir	Denver	62	33	Pcldy	Indianapolis	39	32	Cir	New Orleans	74	55	Cir
Birmingham	67	42	Cldy	Des Moines	43	34	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	71	49	Cir	New York City	57	44	Cir
Bismark	41	17	Cir	Detroit	44	41	Snow	Jacksonville	74	55	Cir	Newark	58	43	Cir
Boise	69	49	Cldy	El Paso	74	55	Pcldy	Janeau	44	35	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	62	46	Cir
Boston	53	42	Cldy	El Paso	74	55	Pcldy	Kansas City	44	39	Cir	North Platte	46	23	Pcldy
Bridgport	56	41	Cldy	Elkins	52	35	Rain	Key West	81	73	Cldy	Oklahoma City	58	43	Cir
Brownsville	85	67	Pcldy	Erie	49	42	Cir	Knoxville	60	39	Cldy	Omaha	43	32	Cir
Buffalo	47	40	Cldy	Eugene	58	49	Rain	Lake Charles	75	53	Cir	Orlando	81	64	Pcldy
Burlington, Vt.	47	35	Cldy	Evansville	50	44	Cldy	Lansing	42	40	Snow	Paducah	53	44	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	43	30	Cir	Fairbanks	17	2	Cldy	Las Vegas	84	62	Pcldy	Pendleton	59	50	Rain
Casper, Wyo.	69	31	Cir	Fargo	39	23	Cir	Lexington	51	44	Rain	Peoria	44	25	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	71	49	Rain	Flagstaff	67	34	Pcldy	Lincoln	45	31	Cir	Philadelphia	59	42	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	52	42	Rain	Flint	41	39	Snow	Little Rock	64	48	Cir	Phoenix	92	67	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	64	43	Pcldy	Fort Smith	61	46	Cir	Los Angeles	73	62	Cldy	Pittsburgh	51	38	Rain
Pocatello	69	37	Pcldy	Sioux City	44	27	Cir	Slous Falls	41	24	Cir	Portland, Ore.	57	52	Rain
Portland, Maine	51	41	Cir	South Bend	45	40	Snow	Springfield	46	44	Cir	Providence	55	41	Cir
Portland, Ore.	55	41	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	46	38	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	48	39	Cir	Pueblo	62	31	Rain
Reno	66	44	Cir	Tampa	81	66	Pcldy	Syracuse	56	44	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	64	41	Cir
Richmond	64	40	Cir	Tucson	92	61	Pcldy	Tulsa	55	46	Cir	Rapid City	50	26	Cir
Rochester	50	38	Rain	Tulpe	63	43	Cir	Waco	69	54	Cir	St. Louis	79	68	Cir
Rockford	40	24	Cir	Wichita	51	38	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	59	39	Rain	St. Peterburg	61	47	Cir
San Antonio	60	64	Cir	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	St. Thomas	88	78	Cir
San Diego	71	52	Cir	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	Salt Lake City	73	47	Cir
San Francisco	67	60	Rain	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Jose	61	45	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Juan	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59	39	Rain	San Pedro de Macoris	60	43	Cir
San Jose	63	36	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	64	44	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	59						



“Your Holiday Bill Is On Us!” SWEEPSTAKES

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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Announcements 040

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Automotive 140

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BMW 5 Series, 2005 \$800.04
2007 BMW 5 Series, 2007 \$1,000.00
2008 BMW 5 Series, 2008 \$1,000.00
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2011 BMW 5 Series, 2011 \$1,000.00
2012 BMW 5 Series, 2012 \$1,000.00
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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 3 Series 4 door, 2005 \$1700.00 Very Good condition in super condition car dealer maintained 1 owner non smoker. New Power, Radiator, With summer and winter tires. Has 2.0 TDI German 1.8.5 remaining. 15000 miles. 1.8.5 remaining. 15000 miles. 1.8.5 remaining. 15000 miles.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2007 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2008 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2009 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2010 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2011 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2012 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2013 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2014 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001
2015 Chevrolet Corvete 2006 2001

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Jaguar, 8 Type, 2006 \$6500.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Mercedes Benz, ML350 Blue

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Porche (US Spec), Boxster, 2005 \$4000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Volkswagen, V70 2.5T 2005

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

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Motorcycles 164

BMW F800GT, 2014

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson, Softail, Du

Motorcycles 164

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Books 250

Real Answers to Lifes Tough

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WORLD SERIES

Scoreboard

World Series

(Best-of-seven)

San Francisco 4, Kansas City 3
 San Francisco 7, Kansas City 2
 Kansas City 3, San Francisco 1
 San Francisco 11, Kansas City 4
 San Francisco 5, Kansas City 0
 Kansas City 10, San Francisco 0
Wednesday: San Francisco 3, Kansas City 2

Wednesday

Giants 3, Royals 2

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG.
G.Blanco cf	4	0	0	0	0	.143
Panik 2b	4	0	0	0	3	.222
Posec c	4	0	0	0	1	.154
Sandoval 3b	3	2	3	0	0	.429
Rence lf	4	0	0	0	0	.444
Belt 1b	4	0	2	0	0	.308
Morse dh	3	0	0	0	2	.250
B.Crawford ss	3	0	0	1	0	.304
J.Perez if	3	0	0	0	2	.250
Totals	32	2	8	0	12	.212
Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG.
Aoki rf	3	0	0	0	1	.071
L.Cain cf	4	0	0	0	1	.308
Hosmer 1b	4	0	0	0	2	.250
B.Butler dh	4	1	1	0	0	.333
A.Gordon lf	3	1	1	0	0	.185
S.Perez c	3	0	0	0	0	.333
Moustakas 3b	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Infante 2b	2	0	1	0	1	.318
Totals	29	2	5	0	5	.212
San Francisco	020	100	000	—	3	8
Kansas City	020	000	000	—	2	6

LOB—San Francisco 5, Kansas City 5.
2B—Sandoval (3), A.Gordon (3).
RBI—Morse 2 (4), B.Crawford (4), A.Gordon (2), Infante (5).
S—A.Escobar. **SF**—Morse, B.Crawford, Infante.

Runners left in scoring position—San Francisco 2 (Perez, Pence), Kansas City 3 (Aoki, L.Cain, S.Perez).
RISP—San Francisco 2-for-6; Kansas City 0-for-5.

Runners moved up—Belt, Moustakas.
DP—San Francisco 2 (Panik, B.Crawford, Belt), Kansas City 1 (A.Escobar, Infante, Hosmer).

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hudson	1 1/3	3	2	1	1	2	58	6.4
Affeldt	W, 1-0	2 1/3	1	0	0	0	32	0.00
Bumgarner	5-14	5	2	0	0	4	68	0.43
Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Guthrie	L, 1-1	3 1/3	4	3	3	0	39	5.40
K.Herrera	2 1/3	3	0	0	4	5	27	0.00
W.Davis	2	1	0	0	3	25	0.00	
G.Holland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

Inherited runners scored—Affeldt 2-0, K.Herrera 2-1.
HBP—by Hudson (S.Perez), by Affeldt (A.Gordon), by Guthrie (Sandoval).
WP—Affeldt.
T—3:10. **A**—40,535 (37,903).

Calendar

November 18A — Deadline for teams to make qualifying offers to their eligible former players who became free agents fifth day after World Series.

November 18B — Deadline for free agents to accept qualifying offers, 12th day after World Series.

Nov. 18-12 — General managers' meetings, Phoenix.

Nov. 18-20 — Owners' meetings, Kansas City, Mo.

Dec. 2 — Last day for teams to offer 20 contracts to unsigned players.

Dec. 8-11 — Winter meetings, San Diego.

Dec. 8 — Hall of Fame golden era (1947-72) vote announced, San Diego.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

San Francisco pitcher Tim Hudson celebrates the Giants' 3-2 win on Wednesday in the World Series. Hudson finally won his title in his 16th major league season.

San Francisco treat

Giants beat Royals for 3rd title in five years

By JANIE McCAULEY

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Bruce Bochy is crazy superstitious. It's a little-known fact about the unflappable San Francisco Giants manager.

Merely mention of anything about a dynasty during the World Series made him uncomfortable. He felt equally uneasy when his name got linked to the best skippers of all-time — those Hall of Famers he well could join someday.

Bochy doesn't have to worry about a jinx now. After winning its third championship in five seasons, the new label for his team looks as if it will stick.

"Dynasty" blared the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle on Thursday.

The Giants closed it out with a 3-2 win in Game 7 at Kansas City on Wednesday night, sealed by Series MVP Madison Bumgarner's five shutout innings as a reliever this time.

"A lot has to go right. First off, it starts with the talent," Bochy said. "I mean, you need that, which we have. Then you have to deal with a lot of things maybe during the season. Every manager says, 'Hey, we're fine, we have a good chance to get there if we stay healthy.' But that doesn't always happen."

In a remarkable every-other-year pattern, San Francisco somehow finds its best form in even years, with castoffs and misfits and some key midseason acquisitions.

Few clubs have captured three championships in a five-year span. The last National League team to do it was the St. Louis Cardinals with Stan Musial from 1942-46, so the Giants are the first of the free-agency era.

The Oakland Athletics won three straight crowns in the early 1970s, and the New York Yankees captured four in five years from 1996-2000.

Still, San Francisco was never considered a favorite or the best team in the regular season any of these times. Twice in this stretch, the Giants missed the playoffs altogether.

After a runner-up finish in the NL West to the Dodgers at 88-74, they took the wild-card route this time.

On Wednesday night, Tim Hudson became a champion after a 16-year wait and Michael Morse got there following 10 major league seasons.

"It's the greatest group of guys



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

San Francisco's Brandon Crawford celebrates after the Giants won Game 7 of the World Series against the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday in Kansas City, Mo.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

San Francisco's Michael Morse celebrates Wednesday's Game 7 World Series victory. The Giants joined an exclusive club with their third championship in five seasons, and became the first National League club to achieve the feat since the Stan Musial-led St. Louis Cardinals did it from 1942-46.

I ever played with." Morse said. "It's a group of guys who believe in each other and the outcome was a World Series victory."

A unique element for Bochy's latest winning roster is the talented crop of homegrown players who made it happen.

There are the big names — Bumgarner, Buster Posey, Pablo

Sandoval. And the emerging ones — Brandon Belt, Brandon Crawford, Jo Panik.

"You look at most of our team — like Joe, me, Buster, Pablo, Belt, Bum. It's loaded with a lot of good players and a lot of players who are pretty similar in kind of their approach to the game and they're pretty even-keel," said Crawford,

the shortstop. "Nothing's really too big for us."

Eight players have been on all three winning World Series teams: Bumgarner, slugging third baseman Sandoval, Posey and relievers Jeremy Affeldt, Javier Lopez, Santiago Casilla, Sergio Romo and Tim Lincecum. Matt Cain, too, but he was hurt this year.

General manager Brian Sabean, longest-tenured in baseball, can't put a finger on why the mix keeps working. He is proud of the core of players who were drafted and came through the system and played such a huge part this time.

"It's a testament to player development and scouting. That's what we all hope for, that you can plug your holes from within and build your team from within," Sabean said. "That's a surefire way to kind of keep things moving forward. It prevents you from having to go into the market, whether it's free agency or more so the trade market."

The Giants survived skids in June and September before winning the wild-card game at Pittsburgh. They then beat Washington in the Division Series and St. Louis in the NL Championship series.

For the Giants, it's about every player doing his part and serving a role, because, as Sabean puts it, "We don't have a star system here."

"It's everybody's got to pull on the same chain and everybody's got to be ready to play," he said. "They understand the culture."

Dynasty or not, Affeldt has solved a potential problem at home.

The lefty reliever and Game 7 winner has three young sons — and, now, three championships.

"My three boys now all get to have rings on their finger," he said, "And I'm very happy about that."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

10th-ranked TCU has road work in path to playoff

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — That record 82-point game is already in the past for No. 10 TCU.

The Horned Frogs (6-1, 3-1 Big 12) now have some road work to do Saturday, going to No. 20 West Virginia for the first of consecutive games that could have a significant impact on determining the Big 12 champion and perhaps who might play in the college football playoff.

"I don't know if any of the games that we played on the road, except for the Baylor game that we played this year, would be more magnitude than what this ballgame is," TCU coach Gary Patterson said Tuesday, three days after TCU's 82-27 victory over Texas Tech.

West Virginia (6-2, 4-1) has a four-game winning streak that includes beating then-No. 4 Baylor 41-27 on Oct. 18, the Bears' only win. The only losses this season for the Mountaineers were the season opener against then-No. 2 Alabama and their Big 12 opener versus then-No. 4 Oklahoma.

When the first College Football Playoff rankings were released Tuesday night, TCU was No. 7, the highest-ranked Big 12 team and 13 spots ahead of West Virginia.

The clash between the TCU and WVU is already garnering national attention. ESPN's College GameDay is setting up Saturday morning in Morgantown, West Virginia.

After that trip, the Frogs return home for a matchup against No. 11 Kansas State, the Big 12 leader but No. 9 in the playoff rankings.

Patterson expects receiver Josh Doctson, who rolled his right ankle against Texas Tech, to be able to play Saturday against the Mountaineers. But the coach said backup quarterback Matt Joeckel's season is likely over after he took a shot to the leg Saturday.

The Horned Frogs have already split a tough two-game swing



TCU (6-1)
at West Virginia (6-2)
AFN-Xtra
8:30 p.m. Saturday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

against Oklahoma and Baylor, beating the Sooners at home before a wild 61-58 loss in Waco. But they almost certainly have to win the rest of their games to be part of the first four-team playoff.

Patterson pointed out that the Frogs have already accomplished one of their season goals.

"We wanted to get to be bowl eligible, we got to that point. Now everyone counts once," Patterson said. "Two tough games in a row. West Virginia going to Morgantown, really they've playing really well right now on both sides of the ball, and then Kansas State. You can say the same about them."

And talk about TCU the same way.

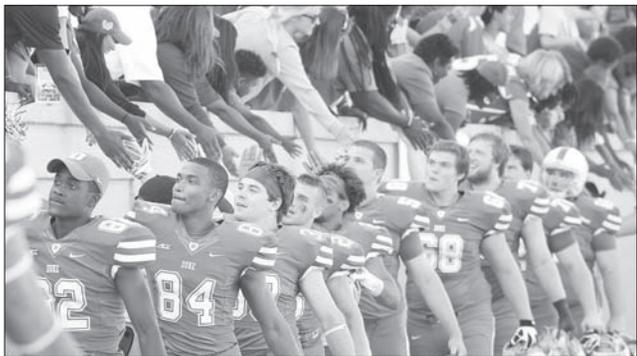
The Frogs are now the nation's highest-scoring at 50.4 points a game, while allowing less than 22 points. Junior dual-threat quarterback Trevone Boykin has established himself as a legitimate Heisman Trophy contender, including a career-high 433 yards with a school-record seven touchdown passes in the romp over Texas Tech.

During its current winning streak, West Virginia has held the potent offenses of Baylor and Oklahoma State in check. The Mountaineers won 34-10 at Oklahoma State last weekend.

"We're going to have to get ready," Patterson said. "We expect West Virginia to play its best game to date."

"I don't know if any of the games that we played on the road, except for the Baylor game that we played this year, would be more magnitude than what this ballgame is."

Gary Patterson
TCU coach



BERNARD THOMAS, THE HERALD-SUN/AP

Duke players celebrate with fans after beating Virginia. The 24th-ranked Blue Devils are back in the national polls — the first time they've earned rankings in back-to-back seasons since the 1950s.

Duke maintains its focus

Blue Devils ignore ranking and prepare for another run at ACC title

BY JOEY MCCREARY
The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — After quarterback Anthony Boone found out No. 24 Duke was back in the national rankings, he called a players-only meeting.

The message was simple: Don't let it be a distraction.

It sure wasn't last year when the Blue Devils cracked the polls and climbed into first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference's Coastal Division.

Now they've done it again. And the way they see it, they're older and even better equipped to handle their success heading into this week's visit to Pittsburgh, where a win over the Panthers (4-4, 2-2) would push Duke (6-1, 2-1) closer to a repeat ACC title game berth.

Boone described the meeting Tuesday as "a pretty easy talk" because "we have a lot of experienced guys who know what it takes to win in November."

To those outside the program, earning national rankings might still seem like a new phenomenon for these Blue Devils. Last year they showed up in the Top 25 for the first time since the 1994 season, rising to No. 20 during an eight-game winning streak that started after a wild loss to these Panthers.

This week's reappearance in the polls marks the first time



Duke (6-1)
at Pittsburgh (4-4)
AFN-Xtra
5 p.m. Saturday CET
1 a.m. Sunday JKT



that's happened for Duke in consecutive seasons since the mid-1950s.

"The two-year body of work has been exceptional," coach David Cutcliffe said. "We all know it can go away as fast as it comes some times, but it should make you hungry. ... Moving forward, it's meaningless unless we continue to play well."

Boone said he didn't even find out about the ranking until Monday when his sister told him about it. Cornerback DeVon Edwards says doing it last year was "OK for the first time."

"But now everybody's mindset is a lot different," he added. "We're not really proud of just being ranked. We want to keep on climbing the ladder."

As the only team in the Coastal with just one ACC loss, they've already climbed to the top of a muddy division.

Now the challenge is to stay there.

Maybe this game will help sort things out in a division in which five teams are behind Duke with two league losses.

The Blue Devils hold head-to-head tiebreakers with two of them — Virginia and Georgia Tech — and still must play Pitt and North Carolina. Duke's only league loss came against Miami.

"We kind of believe," center Matt Skura said, "if we just keep on winning, then we'll just keep our own spot at the top."

That will require a victory over Pitt — the only Coastal team Duke has yet to beat under seventh-year coach David Cutcliffe.

This matchup shapes up as the opposite of last year, when the Panthers won a 58-55 shootout in the second-highest-scoring game in ACC history. The teams combined for 1,130 total yards in that one — and Boone missed it with a broken collarbone.

This Duke team ranks second in the league, allowing 15 points per game. Until Georgia Tech hung 56 on the turnover-prone Panthers last week, Pitt hadn't given up more than 30 to anyone.

"That's the bottom line, not giving up points," Pitt coach Paul Chryst said. "You never quite know how the game is going to play out. You've just got to be prepared to be able to play whatever type of game it is."

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College GameDay



STEVE CANNON/AP

Player to watch

Everett Golson QB | Notre Dame

The Heisman Trophy contender has completed 166 of his 268 pass attempts for 1,996 yards and has 19 touchdowns (ranked 18th nationally) and six interceptions. Navy and the Irish are facing off for the 88th consecutive year. While Notre Dame holds an overwhelming 74-12-1 series record, the Midshipmen have won three times in the past seven seasons.

No. 6 Notre Dame vs. Navy at FedEx Field, Landover, Md.
1 a.m. Sunday, CET;
9 a.m. Sunday Japan/Korea, AFN-Atlantic



BUTCH DILL/AP

Auburn's Jonathan Jones intercepts a pass intended for South Carolina wide receiver Shaq Roland in the end zone last week. Jones and the No. 4 Tigers face No. 7 Mississippi on Saturday (AFN-Sports, midnight Sunday CET; 8 a.m. Japan/Korea), a game with both conference and playoff implications.

SERVICE ACADEMIES



Air Force at Army
Last week: Did not play
Next game: vs. Connecticut at Bronx, N.Y., Nov. 8



Army does not play
Last week: Did not play
Next game: at UNLV, Nov. 8



Navy vs. Notre Dame
Last week: Beat San Jose State 41-31
Next game: vs. Georgia Southern, Nov. 15

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Thursday

No. 2 Florida State at Louisville

Saturday

- No. 1 Mississippi State vs. Arkansas
- No. 4 Auburn at No. 7 Mississippi
- No. 5 Oregon vs. Stanford
- No. 6 Notre Dame vs. Navy at Landover, Md.
- No. 9 Georgia vs. Florida at Jacksonville, Fla.
- No. 10 TCU at No. 20 West Virginia
- No. 11 Kansas State vs. Oklahoma State
- No. 12 Baylor vs. Kansas
- No. 13 Ohio State vs. Illinois
- No. 14 Arizona at No. 25 UCLA
- No. 15 Arizona State vs. No. 18 Utah
- No. 17 Nebraska vs. Purdue
- No. 19 Oklahoma at Iowa State
- No. 21 East Carolina at Temple
- No. 24 Duke at Pittsburgh

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Florida State	0	0	0 0
Clemson	5	1	6 2
Louisville	4	2	6 3
Boston College	2	2	5 3
Syracuse	1	3	5 5
NC State	0	4	4 4
Wake Forest	0	4	2 6
Coastal Division			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Duke	2	1	6 1
Georgia Tech	2	1	6 2
North Carolina	2	2	4 4
Miami	2	2	5 3
Pittsburgh	2	2	4 4
Virginia	2	2	4 4
Virginia Tech	1	3	4 4

Game of the week: No. 24 Duke at Pittsburgh. The first-place Blue Devils can take another step toward a repeat ACC title game trip with a victory over a Pitt team coming off a turnover-filled loss to Georgia Tech. The Panthers won a 58-55 shootout last year — the second-highest-scoring game in ACC history — but Duke's defense has only allowed two opponents to reach 20 points this year.

Inside the numbers: North Carolina is 10 points away from being 1-7, and their last two victories have come in tight fashion against Georgia Tech (48-43) and Virginia (28-27). Three losses have come by at least 15 points.

Player to watch: Boston College RB Jon Hillman. The freshman has four multi-touchdown games, scored four times during his 101-yard performance last week when he Wake Forest and now faces a Virginia Tech defense that last week gave up 249 yards rushing and two scores to Miami's Duke Johnson.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Michigan St.	4	0	7 1
Ohio St.	3	0	6 1
Maryland	2	2	5 3
Penn St.	1	3	4 3
Rutgers	1	3	5 3
Michigan	1	3	3 5
Indiana	0	3	3 4
West			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Nebraska	3	1	7 1
Minnesota	3	1	6 2
Iowa	2	1	5 2
Wisconsin	2	2	5 2
Northwestern	2	2	3 3
Purdue	1	3	3 5
Illinois	1	3	4 4

Game of the week: No. 17 Nebraska vs. Purdue. The Cornhuskers (7-1, 3-1) go into Saturday's home game against Purdue (3-5, 1-3) tied with Minnesota for first in the West. Four teams in the division have one conference loss. With Nebraska in control of its destiny at the halfway point of the conference schedule, coach Bo Pelini is doing what he can to minimize the chance of underperforming.

Inside the numbers: Big Ten backfields feature the top three rushers in the nation. Indiana's Tevin Coleman leads all players with 170.3 yards per contest, followed by Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon with 166.9 yards per game. Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah ranks third with an average of 156.1.

Players to watch: Wisconsin's Joel Stave and Tanner McEvoy. Last week's win over Maryland proved that the Badgers' two quarterback system can work, combining for no interceptions or turnovers.

Big 12			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Kansas State	4	0	6 1
West Virginia	4	1	6 2
TCU	3	1	6 2
Oklahoma State	3	2	5 3
Oklahoma	2	2	5 3
Texas	2	3	3 5
Texas Tech	1	4	4 4
Iowa St.	0	4	4 4
Kansas	0	4	2 6

Game of the week: No. 10 TCU at No. 20 West Virginia. Former Mountain West champ TCU (6-1, 3-1 Big 12) and past Big East champ WVU (6-2, 4-1) are Big 12 contenders. The Frogs are coming off a record 82 points against Texas Tech, and lead the Big 12 with 50.4 points a game. WVU's four-game winning streak includes a 41-27 win in its last home game against then-No. 4 Baylor, which before that averaged nearly 53 points a game.

Inside the numbers: Kansas LB Ben Heeney leads the Big 12 with 12 tackles per game, with at least 10 in the first half in each of the last two games.

Players to watch: Texas senior linebackers Jordan Hicks and Steve Edmond. Hicks and Edmond have combined for 185 tackles, 19 for losses with five sacks.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Oregon	4	1	7 1
Stanford	3	2	5 3
California	2	4	4 4
Washington	1	3	5 3
Oregon St.	1	3	4 3
Washington St.	1	4	2 6
South			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Arizona State	4	1	6 1
Arizona	3	1	6 1
Utah	3	1	6 1
Southern Cal	4	2	5 3
UCLA	3	2	6 2
Colorado	0	5	2 6

Game of the week: No. 15 Arizona State at No. 18 Utah. The Sun Devils are still in the playoff mix, but will first have to get by the Utes, who still have playoff aspirations of their own. Utah, at 6-1, is No. 17 in the CFB poll and 18th in the AP poll. The Utes beat USC last week and UCLA earlier in the season, but have a home loss to Washington State.

Inside the numbers: The five conference teams ranked in this week's AP Top 25 (Oregon, Arizona State, Arizona, Utah, and UCLA) have a combined overall road record of 17-0.

Player to watch: Oregon RB Royce Freeman. The freshman ran for rushed for 112 yards and two touchdowns in Oregon's 59-41 win over California last week, keeping the 5-foot-11, 229-pound running back on pace to reach the 1,000-yard mark and taking some pressure off QB Marcus Mariota and the rest of the Ducks' offense.

SEC			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Georgia	4	1	6 1
Louisville	3	1	6 2
Kentucky	2	3	3 3
Florida	2	3	3 3
South Carolina	2	2	4 4
Tennessee	4	0	4 3 5
Vanderbilt	0	5	2 6
West			
Conf.	W	L	All W L
Mississippi St	4	0	7 0
Mississippi	4	1	7 1
Alabama	4	1	7 1
Auburn	3	1	6 2
LSU	2	3	7 2
Texas A&M	2	3	5 3
Kansas	0	4	4 4

Game of the week: No. 4 Auburn at No. 7 Mississippi. Saturday's game sets up a likely knockout scenario with the loser sinking to two losses and little chance of jumping back into the College Football Playoff bracket. Ole Miss must recover quickly after its first loss of the season last weekend — a 10-7 setback to LSU.

Inside the numbers: Arkansas will be facing a fifth consecutive conference game against a top-10 opponent Saturday when it visits No. 1 Mississippi State. This marks the first time in Football Bowl Subdivision history that anyone has played five straight conference games against teams ranked 10th or higher.

Player to watch: Florida quarterback Treon Harris. The freshman makes his first career start Saturday against No. 9 Georgia. The job security of Gators coach Will Muschamp could test on whether Harris can lead the Gators to an upset.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Meyer not thrilled by OSU's playoff rank

Coach disappointed Buckeyes rated 16th by selection panel

By RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Urban Meyer took a look at the initial College Football Playoff rankings on Wednesday.

It took him a while to find his Ohio State team.

"Just real briefly. I just looked for the Buckeyes. I just looked down and saw where we were at," he said, a slight grin playing at the corners of his mouth. "That's it."

There was special emphasis on the word "down."

The Buckeyes (6-1, 3-0 Big Ten) ranked 13th in the coaches and The Associated Press media polls, and were 16th on the first weekly list of the top 25 teams determined by the playoff selection committee and released Tuesday.

The Buckeyes are trying to gain incentive off their ranking.

"We were real disappointed," linebacker Curtis Grant said. "We're hungry. You know, we did it to ourselves. So, all we've got to do is keep battling and keep working and at the end of the day try to work our way back to the top."

The Buckeyes aren't surprised that they have their work cut out for them to make it into the college sport's first playoff.

They already knew they could not afford a second loss as they prepare for Saturday's game against Illinois (4-4, 1-3) and then a showdown the following week at No. 8 Michigan State.

Ohio State was No. 8 in the nation when it was soundly beaten at home by Virginia Tech, 35-21, on Sept. 6. The Hokies have since lost four times.

Jeff Long, the AD at Arkansas and also chairman of the 12-member playoff committee, was asked about Ohio State's low placement.

"It was not a good loss for them," he said of the Buckeyes' lone defeat. "But Ohio State has opportunities on their schedule to play up, as many of these teams do. We're



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer, right, stands next to wide receiver Corey Smith (84) as they sing the Ohio State alma mater after a 31-24 win in double overtime over Penn State last week.

still early in this process."

The Buckeyes are ranked third among Big Ten teams by the playoff committee, behind No. 8 Michigan State and No. 15 Nebraska. Of course, the Buckeyes could move up with a win next week at Spartan Stadium. And there's a distinct possibility if they were to do that, they would most likely get a shot at Nebraska in the Big Ten title game.

What's perhaps more troubling for Ohio State fans was the Buckeyes listed 14th among one-loss teams. That's an indication of the low regard the committee has for the Buckeyes' schedule and conference.

Arguably, their biggest win might be last week's double-overtime victory over a Penn State team that has lost three in a row. The only other candidates would be routs of new Big Ten members Rutgers or Maryland, each of which is 5-3.

The Buckeyes were inconsistent against Penn State — a terrific defensive effort most

'There is going to be a lot of controversy with this situation. It's not a foolproof way.'

Urban Meyer

Ohio State football coach on the College Football playoff selection process

of the way before allowing a tying drive at the end of regulation, great offense in building a 17-0 first-half lead but then an unproductive, conservatively called second half.

Star freshman quarterback J.T. Barrett sprained the medial-collateral ligament in his left knee in that game, but still ran for touchdowns in each overtime to secure the win.

Barrett said he intended to play this weekend.

"It would have to be something drastic that would happen between now and 8 o'clock (on Saturday)," he said. "I plan on

playing."

Barrett said the Buckeyes aren't even thinking about the playoffs; they're only worried about playing well in the Big Ten down the stretch.

Speaking on the Big Ten coaches teleconference on Tuesday, Meyer said he looked at the playoff committee much as he did the Bowl Championship Series — just another imperfect way of determining who will play for the national championship.

"There is going to be a lot of controversy with this situation," he said. "It's not a foolproof way."

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Kadena pair set for rivals

Okinawa runners anticipate showdown with pair from Kanto

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — All Eyes On Us could well serve as the prevailing theme of next week's Far East High School Cross Country Meet as a pair of Kanto vs. Okinawa rivalries figure to grab much of the spotlight.

Among the runners entered is the meet Monday at Camp Fuji and Tuesday at Ikego Heights Naval Housing Area are two sets of rivals: American School In Japan senior Evan Yukevich and Kadena junior Hunter Ficenec on the boys side and Kadena's Wren Renquist and Seisen freshman Britanni Shappell on the girls.

The four have posted the fastest times in the Pacific at various distances among Far East meet entrants, Yukevich at 4,417 and 4,800 meters and Ficenec at 5,000; and Shappell at 3,305 and 4,800 meters and Renquist at 5,000.

But the meet may be better known for who won't be there: Daniel Galvin of Yokota, whose 16-minute, 8-second time is the fastest 5-K time this season. He's sidelined by a stress fracture.

"I'm very disappointed he's not here," Ficenec said prior to his victory in the Okinawa district finals on Oct. 22. "It would be a better race. We'd both push ourselves, probably get faster times. I wish he'd get better soon."

While Galvin was what Yukevich called the "alpha dog" of the Kanto Plain circuit, Yukevich is supported by two other teammates who've posted sub-15-minute times on the Tamaki Hills 2.9-mile course. "So even if he's gone, I'll be people picking me and my mindset hasn't changed at all," Yukevich said.

Shappell, who set the Pacific record in track and field's 3,000-meter event as a sixth-grader, said she's not concerned with other people's times.

"I think more about my personal best," she said of her 19:47.5K time. "I don't really race against what other people think about me. I kind of race for myself, so I try to improve for myself and not really care" what others are doing.

Ficenec and Renquist possess the superior 5K times, 16:35 and 19:38. But Yukevich and Shappell improved as the season went along. Ficenec ran the



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Evan Yukevich of American School In Japan, left, and Kadena junior Hunter Ficenec turned in some of the fastest times in the Pacific this year and figure to be the top contenders in next week's Far East meet.

16:35 at midseason and Renquist posted her top time during the first meet and ran in the 20s thereafter.

But while Kadena has the fastest runners time-wise, ASIJ's and Seisen's depth may aid the Panthers' two-year run as Far East Division I school champion.

Still, Kadena coach Tom McKinney holds high hopes.

"I think they're both going to have a good say in the race," he said. "Every year, Okinawa goes up to Far East and we put up good numbers ... against the Kanto league. It's going to be a race. There's no pressure on either of us (Kadena and Kubasaki). We'll see what happens."

Several Kanto observers see ASIJ's boys and Seisen's girls as having the depth needed to win. "ASIJ's boys were going to win anyway," said Galvin's father, Yokota coach Dan Galvin. "They have depth that nobody's ever had here. I just don't see anybody beating them at Far East."

"They're motivated and they've been working all summer long," said Far East meet manager Bruce Carrick, who's been observing Kanto cross country since 1996. "They're the most outstanding team I've seen here."

The hope, Carrick said, is that the good weather that's blessed the Kanto season will continue Monday and Tuesday, Japanese weather forecasts call for rain on Monday and sunny but cool weather Tuesday.

"If (the good) weather continues, we'll see faster times than we've had," Carrick said. "If it's been raining, it will be slow." The course records are held by Kadena's Andrew Kilkenny (17:21.6) and Ana Hernandez (20:22.2).

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Far East tennis DODDS players have work cut out in a tough field

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

SHIRAKO, Chiba Prefecture, Japan — In the three years since their return to the Far East tennis tournament after an eight-year hiatus, American School In Japan has been dominant, especially on the boys side. The Mustangs won the overall banner a year ago.

But there are new challengers on the horizon, if Tuesday's Kanto Plain finals were an indicator. St. Mary's International's boys, led by move-in Marius Ruh, and Seisen International, with sophomore Mathilda Piras, could be the next ones, coaches of all three teams say.

"We're lucky to have him," Titans coach Tomas Molina said of Ruh, who transferred from his native Germany, where he played ITF Juniors. He went unranked in the regular season and was set to play teammate Ray Maejima in Friday's Kanto singles final. Ruh is the Far East No. 1 singles seed and teammate Juan Borgia is the No. 2.

Piras, who upset ASIJ's Lili Kobayashi for the Kanto singles title, headlines a Phoenix team that coach Mike Shappell calls the deepest he's ever had. "The distance between my bottom and tops is way better this year," he said.

On the boys side, the Mustangs are facing what coach Jen Brown calls a "rebuilding year" with the last two Far East singles winners, Ken Ishihara and Yosuke Higashi, gone. But even though Seisen and St. Mary's are sister schools, they can't by tournament rule play for the overall school banner, meaning ASIJ has a good chance to repeat.

"We seem to have this rivalry, it goes back and forth, we take it for a couple of years and then they (St. Mary's and Seisen) take it," Brown said. "It's great for both of us. It's what tennis is about."

It all means a stern challenge for DODDS players hoping to keep up with their international cousins, and DODDS players and teams face a handful of disadvan-

tages in accomplishing that task, DODDS coaches say.

"We take it seriously, but our kids in a school this small compete in several sports," said Yokota's Tommy Palmer.

"Whereas they are very serious tennis players. They (international schools) recruit players. And they play year-round. We just get what we get and they move in and move out. We're lucky if we get a kid for all four years."

It doesn't help that DODDS teams are limited to seven regular-season competition events following DODDS Pacific's decision to reduce and shorten regular seasons in all sports last Nov. 14. International schools don't face those restrictions.

Still, DODDS players will soldier on, with Okinawa champion Nic Lay of Kadena and DODDS Japan champion Rikki Kendall of E.J. King among those hoping to make a dent in the international juggernaut. Seoul American's top singles player Nick Gagnert and Palmer's No. 1 Chris Beemsterboer, along with Zama's Trayland Rose, might also be in the running.

On the girls side, Seoul American coach David Abbott says he hopes his top two, Grace Cho and Ashley Shirriff, will have a "shot at being competitive and maybe a shot at the title." Palmer cited his own top two, Rimi Bargamon and Kaia Austin, as being "very strong." Okinawa champion Lily Oliver hopes for similar results in her freshman year.

"Nervous, excited attitude" heading into Far East, Abbott said.

What will it take for one of the DODDS hopefuls to rise up and knock off one of the international school stars?

"Skill, talent, confidence, consistency, putting it all together and make good happen," Kadena coach Amie Woo said. "Patience, timing, knowing where-and-when to strike, knowing where to place it and knowing when to do it. Putting it away."

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Scoreboard

Far East cross-country meet

Dates and sites — Monday at Camp Fuji, Tuesday at Ikego Heights Naval Housing Facility, Japan.

Participating schools — Division I: Kadena Panthers (two-time defending champion), Kubasaki Dragons, Yokota Panthers, Kinrick Red Devils, Seoul American Falcons, American School In Japan Mustangs, St. Mary's/Seisen International Phoenix, Christian Academy Japan Knights, Division II: E.J. King Cobras, M.C. Perry Samurais, St. Maur Cougars (defending champion), Edgren Eagles, Osan Cougars, Humphreys Blackhawks, Okinawa Christy International Crusaders.

Format — 3.1-mile individual race on Monday, road, gravel and wooded trail just south of Camp Fuji proper. Top four Division I school finishers score points for their teams; top three Division II school finishers score points for their teams. Ties broken in order of team with fifth-place Division I and fourth-place Division II runner with best time. Top 10 overall finishers by division selected to All-Far East team. Races will be segregated by large and small schools. Team relay on Tuesday. Team relay in pairs, with one boy and one girl running two 2.5-kilometer legs each. Ties broken in favor of team with fifth Division I pair and fourth Division II pair with best time. Overall scoring determined by combined placement in boys and girls races and team relay.

Schedule of events — Girls race starts at 11:30 a.m., boys race at 12:15 p.m. Monday. Team relay starts at 11 a.m., Tuesday.

Defending team champions — Division I: Kadena boys, Kadena girls, Kadena overall. Division II: OCSI boys, St. Maur girls, St. Maur overall.

Returning All-Far East runners — Division I boys: Thomas Richter, St. Mary's; Javier Michael, Kadena. Division II boys: Kentaro Ito, OCSI; Justin Hill, Perry; Carson Russell, Zama. Division I girls: Cassandra Burger, Kinrick; Wren Renquist, Kadena; Maku Itakura, Seisen. Division II girls: Lacey Turney, St. Maur; Perry Nicole Castro, Humphreys; Kaieli VanOstran, Perry; Amelia McGrath, King; Emily Souza, Zama; Kianna Pinter, King; Emilia Kidd, King.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Seisen International's Britanni Shappell, left, and Kadena sophomore Wren Renquist have posted the fastest times among entrants in next week's Far East meet.

Scoreboard

Far East tennis tournament

Dates and site — Monday-Thursday, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

Format — Boys and girls singles and doubles, mixed doubles, single-elimination. Top team carries top boys and four girls in its roster; each player must win doubles and then choose to play either singles or mixed doubles.

Schedule of events — First matches begin at 9 a.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, if needed. Singles and doubles and mixed doubles championships tentatively slated for Thursday afternoon, depending on weather. Play finishes around 6:30 p.m. Monday, 6 p.m. Tuesday and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday available for play

in case of rain. **Participating schools** — Kadena Panthers, Kubasaki Dragons, E.J. King Cobras, M.C. Perry Samurais, Yokota Panthers, Zama Trojans, Kinrick Red Devils, Edgren Eagles, Seoul American Falcons, Osan Cougars, Zama Warriors, Humphreys Blackhawks, American School In Japan Mustangs, St. Mary's/Titans/Seisen International Phoenix, Christian Academy Japan Knights, Yongsun International-Scout Guardians.

Defending team champions — Division I: ASIJ boys, Kadena girls. Division II: Seisen International. **Returning individual champion** — Nana Yoshimura, ASIJ, mixed doubles with Kentaro Ishihara.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS-EUROPE



JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Keyschaun Greene (2) cuts upfield against Kaiserslautern on Oct. 24 at Wiesbaden, Germany. The Warriors will play Ramstein in the DODDS-Europe Division I championship on Saturday.

Clash of the titans

Royals, Warriors meet again for football title

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Every sports league has its classic feud. In DODDS-Europe football, it's Ramstein versus Wiesbaden.

Other teams have swooped in and out of the title picture, but along with since-closed Heidelberg, the Royals and Warriors have been the standard-bearers for Division I football over the last decade. And so they are again in 2014; they'll meet Saturday at Kaiserslautern High School to decide the DODDS-Europe Division I football championship.

Those looking for fresh faces and upstarts won't find it here; these are the big boys of DODDS-Europe, sharing the field yet again to script another page in a rivalry that is likely far from over.

At least one of the two teams has been in every Division I European championship game since 2003, and they've combined to win eight of those 11 titles. Their championship matchup Saturday will be the fourth time they've faced each other for the title in that span and the third time in the last four years. Ramstein beat the Warriors in 2003; Wiesbaden beat the Royals in 2011 and 2013.

Their recent history is just as compelling. In last year's title game, underdog Wiesbaden stunned undefeated defending champion Ramstein 38-21. This fall, Wiesbaden edged Ramstein 20-14 in an Oct. 10 overtime game.

That background suggests that Saturday's game might be a classic in waiting.

The Warriors are built around speed and athleticism. Quarter-

Division I capsules

Wiesbaden Warriors

Offensive style: Unparalleled speed manifesting in quarterback keepers, reverses, short passes for big gains and long-ball shots downfield.

Key players: QB/DE Tim Cuthbert; WR/DB/Princeton Weston Barrow; RB/LB Anthony Little; RB Paul Blackwood; RB Keyschaun Greene.

Recent history: Won their second title in three seasons last fall, beating Ramstein for the crown in both 2011 and 2013.

Regular season: 5-0, featuring four blowouts and an overtime win over Ramstein.

Postseason: Defeated Kaiserslautern 56-27 in semifinals.

Storyline: The senior-heavy defending champions try to send their senior class out as royal champions.

Key to victory: Avoiding their habit of slow starts followed by second-half outbursts; that formula might not work in a title game.

back Tim Cuthbert capably helms an offense that is a threat to score on any snap via any number of offensive plays. Ramstein coach Carlos Amponin acknowledges Wiesbaden's athletic advantages.

"They are a physically larger team than we are, they are easily more athletic and they are faster than any team I have seen in my tenure here in Europe," Amponin said.

The Royals, meanwhile, take a more direct approach. Ramstein moves the ball behind perhaps DODDS-Europe's most rugged offensive line. Wiesbaden coach Steve Jewell is well aware of the challenge ahead.

"We will have to play tougher defense," Jewell said. "The Royals have a tremendous front line on offense with multiple running backs that don't quit."

With two of DODDS-Europe's most accomplished coaches guid-

Ramstein Royals

Offensive style: A hard-nosed, run-heavy attack yields consistent positive yardage and occasional breakaway touchdowns.

Key players: WR/DB Gabriel Moreno; RB/LB Antonio Ortiz; RB/DL Donta Morris; QB Tyler Dotson; WR/DB Malik Jackson; PK Dominik Kubas.

Recent history: Have played in every Division I championship game but one over the last decade, winning titles in 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2012.

Regular season: 4-1, losing only a 20-14 overtime decision to Wiesbaden.

Postseason: Defeated Patch 48-7 in semifinals.

Storyline: Redemption, revenge, etc.; choose your sports cliché. The jilted Royals want their title back.

Key to victory: Extended scoring drives, thereby putting points on the board and keeping the Warriors offense sidelined.

ing its two most talented rosters, Saturday's strategies should be interesting to watch unfold.

Wiesbaden will seek to get its athletes out in open space where they can outrun Ramstein tacklers. The Royals will counter by grinding out long drives and keeping the Warriors offense sidelined. Should one side find success, the other will likely have a counter.

Ramstein and Wiesbaden are historical powers. They've been the two best teams in Division I this season, separated by a wide gulf from the rest of the field. Given all that, Saturday's game isn't fresh or surprising.

It must simply be appreciated for what it is: the two titans of Division I football, clashing once again.

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Ansbach between Hohenfels, repeat

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The Ansbach Cougars won all five of their regular-season games and both of their postseason games by multiple touchdowns. They've scored 321 points over those games, an average of more than 45 points per game. In the process, they've advanced to their first DODDS-Europe championship football game since 2011.

But in order to win it, they'll need to do one more thing.

Get better.

"All areas of play must improve," Ansbach head coach Marcus George said.

That's a strange ultimatum for a team that's dominated every game it's played this season. But the opponent it's facing Saturday in the 2014 DODDS-Europe Division II football championship game at Kaiserslautern High School is unlike any opponent it's seen this fall.

The Hohenfels Tigers are the reigning Division II European champions and the only other undefeated team in Division II. Though they've played closer games than Ansbach, they've also played a tougher schedule, beating four playoff teams in the regular season and posting double-digit victories in the playoffs.

Besides, dramatic wins have become a Hohenfels signature.

It was true last year in two come-back wins, 38-28 over Bitburg in the semifinals and 38-35 over SHAPP for the title. The Tigers' narrow margin for error this fall — they beat Bitburg and Vicenza by a combined 11 points over the last two weeks of the regular season — fits right into that theme.

"They are a persistent and determined group that will not quit," Hohenfels coach Larry Daffin said of his team.

Saturday's matchup is a fascinating collection of seeming paradoxes.

Ansbach is a former dynasty looking to restore its place among the DODDS-Europe football elite. But the players actually wearing the Cougars jerseys are young,



MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Hohenfels running back David Vidovic was the Stars and Stripes football athlete of the year last season.

with only one or two seniors on the field at any given time.

Hohenfels has no such reputation for excellence aside from the title it won last year, and it still carries the us-against-the-world vibe of a championship interloper. But the Tigers players are experienced, with upperclassmen at key positions.

Stranger still, the cities of Ansbach and Hohenfels are separated by just 75 miles, and DODDS-Europe schedules skew heavily toward local games. But the teams didn't meet in the regular season. Ansbach joined fellow German schools Bitburg and Baumholder in the central region, while Hohenfels was shuttled to the southern region among Italian schools Naples, Vicenza and Aviano. They even dodged each other in their rare out-of-region games.

As such, Ansbach and Hohenfels rampaged through their concurrent schedules without ever crossing paths, gradually emerging as the two teams to beat. Two weeks of playoffs only confirmed it.

And on Saturday, the payoff finally arrives.

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Division II capsules

Ansbach Cougars

Offensive style: A stable of capable running backs wear down and eventually overwhelm the defense.

Key players: RB/LB Dorian Jones; QB/DB Bailey Ward; TE/DL KJ Watters; RB/LB Roger Brownell; RB/LB Tyler Benton; DL/LB Nick Abel.

Recent history: DODDS-Europe's resident dynasty before Bitburg took over, the Cougars won a Division II title in 2006 and two straight Division II titles in 2007 and 2008. They haven't won a title since, and haven't gotten this far since 2011.

Regular season: 5-0, wire-to-wire blowouts throughout.

Postseason: Defeated Aviano 55-28 in semifinals; defeated Vicenza 32-23 in quarterfinals.

Storyline: Former DODDS-Europe royalty seeks a return to the throne.

Key to victory: Finding many of its key guys playing both sides of the ball, avoiding fatigue is crucial.

Hohenfels Tigers

Offensive style: Keeping the chains in motion via the video-game stats of All-Europe running back and reigning Stars and Stripes football athlete of the Year David Vidovic.

Key players: RB/DB David Vidovic; QB/DL Princeton Pfluegers; WR/LB Gabriel Penn; WR/DB Marcus Dudley; OL/DL Alex McCready; RB/DL AJ Day.

Recent history: Lost from mediocrity last season to stun reigning champion Bitburg in the semifinals. They went on to edge SHAP 38-35 for the 2013 Division II title.

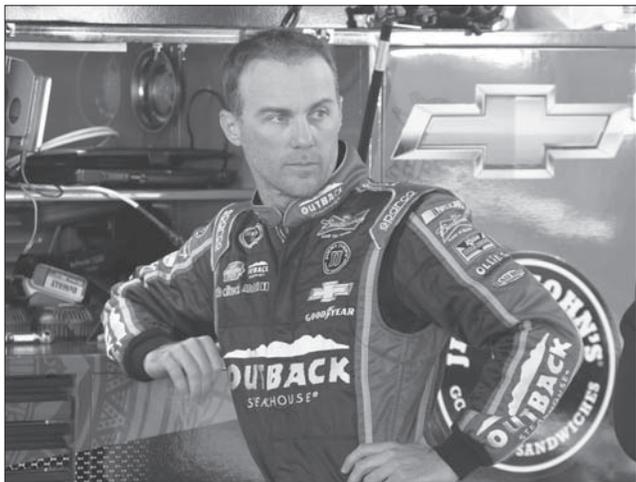
Regular season: 5-0, including wins over four playoff teams.

Postseason: Defeated SHAP 33-20 in quarterfinals; defeated Naples 25-11 in semifinals.

Storyline: Seeking to follow Ansbach and Bitburg as Division II winners with multiple consecutive championships over the last decade.

Key to victory: Finding offensive production beyond Vidovic without overly marginalizing their star back.

AUTO RACING



Steve Helber/AP

Kevin Harvick watches his crew in the garage as he waits for practice to begin for last weekend's race in Martinsville, Va. Harvick was in the top 10 before he spun out and wound up finishing 33rd.

SHR: Don't bet against Harvick in next 2 races

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Tony Stewart has never been fond of predictions and when asked, he almost always gives the same response: "If I knew the answer to that, I'd probably be a bookie in Las Vegas."

Yet when it comes to teammate Kevin Harvick's chances of advancing out of the next round of NASCAR's playoffs, the co-owner of Stewart-Haas Racing suddenly sounded like an odds-maker.

"There's nobody I'd put money on in a two-race deal more than him," Stewart said of Harvick.

Harvick, who has consistently had one of the fastest cars all season, has been backed into a corner in the third round of the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. Matt Kenseth spun his on a restart Sunday at Martinsville Speedway, where Harvick finished 33rd. It dropped him to last in the eight-driver Chase field, with two races to either climb to fourth in the standings or to earn the automatic berth that comes with a victory.

Only four drivers will race for the championship in the Nov. 16 finale at Homestead, where Harvick spent Tuesday and Wednesday testing with SHR.

There was palpable disappointment throughout the SHR organization at Martinsville, where Harvick had climbed from 33rd

By the numbers

10

Number of times driver Kevin Harvick has qualified for NASCAR's Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

0

Number of times Harvick has won the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

3

Number of Sprint Cup races Harvick has won this year, including three weeks ago at Charlotte.

SOURCE: NASCAR.com

to inside the top 10 before Kenseth spun him, but no one was ready to count him out.

"Although he's never won a Cup

race at Texas, site of Sunday's event, he has been strong on 1.5-milers this year and won at Charlotte earlier this month. The Texas race will also mark Harvick's 500th career start.

Then he moves to Phoenix, the site of the final race of this round and where Harvick is a five-time winner. His winning streak includes three of the last four races.

"I think we feel good going to Texas, and Phoenix is one of his favorite tracks," said Stewart.

SHR competition director Greg Zippadelli noted that Harvick can climb out of a hole.

"He seems to do well when his back is against the wall and I think he wants it," Zippadelli said. "Nobody is going to give you it. Racing for years, you gotta go earn it, you gotta race it and some days things stack against you and you've got to go see what you're made of. We'll go to the next couple of races and see what we've got."

"I believe in our people, I believe in our equipment, so we've just got to do it."

Crew chief Rodney Childers said the No. 4 team will change nothing in its approach, and nobody is panicked about Harvick's position.

"We're ready to go," Childers said. "Our Texas and Phoenix cars are already ready. There's nothing we need to change or do differently. We've just got to go win a race."

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: AAA Texas 500 at Fort Worth, Texas.

Track: Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 501 miles, 334 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 9 p.m. Sunday, Central European Time; 5 a.m. Monday, Japan/Korea Time.

Last year: Jimmie Johnson took the points lead en route to his sixth season championship.

Last week: Dale Earnhardt Jr. won at Martinsville, a week after he was eliminated from the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

Next race: Quicken Loans Race for Heroes 500, Nov. 9, Phoenix International Raceway, Avondale, Ariz.

Online: nascar.com

POINTS STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon4,044
2. Ryan Newman4,041
3. Joey Logano4,040
4. Matt Kenseth4,039
5. Denny Hamlin4,037
6. Carl Edwards4,024
7. Brad Keselowski4,013
8. Kevin Harvick4,011
9. Kyle Busch2,230
10. AJ Allmendinger2,198
11. Dale Earnhardt Jr.2,196
12. Jimmie Johnson2,186
13. Greg Biffle2,178
14. Kasey Kahne2,173
15. Kurt Busch2,165
16. Aric Almirola2,124
17. Kyle Larson981
18. Clint Bowyer923
19. Austin Dillon910
20. Jamie McMurray906

DRIVER TO WATCH



While there have only been 27 Sprint Cup races at Texas Motor Speedway since it opened in 1997, Carl Edwards has still managed to win there three times.

One of the three was the first Chase for the championship race at TMS in 2005.

Edwards has won two races this season and sits out 20 points behind leader Jeff Gordon in the Chase for the championship standings.

In addition to his three victories in Texas, Edwards has six top-five and eight top-10 finishes. He has an average finish of 15.5 in 19 races.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: O'Reilly Auto Parts Challenge at Fort Worth, Texas.

Track: Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 1 p.m. Sunday, Central European Time; 9 p.m. Sunday, Japan/Korea Time.

Last year: Brad Keselowski raced to the sixth of his seven 2013 victories.

Last race: Keselowski won at Charlotte on Oct. 10 for his fourth victory in nine starts this season.

Next race: DAV 200, Nov. 8, Phoenix International Raceway, Avondale, Ariz.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

This week: WinStar World Casino & Resort 350 at Fort Worth, Texas.

Track: Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 220.5 miles, 147 laps.

Last year: Ty Dillon raced to the second of his two 2013 victories.

Last week: Darrell Wallace Jr. won at Martinsville, a year after he won at the track to become the first black driver to win a national NASCAR race since Wendell Scott in 1963.

Next race: Lucas Oil 150, Nov. 7, Phoenix International Raceway, Avondale, Ariz.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: U.S. Grand Prix at Austin, Texas.

Track: Circuit of The Americas (road course, 3.427 miles).

Race distance: 191.94 miles, 56 laps.

Last year: Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel raced to his eighth consecutive victory to break Michael Schumacher's season record. Vettel won the season-ending Brazilian Grand Prix the following week to match Schumacher's record of 13 victories in a year.

Last week: Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Russian Grand Prix on Oct. 12 for his fourth straight victory and ninth of the year.

Next race: Brazilian Grand Prix, Nov. 9, Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace, Sao Paulo.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: Toyota Nationals at Las Vegas.

Track: The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 7 a.m. Wednesday, Cell European Time; 3 p.m. Wednesday, Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: John Force won his record 16th Funny Car season title, beating daughter Courtney Force in the final round. Matt Smith won in Pro Stock Motorcycle to take the season title. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel event, and Shane Gray topped the Pro Stock field.

Last week: Matt Hagan won Oct. 5 in Mohnton, Penn., to take the Funny Car points lead. He has two victories in the first four races in the Countdown to the Championship playoffs. Tony Schumacher won in Top Fuel to extend his season lead. He has three Countdown victories. Rodger Brogdon won in Pro Stock, and Eddie Krawiec in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Next event: Auto Club Finals, Nov. 13-16, Auto Club Raceway at Pomona, Pomona, Calif.

Online: nhra.com

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	1	0	1.000	—
Toronto	1	0	1.000	—
New York	1	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	0	1	.000	1
Brooklyn	0	1	.000	1
Southeast Division				
Miami	1	0	1.000	—
Charlotte	1	0	1.000	—
Orlando	0	1	.000	1
Atlanta	0	1	.000	1
Washington	0	1	.000	1
Central Division				
Chicago	1	0	1.000	—
Indiana	1	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	0	1	.000	½
Detroit	0	1	.000	½
Milwaukee	0	1	.000	1
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	2	0	1.000	—
San Antonio	1	0	1.000	½
Memphis	1	0	1.000	½
New Orleans	1	0	1.000	½
Northwest Division				
Portland	1	0	1.000	—
Denver	1	0	1.000	—
Minnesota	0	1	.000	1
Utah	0	1	.000	1
Oklahoma City	0	1	.000	1
Pacific Division				
Golden State	1	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	1	0	1.000	—
L.A. Clippers	0	1	.000	1
Sacramento	0	1	.000	1
L.A. Lakers	0	2	.000	1½

Tuesday's games
 New Orleans 101, Orlando 84
 San Antonio 101, Dallas 100
 Houston 108, L.A. Lakers 90

Wednesday's games
 Indiana 103, Philadelphia 91
 Charlotte 108, Milwaukee 106, OT
 Boston 121, Brooklyn 95
 Toronto 109, Atlanta 102
 Memphis 105, Minnesota 101
 Chicago 104, New York 80

Thursday's games
 Denver 89, Detroit 78
 Houston 104, Utah 93
 Phoenix 119, L.A. Lakers 99
 Golden State 95, Sacramento 77
 Portland 106, Oklahoma City 89

Friday's games
 Washington at Orlando
 Detroit at Minnesota
 New York at Cleveland
 Utah at Dallas

Saturday's games
 Dallas at New Orleans
 Miami at Philadelphia
 Milwaukee at Washington
 Toronto at Orlando
 Memphis at Charlotte
 Indiana at Atlanta
 Brooklyn at Detroit
 Denver at Oklahoma City
 Boston at Houston
 Chicago at Minnesota
 Phoenix at Utah
 L.A. Lakers at Golden State

Sunday's games
 Sacramento at L.A. Clippers
 Toronto at Miami
 Golden State at New York
 Charlotte at Portland

Monday's games
 Houston at Philadelphia
 Oklahoma City at Brooklyn
 New Orleans at Memphis
 Boston at Dallas
 Sacramento at Denver
 Utah at L.A. Clippers

Tuesday's games
 Milwaukee at Indiana
 Houston at Miami
 Philadelphia at New York
 Oklahoma City at Toronto
 Chicago at Charlotte
 Charlotte at New Orleans
 Cleveland at Portland
 Phoenix at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games
 Miami at Charlotte
 Orlando at Philadelphia
 Toronto at Boston
 Minnesota at Brooklyn
 New York at Detroit
 Chicago at Milwaukee
 Indiana at Washington
 Atlanta at San Antonio
 Memphis at Phoenix
 Cleveland at Utah
 Denver at Sacramento
 L.A. Clippers at Golden State

Calendar
Jan. 5 — 10-day contracts can be signed.
Jan. 10 — Contracts guaranteed for regular season.
Feb. 13-15 — All-Star weekend, New York.
Feb. 19 — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST).
April 15 — Last day of regular season.
April 18 — Playoffs begin.



JOHN BEALE/AP

Looking for redemption

Former Timberwolves guard rebuilding life after false accusation

Former Minnesota Timberwolves forward Dante Cunningham takes a break from working out last Wednesday in State College, Pa. Charges of domestic assault have been dropped and police have concluded that Cunningham's accuser fabricated some of the allegations against him. But those six months have also seen domestic violence in sports thrust into the headlines like never before, thanks in part to the Ray Rice scandal in the NFL, complicating Cunningham's return to the NBA.

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
 The Associated Press

It was after 4 a.m. when Dante Cunningham pulled his truck back into the driveway of his suburban Minneapolis home and saw the police waiting for him.

Officers put the handcuffs on the Minnesota Timberwolves' reserve as soon as his feet hit the pavement. The reality of his situation and the domestic assault charges that were on their way didn't sink in until he was lying in a jail cell and the lights went out.

"The whole time I was like, 'I'm OK. I'm out of here. Things will be fine,'" Cunningham recalled. "Then it went dark and I was like, 'This is not a joke. I'm really in this.'"

In the six months since, the charges have been dropped and police concluded Cunningham's accuser fabricated some of the allegations against him. But those six months have also seen domestic violence in sports thrust into the headlines like never before, thanks in part to the Ray Rice scandal in the NFL, and Cunningham feels as if those handcuffs have never been taken off.

He is now an ex-Timberwolves forward, an NBA free agent who is living in a motorhome at a campground near Penn State, where a former college teammate is on the coaching staff and runs him through workouts. He lives in the motorhome because he enjoys it, not because he's broke, but the journeyman player who was hoping to get a multimillion-dollar contract this summer says he hasn't even gotten an offer for the league minimum because teams have told them it's not worth the bad publicity.

"At this point it's about justice and it's about clearing my name," the 27-year-old forward told The Associated Press. "Clearly this adds a terrible stigma to my name. ... Now when anyone looks up Dante Cunningham, oh, wasn't he the one that was in trouble? There's nothing out there saying there was a false charge."

Cunningham met Miryah Herron last year and lived with her for eight months in a whirlwind start to their relationship.



JOHN BEALE/AP

Dante Cunningham talks on his cell phone as he spends time with his dog, Ruger, in his motor home in Bellefonte, Pa. Cunningham is living in the motor home as he continues to train in hopes of a return to the NBA.

The two had an argument April 3, and that's where their stories take wildly divergent paths.

Herron told police Cunningham kicked in the door to their bedroom, choked her and slammed her head against the wall. Cunningham says he kicked the door in more than a week earlier after he accidentally locked his keys in the room. He also says the only time he touched Herron was when he grabbed her wrist to get her to stop hanging on his truck as he drove away to cool off.

Cunningham missed one game while he was in jail, but the team and league did not suspend him under a collectively bargained policy of letting the legal process play out before deciding on a potential punishment.

Cunningham was arrested again three days later after Herron told police that he violated a protection order by calling her from his hotel room phone and sending

her threatening messages on Skype. A police investigation found Herron apparently sent the messages herself in an attempt to frame Cunningham.

Police recommended that Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman charge Herron with making a false police report for the second incident, but he told the AP he was reluctant to do so in part because he feared "a chilling effect" on future victims of domestic violence.

While Cunningham was facing the charges, he was booed by home fans and the Timberwolves were criticized for allowing him to play in games.

"They think I'm a bad person," Cunningham said. "C'mon. I'm a great person. Give me that chance. I've been stripped of that. You have to understand that. That's terrible. Awful. And if I don't have my name, what do I have?"

NFL

Brady's focus on Broncos defense

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Fans get another chance to gauge the relative greatness of Tom Brady and Peyton Manning when the quarterbacks meet for the 16th time.

Brady will be analyzing something more important.

The New England Patriots star will have his eyes on an improved Denver Broncos defense that could test his limited skills at escaping the pass rush on Sunday.



Brady

The Broncos (6-1) are the only team with two players having at least seven sacks — linebacker Von Miller with nine and defensive end DeMarcus Ware with seven.

"They just tee off on the quarterback. They've got every move. They've got

the speed, speed-to-power," Brady said Wednesday. "They've got the spin moves. They run the games. It's a big challenge for our offensive line."

It would have been a much bigger challenge earlier in the season when the line was in flux as coach Bill Belichick sought the right combination to clear space for runners and protect Brady.

The Patriots (6-2) were 2-2 in the first four games and Brady was sacked nine times. In the last four, they're 4-0 and Brady has been sacked just four times. The current front line of left tackle Nate Solder, left guard Dan Connolly, rookie center Bryan Stork, right guard Ryan Wendell and right tackle Sebastian Vollmer has jelled.

"We've had some growing pains that we're all trying to get used to earlier," Brady said. "Offensive lines, typically, the longer they play together the better they get because they do develop a lot of trust in the guy next to them. The offensive line really is a metaphor for an offense and a team. Everyone has to complement each other."

Brady is 10-5 against Manning, including the postseason. But the last time they faced each other, Manning and the Broncos were better. He completed 32 of 43 passes for 400 yards and two touchdowns in a 26-16 win in last season's AFC championship game.

The Broncos have allowed the fourth fewest yards per game in the NFL and the fewest yards rushing. In the last four games, opponents have averaged just 258.8 yards and 47.8 yards rushing.

In his last four games, Brady has been spectacular, passing for 1,268 with 14 touchdowns and no interceptions.

"I feel like I'm the same every week," he said. "Some weeks it goes better than others, but I feel like my approach is always the same. Statistics may not be the same, but I try to bring the same level of intensity and energy, and I think I've always tried to be really consistent."



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

Pittsburgh wide receiver Antonio Brown celebrates making a first-down catch during the fourth quarter last weekend's game against Indianapolis in Pittsburgh. The Steelers won 51-34 and Brown had 10 receptions for 133 yards and two touchdowns.

Difficult to overlook

By the numbers

14.2

Average yards per catch for Pittsburgh receiver Antonio Brown this season.

7

Number of touchdowns Brown has scored this season through 8 games.

110

Most receptions Brown has had in a single season, setting the mark in 2013.

Steelers' Brown gets attention for more than TD celebrations

By WILL GRAVES
The Associated Press

ANTONIO BROWN'S brilliance is sometimes overshadowed by everything else that comes with it.

The elaborate and occasionally illegal touchdown celebrations. The rare and highly meme-friendly karate kick to an opposing punter's face. The intermittent Twitter post about officiating. The curious late-game play call designed solely to extend a "record" that while impressive isn't actually recognized by the NFL.

Strip it all away, however, and there's this: The undersized but relentless Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver is elbowing his way into the conversation among the best at his position and maybe one of the most valuable players in the game.

Heading into Sunday night's game against Baltimore, the two-time Pro Bowler is on his way to the greatest season by a receiver in team history. Brown leads the NFL with 60 receptions and his 852 yards receiving rank sec-

ond to good friend and former pee-wee football teammate T.Y. Hilton of the Indianapolis Colts. All this despite facing frequent double teams as opponents try to neutralize Brown in an often ill-fated attempt to force Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to look elsewhere when the ball.

"When you step into a stadium he's a known issue but still he performs," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "We could talk about some of the things about guys like (Houston Texans defensive end) JJ Watt. We knew what he was capable of when we were getting ready to play him, but it still doesn't stop the storm from coming."

The storm reached a frenzy last Sunday against Indianapolis, when Brown caught a season-high 10 passes for 133 yards and two scores in a 51-34 victory over the Colts.

Yet Brown toils in relative obscurity. At 5-foot-10 he's not a physical marvel like Calvin Johnson or Dez Bryant. His toothy smile hardly mirrors Steve Smith's visceral tenaciousness. He plays for a franchise known for winning and rugged play, in that order, even as the Steelers have the fourth-best passing offense.



GAMEDAY

WEEK 9

TELEVISED GAMES



San Diego Chargers (5-3) at Miami Dolphins (4-3)

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Miami leads 13-12, but San Diego has won two of the past three meetings.

Last meeting: Dolphins beat the visiting Chargers 20-16 on Nov. 17, 2013.

Notes: Chargers' Antonio Gates needs one more TD reception to become the first TE in NFL history with four career 10-plus TD seasons. ... Dolphins QB Ryan Tannehill won his only career start against the Chargers, passing for 268 yards and a TD.



Arizona Cardinals (6-1) at Dallas Cowboys (6-2)

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Cowboys lead 55-30-1, but Cardinals have won the past three.

Last meeting: Cardinals beat the visiting Cowboys 19-13 in OT on Dec. 4, 2011.

Notes: Cardinals QB Carson Palmer has 2 TD passes in each of his four '14 starts ... WR Larry Fitzgerald has a catch in 156 straight games, the NFL's longest active streak. ... Cowboys RB DeMarco Murray is the only player in NFL history with 100-plus rushing yards in the first eight games.

Marquee matchup

Denver Broncos (6-1) at New England Patriots (6-2)

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 6 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Broncos lead 25-19; Patriots have won past three.

LAST MEETING: Denver beat New England, 26-16, in last year's AFC championship game.

BRONCOS OFFENSE: OVERALL (6), RUSH (21), PASS (3).

BRONCOS DEFENSE: OVERALL (4), RUSH (1), PASS (17).

PATRIOTS OFFENSE: OVERALL (10), RUSH (17), PASS (10).

PATRIOTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (12), RUSH (25), PASS (2).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES:

First game in NFL history to feature opposing starting QBs with 150-plus regular-season wins each. ... In the 2013 AFC championship vs. New England, Broncos QB Peyton Manning passed for 400 yards and 2 TDs. He has 2-plus TD passes in 13 consecutive games, tied for longest streak in league history ... RB Ronnie Hillman rushed for a career-high 109 yards last week. ... In the past four games, WR Demaryius Thomas has 34 catches for 626 yards and 5 TDs. ... WR Wes Welker spent six seasons with New England (2007-12) and is the Pat's

New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski

CHARLES TRAINOR JR., MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com

career leader in catches (672) ... Broncos are only NFL team to feature two players with 7-plus sacks each (LBs Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware) ... Since entering the league in 2011, Miller leads the AFC with 44 sacks. ... The Patriots aim for their 14th consecutive regular-season victory at home ... Last week, QB Tom Brady completed 30 of 35 passes for 354 yards and 5 TDs and no interceptions. He's the only QB in NFL history with 350-plus yards, 5-plus TDs, no interceptions and an 85-plus completion percentage in a game (also did it against Tennessee on Oct. 18, 2009). Has won 87 of 100 regular-season home starts, most of any QB in the Super Bowl era through their first 100 ... WR Brandon Lafell had career highs in catches (11) and receiving yards (124) with a TD last week ... TE Rob Gronkowski had nine receptions for 149 yards and tied a career high with 3 TDs vs. Chicago last week. Since entering the league in 2010, he leads the NFL with 49 TD catches.



St. Louis Rams (2-5) at San Francisco 49ers (4-3)

AFN-Atlantic
10 p.m. Sunday CET
6 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: 49ers lead 64-62-3, including the past three.

Last meeting: 49ers beat the host Rams 31-17 on Oct. 13.

Notes: Rams QB Austin Davis has 10 TD passes in his past five starts ... Rookie RB Tre Mason is averaging 5.2 yards a carry. ... When 49ers QB Colin Kaepernick starts and has a 100-plus rating, the team is 15-1 ... RB Frank Gore has 15 rushing TDs in the past 15 meetings with the Rams.



Baltimore Ravens (5-3) at Pittsburgh Steelers (5-3)

AFN-Sports
2:20 a.m. Monday CET
10:20 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Steelers lead 20-17, but the Ravens have won the past two.

Last meeting: Ravens beat the visiting Steelers 26-6 on Sept. 11.

Notes: Ravens QB Joe Flacco has won five of the past seven against Pittsburgh, passing for 1,508 yards with 9 TDs and 1 interception. ... Last week, Ben Roethlisberger passed for a club record 522 yards and 6 TDs. He's the only player in NFL history with two 500-plus-yard passing games.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Philadelphia at Houston
N.Y. Jets at Kansas City
Washington at Minnesota
Tampa Bay at Cleveland
Jacksonville at Cincinnati
Oakland at Seattle
Open: Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Tennessee
Monday
Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Nov. 6
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Sunday, Nov. 9
San Francisco at New Orleans
Kansas City at Buffalo
Miami at Detroit
Tennessee at Baltimore
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets
Atlanta at Tampa Bay
Dallas vs. Jacksonville in London
St. Louis at Oakland
N.Y. Giants at Seattle
San Diego at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Green Bay
Open: Houston, Indianapolis, Minnesota, New England, San Diego, Washington
Monday, Nov. 10
Carolina at Philadelphia

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	East		North		South		AFC	NFC	Div
				Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Home			
New England	6	2	0	.750	238	177	4-0-0	2-2-0	4-2-0	2-0-0	2-1-0	
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	178	165	2-2-0	3-1-0	2-3-0	3-0-0	2-1-0	
Miami	4	3	0	.571	174	151	1-2-0	3-1-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	
N.Y. Jets	1	7	0	.125	144	228	1-4-0	1-4-0	1-4-0	0-3-0	0-2-0	
South												
Indianapolis	5	3	0	.625	250	187	3-1-0	2-2-0	5-2-0	0-1-0	3-0-0	
Houston	4	4	0	.500	185	166	2-1-0	2-3-0	3-2-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	
Tennessee	2	6	0	.250	137	202	1-3-0	1-3-0	2-4-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	
Jacksonville	1	7	0	.125	118	218	1-3-0	0-4-0	1-5-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	
North												
Cincinnati	4	2	1	.643	161	164	3-0-1	1-2-0	3-2-0	1-0-1	2-0-0	
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	217	131	3-1-0	2-2-0	2-3-0	3-0-0	2-2-0	
Pittsburgh	5	3	0	.625	205	196	3-1-0	2-2-0	4-2-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	163	152	3-1-0	1-2-0	3-3-0	1-0-0	1-2-0	
West												
Denver	6	1	0	.857	224	142	5-0-0	1-1-0	4-0-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	
San Diego	5	3	0	.625	205	149	3-1-0	2-2-0	4-2-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	
Kansas City	4	3	0	.571	176	128	2-1-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	
Oakland	0	7	0	.000	105	181	0-4-0	0-3-0	0-6-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	

National Conference

	W	L	T	East		North		South		AFC	NFC	Div
				Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	Home			
Dallas	6	2	0	.750	213	167	3-2-0	3-0-0	4-2-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	
Philadelphia	5	2	0	.714	203	156	4-0-0	1-2-0	3-2-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	
N.Y. Giants	3	4	0	.429	154	169	2-1-0	1-3-0	2-4-0	1-0-0	1-2-0	
Washington	3	5	0	.375	171	200	2-2-0	1-3-0	1-4-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	
South												
Carolina	3	4	1	.438	167	208	2-2-0	1-2-1	3-2-0	0-2-1	1-0-0	
New Orleans	3	4	0	.429	199	188	3-0-0	0-4-0	3-3-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	
Atlanta	2	6	0	.250	192	221	2-2-0	0-4-0	2-4-0	0-2-0	2-0-0	
Tampa Bay	1	6	0	.143	133	223	0-4-0	1-2-0	0-5-0	1-1-0	0-3-0	
North												
Detroit	6	2	0	.750	162	126	3-1-0	3-1-0	5-1-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	
Green Bay	5	3	0	.625	222	191	3-0-0	2-3-0	3-3-0	2-0-0	2-1-0	
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	180	222	0-3-0	3-2-0	2-2-0	1-3-0	0-1-0	
Minnesota	3	5	0	.375	139	173	1-2-0	2-3-0	3-3-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	
West												
Arizona	6	1	0	.857	164	139	4-0-0	2-1-0	4-0-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	
San Francisco	4	3	0	.571	158	165	2-1-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	172	150	2-1-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	
St. Louis	2	5	0	.286	136	210	1-3-0	1-2-0	2-4-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	

SPORTS

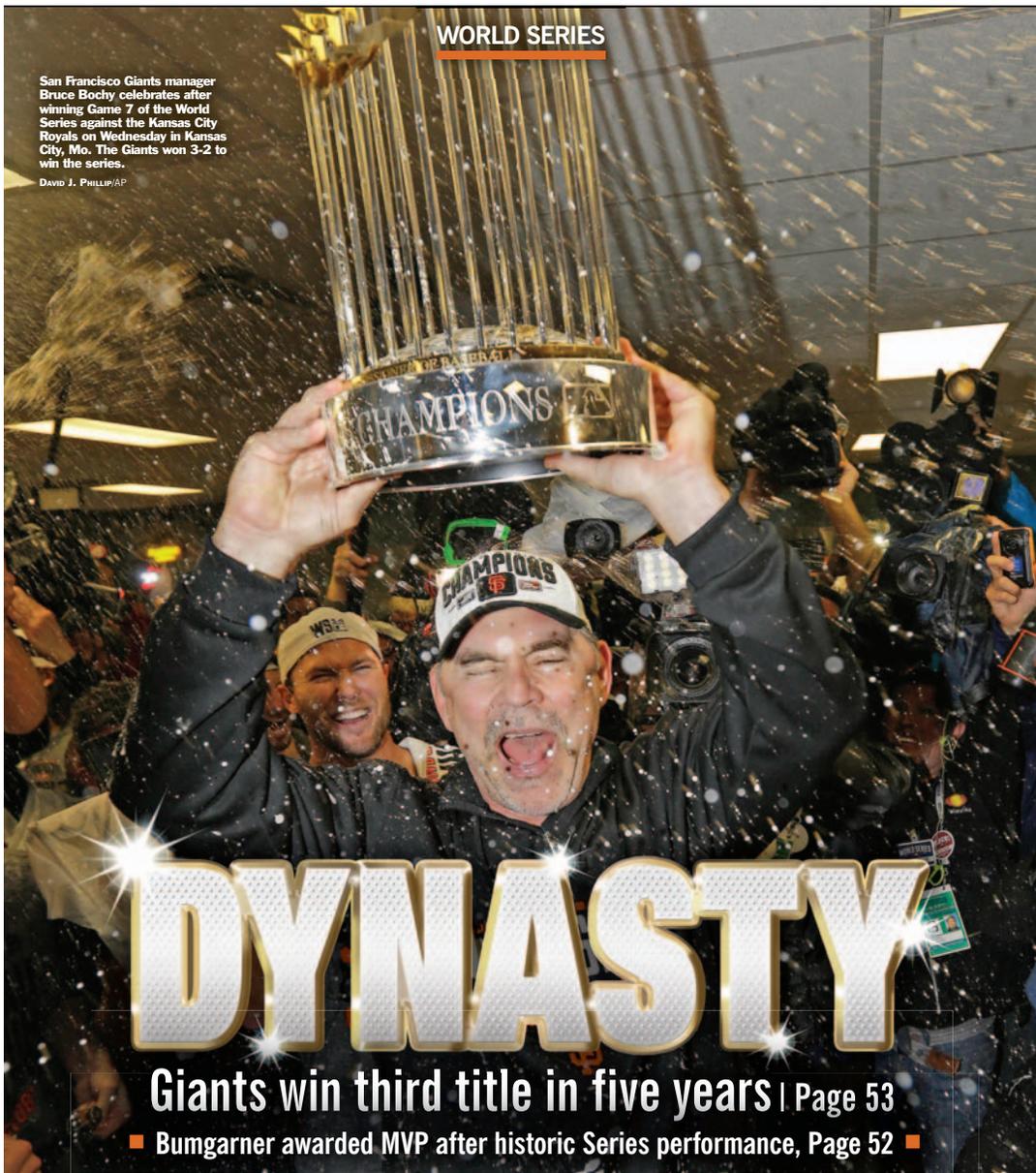


Unstoppable force?
Pittsburgh WR Brown on pace for greatest season in franchise history | **NFL, Page 62**

WORLD SERIES

San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy celebrates after winning Game 7 of the World Series against the Kansas City Royals on Wednesday in Kansas City, Mo. The Giants won 3-2 to win the series.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP



DYNASTY

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■ **Bumgarner awarded MVP after historic Series performance, Page 52** ■

Familiar foes to meet for D-I championship | Page 59

