

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“Syria is ready to cooperate and coordinate on the regional and international level in the war on terror. But any effort to combat terrorism should be coordinated with the Syrian government.”

— Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, warning the U.S. not to strike inside Syria against the Islamic State without Damascus’ consent

See story on Page 7

TOP CLICKS
ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Bonhomme Richard flight deck up for flight operations, could delay next deployment
2. Servicemembers file class-action lawsuit against car shipping contractor
3. Army: Barricaded in Fort Lee office, soldier shot herself
4. Fort Hood NCO to face court martial in prostitution-rage case
5. Two brands of peanut butter, almond butter recalled

COMING
SOON

Health

Learning to swim as an adult



TODAY
IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 16
- Business 18
- Classified 19, 22
- Comics 13
- Crossword 13
- Faces 17
- Opinion 20-21
- Shifting Gears 15
- Sports 23-32
- Weather 18

MILITARY

Afghan votes get crucial last look

Candidates’ reps still can appeal recount rulings

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan officials began the final stage of a drawn-out review of the presidential runoff vote on Monday as pressure mounted for a resolution to a dispute that threatens the country’s stability and the future presence of U.S. forces.

Members of the Independent Election Commission will now meet daily to look over the results of the past month’s audit to determine which of the votes cast in the June 14 runoff are valid and which are invalid due to possible fraud. The process is expected to change final vote totals for rival presidential candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah.

Auditors finished reviewing the bulk of the nearly 23,000 ballot boxes on Sunday, opening the door for Monday’s session. The remaining boxes — fewer than 6,000 in total — are being put through full recounts in an effort to single out suspect polling places, with their results to be adjudicated by the commissioners.

On Saturday, President Hamid Karzai declared that a new president must be sworn in on Sept. 2, two days before a crucial NATO summit. Whether Karzai has the authority to set a deadline is unclear, though Western leaders also have pushed for a candidate to be selected before the NATO summit next week, when leaders will make decisions regarding the future presence of international forces in the country. The date for the inauguration has been repeatedly set back amid allegations of election fraud that finally led to the audit and review currently underway.

Ghani led with more than a million votes after the June 14 runoff, a contest that Abdullah claims he lost because of widespread fraud. Abdullah had led all candidates after the general election in April.

The review process has struggled to balance fairness with



RAHMAT GUL/AF

Workers sort ballots for an audit of the presidential run-off votes at an election commission office in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday.

speed and been dogged by disagreements between candidates’ representatives, leading to repeated suspensions and slow progress.

The adjudication process that began Monday will likely generate new disputes. Candidate representatives will observe each session and be allowed to protest commissioners’ decisions within 24 hours of publication of each day’s results. The IEC will then have 48 hours to rule on the complaints.

The resulting three-day lag, plus the time needed to recount and then adjudicate the ballot boxes from the suspect polling places, means the pace of the overall review will likely remain slow, said Martine van Bijlert, who has followed the process closely for the Afghanistan Analysts Network.

“Even if they manage to speed up the special audit like crazy, and they finish it in five days — which would mean a major, different way of working — then they would still have three days after that,” she said. “And that’s the ideal scenario — no disputes, no walkouts.”

The international community continues to urge both sides to resolve the dispute peacefully. In two recent visits to Kabul, Secretary of State John Kerry elicited signed agreements from both candidates to accept the audit results and create a joint govern-

ment with a role for the losing candidate.

Yet Abdullah supporters have continued to question the legitimacy of the process.

Efforts to agree on a unity government remain stuck on different interpretations of the new positions of opposition leader and chief executive. Although the two candidates have begun meeting to try to reach a resolution, they may not have reason to compromise until the audit picture becomes clearer, van Bijlert said.

“What I think complicates everything is both candidates trying to gauge how strong their position is,” she said.

President Barack Obama called each candidate on Friday to encourage them to work toward a joint structure and accept the outcome of the vote review.

Afghanistan’s economy and the future of NATO and U.S. forces are among the stakes of the election impasse. Both candidates have said they will sign agreements for a residual training and advising force to remain in Afghanistan after all international combat forces withdraw by the end of December, but NATO’s secretary-general recently warned the time for a deal is running out.

Both candidates have warned that civil unrest could ensue if supporters feel the election review was not fair.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @sbeardsley

Dempsey: US forces could stay longer

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Pentagon has developed plans that would allow American forces to remain in Afghanistan beyond the end of the year if the contested presidential election drags on and a security agreement isn’t signed soon, the top U.S. military officer said Monday.

Shortly before landing in Kabul for a visit, Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters accompanying him on the trip that under optimal circumstances the U.S. would need about 120 days to pull all troops and equipment out of the country if there is no agreement allowing them to stay into 2015.

Dempsey also said the U.S. can act quickly to pull out if necessary. And he added, “We’ve got our own planning mechanism in place should this thing extend a little further than we hoped it would.”

Dempsey arrived in Afghanistan to attend the change of U.S. command. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford will turn over control of the war effort to Army Gen. John Campbell.

The transition comes at a critical time as the election of a new president is stalled while an audit is conducted to determine the outcome.

The lack of a president-elect creates a dilemma for the United States, which has said that all troops would leave by the end of the year unless the security agreement is signed.

But officials have suggested there is some leeway.

“We’ve said we need a [security] agreement, not because necessarily we lack the authority to stay beyond the end of the year, but rather as an expression of good faith and good will” by the Afghan government, Dempsey said.

SERVING THE MILITARY IN GERMANY AND ITALY

SPECIAL SERVICE CREDIT UNION AND CAPITOL MOTORS PROMOTION



CAPITOL MOTORS

Kaiserslautern — Spangdahlem
Aviano — Vicenza

info@capitolmotors.com
www.capitolmotors.com



Stateside, factory and overseas delivery available.

Three easy ways to apply.

- ▶ At any of our branch locations
- ▶ Online at servicecu.org
- ▶ By phone 24/7 at 00800.4728.2000

RATES AS LOW AS

.89%¹
APR

LIVE PERSON SERVICE 24/7 • 00800.4728.2000 • 314.493.4384/4385 • SERVICECU.ORG/stripes

SERVICE CREDIT UNION



Follow us on social media icons.

¹Rate shown is Annual Percentage Rate (APR) and is a special promotional rate offered to Capitol customers. Prior purchases and existing Service Credit Union loans excluded. Rate is accurate as of 6/23/2014. Offer ends 9/23/2014 and is subject to change or be discontinued without notice. Rate shown includes a 3.5% service fee. Monthly direct deposit and automatic payment (example): 1.24% APR less 3.5% = .89%. Example: a \$15,000 auto loan with a rate of .89% APR for 60 months. Monthly payment is approximately \$315.71. Total finance charge is approximately \$342.16. Loan approval and APR subject to credit worthiness. Floor rate is .89%. No other discounts apply. Direct deposit of entire net pay and automatic payment must be maintained. Individual must be a member of Service Credit Union or eligible for membership to apply. Qualifying member must apply, qualify and be approved for a Service Credit Union loan. Approval based on credit worthiness. If total income reportable equals \$600 or more in a taxable year, the credit union may issue you a 1099-MISC. Certain restrictions apply on dealer financing. Private, non-commercial loan rates and terms are excluded from this promotion. Offer subject to change without notice.

PACIFIC



Courtesy of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency

A Standard Missile-3 interceptor launches from the USS Lake Erie during a test in September 2013. Some Chinese officials have cited U.S. ballistic missile defense and U.S. military conventional strike capability as reasons for the need to upgrade their nuclear arsenal.

China moves to improve nuclear capability

By **ERIK SLAVIN**
Stars and Stripes

Earlier this month, a minor Chinese environmental office broke some of the biggest news in nuclear missile technology since the end of the Cold War.

The Shaanxi Province Environmental Monitoring Center posted a work summary of its projects, which included site monitoring for research into the Dong Feng-41 missile. The Department of Defense told Congress earlier this year that China was developing the DF-41, a road-mobile, next-generation intercontinental ballistic missile capable of launching multiple nuclear warheads.

The missile had been conceptualized for years, well before China's military modernization of the past decade began. However, no Chinese governmental agency was willing to confirm its development until the provincial environmental office's website did so. The post was quickly taken down, but only after it had been reported by the China Communist Party-affiliated Global Times.

The DF-41 news comes amid reports that China also conducted tests this month of its current land-based missile standard, the DF-31A.

U.S. officials also expect China to have operational nuclear missile-equipped submarines this year. The HK-6 bomber, a nuclear-capable aircraft with a range of about 2,000 miles, became part of the Chinese arsenal last year.

Collectively, it represents a nuclear triad, the decades-old standard that the United States still counts on for a global nuclear war.

The Chinese triad remains heavily imbalanced in favor of land-based missiles, since its aircraft can't fly very far and its submarines may not be all that reliable, according to analysts.

Why is China upgrading?

However, the bigger question remains: Why is China, a country with a "no first-use" policy, upgrading its nuclear arsenal at a time when the United States and Russia are reducing their stockpiles?

No one in power in the United States,

China or any other nation seen as a rational actor is advocating a nuclear strike in today's global environment. That said, military planners get paid to consider worst-case scenarios and keep open their options.

Chinese military leaders have contended they are so far behind the United States that their current nuclear posture isn't an effective deterrent to being attacked. Maj. Gen. Yao Yunzhu, China's director of the Center of America-China Defense Relations for the Academy of Military Science, explained that position in a letter last year to the Pacific Forum of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank.

"The Ballistic Missile Defense systems that the United States and its allies have deployed, or are planning to deploy, are capable of intercepting residue Chinese nuclear weapons launched for retaliation after it has already been attacked, thus potentially negating the deterrence effect of the Chinese nuclear arsenal," Yun wrote.

Furthermore, U.S. conventional missile strike systems in development could strike China's nuclear arsenal, "which, if adopted as an official doctrine, would discredit China's No First Use policy," Yun wrote.

China's nuclear arsenal is believed to total about 250 warheads, compared with 2,104 operational U.S. warheads and thousands in reserve, according to Federation of American Scientists figures.

If Chinese leaders believe their stockpile is in danger of being wiped out by U.S. aircraft, missiles and other conventional means during a hypothetical war, it leaves them with two broad options to protect their nuclear capability: strengthen their potential attack, or abandon the no first-use policy in favor of something more threatening.

For now, they appear to have chosen the former option.

China has built three Jin-class nuclear submarines capable of carrying the JL-2 missile, which has an estimated range of 4,600 miles.

"This will give the China its first credible sea-based nuclear deterrent, probably before the end of 2014," Pacific Command chief Adm. Samuel Locklear said during congressional testimony in March.

Although the deterrent is considered

credible, its survivability is debatable.

Jin-class subs are noisy — noisier than the Russian Delta II-class submarines built 30 years ago, according to an Office of Naval Intelligence report published in 2009. Noise is a submarine killer, and the U.S. has several ways of listening for them.

While China could develop a noise solution, multiple U.S. analysts believe that design flaws in the missile compartments and hatches have left the Jin-class fundamentally flawed. China also has no experience with commanding and controlling nuclear-equipped submarines.

Land-based missile strength

However, it does have extensive experience with land-based missiles, which are also the only option capable of striking the continental United States after being launched from somewhere near China.

"So from that perspective, modernizing the land-based missiles makes some sense," said Vipin Narang, an associate professor at MIT and author of a recently published book on nuclear strategy.

Besides any conventional strikes, a Chinese nuclear response in a hypothetical war would have to overcome three major U.S. defenses: the Aegis ballistic missile defense, significant parts of which are maintained on ships based in Japan and patrolling the Western Pacific; the ground-based mid-course defense; and a high-altitude area defense.

The U.S. missile defense has destroyed 65 of 81 targets in tests conducted since 2001, according to the U.S. Missile Defense Agency.

China's DF-31A has a range of about 7,000 miles and includes Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicles, or MIRVs, according to Defense Department reports. Most analysts say it can carry up to three MIRVs, which can scatter like the nuclear equivalent of shotgun pellets.

Reports on the DF-41 are far less reliable, since China's defense ministry has never acknowledged it. However, Chinese media have reported the missile's existence in recent years.

A 2012 CCTV report said the missile has a range of 8,700 miles. Some reports say it

can travel at Mach 25, which would make it very difficult for a defense system to destroy it during its initial boost phase.

A Jane's Defense report from 2010 speculated the missile could carry up to 10 MIRVs and could include decoys, chaff and penetration aids.

"In the exoatmosphere, numbers are the way to saturate a working missile defense system," Narang said. "So from that standpoint, the MIRV'ing of the 31 and whatever the 41 looks like is, I think, the way to do that."

Both the U.S. and Russia have developed MIRV-capable missiles, but each side considered them dangerous enough that they tried to ban them in the START II arms agreement signed in 1993. However, because of problems in the U.S. Senate and Russian Duma, the treaty was never implemented.

Although China and the U.S. haven't approached anything like the hostility of the U.S.-Soviet Cold War, divisions remain that could lead to armed conflict.

Taiwan-China relations have improved markedly, but the U.S. is still obligated by law to defend Taiwan, and China maintains that it cannot remain separate forever.

The U.S. also has said it would defend the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands, claimed as the Diaoyu Islands by China. The islands have been the center of repeated air and sea incidents between Japan and China, though none ever turned into firefights.

Even if an armed conflict did occur, there are positive indications that it wouldn't escalate to a nuclear scenario.

China hasn't developed the types of early warning system and advanced intelligence capability indicative of a nation that wants something more than a retaliatory deterrent, Narang said.

That means unless the U.S. or another country attacked with nuclear weapons first, China wouldn't be in a favorable position to use its arsenal.

"A shift away from a basic 'assured retaliation' posture does not yet seem to be occurring," Narang said.

slavin.erik@stripes.com
Twitter:@eslavin_stripes

MILITARY



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Parents, teachers and students stand during the national anthem at a first-day-of-school assembly at Aviano (Italy) Elementary School on Monday.

Students on military bases outside the US head back to school

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Kids wearing new backpacks stuffed with school supplies headed to school Monday at U.S. military bases outside the United States, the first day of classes at most Department of Defense Dependents Schools overseas.

Despite the overcast, gloomy morning that dawned in western Germany, some students were eager to hit the books after more than two months off.

"One of the fifth-grade boys said, 'I'm tired of sleeping in,'" said Vogelweh Elementary School principal Sandy Meacham, standing in front of the school's outdoor basketball courts, where more than 900 students had formed long queues behind their teachers. "He was the first one in line."

Meacham was fired up about the first day, which happened to fall on her 60th birthday.

"We're ready, we're ready to go," she said.

Not everyone was as enthusiastic about going back to school. Baumholder senior Sarah Ann Preadmore, 17, said she hit the snooze button about five times Monday. "So I wasn't that excited" to go back to school. She said she just wants to get the year over with so she can move on to college. "But I'm OK. It's nice to be settling back in...."

"I'm hoping for snow days this year," Preadmore added. "That's about it."

There are also tears and plenty of first-day jitters. At Aviano Elementary School in Italy, Ysabella Esparza, about to attend her first day of first grade, managed only a slight nod of the head when asked if she was excited.

"She's nervous, but she's excit-



ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes



ARMANDO R. LIMON/Stars and Stripes



HENRICK SIMONS/Stars and Stripes

Left: Tech. Sgt. Michael Michaud kisses his son, Michael, before class at Liberty Intermediate School at RAF Lakenheath, England. **Middle:** An Osan American Elementary School student speaks to a teacher in the school cafeteria at Osan Air Base, South Korea. **Right:** Kathleen Murphy's room identification card hangs on a corkboard in front of the classroom she taught in for 29 years at Bahrain Middle/High School in Manama.

ed," said her mother, Liz Trebino. Dionne Montgomery took several pictures of her children, Jimmie (ninth grade), Deon (seventh grade) and Nevaeh (first grade) before they went to school assemblies.

"Very big day," she said. "Kind of sad. Trying to keep it together. Got one in ninth grade now, so only four more years for him."

In Bahrain the excitement of a new school year was dampened by the death of a longtime DODDS teacher earlier this month. Kathleen Murphy, 63, was a French and German teacher at the Bahrain Middle/High School who had worked for the Department of Defense Education Activity since 1982.

"We're working to move forward; it's not going to be easy," said Terry Greene, the school's new principal.

Murphy's unexpected death devastated students and faculty, who were unaware of any medical conditions she might have had. Murphy was expected to teach

this year in the same classroom she had used for 29 years. Her absence there was overwhelming for those who knew her.

Iman Khan, an 11th-grader who had been one of Murphy's French students for the past two years, considered dropping out of the class this year. "I just couldn't imagine being in a classroom without her, especially since her personal style is so unique.... You want her there with you," said Iman. She decided not to drop out of the course, believing that Murphy would have wanted her to continue studying French.

"She really cared about us actually learning the language and learning the culture," Iman said.

In both the Pacific and Europe, fewer students headed back to the classroom. As of Friday, 28,509 pupils had enrolled in Europe schools, down about 2,000 from the same time last year. Part of that decline is due to the closure of five schools at the end of the previous school year, all in Germany: Wetzel Elementary School

in Baumholder and the schools in Bamberg and Schweinfurt. That leaves 71 schools in Europe, a number that will drop again at the end of this school year, when Menwith Hill in England and Lajes Elementary/High School in Portugal are slated to close.

The Menwith closure was announced last year in anticipation of a potential sharp drop in student enrollment. Only about 129 students were enrolled at the elementary-to-high school as of Friday.

In the Pacific, 21,792 students are enrolled in 49 schools in Japan — including on Okinawa — Guam and Korea. That's down about 1,354 from late August a year ago, according to enrollment figures. It was business as usual at most

To view a photo gallery of back-to-school moments, go to: stripes.com/go/backtoschool

schools, though a few places saw some big changes over the summer. Elementary and middle school students in Brussels started the year in new buildings, marking the first time the elementary will have all of its classes in the same building, said Frank Roehl, Isles District superintendent. Officials expect the high school students to move into a new facility early next year.

In Japan, the new Ikego Elementary School opened its doors to 390 students Monday. The school at the Navy housing area near Yu-kosuka replaces an older building and makes room for new students who attended school at the Negishi housing area last year.

Negishi's Byrd Elementary School was shuttered in June as part of a plan to return the Negishi area to the Japanese government at the end of 2015. The new school was fully funded by the Japanese government under a bilateral support agreement.

In South Korea, Camp Casey Elementary is likely entering its final year of operations as U.S. Forces Korea makes plans to relocate the bulk of its soldiers to Camp Humphreys in Pyongtaek.

Perhaps the biggest change was at Wiesbaden High School in Germany, where students headed to class inside stacked, modular buildings linked together by steel walkways and concrete. The 36 temporary classrooms are being used while construction begins on Wiesbaden's new high school. Four of Wiesbaden's old high school buildings are being demolished in the coming months to make way for a new, \$52 million school designed to meet the DODEA's 21st-century education facilities specifications. The 102,000-square-foot structure should take about two years to complete.

Eric A. Brown, Kent Harris, Adam Harris, Mike Miller, Henrik Simons and Erik Slavim contributed to this story. svan.jennifer@stripes.com

MILITARY

Fort Lee soldier shoots self after standoff

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
The Associated Press

FORT LEE, Va. — An enraged soldier with a gun barricaded himself in an office inside a major command's headquarters, throwing objects and then shooting herself in the head as law enforcement officials tried to negotiate with her, the Army said Monday.

The heavily trafficked base went on lockdown while she was barricaded on the third floor of the four-story building that houses the Army's Combined Arms Support Command. About 1,100 people were inside, but no one else was hurt, Army officials said.

"This situation could've been worse," said Maj. Gen. Stephen R. Lyons, who took over as commanding general of CASCOM at Fort Lee on Friday.

The Army did not identify the soldier or give her condition. She was taken to Virginia Commonwealth University Medical



ALBERT CRUZ/Courtesy of the Department of Defense

Officials at Fort Lee, Va., on Monday morning reported an active shooter at the Combined Arms Support Command, housed in the new Sustained Center of Excellence headquarters, shown here. The shooter wounded only herself, according to the Army.

Center, which confirmed that it received a patient from Fort Lee but did not provide other details.

The soldier is a sergeant first class who has been in the Army

for 14 years and at Fort Lee for three, Lyons said. Her gun was not a service weapon, he said.

"We are sad for our soldier in arms that she faced those kinds

of challenges she had to resort to those kinds of actions," Lyons said.

He said officials did not know whether she was being treated for any mental health issues and could not speculate whether drugs or alcohol might have been a factor. Lyons described the soldier as upset and enraged during the incident but said he couldn't say whether that was consistent with her personality.

The daily population at Fort Lee — 25 miles south of Richmond and 130 miles from Washington — is about 34,000, with members from all branches, their families, civilians and contractors. Fort Lee's website says the installation has seen enormous growth and renovations over the past decade as a result of realignment and closures of bases across the U.S.

Army officials initially labeled Monday's incident an "active shooter" situation. The Department of Homeland Security uses

the term to describe someone actively trying to kill people, usually in populated areas, with no pattern of choosing victims.

The shooting is the fourth violent act at a Virginia military installation this year. In March, a civilian truck driver shot and killed a sailor aboard a Navy destroyer at Naval Station Norfolk before he was shot and killed by Navy security.

In June, authorities said a sailor or repeatedly stabbed another near Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. The same installation was placed on lockdown in April when a sailor shot and killed himself inside a barracks there.

Monday's lockdown came days after Fort Lee announced in its official newspaper that a new mass warning and emergency notification system would be activated in the coming weeks. It wasn't immediately clear whether that system was used.

2nd person to face trial in AFN death

Stars and Stripes

A second servicemember will face court-martial in connection with the death of Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusev, an American Forces Network broadcaster who was found killed in December, an Army spokesman said.

Army Spc. Cody A. Kramer, 24, who worked with Chepusev at AFN-Europe, will be tried by general court-martial on charges of making a false official statement and deliberately concealing his knowledge of a serious offense, Lt. Col. Wayne Marotto, a 21st Theater Sustainment Command spokesman, said in an email.

A charge sheet with further details about the allegations against Kramer will not be released at this time, Marotto wrote. Kramer's court-martial is tentatively scheduled for mid-October.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver is expected to go on trial in January on charges including premeditated murder for allegedly beating and strangling Chepusev at the house of another AFN airman in December. Chepusev's body was found in the passenger seat of Oliver's car Dec. 14 after German police pulled Oliver over for driving erratically in Kaiserslautern.

At an Article 32 hearing in April, an Army prosecutor alleged that Kramer might have assisted in covering up the murder. At the hearing, similar to a civilian grand jury, an Army Criminal Investigation Command special agent testified that the location of bloodstains on the walls of the apartment where Chepusev was allegedly murdered suggested that two people carried his body from the building.

Board: Vets' hiring preference should be simplified

By JOE DAVIDSON
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Uncle Sam's long-standing policy of giving veterans a hiring preference for government jobs enjoys strong support.

But it's a pain to explain. The preference is so complicated, confusing and difficult to understand that it tempts abuse.

That's the takeaway from a Merit Systems Protection Board report released last week. Congress should consider "creating a simpler system," the MSPSB suggested.

"It's a mess," said Ted Daywalt, president of VetJobs, an online jobs board sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He's concerned that too many vets don't get the preference they are due. "It needs to be reworked."

The MSPSB study comes three months after another by the Partnership for Public Service, which reported on federal personnel executives who think that, in certain circumstances, the preference "can result in the exclusion of all non-veterans without regard to their relative qualifications."

While the veterans' hiring preference is perplexing, perhaps sometimes frustrating, it also is popular with Congress.

"The laws regarding veterans'

preference in federal hiring may be complex, but they were written with a noble purpose — to give those who have served their country a justified preference for federal civilian employment," said Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., said he strongly supports veterans' hiring preferences not just because vets have "put their lives on the line, but just the basic reality that when you are away and not in the civilian labor market for a period of years, you fall behind people your age in a very competitive economy."

Yet the popularity of the preference does not put it beyond controversy. An MSPSB survey said 6.5 percent of respondents reported inappropriate favoritism toward veterans and 4.5 percent reported a denial of vets' preference rights.

Neither figure is large, but each can have negative ramifications. In a letter introducing the report, Susan Tsui Grundmann, the MSPSB chairman, said, "The survey data showed that employees are less likely to be engaged and more likely to want to leave their agencies if they report having observed either of these two

types of conduct."

Negative perceptions are higher in the Defense Department, where 8 percent of the employees surveyed reported "inappropriate favoritism toward veterans."

The MSPSB wrote about staffer allegations that Defense Department "job descriptions were being written specifically for retiring members of the armed forces, that the retired military were being hired by their friends without regard for which applicant was best qualified, and that there was a repeated pattern of a person being in the work unit as an active military servicemember on a Friday and reporting as a civilian the following Monday — timing that appeared very suspicious to the respondents and implied that the job had been held for the military retiree."

Perceptions that hiring managers write job descriptions "for their retiring friends (or even for themselves as their own retirement approaches) have led to the term 'no Colonel left behind' being added to the Federal HR lexicon," the report continued.

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., chairman of the House committee, recalled his panel's probe into a "startling example" of abuse in a related veterans' preference program: "A contractor who never served a day in the military re-

ceived a veterans' preference due to an injury suffered in a military prep school."

Nathan Christensen, a Pentagon spokesman, said the MSPSB report "provides an opportunity for the department to reinforce hiring officials' responsibilities within the laws and regulations, and to further educate the workforce about the rules regarding veterans' hiring."

In contrast, the Office of Personnel Management got defensive. In a letter included with the report, Mark Reinhold, an OPM associate director, told the MSPSB that "OPM does not concur in your somewhat negative assessment." Reinhold added that the MSPSB "seems really to be taking aim at the entire civil service system in its current form."

The MSPSB cited some rules as arbitrary. For example, mothers of veterans are eligible for hiring preference, but not fathers and not all mothers. A mother is eligible if she is or was married to the veteran's father. Apparently, unmarried mothers need not apply. And the regulations don't know what to do with same-sex partners.

"We asked OPM why it had concluded that the woman's spouse must be the father of the veteran," the MSPSB said, "and OPM indicated that the question required further study."

Afghan pilots to train at Georgia air base

Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Ga., will be the site of a training mission for Afghan air force pilots, a boost for a base that had been threatened with cuts.

The Pentagon announced Friday that Afghan pilots will train on the A-29 Super Tucano Light Air Support plane at Moody. The

base near the Florida border beat out locations in Idaho and South Carolina because of superior facilities, weather and proximity to the ranges the pilots will need.

The Pentagon has sought to phase out the aging A-10 aircraft, which forms a big part of Moody's mission, though Congress has blocked the move this year.

U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, a Georgia Republican who sits on

the Armed Services Committee, said he was pleased to see the state be part of an ongoing alliance with Afghanistan.

"We cannot abandon Afghanistan at a critical point in its history, and this plan ensures our airmen can conduct this important training mission from the safety of one of our premier U.S. bases," Chambliss said.

From wire reports

YES

Click today...cash today...
www.militaryloans.com

"We love to say yes"

CRISIS IN IRAQ

Dempsey: We will act if militants threaten US

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

The Associated Press

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT — Gen. Martin Dempsey said that one of the detriments that the Islamic State militants in Iraq have become a direct threat to the U.S. homeland, he will recommend the U.S. military move directly against the group in Syria.

But the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said Sunday that right now, he still believes the insurgent group is more of a regional threat and is not plotting or planning attacks against either the U.S. or Europe.

Speaking on a military plane en route to Afghanistan, Dempsey provided more detail into his thinking about the Islamic militants — who have stormed across Iraq — operating out of safe havens in Syria.

So far, the Obama administration has restricted its military

‘I have every confidence that the president of the United States would deal with it.’

Gen. Martin Dempsey
chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

action against the militants to specific operations within Iraq, but concerns have increased as the Islamic State group has extended its reach, taking control of a swath of land stretching from Syria across the border and deep into western and northern Iraq.

The group took over Iraq’s second-largest city, Mosul, in June, and has since declared an Islamic state, or caliphate, in territory under its control in Iraq and Syria.

Dempsey also told reporters traveling with him that he believes that key allies in the region — including Jordan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia — will join the U.S. in quashing the Islamic State group.

“I think ISIS (the Islamic State) has been so brutal, and has wrapped itself in a radical religious legitimacy that clearly threatens everybody I just mentioned, that I think they will be willing partners,” said Dempsey, expressing optimism for the first time that the Arab nations would join in the conflict.

He contrasted the group to the Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which has plotted and attempted attacks against the U.S. and Europe. As a result, the U.S. has conducted counterterrorism strikes against the group within Yemen.

Dempsey said that so far, there is no sign that the Islamic State

militants are engaged in “active plotting against the homeland, so it’s different than that which we see in Yemen.”

However, “I can tell you with great clarity and certainty that if that threat existed inside of Syria, then it would certainly be my strong recommendation that we would deal with it,” said Dempsey. “I have every confidence that the president of the United States would deal with it.”

He added that those regional partners could come together and squeeze the Islamic State “from multiple directions in order to initially disrupt and eventually defeat them. It has to happen with them, much less with us.”

Up to now, when asked about airstrikes inside Syria, Dempsey and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel have said all options remain on the table. So far, there has been no broader authorization for such operations.

The Obama administration has authorized airstrikes within Iraq

to protect U.S. personnel and facilities and to help Iraqi and Kurdish forces assist refugees driven from their homes by the Islamic State. Most of the recent strikes have been around the Mosul Dam, which Islamic militants had taken but is now back in the hands of Iraqi and Kurdish troops.

The strikes have helped to break the insurgents’ momentum and strip away some of the mythology that the Islamic State group is impregnable or overwhelming, Dempsey said.

Senior U.S. leaders from the White House to the Pentagon have said the key to success in Iraq is the formation of an inclusive government that will include disenfranchised Sunnis.

Dempsey is on his way to Afghanistan to attend a change-of-command ceremony Tuesday. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford is stepping down as the top commander there; Army Gen. John Campbell will take over.

Pushing: As Kurdish forces repel Islamic State, residents of recaptured town are wary

FROM FRONT PAGE

Although Iraqi forces melted away in the face of Islamic State advances elsewhere in Iraq, the peshmerga were considered a formidable force able to stand their ground. But when Islamic State militants, who had overrun large swathes of western and central Iraq in recent months, began attacking Kurdish checkpoints in the north, the peshmerga found themselves unable to resist against the Islamic State’s more sophisticated weaponry, much of it seized from the Iraqi army.

The potential threat to Irbil, where U.S. diplomats and a small number of U.S. military are based, led President Barack Obama to authorize airstrikes to protect U.S. interests as well as thousands of members of the Yazidi religious sect who were driven from their towns by the militants and stranded on a mountain top. Airstrikes have intensified in recent days, helping Kurdish and Iraqi forces regain territory, including the critical Mosul Dam.

In the center of Makhmur, a pile of blackened metal and corrugated iron is all that’s left of a row of shops that, Karim claimed, had been full of Islamic State fighters when they were struck by a U.S. airstrike.

“Their bodies were only dust afterwards,” he said.

It was unclear whether the damage to the shops was caused by an airstrike or some other kind of explosion. The U.S. Central Command did not respond to requests for confirmation of an airstrike in Makhmur.

Pointing to a mound of earth near a building pock-marked with bullet holes, Karim said: “A

Daash fighter is buried there,” using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Also helping to push back the Islamic State militants here were fighters with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, PKK, which the U.S. has designated a terrorist group. PKK fighters have been battling Islamic State militants in Syria and the group is outlawed in Turkey. PKK fighters have established a base in Makhmur. The town was also home for years to thousands of Kurdish refugees from Turkey.

On Saturday, PKK troops drove around in a Chevy Silverado pickup that, they said, was captured from the Islamic State.

Somebody had covered the vehicle in mud as camouflage but a little water poured onto the driver’s side door revealed the black flag of the Islamic State.

Karim said the extremists’ armored vehicles were difficult to defeat.

“The Humvees are bullet proof



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA L. DUMOTTS/Stars and Stripes

Only a few residents remain in the town of Makhmur as most of the townfolk fled when the Islamic State militants took control. The city has since been recaptured by the peshmerga.

so it was very hard to fight them,” he said. “We kept shooting them but they kept coming and then they blew themselves up.”

In their advance through Iraq, Islamic State militants have seized weaponry and materiel from Iraqi forces, some of it left to them by departing U.S. forces. During the Iraq War, U.S. forces were stationed at Camp Crazy Horse, a forward operating base that they turned over to Iraq forces in December 2005.

It was not clear whether the humvees and other armored ve-

hicles seen in Makhmur on Saturday were American.

The Kurdish forces in Makhmur have since acquired a large armored truck and at least one of their own armored Humvees.

Ismael Soleh, 56, one of the PKK fighters who helped drive out the Islamic State, said one of his comrades was killed and 10 wounded in the battle for the town. Half a dozen injured PKK fighters lay in a field hospital in Makhmur on Saturday.

Two residents were also killed by the militants, Soleh said.

Soran Sabir said he found five bodies in the street when he came back a few days ago. His motorcycle shop had been looted by the militants.

“Daash likes to move around on motorcycles,” he said. “They stole three from my shop.”

Bakhtiyar Faisal, 35, a teacher, stood near a group of shops in the town square contemplating the damage.

“There is a crisis here now,” he said.

Those who have returned don’t feel safe because the Islamic State is so close and they don’t have enough to drink because the militants poisoned the town’s water supply, he said.

Kurdish residents of Makhmur fled to Irbil, but several hundred Arabs there welcomed the Islamic State, Faisal said. When Kurdish forces returned, those Arabs fled south with the extremists, he said.

It may take a while before other Kurdish residents feel safe enough to come home, Faisal said. “People are scared to come back because Daash is so close.”



Left: A Kurdish man in traditional attire, left, sits in the shade with two PKK fighters in Makhmur on Saturday. Right: A Kurdish man stands in front of a burned-out building that the peshmerga claim was occupied by Islamic State fighters when it was hit by a U.S. airstrike in the town.

Zaynab Olivo contributed to this report.
robson.eth@stripes.com
Twitter: @sethRobson1

MIDEAST

Syrian official warns US over solo airstrikes

By ZEINA KARAM
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syria's foreign minister warned the U.S. on Monday not to conduct airstrikes inside Syria against the Islamic State group without Damascus' consent, saying any such attack would be considered an aggression.

Walid al-Moallem's words appeared timed to try to pre-empt any U.S. military action in Syria. President Barack Obama has resisted ordering U.S. military action in Syria for three years, even after a deadly chemical weapons attack a year ago near Damascus he blamed on President Bashar Assad's government. Now, Obama faces pressure from his own military leaders to go after the Islamic State group inside Syria.

Obama remains wary, however, of getting dragged into the bloody and complex Syrian civil war that the United Nations says has killed more than 190,000 people.

Al-Moallem's remarks at a news conference in Damascus also marked the first public comments by a senior Assad official on the threat posed by the Islamic State group, which has captured large swaths of Iraqi and Syrian territory.

"Syria is ready to cooperate and coordinate on the regional and international level in the war on terror," al-Moallem said. "But any effort to combat terrorism should be coordinated with the Syrian government."

Al-Moallem appeared keenly aware of how much has changed in the past year as he spoke Monday. Since then, global disapproval has shifted away from Assad and toward the Islamic extremists who are fighting him and spreading their domination across Syria and Iraq.

The foreign minister said the Syrian government repeatedly has warned of the threat of terrorism and the need to cut off resources

and funding but "no one listened to us." Syria's government has long described the rebels fighting to topple Assad as "terrorists" in a foreign conspiracy.

There is not much Syria can do if the U.S. does decide to strike. U.S. officials revealed last week that U.S. forces had tried to rescue U.S. journalist James Foley in a failed operation in Raqqa in July.

"Had there been prior coordination that operation would not have failed," al-Moallem said.

The minister also denounced "in the strongest terms possible" Foley's killing last week by Islamic State militants, while asking, "Has the West ever condemned the massacres by the Islamic State and Nusra against our armed forces or citizens?"

Al-Moallem's news conference came a day after jihadis captured a major military air base in northeastern Syria, eliminating the last government-held outpost in a province otherwise dominated by the Islamic State group. After several failed attempts, Islamic State fighters stormed the Tabqa air base Sunday, killing dozens of troops inside.

Al-Moallem conceded defeat in Tabqa, saying that soldiers were withdrawn to nearby areas.

The Islamic State group has established a self-declared caliphate in areas straddling Iraq and Syria's shared borders. The United States began airstrikes against the group in northern Iraq earlier this month, and is now considering similar strikes against the militants in Syria.

Al-Moallem said his government is ready to cooperate with any side, including the U.S., or join any regional or international alliance against the Islamic State group. But he said any military action inside Syria should be coordinated with the government, "which represents Syrian sovereignty."



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Worshippers look at bloodstains inside the Imam Ali mosque in Baghdad on Monday after a suicide bomb attack that killed at least 15 people.

Iraqi official urges Shiites to join with government forces

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister-designate called on the countries numerous Shiite militias and tribes to come under government control and stop acting independently on Monday, adding that discussions between political rivals to form a new government were "constructive and positive."

The comments by Haider al-Abadi came at his first press conference since accepting the nomination to be Iraq's next prime minister, underlining how he is attempting to address the worries of the country's Sunnis, who say that Shiite militias are targeting them in religiously-mixed areas.

"We will never allow any armed group to operate outside of the framework of the state," al-Abadi told reporters at the presidential palace in Baghdad's fortified Green Zone. "They all should be within the state framework and under the control of the security forces," said al-Abadi.

A number of Shiite militias

have answered a call by influential Iraq-based Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, and outgoing Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to support the Iraqi military, after large divisions fled from Islamic State militants in the northern cities of Mosul and Tikrit. A number of Sunni tribes also oppose the militant group.

Al-Abadi also expressed optimism that he will meet the Sept. 10 deadline to form a new government.

"Several meetings and dialogues were held with the political blocs to form a unified vision for our governmental program," he said. "The negotiations were generally positive and constructive. I hope we will agree to form a unified vision for the governmental program in the next two days."

Also Monday, separate attacks in Baghdad killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens.

The deadliest was carried out by a suicide bomber who blew up an explosives-laden vest among Shiite worshippers who were

leaving a mosque after noon prayers in the capital's eastern New Baghdad area, killing at least 15 people and wounding 32 others, a police officer said.

In Baghdad's southern Dora district, a roadside bomb missed a police patrol but hit a civilian car, killing three and wounding 11 others, he added. Two other civilians were killed and 10 wounded in another bomb explosion in an outdoor market in the northern Shaab neighborhood, another police officer said.

Two medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information.

Since early this year, Iraq has been facing a growing Sunni insurgency with the Islamic State group and allied Sunni militants who have taken over areas in the country's west and north.

The crisis has worsened since June when the group declared an Islamic state, or caliphate, in territory under its control.

CUSTOM-BUILD YOUR NEW BMW FOR DIRECT DELIVERY TO THE USA!

If you're based on active-duty outside the USA and its territories, by selecting the Direct Stateside Delivery option* your new custom-built BMW can be delivered directly to the BMW Service Center located closest to your home in the USA.

CONTACT PENTAGON CAR SALES TODAY!

ITALY

Aviano
Via Pordenone 48D
33081 Aviano (PN)
Tel: 0434 676 613

Vicenza
Viale Della Pace 254
36100 Vicenza (VI)
Tel: 0444 91 09 38

SPAIN

Rota
Plaza Del Triunfo 6
11520 Rota (Cadiz)
Tel: 956 840 201

Pentagon Car Sales
www.pentagoncarsales.com
sales@pentagoncarsales.com



BMW Direct States Delivery Includes:

- All Marine Shipping costs
- All port handling fees
- US Import Tax
- Transport to US Dealer
- BMW Custom-Built
- Full US BMW Warranty
- Full BMW Scheduled Maintenance Program



* This delivery option is not available in Germany.

NATION

Quake in California blindsides residents

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER AND SUDHIM THANAWALA
The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — A powerful earthquake that struck the heart of California's wine country caught many people sound asleep, sending dressers, mirrors and pictures crashing down around them. Scores were injured as the tremor knocked out power to thousands, caused gas and water lines to rupture and sparked fires.

The magnitude-6.0 quake struck at 3:20 a.m. PDT on Sunday near the city of Napa, an oasis of Victorian-era buildings nestled in the vineyard-studded hills of Northern California.

The fires also flared in a mobile home park, where four homes were destroyed and two others were damaged, officials said.

By midday Sunday, the fires were out and power was starting to be restored, said Mark Ghilarducci, director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

"While it was bad, it wasn't as bad as it could be and it was very manageable from a regional perspective," Ghilarducci said.

The quake struck about 6 miles south of Napa and lasted 10 to 20 seconds, depending on proximity to the epicenter, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It was the largest to shake the San Francisco Bay Area since the magnitude-6.9 Loma Prieta



ERIC RISEBERG/AP

Winemaker Tom Montgomery reacts to the earthquake damage at the B.R. Cohn Winery barrel storage facility in Napa, Calif.



ALEX WASHBURN/AP

Nina Quidit cleans up the Dollar Plus and Party Supplies Store in American Canyon, Calif., after the earthquake.

quake struck in 1989, collapsing part of the Bay Bridge roadway and killing more than 60 people, most when an Oakland freeway fell.

It was felt widely throughout the region, with people reporting feeling it more than 200 miles south of Napa and as far east as

the Nevada border.

For many, the quake struck at the worst time possible, rousing them in the middle of the night and sending them fumbling in darkness to take cover and find loved ones. A number of the injuries were caused by people stepping on broken glass, falling down or being hit by furniture.

The quake's timing was also bad for Napa Valley's famed vineyards, where winemakers were just getting ready to harvest the 2014 crop. The quake broke thousands of bottles of wine and toppled barrels.

Officials were still assessing the damage late Sunday in hopes of getting a cost estimate they could submit for possible federal assistance. The initial assessment found that dozens of homes and buildings in the region were unsafe to occupy, including a historic Napa County courthouse, where a 10-foot-wide hole provided a view of the offices inside.

A 13-year-old boy was hit by flying debris from a collapsed fireplace and had to be airlifted to the children's hospital at the University of California Davis Medical Center for a neurological evaluation. His condition was listed as serious, hospital spokeswoman Phyllis Brown said.

200 homes near historic Calif. town evacuated

The Associated Press

WEAVERVILLE, Calif. — Crews working in steep terrain were building containment lines around a wildfire that chased people from about 200 homes near the California Gold Rush-era boomtown of Weaverville.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokeswoman Cris Hartman said early Monday that the fire was 25 percent contained.

“The flames laid pretty low last night, and they (firefighters) were able to make some good progress.”

Cris Hartman
California fire spokeswoman

Firefighters worked through the night to keep the flames from spreading. The fire has burned a little more than 1 square mile, or 650 acres, of timber and brush about 2 miles west of town.

“The flames laid pretty low last night and they were able to make some good progress,” Hartman said.

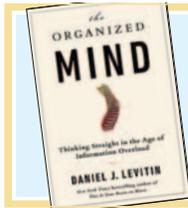
Officials expected daylight to bring increased risks as

gusty winds and dry conditions returned. The fire, sparked Sunday afternoon near Highway 299, damaged one structure, likely a barn or a large outbuilding, Hartman said. About 400 firefighters were battling the blaze.

Fire officials said a shelter for evacuees was being moved later in the day from Weaverville Elementary School to the Baptist church.

KRCR-TV reported the fire temporarily forced the closure of the highway, and school was canceled for Monday.

Weaverville is at the base of the Trinity Alps Wilderness area in Trinity County. The Gold Rush-era boomtown is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Bestselling author and neuroscientist Daniel Levitin explores how some people manage today's data deluge while successfully making more (and faster) decisions about their lives. Armed with the latest brain science, readers can change the way they organize their homes, workplaces, and time.

WIN YOUR SIGNED COPY!

Stripes Book Club and Dutton, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., are proud to offer you a chance to win one of 10 signed copies of Daniel Levitin's *THE ORGANIZED MIND*.

Go to stripesrewards.com/bookclub to enter and win.



Penguin Group (USA)

Subscribers Know the VALUE of Getting STARS AND STRIPES. Delivered at Home.

To get content that matters delivered to your door - and save some real money, visit subscribe.stripes.com for details or email Europe: CustomerService@stripes.com Pacific: CustomerHelp@stripes.com



NATION



RICHARD PERRY, THE NEW YORK TIMES/AP

Lesley McSpadden, mother of Michael Brown, wipes a tear as she stands by his casket at his funeral at Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis on Monday.

Thousands gather to mourn at Ferguson teen's funeral

By SARA BURNETT
AND JIM SUHR
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Hundreds of people lined up in sweltering heat Monday to say goodbye to Michael Brown, the 18-year-old shot and killed earlier this month in a confrontation with a police officer that fueled almost two weeks of street protests.

More than an hour before Brown's funeral was to begin, a steady stream of people started filing into the Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis. Among them was Will Acklin, a black man from Little Rock, Ark.

"It's important in that as a child I was pushed by police, mistreated by police, cursed by police, and I was a good kid," said Acklin, who is 63. "I was an honor student. When I heard this, I felt compelled to come here and show

my respects."

Angela Pierre, a machine operator who once lived in Ferguson, where the shooting happened, said she hopes the funeral helps turn a page and eases tensions. Most important, though, she hopes it provides healing for Brown's family.

"I really wanted to just be here today to pray for the family and pray for peace," said Pierre, 48, who is black. "When all of this dies down, there's still a mother, father and a family who's lost someone. Sometimes a lot of the unrest takes away from that."

The church's sanctuary, which seats about 2,500, filled quickly. Overflow rooms holding another 2,000 were full, too.

With the church at capacity, many people could not get in and instead waited outside, crowded into shady areas on a day when the temperature was expected to come close to 100 degrees. Ambu-

lance crews were on hand in case of any heat-related illnesses.

Poster-size photos of Brown wearing headphones were on each side of the closed casket, which had a St. Louis Cardinals ball cap atop it. Large projection screens showed a photo of Brown clutching his high school diploma while wearing his cap and gown. He had been scheduled to start training at a technical school two days after his death. He wanted to become a heating and air-conditioning technician.

Brown's father, Michael Brown Sr., has asked protesters to take a break Monday and observe a "day of silence" so the family can grieve.

"Tomorrow all I want is peace," he told hundreds of people Sunday in St. Louis' largest city park during brief remarks at a festival that promotes peace over violence. "That's all I ask."

Heart group: E-cigs may help smokers quit

The Associated Press

The American Heart Association's first policy statement on electronic cigarettes backs them as a last resort to help smokers quit. The American Cancer Society has no formal policy but quietly took a similar stance in May.

Both groups express great concern about these popular nicotine-vapor products and urge more regulation, especially to keep them away from youth. They also stress that proven smoking cessation methods should always be tried first.

But if those fail, "it is reasonable to have a conversation" about e-cigarettes, said the Heart Association's president. Dr. Elliott Antman. The Cancer Society said e-cigarettes "may be a reasonable option" for people who could not quit after trying counseling and approved methods, such as nicotine patches.

Neither group recommends e-cigarettes for smoking cessation, and makers of the devices do not market them that way.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that vaporize nicotine. They've been sold in the U.S. since 2007 and now have millions

of users worldwide and nearly \$2 billion in annual sales. They contain less toxic substances than traditional cigarettes do, but little is known about their health effects.

Whether they help or hurt anti-smoking efforts is hotly debated. Some say they encourage smoking by letting people maintain their habit in places where cigarettes are banned. Others say they are a less risky way to satisfy a nicotine craving for people who want to quit, similar to how methadone is used to curb heroin abuse.

Couple charged in plan to get girl pregnant

SELMA, Ala — Authorities said an Alabama couple tried to obtain a baby by sexually assaulting an underage girl in hopes she'd get pregnant.

Court records show Jeremy Swann, 29, and his wife, Amanda Swann, 28, of Jones are charged with rape.

Dallas County Investigator Janet Cole told the Selma Times-Journal the couple propositioned a girl to have sex with the man. They allegedly wanted the girl to have a baby for them.

Cole said the girl was assaulted at least six times. She apparently never got pregnant.

Jeremy Swann's mother, Diana Swann, is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. She allegedly knew what was going on and didn't intervene.

The three were due in court Monday for a bond hearing.

Police: Southern Illinois plant explosion kills 2

GRANITE CITY, Ill. — Police said two people are dead and more are injured after an explosion at a recycling plant in southern Illinois.

Granite City police told television stations KMOV and KTVI that a bomb squad was sent to the Total Metal Recycling plant. They said that officials fear more explosions, perhaps from live ammunition rounds.

No more details have been released about the deaths. More than 160 people work at the plant, according to the company website.

The website says the company recycles everything from computers to automobiles. It also indicates that the company deals with the ammunition industry.

A person who answered the company phone said nobody could comment.

From The Associated Press

Grand Plastic Surgery

YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL WITH GRAND PLASTIC SURGERY

EYES & NOSE CORRECTIONS	FACIAL CONTOURING	BREAST CARE	BODY CONTOURING	ANTI AGING
-------------------------	-------------------	-------------	-----------------	------------

Enhance your looks, regain confidence

Before After

Before After

Actress **Clara**

Open Weekdays : 10am - 7pm
Open Saturday : 10am - 5pm
Closed on Sunday and Public Holidays

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone (+82)70-7119-1580 / (+82)10-7156-6546
E-mail eng.grandplasticsurgery@gmail.com
Website <http://eng.grandsurgery.com>

Grand plastic surgery, combining expertise with excellence

- For a Flawless and a natural look
- Korea's biggest plastic surgery center with 9 specialized clinics and 2 plastic surgery centers
- Using the world's leading technology and the most specialized team
- Reliable, safe and effective
- Personalized surgery for the individual body features
- Allowing the body to be more balanced and well shaped

Seoul Station Exit 8

GRAND
PLASTIC SURGERY

WORLD

French rule in turmoil

President dissolves government after feuding PM resigns

By LORI HINNANT AND SYLVIE CORBET
The Associated Press

PARIS — French President Francois Hollande dissolved the government on Monday after open feuding in his Cabinet over the country's stagnant economy.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls offered up his Socialist government's resignation after accusing the outspoken economy minister of crossing a line with his blunt criticism of the government's policies. Hollande accepted the resignation and ordered Valls to form a new government by Tuesday.

France has had effectively no economic growth this year, unemployment is hovering around 10 percent, and Hollande's approval ratings are in the teens. The country is under pressure from the European Union to get its finances in order, but Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg has questioned whether the austerity pressed by the EU will kick-start French



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, right, and Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg visit French defense and electronics company Thales in Gennevilliers, outside Paris, in April.

growth. Hollande promises to cut taxes and make it easier for businesses to open and operate but stalled, meanwhile, in large part because of the divisions among Socialists. "A major change in our economy policy" was what Montebourg had said was needed just days after Hollande had expressly said there would be no change in direction.

The minister's comments angered the Socialist leadership, which said Montebourg's job was to support the government, not criticize it from within.

"He's not there to start a debate but to put France back on the path

of growth," Carlos Da Silva, the Socialist Party spokesman, told Le Figaro newspaper.

Montebourg's criticism of austerity — and his pointed remarks about German Chancellor Angela Merkel — have rankled before.

In an interview last week, after Germany's economy also showed signs of stagnation, Montebourg said France's neighbor had been "trapped by the policy of austerity." He went on to say, "When I say Germany, I mean the German right wing that supports Angela Merkel. It's not France's job to align itself to the ideological axioms of Germany's right wing."

Thai junta leader takes over PM post

By THANYARAT DOKSONE
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Thailand's junta leader, who seized power in a military coup three months ago, officially assumed his new post as prime minister on Monday following an endorsement from the country's monarch.

During a ceremony in Bangkok, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, 60, accepted a written royal command issued by King Bhumibol Adulyadej certifying his appointment as the country's 29th premier. Bhumibol is 86 and in poor health.

Thailand's junta-appointed legislature voted overwhelmingly last week to name the army chief to the new post. He was the only candidate. Prayuth is due to retire from the military next month.

On May 22, Prayuth oversaw a coup in which the military toppled Thailand's elected civilian government. Analysts say his new post cements the military's control of government.

In July, the military adopted a temporary 48-article constitution and appointed the legislature.

Prayuth, who is expected to name his Cabinet next month, has said elections could be held in 2015. He has said the army had to stage the coup to end half a year of political deadlock between protesters and the government, and to stop sporadic protest-related violence that had killed dozens of people and wounded hundreds more. Stability has been restored, but Thailand's democratic institutions have been entirely dismantled, and all dissent has been crushed.

Scotch whisky worries mirror economic fears

By MARTIN BENEDEK AND DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

ISLAY, Scotland — Carl Reavey plunged his nose into the glass, inhaled the amber liquid's scent, then sipped. Slowly.

It's said that Scotch tastes of the place where it is made, so Reavey's Bruichladdich Black Art single malt would offer a touch of barley, a splash of the sea and a whiff of salt from the island of Islay, 140 miles west of Glasgow.

That taste takes time — a long time — to produce, with top-rated Scotch aged for decades. And it means distilleries need to have long-term plans for investments and financing — all of which could be thrown into turmoil in a single day, Sept. 18, when Scotland votes on whether to leave Britain.

Whisky makers and many other businesses are worried about the risks involved in finding themselves overnight in a new country with, among other things, a different currency.

"The uncertainty associated

with independence, rather than independence itself, really, I think is the concern," Reavey said.

The most contentious issue so far has been what currency an independent Scotland would use. The central government has ruled out sharing the pound, saying British taxpayers shouldn't be forced to underwrite economic and fiscal policies over which they have no control. Pro-independence leader Alex Salmond has refused to offer a plan B, arguing that the stance of the unity advocates is merely a scare tactic.

For many companies, that's not a bluff worth calling.

If Scotland were to take a new currency, businesses would suddenly find themselves in the position of having to pay back loans they took in pounds with new money of uncertain value. The risk is a new currency would be weaker than the pound because it would be based on an economy, Scotland's, which is smaller than the rest of Britain, which includes England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



As a veteran, you can now secure an affordable home loan through a veteran-owned and operated company that partners with veteran nonprofits and carefully selected lenders to offer the best possible rates.

STARS AND STRIPES
VA Loan Center
Get Real Time Pricing on VA Loans
visit stripes.com/valoans today!

Powered by VA Loan Captain

Starting Sept. 3

Vote for Germany's Best

Vote online www.stripesrewards.com/readers-choice

Stripes READERS' CHOICE 2014

WORLD

US journalist held in Syria since '12 freed

By JIM KUHNHENN
AND RYAN LUCAS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the U.S. mourned an American journalist beheaded by Islamic militants, the nation found something of a reprieve with the release of another freelance reporter who had been held hostage for nearly two years by an al-Qaida-linked group in Syria.

Peter Theo Curtis, who wrote under the byline Theo Padnos, was freed Sunday, offering consolation to U.S. officials, a journalism community and family members deeply unnerved by the grisly video of James Foley's beheading in a desolate desert landscape.

Curtis' release appeared to have been aided by the oil-rich nation of Qatar, which said Sunday that it had "exerted relentless efforts" to win the American's freedom. Qatar is a leading supporter of the Syrian rebels fighting to oust President Bashar Assad and has been involved in mediating past hostage releases.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Curtis had been held by Jabhat al-Nusra, also known as the Nusra Front, an al-Qaida-linked militant group fighting Assad's government. Curtis was not believed to be among the hostages held by the Islamic State group that killed Foley. The Islamic State was formally disavowed by al-Qaida earlier this year after being deemed too brutal.

A senior Obama administration official said Curtis was released in the Golan Heights, where he was met by U.S. government personnel who were transporting

him to Tel Aviv. The official was not authorized to speak by name and discussed the release on the condition of anonymity.

Foley's captors had demanded \$132.5 million from his parents and political concessions from Washington. Neither obliged, authorities say.

Betsy Sullivan, a cousin of Curtis, said intermediaries involved in negotiations threatened the family and made ransom demands of varying amounts. But the family said that ultimately they were assured by Qatari representatives that no money was paid for Curtis' release. His family said they believe Curtis was captured in October 2012, shortly after crossing into Syria.

"My heart is full at the extraordinary, dedicated, incredible people, too many to name individually, who have become my friends and have tirelessly helped us over these many months," Curtis' mother, Nancy Curtis, said in a statement from the family. "Please know that we will be eternally grateful."

The Obama administration used Curtis' release to insist that it was determined to find those responsible for Foley's death and pursue the release of other hostages.

"Theo Curtis, Jim Foley and other journalists travelled to Syria to shed light on the unspeakable horrors being committed against innocents — only to become victims of brutal forces unleashed and abetted by the conflict," U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power said in a statement. "So long as any American is held captive, the United States government will do everything in our power to bring them home safely."



CURTIS, WHO HAD BEEN HELD HOSTAGE FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS IN SYRIA, HAD BEEN RELEASED.

The U.S. government said Sunday that reporter Peter Theo Curtis, who had been held hostage for about two years in Syria, had been released.



SERGEI GETTS/AP

Pro-Russia rebels escort captured Ukrainian army prisoners in a central square in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, on Sunday.

Ukraine says Russian tank column entered southeast

By JIM HEINTZ
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — A column of Russian tanks and armored vehicles has crossed into southeastern Ukraine, away from where most of the intense fighting has been taking place, a top Ukrainian official said Monday.

Col. Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security Council, told reporters that the column of 10 tanks, two armored vehicles and two trucks crossed the border near Shecherbak and that the nearby city of Novoazovsk was shelled during the night from Russia. He said they were Russian military vehicles bearing the flags of the separatist Donetsk rebels.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday he had no information about the column.

The reported incursion and shelling could indicate an attempt to move on Mariupol, a major port on the Azov Sea, an arm of the Black Sea. Mariupol lies on the main road between Russia and Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, which Russia annexed in March. Capturing Mariupol could be the first step in building a slice of territory that links Rus-

sia with Crimea.

Although Mariupol is in Ukraine's separatist Donetsk region, most of the fighting between separatist rebels and Ukrainian troops has been well to the north, including around the city of Donetsk, the rebels' largest stronghold. A full offensive in the south could draw Ukrainian forces away from the fight for Donetsk.

Lysenko said Mariupol has enough defenders "to repel any attack of uninvited guests." Ukraine and the West say that Russia is supporting and supplying the rebels and that since mid-August, Russia has fired into Ukraine from across the border and from within Ukrainian territory. Moscow denies those allegations.

Fighting continued elsewhere in the east, notably around the town of Olenivka, 15 miles south of Donetsk. Lysenko said Monday about 250 separatists had been killed in that fighting, but did not specify in what time period. On Sunday, rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko said two-thirds of Olenivka had been wrested away from Ukrainian control.

Ukrainian forces had made significant inroads against the separatists in recent weeks, but the

rebels have vowed to retake lost territory.

Russia announced plans, meanwhile, to send a second aid convoy into rebel-held eastern Ukraine, where months of fighting have left many residential buildings in ruins.

Russia's unilateral dispatch of more than 200 trucks into Ukraine on Friday was denounced by the Ukrainian government as an invasion and condemned by the United States, the European Union and NATO. Even though the tractor-trailers returned to Russia without incident on Saturday, the announcement of another convoy was likely to raise new suspicions.

Lavrov said Monday that Russia had notified the Ukrainian government it was preparing to send a second convoy along the same route in the coming days, but Lysenko said he had no information on that plan.

Lavrov also said the food, water and other goods delivered to the hard-hit rebel city of Luhansk was being distributed Monday and that Red Cross workers were at talks on how best to distribute it. There was no immediate confirmation on that from the Red Cross.

Israelis near Gaza evacuated as new truce talks rumored

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Fighting between Israel and Gaza militants raged on Monday despite claims of new cease-fire efforts as hundreds of Israelis living in communities near the Gaza Strip were fleeing their homes following a deadly mortar attack over the weekend.

The Israeli Defense Ministry said it is helping anxious Israelis leave homes close to the war zone in what is effectively the government's first large-scale voluntary evacuation effort in the nearly eight weeks of fighting.

There has so far been no end in sight to the war, which erupted on July 8. The latest escalation in the conflict erupted last week after

a six-day temporary truce collapsed. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said there were new efforts underway Monday to reach an extended cease-fire agreement, but neither side seemed to be easing its attacks.

While the Israeli public has widely supported Israel's campaign to halt rocket attacks out of Gaza, the government has come

under criticism for its inability to stop the fire and anger has risen, especially following the death of a 4-year-old boy who was killed Friday when a Palestinian mortar landed in Nahal Oz, a kibbutz near the Gaza border.

Livnat Ginzbourg, a spokeswoman for Israeli communities along the Gaza border, said some 100 families were leaving their

homes on Monday, following a similar number the previous day.

The Israeli military said it carried out at least 16 airstrikes on Gaza early Monday, targeting a mosque it said was used to store weapons and another it said militants used as a meeting point. The military also said that Palestinian militants fired at least 60 rockets into Israel on Monday.

NATION



By SEANNA ADCOX
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C.

The English settlement of Jamestown, Va., may be dubbed America's birthplace, but North America's first colonial capital was actually established four decades earlier — and 400 miles away — in South Carolina.

A Beaufort-based nonprofit is working to give the Spanish town of Santa Elena its proper due and resume archaeological digs at the site located within the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island, thereby attracting tourists to the area.

The effort corresponds with a federal initiative to highlight Hispanic and Latino heritage sites. The National Park Service plans to release a curriculum this fall on Santa Elena for middle and high school teachers. Spain has offered to provide software, documents and other artifacts to help tell the town's story, as part of an agreement the U.S. signed with Spain last year on the initiative.

"It's just not in the history books, and yet this was a very important part of our colonial history in the United States," said Stanley Bond, chief archaeologist at the National Park Service, which named Santa Elena a National Historic Landmark in 2001.

Even in South Carolina, students' American history books essentially skip from Christopher Columbus to the 1607 settlement of Jamestown, then on to the 1620 landing in Plymouth, Mass., barely mentioning the prior century of Spanish exploration. Essentially, that's because the English won.

"The Spanish history of this region was co-opted by the English," said Steve Wise, director of the Parris Island Museum, which displays some Santa Elena artifacts. "The U.S. has been very much English-centric for a long, long time."

The nonprofit Santa Elena Foundation, created last year, plans to open an interpretive center at nearby Port Royal that tells not only of Santa Elena, but its role in the European struggle for control of North America.

Though Spain was given colonial rights to America in 1494 by a Spanish-born Catholic pope, the French managed to settle Parris Island first, in 1562. But the French



SANTA ELENA: Forgotten American colonial capital gets push for archaeological attention



abandoned Charlesfort within a year. Spain established Santa Elena on top of the remains in 1566, and it served as the Spanish capital from 1572 to 1576, when colonists fled a Native American attack. That's when St. Augustine, Fla., became the Spanish capital. Though colonists returned to Santa Elena a year later, they abandoned it for good in 1587, due to threats from the English.

The foundation hopes to open a temporary center next year and a permanent exhibit in time for Santa Elena's 450-year anniversary in 2016. The group also hopes to fund full-time archaeologists. In May, foundation members traveled to Spain to meet with officials, as well as a descendant of Santa Elena's governor, and see their historical records. The National Park Service arranged the four-day trip through the Spanish embassy.

The foundation does not yet have a total estimate for their plans. Board member Dick Stewart expects the first phase to cost between \$1 million and \$2 million.

A mere 2 percent of the site has been excavated since 1979 when Santa Elena's location was confirmed.

The state Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina has conducted excavations periodically between 1979 and 2008, as money became available. Its digs have retrieved enough artifacts to fill more than 800 cubic feet. The Marine Corps has allowed the institute to house the artifacts as long as they are properly protected. However, limited money has prevented the state from doing so.

Many items, particularly those dug up decades ago, are stored in deteriorating cardboard boxes and plastic or paper bags, said the institute's Charles DePratter.

Before archaeological work can resume, the entire collection must be re-packaged and re-catalogued as per the Marine Corps' expectations.

Legislators earmarked \$220,000 in the state budget to help do that, easily overriding the veto of Gov. Nikki Haley, who argued private donations should pay the tab.

Sen. Tom Davis blasted Haley for not recognizing a decades-old state obligation.

"These 500-year-old artifacts are sitting in cardboard boxes and bags and rotting away," said Davis, R-Beaufort. "A private foundation can't go forward until the state has its house in order."



These photos show excavations of the Spanish settlement of Santa Elena on Parris Island, S.C., in the 1990s. The town of Santa Elena was established in 1566 and served as Spain's colonial capital on the continent until 1576. The nonprofit Santa Elena Foundation plans to open an exhibit that tells of Santa Elena and its role in the European struggle for control of North America.

AP photos

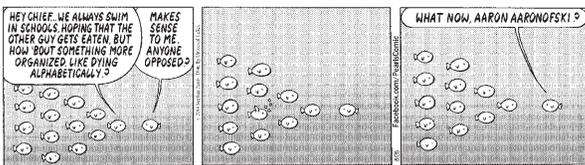
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15				16					17		
		18					19	20			
21	22	23				24					
25					26	27			28	29	
30				31					32		
33			34						35		
		36						37			
38	39						40	41			
42				43	44				45	46	47
48									50		
49											
51									53		

ACROSS

- 1 Showroom sample
- 5 Paper quantity
- 9 1-Across, e.g.
- 12 Black-and-white cookie
- 13 Taj Mahal city
- 14 Individual
- 15 Halloween treat
- 17 Scepter
- 18 Dregs
- 19 "Ain't got a clue"
- 21 Just weapons
- 24 Stupely
- 25 Heroic poetry
- 26 Group of warships
- 30 Melody
- 31 Down East
- 32 Writer Fleming
- 33 False teeth
- 35 Pooch
- 36 Relaxation
- 37 Cold rolled food
- 38 —frutti
- 42 Erstwhile acorns
- 42 Blackbird
- 43 Goat sign
- 48 "Monty Python" opener
- 49 Lend an illegal hand
- 50 Stead
- 51 Parcel of land
- 52 Lord's mate
- 53 "Desire Under the —"

DOWN

- 1 Elmer, to Bugs
- 2 Historic period
- 3 Chaps
- 4 Loads
- 5 "The Amazing —"
- 6 Hollywood clasher
- 7 Timetable abbr.
- 8 Authoritative order
- 9 "Planet of the Apes" role
- 10 Soon, poetically
- 11 Start over
- 16 "Of course"
- 20 Submachine gun
- 21 Hoover Dam lake
- 22 "... blackbirds, baked in —"
- 23 Brass musician
- 24 Dresses in
- 26 Passenger's payment
- 27 Recline
- 28 Wood strip
- 29 Opposed
- 31 "Cris" or "Cabaret"
- 34 Tit for —
- 35 Strength
- 37 Tackie the slopes
- 38 Follow closely
- 39 "Do — others ..."
- 40 Essay pg.
- 41 Bohemian
- 44 Lawyers' org.
- 45 Lubricate
- 46 Sleep phenomenon, for short
- 47 Greek consonants

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	L	T	O	F	L	C	A	B	S	
R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	O	M	I
C	A	P	T	I	V	E	S	B	O	L
		E	V	E	H	A	W	K	E	R
S	T	O	R	E	K	A	L	E		
P	A	L	S	C	A	P	A	B	L	E
A	L	L	H	Y	P	E	R	E	T	H
C	A	P	E	C	O	O	D	A	N	N
H	E	S	A	U	S	I	L	K	U	N
H	U	M	E	R	I	O	R	T		
E	S	A	U	C	A	P	S	I	Z	E
R	E	N	D	A	R	E	A	C	O	D
O	R	E	L	E	D	S	O	O	N	

8-26

CRYPTOQUIP

V C U V K Z U B V H E B Q Y P W G F L U B
 K Y U E V H E H F P I U F D A Q N H G Q B
 I W V C G A B . C W E W Y U H F Z D

Y U H B W A B G I W D W N Y G L B .
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: AT THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW, CAN ONE PRESUME THAT THE FINEST SPECIMEN WINS THE BLOOM RIBBON?
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals H

MILITARY



PADDLING AWAY THE WAR

FORMER MARINE CANOES MISSISSIPPI RIVER AFTER 2 TOURS IN AFGHANISTAN

By **GERALD HERBERT**
The Associated Press

VENICE, La.

Two tours in Afghanistan took a toll on Joshua Plotz.

The former Marine was injured in a roadside bomb. He lost friends in combat, and later, to suicide.

When the Winona, Minn., resident returned from the war eight years ago, he was coping with post-traumatic stress disorder, known as PTSD, the fallout from a minor stroke and other injuries. Adapting to civilian life proved difficult. Relationships failed, employment was hard to come by and, Plotz said, he had an overwhelming feeling of being "lost."

This summer, Plotz, 30, found direction — and became an inspiration — paddling a canoe the length of the Mississippi River. He launched on May 19 in Lake Itasca, Minn., where the river begins as a nar-

row creek lined with tall trees and bald eagle nests.

The trip to the Gulf of Mexico would take him 71 days, 49 of them spent paddling and the remainder resting. Plotz said he needed every inch of the river's more than 2,300 miles to paddle away the demons of war, or at least calm them a bit.

"It slows life down so you can appreciate things in life," he said. "All you have to do is think about things that you may not want to think about, things that just appear or things that you should think about, and you kind of work things out in your head."

The idea of the river journey was set in motion years ago by a chance encounter in a bar with Matthew Mohlke, author of "Floating Down the Country," who told Plotz about his

book describing his solo canoe journey paddling the Mississippi in 1999.

The seed was planted, Plotz said, for his own "river experience."

Plotz created a Facebook page, called "Paddle Off The War," to mark his trip and raise awareness of PTSD.

One of the most memorable moments was a riverside greeting by about 100 uniformed Marines and a live band when Plotz rounded a bend in New Orleans.

He said he knows his battle with post-traumatic stress isn't over, and may never be, but the river taught him how to cope.

"You're going to have your troubles on the river, but just keep paddling," he said. "You'll make it through it."



A Marine greets Joshua Plotz as he arrives in New Orleans.



PHOTOS BY GERALD HERBERT/AP

Left: Joshua Plotz, a former Marine who has post-traumatic stress disorder, sets up camp in Donaldsonville, La., after nightfall with his traveling companion, Aleks Nelson. Nelson, a kayaker from Duluth, Minn., joined Plotz about 10 days into the trip and paddled with him to the end. Center: Plotz addresses a group of Marines in New Orleans on July 25. Right: Plotz revels with a fellow canoeist he had met on the Mississippi River in New Orleans.

SHIFTING GEARS

2001-08 JAGUAR X-TYPE

While Ford Motor Co. did much to improve Jaguar's quality, company bean counters couldn't resist competing with the rear-wheel-drive BMW 3-Series on the cheap. So Ford used the mundane front-wheel-drive Contour platform, masked it with retro styling and expensive trim, and slapped a leaping Jaguar on the hood. Nevertheless, consumers could sense that the X-Type wasn't a real Jaguar, and its poor reliability helped reinforce a decades-old reputation Jaguar was beginning to overcome.



Ford Motor Co.

Not all car company mergers created equal

The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

Wall Street loves a merger.

When two companies get together, economies of scale can yield greater profits and eliminate a competition, and the costs that come with it. But just as all of marriages end in divorce, the uniting of car companies, whether temporary or not, can lead to disastrous consequences.

The results can be seen in these five unhappy offspring of cooperative automaker ventures.



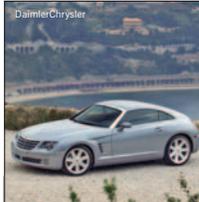
1989-91 CHRYSLER TC BY MASERATI

Lee Iacocca had long been a master at dressing up Ford's entrails into something that could be passed off as something pricier. At Chrysler, the formula finally failed. Poorly built in Milan by Maserati, the TC closely resembled the cheaper Chrysler LeBaron, except for the Maserati badge, grille and steering wheel. No wonder: the TC used Chrysler's K-Car platform and turbocharged four-cylinder engine, although topped with Maserati cylinder heads. Later TCs even used a Mitsubishi V6.



1987-91 STERLING

It certainly seemed like a good at the time. Take the wood-paneled, leather-lined interior: ambiance that the British are known for and lay it atop a reliable Honda platform. Sounds great, right? Here's the problem. The same apathetic British workforce that thoroughly ruined the rest of the British motor industry assembled the resulting sedan, known as the Sterling in the United States. By the time quality concerns were addressed, the brand and its parent company, Rover, were doomed.



2004-08 CHRYSLER CROSSFIRE

This oddly styled art deco coupe was one of the initial offspring of DaimlerChrysler's "merger of equals." Intended to add luster to Chrysler, the spendy Crossfire ended up a misfire. It was built in Germany using the old 1997-2004 Mercedes-Benz SLK's hardware and, as a result, shared the SLK's cramped cabin and unremarkable handling. Given that those were dark days for Mercedes-Benz, and both models suffered from numerous quality gremlins, the Crossfire's failure is understandable.



1991-94 MERCURY CAPRI

Having started life in 1974 as a European sports car, by 1991 the Capri name was used on this marriage of Italian styling atop a Mazda 323 front-wheel-drive platform. It seemed like a good idea, but the devil is in the details. Assembled in Australia, the Capri suffered from indifferent build quality and styling that was never as fetching as the rear-wheel-drive Mazda Miata, which used the same engine, many of the same parts and debuted around the same time.

SPECIAL RATES FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

RATES AS LOW AS **0.89%** APR



CAPITOL MOTORS

info@capitolmotors.com

US MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SALES IN GERMANY



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Suspicious object turns out to be 'Star Wars' toy

AK JUNEAU — Call Luke Skywalker for backup. Police in Juneau took a call Tuesday to check out a suspicious device spotted on the side of a road.

The first officer on the scene wasn't sure what to make of the object. A dispatcher sent out a second officer with expertise in bombs.

Wise in the ways of "Star Wars" toys was he.

The second officer determined that the device was a plastic light saber toy taped to a stick. The laser swords were the preferred weapons of Jedi knights.

The confusion may have occurred because the toy, which expands to reveal a long, plastic "blade," was in the closed position.

Teacher of the year charged with 5 felonies

ND WEST FARGO — The reigning North Dakota Teacher of the Year is accused of engaging in sexual acts with a student more than five years ago.

A complaint filed Friday in East Central District Court charges Aaron Knodel with five felony counts of corruption or solicitation of a minor. He's scheduled to be arraigned on Sept. 5.

Knodel is an English teacher and speech and debate coach at West Fargo High School. His lawyer, Robert Hoy, said Knodel is not guilty and successfully passed a polygraph test.

Authorities say the incidents happened in February or March of 2009, including twice in a classroom. The reputed victim was 17 years old at the time.

West Fargo school officials are recommending Knodel be placed on suspension without pay or benefits until the case is decided.

Couple win stingy slot machine's jackpot

NV LAS VEGAS — A pair of grandparents from New Hampshire won \$2.4 million at a notoriously stubborn MGM Grand slot machine.

Walter Misco, 66, played for about five minutes before hitting the jackpot at the 20-year-old "Lion's Share" machine about 11 p.m. Friday.

The retired businessman told reporters Saturday that his wife, Linda Misco, suggested he play that night. He said the two read about the machine online.

MGM Grand President Scott Sibella congratulated the couple, who live in a farmhouse in Chester, N.J. The couple, told reporters the winnings would help put their five grandchildren through college. They said they may buy a new car as well.

Festival's potato salad replaced after fire

OH OREGON — A fire that destroyed 1½ tons of potato salad didn't stop the Toledo area's German American Festival from serving up

THE CENSUS

50K

The number of bees a New York City woman had living in her apartment. Beekeepers removed the swarm from Frieda Turkmenilli's ceiling last week after her neighbors in Queens alerted the building manager. Turkmenilli said she saw only a few bees during the past few weeks and never realized how many had taken up residence right above her head. The bees and the 17 honeycombs they built were headed to an upstate farm.



ANDREW KRECH, (WILKES-BARRE, PA.) CITIZENS' VOICE/AP

Food fight

A tomato fight participant smiles as he prepares to throw a tomato during the Pittston Tomato Festival Tomato Fight in Pittston, Pa., on Saturday.

the homemade side dish over the weekend.

The fire in a refrigeration truck early Friday ruined the prepared potato salad, hundreds of gallons of sauerkraut and other food on opening day. Within hours, volunteer peelers brandishing paring knives were skinning spuds to replace what was scorched.

The festival's chairman told WTOL-TV it took nearly 150 people to prepare the original potato salad, and the festival was committed to serving a homemade replacement.

The festival in the city of Oregon typically serves hundreds of pounds of potato salad on each day of the event.

13-year-old caught driving illegally — again

WI MANITOWOC — A 13-year-old girl who was arrested for drunken driving in eastern Wisconsin earlier this month has been arrested again.

The Manitowoc Police Department said she's the same girl who was caught driving while intoxicated Aug. 13. Five other juveniles, 14 and younger, were along for the ride back then. She was released to her mother.

Now, the department says, the

same 13-year-old was spotted driving late Thursday afternoon. She took off when a squad car activated its flashing lights and siren, with four other juveniles in the car. They fled for about two blocks before exiting the vehicle — without putting it into park. All five were caught after a short foot chase. The vehicle rolled into a yard.

The girl was charged with multiple new violations, including fleeing police.

Rocket explodes during test flight; no injuries

TX MCGREGOR — An unmanned SpaceX rocket exploded shortly after launch on a test flight at the company's Central Texas development site.

A SpaceX statement said no body was injured in the Friday afternoon explosion at its test site in McGregor, Texas, 23 miles southeast of Waco.

In a statement, SpaceX spokesman John Taylor said the test flight involved a three-engine version of its reusable Falcon 9 rocket. He said an "anomaly" was detected in the rocket and it automatically self-destructed.

He said the vehicle remained within its designated flight area

throughout and a representative of the Federal Aviation Administration was present.

The company offered no further details on the nature of the "anomaly," but Taylor said SpaceX will review the flight record to learn more about the rocket's performance before its next test flight.

Firefighters rescue stuck poodle from tub

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A poodle was freed with the help of Albuquerque firefighters after one of its paws got stuck in a bathtub drain for several hours.

Selene Ortega, 12, told KRQE-TV that she was giving her dog, Morita, a bath Friday at her northeast Albuquerque home when the poodle started screaming.

Ortega said she and her family called their veterinarian, a plumber and then 911.

A 911 dispatcher contacted Albuquerque Animal Welfare. The agency ended up calling the fire department.

Firefighters tried to use lotion and shampoo to get Morita's paw out. They eventually cut open the bathtub.

Morita, drain and all, was taken to a vet, who successfully

removed it.

Other than some swelling, the dog will recover.

Animal Welfare officials say pet owners should use drain covers.

Man faces charge after firing gun, stripping

MO KANSAS CITY — Authorities said a convicted felon faces a federal charge after he fired a gun and took off his clothes.

Prosecutors charged Errick E. Martin on Friday with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Witnesses told police that Martin fired four or five shots from a handgun before stripping Thursday in a south Kansas City parking lot. Martin told police that he had bought the gun recently and wanted to test-fire it.

Court documents say Martin also told police that he smoked PCP earlier that morning and had disrobed because he felt hot.

Court records show that Martin has prior felony convictions for aggravated assault, burglary and possession of a controlled substance.

From wire reports

FACES

'Guardians' takes summer box office

"Guardians of the Galaxy" became the summer's top-grossing movie at the North American box office with a \$17.6 million weekend that bested the debut of the young-adult melodrama "If I Stay" (16.4), while the long-delayed "Sin City" sequel, "A Dame to Kill For," flopped with a take of just \$6.5 million.

In its fourth weekend of release, the Marvel space adventure passed "Transformers: Age of Extinction" to become the summer's biggest domestic hit with a cumulative total of \$252 million. The film, released by Disney, was an unlikely August sensation (late summer is usually an afterthought in Hollywood's lucrative summer season) that helped the box office rebound somewhat after big-budget sequels like "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" and "How To Train Your Dragon 2" failed to ignite multiplexes.

The reptile reboot "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" finished in second place with \$16.8 million in its third weekend.

Other news

■ G Unit surprised fans when it reunited this summer at the Hot 97 Summer Jam in June, and the rap group has another surprise: The Beyoncé-style digital release of six new songs early Monday. G Unit dropped "The Beauty of Impending" EP at midnight, mirroring Beyoncé's successful surprise release of her 50 Cent-led group last year. The 50 Cent-led group last released "T.O.S.: Terminate on Sight" in 2008.

■ Acclaimed actor and Oscar-winning director Richard Attenborough, whose film career on both sides of the camera spanned 60 years, has died. He was 90. The actor's son, Michael Attenborough, told the BBC that his father died Sunday. Attenborough won an Academy Award for best director for "Gandhi" in 1982. That signature achievement was only one of many career highlights. Attenborough also appeared in films such as "The Great Escape" and "Jurassic Park."

■ An attorney for M.L.A. says his client and the NBA have settled their multimillion-dollar dispute over the Sri Lankan rapper's flash of the middle finger during her 2012 Super Bowl halftime performance with Madonna. Attorney Howard E. King said in a statement Friday that the parties reached a confidential settlement, but offered no further details.

■ U.S. soccer hero Tim Howard has advanced to the next round of fame: a book deal. Howard's memoir will be published Dec. 9 by HarperCollins. The publisher said Monday that "The Goalkeeper" will be available in adult and young adult editions. In a statement issued through HarperCollins, the 35-year-old Howard said he was eager to share the highs and lows of his life and career, including his battles with Tourette's Syndrome, and hopes to inspire others.



Howard



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Beyoncé, who has been dogged by rumors of marital discord, is joined onstage by husband Jay Z and their daughter, Blue Ivy, as she accepts the Video Vanguard award at the MTV Video Music Awards at The Forum on Sunday night in Inglewood, Calif.

Holding court

Beyoncé seizes moment at MTV Video Music Awards

By CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

They don't call her Queen Bey for nothing. Beyoncé not only stole the show at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday night, she used the moment to erase the cloud around her family with an appearance by daughter Blue Ivy and one by husband Jay Z to finish the night.

"MTV, welcome to my world," Beyoncé said. Her performance was mesmerizing television, from the 20-minute medley of hits to the public's extended look at Blue Ivy, who wore a gold hair bow and clapped her hands saying "Yea, Mommy," after Jay Z carried her onstage while presenting her mother with MTV's Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award.

SOME OF THE NIGHT'S HIGHLIGHTS

Nicki all night

Much of the focus prior to Beyoncé's arrival was on Nicki Minaj. She helped open the show with a snake-themed performance of "Anaconda" that included a lot of attention on Minaj's most jiggy asset — her rear end. Then after a wardrobe malfunction during her subsequent team up with Ariana Grande and Jessie J — "We ran out of time getting the dress zipped up," she said afterward — things got really booty-centric when she joined Usher on stage for "She Came to Give It to You." Usher dropped to his knee while playing the bass then banged his head against her rear end in a new version of the bump.

The front row

You've got to feel bad for Riff Raff. The Houston rapper arrived on the red carpet in a Lamborghini with Katy Perry in the passenger seat. But it was clear she was way more into pop star Sam Smith, spending the night with his arm draped over his shoulder. Other unexpected pairs along the front row included Taylor Swift and Lorde, who celebrated their friendship by dancing the night away together. Lorde even introduced Swift's performance of "Shake It Off."

Sam slays it

Perry wasn't the only attendee fixated on Smith. The VMAs have a reputation for over-the-top moments, and there were plenty. But the quiet, commanding performance of "Stay With Me" by the British singer drew the night's first — and most sincere — standing ovation.

VMAs WINNERS

- Video of the year:** "Wrecking Ball," Miley Cyrus
- Female video:** "Dark Horse," Katy Perry
- Male video:** "Sing," Ed Sheeran
- Pop video:** "Problem," Ariana Grande featuring Iggy Azalea
- Hip-hop video:** "Hold On, We're Going Home," Drake featuring Majid Jordan
- Rock video:** "Royals," Lorde
- Collaboration:** "Drunk in Love," Beyoncé featuring Jay Z
- Artist to watch:** "Miss Movin On," Fifth Harmony
- Video with a social message:** "Pretty Hurts," Beyoncé
- MTV Clubland award:** "Stay the Night," Zedd feat. Hayley Williams
- Cinematography:** "Pretty Hurts," Beyoncé
- Choreography:** "Chandelier," Sia
- Art direction:** "Reflektor," Arcade Fire
- Editing:** "Rap God," Eminem
- Visual effects:** "The Writing's on the Wall," OK Go
- Direction:** "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
- Lyric video:** "Don't Stop," 5 Seconds of Summer
- Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award:** Beyoncé

— The Associated Press



Marion "Suge" Knight

Rap mogul injured in nightclub shooting

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

Death Row Records founder and rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was injured in an early morning shooting Sunday in a packed nightclub but was expected to survive, a Los Angeles County sheriff's sergeant said.

Knight was one of three club patrons struck by gunfire around 1:30 a.m. at IOAK on West Hollywood, Calif.'s Sunset Boulevard, said Sgt. C. Tatar, watch commander at the Los Angeles County sheriff's West Hollywood station.

Two other victims, a man and a woman, were being treated at local hospitals and were expected to survive.

Authorities are still seeking a suspect and declined to release additional information, citing the ongoing investigation.

The shooting came just hours before MTV's Video Music Awards, which were held Sunday evening in Inglewood. R&B singer Chris Brown, who was co-hosting a party with Pia Mia, also was inside the club but not hit by the gunfire, Tatar said.

"This incident did not involve Chris," he was merely the host of the event," the singer's representative said in a statement. "He has and will continue to cooperate with the investigation."

Knight has been shot before. In 2005, he was struck in the leg during an MTV awards pre-party in Miami Beach.

Knight's genius for poaching up-and-coming talent helped him make megastars out of Tupac Shakur, Snopp Dogg and Dr. Dre and shifted the center of the rap universe to the West Coast in the 1990s.

Knight formed an artist management company before co-founding Death Row Records in 1991 with Dr. Dre, who had broken with popular group N.W.A.

Knight has been in and out of jail over the past two decades due to parole violations and physical attacks relating to a "rap war" he fueled with East Coast artists.

— The Associated Press

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Attorneys 178

NICKEL

US & German Attorneys
 US & German Divorce • Employment
 Wills and Probate • Support Issues
 Personal Injury • Tax

Contractor
 Issues

Call 069-299-2069-0
 Email: maiss@nickelonline.de

**EUROPE'S PREMIER
 MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM**

COURT & CARPENTER
 Over 45 years defending
 servicemembers

Heilbronner Strasse 150,
 70191 Stuttgart, Germany
 Phone in Germany: 0711 490 04320
 www.militarylawfirm.eu

**Law Offices Joseph K. Kelso
 U.S. Attorney at Law**

Specializing in:
 U.S. Federal Employment Law,
 Administrative Boards, Personal Injury and
 Medical Malpractice, Claims, International
 Contracts and Immigration Law.

Frankfurt am Main
 Tel: (06108) 797579 • Fax: (06108) 799622
 joseph-kelso@t-online.de

Military Items 720

DEPENDABLE

We test each bag
 we add to our line

Over 1000 bags
 All branches
 All camo types
 Check our reviews
 on Facebook

MILITARYLUGGAGE.COM

Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY
 +49-6134-2592730
 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)
 info@transglobal-logistics.de
 www.transglobal-logistics.de

UNITED KINGDOM
 +44-117 938 1919
 0800-7839351 (UK only)
 info@carshipuk.co.uk
 www.carshipuk.co.uk

U.S.A
 +1-972-602-1670
 +1-800-264-8167 (US only)
 info@tgalus
 www.tgalus

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Dental 902

American Dental Care

Services Offered:
 Family Dentistry
 Certified Orthodontics
 Crowns and Veneers
 Implant Surgery
 Zoom Teeth Whitening
 Wisdom Teeth Surgery
 Nitrous Oxide
 Saturday & Evening Appointments
 Caring, Friendly American Staff

LOCATIONS

Wiesbaden Dental Care
 06119 887 2650
 Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
 Wiesbadendental.com

Ramstein Dental Care
 06371 406230
 Post Strasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
 Ramsteindental.com

Certified American Dental Hygienists
 TRICARE Preferred Provider

Dental 902

Over 90% Non-Extraction

Member
 American Association of
 Orthodontists

Convenient Payment Plans
 No Referral Necessary
 Evening & Weekends
 Tricare Provider

American Orthodontist
 Dr. Michael Dillon, DDS, MS (Orthod)
 Univ of Maryland, Former USAF

All Treatment Fees in US \$

06371-918911
 www.dillonortho.com

Financial Services 904

LOANS up to \$10,000

For Active Duty U.S. Military

Call Toll Free

Germany: 0800 YES-LOAN
 Italy/Belgium: 00800 YES-LOAN
 Stateside: +1.931.802.6522

www.yesomni.com

omni
 MILITARY LOANS

"We love to say yes!"

© Omni Financial - All Rights Reserved. All loans subject to approval.

Want a better picture?

You'll get one - just by reading Stars and Stripes military news coverage.
 In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
 No one covers the bases the way we do.

Dillon
 Orthodontic Care

**Off Duty?
 Amuse Yourself!**

Concerts, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

Transportation 944

Interglobal Shipping GmbH

Specialized Shipping to/from the US & Canada
 Autos, Household Goods, Personal Belongings
 Contact your Pro's at the Docks today!!!
 info@interglobalshipping.de
 www.interglobalshipping.de

Toll Free (0421) 540 650 Fax (0421) 540 6555
 Toll Free 0800 000631

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WSA
 WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
 0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)
 For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
 Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
 croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, News Editor/Europe/Mideast
 weyr.teddie@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9310; cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific
 Paul Alexander, News Editor/Pacific
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6362-5377; cell (080)5883.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 (+1)202.761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,
 Sports, Features and Graphics
 moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 Tel: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contacts

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting, editing, and publishing, by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 04171900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 30 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2014

stripes.com

OPINION

Only joint effort will defeat Islamic State

By HOSHYAR ZEBARI

I have devoted my life to fighting for peace and democracy in Iraq, first as a member of the Kurdish peshmerga struggling against Saddam Hussein's regime, then as a diplomat seeking to restore Iraq as a peaceful partner in ensuring world stability.

But never have I seen such heart-wrenching suffering as I have recently witnessed in northern Iraq. Women and children fleeing across mountains for days without food or water. Parents having their children taken away, bound for death or enslavement. The rapes of wives and daughters. Mothers cutting their own arms as their children could drink their blood in a desperate bid to survive.

Such atrocities are occurring because of a group that calls itself the Islamic State and acts under a grotesque misinterpretation of Islam that seeks to justify genocide with an ultimatum of convert or die. The massacre of villagers, the abduction of hundreds of women and girls, crucifixions, beatings, burying victims alive and other horrific acts have driven tens of thousands of Yazidis, Kurds, Christians and Turkmen, as well as Sunni and Shiite Arabs, from their homes. More than 1 million refugees are crowded into overburdened havens in the Kurdish region, in Iraq's north.

The vast scale of an unrepeatable brutality of these crimes shock the world, including Iraqis who have already suffered under a long dictatorship and then the onslaught of al-Qaida in Iraq. And with the brutal beheading of the journalist James Foley — an act that recalls al-Qaida's murder of the reporter Daniel Pearl — Ameri-

cans have seen once again that they, too, are the targets of a brand of terrorism that knows neither moral restraints nor national boundaries.

With thousands of Islamic State recruits hailing from Western nations and holding passports from those lands, these violent extremists can return to their home countries without visas to commit similar atrocities. This is why it is so important for all Iraqis and Iraq's neighbors and allies to respond rapidly and effectively to this threat.

The United States was the first nation to answer the challenge with humanitarian assistance and military action, earning Iraqis' gratitude yet again. On behalf of all Iraqis, I thank the American people and administration for the blood and treasure that they have sacrificed for us since 2003. Unfortunately, more must still be done to meet this new danger.

Iraqis are not asking the United States to fight in our place. The peshmerga, working with the Iraqi security forces, advised by the U.S. military and supported by airstrikes, are already serving on the front lines to recapture territory and defeat the jihadists.

But Iraq is up against the richest and most sophisticated terrorist group — or "state," as they describe themselves — in the world, and we need coalition support. We have already seen what can be achieved when we act in concert. The city of Makhmur and the strategically critical Mosul Dam have been retaken, the Kurdish capital of Irbil has been secured, and most of the Yazidis stranded in the Sinjar mountains have been rescued.

Colleges' dirty little secret: adjunct professors

By COLMAN MCCARTHY

We are the stoop laborers of higher education: adjunct professors.

As colleges and universities rev for the fall semester, the stony exploitation of the adjunct faculty continues, providing cheap labor for America's campuses, from small community colleges to knowledge factories with 40,000 students. The median salary for adjuncts, according to the American Association of University Professors, is \$2,700 per three-credit course. Some schools raise this slightly to \$3,000 to \$5,000, only few go higher. Others sink to \$1,000. Pay scales vary from school to school, course to course. Adjuncts teaching upper-level biophysics are likely to earn more than those teaching freshman grammar.

There is no uniformity, but similarities abound. Benefits, retirement packages, health insurance? Hardly. Job security? Silly question. An office? Good luck. A mailbox? Maybe. Free parking? Pray. Extra money for mentoring and counseling students? Dream on. Chances for advancement? Get serious. Teaching assistants? Don't ask.

AARP reports that part-timers now make up 50 percent of total faculty. As adjuncts proliferate, the number of tenured jobs falls. Why pay full salaries when you can get workers on the cheap?

Hordes of adjuncts slog like migrant workers from campus to campus. Teaching one or two credit courses at \$2,700 each generates an annual salary of \$21,600, below the national poverty line for a family of four. In a classroom across the hall, a tenured professor could make \$100,000 for teaching half as many courses to half as many students. The tenured commonly speak of teaching "loads," as if they were hauling burlap sacks of

weighty tomes up to the heights of Mount Academia.

In "Equality for Contingent Faculty: Overcoming the Two-Tier System," Keith Hoeller, an adjunct at Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash., writes that "throughout the country college administrators, often with the collaboration of academic unions, have gone to great lengths to keep their increasing numbers of adjunct faculty secret from students, parents, legislators, accreditors, foundations and the public."

Schools boast of having, or nearly having, 100 percent Ph.D.s on the full-time faculty but stay mum on their numbers of adjuncts, even though the distinction has little to do with the talents of the professors. Earning a doctorate, too often a form of intellectual hazing, confers ascensive status, not teaching ability.

Generally, schools hire two kinds of adjuncts: the penuriously trapped who rely on their table-crumbs pay and those who have incomes elsewhere. By grace and a tick of luck, I'm in the second group, being an adjunct since the mid-1980s at American University, the University of Maryland and Georgetown University Law Center, as well as two public high schools. This fall and spring I expect to teach 13 peace stud courses. My university pay totals \$28,300.

No matter. Besides feeling privileged to be teaching at all, considering my less-than-sparkling grades in high school and college, my lasting compensation comes in the form of a "load." I am grateful for what I care about and savoring the company of my students. Adjuncts like me tend not to be credentialized with graduate degrees but are hired for our experiential knowledge in our professional, not professional theoretical, lives.

Recent years have seen efforts to deliver economic fairness for single-income

The case for further engagement in the Kurdish region is just and clear. After the safe haven was established by the United States and Britain in the 1990s, Kurds seized the opportunity to develop a secure, democratic, pluralistic and tolerant regime that protects the rights of minorities. In 2003, Kurds fought alongside Americans to defeat Saddam, becoming a stable partner for the United States in a region where it has too few.

Now we are fighting on behalf of the entire world, for if we do not beat them in our homeland, you will have to battle them in yours.

Fortunately, there is new hope amid the horrors. As Iraq's elected leaders form a new and more inclusive government, the Iraqi security forces and peshmerga are successfully fighting together to defend not only Iraq's territorial integrity but its very survival. Support for both the national and regional security forces battling the threat of the Islamic State has never been more crucial.

Just as Iraqis are standing together against terrorism, so must the world community. We are not asking only the United States for help. We are asking our neighbors, our European allies, the United Nations and the Arab and Islamic world to stand with us against a murderous force that threatens to plunge us all into darkness.

We face a common enemy. We must wage a common struggle. And we must win a common victory for the sake of the people everywhere and generations yet unborn.

Hoshyar Zebari is foreign minister of Iraq. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

adjuncts at the grubby bottom of campus employment. One organizing force is the nonprofit New Faculty Majority, led by Maria Maisto, an adjunct at Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio. On April 16, she said on NPR: "When my husband lost his job, I had to try to support my entire family as an adjunct with no access to health insurance. I have kids. I know many adjuncts who have been on food stamps. ... This problem has evolved in such a way that families and our society are subsidizing what colleges and universities won't provide."

For strapped adjuncts with no off-campus income, a solution is to replace a minimum wage with a living wage — say, \$15,000 a course plus benefits. Where would the money come from? Start with cuts to presidential salaries, which are at all-time highs. Annual pay packages from \$500,000 to more than \$1 million are common. Meanwhile, the loan debts of students — the pre-unemployed — soar.

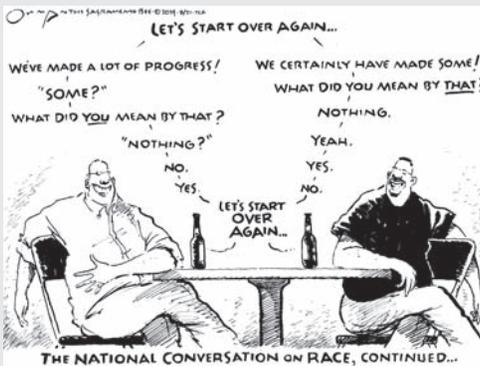
Until salaries at the top are trimmed — including excessive pay to big-time football and basketball coaches — and those at the bottom are raised, the demeaning of adjuncts will make more the structure of economic violence. It is to be wondered why the collective conscience of a college or university is rarely stirred by the salary inequality that has persisted, and even grown, for decades, with little relief in sight. Some union organizing is happening. Though promising, to date it is mostly an exercise in futility.

At graduations, students are grandly implored to go make the world a better place. Every place, dear children, except your alma mater.

Colman McCarthy, a former editorial writer and columnist for The Washington Post, in which this column first appeared, directs the Center for Teaching Peace in Washington.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	73	55	.570	0
Miami	63	52	.548	10
New York	66	64	.508	8
Tampa Bay	66	66	.499	8
Boston	68	68	.491	18

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	58	58	.500	0
Detroit	70	59	.543	2
Chicago	60	51	.540	7
Chicago	59	71	.454	13
Minnesota	72	77	.486	14

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	77	57	.571	0
Seattle	63	58	.520	14
Houston	65	55	.540	6
Houston	61	57	.515	10
Texas	50	79	.388	27

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	68	63	.519	8
Atlanta	63	60	.512	8
New York	60	70	.466	15
Philadelphia	68	72	.486	17

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	72	58	.554	0
St. Louis	60	59	.513	7
Pittsburgh	67	63	.515	5
Cincinnati	61	61	.500	9
Chicago	58	72	.446	14

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	68	58	.561	0
San Francisco	63	61	.527	4
San Diego	60	62	.492	6
Arizona	55	76	.420	18
Colorado	52	77	.403	20

Sunday's games

N.Y. Yankees 7, Chicago White Sox 4
 Cleveland 3, Houston 1
 New York Mets 2, Toronto 10
 Seattle 5, Boston 6
 St. Louis 13, Minnesota 4
 Chicago Cubs 2, Baltimore 1
 Texas 3, Kansas City 4
 Cincinnati 3, Oakland 4
 Cincinnati 5, Atlanta 3
 Philadelphia 7, San Francisco 6
 Philadelphia 7, St. Louis 3
 St. Louis 10, Pittsburgh 1
 Pittsburgh 7, Miami 4
 Los Angeles 10, San Diego 7
 San Diego 7, Arizona 4

Monday's games

St. Louis 10, Pittsburgh 1
 Washington at Philadelphia
 Los Angeles at San Francisco
 Milwaukee at San Diego
 Tampa Bay at Baltimore
 Boston at Toronto
 N.Y. Yankees at Kansas City
 Oakland at Houston
 Miami at L.A. Angels
 Texas at Seattle

Tuesday's games

Tampa Bay (Cobb 9-6) at Baltimore (W. Lugo) (Cobb 9-6)
 Toronto (De La Rosa 4-5) at Toronto (Dickey 10-12)
 St. Louis (McCarthy 5-2) at Detroit (Porcello 14-12)
 N.Y. Yankees (Howie 2-3) at Detroit (Porcello 14-12)
 Chicago White Sox (Quintana 6-9) at St. Louis (Nolasco 5-9) at Kansas City (Duffy 8-11)
 Oakland (Hammel 1-5) at Houston (Keuchel 10-8)
 Texas (N Martinez 3-9) at Seattle (Paxton 2-10)
 St. Louis (Lynn 14-8) at Pittsburgh (Keuchel 10-8)
 Washington (Gonzalez 6-9) at Philadelphia (Duffy 8-11)
 Atlanta (Wood 9-9) at N.Y. Mets (Gee 4-6)
 Chicago Cubs (Wood 7-11) at Cincinnati (Cueto 15-8)
 Cincinnati (R Hernandez 2-7) at Arizona (Cahill 3-8)
 Los Angeles (Lind 6-8) at L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 12-4)
 Colorado (Nolasco 5-9) at San Diego (Torres 12-4)
 Colorado (De La Rosa 13-8) at San Francisco (Gumtar 14-9)

Sunday

Yankees 7, White Sox 4 (10)

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

New York

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Miami

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

San Francisco

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Los Angeles

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Philadelphia

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

San Diego

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Seattle

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Texas

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Toronto

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Washington

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Arizona

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Colorado

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Cincinnati

Chicago	A	R	H	R	B	SO
Almiraz	5	1	1	1	1	0
Choi	1	2	0	0	0	0
Arzu	5	1	2	1	1	1
Agar	4	1	1	1	1	1
Smith	4	0	0	0	0	0
Konerk	4	0	0	0	0	0
Flowers	3	0	0	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan	2	0	0	0	0	0
Drew	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	4	4	3	3	7

Cleveland

MLB ROUNDUP

Hamilton blasts Angels to victory over A's

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Josh Hamilton is heating up at the right time, and Los Angeles manager Mike Scioscia hopes he can keep going.

Hamilton homered and drove in three runs, Mike Trout also went deep and the Angels regained the best record on baseball, beating the Oakland Athletics 9-4 on Sunday night.

"This is huge for Josh," Scioscia said. "You can see what he can bring from what he did today. He can control the game by himself."

Erick Aybar had two hits and two RBIs and Kole Calhoun finished with three hits for the Angels, who ended a five-game losing streak to the A's in Oakland. Albert Pujols and Howie Kendrick each drove in a run as Los Angeles won for the ninth time in 12 games.

"We needed a 'W' tonight," Trout said. "There are a lot of games left but any time you beat Oakland it's big."

Alberto Callaspo and Andy Parrino homered for Oakland, which had won three of four to move into a tie for the top spot in the AL West.

"It's not even about a series any more. We have to bear down every single day," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "When you take the first two, you always want the third one, but you can't complain when you take two of three."

Jered Weaver (14-7) struck out eight in 6½ innings while improving to 7-1 with a 3.78 ERA in his last 13 starts. He allowed three runs and eight hits.

"It's nice to end the series on top of the AL West division," Weaver said. "This was obviously a huge game. We didn't want to get swept, and the offense was the story of the game."

Scott Kazmir (14-6) matched his season highs in runs (seven) and hits (10) in three-plus innings.

"There were times I felt I could take control of the game, get two strikes on a guy and then throw one right down the middle," Kazmir said. "I felt like I wasn't aggressive enough."

Aybar contributed a two-run double when the Angels got to Kazmir for three runs in the second. Calhoun doubled home Aybar for a 3-0 lead.

Nationals 14, Giants 6: Ian Desmond and Bryce Harper homered and drove in two runs each, helping streaking Washington rally to beat San Francisco.



TONY AVELAR/AP

The Angels' Josh Hamilton is congratulated by a teammate after his two-run homer in the third inning against the Oakland Athletics on Sunday in Oakland, Calif. Albert Pujols, right, also scored on the play as the Angels won 9-4 to regain the majors' best record at 77-52.

Craig Stammen (4-4) allowed a run in two innings of relief for NL-East leading Washington, which has won 12 of 13. Danny Espinosa also homered for the Nationals.

Cubs 2, Orioles 1: Tsuyoshi Wada allowed Steve Pearce's leadoff homer in the seventh inning for the Orioles' only hit as host Chicago swept AL East-leading Baltimore.

Wada (4-1) got a popout after the homer that landed on Waveland Avenue and departed to a standing ovation from the crowd of 32,774. He struck out a career-high eight and walked one in 6½ innings in his eighth career start. Arismendy Alcantara homered for the Cubs.

Indians 3, Astros 1: Trevor Bauer took a shutout into the seventh and won for the first time since July 18, leading host Cleveland over Houston.

Bauer (5-7) held Houston to four hits and struck out nine. Cody Allen, the Indians' fourth pitcher, worked out of ninth-inning trouble for his 17th save.

Phillies 7, Cardinals 1: Jimmy Rollins homered and Jerome Williams tossed eight strong innings for host Philadelphia.

Ben Revere had a pair of hits and an RBI for Philadelphia, which took two of three from the Cardinals to claim consecutive series wins for the first time since April.

Brewers 4, Pirates 3: Mike Fiers held Pittsburgh to two hits in seven innings for his fourth straight win since coming up from Triple-A, and Milwaukee avoided a three-game sweep at home to Pittsburgh.

Mets 11, Dodgers 3: Lucas Duda homered twice, drove in a career-high five runs and was involved in New York's first triple play in more than four seasons, allowing a grieving Bartolo Colon to breeze to a victory over host Los Angeles.

Colon (12-10) gave up two runs and five hits over six innings and struck out five in his first start since his mother Adriana died on Monday from breast cancer.

Yankees 7, White Sox 4 (10):

Pinch-hitter Brian McCann lined a three-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning, as New York beat visiting Chicago to complete a three-game sweep.

Rangers 3, Royals 1: Scott Baker (2-3) won as a starter for the first time in more than three years as host Texas beat the AL Central-leading Kansas City to avoid a series sweep.

Adrian Beltre put Texas ahead to stay with an RBI double in the first. Beltre had his fifth straight multihit game.

Tigers 13, Twins 4: Victor Martinez homered and had four RBIs to lead visiting Detroit over Minnesota. Rajai Davis also connected for the Tigers, who have won two straight to earn a split of this four-game series.

Tigers starter Max Scherzer (15-4) went five innings, allowing seven hits and three earned runs.

Rays 2, Blue Jays 1 (10): Evan Longoria singled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning as Tampa Bay beat host Toronto. Jake McGee (4-1) worked two

innings for the win and Brad Boxberger finished for his second save in five chances as the Rays won for the eighth time in 11 road games. They have won nine of their past 10 series away from home.

Padres 7, Diamondbacks 4: Yasmani Grandal homered and drove in four runs, and Ian Kennedy won in his second game back at Chase Field, as visiting San Diego beat Arizona.

Rockies 7, Marlins 4: Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer and Christian Bergman pitched into the seventh to earn his first major league win, helping host Colorado beat Miami.

Reds 5, Braves 3: Alfredo Simon pitched seven strong innings to earn his first win in eight starts since the All-Star break and Todd Frazier homered as host Cincinnati beat Atlanta.

Mariners 8, Red Sox 6: Dustin Ackley had three hits and scored three runs as Seattle's bullpen was sharp for the second straight day as visiting Seattle handed host Boston its eighth straight loss.

Resources, tips, and helpful information about living in the Pacific Theater

STRIPES ANNUAL MANUAL 2014

Available **Aug. 29** inside

STARS AND STRIPES newspaper (Pacific theater only)

Stripes.com | Stripes.com/apps | Facebook.com/StripesPacific

US OPEN/NFL



DARKO VOJNOVIC/AP

Serena Williams could become the first woman in nearly 40 years to win three consecutive U.S. Open titles, but she has not been past the fourth round at a major in 2014. She starts play on Tuesday.

Serena chasing No. 18

Williams eager for first major title since last year's US Open

By RACHEL COHEN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Serena Williams stopped hiding from history and started making more of it.

Up until a couple of years ago, she practically plugged her ears at any mention of records or firsts. Now she says it out loud: Coming into the U.S. Open, her next goal is matching two tennis greats for the second-most major titles in the Open era with 18.

"Obviously just getting closer to tying with Chris [Evert] and Martina [Navratilova]," she said. Then she added: "But been doing that all year and still hasn't happened. Not going to stress out about it anymore."

Williams has been stuck on 17 since winning the U.S. Open a year ago. When she started working with coach Patrick Mouratoglou in mid-2012, he urged her to embrace the record chase. Williams went on to capture four of the next six Grand Slam titles, an Olympic gold medal and two straight WTA Championships in a scintillating 16-month run.

But in the first three major tournaments of 2014, she didn't even make the quarterfinals. Her last appearance on the Grand Slam stage took a bizarre turn when an out-of-form Williams pulled out of a Wimbledon doubles match, blaming a viral illness.

Evert, for one, figured she'd be looking up at Williams by now. Or that maybe Williams would be chasing Steffi Graf's Open-era record of 22 major titles.

Evert won her 18th and final major title at 31, the same age Williams was when she played at Flushing Meadows in 2013. Motivation gets harder with time because of the mental fatigue season after season.

"You just are not as fresh," Evert said. "Some days you just don't want to get out of bed." For all that, Williams still has to rate as the heavy favorite at Flushing Meadows when the year's last major tournament starts Monday. She's seeking to join Evert as the only woman to win three straight titles here in the Open era, which began in 1968.

Williams plays her first match on Tuesday, and she calls her first opponent "the future of American tennis."

Eighteen-year-old Taylor Townsend is a former top-ranked junior player who reached the third round at the French Open this year. Williams said

Saturday that the two are "really good friends" who talk and text often.

Williams is seeded No. 1 in New York for just the third time, a surprisingly low number for someone who has been the world's top-ranked player for 204 weeks in her career: The two previous times, she won the championship.

Williams' five titles in 2014 are the most on the WTA tour; nobody else has more than three. Over the last seven Grand Slam events, the five titles went to Williams went to five different players, and two of them won't be at Flushing Meadows: the retired Marion Bartoli and the injured Li Na.

Five-time major champ Maria Sharapova makes by far the best case to fill the void, but she hasn't looked that sharp since winning her second French Open title in June.

Petra Kvitová is coming off her victory at Wimbledon, but she's always struggled at Flushing Meadows — never even reaching the quarterfinals. After her first Wimbledon title in 2011, she promptly lost in the first round at the U.S. Open.

And Victoria Azarenka, the runner-up to Williams the last two years, has been stymied by injuries all season.

This state of affairs isn't too uncommon on the women's side in recent years. What's unusual is that the men's draw looks a bit similar. With Rafael Nadal unable to defend his title because of a wrist injury, the top players come in uncharacteristically shaky.

After winning Wimbledon and getting married, top-seeded Novak Djokovic was, in his own words, "emotionally a little bit flat" in losing early in two hard-court tournaments.

"I was a bit slow. I have to say, to get into the competition mode," Djokovic said. "It was a very unique five, six weeks that I had with the wedding and winning Wimbledon and getting back to No. 1 in the world. I couldn't ask for more. I was extremely fulfilled and happy with where I am in my life."

Meanwhile, Andy Murray has yet to rediscover his championship form after back surgery. Perhaps this is 33-year-old Roger Federer's last, best chance to win another major title.

For more than two years, he's been stuck on No. 17 — a number Williams is also all too familiar with.

Rams' Bradford tears ACL again

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Jeff Fisher shared the bad news with Sam Bradford on Sunday morning.

By the time the St. Louis Rams coach began his day-after news conference, he'd had several hours to digest the impact of an injury that puts the team's onerous outlook in serious doubt and to give a vote of confidence to journeyman backup Shaun Hill.

After announcing Bradford's season-ending torn ACL in his left knee for the second time in nine months, Fisher said speculation about a trade was premature.

At the least, they'll likely wait to see who hits the market in the first round of cuts on Tuesday when rosters must be at 75 players.

"It makes no sense to jump and react right now and try to fill the hole at whatever cost," Fisher said. "We're going to take our time and evaluate this."

"There's going to be some quarterback cuts that are released and there may or may not be some quarterbacks out there that have trade value."

Fisher confirmed the extent of the injury first reported by ESPN and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He said no timetable had been set for surgery.

"We lost Sam for the year," Fisher said. "The news was devastating to him."

The coach quickly added that everyone at Rams Park must quickly become accustomed to the 34-year-old Hill running the offense.

"We're going to move forward, we're not going to change anything," Fisher said. "We have to move on and Shaun's the guy."

In all, five starters were hurt Saturday night. Fisher called it a "nightmare."

Cornback Trumaine Johnson was carted off with a knee injury and three others — guard Rodger Saffold and defensive tackles Kendall Langford and Michael Brockers — left with ankle injuries.

Johnson will be out for six weeks with an MCL tear, but Fisher said Saffold, Langford and Brockers could play if needed in the preseason finale Thursday.

Bradford was injured in the first quarter of Saturday night's 33-14 preseason victory at Cleveland. He was hit on his left side by Browns defensive end Armonty Bryant as he threw a pass, and hopped briefly on his right leg before dropping to the ground.

"Fisher said the injury was a 'one in 100' rarity."

"The knee was locked and something has to give," Fisher said.

"Unfortunately, the ACL gave." After the game, Fisher thought Bradford might have hyperextended the knee and was "very optimistic." Bradford walked off the field, and then walked to the locker room after the injury.

TOUCHDOWN!

STARS & STRIPES



The NFL season is coming. It's time to play!

Oconus.com & Stars and Stripes are giving you the chance to win prizes for choosing the winning games in the 2014 NFL Season.

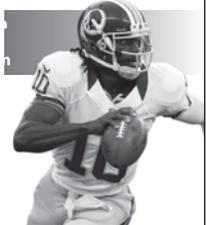
Contest starts September 4

Stay with Stars and Stripes for more details!

Sponsored by



Weekly Winner prizes sponsored by



Brought to you by



STARS & STRIPES

*Contest rules and restrictions apply. See the official rules at www.oconus.com/nflandonstripes.com. There is no cost to participate, but you must register to play.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Panthers' Newton has hairline rib fracture

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Quarterback Cam Newton will miss the Carolina Panthers' final pre-season game after an MRI on Sunday revealed a hairline fracture in his ribs.

Panthers coach Ron Rivera said Newton will be evaluated at the end of the week, but expects the two-time Pro Bowl quarterback will be ready for Carolina's Sept. 7 regular season opener against Tampa Bay.

"I do" expect he'll play, Rivera said. "But he has to get past the soreness. Then we will see how the stars to progress."

Newton did not speak with reporters, but walked gingerly to and from the practice field.

"He's pretty sore and he's hurting right now," Rivera said. "It is of concern."

Newton was hit after scrambling from the pocket in Carolina's pre-season game Friday night against New England.

The injury came one day after Rivera talked about Newton needing to get down and slide and avoid hits in the open field. Newton was wearing a flak jacket at the time, but was hit in a small opening where there isn't any protection.

"That was the only increase in between the protection and, wouldn't you know it, that's the one spot he got hit," Rivera said.

Newton has never missed a regular-season start in his three seasons with the Panthers.

"We expect him to get past the soreness the next few days and be able to do a lot more," Rivera said.

In other NFL news:

■ Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Zimmer has named veteran Matt Cassel as the team's starting quarterback for the season opener against the St. Louis Rams, though it has long been known that Cassel has been the choice over rookie Teddy Bridgewater.

■ The Denver Broncos have parted ways with 11 players, including nine-year veteran tackle Winston Justice and undrafted rookie running back Brennan Clay of Alabama.

■ The Chicago Bears have cut Jordan Palmer, making Jimmy Clausen the backup quarterback behind Jay Cutler. The Bears also released linebacker Jordan Senn and receiver Darius Reynaud.



CHARLES TRAINER JR., MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Carolina quarterback Cam Newton will skip the Panthers' final pre-season game after an MRI on Sunday revealed a hairline fracture in his ribs. Carolina coach Ron Rivera expects the fourth-year QB to be ready for the Panthers' regular-season opener on Sept. 7 against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

■ Veteran linebacker Rob Jackson is among the first set of players cut this week by the Washington Redskins as the team gets closer to setting its 53-man roster for the regular season.

S. Korea beats Chicago to win Little League WS

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Jae Yeong Hwang drove in two runs and Hae Chan Choi weathered a late Chicago rally to lead South Korea to an 8-4 win in Sunday's Little League World Series championship game.

Hwang gave up one hit in two-plus innings while striking out four. He also drove in the Asia-Pacific champs' first two runs as they built an 8-1 lead before Jackie Robinson West made it close.

Choi, who had a homer and

scored twice, pitched the last four innings for South Korea, which won its third title after back-to-back titles in 1984 and 1985.

Brandon Green went 5½ innings for Chicago, which had survived four straight knockout games before the final. Dong Wan Sin scored twice, including a solo homer, for the South Koreans.

Dixon gets IndyCar win; Power 10th

SONOMA, Calif. — Will Power thought the world was ending when an earthquake shook him out of bed. A few hours later at Sonoma Raceway, the sleep-deprived driver plummeted from the pole to 20th place before fighting back for a finish that actually increased his IndyCar points lead.

Scott Dixon barely noticed the

quake, and he calmly racked up another milestone victory while Power frantically stayed in position to take Dixon's place as series champion next weekend.

Dixon surged ahead with three laps left at Sonoma on Sunday, while Power recovered from a mid-race spin to finish 10th heading to the season finale.

Dixon is out of the race to defend his 2013 title after a poor start to the season, but he has won two of IndyCar's last three races.

Griner guides Mercury to sweep over Sparks

LOS ANGELES — Brittney Griner scored a career playoff-high 21 points, including a breakaway two-handed dunk, as the Phoenix Mercury cruised to a 93-68 victory over the Los Angeles Sparks

in Game 2 on Sunday to complete a sweep in their Western Conference semifinals series.

Phoenix advanced to a matchup against defending champion Minnesota in the West finals.

■ Angel McCoughtry scored a career-high 39 points as Atlanta beat host Chicago to even their WNBA playoff series at one game apiece. Game 3 is Tuesday in Atlanta, with the winner moving into the Eastern Conference finals against Indiana.

Woods fires swing coach after four years

PARAMUS, N.J. — Tiger Woods is leaving swing coach Sean Foley after four years and no majors.

Woods said on his website Monday he will no longer work with Foley. Woods has had back trouble the last year and is taking the next three months to get stronger.

Foley was the third coach Woods hired as a professional. He left Butch Harmon in 2003 and began working with Hank Haney a year later. He parted with Haney in the spring of 2010. Woods began working with Foley at the 2010 PGA Championship.

In Sunday's golf tournaments:

■ Hunter Mahan pulled away with three straight birdies late in the final round Sunday to win The Barclays in Paramus, N.J., ending more than two years without a PGA Tour title.

■ So Yeon Ryu won the Canadian Women's Open at London Hunt, breaking the tournament record at 23-under 265 in London, Ontario.

■ Scott Dunlap won the Boeing Classic in Snoqualmie, Wash., when he made a short birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff against Mark Brooks.

Ottawa goalie Anderson gets 3-year extension

OTTAWA — Goaltender Craig Anderson has signed a \$12.6 million, three-year contract extension with the Ottawa Senators.

Anderson, 33, was acquired from Colorado in 2011 and is now under contract through the 2017-18 season. He will make \$4.75 million in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and \$3.1 million in 2017-18.



The Earlier You Deliver, The More You Save!





Order a new 2014/2015
F-150 or Fusion for Stateside
delivery by 12/31/14 and
receive an additional
\$1,000 rebate!



Ask your Sales Representative for details!









All programs and guarantees subject to terms and conditions. Visit www.fox.com or Ford or your Sales Representative for complete details. All illustrations and specifications are to the best of our knowledge correct as of the date of publication. They are subject to change made by the manufacturer and the sales regulations of any federal, state or local government agency. Ford Motor Company is an authorized contractor of the Exchange and NEXCOM. Exchange New Car Sales is an authorized distributor to sell and distribute Ford vehicles. This advertisement does not express or imply endorsement by the Exchange, NEXCOM, DOD components, or the Federal Government and is not sponsored by them. (F4307, 545 5/13)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HEISMAN TROPHY HOPEFULS

CANDIDATES NOT NAMED JAMEIS

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

The preseason front-runner for the Heisman Trophy last season was easy. Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel won it as a freshman the year before, so there was little reason to pick against him.

No different this year. Florida State's Jameis Winston won it as a freshman last season while leading the Seminoles to the BCS National Championship, so again, no sense in looking elsewhere. But Winston is far from a lock.

Manziel couldn't come through with another Heisman last season and there has only been one repeat winner — Archie Griffin in 1974 and 1975 — in the 79-year history of college football's most prestigious award.

With that in mind, we are going to run down other players who should have a chance at taking home the Heisman.



ERIC GAY/AP

Marcus Mariota, quarterback, Oregon

The Ducks' leader was a strong Heisman contender last season before being derailed by a knee injury. He still set a school record with 4,380 yards of total offense and accounted for 40 TDs, though was disappointed when Oregon fell out of national-title contention. After bypassing a shot at the NFL, the junior returns to lead an offense that piles up points and yards like a video game. If he stays healthy, Mariota is one of the nation's best dual-threat quarterbacks and could find himself holding that bronze trophy.



LM OTERO/AP

Bryce Petty, quarterback, Baylor

The Bears set an NCAA record with 52.4 points per game last season and Petty was the conductor, setting 17 school records while leading Baylor to its first Big 12 title and only BCS bowl. The senior was the Big 12 offensive player of the year after passing for 4,200 yards and 32 TDs — with just three interceptions — and running for 14 more scores. Expect more big numbers from the Bears and Petty.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Myles Jack, linebacker, UCLA

UCLA teammate Brett Hundley might have a better shot at winning the Heisman, but we wanted to get a defensive player in the mix. Jack made a big splash as a freshman last season by becoming a where-did-he-come-from two-way player, rushing for 120 yards in his first game, scoring four TDs the next. But Jack's NFL future is as a linebacker, and the Bruins have limited him to that side of the ball in fall camp. He might see some time at running back again this season, but he is going to have an impact on D regardless.



AJ REYNOLDS, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP

Todd Gurley, running back, Georgia

Gurley missed three games last season with an ankle injury and wasn't right when he came back as the Bulldogs limped to an 8-5 finish. Fully healthy again, this bulldog of a Bulldog — 6-foot-1, 226 pounds — has his eyes set on a 2,000-yard season and possibly a spot in New York. Even with his injury a year ago, the junior has rushed for 2,374 yards and 27 touchdowns in two seasons, so 2K isn't completely out of the question.



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Nick Marshall, quarterback, Auburn

Marshall's chances might be hurt by starting the season opener on the bench. The senior was cited for marijuana possession last month and coach Gus Malzahn said he won't start against Arkansas on Aug. 30. He still might play in that game and is expected to have another big season after passing for 1,976 yards, running for 1,068 and accounting for 26 touchdowns while leading the Tigers to the final BCS national championship game last year.



MARK HOFFMAN, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT

Melvin Gordon, running back, Wisconsin

The junior bypassed a chance to enter the NFL draft — bad news for the rest of the Big Ten. Gordon is the nation's active career leader in rushing average with 8.1 yards per carry. He has also grown more polished in interviews and taken on more leadership off the field, perhaps in preparation to compete for some shiny individual postseason trophies. "Expectations are always high," Gordon said. "When you expect greatness, you don't just expect it from yourself, you expect it from everyone else."

Double: Winners face scrutiny, high expectations

FROM BACK PAGE

Coach Jimbo Fisher said he and Winston have talked about the award, but not about winning another.

"I do (talk to him) from the point of the responsibility that goes with it with your character and the things you do," Fisher said. "Not about winning another one. If he just goes and plays well, that will take care of itself."

"He never thought about winning a Heisman going into last year. You can't worry about that."

There will be plenty who will.

The demands and expectations are higher than when Griffin made history. Winston is the leading candidate heading into the season with the defending national champion Seminoles likely beginning the year ranked No. 1.

Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel, the 2012 Heisman winner, said that was the most difficult part for him in 2013.

"There is a lot of pressure," Manziel said. "You're the one that on TV every week. You're the one who at the beginning of the year is already at the top of everybody's Heisman list. ... It's everywhere because it's the biggest trophy in college football."

"For me, I never really let it get to me too much, but at the same time, it was always around and it was always lingering no matter what went on throughout the season."

The Seminoles and Winston have tried to manage his off-the-field commitments.

Winston made few public appearances during the offseason. He was the closer on the baseball team, finishing with a team-best 1.08 ERA, and accepted a handful of football awards. Winston was honored in his hometown of Bessemer, Alabama, and his Hueytown High School jersey was retired. There was also a trip to the ESPYs.

The Florida State signal-caller said he has learned to be more guarded, but still loves having "all eyes on me."

Griffin said that isn't necessarily a good thing.

"They're in a fishbowl," Griffin said of Heisman contenders. "I mean, anything they do, Johnny, every move he made it was talked about. Jameis, same thing. They've got to be extremely careful how they handle themselves because whatever they do, people are going to know about it."

Winston is no stranger to unwanted attention.

He was suspended for three baseball games and completed 20 hours of community service after admitting he stole \$32 worth of crab legs from a local grocery store in April. He faced criticism nationwide and was the subject of taunts and jokes in print, online and on social media.

Winston was able to handle what Fisher described as dis-



AP file photo

Ohio State running back Archie Griffin smiles and holds up two fingers as he poses with the Heisman Trophy in New York on Dec. 2, 1975. Griffin is the only player to ever receive consecutive Heismans, winning in 1974 and 1975. Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston could do it this season.

tractions during the national championship run. Winston was investigated for an alleged sexual assault, but wasn't charged by the attorney general.

The QB will also have a few on-field challenges.

The Seminoles lost two of their top three receivers and their top two running backs to the NFL. Those four accounted for 52.6 percent of the offense and 44 touchdowns.

Nonetheless, because of Winston, the Seminoles will be one of the top teams to beat.

Despite his talent, Winston has continued to downplay questions about the NFL. He insists that playing college baseball remains a priority. It would be a challenge to prepare for the 2015 NFL draft while playing for Florida State's baseball team.

Once Winston does get to the NFL, former Seminoles quarterback and current Buffalo Bills starter EJ Manuel said his anticipation on his throws will be his most valuable trait in the league.

"You can't take away some of the throws he's making out there," Manuel said. "They were tremendous. That's why he earned the Heisman."

"I think, moving forward, his anticipation skills, obviously, is a sign of intelligence. So that's going to help him build toward his last couple years at Florida State and then move on to the NFL."

There was an atmosphere of curiosity around Winston last season after being the No. 1 high school quarterback in the nation. The hype is different now because of his dominance on the field and the criticism away from it.

"I don't have time to focus on bad things," Winston said. "I'm always looking forward, keeping a smile on my face and focusing on good things."

AP sports writer Tom Withers in Cleveland contributed to this report.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

CONFERENCE PREVIEW: BIG TEN

Spartans using underdog status to keep their edge

Michigan St. trying to remain hungry despite recent success



CHARLIE NEIBERGER/AP

Iowa's Jake Rudock passed for 2,383 yards and 18 touchdowns and rushed for 218 yards and five scores last year.

1 **Spartan party:** Defensive coordinator Pat Narduzzi has a track record of rolling out some of the nation's best units, so don't expect anything different even though he lost six starters. The offense should keep rolling along, returning 97 percent of its production from a year ago, including QB Connor Cook and RB Jeremy Langford.

2 **Rising Iowa:** The Hawkeyes won four games in 2012, eight in 2013 and more could be in store in 2014. They have experience in QB Jake Rudock, a dependable RB corps and an offensive line featuring NFL prospect Brandon Scherff. Yes, they lost three LBs who combined for almost 1,000 career tackles. But they have the softest schedule in the league, with Northwestern, Wisconsin and Nebraska coming to Iowa City.

3 **On Wisconsin:** A year after setting school records for rushing and total offense, the Badgers started practice undecided at quarterback and trying to figure out how to replace prodigious WR Jared Abbrederis. The Badgers also lost six of the defense's front seven.

4 **Welcome aboard:** Newcomers Maryland and Rutgers will get the full flavor of the Big Ten by playing in the East. With Stefon Diggs and Deon Long, the Terrapins have one of the conference's most dangerous receiving corps. Rutgers should be competitive offensively with new coordinator Ralph Friedgen; the defense could be a problem.

5 **Lions' den:** Penn State's Franklin has his hands full until NCAA sanctions end in a couple years. His most pressing issue is figuring out how to keep QB Christian Hackenberg upright. The offensive line and receivers are the biggest weaknesses.



Franklin

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

Michigan State has played in two of the three Big Ten title games, is the defending Rose Bowl champion and is enjoying the best run in program history with 42 wins in four years.

Yet the Spartans cling to an underdog mentality, the product of being overshadowed historically by Michigan and Ohio State. Coach Mark Dantonio never wants his team to stop playing with that edge.

"Respectability can fly right out the window on us," he said. "So it's what we've done lately that you're basically judged on, and we continue to build our future."

The task gets tougher this year. The Spartans host the Buckeyes in a November night game that could decide the new East Division. Of more immediate concern is a trip to Oregon the first week of September.

That game could loom large in determining whether the Spartans land a spot in the inaugural, four-team College Football Playoff.

"We're coming with at least a bona fide big game under our belts as we move forward," Dantonio said. "One way or the other, win or lose, we need to gain experience from that game and be able to push through and into the conference."

The Big Ten goes from 12 to 14 teams with the addition of Maryland and Rutgers. Another big story line is the debut of new Penn State coach James Franklin.



NAT HARNIK/AP

Ameer Abdullah ran for 1,690 yards, the most by a Nebraska running back in 16 years.

6 **Michigan shuffle:** Coach Brady Hoke is looking to re-energize his program after losses in six of the last eight games. He brought in Doug Nussmeier from Alabama to run the offense and gave each of his defensive assistants new positions to coach.

7 **Best backs:** Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah (1,690 yards) and Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon (1,609) are the nation's top two returning rushers.

8 **Buckeye bounceback?** Ohio State, coming off two straight losses, was a trendy pick to win the East. Now Urban Meyer must replace QB Braxton Miller on top of the four offensive linemen who helped lead the way last year for RB Carlos Hyde, who also is gone. Backup QB Kenny Guiton should would come in handy again.

9 **Looking for mojo:** Northwestern, Minnesota, Illinois and Purdue in the West and Indiana in the East are teams looking to move up. Northwestern missed a bowl for the first time since 2007. Minnesota lost three straight after an 8-2 start and Illinois beat Purdue in a pillow fight. If Indiana's explosive offense can ever get help from the defense, the Hoosiers might make a bowl.

10 **Hot seats:** Michigan's Hoke has the program trending downward since going 11-2 in 2011, his first season. Nebraska hasn't won a conference title since 1999, and fans are antsy after watching Bo Pelini lose no fewer than four games each of his six seasons. Tim Beckman is 6-18 in two years at Illinois, 1-15 in Big Ten games.



JAY LAPRETE/AP

Ohio State running back Rod Smith has big shoes to fill.

Predicted order of finish:

East	West

Title game winner:



AL GOLDIS/AP

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio addresses the media earlier this month in East Lansing, Mich. Dantonio's program has always seemed to have a bit of a chip on its shoulder. The question now is whether Michigan State can handle heightened expectations.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

CONFERENCE PREVIEW: PAC-12

1 QB central: The Pac-12 has a whopping 10 returning quarterbacks, and at least seven are among the nation's best at the position, all short-listed for awards and targeted for NFL shots: Washington State's Connor Halliday, Stanford's Kevin Hogan, Arizona State's Taylor Kelly, USC's Cody Kessler and Oregon State's Sean Mannion along with Hundley and Mariota, who both delayed their NFL dreams to lead their schools' pursuit of a national championship.

2 Bruising Bruins: During coach Jim Mora's first two seasons, UCLA seized Los Angeles supremacy from USC. While the Trojans rebuild, the Bruins are loaded for a run at the league title as the Pac-12 South's preseason favorites. Hundley's steady veteran leadership is the biggest reason, but Mora has a wealth of young talent led by Myles Jack, who starred as a linebacker and a tailback as a freshman.

3 Petersen arrives: When Steve Sarkisian returned home to Southern California, Washington hired coach Chris Petersen out of his comfortable job at powerhouse Boise State. The Huskies are eager to see whether Petersen's system will succeed at the sport's highest level.

4 Duck spotlight: After nearly three decades in Eugene, Don Pellum has the unenviable task of succeeding retired Nick Aliotti as Oregon's defensive coordinator. The Ducks' former linebackers coach isn't overhauling Aliotti's schemes, but his biggest task might be slowing down Stanford after two straight losses to the powerful Cardinal.

5 Leach's breakthrough?: In the past year, Mike Leach co-authored a book on Apache leader Geronimo, caught a 350-pound sturgeon in the Snake River and got Washington State into its first bowl game in a decade. The veteran coach is showing progress in Pullman, but he knows the next step is tougher as the Cougars attempt to join the Pac-12's elite.



ROD VEAL, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/MCT

UCLA quarterback and Heisman Trophy hopeful Brett Hundley will try to lead the Bruins to their third Pac-12 South Division championship in the past four seasons.



ERIC GAVAP

Oregon's Marcus Mariota, right, could have bolted for the NFL this spring, but he decided on returning for one more season. Mariota's Ducks were No. 2 team in the country before late-season losses to Stanford and Arizona took them out the national championship picture.

All eyes are on Mariota

Oregon junior leads a host of returning veteran QBs

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota is honored to be considered a strong candidate for the Heisman Trophy, and he would love to lead the Ducks to a national championship this fall.

As a Pac-12 quarterback, Mariota realizes his immediate goals must be a bit smaller. "We're just trying to win the North first," Mariota said, referring to the Ducks' division in the powerful conference.

Indeed, the Pac-12 is packed yet again with elite quarterback talent, up-and-coming coaches and inventive offensive schemes. The West Coast's power conference was ranked as the nation's best top-to-bottom league last year, and it's even more stacked this fall.

"The Pac-12 is better than it's ever been," Arizona coach Rich Rodriguez said. "And it's not going backwards. It's forcing all of us to keep making sure that we're pressing the envelope to keep our program up."

Whether it's perennial power Oregon, two-time champion Stanford, up-and-coming power UCLA or a surprising contender, the Pac-12 is primed to crown a powerful champion. Mariota and UCLA's Brett Hundley led a group of returning veteran QBs that might be the most impressive in this conference's stellar history at this position.

The Pac-12 might even have a chance to break the South's grip on the national championship in

the new playoff system, but that's all a postscript to what's certain to be a compelling run to the league title game at Levi's Stadium in December.

Pac-12 football has relentlessly tracked the Southeastern Conference for years — almost like Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner. The pursuit produced its share of botched Acme dynamite explosions, but could the SEC finally be cornered?

For the first time since 2005, the Pac-12 can look the SEC in the eye and say, "Yeah, we didn't win the national title last year either."

The Pac-12 last year was considered, by most experts, the second best behind the SEC. This year, it adds a clear and decided advantage at quarterback.

This is a cyclical query that resulted when the SEC's top quarterbacks left at the same time the Pac-12's best quarterbacks stayed. Back in the Pac-12 are 10 of last year's starters.

"Never seen anything like this," Stanford Coach David Shaw said of the quarterback gush. "I can't wait for some of these guys to get out of the conference, which I thought a couple would last year and they disappointed me and came back."

The Pac-12 also plays a nine-game schedule and, historically, tougher opponents out of conference than the SEC.

Pat Forde of Yahoo recently noted the Pac-12 this year will play 29.7 percent of its nonconference games against Power Five leagues or Notre Dame. The SEC will play 19.6 percent of its nonconference against the Power Five.



RANDY L. RASMUSSEN, THE OREGONIAN/AP

Oregon State quarterback Sean Mannion threw for a Pac-12 record 4,662 yards passing last season and led the Beavers to a 38-23 victory over Boise State in the Hawaii Bowl.

6 Stalwart Stanford: Coach David Shaw isn't insulted by the preseason projections showing his Cardinal behind Oregon in the Pac-12 North race. After four straight BCS bowl games and two straight league titles, Shaw is confident Stanford's system will produce another power — particularly with Hogan back for another year behind center.

7 Big games: A few dates for the calendar: USC visits Stanford on Sept. 6; Oregon travels to UCLA on Oct. 11; Utah faces Oregon State on Oct. 16 in a rematch of their 2013 thriller; Stanford visits Oregon on Nov. 1; and Stanford plays at UCLA on Nov. 28, one day before USC hosts Notre Dame in a huge Thanksgiving weekend in Los Angeles.

8 Levi's fit: The Pac-12 will play its title game at the San Francisco 49ers' new stadium after holding it on the higher-seeded team's campus in previous years. Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott calls it a move for the fans, even if last-minute travel to the Bay Area doesn't sound terribly fan-friendly.

9 Network woes: The Pac-12 Networks are in their third year, and they still don't have a distribution deal with DirecTV, Verizon FiOS, Charter Communications or Cablevision, leaving millions of fans unable to watch every game. Scott again preaches patience, claiming the network is steadily moving toward success.

10 Comeback kids: California and Colorado finished at the bottom of their respective divisions last season, and they're picked to finish last again in the preseason media poll. The two former powerhouses still have a reserve of optimism heading into the second seasons for coaches Sonny Dykes and Mike MacIntyre, but it's tough to rebuild quickly in the Pac-12.

Predicted order of finish:

North	South

Title game winner:

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

CONFERENCE PREVIEW: BIG 12

1 Bear Market: Baylor moves into its new campus stadium with returning quarterback Bryce Petty, the Big 12's top offensive player, and receiver Antwan Goodley (13 touchdowns). The Bears set an NCAA record with 52.4 points a game last season.

2 Bell Ringer: Blake Bell was Oklahoma's starting quarterback for eight games last season, and ran for 24 TDs in short-yardage situations the previous two years. He is now a 6-foot-6, 260-pound senior starting tight end, his dad's NFL position. The quarterback is sophomore Trevor Knight (348 yards, four TDs passing in the Sugar Bowl win over Alabama).

3 Strong Message: New Texas coach Charlie Strong has suspended three potential starters for at least the season opener, and maybe more games, while four other players have been dismissed for rules violations. The Longhorns are without a Big 12 title since 2009.

4 Early Neutral Tests: Oklahoma State plays its opener Aug. 30 against defending national champ Florida State and Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston in Arlington, Texas. West Virginia plays Alabama in Atlanta the same day. It's UCLA vs. Texas in Arlington for Week 3.

5 Decade in Charge: Mike Gundy goes into his 10th season as Oklahoma State's head coach, and 24th in Stillwater as a player or coach. "From a personal standpoint, I couldn't be any more proud of who we are and the direction that we're going," said Gundy, 77-38 as head coach, including the 2011 Big 12 title and a second-place finish last year.



JOHN RHODES, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Blake Bell was Oklahoma's starting quarterback for eight games last season, but he will shift to tight end this season as sophomore Trevor Knight has taken over the reins at QB. Knight threw for 348 yards and four touchdowns in the Sooners' 45-31 Sugar Bowl victory over Alabama last season.

Predicted order of finish:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-



EO ZURGA/AP

Returning Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty was the Big 12's top offensive player last season.

6 K-State Comeback: Kansas State was the defending Big 12 champ last year when it opened with a loss to FCS champion North Dakota State, part of a 2-4 start. The Wildcats then won six of their last seven games, including a bowl over Michigan. Versatile standout receiver Tyler Lockett is among seven returning offensive starters.

7 Third-time the Charm: TCU (Mountain West) and West Virginia (Big East) were coming off consecutive conference titles when they joined the Big 12 in 2012. Both are since 11-14 overall and 6-12 in Big 12 games. TCU coach Gary Patterson made a significant change hiring two new co-coordinators for a spread offense. Mountaineers coach Dana Holgorsen said his players now "understand what the Big 12 is all about."

8 Bowl Boost: Texas Tech was 7-0 under new coach and former QB Kliff Kingsbury before losing five in a row to the Big 12's top five teams. "Our team learned how to handle adversity," Kingsbury said. The Red Raiders then beat Arizona State in the Holiday Bowl.

9 Weis Woes: Kansas has won only three Big 12 games the past five seasons, and is 4-20 overall (1-17 Big 12) under coach Charlie Weis. "We haven't done a thing in the two years I've been here," said Weis. Without revealing details, he added that his team's expectations are clearly defined.

10 Bison vs. Big 12: North Dakota State won its third FCS title in a row last season and opens this year at Iowa State, which lost its 2013 opener against FCS team Northern Iowa. "All of us have such great respect for all levels of football," Cyclones coach Paul Rhoads said.

One of a kind

League emphasizes unique round-robin schedule

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

With 10 teams playing a round-robin schedule and no championship game, the Big 12 is emphasizing its unique standing in the new playoff era.

The mantra "One True Champion" is part of the conference's new branding effort, complete with television ads and website.

The Big 12 is the only one of the five power conferences in which

every team plays each other. The Big 12 ends its regular season the first weekend of December when the SEC, ACC, Big Ten and Pac-12 are playing championship games.

Texas was the Big 12's last national champion, during the 2005 season, and got back in the title game four years after that. Eight-time Big 12 champ Oklahoma won the 2000 national title.

Baylor is coming off its first Big 12 title, and like all the champions

since Texas in 2009, the Bears didn't win all their league games.

So would a Big 12 champion with a blemished record get one of the coveted four spots in the first College Football Playoff semifinal games?

"With what you do going through this league, no, I don't see that as a problem at all," Baylor coach Art Briles said. "But who knows? I mean, that's why they formed the committee. We'll see how the committee thinks."



MAX FAULKNER/MCT

Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy is entering his 10th season as head coach of the Cowboys.

Available only in Germany.

Coming Soon in Your Stars and Stripes!

Stripes Germany Medical Guide

Get the A to Z of medical information for your tour in Germany:

- TriCare Overseas — and how to navigate the German healthcare system
- Medical treatment on the economy — and how to use off-base pharmacies
- Childbirth options on base and off

Look for your copy on Friday, August 29 — free with your Stars and Stripes!

SPORTS



Rams QB Bradford out for season again

NFL, Page 26

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

PHOTO BY RODGER MALLISON,
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/INCT

Double vision

History shows Heisman repeat won't be easy for FSU's Winston

By KAREEM COPELAND
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston has the opportunity to accomplish what only one other player has achieved — win the Heisman Trophy twice.

Twenty-three underclassmen have won the award, but Ohio State running back Archie Griffin was the only one to pull off the feat.

He is shocked that he remains the lone double winner since the award's inception in 1935. Until recently, the majority of winners were seniors or juniors that could turn pro. But five of the last seven winners have been sophomores or redshirt freshmen.

Griffin, the Heisman trophy winner in 1974 and 1975, believes it is more difficult to win the award in back-to-back years than it was 40 years ago. For him, the off-the-field distractions were more stressful than any defense.

"I'll never forget that I was trying to do everything for everybody and [coach] Woody [Hayes] called me into his office," Griffin said. "He told me, 'You know what? It's going to make you soft. You can't do everything for everybody.'"

But unlike Griffin, who admitted it was a goal, Winston said he hasn't even thought about a second Heisman. Winston said he is more concerned with a second national championship.

"I'm going to be great, even better than I was last year," Winston said. "I'm going to continue to be myself."

SEE DOUBLE ON PAGE 28



Winston