

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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# WORLD

TOP  
OF  
THE

## It is a desolate wonder.

You approach Thule Air Base by banking over Baffin Bay. The lucky ones on the right side of the aircraft look down at the icebergs, lonely in September but increasing in number as the four-month nighttime of winter closes in. On the ground, the pristine becomes practical: a long runway from bygone missions, the hangars and support buildings at the entrance to America's northernmost base and military community. Here at Thule Air Base in northern Greenland, 140 airmen, along with 500 Danish and Greenlandic contractors, watch polar-orbiting satellites, look for ballistic missile launches and support almost anything that happens north of the Arctic Circle. Stars and Stripes visited to find out about the mission and the people who get the privilege of spending a year on this remote — and remotely understood — assignment.

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### TRUE NORTH

At Thule: vigilance, community » Page 16

### COLD WAR, COLD PEACE

For airmen, extreme conditions part of the landscape » Page 17

### EYES ON THE SKY

Keeping watch for missiles 'launched in anger' » Page 18

### ONLINE

Interactive map, videos and photos » [stripes.com/go/thule](http://stripes.com/go/thule)



## Afghan officials: Islamic State group operating in south

By LYNNE O'DONNELL  
*The Associated Press*

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan—Afghan officials confirmed for the first time Monday that the extremist Islamic State group is active in the south, recruiting fighters, flying black flags and, according to some sources, even battling Taliban militants.

The sources, including an Afghan general and a provincial governor, said a man identified as Mullah Abdul Rauf was actively recruiting fighters for the group, which controls large parts of Syria and Iraq.

Gen. Mahmood Khan, the deputy commander of the army's 215 Corps, said that within the past week residents of a number of

districts in the southern Helmand province have said Rauf's representatives are fanning out to recruit people.

"A number of tribal leaders, jihadi commanders and some ulema (religious council members) and other people have contacted me to tell me that Mullah Rauf had contacted them and invited them to join him," Khan

said. But he said the Taliban, which are active across Helmand and controls some districts, has warned people not to contact Rauf.

"People are saying that he has raised black flags and even has tried to bring down white Taliban flags in some areas," said Saifulah Sanginwal, a tribal leader in Sangin district. "There are re-

ports that 19 or 20 people have been killed" in fighting between the Taliban and the Islamic State group, he added.

Rauf was a corps commander during the Taliban's 1996-2001 rule of Afghanistan, according to Amir Mohammad Akundzada, the governor of Nimroz province, neighboring Helmand.

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### VETERANS

Bill to overhaul vet suicide programs passes in House  
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### FACES

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### PACIFIC

US, South Korea begin 2-day joint naval warfare drill  
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Buckeyes run away from Ducks to win title game » Back page

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think that those who have been killed, if they were here, they would have been able to have a coffee today with the terrorists and just talk to them, ask them why they have done this."

— Columnist Zineb El Rhazoui, on the Charlie Hebdo attack

See story on Page 10

# TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Hackers hit CENTCOM sites, reveal contact info and issue threats
2. Report: DOD wants Marine force to stay at Spain base
3. Airman pleads not guilty to premeditated murder in Chepusov's death
4. Navy SEAL dies during parachute training in Florida
5. RAF Mildenhall to close amid other Europe consolidations

# COMING SOON

Health & Fitness



Smart device in brain controls epilepsy

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# MILITARY

# House passes suicide prevention bill

By Travis J. Tritten  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The House on Monday passed a bill named after deceased Marine Corps veteran Clay Hunt that would overhaul Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention programs.

The vote was a crucial first step by supporters who hope to pass the bill through the new Congress after it was blocked in December by retiring budget hawk Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla. There were 403 votes for the bill, no opposition and 30 lawmakers who did not vote. Now it heads to the Senate.

The legislation calls for a one-stop website with suicide prevention resources for veterans, more VA psychiatrists and an independent review of current department programs.

Hunt, who struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder, committed suicide in 2011. His parents and veterans service organizations

back the overhaul as a way to reduce an average of 22 veteran suicides daily in the United States.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., co-sponsored the bill. Despite the VA's growing budget, staff and programs in recent years, Miller said on the House floor, "We have not seen a corresponding decrease in the number of our nation's heroes who take their lives."

He said the bill will improve VA efficiency and increase awareness among veterans of available resources.

Miller joined with Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., who sponsored the bill, and Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., an Iraq War veteran, to reintroduce it this month. There were 37 other co-sponsors.

"Since we passed this bill and it failed in the Senate, 750 veterans have taken their lives," Walz said while urging support before the vote.

The bill includes the following provisions:

■ Provides for annual evaluations of VA mental health care and suicide prevention programs.

■ Establishes a pilot program to repair loans to psychiatrists who agreed to work at the VA.

■ Creates a centralized VA website with information for veterans on all department mental health services.

■ Establishes a pilot program to assist veterans transitioning from active-duty service with access to mental health care.

■ Helps improve VA collaboration with nonprofit mental health organizations.

Passage in the House was expected because lawmakers there unanimously passed the bill last year. Its fate in the upper chamber of Congress has been more complicated.

Senators were poised to approve it in the final hours of the 2014 session, but Coburn blocked a vote and argued that the VA could make the changes without

new legislation that will eventually cost \$22 million.

The move drew the ire of the veterans community. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, a veterans' service group that has been a key supporter, said the cost is small in the context of the federal budget and would provide important changes to VA suicide prevention programs.

Now that Coburn is gone, the Clay Hunt bill has a high chance of passing the Republican-controlled Senate, where support was growing earlier this month. IAVA said it had virtually unanimous support last year and is likely to have the same this session, though some new lawmakers have yet to stake out positions.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., filed the bill last year with 21 co-sponsors and said last week he again plans to sponsor it. No Senate action had been scheduled Monday.

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TO: S. WARREN/AP

# Showing Seahawks support aboard USS Stennis

Navy Quartermaster 1st Class Dave Macaraeg hoists the Seattle Seahawks' 12th Man flag aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis on Monday as the ship passes by Seattle from Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, Wash., to Naval Magazine Indian Island, Wash.

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# WAR/MILITARY



ANJUM NAVEED/AP

Secretary of State John Kerry, center, and Sartaj Aziz, left, the Pakistani prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs, arrive for a joint press conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Tuesday.

## Kerry praises Pakistan operation

Secretary of state calls military gains against militants 'significant' but says work remains

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday praised the Pakistani military's operation against militants in the country's northwest, saying the results are "significant," but cautioned that more work needs to be done.

Pakistan launched a major operation in the North Waziristan region in June. The U.S. had long advocated for such an operation because the region had become a hub for militant groups who attack targets in both Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan and a source of tension between the U.S., Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The current operations "in the northwest have disrupted militant activities in the tribal areas and resulted in important seizures of weapons," Kerry said, speaking during a press conference in Islamabad with Sartaj Aziz, the Pakistani prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs.

"The operation is not yet complete but already the results are significant. Pakistani soldiers and their commanders deserve enormous credit," he said.

"But make no mistake: The task is a difficult one and it is not done. We all have a responsibility to ensure that these extremists are no longer able to secure a foothold in this country or elsewhere," he said.

Kerry also announced that \$250 million in previously ap-

propriated money will be given to emergency relief efforts in the tribal areas, mainly North Waziristan. Hundreds of thousands of people fled the area due to the fighting.

Kerry also praised the reopening Monday of the school in Peshawar where Taliban gunmen on Dec. 16 slaughtered students and teachers in one of the country's worst terrorist attacks. Kerry called it a testament to the resolve of the Pakistani people.

The secretary arrived in Pakistan on Monday and met with Aziz as well as Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. He met later Tuesday with Pakistan's army chief, Gen. Raheel Sharif, at military headquarters in Rawalpindi, and was expected to fly to Geneva for a meeting Wednesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif to discuss nuclear negotiations that are to resume on Thursday in the Swiss city.

Kerry had hoped to travel to Peshawar to visit survivors of the school attack at a hospital but weather forced the trip's cancellation, said a State Department official speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak to the media on the subject.

In Pakistan, Kerry is making the case for more robust efforts against all extremist groups in the country, particularly after the Peshawar school attack that killed 150 people, most of them children. Pakistan has boosted opera-

tions against violent extremists in recent months. But U.S. officials traveling with Kerry said Washington wants to ensure that there is a "real and sustained effort" to limit the abilities of the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban, the Haqqani Network and Lashkar e Tayyiba, which pose direct threats to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, as well as to American interests.

Pakistan has been on edge ever since the Dec. 16 attack that was claimed by the Pakistani Taliban as retaliation for the North Waziristan army operation. In response, Pakistan boosted operations in the rugged tribal areas, reinstated the death penalty for terrorists and moved to try civilian terrorist suspects in military courts. On Tuesday Pakistan executed seven people including one convicted of attacking the U.S. consulate in Karachi in 2003. Aziz defended steps Pakistan had taken after the school attack, saying action was being taken against all militant groups.

Pakistan has often been accused of having a "good Taliban, bad Taliban" policy, meaning they tolerate or support some militants they find useful as proxies in Afghanistan or India and battle other militants who target the Pakistani state. Pakistani officials insist they go after all militants.

"We've been very clear with the highest levels of the government of Pakistan that Pakistan has to target all militant groups,

the Haqqani Network and others, that target U.S. coalition and Afghan forces and target people in Pakistan and elsewhere," Kerry said. "And Pakistan has made it very clear that they intend to do so."

The two men also discussed relations with neighboring Afghanistan, with which Pakistan has often had tense relations.

Kerry spoke of the need to help Afghanistan recover from years of instability and he welcomed Pakistan's stated intent to support Afghan-led reconciliation with the Taliban.

Aziz said the U.S. and Pakistan share a "common interest in a united, stable and prosperous Afghanistan" and said Pakistan supports reconciliation but stressed that it was also critical to "make sure Afghan soil cannot be used to undercut" the fight against terrorism.

Kerry also maintained that it was important not to view the U.S.-Pakistan relationship only through the prism of counterterrorism and security. He noted that the United States has provided significant assistance to Pakistan to improve its infrastructure, including roads and power generation.

Between 2009 and 2014, the U.S. provided Pakistan with more than \$4.38 billion in civilian assistance, including more than a billion in humanitarian aid.

## South: Militants not likely to attract ordinary Afghans, politician says

FROM FRONT PAGE

Akundzada said he is related to Rauf but has not seen him for almost 20 years.

Both Khan and Akundzada said Rauf was apprehended after the fall of the Taliban in the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan and was detained for years at Guantanamo Bay.

Khan and Akundzada suggested Rauf may have fallen out with the leaders of the Afghan Taliban after spending time in the Pakistani city of Quetta, where Afghan officials and analysts believe senior Taliban leaders are based.

A video released online Saturday purports to show militants from both Afghanistan and Pakistan pledging support to the Islamic State group.

But Akundzada said the Islamic State was not likely to gain traction with ordinary Afghans. "People who want to fight in Afghanistan

just create new names — one day they are wearing white clothes (of the Taliban) and the next day they have black clothes and call themselves Daesh, but they are the same people," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the U.S. has noted the "rhetorical message of support" for the Islamic State group by some in Afghanistan.

"We continue to watch for signs that these statements could amount to something more than just rhetorical support," she said. "That doesn't mean it's unimportant."

Analysts say most claims of allegiance to the Islamic State in Afghanistan have been motivated by opportunism and that a new jihadist outfit would find it difficult to establish a presence where there are already long-established militant groups with tribal links. The Taliban have confined their insurgency to Afghanistan, and do not espouse the pan-Islamic model of jihad embraced by the Islamic State.

Parts of Helmand have seen fierce fighting between the Taliban and Afghan security forces since U.S. troops pulled out more than six months ago.

**‘People who want to fight in Afghanistan just create new names — one day they are wearing white clothes (of the Taliban) and the next day they have black clothes and call themselves Daesh. ’**

Amir Mohammad Akundzada  
governor of Nimroz province

MILITARY



Courtesy of the Republic of Korea Navy

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin is moored to the pier Sunday in Donghae, South Korea, ahead of a two-day joint naval exercise that began Tuesday.

# US, S. Korea begin joint naval drill

By Ashley Rowland and Yoo Kyong Chang  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea on Tuesday kicked off a two-day joint naval drill that includes two U.S. destroyers and several South Korean vessels.

The USS Mustin and the USS John McCain, each with about 280 personnel, are participating off South Korea's eastern coast. Commander Naval Forces Korea spokesman Lt. Arlo Abrahamson said the exercise includes anti-submarine warfare training, communication drills, ship maneuvers and liaison officer exchanges.

"Some of it they've done ashore, and some of it they do at sea," he said.

The South Korean destroyer Gwanggaeto, a submarine, anti-submarine aircraft and two helicopters are also taking part, according to a South Korean navy spokesman, who said the exercise is meant to reinforce the allies' readiness posture against North

Korea, which is believed to have some 70 submarines.

He would not disclose the number of South Korean troops involved in the exercise.

Both militaries described the drill as routine training and unrelated to a report that North Korea is trying to increase its submarine capabilities.

Meanwhile, South Korea has announced the creation of a new submarine command that will fall under the command of a two-star general and will include nine 1,200-ton and four 1,800-ton subs, plus five more 1,800-ton submarines that are scheduled to be built by 2018, the South Korean spokesman said.

The U.S.-Korea Institute at John Hopkins University reported last week on its website 38 North that recent satellite imagery shows a North Korean submarine that may be outfitted with launch tubes for ballistic or cruise missiles, a development that could eventually give Pyongyang's weaponry a wider range.

"Submarines carrying land-at-

tack missiles would be challenging to locate and track, would be mobile assets able to attack from any direction, and could operate at significant distances from the Korean peninsula," the website said.

Imagery collected during the last six months also shows that the North has been readying a naval shipyard for "a significant naval construction program" that could be submarine-related.

During a visit to Seoul last month, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said the U.S. will increase its naval capabilities in the Pacific as a deterrent to North Korean provocations, according to Yonhap News.

"The concerns are that the North will take some provocative actions that will allow the situation to get out of control," Mabus was quoted as saying. "There will be more ships to be in this region to do exercise to, hopefully, deter any sort of actions and to make sure that we are ready for working with the Republic of Korea."

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# Social media is monitored after CENTCOM hack

JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Other combatant commands are closely monitoring their social media platforms after U.S. Central Command's Twitter feed was briefly taken over Monday by hackers claiming to be affiliated with the Islamic State group.

At U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, officials say new and tougher security measures were already in place before Monday's attack on CENTCOM.

"We routinely emphasize to the command, the importance of ensuring social media privacy settings are reviewed and updated based on the current cyber environment," Navy Capt. Greg Hicks, a EUCOM spokesman, said in a statement. "In fact, we have been actively reviewing our social media security measures for months now, as part of our [force protection] changes announced a while back."

In November, EUCOM ordered all personnel in its area of operation to refrain from wearing uniforms off base to lower the profile of military members. In conjunction with that directive, EUCOM advised troops to ensure individual social media accounts didn't reveal too much personal information on their geolocation functions and profiles.

EUCOM also took steps to secure its official social media platforms.

"In addition to the security measures already in place, we

took additional steps to ensure all official U.S. European Command social media platforms have the proper security levels and protections to defend against cyber intrusions," Hicks said.

Meanwhile, at U.S. Africa Command, officials are monitoring their respective sites, saying strong security measures are in place.

"We continue to vigilantly monitor our social media sites for vulnerability and are adhering to the DOD policy guidance," Lt. Col. Mark Cheadle, AFRICOM spokesman, said in an email. "We haven't changed our policy or high standards of precaution. Operational information security is something we take very seriously to protect our people and assets from threats around the world."

In Monday's attack on CENTCOM's Twitter feed and YouTube channel, hackers posted a series of threats to servicemembers and contact information of military staff and retired generals. No classified information was posted, and CENTCOM said in a statement, and its "operational military networks were not compromised."

It remains unclear whether the attack was in fact carried out by the Islamic State, which is commonly referred to by the acronym ISIS. While the hackers declared they were from ISIS, the group now fighting in Syria and Iraq does not call itself by that name, referring to itself instead as the Islamic State.

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# Protester arrested in Camp Schwab assault

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A protester was arrested at Camp Schwab after he allegedly hit a security guard in the face with a can of coffee during the latest protest against a new military runway in northern Okinawa.

Approximately 100 protesters were staging a rally at the main gate early Sunday in an attempt to block vehicles carrying construction materials from entering

the base when police say Kobun Sasaki, 38, wandered away and approached a 26-year-old security guard at a nearby construction access gate.

The guard, hired by the Okinawa Defense Bureau, tried to block Sasaki, who was reportedly intoxicated, from entering the base and was struck several times in the face, according to a spokesman for the prefectural police in Nago.

The guard was not injured, the

spokesman said.

Sasaki was arrested at 12:46 a.m., then was released by the Naha District Public Prosecutor's Office on Monday afternoon after the case was filed by police.

Peaceful protests have been held for a decade against the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Schwab in the north and a new runway into Oura Bay at Henoko.

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MILITARY

# Broadwell could face prosecution in Petraeus case

By MICHAEL DOYLE  
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Former CIA Director David Petraeus is not the only one in potential legal jeopardy for the reported discovery of classified information on his former paramour's computer. Unauthorized recipients of classified information, too, can be prosecuted, along with alleged leakers. Though those sorts of prosecutions are exceedingly rare and difficult to win, even their remote possibility might merit close tending now by Charlotte, N.C., resident Paula Broadwell.

"It would be very complicated, and I doubt the government would want to go there," said Mark S. Zaid, a Washington-based attorney specializing in national security issues.

At the same time, Steven Aftergood, director of the Federation of American Scientists' Project on Government Secrecy, noted that "the government takes the position that the unauthorized receipt and possession of classified information can be a violation of the law." It is, Aftergood stressed, a "contentious area."

It's also a shadowy area that's back in the spotlight amid reports that Justice Department prosecutors have recommended bringing charges against Petraeus. The New York Times, citing anonymous "officials," first reported last Friday that prosecutors have recommended that the retired Army general face charges.

The decision on whether or not to prosecute Petraeus, with its potential ripple effects on Broadwell, will be made at the "highest levels," Attorney General Eric Holder said Sunday.

"The determination has yet to be made, and we will just see how things play out before any final decision is made," Holder said on NBC.

Broadwell's attorney, Robert Muse, of Washington, declined to comment Monday.

Broadwell co-authored a highly sympathetic biography of Petraeus, with whom she was subsequently revealed to have been romantically involved. In December 2012, federal prosecutors said they would not pursue cyberstalk-

ing charges against her following an investigation into emails allegedly sent by Broadwell to another woman.

"As federal prosecutors, we are guided in the discharge of our responsibilities by considerations of fairness and justice," William Daniels, spokesman for Tampa, Fla.-based U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Florida Robert E. O'Neill, said at the time.

The prosecutors' December 2012 statement did not deal with the separate issue of classified information. News reports from 2012, citing anonymous sources, recounted that FBI agents, in the course of their alleged cyberstalking investigation, had found



Broadwell

classified documents on Broadwell's computer.

In previous news accounts, Petraeus has been quoted as denying that he provided classified information to Broadwell. She also has previously denied getting classified documents from Petraeus.

What law, or laws, might theoretically apply to any recipient of classified documents could turn on several questions, including the jobs of those who hold the information.

"Yes, there is potential liability on paper," Zaid said. "But there are lots of laws on the books that are never enforced."

One federal law governs those who are an "officer, employee, contractor or consultant" for the U.S. government. Such an individual who "becomes possessed" of classified documents, "knowingly removes" them without authority and retains them at an "unauthorized location" can face a prison term of up to one year.

Broadwell, a West Point graduate, was a major in the Army Reserve when the Petraeus scandal became public. She then, without clearance, which Zaid cautioned "could change the dynamic" by increasing her legal liability.



MARY ROSE MITTLESTEADT/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

## Water purification duty in Liberia

Pvt. 1st Class Tieuu Zhang, with the 227th Quartermaster Company, 129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, prepares a pump to be put into the seawater as part of the employment of a tactical water purification system in Buchanan, Liberia, on Thursday. The system provides clean water for forces supporting Operation United Assistance, a military operation to provide logistics, training and engineering support to U.S. Agency for International Development-led efforts to contain the Ebola virus outbreak in western Africa.

## Ill. man pleads guilty to air base theft

By JASON MEISNER  
Chicago Tribune

A Naperville, Ill., man who worked as a military contractor in Afghanistan pleaded guilty Monday to stealing more than \$330,000 worth of high-end computer equipment from the air base where he was stationed.

Timothy Maurer, 51, pleaded guilty to one count of felony theft of government property in a brief appearance before U.S. District Judge Robert Dow. He faces up to 2½ years in prison when he is sentenced in April.

As an employee of the large government contractor Raytheon Corp., Maurer was assigned to Shindand Air Base in western Afghanistan, where the U.S. Air Force 445th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron is headquartered.

Beginning in December 2013, Maurer stole from secure areas

of the base more than 150 items of computer and communications equipment, including laptops, cellphones, computer switches, batteries, power cables and electronic storage devices, according to his plea agreement with prosecutors.

On at least one occasion, Maurer forced open a lock to gain entry to a storage container, while other equipment was taken from locations where it was being used, according to the plea.

In January 2014, Maurer communicated via email with vendors in the U.S. who specialized in reselling high-end computer equipment, according to the plea agreement. Maurer packed boxes with much of the stolen merchandise and shipped them to the vendors, who sold the equipment for about \$150,000 and paid him via the online service PayPal.

An additional \$180,000 worth of equipment was either intercepted

by investigators or recovered from Maurer's living quarters on the base, according to the plea agreement.

Maurer, who is free on his own recognizance, kept his head down on court Monday and answered softly, "Yes, your honor," when the judge asked him if he agreed with the government's characterization of his crime. Maurer and his attorney, Jeff King, declined to comment outside the courtroom.

There was no indication from the 16-page plea agreement that any sensitive military information was compromised in the scheme.

John Sopko, special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, said in a written statement that "stealing from the U.S. government undermines our mission in Afghanistan, and anyone seeking to defraud the American taxpayer will be brought to justice."

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NATION

# Sharp shift in GOP field

Ryan says no to presidential race; Romney, Christie plow ahead

By STEVE PEOPLES  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The GOP's crowded 2016 presidential field has shifted sharply, with Paul Ryan, the party's last vice presidential nominee, declining to run, two-time presidential hopeful Mitt Romney marching toward his third campaign and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie stepping closer to his first.

The developments came as Republican officials from across the nation prepare to gather in San Diego this week to finalize an election calendar that will include the first debates of the campaign this summer. Romney is among four potential White House contenders expected to attend that meeting.

Ryan, a Wisconsin congressman and close Romney ally, thanked those who encouraged him to seek the presidency, but said he wanted to focus all of his attention on his new role as chairman of the House

Ways and Means Committee. "I'm ready to get on with my job, and I'm excited about what's ahead," Ryan told The Associated Press in an interview at the Capitol.

**'I'm ready to get on with my job, and I'm excited about what's ahead.'**

Paul Ryan  
R-Wis.

was among those Romney personally reached over the weekend to gauge their support for a third campaign, which was barely on the horizon at this time last week and would be the first return engagement of a losing major party nominee in decades. Asked Monday if he would back another Romney run, Ryan demurred, saying, "It's premature

for any of that." The former Massachusetts governor shocked former staff, supporters and donors on Friday when he told a private gathering in New York that he is again seriously exploring a campaign, a change for Romney after several months of insisting his career in politics had come to its end.

"The chances of him running are better than 50-50," said former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who spoke with Romney over the weekend.

Former aides suggested Monday that Romney could easily become a force in the coming contest, pointing to the more than \$1 billion he raised and 60 million votes he garnered in the last election.

Yet he would face far greater challenges in the next presidential contest than he did in the last, particularly in the early primaries against a field expected to feature more than a dozen Republicans with legitimate White House re-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has decided against running for president in 2016.**

sures, including several sitting governors and U.S. senators.

None threatens Romney's prospects more than former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, an early establishment favorite who has already begun to draw from the same pool of Republican donors who fueled Romney's last campaign.

Romney could also face another establishment favorite, Christie, who is sending new signals that an announcement about his presidential plans could be imminent.

# Congressman draws fire for comparing Obama, Hitler

By CONNIE CASS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Texas congressman drew criticism Tuesday for a tweet that used the world's response to terrorist attacks in Paris as an opportunity to compare President Barack Obama to Adolf Hitler.

Rep. Randy Weber's official account, @TXRandy14, tweeted: "Even Adolph Hitler thought it more important than Obama to get to Paris. (For all the wrong reasons) Obama couldn't do it for right reasons?"

The tweet juxtaposes Hitler's visit to the vanquished city after his troops invaded in World War II, and Obama's failure to join dozens of world leaders at an anti-terror march through Paris on Sunday.

The White House has acknowledged that Obama or another high-level representative of the U.S. should have joined the march in unity with the French following attacks that left 17 people dead. The absence was widely noted, and heavily criticized by congressional Republicans.

"Rep. Weber's tweet is vile and stoops to a new low level by desecrating the victims of the Holocaust to make a political point," Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., said in a statement demanding an apology from Weber.

The Democrats' campaign organization also was quick to denounce the conservative Republican and to connect the incident to Majority Whip Steve Scalise's 2002 speech to a white supremacist group. Scalise has said he regrets the speech and didn't understand the nature of the group.

"Congressional Republicans like Weber are clearly catering to the most extreme elements — first refusing to condemn Steve Scalise's inexcusable affiliation with KKK members, and now this," said Josh Schwertin, spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "Speaker (John) Boehner and Republican leaders need to step forward and condemn Congressman Weber and his toxic brand of politics."

Weber's spokeswoman did not immediately return a request for comment or verification that Weber personally authored the tweet, which remained in his Twitter feed Tuesday.

# Senate Democrats look to tweak pipeline bill

By DINA CAPPIELLO  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats plan to use Senate consideration of the Keystone XL oil pipeline to get Republicans on the record about climate change and to resurrect parts of a bipartisan energy efficiency bill doomed by pipeline politics last year.

Republicans resided additions of their own, such as lifting a ban on crude oil exports.

Other possible tweaks could attempt to ban exports of oil sent through the pipeline or force the pipeline's builders to use American-made steel.

Full-blown debate on the bill was expected to continue Tuesday after the Senate agreed 63-32 Monday to begin deliberating the measure.

Sen. John Hoeven, of North Dakota, the lead Republican sponsor of the measure, said before the vote that the additions will "help us build the right kind of energy plan for our country."

The 1,779-mile pipeline would carry an estimated 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Canada to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines on

its way to Gulf Coast refineries.

The bipartisan 63-32 vote was three more than the 60 required and well above the level the highly controversial measure ever gained in recent years when Democrats controlled the Senate. But Republicans will need to secure more Democratic support to override a veto, as has been repeatedly threatened by the White House.

The measure has sparked intense debate over the Canada-to-Texas pipeline's potential impact on employment and the environment. While the project was proposed six years ago, the White House opposes the legislation as long as the administration is still conducting its formal review.

With more than enough votes at their command, Republican and Democratic supporters said they hoped the legislation could win final approval and be sent to the White House by the end of next week.

"President Obama has every reason to sign the jobs and infrastructure bill that we will pass," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky. He noted that the Nebraska Supreme Court had recently rejected a legal challenge brought by opponents, an obstacle the White House had cited.



AP photos

**Above: Sisters Jenni Harrington, left, and Abbi Kleinschmidt pass a stake that marks the proposed route of the Keystone XL pipeline on Harrington's property near Bradshaw, Neb. Below: Miles of pipe are stacked near Ripley, Okla., ready to become part of the pipeline.**



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# NATION



KOMO-TV/AP

Eclipse, a black Labrador, rides between two other passengers on her way to the dog park in Seattle.

## Black lab takes the bus solo to park

The Associated Press

SEATTLE—A black Labrador named Eclipse just wants to get to the dog park. So if her owner takes too long finishing his cigarette, and their bus arrives, she climbs aboard solo and rides to her stop—to the delight of fellow Seattle bus passengers.

KOMO-TV reported that local

radio host Miles Montgomery was amazed to see the pooch off the bus, without an owner, at a dog park last week.

The dog and her owner, Jeff Young, live near a bus stop.

In Young's words, "She's a bus-riding, sidewalk-walking dog." Young said his dog sometimes gets on the bus without him, and he catches up with her at the dog

park three or four stops away.

Bus riders report she hops onto seats next to strangers, and watches out the window for her stop. Says commuter Tiona Rainwater, "All the bus drivers know her ... she makes everybody happy."

A Metro Transit spokesman says the agency loves that a dog appreciates public transit.

## SD gay marriage ban ruled unconstitutional

The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D.—A federal judge on Monday declared South Dakota's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional, but marriage licenses won't be immediately issued because the ruling was put on hold pending a potential appeal.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier sided in favor of the six couples who filed the lawsuit in May in Sioux Falls. The lawsuit challenges a 1996 state law and a voter-approved 2006 constitutional amendment that ban gay marriage.

"Plaintiffs have a fundamental right to marry," Schreier wrote. "South Dakota law deprives them of that right solely because they are same-sex couples and without sufficient justification."

Attorney General Marty Jackley on Monday said the state will appeal the case to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a conservative-leaning federal appeals court that in 2006 affirmed Nebraska's right to ban same-sex marriages.

"It remains the state's position that the institution of marriage should be defined by the voters of South Dakota and not the federal courts," Jackley said.

He said he's obligated by law to defend both the state constitution and state statutes.

Two other states — Arkansas and Missouri — already have appealed similar federal district court rulings to the 8th Circuit.

This court is generally considered more conservative than others, said Adam Romero, senior counsel in the Williams Institute at the

UCLA School of Law. However, Romero warned, judges "from all ideological perspectives" have tended to agree that state marriage bans are unconstitutional since the U.S. Supreme Court decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013.

"While it is impossible to predict what the court will ultimately do, given the large number of judges who have struck down same-sex marriage bans, we can assume that the 8th Circuit will give the marriage bans in this circuit a very, very close scrutiny," Romero said.

The U.S. Supreme Court again is considering whether to hear a gay marriage case, and more appeals court rulings — especially if they conflict — could increase the likelihood the justices will do so.

## DC subway remains hobbled after fatal fire

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The transit network in the nation's capital was running slowly Tuesday morning after an electrical malfunction that filled a busy subway station with smoke, killing one woman and sending dozens of people to hospitals.

The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating the incident, which happened at the beginning of the Monday afternoon rush hour and led to the first fatality on Washington's Metro system since a 2009 crash that killed eight passengers and a train operator.

NTSB investigator Michael Flanigan told reporters late Monday night that an electrical "arcing" involving the high-voltage third rail led a train to stop in a tunnel and quickly filled the tunnel with smoke. An arcing occurs when electricity from the third rail comes into contact with another substance that conducts electricity, such as water.

There was water in the tunnel, but Flanigan said the cause of the arcing was not yet known.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene aboard the train as passengers tried to escape the smoke, and many passengers left the

train on their own before emergency responders arrived on the scene, Flanigan said. In addition to the woman who died, at least one other passenger was in critical condition at a local hospital. Eighty-four people were taken to hospitals, most with smoke inhalation, authorities said.

The name of the woman who died hadn't been released by Tuesday morning, nor had the official cause of death.

"It started to get scary pretty quickly," passenger Jonathan Rogers told The Washington Post. "People started praying. Smoke was coming in pretty steadily."

# Most back labeling genetically modified food, new poll finds

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A large majority of Americans support labeling of genetically modified foods, whether they care about eating them or not.

According to a December Associated Press-GfK poll, 66 percent of Americans favor requiring food manufacturers to put labels on products that contain genetically modified organisms, or foods grown from seeds engineered in labs. Only 7 percent are opposed to the idea, and 24 percent are neutral.

Fewer Americans say genetically modified ingredients are important to them when judging whether a food is healthy. About 4 in 10 said the presence of such ingredients was very or extremely important to them.

That's higher than the share who say it's important to know whether a food is organic, and about on par with the share saying they consider the amount of protein in a food an important factor.

For some, the debate over GMOs is about the food system overall. Andrew Chan, of Seattle, said he strongly favors labeling genetically modified ingredients, but those ingredients themselves aren't most important to him. As a parent, he said his top concern is the abundance of processed foods.

"GMO ingredients aren't the number one thing, but more than likely within a processed food I'd find something that is a genetically modified product," said Chan, 41.

Genetically modified seeds are engineered to have certain traits, such as resistance to herbicides or certain plant diseases. Most of the country's corn and soybean crop is now genetically modified, with much of that becoming animal feed. Modified corn and soybeans are also made into popular processed food ingredients such as corn oil, corn starch, high-fructose corn syrup and soybean oil.

The Food and Drug Administration doesn't require labeling of genetically modified foods, saying those on the market are safe. Consumer advocates backing labeling say shoppers have a right to know what is in their food, arguing that not enough is known about their effects.

The AP-GfK poll comes as several states have weighed in on the issue. Vermont became the first state to require labels for genetically modified foods last year, passing a law in May that will take effect in mid-2016 if it survives legal challenges. Maine and Connecticut passed laws before Vermont, but those measures don't take effect unless neighboring states follow suit. Ballot initiatives to require labeling were narrowly defeated in California, Washington and Oregon in recent years.

The food industry and some companies have fought aggressively

though attempts to force labeling, and have pushed a bill in Congress that would block those efforts. But Sen. Mike Pompeo, R-Kan., would reaffirm that such food labels are voluntary, overriding any state laws that require them.

Jay Jaffe favors labeling food in congressional hearing on the issue, members of both parties were included in the public support labeling. Many questioned whether mandatory GMO labels would be misleading to consumers since there is little scientific evidence that such foods are unsafe.

According to the AP-GfK poll, public support for labeling GMOs was bipartisan, with 71 percent of Democrats and 64 percent of Republicans favoring labeling. Even among conservative Republicans, more than 6 in 10 favor a labeling requirement.

Jay Jaffe, a Republican from Philadelphia, said he strongly favors labeling even though he has no problem buying GMOs. "If they are cheaper and they taste right to me, I'll buy it," he said.

Still, he thinks there should be accountability in the food industry. "It should be there and not in small print," he said of GMO labels. "People should be able to make a choice."

**It should be there and not in small print. People should be able to make a choice.**

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## NATION

# Obama to push for new cybersecurity legislation

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Tuesday was to renew his call for Congress to pass cybersecurity legislation, including a proposal that encourages companies to share threat information with the government and protects them from potential lawsuits if they do.

The president's proposals are similar to congressional legislation that has been languishing on Capitol Hill, in part because of privacy concerns. The White

House is hoping that a recent spate of cyberattacks and data breaches — including last month's hacking at Sony Pictures Entertainment, which the administration blamed on North Korea — will spur lawmakers to take up the issue in the coming months.

Obama was to discuss the legislative proposals Tuesday afternoon in a speech at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center in Arlington, Va. The proposals are also expected to be part of his Jan. 20

State of the Union address.

The legislation would encourage the private sector to share cyber-threat information with the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, according to a White House fact sheet. Companies would qualify for targeted liability protection, but would have to comply with certain privacy restrictions.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services panel and a member of

the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee, said Tuesday he was "glad the administration is coming forward with a proposal." Legislation will need to strike a balance between "the right of privacy and the need for national security," McCain told CNN.

But, he added, "I am guardedly optimistic we can come up with legislation that we can work with the administration on."

Tuesday's push comes after the Twitter and YouTube accounts for

U.S. Central Command were taken over by hackers who claimed to be working on behalf of Islamic State militants on Monday. Other recent hackings at retailers including Target, Home Depot and Neiman Marcus have exposed the lack of uniform practices for alerting customers in the event of a breach.

On Monday, Obama proposed strengthening laws against identity theft by requiring notification when consumer information is hacked and protecting students' private data.

## 2 officers in NM face murder charges

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Deadly police encounters in New York and Missouri resulted in no charges against the officers recently amid closed-door grand jury proceedings that infuriated some members of the public. Faced with a similar decision for a high-profile police shooting in New Mexico, the top prosecutor in Albuquerque took an entirely different approach.

The Albuquerque district attorney brought murder charges Monday against two officers who shot a mentally ill homeless man during a standoff last year, bypassing a grand jury and taking the case before a judge who will decide at a public hearing whether the case should move forward.

"Unlike Ferguson and unlike in New York City, we're going to know. The public is going to have that information," District Attorney Kari Brandenburg said. "I think officer-involved shooting cases are important around the



COURTESY OF THE ALBUQUERQUE (N.M.) POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

James Boyd, top left, is shown during a standoff with officers in the Sandia foothills in Albuquerque, N.M., before police fatally shot him.

country where we want to share all that information with the public."

The March shooting death of James Boyd, 39, led to violent protests and helped lead to a major federal-ordered overhaul of the Albuquerque Police Department amid a rash of police shootings over the last five years.

It also came during a year when police tactics came under intense scrutiny nationwide, fueled by the fatal shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old in Ferguson, Mo., and the chokehold death of another unarmed man in New York City.

Grand juries declined to charge

officers in those cases, leading to large protests.

Police said SWAT team member Dominique Perez and former detective Keith Sandy fatally shot Boyd, who had frequent violent run-ins with law enforcement.

Video from an officer's helmet camera showed Boyd appearing to surrender when officers opened fire, but a defense lawyer characterized him as an unstable suspect who was "unpredictably and dangerously close to a defenseless officer while he was wielding two knives."

"I'm looking forward ... to the

DA's office presenting one single witness that says this is murder," said Sam Bregman, a lawyer for Sandy.

Brandenburg refused to specify specifics about the reasons for bringing the case, but said it was a lengthy and deliberate process involving several members of her staff.

A date for the preliminary hearing has not been set. The officers have not been booked or arrested. That would not happen until a judge renders a decision at the preliminary hearing.

killed.

"I was commenting on how I hadn't heard of shootings or there hadn't been any murders in the neighborhood in so long, in a number of years," resident Lynne Winslow told KGO-TV. "It used to be so common."

From The Associated Press

## Muslims want police spying ruling in NY to be reversed

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Muslim residents of New Jersey were in court to try to reverse a ruling that found New York City police could legally monitor their activities.

Two civil rights groups, Muslim Advocates and the Center for Constitutional Rights, argued their appeal Tuesday before the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. The plaintiffs include a U.S. soldier, a school principal and several Rutgers University students.

They argued that last year's ruling from U.S. District Judge William Martini, of Newark, gives police the authority to violate their civil rights.

The case involves the New York Police Department's decision to spy on Muslim groups at mosques, restaurants and schools. They've been doing so since 2002.

The practice came to light through a series of articles by The Associated Press. The series won a Pulitzer Prize in 2012.

Martini wrote that police could not keep an eye "on Muslim terrorist activities without monitoring the Muslim community itself."

He also said the AP — and not police — would be responsible for any harm that ensued.

"The city's surveillance program is explicitly based upon, and accordingly perpetuates, a malignant stereotype: that Muslims are a danger to society," lawyers for the plaintiffs groups wrote in their appeal brief.

A similar lawsuit is pending in federal court in Brooklyn.

## 4 men mourned after gang-related shooting

SAN FRANCISCO — The residents of a neighborhood plagued by gang violence came together to mourn the killings of four young men shot dead as they sat inside

a stolen car.

Police said the killings are gang-related, but no suspects have been publicly identified.

The San Francisco Police Department's gang task force and homicide detectives were investigating the Friday night shooting, police spokesman Albio Esparza

said. Police have stepped up patrols since then, but that has done little to bring calm to residents afraid of more violence in reprisal for the killings.

A prayer vigil was held Monday night at the San Francisco Zen Center, across the street from where the young men were

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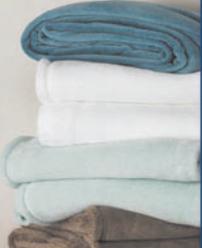
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WORLD



AP photos

French police carry the coffin of officer Ahmed Merabet, who was killed in the street next to the Charlie Hebdo offices, during a ceremony on Tuesday to pay tribute to the three police officers killed in the attacks in Paris last week.

# ‘They died so that we could live free’

## France, Israel mourn; suspect linked to Paris attackers held in Bulgaria

The Associated Press

PARIS — With a printing press, medals of honor and ceremonies thousands of miles apart, France and Israel paid tribute Tuesday to those killed in the Paris terrorist attacks. In Bulgaria, authorities said a Frenchman already under arrest had ties to the Paris gunmen who left 17 victims in their wake.

Defying the bloodshed and terror of last week, a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad appeared Wednesday on the cover of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, weeping and holding a placard with the words “I am Charlie.” Above him is emblazoned: “All is forgiven” — a phrase one writer said meant to show the survivors of the attacks forgave the gunmen.

“I think that those who have been killed, if they were here, they would have been able to have a coffee today with the terrorists and just talk to them, ask them why they have done this,” columnist Zineb El Rhazoui told the BBC. “We feel, as Charlie Hebdo’s team, that we need to forgive the two terrorists who have killed our colleagues.”

Two masked gunmen opened the onslaught in Paris with a Jan. 7 attack on the paper, singling out its editor and his police bodyguard for the first shots before killing 12 people in all. Ahmed Merabet, a French Muslim policeman, was one of the victims, killed as he lay wounded on the ground as the gun-

men — brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi — made their escape.

France’s main Muslim organization called Tuesday for calm, fearing that a new Muhammad cartoon could inflame passions anew.

At police headquarters in Paris, French President Francois Hollande paid separate tribute Tuesday to the three police officers killed in the attacks, placing Legion of Honor medals on their caskets.

“They died so that we could live free,” he said, flanked by hundreds of police officers.

Hollande vowed that France will be “merciless in the face of anti-Semitic, anti-Muslims acts, and unrelenting against those who defend and carry out terrorism, notably the jihadists who go to Iraq and Syria.”

As Chopin’s funeral march played in central Paris and the caskets draped in French flags were led from the building, a procession began in Jerusalem for the four Jewish victims of the attack Friday on a kosher supermarket in Paris.

“Returning to your ancestral home need not be due to distress, out of desperation, amidst destruction, or in the throes of terror and fear,” said Israeli President Reuven Rivlin. “Terror has never kept us down, and we do not want terror to subdue you. The Land of Israel is the land of choice. We want you to choose Israel, because of a love for Israel.”



Above: Family and relatives of Yoav Hattab, a victim of the attack on a kosher grocery in Paris last week, gather for his funeral in Bnei Brak, Israel, on Tuesday.

Left: Prime Minister Manuel Valls, center, dries his tears, next to French President Francois Hollande, left, and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo during a ceremony on Tuesday to pay tribute to the three police officers killed in the Paris attacks.

French police say as many as six members of the terrorist cell that carried out the Paris attacks may still be at large, including a man seen driving a car registered to the widow of one of the gunmen. The country has deployed 10,000 troops to protect sensitive sites, including Jewish schools and synagogues, mosques and travel hubs.

Amid the hunt for accomplices, Bulgarian authorities said Tuesday they have a Frenchman under arrest who is believed to have links to Cherif Kouachi, one of the Charlie Hebdo attackers.

Fritz-Joly Joachim, 29, was arrested Jan. 1 as he tried to cross

into Turkey, under two European arrest warrants, one citing his alleged links to a terrorist organization and a second for allegedly kidnapping his 3-year-old son and smuggling him out of the country, said Darina Slavova, the regional prosecutor for Bulgaria’s southern province of Haskovo.

“He met with Kouachi several times at the end of December,” Slavova said.

## 2nd black box from AirAsia jet retrieved

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia — Divers retrieved the crashed AirAsia plane’s second black box from the bottom of the Java Sea on Tuesday, giving experts essential tools to piece together what brought down Flight 8501.

The cockpit voice recorder was freed from beneath heavy wreckage at a depth of about 100 feet, a day after the flight data recorder was recovered, said Tony Budiono, sea navigation director at the Transportation Ministry.

The device will be flown to the capital, Jakarta, to be analyzed along with the other black box, a process that could take as long as two weeks. Since it records in a two-hour loop, all discussions between the captain and co-pilot should be available.

## In Sri Lanka, Pope backs search for wartime truth

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Pope Francis brought calls for reconciliation as well as justice as he arrived Tuesday in Sri Lanka at the start of a weeklong Asian tour, saying the island nation can’t fully heal from a quarter-century of ethnic civil war without pursuing the truth about abuses that were committed.

In a show of ethnic coexistence, the pope’s welcoming ceremony at Colombo’s airport featured traditional dancers and drummers from both majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil ethnic groups, as well as a children’s choir serenading him in both of Sri Lanka’s languages — as well as Italian and English.

Francis didn’t specifically mention Sri Lanka’s refusal to cooperate with a U.N. investigation into alleged war crimes committed in the final months of the war. But he said: “The process of healing also needs to include the pursuit of truth, not for the sake of opening old wounds, but rather as a necessary means of promoting justice, healing and unity.”

## Ruling may free Egypt’s Mubarak from custody

CAIRO — Egyptian authorities have exhausted all legal grounds to keep deposed President Hosni Mubarak in detention after an appeals court on Tuesday ordered his retrial in a corruption case, a judicial official said.

The ruling Tuesday by the Appeals Court — a top court based in Cairo — overturned an earlier verdict, which had sentenced Mubarak to three years of imprisonment and his two sons, Alaa and Gamal, to four years in prison with four other defendants in the case were acquitted. Mubarak’s lawyers had appealed that verdict.

Though the ruling paved the way for Mubarak’s imminent release, there was no statement from the court that he would be taken to the hospital in Cairo where he was held in custody a free man.

From The Associated Press



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OPINION Pope rattles US political conservatives

By ALBERT HUNT  
 Bloomberg News

In the Reagan era, conservative Republicans felt they had a powerful ally in Pope John Paul II, whose forceful anti-communism and anti-abortion stances played out in American politics.

Today's conservatives are apprehensive about Pope Francis, who has changed the tone and culture, not the doctrines, of the Catholic Church in less than two years as pontiff. He stresses, with passion and authenticity, a commitment to addressing poverty and income inequality more than the social issues that have dominated much of the Catholic debate in America.

John Carr, a former top official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, notes that Francis' message on abortion is "no objection, no retreat."

The pope helped broker the recent thaw in U.S.-Cuban relations, to the consternation of conservatives such as Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. Francis now is determined to make addressing climate change a moral imperative for the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.

This doesn't mean that Francis is the poster pope for liberal Democrats.

"He's challenging everything," said Carr, now director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University. "Most Democrats haven't been talking about poverty."

He suggested that Francis' impact is starting to change the conversation among Democrats, along with some conservative Republicans. The bill's co-founder and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin.

Still, Francis' message is unsettling to more than a few conservatives, particularly his focus on climate change and his initiatives to influence the United Nations' conference in Paris this year. Some prominent Republicans, such as Senate Environment Committee Chairman James Inhofe, are climate-change deniers.

Some Catholic business leaders have complained about Francis' emphasis on income inequality and the defects of capitalism. Ken Langone, the billionaire co-founder of The Home Depot and a major Republican donor, warned Cardinal Timothy Dolan, of New York, that if the pope kept it the drumbeat, some wealthy Catholics might



SARAHH DAS/AP

Pope Francis smiles after getting a garland from a child as he arrives for an interfaith meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday.

stop giving to church causes. ("Liberals say popes don't know anything about sex; conservatives say they don't know anything about economics," Carr observed.)

And Francis has rattled the U.S. church hierarchy, notably the bishops. American church leaders have long been advocates for the poor and immigrants. But those are edicts many conservatives felt could be ignored; the focus and priorities were the social issues, led by headline prelates such as Cardinal Raymond Burke, the former archbishop of St. Louis, who refused communion to any Catholic politicians who weren't on the right side of the abortion issue.

Francis removed Burke as head of the Vatican's high court. Burke, a Francis critic, recently asserted that a "feminized" church, which permits altar girls, is responsible for a shortage of priests and some of the pedophilia crimes. Equally important, the pope chose Blase Cupich, the progressive bishop of Spokane, Wash., to be the archbishop of Chicago, the third-largest American diocese. He succeeds Cardinal Francis George, a conservative cultural warrior.

Garry Wills, a renowned historian and Catholic scholar, said the pope has sent a strong message to entrenched interests

such as those that oppose Obamacare for offering contraception coverage, even though the vast majority of American Catholics practice birth control.

"Francis has condemned careerism, which will make the bishops pay more attention to Catholic lives," Wills said.

The pope will visit the U.S. in September. He'll go to Philadelphia and New York and probably Washington. If so, look for a visit to the White House, as well as to a soup kitchen or some other venue that serves the poor, and he might accept House Speaker John Boehner's invitation to be the first pontiff to address a joint session of Congress.

Privately, some right-wing Republicans have grumbled about this invitation, but they can't block it. It's not hard to envision an exceptional moment in the Capitol as pro-choice Democrats squirm when the pontiff celebrates the sanctity of life and Republicans wriggle when the Holy Father talks about social justice, income inequality and the moral imperative of addressing climate change.

Albert Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist.

US not immune to terrorism that rocked France

Miami Herald editorial

The French, united — as Sunday's march through Paris showed — will fight back, President Francois

Hollande vowed after last week's horrors in Paris that erupted in malls, offices and civilian targets. They have — their security is under threat. And so is that of the United States and the rest of the civilized world.

Hollande made it clear to his nation that this horrible chapter is not over yet.

This brand of Muslim-inspired "retail terrorism" — the kind that erupts in malls, delis and other public spaces, cannot be considered the Western world's new normal, and France has been thrust onto the frontlines, as the United States was on that awful September day in 2001.

The French have not faced a bigger threat to their values since the Nazis occupied their country in 1940. But this is not an external enemy; it is an internal foe.

"We have to use force — but with solidarity," Hollande said, while discouraging racist attacks against followers of Islam, the religion that the extremists say guides them. Before they died in violent standoffs with police, they met it clear they were acting on behalf of the Prophet

Muhammed.

They did terrible damage to a nation's psyche. In a matter of three days, this "sleeper" terrorist cell of young, al-Qaida-radicalized Parisian friends working in coordination shook the very foundation of their country. They attacked a nation's freedom of expression with the Charlie Hebdo newspaper massacre; they executed two police officers; and they trampled on religion, including their own, by storming a kosher deli and murdering four hostages in an apparent act of anti-Semitism.

The United States and international community can't look the other way. For once, maybe since 9/11, this terrorist attack doesn't feel a world away to Americans. The U.S. and France have had each other's backs from this nation's founding to World War II. "The United States stands with France, one of our oldest allies," said President Barack Obama. In the near future, we will see just what that entails.

The Paris attacks give rise to the age-old question sparked by random violence: What was the motivation of these three young men and a woman who grew up in France to attack their country? Were they disenfranchised, hopeless members of society?

In 2009, one of the terrorists, Amedy

Coulbaly, 26, gave an interview to a French newspaper as part of a group of 500 youths meeting with the president to discuss youth unemployment. The snapshot of Coulbaly reveals an anger in his face that obviously grew. He died in a hail of police bullets Friday inside the kosher market.

Through the ages, disenfranchised youths seeking to belong have joined gangs or turned to drugs and crime. Now, a disturbing number, like the terrorist Kouachi brothers, turn to the Islamic State and al-Qaida — home-grown terrorists, the jihadis within.

Islamic terrorist groups like the Islamic State, al-Qaida and AQAP, its Yemen branch, which took credit for ordering the carnage at Charlie Hebdo, are competing for the hearts and minds of these disaffected youths. The United States is not immune. In 2009, the FBI zeroed in on what looked like terrorist groups' mass recruitment of young Somali men — with U.S. passports — gone missing in Minnesota.

Israeli leaders often claim that Americans don't get what it's like to live with the fear of dying in a terrorist attack during the course of a mundane day. They're right. And it's more imperative than ever to ensure that we never know such fear.

OPINION

# Throwing defense dollars into new Cold War

By WALTER PINCUS  
The Washington Post

**A**mericans have some tough choices ahead.

Can we still spend wildly on costly weapons superiority over countries such as Russia and China and pay for the intelligence and armed forces required to manage threats from groups such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State?

The terrorist danger is certainly more immediate than an additional \$70 billion this fiscal year beyond the \$585 billion for the core defense budget. The Overseas Contingency Operations account covers the fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, as well as U.S. Special Forces and intelligence gathering, plus military, economic and humanitarian aid to our allies.

Meanwhile, the prospective threats from Moscow and Beijing require growing costs in what feels like an old-school Cold War.

Last week, Sean Stackley, the Navy's assistant secretary for research, development and acquisition, drove home this new arms race.

Stackley, a Naval Academy graduate with advanced engineering degrees from MIT, spent 26 years in the Navy. He also spent three years on the Senate Armed Services Committee staff before being nominated by the George W. Bush administration for the Navy's top procurement job. He was confirmed in July 2008. Stackley, who reflects thinking in the Navy and other services, is someone worth listening to.

"Our superiority at sea demands that we maintain superiority in technology, science, engineering," he said during remarks at the Atlantic Council.

**These days, terrorists are the first threat, and not a single one will be deterred by a nuclear warhead.**

He pointed out China's "impressive" investment in naval capabilities, citing the country's "new aircraft carrier, nuclear submarines, their fifth-generation fighter, amphibious capabilities, unmanned aircraft and anti-ship cruise and ballistic missiles."

"Russia, too, is revitalizing its blue-water navy capabilities," he said.

But wait. China's one floating aircraft carrier is a refurbished old Russian carrier bought from Ukraine in 1998. Ukraine had been using it as a museum. Really.

It has been a training ship since 2012, and on a recent sea trial it had an explosion that knocked out its new electrical system. There are reports China is building its first, non-nuclear powered carrier, said to be comparable to a conventional carrier that entered U.S. Navy service 25 years ago.

The Defense Department reported last June that "China acknowledged publicly for the first time in 2013 its desire to build indigenous aircraft carriers." The first "will likely be operational sometime at the beginning of the next decade," the department said.

As for Russia, its first nuclear-powered supercarrier had its hull laid in 1988, but construction was canceled in January 1991, when it was 20 percent completed. The project was scrapped the next year.

The first U.S. nuclear-powered supercarrier, the USS Enterprise (CVN 65), was launched in 1962 and was deactivated in December 2012. Today, the

United States has 10 aging supercarriers in operation. But, Stackley said, "the Navy's requirement is for 11 [new] aircraft carriers."

The first replacement, the USS Gerald Ford (CVN 78), is to be delivered next year at \$12.9 billion. Construction is just starting on the USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79), to be completed in 2020 at an estimated \$11.5 billion, according to Stackley.

Carriers were important in World War II, less so in the Cold War, and needed to a degree in the Persian Gulf and in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and for deterrence in the Pacific.

The big hanger from the Cold War is the replacement program for the 14 Ohio-class strategic ballistic missile submarines, or SSBNs, which can carry 24 intercontinental ballistic missiles, each able to deliver up to 12 independently targeted nuclear warheads.

Thanks to 2010 arms control treaty with Russia, beginning in 2018 only 12 Ohio-class SSBNs with 20 of their missiles loaded will be deployed at one time. Each missile will be limited to four or five warheads.

That means the United States will still have more than 1,000 sub-launched warheads available, with some 320 on ready-to-fire, 24-hour alert on the four subs normally on patrol in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Each warhead is at least five times as powerful as the bomb that hit Nagasaki.

What's the threat? It's competition with the Russians, Cold

War-style.

Russia's modernization of its smaller number of less-capable SSBNs began 15 years ago. The first of Moscow's eight planned new Borey-class SSBNs was finished in 2013, and three more are underway.

China did not have its first strategic-missile-launching submarine deployed before 2010. The Defense Department reported last year that Beijing's three Jin-class SSBNs (Type 094) were operational, and up to five may enter service before China proceeds to its next-generation SSBN (Type 096) over the next decade.

Replacing the Ohio-class SSBNs, Stackley said, is the Navy's "number one priority." The current plan is for 12, with construction of the first to begin in 2021 and be completed in 2029, with deployment in 2031. Thereafter, it's a one-for-one replacement as the older ones retire through 2040.

The new SSBNs will carry only 16 missiles but will be "fitted with the most up-to-date capabilities and stealth to ensure they are survivable throughout their full 40-year life span," according to a Navy statement.

Over a 45-year period, the cost of this Ohio replacement program will be "about \$100 billion," Stackley said.

These days, terrorists are the first threat, and not a single one will be deterred by a nuclear warhead. It seems wasteful to spend that kind of money re-creating a vast nuclear force that has never been used, on a scale that was likely never needed.

Fewer SSBNs would be better.

Walter Pincus reports on intelligence, defense and foreign policy for The Washington Post and writes the Fire Print column.

# Tsarnaev probably won't get the death penalty

By KAREN J. GREENBERG

**T**his past week, lawyers for the defense and the prosecution in the trial of al-Qaida bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev started whittling a jury pool of 1,300 down to 18 men and women: 12 jurors and six alternates. Given the amount of visual evidence and witness testimony about Tsarnaev's involvement in the bombing — and perhaps reminded of the human toll of terrorism after the deadly attack on a *Washington* local newspaper — the jury is very likely to convict him. But the bigger question jurors will decide is whether he should die.

Jury selection matters. "Once you step into the courtroom, before a jury, you have no idea what can happen," as one former terrorism prosecutor told me recently. In theory, defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty. But in this country, it is hard for a jury to be fair-minded about terrorism charges, let alone a bombing that resulted in deaths and dismemberment. In recent years, jihadist terrorism defendants — those thought to have acted in the name of Islamic fundamentalism — have been convicted in nearly all cases. And in the few cases involving people accused of carrying out lethal terrorist attacks, the conviction rate is 100 percent.

Under the Sixth Amendment, Tsarnaev has the right to be judged by a jury of his peers. And as U.S. District Judge George O'Toole Jr. has underscored, it must be an impartial jury. In theory, with such a large pool of potential jurors, the lawyers will have a wide spectrum of age, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religious af-

filiation and political persuasion to choose from. Already, everyone in the pool has filled out a questionnaire — sealed as to this writing — that can guide lawyers as they choose their jury.

The defense will probably try to identify individuals who might sympathize with the 21-year-old defendant. Tsarnaev's lawyers will perhaps look for jurors who can focus not on his actions but on his predicament. They will want to cast him as a young man unduly influenced by an older brother with a history of violence who instigated the terrorist attack.

Teachers and social workers might be selected with the expectation that they will have compassion for the problems of youth. Women and minorities might be chosen, as scholars often deem them to be more empathetic to people who have wrestled with the criminal justice system.

Some experts maintain that jury selection should consider personal factors above others. In this case, defense lawyers might try to seek out those who have been victims of psychological manipulation, parents of troubled youth and young people who might relate personally to Tsarnaev. Above all, the defense is looking for potential jurors with independence of mind — those who are willing to question conventional wisdom and might resist a group's dominant opinion. They are looking for people who may be open to acquitting someone based on the facts presented in court rather than news headlines.

A terrorism trial in New York in 2010 suggests that, even in an emotionally charged area in the shadow of the World

Trade Center, a jury can genuinely consider the defense's arguments. Ahmed Khalifan Ghailani was charged with 284 counts in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa that resulted in 224 deaths. A New York jury acquitted him on all charges, except for one count of conspiracy.

The state of Massachusetts, along with most of the Northeast, is decidedly against the death penalty. In 1770, John Adams successfully argued before a jury that the perpetrators of the Boston Massacre did not deserve the death penalty. In 1984, Massachusetts outlawed the death penalty for state crimes, and the last state execution was in 1947. (In federal court, a jury found for death in the 2003 murder trial of Gary Lee Sampson, but the sentence was overturned, and a new sentence is pending.)

So it may be harder than expected for jurors in Boston to hand down the death penalty, even in a terrorism case, even in their backyard. A 2013 Boston Globe poll found that 57 percent of respondents thought Tsarnaev should get life without parole, 33 percent said he should get the death penalty, and 10 percent were unsure. All potential jurors, in the jury questionnaire, are asked whether they would be willing to consider the death penalty. Those who say no are automatically disqualified. Even a juror who claimed openness to the death penalty could waver in the face of evidence about any misfortunes in Tsarnaev's life that may have led him to commit this crime. Tsarnaev's youth might be further cause for sympathy.

The death penalty has proved elusive in terrorism cases. In the federal court in Alexandria, Va. — which regularly considers national security crimes, ranging from espionage to government leaks to terrorist attacks — a jury voted against imposing the death penalty in a high-profile terrorism case in 2006. Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person tried in the United States for ties to the Sept. 11, 2001, conspiracy, was transferred from New York to Virginia for his trial. In part because Virginia's pre-dilection for the death penalty, Moussaoui pleaded guilty, which meant that most of the trial was spent on deciding whether to give him the death penalty.

Even then, the jury did not vote for it, and testimony about the abuse Moussaoui suffered as a child seemed to play a role. Nine jurors polled after the decision said that the instability and violence of his home life was an important factor in their decision, more so than any other. In fact, with the main 9/11 conspirators still held at Guantanamo Bay, not a single convicted al-Qaida terrorist has received the death penalty in federal court.

It could be extremely difficult for a jury to give the death penalty to Tsarnaev. But his case is unique. It involves the first lethal jihadist terrorism attack conducted on U.S. soil since 9/11. The thirst for vengeance may trump America's more restrained — and humane — sense of justice.

Karen J. Greenberg, the author of *The Least Worst Place: Guantanamo's First 100 Days*, is the director of Fordham University Law School's Center on National Security. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

FACES

**R&B artist accused of hitting officer in Vegas**

The Canadian R&B artist known as The Weeknd was arrested in Las Vegas after police say he hit an officer in the head.

Las Vegas police officer Laura Meltzer said Abel Tesfaye, 24, was arrested early Saturday in a Las Vegas Strip hotel on suspicion of misdemeanor battery of a protected person. He was taken to the Clark County Detention Center, but wasn't listed on the jail roster on Monday.

Meltzer said police were trying to break up a fight on one of the floors when Tesfaye hit an officer on the side of the head with a fist. She said it doesn't appear that the officer was seriously hurt.

The Weeknd is featured on Ariana Grande's "Love Me Harder."

**Eminem visits terminally ill fan**

Detroit native Eminem fulfilled the wish of a terminally ill fan by visiting him at his home.

The rapper surprised Gage Garmo, 17, in Rochester Hills, Mich., on Sunday evening. The Detroit Free Press said the two sat in the family's living room, talking about hip-hop and football.

Gage was diagnosed with bone cancer three years ago.

Friends and classmates used social media to spread Gage's wish to meet Eminem, his musical hero, after he learned last week that he has just days left to live. Michigan-based charity Rainbow Connection was able to set up the meeting within 48 hours.

Rainbow Connection's wish director says the stars aligned and Gage's wish came true.

**First group of Grammys performers announced**

Madonna, AC/DC and Ariana Grande are among the first performers announced to take the stage at the Grammy Awards.

Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and country star Eric Church will also perform at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 8. The Recording Academy announced Tuesday.

Grande, who is nominated for two awards, will make her Grammy debut. Church is nominated for four honors, while Sheeran has three, including album of the year for "x."

Beyonce, Sam Smith and Pharrell are the leaders in nominations with six apiece.

**Estimated 19.3 million viewers for Globes**

The Nielsen company says an estimated 19.3 million people watched the Golden Globes ceremony on NBC on Sunday night.

That's down from the 20.9 million people who watched the ceremony last year, when it was the most-watched Golden Globes in a decade. Nielsen said Monday that it represents the most-watched prime-time entertainment program on NBC since the 2014 Golden Globes ceremony.

It marked the third year in a row that Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted the show; they've said this would be their final year.

From The Associated Press



**Colbert to debut on 'Late Show' Sept. 8**

By DAVID BAUDER  
The Associated Press

CBS has hosts and starting dates for its remade late-night lineup — Stephen Colbert on Sept. 8 and James Corden on March 23 — and now is waiting to find out what kinds of shows the two men create.

The network announced Monday that Colbert will take over the "Late Show" after Labor Day. He's replacing David Letterman, who is retiring and will have his last show on May 20. CBS will air reruns of prime-time programming in the time slot until Colbert starts.

Colbert is bringing his creative team from "The Colbert Report" with him to CBS, and has said that he will no longer play the character of a blowhard political talk host that he perfected on the Comedy Central show.

"It will be nice to have the smartest guy in the room at 11:30," said Nina Tassler, CBS entertainment chairman, particularly with an election year coming up.

That suggests Colbert might try to occupy a more topical niche than his comic competitors, Jimmy Fallon on NBC and Jimmy Kimmel on ABC.

But Tassler said that Colbert's "Late Show" is still in development and many of the details are still being worked out.

CBS is essentially waiting for Colbert to tell them what he has in mind. "Part of the opportunity of being in business with a brilliant talent like Stephen Colbert is really letting him do what he wants to do," she said.

Tassler talked of being "mesmerized" by Corden when she and CBS Corp. chief executive Leslie Moonves first met with him. She described him as "a combination of Jack Black and Fred Astaire."

The British actor was a surprise choice to replace Craig Ferguson in the later night timeslot following Letterman. Although his debut is sooner, Corden told reporters at the Television Critics Association Press Tour on Monday that it's very much a work in progress.

That left him short on details, although Executive Producer Rob Crabbie noted that since Corden has no background as a comedian, it might mean dispensing with the talk-show staple of an opening monologue.

"We want to make a warm show that never feels spiky," Corden said. "So much of what you see and read are polluted by it is not pleasant right now. I'd like to remind people that there are still wonderful things going on."

Corden

**Television roundup**

**'Odd Couple' remake brings back comic vet**

The Associated Press

CBS has brought in an expert to help launch its remake of "The Odd Couple" starring Matthew Perry; the legendary producer who adapted Neil Simon's Broadway play into the television series that starred Jack Klugman and Tony Randall.

Garry Marshall, who went on to create "Happy Days," "Laverne & Shirley" and "Mork & Mindy," is helping Bob Daily, the new show's executive producer, as a consultant. Cast members say Marshall is on the set each week pitching jokes and telling stories.

Marshall, a neighbor of CBS Corp. chief executive Leslie Moonves, came on at Moonves's suggestion. Daily, a former writer on "Frasier," said he got into the business partly because of his love for the shows Marshall made, so he was happy to have him. Marshall, 80, said a big factor in coming back was that the show is being made in a studio close to his home.

"Just to have Garry's endorsement alone was huge," said Perry, who plays Oscar Madison to co-star Thomas Lennon's Felix Unger.



MONTY BRINTON/CBS

**CBS' updated "The Odd Couple" stars Matthew Perry, left, as enduring slob Oscar Madison and Thomas Lennon as uptight neat freak Felix Unger.**

Marshall said he was happy to revisit the show. "It was the first show that I ever did that was a hit," he said. "It kind of made my career."

The show is updated for the times — Madison isn't a newspaper sports writer, he hosts a sports radio talk show — but doesn't rely on old scripts or story lines. There was one exception, with a joke on the show's pilot lifted directly from Simon's play.

"The funniest joke in the pilot was written 45 years ago," Perry said.

The remake debuts on Feb. 19. New Orleans artist Trombone Shorty recorded a new version of the show's theme song.

**'Dovekeepers' brings de Pablo back to CBS**

Cote de Pablo isn't coming back to "NCIS," but close.

The actress, who is starring in CBS' "The Dovekeepers," looked surprised to hear that the two-part movie is scheduled to debut in the time slot after the crime drama in which she played Ziva David, an Israeli Mossad officer turned NCIS agent.

"Really?" de Pablo exclaimed after executive producer Roma Downey told the Television Critics Association about the March 31 scheduling.

De Pablo left "NCIS" in 2013 amid contract negotiations with the network, which prompted a social media outcry from her fans. Downey, the former star of CBS' "Touched by an Angel," said airing "The Dovekeepers" first half after "NCIS" was intended to take advantage of de Pablo's outspoken base.

The hope is that de Pablo's followers will be "very noisy" in drawing attention to the movie, Downey said. The project, based on Alice Hoffman's 2011 novel of the same name, dramatizes the siege of the ancient desert fortress of Masada — now part of Israel — by Roman Empire troops. The second part airs April 1.

**MacLachlan to return in 'Twin Peaks' sequel**

When "Twin Peaks" returns to TV, FBI agent Dale Cooper will be along for the ride.

Kyle MacLachlan is reprising the role in Showtime's sequel to the 1990-91 ABC drama, the cable channel said Monday.

"Twin Peaks," which eerily posed the question, "Who killed Laura Palmer?" was set in an off-beat Northwestern town. It had a small but devoted following, and some critics have called it ahead of its time and the subsequent era of drawing shows.

Showtime has said the limited-run series, set in the present day, is going into production this year and will air in 2016.

## WIRED WORLD

## Gadgets galore

International CES showcases products ranging from the revolutionary to the ridiculous

BY ANICK JESDANUN,  
BRANDON BAILEY  
AND KIMBERLY PIERCEALL  
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Sure, the International CES show was chock full of connected cars, smart home sensors, music gear and computer gadgets, as you'd expect. There were even drones buzzing the 160,000-plus people that trooped across the 2.2 million square feet of exhibit space along the Las Vegas Strip. But if you didn't get to see some of these goodies, well, you just haven't lived.

Of the tons of products on display, here are a few that inspired, brought a chuckle, or made you just say, hmmm, yeah, I definitely need that. (Wink.)

**Stop, or I'll take out my iPad.** The gun holsters of old-timey detectives, hidden under an arm and concealed under a coat, have inspired a holder of something else entirely.

Tech Slinger's holster features a pocket large enough for a tablet on one side and a smartphone and accessories on the other. When worn, devices hang below each arm. Think of it as a storage device for Inspector Gadget.

The company says the holster will prevent people from leaving their devices in a cab or the seat-back pocket of a plane. The devices stay with you but won't weigh on a shoulder like a backpack or satchel might.

This year, Tech Slinger introduced a new "side order" sling to go around a person's waist — great

for restaurant staffers who carry tablets to take orders.

The company sells the holsters for \$70 to \$75.

**Look Segway, no hands.** Zipping around as if he were floating, hands in his pockets, Kazar Beierian, of Montebello, did effortless circles around the journalists walking from one press conference to the next.

He was riding his company's IO Hawk. The forward-facing auto-balancing board just needed a little pressure from the toes to start moving.

Leaning forward too much, though, could sometimes send a person backward.

The device costs \$1,800 and has a rival: Inventist's Hovertrax.

**Able to walk again.** One touching moment came when Shane Mosko stood up and walked with the aid of a robotic exoskeleton.

Mosko, who has partial leg paralysis from a spinal cord injury, usually needs a wheelchair. The robotic aide from Ekso Bionic now allows him to walk about 500 steps before tiring. The system includes mechanized leg braces, a battery backpack and a walking cane with controls to operate the system. Software and weight sensors are used to adjust the mechanized gait to the ability of each user.

"I think half of what this brings to the table is the psychological aspect of looking like people in the eyes," said Mosko. "You don't think about it, but being in a wheelchair, you are down low, you're in your own world."

Ekso cofounder Russ Angold



**Above:** A robot plays beer pong at the Empire Robotics booth at the International CES in Las Vegas.

**Left:** Tech Slinger's TechSling smart device holster is a wearable storage device for your tablet, smartphone and accessories, inspired by the old-time gun holsters worn by detectives.

**Bottom left:** The IO Hawk looks to improve on the Segway as a hands-free personal transportation device.

AP photos

daily life," said Sony Corp. CEO Kazuo Hirai.

Sony didn't announce a price or release date.

**Flatbread fix.** The smell of baking flatbread wafted through the air as a Silicon Valley startup demonstrated a robotic kitchen device.

The Rotimatic uses sensors, software and electric motors to make the Indian staple "roti," or unleavened flatbread, at about one per minute — faster than the half-hour or more it takes to mix, knead and cook by hand. Just add flour, water and oil. The Rotimatic measures the ingredients and kneads and flattens the dough. It even adjusts the dough and cooking temperature for any spices or herbs added for variety.

What to pay for something that makes only one kind of bread? \$599.

**Tomorrow's gadgets.** A new smartwatch from Samsung has a glass interface to appear transparent, while a new phone has a hologram interface with fingerprint security. There's also a Bluetooth earpiece with a metallic frame for combat-ready durability.

Where can you buy them? Sorry, they exist only in Hollywood. They were custom-made by Samsung for the upcoming "Avengers" movie from Marvel. Financial terms weren't disclosed.

The props were on display at a private event at CES. There are no current plans to make even fake versions for fans.

said the Ekso GT has been used by about 3,500 patients recovering from stroke and spinal injuries since it was first sold in 2012.

"It gives you so much hope that spinal cord injuries are going to be a thing of the past someday," said Mosko.

**Bikers beware.** Volvo wants cyclists to know when a car is coming.

In partnership with Ericsson and sports gear maker POC, Volvo demonstrated how its car would get a signal from a nearby cyclist's phone GPS. Meanwhile, the cyclist's helmet would flash

a series of lights and vibrate if that person's phone senses that a Volvo is nearby and on a collision course.

Volvo says the connected helmet still needs more testing before it can be sold.

**Illuminated songs.** Sony's Symphonic Light Speaker looks like a clear cylinder of glass that surrounds an LED light bulb. The glass itself vibrates imperceptibly to act as a speaker to play music from a smartphone or other device.

"It fills your room with music while obviously lighting up your



## MILITARY

## TRUE N

## AT THULE AIR BASE IN GREENLAND

By PATRICK DICKSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

**T**HULE AIR BASE, Greenland's 8:36 on this early October morning, and the sun is starting to peek out from beyond South Mountain.

The weekly charter flight is bringing people and supplies. It, too, makes an appearance over South Mountain as it begins to bank right, approaching the only runway here at Thule Air Base, America's northernmost military base.

Inside the operations building, the command staff is joking with each other and getting ready for a weekly ritual. "Ready?" Out they go.

They form a line between the building and the parked jet, welcoming those who blearily exit. They've flown 5½ hours overnight from Baltimore Washington International Airport on the weekly contract flight. It's cramped but as well-served as any commercial flight.

Some are returning from leave. Some are family, flown in to visit their loved one in uniform. Some are above the Arctic Circle for the first time, feeling their first burst of 15-degree air and looking out at the windswept, treeless but oddly beautiful base they will call home for one year.

Capt. Ryan Crean, who handles logistics for the

821st Support Squadron, smiled when asked about the environs. "A scientist once told me, 'Greenland has some of the most beautiful forest in the world, but it's an inch tall,'" he said.

The 10,000-foot runway, a holdover from the days of the Strategic Air Command and the B-52 bombers that used it, and the base's extensive infrastructure make possible just about anything the Western world wants to accomplish in the Arctic.

The National Science Foundation rotates researchers through the base. They continue on to Summit Camp, atop 2 miles of ice in the country's interior, to measure global warming and other weather phenomena.

Allied nations also need the support of Thule's 821st Operations Wing, which handles the flights. Greenland was granted self-government in 1979 by Denmark but remains within the kingdom, so 400 Danes are here doing the support functions with the help of native Greenlanders.

One of the biggest support missions for the base is Operation Boxtop, which twice a year resupplies Canadian Forces Stations Alert and Eureka, tiny outposts 300 miles farther north on Canadian soil — or, more accurately, on Canadian permafrost — on Ellesmere Island across the Nares Strait.

For Boxtop II, from Sept. 22 to Oct. 3, 47 sorties — a mixture of Canadian C-17s and C-130s — delivered 206 tons of dry goods and more than 350,000 gallons of fuel for the winter months.

But the base's two main missions — tracking satellites and orbiting debris, and watching for ballistic missile launches from the "Russian landmass" — are the reason the base was built, and why the seemingly anachronistic base remains.

### History

Thule, pronounced TOO-lee, is a Greek word that first appears in the writings of the explorer Pytheas, from roughly 330 B.C. The term "ultima Thule" in medieval maps denotes any distant place beyond the "borders of the known world."

The part of Greenland now known as Thule was settled by Denmark in the early 20th century by explorer Knud Rasmussen, whose name graces the base community center.

The U.S. government built weather and radio stations in the area beginning in 1941 to help in the war effort against the Germans. But it was "communist aggression" in 1950 that heralded Operation Blue Jay, according to an Army documentary of the same name, when "a giant air base on top of the world" was constructed.

Thule and its more than 10,000 150 miles inland nuclear-powered bomber, occupied Polar Research survival in Arctic ice sheet.

But this was designed "Ice tunnels dug into was eventually No missiles were Camp Century.

By 1969, the c which was cr claimed it. Its n for 33 months, v

Most Army Nike-Hercules air missiles were not all of it dete personnel.

A local popul Qaanaaq, 60 mi est village of "lo





# Extreme conditions part of the landscape

BY PATRICK DICKSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

**THULE AIR BASE, Greenland** — Legend has it that Erik the Red, father of famed explorer Leif Ericson, gave Greenland its name to attract settlers.

It's a plausible theory; the island is inhabited in dots along the southern coasts, since the interior is a frozen wasteland.

The vast ice sheet, 2 miles thick at its peak, stretches for 750 miles to the east coast from Thule, and more than twice that north to south. The big empty. An ice sheet three times the size of Texas. Glaciers spill into fjords along the coast. At Thule, the land slopes down to the base, North Star Bay and Mount Dundas.

The capriciousness of the weather is fascinating and frightening, something all too familiar for base residents.

Winter was fast approaching. As the Earth tilts away from the sun, Thule becomes a land of permanent night, and permanent cold, dipping to as low as 47 below zero, according to base statistics.

"The coldest I saw, during a storm, was minus-60," 1st Lt. Matthew Smokovitz said. "It gets to a point where you can't really tell the difference. It's already cold — who cares at this point?"

High winds, created by low pressure to the west over Baffin Bay, blow in off the ice cap from the southeast. The air is channeled into the valley where Thule is located, increasing the wind speed. According to the base welcome packet, during a storm in March 1972, the anemometer on a storm shelter recorded what is now considered the third highest wind velocity ever: 207 mph.

**SEE EXTREME ON PAGE 20**

**“The coldest I saw, during a storm, was minus-60. It gets to a point where you can't really tell the difference. It's already cold — who cares at this point?”**  
1st Lt. Matthew Smokovitz

Surrounding bases were once host to 10 military members. Camp Century, built from Thule, was a self-sustaining, closed city with 200 soldiers in the summer from 1959 to 1966 under the Army and Development Center to study Arctic climates and to do research on the

the era of the Cuban missile crisis, also worked on plans to base newly arrived ICBMs in a massive network of tunnels to the ice sheet. "Project Iceworm" was deemed impractical and abandoned. The ever known to have been based at

camp was left to the shifting ice sheet, shoring its walls and eventually re-rectangular reactor, which provided power was removed.

Personnel were assigned to nearby missile sites. Mortars and ground-troops part of their equipment, and they were regularly. As with any ordnance, mounted, and there are signs warning

ation was moved to a village called to the north. It remains the near-calls" — accessible only by sea or he-

licopter — though much of the old Thule village still stands, its structures being reclaimed slowly in the dry cold.

The village stands at the foot of Mount Dundas, which looms over the base in every sense. It's on the T-shirts at the small BX. "Been there, Done Dundas." A newcomer gets his bearings finding it, and it's a rite of passage for anyone stationed here. During the months when the sun appears — March to October — you are almost expected to climb it.

## Community

In such austere conditions, there are limited options for ways to spend free time.

Some get lost in themselves, retreating to their room to Skype with a girlfriend or take classes on the somewhat slow "Dormnet." There is no commissary, and most visit the chow hall — the Dundas Buffet Restaurant — three times a day. As at most remote U.S. military locations, the food is excellent.

Some drink. One American contractor summed it up this way: "You either become a chunk, a drunk or a hunk."

First Lt. Matthew Smokovitz, 25, of Canton, Mich., was spending his last few days at Thule, and said the amount people drink rises when the sun goes down in October and doesn't reappear for months.

"It seemed like, this probably isn't the best thing, but people get a lot more sedentary during the dark season and they don't have a lot to do, and sometimes drinking picks up a little more because, 'What else are we going to do today?'"

"You can go to the bowling alley, go to the gym, the community center, I guess," said Smokovitz, who spent his first assignment here at the 12th Space Warning Squadron. "It's like a rinse-and-repeat thing. It's so cold and so dark; where you gonna go?"

Base leaders are careful not to let their people go down this rabbit hole.

The gym is top-notch and always has special programs, including a four-country hockey tournament while Canadian forces were deployed here for Box-top. (The Danes won it all.)

The community center hosts visiting musicians — country singer Ash Bowlers was there in early October — and shows movies in its theater. There's a vast lending library of books and videos, and talks by visiting Inuits and scientists.

"It's a very tight-knit community. Everybody looks out for each other," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Brumbaugh, 34, of Sacramento, Calif. "But with that, you do tend to make good friends, and it makes it harder to leave because of how close you get."

**SEE PAGE 18**

MILITARY

# KEEPING WATCH

Missile Warning Operations Center keeps continuous eye out for missiles 'launched in anger'

By PATRICK DICKSON  
Stars and Stripes

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland — In the dimly lit Missile Warning Operations Center, scrubbed of classified information before visitors enter, two airmen monitored the computer screens, watching for the telltale indicators of ballistic missile launches.

They talked over a secure system with other operators around the globe, never more than an arm's length from a telephone with push-button connections to some of the highest-level security personnel in the United States.

The airmen were at the helm of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, a radar that detects, tracks and provides threat assessment of ballistic missiles launched from the Russian landmass.

"The radar will compute where the object came from, will give you a rough location of the launch site and, more importantly, it will project where it's going," said Maj. Chris Castle, operations officer for the 12th Space Warning Squadron. He spoke matter-of-factly about the technical aspects of the BMEWS, the mission and nuclear annihilation.

"At that point, we hand that off to the command and control centers — Cheyenne Mountain — and people will determine if we're under attack."

He grinned. "Now, that doesn't happen very often. People don't launch long-range missiles in anger very much."

Castle noted that while the BMEWS has

**“We’re just one small part of the picture. But we’re good. We’re so far north, that anything in a polar orbit is passing through here. So a lot of interesting things are happening in the sky above Thule.”**

Maj. Chris Castle

12th Space Warning Squadron operations officer

FROM PAGE 17

The air-traffic controller has been at Thule for about six months. "The best thing is the people," he said.

Sean Lohr is a contractor working at Detachment 1. He's been through seven winters at Thule.

"It's a small-town atmosphere," said Lohr, 38, of Colorado Springs, Colo. "It's difficult to go anywhere when you don't at least recognize a face.

"Back at our barracks, we have a set-up that will play video games and a set-up to where we can watch movies or listen to music or whatever," Lohr said. "If we get sick of seeing each other's faces, we can go to our rooms and be by ourselves."

Families can fly in once a year to visit. Smokovitz talked about the visit his wife, an Air Force officer in the space community, made in late winter.

"She came during the dark sea-

son, so she didn't really get to see what Thule has; she saw the buildings and stuff. She had the same impression I had at first: This is Cold War stuff. It's really odd.

Castle said she wasn't envious; but the one thing she did say was, at least the squadron is good," he said. "The people that are here, they're ready to go have fun. They want to hang out, they want to talk; they're social."

Among his favorite things about Thule is listening to the calving of glaciers on the bay.

"There's a whole bunch of icebergs. When there's no wind, the sound of the icebergs breaking apart — it's like thunder. It's incredible. ... You can't believe you're hearing it."

What would Smokovitz tell an airman who gets Thule as an



The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, or BMEWS, is one of three such installations that keep an eye out for long-range missiles leaving the Russian landmass."

PATRICK DICKSON  
Stars and Stripes

other more routine, time-consuming functions, missile warning is the core mission at Thule.

It's a year-round, 24/7 operation with downtime only for maintenance, which is tightly controlled and scheduled in advance with its sister radars at RAF Fylingdales in the U.K. and Clear Air Force Station, Alaska.

"The radars send out a sweep of beams at a low elevation that allow the receivers to detect anything in its window. They allow operators to see anything coming off the Russian landmass. It can detect anything," Castle said. "It's sufficient enough to catch any Earth-launched object" within its field of view.

Because the radar is so sensitive — it can "see" a flock of geese — computer algorithms analyze the size and speed of any object and determine whether it is threatening.

When the radar detects something that could be a ballistic missile, it will present a track — "a yellow line on the computer with an origin point, where the object is in its flight path, and then where it's headed," Castle said.

That information is passed up the chain to Cheyenne Mountain, where it is integrated and shotgunned to a network defense system that includes AEGIS cruisers, Patriot missile batteries and U.S. missile silos.

Cheyenne Mountain Complex in Colorado, familiar to some from the Matthew Broderick movie "WarGames," was built deep inside the granite mountain in the late 1950s as a hardened command-and-control center for defense against Soviet missiles and long-range bombers.

"To my knowledge, we've never detected something we didn't know was coming," Castle said.

"We can see test launches," he said. "When

the Russians launch test vehicles from the North Sea — and they routinely test their new submarine-launched ballistic missile, the Bulava — usually we can see those. But, luckily, there's a large intelligence structure within the Department of Defense, so those things are not surprises to us."

While missile warning is the priority, 98 percent of what consumes the BMEWS staff is tracking space objects.

"Every day, we receive a list of objects the radar is supposed to track. And the radar is a very smart machine, and it does most of this on its own," Castle said. "It makes sure that Earth-orbiting objects are where they're supposed to be."

"That's a lot of junk in space. The majority of what's up there is junk. But we have to keep track of that stuff."

BMEWS personnel monitoring space junk — the radar is so sensitive it can see something the size of a grapefruit at a distance of 3,000 miles — answer to the Joint Space Operations Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

For polar-orbiting satellites, the poles are the only common point when the Earth is turning, so operators here see satellites and debris multiple times a day, whereas the same object might pass over a station at the equator only once a day.

"We're just one small part of the picture. But we're good, Castle said. "We're so far north, that anything in a polar orbit is passing through here. So a lot of interesting things are happening in the sky above Thule."

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The U.S. military winds up in some of the most remote places on the planet:

**1 Shemya Air Base, Alaska**

Located on the second-to-last major Aleutian Island, it combines the charm of Greenland weather with the spaciousness of Guam.

**2 Kwajalein Atoll**

Kwajalein Atoll is 2.5 miles long and averages 800 yards wide, and is home to 1,000 people, mostly Americans, about 2,100 miles southwest of Honolulu.

**3 RAF Ascension Island**

Located on the Tristan da Cunha archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, RAF Ascension Island is 1,750 miles west of South Africa, and 2,090 miles east of South America. The U.S. Air Force has a small contingent there.

**4 McMurdo Station Antarctica**

McMurdo Station is operated by the National Science Foundation but houses some military members who get people in and out. It's on Ross Island in Antarctica, claimed by the nearest country, New Zealand, which is 2,800 miles away.

**5 Diego Garcia**

Diego Garcia, a tiny atoll in the Indian Ocean, is almost 1,000 miles south-southwest of India.

**6 Lajes Field, Portugal**

Lajes Field, on the small, Portuguese-owned Azores in the Atlantic some 1,000 miles west of Portugal, is an important refueling station for aircraft.

**7 Guam**

At 30 miles long, 8 miles wide, Guam is a lonely 1,600 miles east of Tokyo or Manila. It hosts bases for the U.S. Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

ONLINE

For more photos, videos and an interactive map of remote assignments for U.S. servicemembers, go to [stripes.com/go/thule](http://stripes.com/go/thule)



assignment? "Keep an open mind about it," he said. "A lot of people who've had negative things to say about this place haven't seen it."

On his last night, Smokovitz was initiated into the Knights

of the Blue Nose, a ceremony derived from the Navy's penchant for celebrating the crossing of the equator and other geographical markers. It honors the recipient for having endured a year in "this dread region of the earth."

"Having served the minimum apprenticeship north of the Arctic Circle with the armed forces of the United States of America," read his boss, Lt Col Jason Resley, "Lt. Smokovitz is hereby accorded the honor as a Knight of the Blue Nose."

Then his unit mates took the traditional magic markers and

made his nose, and much of his face, blue.

Goodbye

The operations building where passengers gather to board the plane back to the United States, is no bigger than a 7-Eleven. People had come in from the pre-dawn cold, and chocked a bit on their goodbyes. Brumbaugh's words resonated.

"Call me, OK?"

One airman said goodbye to his wife and two children, they were coming all too quickly to a close.

He buried his nose in his baby daughter's hair, kissing her over and over as his wife and son busied themselves among their things.

Soon they boarded. The bird was up. And those left behind prepared for the long, dark winter.

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MILITARY

# ‘WITHOUT POLAR BEAR, WE ARE NOTHING’

## Inuits bring hunting, heritage to Thule

By **PATRICK DICKSON**  
Stars and Stripes

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland — On a bitter late September day, in water temperatures at the base pier around 32 degrees, two Inuit men visiting Thule to demonstrate their culture took to the harbor in kayaks to show how they maneuver and roll and, mostly, how they stay afloat.

“Cold,” said Outlaq Qajaqitsoq as he splashed water on his face before executing rolls in the frigid water. “Next year, we do this in August.”

The day before, Mads Ole Kristiansen, from nearby Qaanaaq, came to Knud Rasmussen’s Community Center on Thule to explain traditional hunting practices to an appreciative crowd of 50 U.S. and Canadian military members, as well as the Danes who support them.

Both visits were part of a series of events designed to keep the people here from going stir crazy. Other distractions include movies, a hockey tournament and all-terrain vehicle rides to the local waterfall.

Kristiansen shared his heri-

tage with the crowd, his English halting.

“I was born in ‘60, and that time, every Inuit boy, he must be doing with hunting,” he said. “And I was 8 years old. I was beginning with my father to fishing and hunting.”

He occasionally looked to fellow Greenlander and community center employee Helene Nielsen for help with a word, but the 54-year-old offered a 45-minute talk on Inuit hunting techniques.

As his daughter Aviana, 5, and son, Suikkaq, 2, flitted around the room, playing under the pool tables, Kristiansen talked about the different seasons of hunting, quotas on how many of each animal he could kill in a season and how each is hunted.

Most Inuit retain their traditional first names but have Danish family names, but the result of Danish priests ministering to the families starting in the early 20th century. They live and hunt much as their ancestors did.

“From my heart, I understand my past,” Kristiansen said. “They live here in high Arctic, and they hunt walrus, narwhal, polar bear and seal. ... Polar bear. Most im-



PATRICK DICKSON/Stars and Stripes

**Malik Kleist rights his kayak with the help of his fellow kayaker, Outlaq Qajaqitsoq. A group of Inuit locals demonstrated their culture and provided food in front of a small but appreciative and apprehensive crowd watching from the Thule Air Base main pier.**

portant to us. Without polar bear, we are nothing.”

He talked about hunting narwhal.

“Many narwhal come in our fjord every summer, to make newborn,” he said, mentioning the national rules and quotas. “They want to keep narwhal in this area, and must be safe. No following narwhal in boat; they must be hunting in kayak. That why in 2014, there still narwhal in our fjord.”

He nickered up a narwhal. The

tip of which comes off when it enters the narwhal. It is attached to a rope, and at the other end is a balloon made of seal skin. The narwhal is easily tracked and becomes exhausted.

At the pier, the Inuit men were selling narwhal meat, as well as that of seal, mink ox and beluga whale — all laid out on plastic sheets.

The community center also had arranged for Thule personnel to sample some seal stew — a bit gamey but not unlike beef or ven-

ison — and narwhal soup, which did not have much taste, with onions and potatoes mixed in.

One Danish nurse, Karina Nielsen Kastberg, bought a five-pound hunk of mink ox.

“It’s good as steak, or minced. It’s like tasting heaven,” she said.

Soon the group of about 10 Inuit men and women began packing up and getting ready to set out for Qaanaaq, 60 miles north. In three days, it would be walrus season.

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FROM PAGE 17

The welcome packet is probably the only one in the Air Force with this provision: “Storm Condition Delta — All personnel are restricted to the buildings in which they are located at the time a Storm Delta is declared. Absolutely No Pedestrian Or Vehicular Travel Is Permitted.”

Even in good weather, drivers are required to radio in with the number of travelers and destination when leaving the base perimeter, marked with signs rather than a fence.

The changing conditions are of particular interest to the crew at the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System. They are on a mountain where the weather is crazier than down on the base, and they need to be married 24/7, all year. No exceptions.

Maj. Chris Castle, the operations officer at BMEWS, said the weather can change in an instant.

“When that happens, we have to be pre-positioned to ensure that we can continue operations,” Castle said, “because we can be severed from the main base for three or four days, so we have to keep an eye on the weather.”

Having two crews on site is essential. “If it takes a turn for the worse, we bring up other folks to augment the ones who are here, send home people who don’t need to be here, and that way people can just rotate in and out here, without having to travel on the road,” he said.

Smokovitz recounted one such day. “It was the day before or on Thanksgiving, and I got recalled,” he said. “That’s the thing with being on crew; if the weather gets bad or something bad happens, they can call you. You’re basically on six-ring standby; you’ve got six rings to pick up or you’ve got some other alarm.”

“So, all right, pack your bags, quick quick

quick, run out to the truck, and by the time we made it up to ‘12 Swiss’ (the 12th Space Warning Squadron) the weather just kept getting worse and worse as we went up the mountain.

“We should have pulled over and gone into the storm shelter,” he said. “I mean, we had the car in first gear; it was barely moving along. We just couldn’t see anything.”

Shelters dot the roads to the radars and North and South Mountains. Each has two beds, some food in a footlocker with a breakable seal, and a phone connected directly to a base operator. Best of all, there is a heater. The heat knocks you back when you open the door.

### Predicting the storm

At 947 miles from the North Pole, Thule is closer to Moscow than to Washington, and without much land mass upwind, forecasting the weather is more a seat-of-the-pants operation than at just about any U.S. weather station.

Al Hay, 44, is a retired Air Force master sergeant. He has been a polar forecaster for 12 years and has been a contractor at Thule for two years. As the Air Force takes over forecasting at Thule, he’s returning to his roots, forecasting weather on the other side of the Earth — Antarctica. Hay is headed to McMurdo Station this month.

“We’re working here with minimal data,” he said. “In the States, you have a large network of radars ... whereas up here, you got nothing; you got Baffin Bay. Nothing really local in our area.”

Despite the lack of data, the weather guys must be ready to sound the alarm.

Dave Siebert, 57, who calls Phoenix home,



spent 20 years in the Air Force and seven years at Thule.

“We’ve got two main missions here: Resource Protection is going to be the populace of the base as well as the equipment,” he said. “We have a 30-knot warning for, like, not opening the hangar doors.”

“The second one is going to be for the aircraft that comes through. We support anyone, from NASA, Canada, a lot of scientists; Ukraine comes through just for general exercises.”

Tech. Sgt. John Thompson III, 34, had been at Thule for three weeks.

“[Y]ou get into the storm season, the colder season, and [weather forecasters] get into notification of when there may be large storms, or hurricane-force winds, blizzards, whiteouts, things like that, that cause people to be relegated to their dorm with no movement. You don’t wanna head outside in something like that.”

Some years are bad. Siebert remembered one year with seven Charlie storms with some going into Delta; other years have one Charlie that lasts a few hours.

### Shifting ground

The base sits on permafrost, which is soil at or below freezing. All construction has to be raised so the heat of the building or pipes doesn’t melt the soil and destabilize the structure.

Pipes that cross streets arch over the traffic at 90-degree angles, and the super-highways of pipes between the barracks make for some of the ugliest landscaping imaginable.

When you’re aiming radars thousands of miles out, soil stability is crucial. Castle pointed out the cooling towers at the facility.

“To have a large-foundation building, very heavy and very large, especially something that’s producing a lot of heat ... your building can settle and crack and move,” he said.

To cool the ground under the massive radar systems, an intricate cooling system was installed, he said, “which is really counterintuitive: Why would I have to cool something in Greenland? But they have to pump cold Arctic air constantly underneath that to keep from settling.”

### Permanent midnight

In October, the sun arcs low across the southern sky. You lose about a half-hour of light each day. In November, twilight gives way to constant darkness.

“Dark season was a little weird,” Smokovitz said. He arrived in October, working the midnight shift and sleeping during daylight hours until the sun set for good. “It was always dark, and I never saw anybody for months. ... It’s awkward; your body is used to seeing the sunlight, used to seeing people.”

Full-spectrum lighting, which mimics sunlight and is sometimes used in the treatment of seasonal affective disorder, is available in the dorm rooms. Some airmen gave the devices positive reviews, but everyone who’d been through one winter lit up when talking about the sun’s return.

“On Feb. 21, we had the ‘first light’ party. ‘The sun’s out! The sun’s back!’ Smokovitz said. The higher altitude at BMEWS gave the crew there a glimpse of the sun over the opposing mountains before the people on the main base saw it.

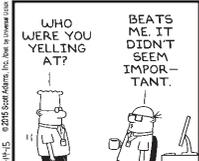
“We always referred to it as ‘hope on the horizon.’”

dickson.patrick@stripes.com  
Twitter: StripesDChief

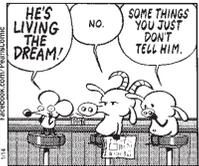
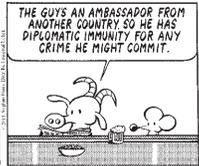
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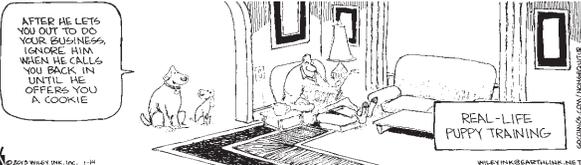
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



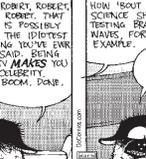
Non Sequitur



Cantorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
				21					22	23		24
28	29	30							31			32
33				34					35			36
37				38					39			40
41				42					43			
				44					45			46
50	51	52							53	54		55
56									57			58
59									60			61

ACROSS

- 1 Venomous viper
- 4 Capital of Qatar
- 8 Impale
- 12 "Ulalume" writer
- 13 Terrible fellow?
- 14 — Stanley Gardner
- 15 Baseball stat
- 18 First pig's building material
- 20 Flightless one
- 21 20-Across, e.g.
- 24 Become established
- 28 Dugongs' cousins
- 32 Ore deposit
- 33 Altar affirmative
- 34 Dieter's lunch
- 36 Buck's mate
- 37 Unuttered "alms"
- 39 Car exhaust part
- 41 Bend down
- 43 Holler
- 44 Lingerie buy
- 46 Swiss mathematician
- 50 Gesture
- 55 Have bills
- 56 Medley
- 57 Streetcar
- 58 Skillet
- 59 "Dragnet" star
- 60 — good example
- 61 Conclusion

DOWN

- 1 Tarzan's clique
- 2 Do mailroom work
- 3 Anjou, e.g.
- 4 Fools
- 5 Eggs
- 6 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 7 Hechay or Hechaw
- 8 Movie with a, maybe
- 9 Play about Capote
- 10 Foreman rival
- 11 Stein or Stiller
- 17 Type measures
- 19 Lawyers' org.
- 22 Paper quantity
- 23 Hold off on
- 25 Big other
- 26 Pedestal occupant
- 27 Can't forgo
- 28 Fail to hit
- 29 Mine entrance
- 30 "Mission abort-ed"
- 31 Logical
- 35 Predicament
- 38 Mingle
- 40 Winter ailment
- 42 Opposite of "post"
- 45 — and crafts
- 47 Run easily
- 48 Actor McGregor
- 49 Tear asunder
- 50 Neaten the lawn
- 51 Milwaukee product
- 52 Pen point
- 53 Rage
- 54 Perched

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1-14

CRYPTOQUIP

ILBO WHNW -KAPVHOQ ULPV  
 XHOB TIHO PR TKAPVQ  
 CLOOTR BOTRUW. PXXPCTROVQ  
 NCTPO IHRTB BOHRD PVHDT.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ANY LAW IS MADE GRANTING PEOPLE FREEDOM, WOULD IT BE NAMED THE STATUTE OF LIBERTY?  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals T

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# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AIR

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. [myafn.com](http://myafn.com)

## Pro football

- NFL playoffs**  
**Wild-card Playoffs**  
**Saturday, Jan. 10**  
 Carolina 27, Arizona 16  
 Baltimore 30, Pittsburgh 17  
**Sunday, Jan. 11**  
 Indianapolis 26, Cincinnati 10  
 Dallas 24, Denver 13
- Divisional Playoffs**  
**Saturday, Jan. 10**  
 New England 35, Baltimore 31  
 Seattle 31, Carolina 17  
**Sunday, Jan. 11**  
 Green Bay 26, Dallas 21  
 Indianapolis 41, Oakland 20
- Conference Championships**  
**Sunday, Jan. 11**  
 Green Bay at Seattle  
 Indianapolis at Oakland
- Super Bowl**  
**Sunday, Feb. 1**  
 AFC champion vs. NFC champion

## NFL Draft early entries

- Jay Ajayi, Jr., Boise State  
 Sammie Coates, W. Auburn  
 Brock Flowers, St. Louis  
 Landan Collins, S. Alabama  
 Amar Cooper, W. Alabama  
 Ronald Davis, Jr., Florida State  
 Mike Darby, Jr., South Carolina  
 Chris Edwards, Jr., Florida State  
 Durrell Eskridge, S. Syracuse  
 Ezekiel Flowers, St. Louis  
 Devin Funchess, W. Michigan  
 Aaron Garcia, W. Virginia  
 Dorial Green-Beckham, W. Oklahoma  
 Randy Gregory, de, Nebraska  
 Jamar Holmes, Jr., Georgia  
 Eli Harold, de, Virginia  
 Ryan Harris, W. Kentucky  
 Duke Johnson, Jr., Miami  
 Matt Jones, W. Kentucky  
 Tyler Kraft, de, Rutgers  
 Jeff Leatham, de, Washington  
 Kendrick McKinney, II, Mississippi State

- Andrew Peat, de, Stanford  
 Jordan Phillips, de, Washington  
 Bradley Pinnell, P. Clemson  
 Josh Robinson, Jr., Mississippi State  
 Donovan Smith, of, Penn State  
 Jaelyn Strain, of, Arizona State  
 Isaac Thompson, Jr., Washington  
 Max Valles, Jr., Virginia  
 Mike Williams, de, Washington  
 Leonard Williams, de, Southern Cal  
 Jamal Williams, de, Washington  
 P.J. Williams, de, Florida State  
 James Winston, de, Florida State  
 Y. Jordan, W. Alabama

## College hockey

### NCAA Division I poll

- MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll compiled by the College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parentheses through Jan. 11 and previous ranking:
- |                           |      |     |
|---------------------------|------|-----|
| 1. Minnesota State (20)   | 4-1  | 916 |
| 2. Boston University (12) | 3-4  | 216 |
| 3. Michigan State (1)     | 1-1  | 212 |
| 4. Harvard (5)            | 10-2 | 832 |
| 5. Minnesota-Duluth (4)   | 1-2  | 807 |
| 6. UMass-Lowell (14)      | 4-3  | 688 |
| 7. Bowling Green (13)     | 3-4  | 682 |
| 8. Colgate (10)           | 1-3  | 614 |
| 9. Miami (18)             | 4-8  | 602 |
| 10. Vermont (16)          | 2-7  | 583 |
| 11. Michigan Tech (15)    | 6-1  | 496 |
| 12. Cornell (19)          | 1-1  | 492 |
| 13. Denver (11)           | 7-1  | 333 |
| 14. Providence (14)       | 7-1  | 330 |
| 15. Colgate (10)          | 1-3  | 310 |
| 16. Minnesota (17)        | 7-1  | 311 |
| 17. Boston College (12)   | 2-7  | 233 |
| 18. Yale (16)             | 9-4  | 203 |
| 19. Michigan (18)         | 1-1  | 197 |
| 20. Merrimack (10)        | 11-6 | 132 |

**Others receiving votes:** North Morris 33, Northern Michigan 12, Penn State 7, Union 7, Mercyhurst 2, Penn State 2, Bentley 1, Western Michigan 1.

**AP sportlight**  
**Jan. 16**  
 1962 — Will Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors scores 41 points and grabs 24 rebounds as he won MVP honor after leading his team to a 107-97 win over the West's 150-139 in the NBA All-Star game. The West's Bob Pettit pulls down an All-Star record 23 rebounds.

1972 — The Dallas Cowboys dominate the Redskins in a 34-7 Super Bowl rematch of 252 yards rushing en route to a 24-3 victory.

1995 — Palm Beach millionaire Malcolm Glazer buys the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for an estimated \$192 million.

## College football

### AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses through Jan. 11, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

Rank	Team	Record	Points	1st Place
1.	Ohio St. (59)	12-1	1402	3
2.	Oregon	12-1	1340	2
3.	Alabama	12-2	1297	1
4.	Florida State	11-1	1212	2
5.	Michigan St.	10-2	1212	2
7.	Baylor	10-1	1098	4
8.	Georgia Tech	10-2	1098	4
9.	Georgia	10-3	925	13
10.	UCF	10-3	908	10
11.	Mississippi St.	10-3	767	8
12.	Arizona St.	10-3	756	15
13.	North Carolina	11-1	724	17
14.	Missouri	11-3	710	16
15.	Clemson	10-3	683	16
16.	Boise St.	12-2	653	21
17.	Michigan	9-4	59	24
18.	Kansas St.	9-4	509	11
19.	Arizona	10-4	492	12
20.	Southern Cal	9-4	312	24
21.	Utah	9-4	302	23
22.	Auburn	10-3	216	19
23.	Marshall	11-3	161	NR
24.	Louisiana St.	9-4	116	19
25.	Memphis	10-3	94	NR

**Others receiving votes:** Notre Dame 22, Nebraska 27, Oklahoma 18, Duke 18, LSU 12, Utah St. 11, Arkansas 10, Tennessee 3, Ole Miss 3, Texas A&M 7, N. Illinois 4, Colorado St. 2.

### Tennis

#### Hobart International

**Monday**  
**At The Dominion Centre**  
**Hobart, Australia**  
**Purse: \$250,000 (Ind.)**  
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**

- First Round**  
 Alison Riske (8), United States, def. Christina McHale, United States, 6-4, 6-4, retired.  
 Anika Beck (6), Germany, def. Jana Cepelova, Slovakia, 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-4.  
 Camilla Giorgi (3), Italy, def. Storm Sanders, Australia, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Zorana Jandric (2), Kazakhstan, def. Silvia Haler Espinosa, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Bjarna Ivanovic, Serbia, def. Mirjana Lucic-Baroni, Croatia, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Katerina Vincic (9), Italy, def. Olivia Rogowska, Poland, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Roberta Kolcova, Ukraine, def. Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.  
 Johanna Larsson, Sweden, def. Zheng Saisai (9), China, 3-6, 1-0, retired.  
 Richel Hogenkamp, Netherlands, def. Mireia Martínez, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Magdalena Fręch, Poland, def. Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, 7-6 (3), 6-4.  
 Johanna Konta, Great Britain, def. Lauren Davis, United States, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Richel Hogenkamp, Netherlands, 6-4 (7), 7-6 (5).

**Women**  
 Bianca Andreescu, United States, def. Mona Barthel (7), Germany, 6-7 (6), 7-5, 7-6 (2).

### Heinen Open

**Monday**  
**At ASB Bank Tennis Centre**  
**Auckland, New Zealand**  
**Purse: \$615,995 (WTO)**  
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**

- First Round**  
 Adrian Panatta (6), Italy, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina, 6-1, 6-1.  
 Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Donald Young (1), United States, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Steve Johnson (8), United States, def. Joao Sousa (8), Portugal, 6-4, 6-4.

### ATP International

**Monday**  
**At Olympic Park Tennis Centre**  
**Sydney**  
**Purse: Men, \$484,250 (ATP); Women, \$31,000 (Premier)**  
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**

- First Round**  
 Pablo Cuevas (6), Uruguay, def. Nicolas Pietrangeli, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Leonardo Mayer (5), Argentina, def. Benjamin Becker (6), Germany, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Simone Bolelli (4), Italy, def. Marinko Matosevic (1), Croatia, 6-4, 6-4.  
**Women**  
 Ekaterina Makarova (6), Russia, def. Elena Ysytolina, Ukraine, 7-6 (1), 6-2.  
 Sara Errani (4), Italy, def. Sara Errani (4), Italy, 6-7 (5), 6-7 (5).  
 Barbora Zaitseva (3), def. Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, 7-6 (3), 5-7, 6-2.  
 Sara Sorribes Tomic (1), def. Caroline Wozniacki (4), Denmark, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Jarmila Gajdosova, Australia, def. Andrea Petkovic, Germany, 6-3, 7-6 (5).  
 Sara Sorribes Tomic (1), def. Sabine Lisicki, Germany, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5).  
 Anastasia Pavlyuchenko, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenko, Russia, 1-6, 1-7 (1), 6-4.  
 Alize Cornet, France, 3-6, 6-2.  
 Dominika Cibulkova (8), def. Flavia Pennetta (8), Italy, 6-3, 6-4.  
 Dominika Cibulkova (7), Slovakia, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-2, 6-4.  
 Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, def. Polona Hercigonja, Slovenia, 6-4, 6-4.  
 Angelique Kerber (5), Germany, def. Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3.

## College basketball

### AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses through Jan. 11, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking.

Rank	Team	Record	Points	1st Place
1.	Kentucky (63)	19-0	1623	3
2.	Indiana (2)	18-1	1349	2
3.	Gonzaga	16-1	1446	6
4.	Duke	16-1	1432	2
5.	Villanova	16-1	1428	2
6.	Louisville	14-2	1264	5
7.	North Carolina	13-2	1200	9
8.	Utah	13-2	1185	9
9.	Kansas	13-2	1100	9
10.	Arizona	14-2	1037	7
11.	Iowa St.	12-2	927	17
12.	Wake Forest	12-2	901	11
13.	Wichita St.	14-2	832	15
14.	Marquette	12-2	811	21
15.	North Carolina	12-4	719	18
16.	West Virginia	12-4	677	14
17.	UCU	13-3	578	20
18.	Oklahoma	11-4	485	10
19.	Kansas	12-4	431	29
20.	Texas	12-4	345	10
21.	North Carolina	12-3	278	21
22.	Baylor	12-3	278	21
23.	Michigan	12-3	132	22
24.	Oklahoma St.	15-2	71	20

**Others receiving votes:** Ohio St., 70, Michigan St., 67, Dayton, 55, Providence 50, Connecticut, 49, Miami, 47, Alabama 7, Georgetown, 7, NC State, 6, Green Bay, 5, Wake Forest, 5, Wake Forest, 5, Diego St., 2, CU 2, Colorado St., 1, Davidson 1, Hofstra 1, Old Dominion 1, SMU 1.

### USA Today Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The USA Today men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses through Jan. 11, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

Rank	Team	Record	Points	1st Place
1.	Kentucky (31)	15-0	729	3
2.	North Carolina	16-1	713	2
3.	Gonzaga	16-1	673	2
4.	Duke	15-0	659	2
5.	Villanova	15-0	659	2
6.	North Carolina	14-2	581	11
7.	Louisville	14-2	587	5
8.	North Carolina	14-2	587	5
9.	Utah	14-2	548	11
10.	Kansas	13-3	521	13
11.	Arizona	13-3	491	13
12.	North Carolina	15-2	429	12
13.	Iowa St.	12-2	331	22
14.	Wichita State	14-2	390	15
15.	North Carolina	14-4	344	14
16.	North Carolina	13-3	328	17
17.	UCU	13-3	244	21
18.	North Carolina	12-4	232	18
19.	Arizona	13-2	196	25
20.	North Carolina	13-3	179	19
21.	North Carolina	14-2	135	23
22.	North Carolina	12-3	111	24
23.	Oklahoma State	12-3	51	20

**Others receiving votes:** Michigan 25, Wyoming 22, Indiana 20, John's 25, Dayton 22, Colorado State 20, Georgetown 19, Providence 16, Old Dominion 16, Wichita State 19, Lehman 6, San Diego State 6, LSU 5, SMU 4, Syracuse 4, State 2, Mississippi 1, Rhode Island 1, Saint Mary's 1.

### Monday's men's scores

- EAST**  
 Baruch 65, College of NJ 63  
 Cornell 77, Cornell 77  
 CCNY 91, Mount St. Vincent 76  
 NYU 81, NYU 81  
 NYU 81, Rider 54  
 NYU 81, Hunter 59  
 Ramapo 65, Richard Stockton 63  
 Rutgers 79, Rutgers 79  
 Sage 88, Old Westbury 71
- ALABAMA-TULSA**  
 Alabama 75, Christian Brothers 77  
 Alabama 78, MSU 76  
 Alcorn St. 72, Grambling St. 70  
 Campbellsville 82, Campbellsville 82  
 Coastal Carolina 70, Campbell 67  
 Chattanooga 73, Tougaloo 68  
 Freed-Hardeman 67, Cumberland 67  
 Hampton 78, Florida A&M 63  
 Mid-Eastern South 78, Morgan St. 53  
 NC Central 68, Savannah 81  
 Norfolk St. 79, Bethune-Cookman 55  
 North Carolina 75, Tougaloo 68  
 SC State 72, NC A&T 50  
 Southern 65, W. Carolina 59  
 Southern U. 60, Jackson St. 52  
 St. Augustine's 72, Virginia Union 66  
 Tennessee 65, Tennessee 65  
 Winston-Salem 93, Elizabeth City St. 85
- SOUTHWEST**  
 Incarnate Word 69, Orleans 66  
 Lamar 66, Texas A&M-CC 64  
 UTSA 68, Texas-Pan American 43

### AP Top 25 men's schedule

- Wednesday's games**  
 No. 5 Villanova vs. No. 22 Wake Forest  
 No. 11 Wichita State at No. 22 Wake Forest  
 No. 12 Notre Dame at Georgia Tech  
**Thursday's games**  
 No. 14 Maryland vs. Rutgers  
 No. 15 North Carolina at N.C. State  
 No. 25 Wyoming vs. San Diego State  
**Friday's games**  
 No. 3 Gonzaga at Pepperdine  
 No. 11 Wake Forest vs. Wake Forest  
 No. 8 Utah at Arizona State  
 No. 10 Arizona vs. Colorado

### AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses through Jan. 11, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking.

Rank	Team	Record	Points	1st Place
1.	South Carolina (28)	10-0	868	1
2.	UCONN (7)	14-1	846	2
3.	Baylor	14-1	827	2
4.	Louisville	15-1	728	6
5.	North Carolina	14-1	728	6
6.	Tennessee	14-2	722	7
7.	North Dame	15-0	678	4
8.	Kentucky	13-2	562	10
9.	Oregon St.	14-1	579	11
10.	Kentucky	14-2	545	10
11.	Texas A&M	15-0	515	9
12.	North Carolina	15-0	485	10
13.	Stanford	16-1	443	15
14.	Arizona St.	15-1	399	18
15.	Mississippi St.	16-1	341	14
16.	Duke	11-5	332	20
17.	Nebraska	11-5	321	21
18.	Georgia	17-0	278	22
19.	Florida St.	11-3	162	16
20.	Oklahoma St.	12-2	139	17
21.	Minnesota	14-2	114	23
22.	Rutgers	12-4	98	24
23.	Georgia	15-0	79	25

**Others receiving votes:** W. Kentucky 78, North Carolina 70, Miami 70, Alabama 7, Georgetown 7, NC State 6, Green Bay 5, Wake Forest 5, Wake Forest 5, Diego St. 2, CU 2, Colorado St. 1, Davidson 1, Hofstra 1, Old Dominion 1, SMU 1.

### USA Today Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The USA Today women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses through Jan. 11, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

Rank	Team	Record	Points	1st Place
1.	South Carolina (26)	12-1	770	2
2.	UCONN (5)	12-1	770	2
3.	Texas (1)	12-1	736	3
4.	North Carolina	15-1	701	2
5.	Baylor	12-1	660	5
6.	North Carolina	14-1	601	11
7.	Louisville	14-1	596	6
8.	Texas A&M	14-2	559	6
9.	North Carolina	14-1	501	12
10.	Maryland	11-2	529	10
11.	North Carolina	12-2	477	11
12.	Duke	10-4	420	12
13.	North Carolina	12-2	413	11
14.	Stanford	17-0	348	15
15.	Mississippi State	17-0	337	15
16.	North Carolina	12-2	307	14
17.	Iowa	11-2	281	20
18.	Nebraska	11-2	213	19
19.	Arizona State	13-1	175	24
20.	North Carolina	10-4	102	22
21.	Florida State	13-2	90	22
22.	Rutgers	10-3	79	23
23.	Virginia	10-6	73</	

NHL



ANN HEISENFELT/AP

Predators center Calle Jankrok, left, scores on Wild goalie Niklas Backstrom on Saturday. Minnesota has lost 11 of its past 13 games, dropping the Wild into 12th place in the Western Conference.

# Wilting Wild

## As losses pile up, Minnesota seeks way to turn things around

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

The most fitting summary of the Minnesota Wild at the midpoint of their schedule came from defenseman Ryan Suter minutes after their latest flat performance.

"I don't know what the heck is going on," Suter said. "Every day's a bad day."

The sobering comment from the team's lone All-Star came in the dazed moments after a 4-1 defeat at Chicago on Sunday, the Wild's 11th loss in their last 13 games. They've fallen into 12th place in the 14-team Western Conference. Following their breakthrough last spring that landed them in the second round of the playoffs for only the second time in franchise history, the Wild have become one of the NHL's biggest flops this season.

"It's not fun to be part of. It's not fun to play," Suter said. "I don't know what's going on."

There is still time for a turn-around, but it has to happen fast. With their record down to 18-18-5, they are seven points off the playoffs cut with three teams ahead of them. With 41 of 82 games remaining, the Wild will have to win a lot more than half of those and hope for some slumps by their conference competitors to reach the postseason.

Last season, they were barely better at the halfway mark at 20-16-5, but they finished 23-11-7 to snag the seventh seed. Their even stronger showing in the playoffs led to a new three-year contract for coach Mike Yeo.

The Wild are missing center Mikael Granlund with a broken left wrist, and they have had all kinds of illnesses during the first half of the season that affected their lineup. Only five skaters have appeared in every game. But the problems have run much deeper than injuries.

Yeo was in a precarious place a year ago after a six-game losing streak to finish 2013, but despite notable absences by Mikko Koivu, Zach Parise and the top two goalies, Yeo and his staff not only held together the group but guided a resurgence that transcended the regular season.

The most glaring issue for the Wild is in goal, with a .892 save percentage that ranks second worst in the league. Darcy Kuemper has been pulled from several starts, and Niklas Backstrom has not been



KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AP

Wild left wing Jason Zucker, center, reacts in front of his bench after a missed penalty shot against Chicago goalie Corey Crawford on Sunday.

sharp enough to unseat him as the regular starter. Josh Harding would have been part of the plan, but he broke his foot right before training camp and more recently developed complications anew from multiple sclerosis.

The Wild are fourth in the NHL in both shots for and shots against, an indication that Yeo's system has still been effective. But top offseason acquisition Thomas Vanek has been passive with the puck, with only seven goals so far, and the power play is the sixth-worst in the league.

"I'm confident in what we're capable of, but we have to do better. So I'm not going to just sit around and hope that things are going to be better," Yeo said. "We have to find a way to be better. We have to find a way to bring more to the rink every day."

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	41	27	12	3	58	143	118
Montreal	41	26	13	3	55	111	95
Detroit	41	22	17	3	49	117	106
Boston	43	22	15	6	50	113	111
Florida	41	21	18	4	49	107	105
Toronto	43	22	18	4	47	137	132
Ottawa	41	17	26	9	42	113	117
Buffalo	41	17	26	3	41	111	117

Metropolitan Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Islanders	42	23	14	5	57	131	116
Pittsburgh	41	26	10	6	56	122	98
Washington	41	23	15	4	51	125	106
N.Y. Rangers	39	24	11	4	52	124	95
Philadelphia	40	23	15	4	49	109	95
Columbus	40	18	19	3	39	104	131
New Jersey	44	15	21	8	36	96	124
Carolina	42	15	24	3	31	88	112

### Western Conference

Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Nashville	41	28	9	4	60	125	93
Chicago	41	23	17	4	58	134	99
St. Louis	42	26	13	3	55	136	105
Winnipeg	42	21	18	4	49	113	109
Colorado	43	18	17	8	44	113	124
Dallas	43	18	18	4	43	126	105
Minnesota	41	16	18	5	41	111	121

Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Anaheim	43	20	13	10	50	121	118
Los Angeles	43	20	13	10	50	112	112
Vancouver	41	23	14	4	58	143	104
San Jose	43	22	16	5	49	116	118
Calgary	41	18	19	4	41	113	114
Arizona	41	16	21	4	36	97	136
Edmonton	41	15	23	4	33	109	129

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

### Monday's games

Philadelphia 7, Tampa Bay 3  
Washington 2, Colorado 2  
Los Angeles 2, Toronto 0

### Tuesday's games

Tampa Bay at Boston  
Detroit at Buffalo  
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers  
Minnesota at Pittsburgh  
Colorado at Carolina  
Edmonton at St. Louis  
Florida at Nashville  
Philadelphia at Winnipeg  
Ottawa at Dallas  
San Jose at Arizona

### Wednesday's games

Philadelphia at Washington  
Toronto at Anaheim  
New Jersey at Los Angeles

### Thursday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Boston  
Minnesota at Buffalo  
Vancouver at Philadelphia  
Montreal at Ottawa  
Edmonton at Tampa Bay  
Colorado at Florida  
Detroit at St. Louis  
Winnipeg at Dallas  
Calgary at Arizona  
Toronto at San Jose

## Monday

Team	Score	Record
Toronto	0	0 0-0
Los Angeles	1	0 1-2
1st Period—1, Los Angeles, Kopitar		
10 (Kopitar, Carter)		
3rd Period—2, Los Angeles, Gaborik		
14 (Kopitar, Carter)		
Shots on Goal—Toronto 3-8—19, Los Angeles 6-20		
Power-play opportunities—Toronto 0 of 3; Los Angeles 0 of 2		
1-2—Toronto, Bernier 16-11-3 (19 shots-18 saves), Los Angeles, Jones 4-2 (18-18)		
A—18,230 (18,118), T—2:26.		

## Capitals 2, Avalanche 1

Team	Score	Record
Colorado	0	1 0-1
Washington	1	1 0-2
1st Period—1, Washington, Beagle 6 (Chimera, T.Wilson), 7-34		
2nd Period—2, Colorado, Tangquy 13 (Ugla, Berris), 10-58 (pp), 3, Washington, Ovechkin 22 (Brouwer, Backstrom), 17-60 (pp)		
Shots on Goal—Colorado 7-7-18—32, Washington 10-20-38		
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 1 of 2, Washington 1 of 3		
1-2—Washington, Varlamov 10-9-5 (36 shots-36 saves), Washington, Holby 21 (18-18)		
A—18,506 (18,500), T—2:29.		

## Flyers 7, Lightning 3

Team	Score	Record
Tampa Bay	1	1 3-3
Philadelphia	7	2 5 0-7
1st Period—1, Philadelphia, Veide 3 (L.Schenn, Giroux), 6-12		
2nd Period—2, Tampa Bay, Stankovs 22 (Johnson, Stralman), 10-26 (pp), 3, Philadelphia, Umberger 7 (Reed, Courten), 16-15		
3rd Period—4, Philadelphia, Voracek 17 (Streit, Giroux), 1-45 (pp), 5, Philadelphia, Raffill 11 (Lauzon, Simmonds), 1-5-91, 6, Tampa Bay, Boyle 8 (Paquette, Stralman), 1-5-23		
Shots on Goal—Philadelphia, 1-20 (pp), 13 (Drouin, Filppula), 1-20 (pp), 16-13-24, Philadelphia 10-13-25		
Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 5 of 10, Philadelphia 1 of 3		
5-10—Tampa Bay, Nabokov 3-6-2 (11 shots-10 saves), Biron 2-0 second, 12-9 (Philadelphia, Zep 2-0-0 (24-21), A—19,598 (19,541), T—2:27.		

## Roundup

# Flyers net 5 in 2nd in rout of Lightning

he Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jake Voracek was one of five Flyers to score in the second period, leading Philadelphia to a 7-3 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Monday night.

Voracek, Pierre-Edouard Bellemare, Mark Streit and Brayden Schenn all scored in a 6-minute, 52-second span in the second to chase goalie Evgeni Nabokov and help the Flyers match a season high in goals. Michael Raffl also scored in the five-goal period.

Voracek boosted his NHL-best point total to 52. Claude Giroux, who turned 27, had two assists to give him 34 on the season and match his teammate for the league lead. Voracek and Giroux were named NHL All-Stars over the weekend.

Even with the All-Star duo enjoying sensational seasons, the Flyers entered the game 14th in the Eastern Conference. Philadelphia's Rob Zupp won his second career game in place of injured Steve Mason. Mason is expected to miss two weeks because of a lower-body injury.

The Flyers turned to Zupp over veteran Ray Emery. Zupp made 25 saves in his NHL debut — the Flyers' 4-3 victory over the Winnipeg Jets in December. Zupp became the oldest goalie to win his NHL debut since 41-year-old Hugh Lehman accomplished the feat in 1926.

Capitals 2, Avalanche 1: Alex Ovechkin scored a tiebreaking power-play goal late in the second period to help Washington beat visiting Colorado.

Way Beagle also scored and Braden Holtby stopped 31 shots to earn his 21st victory for the Capitals.

Alex Tanguay scored for the Avalanche, and Semyon Varlamov finished with 36 saves.

Kings 2, Maple Leafs 0: Martin Jones made 19 saves in his seventh career shutout, and Anze Kopitar scored in the opening minute of Los Angeles' victory over visiting Toronto.

Marian Gaborik got an empty-net goal to seal Jones' third shut-out in his last four starts for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who snapped their three-game skid with just their second victory in seven games.

Jonathan Bernier stopped 18 shots by his former Los Angeles teammates in the Maple Leafs' third game under interim coach Peter Horachek, who will finish out the season after replacing the fired Randy Carlyle six days earlier.

# NBA

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference			
Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	12	12	16
Brooklyn	21	12	421
Boston	13	21	381
Philadelphia	7	29	194
New York	7	29	172
Southeast Division			
Atlanta	29	8	784
Washington	13	16	416
Miami	16	21	432
Charlotte	11	26	385
Orlando	14	27	341
Central Division			
Chicago	15	16	667
Milwaukee	19	10	513
Cleveland	19	10	500
Indiana	15	24	385
Detroit	14	24	368

Western Conference			
Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	27	11	711
Memphis	19	19	598
Dallas	26	12	684
San Antonio	23	15	605
New Orleans	19	19	484
Northwest Division			
Portland	9	27	789
Oklahoma City	18	19	486
Denver	13	24	427
Utah	13	24	342
Minnesota	13	24	319
Pacific Division			
Golden State	29	5	853
San Diego	13	17	658
Phoenix	22	18	550
Sacramento	21	18	549
L.A. Lakers	12	26	316

**Sunday's games**  
 Atlanta 120, Washington 89  
 Miami 104, L.A. Clippers 90  
 Phoenix 122, Phoenix 10, 2OT  
 Sacramento 103, Cleveland 84  
 Portland 94, Detroit 94  
**Monday's games**  
 Atlanta 114, Toronto 111  
 Houston 113, Brooklyn 99  
 Boston 108, New Orleans 100  
 Orlando 121, Chicago 114  
**Tuesday's games**  
 Atlanta at Philadelphia  
 San Antonio at Washington  
 Minnesota at Indiana  
 Cleveland at Phoenix  
 Golden State at Utah  
 Dallas at Sacramento  
 Miami at L.A. Lakers  
**Wednesday's games**  
 Houston at Orlando  
 San Antonio at Charlotte  
 Philadelphia at Toronto  
 New Orleans at Detroit  
 Memphis at Brooklyn  
 Washington at Chicago  
 Atlanta at Boston  
 Dallas at Denver  
 Miami at Golden State  
 L.A. Clippers at Portland

**Monday**  
**Rockets 113, Nets 99**  
**HOUSTON** — Ariza 4-6 1-12, Motiejunas 8-11 2-18, Howard 3-9 2-3 8, Beverley 4-10 1-12, Harden 13-8 8-20, Smith 5-15 1-12 3, Terry 3-7 0-9, Brewer 3-9 1-12 3, Lopez 5-8 2-12, Telesco 1-2 0-2, Anderson 2-4 0-5, Totals 41-86 15-20-12  
**BROOKLYN** — Johnson 4-13 1-2 12, Garrett 1-1 0-2, Plumlee 10-11 4-24, Jack 6-16 1-2 13, Bogdanovic 4-9 5-13, Lopez 5-8 2-12, Telesco 1-2 0-2, Anderson 2-4 0-5, Morris 2-6 1-4 5, Jefferson 2-4 0-2, Totals 39-84 16-18-99  
**HOUSTON** 37 23 67-113  
**Brooklyn** 28 24 18 39-99  
**Three-Point Goals**—Houston 16 (Harden) 3, Ariza 3, Terry 3, Smith 2, Johnson 1, 2, Plumlee 1, Beverley 1, Johnson 1, 2, Shved 0-1, Brewer 0-5, Brooklyn 5-21 (Harden) 3-8, Anderson 1-2, Jefferson 1-3, Karasev 0-1, Morris 0-1, Bogdanovic 2, Jack 0-1, Fouled Out—None  
**Rebounds**—Houston 48 (Motiejunas) 11, Brooklyn 49 (Plumlee) 10, Assists—Houston 21 (Harden) 5, Nets 18 (Garrett) 2, Ejected—Garnett, A.—16:15 (17:32).

**Pistons 114, Raptors 111**  
**DETROIT** — Singler 3-7 0-8, Monroe 9-16 4-7 22, Drummond 3-12 4-6 10, Jennings 11-22 8-14, Caldwell-Pope 3-3 3-9, May 5-14 2-21, Jericho 4-5 2-10, Butler 0-1-0-3, An, Anderson 0-0 0-2, Augustus 2-3 6-6, Tolliver 0-2 0-0 0, Totals 41-86 25-31-14  
**TORONTO** — Johnson 3-3 5-6 11, A.Johnson 6-14 0-12, Valanciunas 14-15 3-4 3, Lowry 3-2 2-10, Ross 5-11 0-12, Patterson 2-2, Williams 7-14 0-2 15, Vasquez 7-9 0-16, Hansbrough 1-1 0-2, Hayes 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 47 87 10-4-11  
**DETROIT** 32 28 28-111  
**Toronto** 32 28 34 32-114  
**Three-Point Goals**—Detroit 7-21 (Jennings 4-8, Singler 2-3, Meeks 1-4, Butler 0-1, Patterson 0-1, Caldwell-Pope 0-1, Tolliver 0-2), Toronto 7-27 (Vasquez 2-3, Lowry 2-6, Ross 2-8, Williams 1-5, Patterson 0-5), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Detroit 56 (Drummond 14), Toronto 49 (Valanciunas 12), Assists—Detroit 24 (Jennings 10), Toronto 29 (Lowry 12), Total Fouls—Detroit 15, Toronto 20, Technicals—Ross, A.—19:80 (19:80).

**Celtics 108, Pelicans 100**  
**NEW ORLEANS** — Cunningham 2-3 0-4, Davis 10-23 14-19 34, Asik 1-3 4-5 5, Holiday 2-5 0-4, Gordon 7-12 4-21, Evans 7-15 4-19, Anderson 2-8 2-2 8, Fredette 0-3 5-6 5, Salmons 0-0 0-0, Babbitt 0-1 0-0 0, White 0-0 0-0, Totals 21-25 32-100  
**BOSTON** — Crowder 9-14 2-2 22, Sullinger 8-27, Zeller 0-9 0-2, Turner 4-8 1-2 10, Bradley 3-10 3-4 10, Thornton 2-8 8-13, Smart 3-7, Brown 1-2 0-3 12, Olynyk 1-3 0-2, Young 1-2 0-2, Wallace 0-2 1, Totals 37-88 26-31-108  
**NEW ORLEANS** 22 27 24-100  
**Boston** 22 27 23 36-108  
**Three-Point Goals**—New Orleans 6-15 (Gordon 3-5, Anderson 2-5, Evans 1-3, Babbitt 0-1, Holiday 0-1), Boston 8-24 (Crowder 2-8, Bass 1-2, Turner 3, Thornton 1-3, Smart 1-3, Sullinger 1-4, Bradley 1-3, Young 0-1), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—New Orleans 52 (Asik 12), Boston 53 (Sullinger 10), Assists—New Orleans 20 (Davis 4), Boston 24 (Smart 6), Total Fouls—New Orleans 23, Boston 23, Technicals—Anderson, A.—16:05 (18:24).

**Magic 121, Bulls 114**  
**ORLANDO** — Marble 2-4 0-3 5, Frye 2-10 0-5, Uceviciu 16-24 1-13 33, Payton 5-7 0-10, Oladipo 11-17 8-10 33, Rindrow 2-3 4-5 9, O'Quinn 3-4 2-2 8, Green 3-4 1-7, Harkless 1-2 2-3 4, E.Gordon 3-6 0-7, Totals 48-81 18-20-12  
**CHICAGO** — Snell 2-3 0-5, Gasol 10-18 12-28, Noah 2-6 0-6 8, Rose 9-15 1-3 18, Butler 5-13 4-17, Gibson 4-7 1-1 9, Hinrich 3-7 2-8, Brooks 1-0 2-12, Mirovic 2-7 6-11, Totals 41-84 24-23 114  
**ORLANDO** 21 34 23 36-114  
**Chicago** 21 34 23 36-114  
**Three-Point Goals**—Orlando 7-18 (Oladipo 3-4, Rindrow 1-1, Marble 1-2, E.Gordon 1-3, Frye 1-7, O'Quinn 0-1), Chicago 8-27 (Butler 3-6, Brooks 2-7, Snell 1-2, Mirovic 1-4, Rose 1-5, Gibson 1-1, Hinrich 0-2), Fouled Out—Noah, Rebounds—Orlando 44 (Uceviciu 14), Chicago 42 (Gasol 14), Assists—Orlando 28 (Payton 7), Chicago 25 (Rose 7), Total Fouls—Orlando 25, Chicago 26, Technicals—Chicago defensive three second, A.—21:30 (20:57).

Team	PTS	FG	FT	FTS	AVG
Harden, HOU	39	312	301	1023	26.9
JAMES, CLE	29	256	171	25.2	
ANDERSON, TOR	28	185	105	13.0	
COUSINS, SAC	26	222	177	62.2	23.9
ANTHONY, OKC	26	222	177	62.2	23.9
BRyant, LAC	23	250	187	23.0	
Rebounds					
Jordan, LAC	38	159	353	51.2	13.5
Gasol, MEM	38	185	105	13.0	
ANDERSON, DET	26	81	239	22.0	12.3
COUSINS, SAC	26	81	239	22.0	12.3
Chandler, DAL	26	150	150	15.0	0.0
Assists					
Wall, WAS	17	37	88	10.3	
Lawson, DEN	16	36	101	10.0	
RANDOLPH, DEN	16	36	101	10.0	
Paul, LAC	18	36	96	9.6	

## Roundup

# Rockets top slumping Nets

### Harden scores 30; Garnett booted after scuffle with Howard

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — James Harden scored 30 points, carrying Houston on a night when Dwight Howard did little after fighting with Kevin Garnett, and the Rockets beat the slumping Brooklyn Nets 113-99 on Monday.

Garnett was ejected in the first quarter after head-butting Howard in the face and throwing the ball at him, while Howard received a technical foul after appearing to punch or slap Garnett in the neck.

Howard had a quiet night otherwise, finishing with eight points and five rebounds, but the Rockets didn't need much in the middle while dominating from the outside with 16 three-pointers in 40 attempts.

Mason Plumlee scored a career-high 24 points for the Nets, who lost their sixth straight.

Houston has won four in a row, all by double digits.

**Pistons 114, Raptors 111:** Brandon Jennings had 34 points and 10 assists, and visiting Detroit won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Greg Monroe had 22 points and 10 rebounds as the Pistons snapped a four-game losing streak against Toronto. Jodie Meeks scored 11 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter and Jonas Jericho had eight of his 10 in the final period.

James Valanciunas scored a career-best 31 points and had 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost for the fifth time in six games. Kyle Lowry had 10 points and 12 assists, Greivis Vasquez scored 16 and Lou Williams had 15.

**Magic 121, Bulls 114:** Nikola Uceviciu had 33 points and 11 rebounds, and Orlando snapped a six-game losing streak.

Orlando shot a season-high 59 percent from the field in its first win in Chicago since an 83-82 victory on Dec. 16, 2013. The



JASON DECROW/AP

**The Rockets' James Harden, right, goes to the basket against the Nets' Mason Plumlee during Monday's game in New York. Harden was charged with an offensive foul on the play. Houston won 113-99.**

Magic had lost three in a row and 12 of 15 against the Bulls since the start of the 2010-11 season.

Victor Oladipo also scored 33 points for the Magic. Uceviciu was 16 for 24 from the field in his NBA-best 23rd double-double of the season.

Pau Gasol paced Chicago with 28 points and 14 rebounds.

**Celtics 108, Pelicans 100:** Jared Sullinger had 27 points and 10 rebounds for most Boston, and rookie Marcus Smart nailed a key three-pointer in the closing minute.

The Celtics won for the third time in their last 12 games. Jae Crowder scored 22 points, Marcus Thornton had 13 and Brandon Bass finished with 12.

Anthony Davis led the Pelicans with 34 points, nine rebounds and four assists. Eric Gordon scored 21 points, and Tyreke Evans had 19 points and eight boards.

Clinging to a 101-100 lead, Avery Bradley's shot was blocked by Davis in the lane, before Smart nailed a three from the left corner, falling into the seats as the shot swished through the basket with 39.7 seconds left.

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NFL PLAYOFFS

# Broncos, coach Fox part ways

## New coach, staff clouds Manning's future as well

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — If Peyton Manning decides to return to the Broncos next season, he'll have a new coaching staff to work with in Denver.

GM John Elway is looking for a new coach after agreeing to part ways with John Fox following the Broncos' second stunning home playoff loss in three years as heavy favorites.

Manning said after Denver's 24-13 loss to Indianapolis on Sunday that he was unsure about returning for an 18th NFL season and fourth in Denver but agreed to delay that decision.

Elway and Fox didn't hesitate to move on without one another.

Fox won the AFC West all four of his years in Denver, but each of those seasons ended in ugly fashion in the playoffs. Fox might already have something in the works with another franchise — he didn't shoot down a pregame report Sunday night that he could be available if the Broncos lost.

"It became clear that it was best for both the Denver Broncos and Coach Fox to move on and make this change," Elway said in a statement.

So, Fox is out after going 49-22 in Denver, including the playoffs, following a 78-74 record in nine years with the Carolina Panthers, counting the postseason.

Fox gathered his players at noon Monday but didn't talk about his own future. Chris Harris Jr. said Fox's message was "just that he appreciated everybody's efforts. He loved us and everybody just be smart in the offseason and make sure you take care of your body to be ready to come back ready to roll when OTAs start."

Two hours later, Elway met with Fox and then gathered the assistant coaches to tell them they remain under contract but were free to pursue jobs with other teams.

Some of them could be headed to the San Francisco Bay area because offensive coordinator Adam Gase is a candidate to replace Jim Harbaugh with the 49ers and defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio is a candidate in Oakland.

## Teammates unsure of extent of QB injury

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — If Peyton Manning's injury was worse than he let on, his teammates sure didn't see it.

In the aftermath of his poor playoff performance in the Broncos' 24-13 loss to Indianapolis, Manning said the right thigh bruise he suffered Dec. 14 at San Diego lingered but wasn't bad enough to sideline him.

On Monday, ESPN, citing two people it didn't name, reported that Manning played with a "torn" quad muscle, the severity of which he had tried to conceal.

However, two people with knowledge of Manning's health told The Associated Press it was

"a strain," as the team had characterized it all along. They both spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the subject.

They also said the tear-strain debate could be a matter of semantics because a strain occurs when a muscle is stretched too much and tears. It's also called a pulled muscle.

After the game, John Fox was asked if Manning was healthy and he said everybody's banged up at this time of year, "but he's definitely healthy enough to play in the game."

Manning was ambivalent about his future after the game but didn't say his health was at issue.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

**John Fox, back, jokes with quarterback Peyton Manning last week as the Broncos prepared for their playoff game. Fox is out as the Denver coach after four seasons. He won the AFC West title each year but failed to deliver in the playoffs.**

The players had left Broncos headquarters when the news of Fox's departure broke, and several recited bluntly on Twitter:

"Cold World ..." wrote Demaryius Thomas.

"Wow ..." said Omar Bolden.

"Damn," tweeted Terrance Knighton.

Elway thanked Fox for helping "establish a positive, winning culture for this team" and said he "deserves a lot of credit for the Broncos' turnaround," but added "there is still work to be done" to win a Super Bowl.

Fox characterized his meeting with Elway as productive and honest and the two "mutually agreed that the timing was right for this decision."

"Although we came up short of our ultimate goal, I am proud of our team's many accomplishments during these last four years," Fox said in a statement. "It was an honor to coach the Denver Broncos, a first-class franchise with great fans and a winning tradition."

"I am eager to continue my coaching career and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead," Fox added.

He said he felt he could manage his right quadriceps injury, adding it felt good heading into the playoff game.

Manning blamed the injury on dehydration from a stomach bug the night before the Chargers game. He missed the team's next practice, on Dec. 18, although he participated in the walkthrough that day.

Receiver Wes Welker said he couldn't tell if Manning was hiding the extent of his injury over the last month, and cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said he got no such indications at practice.

Manning overthrew his receivers eight times Sunday and came up empty on 11 drives.

# Looking for edge, Pack to head west earlier than usual

By GENARO C. ARMAS  
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Packers will get a head start on West to prepare for the NFC title game against the Seattle Seahawks.

Green Bay plans to leave for Seattle on Friday, one day ahead of when the team would usually fly out for Sunday road games.

"This is no ordinary road game. The winner goes to the Super Bowl."

Coach Mike McCarthy is hoping this trip to CenturyLink Field has a different outcome than the previous one in September — a 36-16 loss in the league opener to the Seahawks.

"You learn from past experiences," McCarthy said Monday. "We evaluate every schedule, every practice. We're always looking to try to get better."

Just like quarterback Aaron Rodgers, whom McCarthy said felt well a day after the 26-21 win over Dallas that clinched the Packers' first trip to the NFC championship game since their most recent run to the Super Bowl title after the 2010 season.

Dealing with a lingering left calf injury, Rodgers once again proved Sunday that he's better than most healthy quarterbacks in the league even if he's less than 100 percent. He finished 24 of 35 for 316 yards and three touchdowns.

Rodgers said the calf felt better as the game progressed. A practice plan for Rodgers will be determined on Wednesday.

"I think he feels better at this time this week than he did last week," McCarthy said.

For as good as Rodgers was against the Cowboys with limited mobility, the Packers may need him to be even better against Seattle's rugged defense on the road.

Rodgers was 23 of 33 for 189 yards with a touchdown and interception in the opener against Seattle. Back then, the Packers offense was still trying to find its rhythm. Eddie Lacy got knocked out of that game with a concussion.

Things have changed dramatically. The offensive line has played well all season. Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb are one of the top receiving tandems in the league, and Lacy has gotten stronger in December and January.



NAM Y. HUH/AP

**Rookie receiver Davante Adams, here scoring on Sunday, has given the Packers a weapon they didn't have when Green Bay played in Seattle in the opener.**

And now, rookies Davante Adams and Richard Rodgers have proven they can produce in the postseason after good games against Dallas. Fullback John Kuhn and tight end Andrew Quarless have also emerged late in the season to help diversify the attack.

"You know, this team from Week 1 has grown a lot, so we're definitely looking forward to it," said Quarless, who had four catches for 31 yards and a touchdown against the Cowboys. "Just to see the growth and resilience of this team throughout the postseason is a positive."

The tweaks that McCarthy made to the training schedule and conditioning program have also paid off. Not counting Rodgers' lingering injury, the Packers for the most part haven't been hit by long-term or season-ending injuries to key players that seemed to slow them down in recent years.

The move to fly out on Friday fits the pattern of McCarthy trying new things to give his team an edge. The practice schedule will be normal otherwise, given that Friday is usually a day off the field. The team will then run through a practice on Saturday in Washington.

"Just the fact that we're trying to get better at everything we're doing," McCarthy said.



**Green Bay Packers at Seattle Seahawks**  
AFN-Sports  
9 p.m. Monday CET  
5 a.m. Sunday JKT



**Indianapolis Colts at New England Patriots**  
AFN-Sports  
12:30 a.m. Monday CET  
8:30 a.m. Monday JKT

NFL

# Jones confident of drawing big events

## Despite open calendar following College Football Playoff, Cowboys owner says stadium prime site

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dog shows to championships, Jerry Jones believes the \$1.2 billion showplace of the Dallas Cowboys will always be a destination for signature events.

So the flamboyant team owner has no concern that Monday night's national championship between Oregon and Ohio State means the calendar will be clear of the country's biggest sporting events for the first time since the 2009 opening of his oversized stadium with the giant video board hanging over the field.

"It's just a daily given that our organization will go out and pursue major sporting events," Jones said. He links it to New York's Madison Square Garden as a venue that will build a legacy for hosting big events. "Bottom line is this, that's what that stadium does."

Here's another bottom line: The Super Bowl and Final Four aren't scheduled to come back after one visit apiece in the venue's first five-plus years. Jones, a former player at Arkansas, badly wanted the first championship in the new College Football Playoff and got it.

Now he has to wait to see when any of the "big three" will be back, which is the biggest test for a vision that goes back a decade, long before the first shovel of dirt was turned in Arlington, a city of nearly 400,000 people halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth.

"At the end of the day, after it was built, I was clear with everybody involved in our organization and that would listen, it's just a tool, it's just a tool," Jones said. "It is not and cannot just be a monument and we have the opportunity because of the part of the country we're in ... we can avail ourselves of the kinds of visibility that we get. Big events beget interest in

### Playing host

A list of some of the sporting events held at the Dallas Cowboys' stadium since its opening in 2009:

- 2015 College Football Playoff final
- 2014 NCAA Final Four
- 2011 Super Bowl
- 2010 NBA All-Star Game
- 2010 "The Event" Manny Pacquiao vs. Joshua Clottey
- 2009-10 Big 12 Championship games
- 2009 Gold Cup quarterfinal

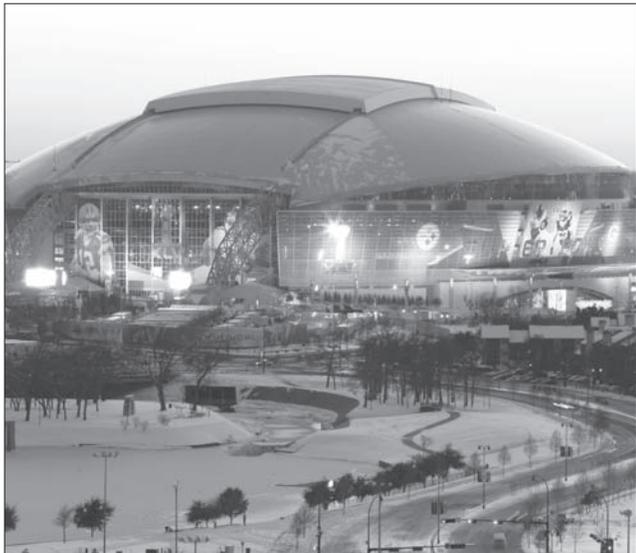
the stadium."

The Super Bowl after the 2010 season was plagued by an unusual ice storm that lasted most of the week before the game, and then a problem with the installation of temporary seats displaced several hundred fans on game day.

The Final Four was much smoother, but wasn't without weather problems. Heavy rain doused the biggest concert event with Bruce Springsteen on the Sunday between the semifinals and the championship game. And there were threats of severe weather, always an issue in the spring on the southern tip of Tornado Alley.

The NCAA recently announced Final Fours through 2021, and the home of the Cowboys wasn't among them. But that mostly had to do with North Texas being the most recent host of the event, said David Worlock, associate director of championships and alliances for the NCAA.

"Everything else about their bid and about the recent hosting experience that we had with them was fantastic," said Worlock, who said another round of announcements is probably a couple of years away. "There's no reason



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

From dog shows to national championship games, Jerry Jones believes the \$1.2 billion showplace of the Dallas Cowboys will always be a destination for signature events.

to think we won't be going back there again for tournament action in the future."

The perception for North Texas took a hit a year after the difficult Super Bowl week when Indianapolis was the host. Not only is it remarkably warm in the city that's home to NCAA headquarters, but all the events were within walking distance of the home of the Indianapolis Colts.

Dallas and Fort Worth, 30 miles apart, usually have involvement in the big events, with downtown Dallas hosting the fan experience events in all three cases.

When ice blanketed the area four years ago, traffic was a major problem, with nightmares of drivers spending hours on area

freeways when state officials were caught unprepared for the magnitude of the storm.

Cheryl Cummings, who went to North Texas twice as a fan of Green Bay and the Wisconsin basketball team, said her group tried to go to events in Dallas during Super Bowl week but gave up after a couple of hours in traffic. The Final Four trip for the resident of Madison, Wis., was much quicker because it was a last-minute decision after the Badgers advanced.

"I was glad I was there because I support my Packers and Badgers and that's what I do," said the 60-year-old Cummings, who is retired. "But would I go again? Probably, just because that's

me."

The Super Bowl seating problem led to lawsuits, and some still aren't settled. Arlington Mayor Bob Cluck doesn't think his city's stadium will be picked for another Super Bowl until all legal issues are resolved, but he thinks it will be picked again.

"Of course, I'd like to have them scheduled already," said Cluck, who says "Job No. 1" for the city is attracting a major hotel near the stadium to help answer concerns about events being spread out. "It would be very difficult for a major event like that not to come to our stadium because it has become so iconic."

Count Jones among those sharing that view.

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# SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Briefly



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

**Former Miami Dolphins fullback Rob Konrad, left, listens while his wife Tammy responds to a question Monday during a news conference where he told about his ordeal of swimming nine miles to shore after he fell off his boat while fishing last week off the South Florida coast.**

# Former Dolphin swims 16 hours to safety

The Associated Press

PLANTATION, Fla. — The former NFL fullback entered the room with a wobble in his walk, and needed assistance climbing a podium so he could face a media throng and discuss his death-defying 16-hour swim to shore.

Rob Konrad, 38, who played for the Miami Dolphins from 1999 to 2004, had been around boats since his childhood on Boston's North Shore. So he knew what it meant when he fell off his 31-foot boat while fishing alone nine miles from land.

He swam to Palm Beach, covering a distance of 27 miles before ringing the doorbell of an oceanfront home for help at 4:30 a.m. Thursday.

He said he was taking his boat for servicing and decided to do a little fishing along the way. He had caught a large fish and was tending to the rod when a large wave hit, flipping Konrad into the ocean.

His boat was on autopilot and headed east. There were no other boats in sight. Konrad wasn't wearing a life preserver. It was 12:30 p.m.

Konrad quickly decided to swim toward shore, although he figured the trip would take more than 10 hours, and feared succumbing to hypothermia or cramps after two or three hours.

Finally, he could hear waves hitting the shore, and finally he reached land as well.

"The problem was I couldn't walk. My body was shaking uncontrollably. I crawled up on the beach and warmed myself up enough to be able to walk."

Paramedics were summoned, and soon he was en route to the hospital. His boat was found near Grand Bahama Island on Deadman's Reef

## Del Potro wins comeback match after injury layoff

SYDNEY — Juan Martin Del Potro launched his comeback from a serious wrist injury with a convincing 6-3, 7-6 (4) win over Sergiy Stakhovsky in the

first round of the Sydney International on Tuesday.

The former U.S. Open champion is ranked No. 338 after undergoing surgery on his left wrist last year and missing more than 10 months on tour.

He was granted a wild card to enter the main draw in Sydney, where he's the defending champion. He will face top-seeded Fabio Fognini in the second round.

## Bode Miller leads US skiers in return to World Cup training

WENGEN, Switzerland — Bode Miller returned to the World Cup circuit on Tuesday as the fastest American skier in a downhill training run on the classic Laubhorn slope.

Miller, who underwent back surgery in November, finished the quirky 2.75-mile track with the best time of the in-form United States team which has won the past two men's downhill.

Travis Ganong, who won at Santa Caterina, Italy, was 0.34 behind Miller, and Steven Wyman, who won at Val Gardena, did not finish.

## Reed rallies to win Tournament of Champions in a playoff

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Patrick Reed holed an 80-yard shot for eagle and made two birdies over his last four holes Monday. The last birdie was on the 18th hole in a playoff to beat Jimmy Walker in the Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

Reed was four shots behind with four holes to play when he put together his big rally and closed with a 6-under 67.

For the second day, Walker went seven straight holes without a birdie on the back nine. He had a chance to win in regulation but missed his birdie putt from 18 feet and shot 69.

In the playoff, Walker had an advantage until he chipped from below the bleachers over the green. Reed hit wedge to 18 feet and holed it for his fourth career win.

# Wyoming back in poll for first time since '88

By Aaron Beard  
The Associated Press

It took Wyoming nearly three decades to get back into the AP Top 25. Now Larry Shyatt's Cowboys get the chance to stick around.

Back in the poll for the first time since 1988, No. 25 Wyoming hosts San Diego State on Wednesday night as it tries to stay unbeaten in the Mountain West Conference.

"I think if you were to ask them (about the ranking), they'd probably say, 'That's pretty neat for other people but we've got a lot of work to do,'" Shyatt said of his players.

Wyoming (15-2, 4-0) has won seven straight games overall and 13 straight at home, the program's best streak there since the 2000-01 season.

After hosting the Aztecs — who were ranked 13th in December — Wyoming travels to Fresno State on Saturday.

This is the first time the Cowboys have been ranked since the Fennis Dembo-led squad checked in at No. 13 in March 1988. Shyatt coached against that squad as an assistant at New Mexico, and has now helped bring back that same program.

Wyoming hasn't won the Mountain West regular-season title or been to the NCAA tournament since 2002.

"The only thing we're going to talk about is the team we have coming up: San Diego State," Shyatt said. "They actually have what it is that these guys want. They have championships."

**Top-10 matchups:** There are two top-10 matchups to headline the AP Top 25 schedule this week, both on Saturday.

First, No. 4 Duke (14-1) travels to No. 6 Louisville (14-2) in the Atlantic Coast Conference in a game that lost some of its luster when the Blue Devils suffered their first loss at North Carolina State on Sunday. It has been set up for Duke Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski to go for his 1,000th career victory against another Hall of Famer, the Cardinals' Rick Pitino.

That night, No. 8 Utah (13-2) travels to No. 10 Arizona (14-2) in the Pac-12.

**Big 12 throwdowns:** For the second straight week, the Big 12 has several ranked teams squaring off.

On Wednesday, No. 11 Iowa State (12-2) travels to No. 22 Baylor (12-3).

The schedule is full on Saturday: No. 9 Kansas at No. 11 Iowa State, No. 16 West Virginia at No. 20 Texas (2-4), and No. 24 Oklahoma State at No. 18 Oklahoma.

## Wisconsin guard Jackson to have foot surgery

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin's Traevon Jackson will have surgery on his injured right foot this week, depriving the seventh-ranked Badgers of their veteran point guard in Big Ten play.

Jackson was hurt in Sunday's 67-62 loss at Rutgers. He is scheduled to have surgery Thursday.

The team said Monday that Jackson will begin rehab in two or three weeks, but did not specify when he might return to the court. Jackson said in a statement that he was looking forward to finishing off the year.

Sophomore Bronson Koenig will take over the starting point guard duties for the Badgers (15-2), who host Nebraska on Thursday.

The Associated Press

**Kentucky still No. 1:** Kentucky stayed No. 1, but not unanimously.

The top-ranked Wildcats (15-0) were atop 63 of 65 votes cast Monday, ending a run of five straight weeks as the unanimous No. 1. Kentucky beat Mississippi at home in overtime in its Southeastern Conference opponent then won in double OT at Texas A&M.

Kentucky hosted Missouri on Tuesday and travels to Alabama on Saturday.

"We're still winning tough games and we're fighting like crazy," coach John Calipari said. "It's just that we're not exactly where we were, and it's all good because I don't want us to be like it's March right now. It's too early to be like it's March."

**Virginia's votes:** No. 2 Virginia (15-0), the only other unbeaten team remaining, earned the other two first-place votes.

The voters who switched to Virginia had similar logic behind their decision. John Feinstein of The Washington Post and Zach Osterman of The Indianapolis Star both cited Kentucky's overtime struggles compared to Virginia's road win against a ranked Notre Dame team that had won 11 straight.

Both also said they vote based on who is playing the best right now instead of who will finish No. 1.

Virginia hosted Clemson on Tuesday, then travels to Boston College on Saturday.



ERIC HULL, THE COLORADOAN/AP

Wyoming's Larry Nance Jr. points to the crowd during a game last week. The Cowboys are back in the AP Top 25 poll for the first time in almost three decades.

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Looking ahead, can playoffs get better?

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The first College Football Playoff was a success on almost every level — except maybe for fans of TCU and Baylor.

Otherwise, there was not much to gripe about. And Ohio State walking away with the first championship by beating Oregon 42-20 on Monday night after getting the fourth spot ahead of TCU and Baylor certainly helped justify the selection committee's choice.

Now that it's over, let's look ahead and examine where the College Football Playoff goes from here.

**Happy New Year:** If you thought New Year's Day was just perfect, spending your lazy day off watching football, with a semifinale doubleheader kicking off around 5 p.m. ET, we've got some bad news for you.

The semifinals next season will be played on New Year's Eve at the Orange Bowl in Miami and at the Cotton Bowl at AT&T Stadium.

The Rose Bowl goes back to being Big Ten vs. Pac-12 and the Sugar Bowl will now have a similar setup with the Southeastern Conference and the Big 12 in a matchup. But those two bowls keep those premium time slots, back-to-back starting in the evening of New Year's Day.

**The Committee:** The 13-member selection committee, which turned into a 12-member selection committee, needs to find at least one new member.

After Oliver Luck resigned as athletic director at West Virginia, the committee needs another representative from the Big 12 conference.

Baylor coach Art Briles, who complained about not having enough Texas representation on the panel, might not like it, but don't be surprised if Kansas State's John Currie or Oklahoma's

Joe Castiglione ended up taking Luck's spot.

Former Mississippi quarterback Archie Manning has to withdraw from the committee during the season because of health issues and it's still very much up in the air if he will be back.

Hard to say who would replace Manning. It likely would be someone with ties to SEC country, but the conference commissioners who ultimately choose the committee members might want to look for someone who could lower the average age of the panel. None of the members were below 50.

There are a couple of things that will be up for discussion when the committee and commissioners start talking about whether changes need to be made to the rankings process:

- Do the committee members need to meet in person every week to do the rankings?

- Should the rankings continue to be weekly? If ESPN has a say (and it does) the answer will be yes.
- Could the rankings start later in the season?

**Who will be in?** Pencil in Ohio State as preseason No. 1 in the AP poll. TCU has a load of players back, led by star quarterback Trevone Boykin, so figure the Horned Frogs will be second. After that the preseason playoff hopefuls look like a lot of usual suspects.

- SEC: Auburn, Alabama and Georgia.

- Big Ten: Michigan State should push Ohio State again.

- Big 12: Baylor.
- Pac-12: Stanford, Southern California, Arizona and Arizona State.

- ACC: Florida State, Georgia Tech and Clemson.

**Our (way too early) playoff picks:** Ohio State, TCU, Georgia and Clemson.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at [www.Twitter.com/ralphdrussoAP](http://www.Twitter.com/ralphdrussoAP)



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Oregon's Marcus Mariota, center, huddles with teammates before the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Ohio State on Monday in Arlington, Texas. Mariota, the Heisman Trophy winner, passed for two touchdowns in the Ducks' 42-20 loss against Ohio State.

# Oregon falls short — again

## Missed chances keep Ducks from claiming national title

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Oregon had cut the biggest deficit of the season to a single point and was in position to grab the national championship that eluded the Ducks four years ago.

They fell short — again. Ohio State's Ezekiel Elliott scored four touchdowns, three in the second half after the Oregon rally, and the Buckeyes won the first College Football Playoff national championship with a 42-20 victory Monday night.

The message from coach Mark Helfrich in the \$1.2 billion home of the Dallas Cowboys was the same one Chip Kelly offered when the Ducks couldn't secure the school's first crown at the NFL home of the Arizona Cardinals to wrap up the 2010 season.

One of these days ... "Everything is in place from a support standpoint and facilities standpoint and infrastructure standpoint, talent, our coaching staff is outstanding, and the leadership is outstanding," Helfrich said. "That's kind of all the ingredients."

Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota passed for 333 yards and two touchdowns, but the Ducks' warp-speed spread offense missed too many red-zone opportunities and couldn't unleash its running game against linebacker Darron Lee and an Ohio State front seven stacked with future NFL draft picks.

"We fought through a lot of stuff," Mariota said. "We ended up short tonight, but that shouldn't take away from what we were able to do this year."

Even with four Ohio State turnovers, the Ducks were held to their lowest point total of the season, four touchdowns below their average coming in.

Oregon has done just about everything as it blossomed into a national power over the last two decades, but it will likely continue the search for its first national championship without Mariota. Barring a major surprise, the junior is likely to turn pro — though he wouldn't talk about his upcoming draft decision after the game.

Assuming Mariota makes the move, the players he's leaving behind have little doubt they can get the Ducks in position again.

"If this program doesn't have credibility yet then I don't know, then college football's messed up," said receiver Keaton Lowe, who caught a 7-yard scoring pass on the opening drive for Oregon's only lead. "Obviously you haven't won the first national title.



LM OTERO/AP

Oregon head coach Mark Helfrich, right, talks to Marcus Mariota during the first College Football Playoff national championship Monday in Arlington, Texas.

But this program's great. No one wants to play Oregon. No one wants to come to us."

Ohio State third-stringer Cardale Jones, who took over three games ago for the injured J.T. Barrett (who had taken over at the start of the season for the injured Braxton Miller), passed for 242 yards and a touchdown and ran for score. The 250-pound third-year sophomore proved he could keep up with Mariota — at least on this night.

And the Ducks simply couldn't slow Elliott, who had his third straight 200-yard game with 246 yards on 36 carries.

"He just runs hard, can break a lot of tackles," said defensive end Arik Armstead, who had a fumble recovery when Oregon was cutting a 14-point deficit to one. "We try to get as many bodies on him as we can."

Fifth-year senior center Hronnis Grasu was a redshirt when the Ducks made their other appearance in the title game. He figures he'll be watching another run at the title in the future.

"Every single day in this program is a building block," Grasu said. "We're always going forward with this team and this staff that we have, the players that we have. They're going to have so much success in the future. They don't even know it yet."



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Ohio State's Taylor Decker, left, and Jeff Heuerman celebrate winning the first College Football Playoff national championship. The Buckeyes beat Oregon 42-20.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Buckeyes: Impressive turnaround caps season

## FROM BACK PAGE

They took advantage of an opportunity they never would have had in the BCS, shrugging off questions about if they belonged among college football's final four. Cardale Jones, Ezekiel Elliott and the Buckeyes won the first College Football Playoff national championship, upsetting Marcus Mariota and Oregon 42-20 on Monday night in Arlington, Texas.

Behind their bullish backup quarterback Jones and the relentless running of Elliott, the Buckeyes (14-1) completed a remarkable in-season turnaround with a dominating performance against the Ducks (13-2).

"Late August, around camp, everybody counted us out when our Heisman Trophy quarterback went down, and then when the first college football playoff rankings came out we was like No. 16 or 17," Jones said. "Long story short, we weren't supposed to be here."

**This will go down as one of the great stories in college football history.**

**Urban Meyer**  
Ohio State coach  
No question about it now: Ohio State is the trust champion big-time football has ever crowned, shored by golden confetti as its band played the school's unofficial anthem, "Hang on Sloopy," after the clock hit 0:00. "This will go down as one of the great stories in college football history," coach Urban Meyer said.

The Buckeyes overcame two injured Heisman contenders and one awful 35-21 loss to Virginia Tech to win their first national title since the 2002 BCS championship. In the BCS, the early slip to the Heisman could have, they much eliminated the Buckeyes from the championship race.

Before the BCS's 16-year stint, it was up to The Associated Press and coaches' polls to sort out which team was best, with a little help from the bowls. The Buckeyes have three of those championships, too.

Now they can add college football's newest championship trophy to the display cases at Woody Hayes Athletic Center back in Columbus.

Meyer now has three titles, adding this one for his home state team to the two he won for Florida. He matches Alabama's Nick Saban as the only coaches to win national championship at two schools. It's seen just three seasons for Meyer to put the Buckeyes — and the Big Ten — back on top, with a team that looks built to last.

Elliott, a sophomore, was the offensive MVP and ran for 246 yards and four touchdowns on a career-high 36 carries. In the last three games — the Big Ten championship against Wisconsin, the Sugar Bowl seen just against Alabama and the final against Oregon — Elliott had 696 yards rushing.



BRANDON WADE/AP

Oregon's Evan Baylis, left, is tackled by Ohio State's Marshon Lattimore during the second half Monday in Arlington, Texas.

## What to know

# Working to perfection

## Underdog Ohio State sticks to its game plan

BY ANNE M. PETERSON  
AND RUSTY MILLER  
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Coming into the national championship game, there was a school of thought behind picking the best team to win.

Those who favored Oregon said that Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Marcus Mariota was too skilled, his team was too quick and played too fast, the offense was too polished and deep and the defense too pliable for them to lose.

The backers of Ohio State figured the Buckeyes were more physical on both sides of the ball, had a horse of a running back in Ezekiel Elliott and a quarterback who seemed not just unflappable but unbeatable.

Before a crowd of 85,689 at AT&T Stadium, things couldn't have more closely followed Ohio State's template. The Buckeyes' big guys up front dominated, Elliott rumbled for 246 yards and four touchdowns on 36 carries and Cardale Jones continually came up with big plays with his legs and his arm.

The result was a surprisingly easy 42-20 victory for the Buckeyes (14-1), who cashed in on their first national championship since 2002. It was a bitter defeat for Mariota and the Ducks (13-2), thwarted once again from winning their first national title.

Here's what to know about how the Buckeyes won and why the Ducks lost.

**Trouble on third down:** Oregon had trou-

ble on third down, converting just two of 12 chances. The Ducks were 0-for-2 on fourth down, including a goal-line attempt that they couldn't punch in. That was uncharacteristic for a team that went into the game ranked fourth in the nation for third-down conversions, at 51.6 percent.

"Third down was a big deal. And part of that was precipitated by not being good on first and second down," Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said.

**Run defense:** Oregon's run defense was mediocre this season, allowing opponents an average of 156.1 yards per game to rank 49th in the nation. Ohio State was averaging 262 rushing yards a game going in. In the end, Ohio State rushed for 296 yards against Oregon, and Ezekiel Elliott led the way with 246 yards and four scores.

"When you have him being as fast and physical as he is and then you bring that with a 200 and whatever-he-is 55 or 60 quarterback, those are three pretty good hammers when you add the fly sweep game and some of the other stuff that they're able to do," Helfrich said.

**Overcoming turnovers:** Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said despite the 538 yards his offense amassed, it was the defense cleaning up after the offense that won the game. The Buckeyes turned the ball over four times — three fumbles and a bobbled interception — but those gaffes didn't hurt them badly.

The first two turnovers resulted in zero points for Oregon. The second two turned into 10 points, but Ohio State had built an

11-point lead to maintain its advantage. Then Elliott closed out the scoring with three more touchdown runs.

"Defense won the game," Meyer said. "We lose that game if we don't stop them after our turnovers."

**No Mariota magic:** Known for his ability to create plays when it appears none exist, Oregon quarterback Mariota was stymied by Ohio State's defense. He had two touchdown passes, one on the opening drive to Keaton Lowe and a stunning 70-yard scoring pass to Byron Marshall that pulled the Ducks within 21-17 in the third quarter. In the end, this season's Heisman Trophy winner completed 24 of 37 passes for 333 yards. He was sacked twice and intercepted once — on his final pass of the game.

"It hurts. I can't really put it into words much more than that," Mariota said.

**Why stop at one?** Meyer conceded that he thought next year was Ohio State's year. After all, the Buckeyes are very young — half the starters are freshmen or sophomores.

"To say we had this vision back in September or even August, no not a chance," he said. "I thought this was a team that could battle and battle and find a way to win a bunch of games and then a year later go make a run at it."

Remember, though, that there are three top-quality quarterbacks, Elliott and two-thirds of the starters coming back.

Wide receiver Michael Thomas cautioned Ohio State fans to save their money. "Oh, yeah," he said. "We'll be back."

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Meyer joins exclusive club with another title

By PAUL NEWBERY  
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — If he wasn't a member of the club before, he definitely is now.

Take a bow, Urban Meyer.

You're one of the greatest coaches in college football history.

Meyer joined a very elite group — fight up there with guys named Bryant and Leahy and Saban — by leading Ohio State to the national championship with a 42-20 victory over Oregon on Monday night.

It was Meyer's third national title. The first two came with Florida, this one with the Buckeyes — a program in disarray when he took over in 2012 after taking a one-year sabbatical from coaching.

He said he needed the time away to take care of his health and reconnect with his family. But if anyone thought it would be a softer, kinder — and more beatable — Meyer who returned to the sideline, they were sadly mistaken.

This was the 41st game he's coached since taking over in Columbus.

He's won 38 of them, an astonishing turnaround for a team that went 6-7 during the 2011 season, reeling from the forced ouster of longtime coach Jim Tressell and an NCAA investigation into tattoos and other illegal benefits doled out to the players.

"The chase is complete," Meyer said.

Ahh, the chase. That's been the theme of the program since Meyer watched Alabama demolish Notre Dame in the BCS championship game at the end of the 2012 season. The Buckeyes went 12-0 that year but were banned from postseason play. Nevertheless, the coach knew his unbeaten squad didn't match up to the Crimson Tide, so he sent every member of the program a text that very night with a simple message: "The Chase is on."

"Somehow," he said, "we had to get to that level. That was The Chase."

Quicker than even Meyers envisioned, the Buckeyes became the team everyone else is chasing.

"I thought this was a team that could battle and battle and find a way to win a bunch of games," he concluded. "And then a year later you make a run at it."

Meyer seemed a little more willing to appreciate this title than the first two, even joking that he planned to give the players a couple of days off before "we're back at it."

But he won't rest on his laurels for long.

"It's not his style." "He just demands excellence out of everybody, every aspect of your life," said Ezekiel Elliott, the MVP after rushing for 246 yards and four touchdowns. "When he demands that every day from you, you don't have any choice but to change."

Clearly, Meyer is still the same fierce coach he was. He also remains mercilessly poking players and coaches alike, all in desire to get the best out of them. Before a Sugar Bowl victory over top-seeded Alabama, he talked about the need to make life uncomfortable for those around him, saying that's often how you get the best out of people.

His methods aren't for everyone, he acknowledged.

But, Meyer added, it's the surest way to a championship.

He'll get no complaints from the Buckeyes, whose victory signaled a northward shift in the game's power structure after years of dominance by the Southeastern Conference (with Meyer playing a key role as well).

Meyer became only the eighth coach to



LM OTERO/AP

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer holds the championship trophy after beating Oregon on Monday in Arlington, Texas.

win as many as three national championships, a club led by Bear Bryant with five. Frank Leahy and Nick Saban have four apiece, followed by Meyer, Bernie Bierman, John McKay, Bud Wilkinson and Barry Switzer, all with a trio.

Saban and Meyer are the only coaches to win championships at different schools.

By the time Meyer is done — remember, he's still only 50 — he might go down as the greatest of them all.

"I'm very humbled by that," he said, "but I'm also the first one to appreciate the people who did it, and that's our players."

Give Meyer some credit, too.

This was his best coaching job yet.

The Buckeyes lost star quarterback Braxton Miller to a season-ending shoulder injury during fall practice. They had to shake off an early home loss to Virginia Tech, when Miller's replacement, J.T. Barrett, struggled behind an inexperienced offensive line. Barrett improved to such an extent that he finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy balloting, but he sustained a season-ending injury of his own against Michigan. About the same time, the team had to deal with something far worse: the death of scout team player Kosta Karageorge, who is believed to have taken his own life.

Meyer had to turn to a quarterback who started the year as a third-stringer, Cardale Jones. All he did in his first three career starts was guide the Buckeyes to a 59-0 blowout of Wisconsin for the Big Ten title, a stunning 42-35 upset of Saban's Alabama powerhouse in the Sugar Bowl, and finally a triumph over Oregon.

Make no mistake, there are not many coaches who could overcome that sort of adversity.

Maybe not any.

Not even Saban, dare we say.

"One of the great stories in college football history of closeness, of team, of selflessness and strain." Meyer said.



LM OTERO/AP

With the aid of blockers Taylor Decker and Pat Elflein, in background, Ohio State's Ezekiel Elliott runs for a big gain in the second half on Monday against Oregon.

## Behind Slobs, Elliott cleans up on Ducks

By RUSTY MILLER  
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — If anybody's looking for an early Heisman Trophy favorite for next season, look no further than Zeke.

He's already locked up the voting bloc called the Slobs.

Tailback Ezekiel Elliott, known as Zeke to his teammates, had 246 yards on 36 carries and scored four touchdowns. And the "Slobs" — the offensive linemen's both affectionate and accurate name for themselves — dominated up front as the Buckeyes ran over, around and through Oregon 42-20 on Monday night to capture the national championship.

Coach Urban Meyer sang the alma mater with his family and then was asked about the job Elliott and his line did.

"That was one of the great performances in college football history to do what they did," he said. "In history."

The championship was the first for Ohio State and the much maligned Big Ten in a dozen years.

"This is just a surreal moment. We finally did it," Elliott said. "This is why we all came here, to compete and win national championships. We did it."

The sophomore piled up an incredible 696 yards — averaging almost 9 yards a carry — in his last three games against defenses representing three of the best teams in the land.

"Phenomenal," said Carlos Hyde, who played in front of Elliott a year ago before jumping to the NFL. "That was one of the best games by a running back has ever had to play in a national championship game."

And the line — with four of five new starters at the outset of the season — continued its powerful play, creating big holes for Elliott and buying time for quarterback Cardale Jones to find receivers or take off on a bruising run.

"The o-line had to raise their level of play," tackle Taylor Decker said. "You know, [Elliott] has always been the same guy, he's always run like that. It's easy to block for a guy that runs that hard and is just not going to be denied."

They call themselves the Slobs because

they hang out together, like nothing more than scarfing down a couple of pizzas and will probably never appear on the cover of GQ. No one was more pleased with the line's play than another old lineman, Orlando Pace, a former Ohio State and NFL star who beamed while the team celebrated on the field.

"The improvement in the offensive line was one of the biggest differences in this team this year," he said. "They got better week in and week out. To take control against Alabama like they did in the last game and then pound Oregon tonight, I'm really proud of them."

Ohio State trailed 7-0 when Elliott and his blockers helped turn things around. On second and 10 at the Oregon 33, Elliott raced away from a possible tackler at the line and then outran the Ducks secondary for the touchdown. The score not only electrified the thousands of Ohio State fans, it was a sign that the Buckeyes planned on being in this for the long haul.

Behind the Slobs, Elliott was far from done.

Ohio State forged a 14-7 lead after forcing another punt by the Ducks. Elliott accounted for exactly half of the yards on the 46-yard drive, including a 17-yard burst to the Oregon 1 that set up Jones' 1-yard TD toss to Nick Vannett.

Despite four turnovers, Ohio State remained in control for most of the game — thanks to the muscle up front and the power in the backfield.

A few Oregon pulled to a 21-20 deficit Elliott and Co. took over again.

On the last play of the third period, Elliott powered over two tacklers at the goal line on a 9-yard touchdown run that helped the Buckeyes stanch the Ducks' momentum. He then covered the final 2 yards for another touchdown that gave Ohio State some breathing room, 35-20 at 9:44 of the final period.

In 40 carries in his previous two games, Elliott went for 450 yards — 220 yards in a 59-0 rout of Wisconsin and 230 in a 42-35 win over Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

He saved the best for last.

"We knew that our o-line was bigger and more physical than their d-line," Elliott said. "We just had to punch them in the mouth."

