



**Dr. John "Rob" Marsh talks to longtime patient Gene Sensabaugh.**

CHRIS CARROLL  
Stars and Stripes

# Selfless service

Former Delta Force doctor named the top rural physician in America

BY CHRIS CARROLL  
*Stars and Stripes*

**D**RAPHINE, Va. — Dr. John "Rob" Marsh was already more than 12 hours into his workday last Tuesday when he rolled up to a tiny darkened house in Vesuvius, an out-of-the-way town in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

The homeowner, a woman with tired eyes, opened the door and apologized for the clutter. She'd been trying to get the place decorated for Christmas while

**'I thought I was going to meet a guy with a kind of silver spoon in his mouth, if you will. I couldn't have been more wrong about anything my life. He is the epitome of selfless service.'**

**Barry Perkins**

nominated Dr. John "Rob" Marsh for the Country Doctor of the Year Award

also tending to her mother, who suffers from dementia and is bedridden by an arthritic knee that grinds painfully.

Marsh went into the back room and

bent over the elderly woman, administering some gentle words and a shot of cortisone.

Marsh's readiness to make nighttime

house calls after a full day at the office has been a lifeline for her mother, said Carolyn Terrell.

"His willingness to come out here when we need him — well, it's the kind of attitude you don't find that much anymore," she said. "We're just fortunate. One of these days he may be coming out to see me."

Marsh emerged from her mother's room, delivered some instructions and gently put his hands on Terrell's shoulders and urged her to take care of herself, too.

**SEE SELFLESS ON PAGE 3**

## NATION

2 NY police officers ambushed, fatally shot; gunman kills himself

Page 7

## PACIFIC

Attorney: S. Korean officials encouraged prostitutes to service US servicemembers

Page 4

## WORLD

Pakistan makes arrests in Taliban school massacre

Page 10



**QUOTE**  
OF THE DAY

**“Our city is in mourning. Our hearts are heavy. It is an attack on all of us.”**

— Mayor Bill de Blasio, on the ambush killings of two New York City police officers in their patrol car by a man who later killed himself in a subway station

See story on Page 7

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**TODAY**  
IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 16
- Business ..... 18
- Classified ..... 19, 22
- Comics ..... 13
- Crossword ..... 13
- Faces ..... 17
- Opinion ..... 20-21
- Science & Medicine ..... 15
- Sports ..... 23-32
- Weather ..... 18

**WAR/MILITARY**

**7 Afghan police killed at checkpoint**

*The Associated Press*  
**KABUL, Afghanistan** — The Taliban attacked a checkpoint in northern Afghanistan, killing at least seven policemen, an official said Sunday. In Kabul, a reporter wounded in an attack earlier this month on a French-run school died of his injuries.

The checkpoint attack took place in Jawzjan province, said Abdul Manan Raoufi, the region's police operational chief. Along with the seven killed, five other policemen were wounded in the attack late Saturday in a village in

the province's Qashtepa district.

Police reinforcements were sent to the location and a gun-battle ensued in which five insurgents died, Raoufi said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

Meanwhile, a battle has been raging between insurgents and government forces for more than a week in eastern Kunar province, said Abdul Ghani Musamem, spokesman for provincial governor. He said it was difficult to determine exact casualty figures, though at least three civilians and 28 insurgents had been killed so

far.

“There are casualties among civilians who are stuck in the battlefield but we don't know how many right now,” he said.

Elsewhere in Kunar, seven civilians, including two children, were killed when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Nari district late Saturday, the spokesman said. Three other civilians were wounded in the blast.

Also late on Saturday, journalist Zubair Hatami, 22, died in Kabul from wounds sustained in a Taliban attack on a French-run school earlier this month.

Hatami, a cameraman with the privately-run Mitra Television, was seriously wounded when a teenage suicide bomber blew himself up during a performance at the Etsiqal High School on Dec. 11. A German aid worker also was killed in that attack.

Taliban militants have intensified their war on the Afghan government in recent months, and have been hitting soft targets such as schools and foreign guest-houses in the capital ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign combat forces on Dec. 31.

**Convicted soldier's lawyer argues new evidence**

**By PAUL WOOLVERTON**  
*The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer (TNS)*

The lawyer for a former Fort Bragg, N.C., officer convicted of murdering two Afghanistan nationals says the Army might not have prosecuted the officer if it had done a more thorough criminal investigation.

Former 1st Lt. Clint Lorraine is serving 20 years for ordering his soldiers in July 2012 to shoot three men when they were riding a motorcycle near his platoon in a Taliban-controlled area of Afghanistan.

Defense lawyer John N. Maher said records have surfaced since last year's court-martial that indicate that one of the three Afghans had connections to bombings and terror networks. If the government had found and shared that information sooner, perhaps the Army would have decided not to court-martial Lorraine, Maher said.

Maher's documents do not assert that the two dead Afghans were directly involved with bombings or terrorist groups. The documents say the third man, who survived the shooting and fled, was involved in a bombing two months later, and this man knew another man connected to bombings.

Prosecutors at Lorraine's court-martial presented evidence that the men on the motorcycle had not done anything hostile to justify an engagement in combat. The

military's rules on when to initiate or join combat are designed to prevent civilian casualties and to avoid making new enemies.

Lorraine also was convicted of wrongly ordering his soldiers to shoot toward civilians to scare and harass them and of wrongly threatening to kill several civilians. Several soldiers said they disagreed with the orders, and one testified that he refused an order to shoot toward children.

The 82nd Airborne Division commander, Maj. Gen. Richard D. Clarke, is the case's convening authority and is reviewing Lorraine's conviction and sentencing for clemency. Maher has asked Clarke to overturn the convictions, to set Lorraine free and to allow him to resign from the Army honorably.

**Sharing information**

Much of the information that defense consultants learned after the trial should have been discovered by investigators and shared with the prosecutors and defense team before the trial began in summer 2013, Maher said.

There may have been more information — undiscovered, lost or purged — that was important to the case, Maher said. Some may be in classified databases, he said.

“Had the government developed and produced this information, timely, and quite possibly in more relevant details, the case likely would not have gone to

a court-martial,” Maher said. “Here's why: What 82nd Airborne captain, lieutenant colonel, colonel or major general is going to send one of his paratroopers to trial when those killed were associated with terror?”

The Army's investigators should have used fingerprints from the Afghan nationals and identification numbers from Afghan government-issued ID cards to consult a database that the military uses to track insurgents, Maher said. These records have shown that: The man who survived the motorcycle shooting was Haji Karimullah. He was connected in the database this past spring through fingerprints in a bombing about two months after the shooting. The two who died were his brother and nephew.

A man named Abdul Ahad said he was Karimullah's nephew and his son. Ahad had been held at a top-secret prison in 2009, Maher's paperwork says, but it does not say why. The criminal investigators could have discovered this if they had looked, Maher said.

Ahad's fingerprints in March 2013 were matched to a bombing eight months after the Americans killed his father and his brother. This information was not shared with Lorraine's lawyers for his court-martial.

There was a second shooting in July 2012, minutes after the one with the motorcycle. Two men were killed and a third was

injured. This was about 500 meters away from the motorcycle shooting, Maher said. Lorraine was not prosecuted for the second shooting.

Maher said the Americans intercepted radio communications that indicate the men in the second group were scouting Lorraine's platoon to commit an attack. The injured survivor, Mohammad Rahim, tested positive for homemade explosive residue on his hands, Maher wrote.

Maher said that Karimullah, the survivor of the motorcycle shooting, knew Rahim. Rahim was later determined by fingerprints to be involved in a bombing several weeks prior to the shootings, and he is connected to other bombings later.

Rahim also knew another man, Sader Mohammad, thought to be heavily involved in bombings, Maher wrote.

This and other evidence creates reasonable doubt and, at a minimum, should have been shared with the lawyers who defended Lorraine at his court-martial, Maher said.

**Careful review**

Clarke, the division commander, is carefully reviewing the case, said Col. Cathy Wilkinson, an 82nd Airborne spokeswoman.

“He takes this case very seriously and is performing an in-depth study of the file and clemency requests,” Wilkinson said.

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## MILITARY

## Selfless: Doctor's reputation grows first in Army, then in rural community

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Then Marsh headed off along dark country roads in his Chevy pickup. He visited patients in an assisted living facility, made nightly rounds at a hospital in Lexington and then drove 20 miles back to Raphine, to the closer of the two doctor's offices he maintains, to fill out insurance paperwork. At midnight, he was back in Lexington to admit two patients who'd come to the emergency room. He wouldn't make it home to his farm and family in the village of Middlebrook until the wee hours.

"It's just a fairly typical Tuesday," he said as he drove.

## Army background

Marsh, 59, is no typical doctor. His willingness to do it all for his rural patients — sewing up wounds at his office, hospital care, home visits at all hours — this month earned him the 2014 Country Doctor of the Year Award. It's a distinction that has been given to standout doctors in communities of 30,000 or less since 1992 by Staff Care, a division of the medical staffing company AMN Healthcare.

The all-encompassing responsibility of being the only doctor on call throughout a sizable area of the central Shenandoah Valley might be too much for another physician. Not Marsh.

Tirelessness and the confidence to operate alone in a crisis — key requirements for rural physicians — were drilled into him in his previous job as the doctor for the Army's elite Delta Force antiterrorism unit. From 1986 to 1993, it was his job to deploy with the unit on major operations to patch up wounds and make split-second medical decisions as combat raged.

But he wanted to do more. At Delta Force's compound at Fort Bragg, N.C., Marsh, who specialized in family medicine at the University of Virginia's medical school, established the ongoing tradition of providing medical care to operators' wives and children as well.

He didn't know it, but he was laying the groundwork at the time for his future work as a civilian community physician.

"What did I like most about the Army? It was taking care of soldiers and their families," he said. "I liked the people I took care of — I liked the personalities of the families and the people."

Today, he works with farmers and truck drivers. They're worlds apart from America's most elite soldiers, but underneath different exteriors, they share similar qualities.

"I got the camaraderie that I felt at Delta — I've felt that here in this community," Marsh said. "We rely on each other. These are really independent people here in a rural area ... independent, hardworking people. Dedicated."

## A Delta Force legend

Marsh, an enlisted Green Beret before attending medical school, was a legend who might well have become surgeon general of the Army someday if he had continued in his career, said Barry Perkins, a former Delta Force colleague. Perkins served as Marsh's physical assistant and today works part-time in the same role in Marsh's civilian practice.

When Marsh recruited him to Delta Force in the early 1990s, Perkins only knew the doctor by the large reputation that preceded him. Marsh was the darling of his former Virginia U.S. Rep. John O. Marsh, had served as Secretary of the Army throughout most of the 1980s.

"I thought I was going to meet a guy with a kind of silver spoon in his mouth, if you will," said Perkins, who nominated Marsh for the Country Doctor of the Year Award. "I couldn't have been more wrong about



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CARROLL/Stars and Stripes

**Above:** Dr. John "Rob" Marsh explains a prescription to Iva Myrtle, 92, whose swollen legs cause her pain, and to her husband, Marvin Myrtle, during a nighttime house call. **Below:** Marsh catches a moment's rest in the midst of a workday that would stretch over more than 18 hours.

anything my life. He is the epitome of selfless service."

Marsh didn't leave Delta voluntarily. A 60 mm mortar round during the Battle of Mogadishu in October 1993 blew him off his chosen path.

He had deployed to Somalia with a group of Rangers and Delta Force operators charged with capturing the Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid—a failed attempt that would go down in popular history as "Blackhawk Down." It was the bloodiest American engagement since the Vietnam War and, in retrospect, Marsh said, our military's first time facing off against an enemy that would later become its focus — al-Qaida.

Two U.S. helicopters were shot down. 18 U.S. troops died, scores more were wounded and two Delta Force snipers — Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randy Shughart, who'd insisted on being dropped in the middle of the city to defend the wounded — received posthumous Medals of Honor.

Though Marsh had trained years before as a Special Forces medic, now he was a doctor, and that meant he wasn't in the thick of battle. Nevertheless, he spent the most intense 24 hours of his life providing emergency care to friends and colleagues.

"Usually, when I'd see a casualty, they were already bandaged up because my medic had seen them," he said. "Now I was seeing fresh casualties, lots of them."

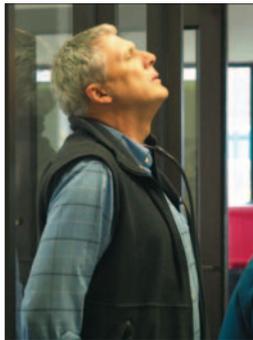
The following day, a Somali mortar crew landed in the midst of a group of soldiers with whom he'd been standing, killing one elite U.S. fighter and inflicting devastating wounds on Marsh's lower body and legs.

Quick thinking by his comrades in arms prevented him from bleeding out on the spot, he said, but Marsh would never again deploy with Delta and retired in 1996 as a lieutenant colonel.

"I never regained the physical skills I needed to stay on jump status," he said. "I probably could have stayed in Army medicine, but I just didn't feel that calling. I felt another calling, that I wanted to come do family medicine practice back in Virginia, where I grew up."

## Home in the valley

Marsh, a devout Christian, said he felt he was following God's direction for his



**What did I like most about the Army? It was taking care of soldiers and their families. I**

**Dr. John "Rob" Marsh**  
winner of the 2014 Country Doctor of the Year Award

life when he returned to Virginia for good in 1996, but he still had some doubts. He opened a clinic in remote Middlebrook — near his newly purchased farm and just 5 miles from the place his grandmother was born — and began taking patients.

"I was a little worried how that transition was going to be," he said. "You know — doctor of the high-speed army unit coming back here."

But the transition felt natural, he said, because once he settled in, the amount of responsibility that immediately fell on his shoulders was huge. Today he has 3,500 active patients. Not only is the number far higher than the typical primary care doctor's 2,300 patients but his range of services for his patients is wider than normal.

"I think being in a rural area, one, your patients want you to do as much for them

See video and more photos of the former Delta Force doctor hard at work at [www.stripes.com/ruraldoc](http://www.stripes.com/ruraldoc)



as you can," he said. "By that I mean, they don't like to be referred" to other, distant doctors.

As a result, Marsh was handling more complex cases than do most primary care physicians in an age of hyperspecialization, and it felt kind of like the Army. "Instead of gunshot wounds," he said with a chuckle, "chansaw injuries."

One of the advantages of civilian life back in 1996 was going to be more time with his wife and four children, now high school and college age, he said. But his practice in Middlebrook—which grew enough that he in recent years opened a new office next to a giant truck stop on the interstate in Raphine—has become as absorbing as his Army work ever was.

His wife, Barbara, a registered nurse who works in the Middlebrook office, grew up in the suburbs of Newport News, Va., and said the rigors of practicing country medicine took her by surprise.

"Sometimes, it was a shock back when we moved here that people would call any time of the night or day and think nothing of it," she said. "We're used to it now."

## Patients and friends

His legend has grown around the community just as it did in the Army, with neighbors passing along stories about his constant work — not just at doctoring but as a Sunday school teacher, church elder, hospital board member and University of Virginia faculty member.

Marsh has a way of knowing what's happening with his patients and showing up right when he's needed, said Middlebrook farmer Gene Sensabaugh, 88.

"I went into the hospital because I had some dizziness, and the doctor there said, 'We're taking your driver's permit,'" Sensabaugh said. "I said, 'Doc, you can't do it. I'm a farmer. I have to be able to drive.'"

"Well, late at night, about 1 o'clock, Dr. Marsh shows up at my bedside and says, 'Gene, I'm going to stop them from taking your driver's permit,'" Sensabaugh said. "What he did was he showed that the dizziness was caused by one of my medications. They changed my medication and the other doctor, he said 'OK, you can keep your driver's permit.'"

Although many suspect Marsh simply needs little or no sleep, Paul Holliday, of nearby Greenville, saw Marsh asleep behind the wheel of his power lawnmower and truck early one morning when he went to the local hospital for a test.

"When I came back out a little while later, he was gone," he said. "I think that's how he does it — he knows how to take a power nap and keep going."

Holliday's wife, Jane Holliday, said many of the patients in the community appreciate that Marsh not only provides medical care but spiritual care as well. Her church pastor, she said, woke up in the hospital late one night to find Marsh bowed in prayer beside his bed.

What does it mean to his patients that Marsh has been named America's top country doctor?

"I'll tell you what 'country doctor' means — it means help anytime you want it and whatever you need," Paul Holliday said. "That's all that he does every day."

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## MILITARY

# Attorney: S. Korean officials urged prostitution

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND  
AND YOO KYONG CHANG  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — Attorneys for a group of former prostitutes who serviced U.S. troops decades ago argued Friday they should receive compensation because the South Korean government encouraged them to “work for their country.”

The 122 women are suing the government for \$1.2 million and asking for an official apology and an investigation into a system of open prostitution that operated in the military camp towns sur-

rounding U.S. bases for several decades after the Korean War. The women claim their human rights were violated. Their attorneys say documents show the national government, including a ministry overseeing health and social affairs, was directing local health centers to manage the women's health care.

“The plaintiffs were not aware at the time that prostitution was illegal,” Ui Eun-jin, one of several attorneys for the women, said during the first hearing in the case. “They were being educated that this was work for their country and an act of patriotism.”

Ha Ju-hee, another attorney for the women, said the national government had designated specific areas for the women to practice prostitution, forced them to register with health clinics, get regular health checkups and then treatment if they were found to have sexually transmitted diseases.

“The state caused the plaintiffs pain, so the state has a duty to compensate them,” she said, adding that the national government also praised the women for earning U.S. dollars. South Korea was desperately poor after the Korean War, and American currency was seen as a way to build up its strug-

gling economy.

About 60 people, mostly women who appeared to be attorneys, the former prostitutes and young women who had supported them at a rally earlier outside the courthouse, packed the Seoul Central District courtroom. No U.S. military representatives were present.

Government attorney Lee San Hae said the women had not proved that the national government encouraged them to act illegally.

He also objected to the women calling themselves “comfort women,” a term frequently used

in South Korea to refer to women forced into sexual slavery during the Japanese colonial occupation of the peninsula. Tokyo's perceived lack of a sufficient apology to the comfort women has become a major political issue between the two countries.

Instead, Lee said, the former sex workers should call themselves “gijichon comfort women,” using a word referring to military camp towns.

The next hearing in the case is scheduled for Jan. 30.

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PHOTOS BY MIKKI L. SPRENKLE/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

## A greeting and a coin in Kabul

Above: An Afghan child waves as International Security Assistance Forces pass by Saturday in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Right: U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno coins a soldier while visiting Bagram Air Field on Saturday.



## O'Shaughnessy takes reins of 7th Air Force

BY ARMANDO R. LIMON  
*Stars and Stripes*

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — Lt. Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy formally took command Friday of the 7th Air Force.

O'Shaughnessy, transferring to Osan from director of operations for Pacific Command at Camp H.M. Smith in Hawaii, lauded the 7th Air Force, saying its strength comes from all U.S. and South Korean military components.

He was promoted to lieutenant general prior to the change-of-command ceremony, attended by Pacific Air Forces commander Gen. Lori J. Robinson.

In an emotional farewell, Lt. Gen. Jan-Marc Jous awarded assurances that the 7th Air Force was ready to fight tonight. He had held command of 7th Air Force since January 2012 and is set to retire in February after 35 years in the Air Force.

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## Alaska airman gets 18-year sentence in DUI death

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — An Alaska airman has been sentenced to 18 years in prison for a drunken-driving collision that took the life of a 20-year-old woman.

Alaska Dispatch News reported Lane Douglas Wyatt, 24, had pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, first degree assault and drunken driving.

Citari Townes-Sweatt died in 2013 after Wyatt ran a red light in East Anchorage and hit the car she was driving. Assistant district attorney Will Taylor said friends tried to prevent Wyatt from driving.

“Wyatt had several opportunities to avoid the accident that were recklessly ignored,” said Superior Court Judge Kevin Saxby. Police said Wyatt was driving

a Chrysler 300 at a “high rate of speed” just before 5 a.m. when he ran a red light and “T-boned” a Chevrolet Monte Carlo driven by Townes-Sweatt, who died at the scene.

Four passengers in the Monte Carlo were injured and were taken to hospitals for treatment, according to court documents. Three passengers in the Chrysler 300 were injured as well.

Some of those injured in Townes-Sweatt's car continue to deal with injuries, Taylor said.

At the scene, Wyatt admitted to drinking five shots of hard alcohol and three beers at Chilkoot Charlie's before driving, according to court documents.

Wyatt was an Air Force airman at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

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## MILITARY

# AF admits nuke flaws, but will its fixes work?

By ROBERT BURNS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Faced with one of its biggest challenges in years — repairing a troubled nuclear missile corps — the U.S. Air Force has taken an important first step by admitting, after years of denial, that its problems run deep and wide.

Less certain is whether it will find all the right fixes, apply them fully and convince a doubting force of launch officers, security guards and other nuclear workers that their small and narrow career field is not a dead end.

The stakes are huge. The U.S. strategy for deterring nuclear war rests in part on the 450 Minuteman 3 missiles that stand ready, round-the-clock, to launch at a moment's notice from underground silos in five states.

Some question the wisdom of that strategy in an era of security threats dominated by terrorism and cyberattacks. But whatever their role, those intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs, will have to be safeguarded for years to come.

The responsibility is enormous, the cost of mistakes potentially colossal. The business end of these missiles can deliver mass destruction with breathtaking speed. Accidents, though rare, are an ever-present worry.

That's why it can be disquieting to hear missile officers describe their unhappiness and lack of faith in nuclear force leaders.

In sworn testimony to investigators looking into allegations that two ICBM commanders at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., were mistreating their subordinates, one officer spoke of deep pessimism.

"I go about most of my days wishing I was in another place, in another Air Force field," the officer said, according to a copy of investigation testimony provided in September and obtained by The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act. The officer's name was removed from the document by Air Force censors citing privacy protection.

The belated admission by the Air Force and the Pentagon's civilian leaders, after a series of AP stories revealing the issue, that the nuclear force is suffering from years of neglect, mismanagement and weak morale has yielded opposing interpretations of what it means.

Some, including experts who are critical of the Air Force, say it makes more obvious the need to invest billions to modernize the force. The flaws are fixable, they say.

Subscribing to this view, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced on Nov. 14 that the Pentagon would make top-to-bot-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

**Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, flanked by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, left, and U.S. Strategic Command Commander Adm. Cecil D. Haney, announced at the Pentagon on Nov. 14 that he is ordering changes in how the nation's nuclear arsenal is managed.**

tom changes — more than 100 in all — in how the nuclear force is managed and operated. He said the Pentagon would spend up to \$10 billion more over six years to improve the force. Ten days later Hagel announced his resignation, leaving questions about follow-through.

The opposing view is that this moment presents an opportunity to reconsider and restructure the nuclear force, possibly eliminating the ICBMs while enhancing the remaining sea- and air-launched nuclear forces. That view, however, is not predominant in the Obama administration, which favors the policy embraced by its predecessors, that the decades-old nuclear structure must be preserved for the foreseeable future.

What that leaves is a risk of reverting to past practices, perhaps with additional failures.

Eric Schlosser, author of "Command and Control," a highly regarded 2013 book on the ICBM and nuclear risk, said there is little doubt that the Pentagon

needs to update the nuclear missile force's basic infrastructure.

"But that's a short-term solution," he said in an interview. "The bigger question is: How many land-based missiles do we need in the 21st century? How should they be deployed, and do we need them at all?"

Paul Bracken, a Yale University professor and author of "The Second Nuclear Age," says he finds it unsettling to read about neglect of the ICBM force and the turmoil in the ranks of those who operate the missiles.

"If things are so bad, if for some reason we did want to fire an individual nuclear weapon, could we? Would the weapon take off?" he asked in an interview this month with the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

Bracken added that in the event of a massive nuclear attack by Russia, "I'm sure we could retaliate — we've got enough weaponry at our disposal. If we fire enough of them in a mass counterstrike, some are bound to work."

## Filipino family wants US Marine in local jail during trial

By OLIVER TEVES  
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A U.S. Marine charged with killing a transgender Filipino woman he picked up in a bar was brought back Friday to the city where the attack occurred two months ago, and lawyers of the victim say they will seek his detention in a local jail during his murder trial.

Relatives of Jennifer Laude saw the suspect, Marine Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton, for the first time since the killing as he was being photographed and fingerprinted by officers of the Regional Trial Court in Olongapo City, about 50 miles northwest of Manila.

The U.S. Embassy has already rejected a request by the Philippine government to take custody of Pemberton, citing a provision in the Visiting Forces Agreement between the countries that gives Americans custodial rights over a U.S. servicemember facing charges while judicial proceedings are ongoing.

American Ambassador Philip

Goldberg said the U.S. government was "sensitive" to Filipino sentiments on the killing and agreed to have Pemberton detained inside a Philippine military camp in Manila but under U.S. guard.

Pemberton was brought from the camp to Olongapo early Friday under heavy guard, including U.S. armed service personnel assigned to secure him. He was whisked through a back door into the courtroom, evading dozens of journalists and cameramen waiting for him. After the booking procedures, he was driven back to Manila.

Laude family lawyer Virgie Suarez said she expects the judge to soon rule on where he should be detained.

"He (Pemberton) was not on official duty and he committed the crime in Olongapo, so he should be detained here in Olongapo," she told reporters.

Laude's sister, Marlou, said she had "mixed emotions" — scared ... and trembling with anger" when she first saw Pemberton during

the booking proceedings. She said Pemberton was smiling before she saw her. "He quickly looked away from me and never smiled again," she said.

"I wanted to come close to him to ask him why he killed my sibling, to smash his head on the wall, but there were too many (guards) around him," she said.

Philippine government prosecutors on Dec. 15 charged Pemberton, a 19-year-old anti-tank missileman from Bristol, Mass., with murder, saying he killed Laude, who was formerly known

as Jeffrey, after he found out she was a transgender woman. Laude, 26, had apparently been strangled and drowned in a toilet bowl in a motel where the pair had checked in after meeting in a disco bar on Oct. 11, according to prosecutors.

Olongapo City Prosecutor Emilio Fe de los Santos said Pemberton's lawyers filed a motion to suspend the judicial proceedings while awaiting a Department of Justice ruling on their petition to review the murder charge.

Pemberton's lawyers could not be reached for comment.

## Ky. Marines raising funds for Gold Star monument

By TIM PRESTON  
The Independent

ASHLAND, Ky. — Old Marines aren't the type to shy away from a challenge, which may explain why members of the Greenbo Detachment of the Marine Corps League are hitting the streets and scheduling meetings with local business and community leaders in the days before Christmas.

"If we don't do this, it absolutely won't be done," said Mike Hale, who served as a Marine during the Vietnam era, as he and fellow Marine Corps League member Jack Nuckols visited recently for a chance to discuss their project — a memorial monument to honor Gold Star families, with Ashland's mayor.

Wearing the distinctive red jackets of the Marine Corps League, Hale and Nuckols say they know the monument effort will be challenging.

"Forty-thousand is a lot of money," said Nuckols, who was wounded as a Marine fighting on Okinawa. Hale said the cost of the monument could be as much as \$50,000.

However, undaunted by the challenge, the men said they will first meet with local business owners, as well as area elected officials, to gain momentum and collect contributions.

"I'm one of the younger ones in our organization and I'm 61 years old. You have to understand that when I was growing up, these guys were our heroes," Hale said, pointing to Nuckols and citing the service of local men, while pledging his own energies to help build a monument honoring families whose loved ones did not come home from wars in foreign lands.

The Gold Star Families monument is an effort by Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, of Huntington, whose foundation has already worked to establish two of the memorials. The local effort would establish the first Gold Star memorial monument in Kentucky.

Some elements of the design remain to be determined, although the monument will be a memorial for each of the nation's five military branches, and not dedicated purely to the USMC.

For more information or to support the effort to establish the monument, call Nuckols at (606) 324-4060.

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# WAR ON TERRORISM

## Kurds push into Sinjar as Iraqis battle for airport

By DALTON BENNETT  
The Associated Press

SINJAR, Iraq — Iraqi Kurdish fighters, backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, pushed their way Sunday into the town of Sinjar, captured by the Islamic State militants last summer.

Farther to the east, near the Syrian border, Iraqi security forces battled the Islamic State extremists as they tried to retake the strategic military airport of Tal Afar.

The battle for Sinjar and its surroundings has become the latest focus in the campaign to take back territory lost to the Islamic State during the militants' summer blitz that captured large swaths of northern and western Iraq and neighboring Syria.

Last week, Iraqi Kurdish pesh-

merga fighters launched the operation to retake Sinjar and opened up a passageway to Mt. Sinjar, which overlooks the town.

The development was an incremental step and helped evacuate some of the thousands of Yazidis trapped on the mountain following the town's fall in August.

On Sunday, loud explosions and intense gunbattles were heard from inside the town as coalition aircraft bombed Islamic State targets. The president of the self-ruled northern Kurdish region, Masoud Bazani, vowed to crush Islamic State fighters.

"Most of the districts are under our control," Barzani told peshmerga troops as he toured their positions on Mt. Sinjar. "We will crush the Islamic State."

At least 15 Kurdish fighters wounded in Sunday's clashes



DALTON BENNETT/AP

Yazidi fighters head Sunday to battle Islamic State militants on the summit of Mt. Sinjar in Iraq.

were brought from the front lines to a makeshift clinic on the mountain.

The spokesman for the Kurdish forces, Jabbar Yawar, said the fighters were still facing resistance from pockets of Islamic State militants still inside

the town and that it is "far from cleared." He declined to provide more details on the operation.

Meanwhile, Iraqi counterterrorism forces launched an offensive Saturday to retake the military airport near the town of Tal Afar from the Islamic State

group, said a Baghdad official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media. Tal Afar is a mixed Shiite-Sunni city of some 200,000 located strategically near the Syrian border to the east of Sinjar.

## Iraq's Shiite fighters desert over money, supply shortages

By SAMEER N. YACOB  
AND SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Abu Murtada al-Moussawi answered the call last summer from Iraq's top Shiite cleric to help save the country from the Islamic State group, but after less than three months on the front lines, he and several friends returned home because they had run out of food.

"Sometimes, we didn't have enough money to buy mobile scratch cards to call our families," al-Moussawi, a Shiite from the southern city of Basra, said. "Everybody felt like we were being forgotten by the government."

Now Iraq's Shiite religious establishment is urging the faithful to donate food, money and supplies. The clerics hope to prevent a repeat of last summer's collapse of Iraq's demoralized army in the face of the Islamic State group's lightning advance, which saw the extremists capture Mosul, the country's second-largest city, and sweep south toward the capital.

Shortly after the June blitz across northern Iraq, tens of thousands of Shiite men answered a nationwide call to arms by the top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Many volunteers came from the country's most impoverished areas and were barely able to make ends meet even before taking up arms.

The Shiite fighters are credited with helping to stall the militants' advance outside Baghdad, breaking the siege of the northern Shiite-majority town of Amirli in August, and later driving the militants out of Jurf al-Sakher, south of the capital.



AP

Iraqi Shiite fighters with the "Peace Brigades" patrol during a sandstorm in July in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Al-Moussawi was deployed along with fellow militiamen in Latifiyah, a town 20 miles south of Baghdad, with orders to keep the Islamic State group out of Sunni areas along the so-called Baghdad Belt. But during the past two months, the number of men in al-Moussawi's unit has dwindled, with as many as 1,000 deserting over economic hardship, he said.

In the upscale Baghdad neighborhood of Harthiya, a representative from al-Sistani's office recently urged his followers to donate food and money to the Shiite militias — warning that many fighters had already deserted.

He said that instead of spending money on cooking the traditional, large meals

to mark a recent holiday, Shiites instead should donate to front-line militiamen. Since then, donations of money, clothing and food have begun pouring into the local Shiite mosque and charity office.

Issam Abbas said he and other merchants in Basra have begun sending four truckloads of food and water to the front lines each month as their contribution to the war against the Islamic State group.

"I and other traders cannot leave our businesses, so we consider our monthly donations as a jihad against the terrorists," he said.

In the Baghdad Shiite stronghold of Sadr City, desperately needed ammunition is being purchased through donations by



HADI MIZBAN/AP

Iraqi Shiite fighters make their way to the front line to fight militants from the extremist Islamic State group in Jurf al-Sakher, south of Baghdad, in August.

wealthy Shiites. The drive to send weapons to the Shiite fighters has pushed the price of a single bullet from 40 cents to about \$2, while an AK-47 is now sold for \$800 compared with just \$350 a few months ago.

Hassan Saleh, owner of a cafe in Sadr City, took part in battles against the Islamic State group north of Baghdad in September. But he and his fellow militiamen never received any financial support from the government and depended completely on donations and their own money to meet their daily needs, he said. In early October, he returned home to look after his family.

"The government's negligence toward us has created bitterness among the volunteer fighters risking their lives in order to protect the country," he said. "We did not receive any salary, while the government is continuing to pay the salaries of the soldiers and the policemen who abandoned their positions without fighting in June."

## NATION

# 2 NYC police officers killed in ambush

## Gunman posted threats online claiming revenge for deaths

BY COLLEEN LONG  
AND JENNIFER PELTZ  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The warning came just moments too late: A man who had shot his ex-girlfriend a few hours earlier had traveled to New York City and vowed online to shoot two “pigs” in retaliation for the police chokehold death of Eric Garner.

Just minutes before a wanted poster for Ismaaiyl Brinsley arrived in the NYPD’s Real Time Crime Center, he ambushed two officers in their patrol car in broad daylight, fatally shooting them before killing himself inside a subway station.

Brinsley, 28, wrote on an Instagram account before Saturday’s shootings: “I’m putting wings on pigs today. They take 1 of ours, let’s take 2 of theirs,” two city officials with direct knowledge of the case confirmed to The Associated Press. He used the hashtags Shootthepolice, RIPEricGardner (sic) RIPMikeBrown — references to the two police-involved deaths that have sparked major protests around the country.

The officials, a senior city official and a law enforcement official, weren’t authorized to speak

publicly on the topic and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Police said Brinsley approached the passenger window of a marked police car and opened fire, striking Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu in the head.

“They were, quite simply, assassinated — targeted for their uniform,” said Police Commissioner Bill Bratton.

The killings stunned the city, prompted a response from a vacationing President Barack Obama and escalated weeks of simmering ill will between police and their critics following grand jury decisions not to indict officers in the deaths of Garner in New York and Michael Brown in Missouri. The New York police union head declared there’s “blood on the hands” of protesters and the city’s mayor.

Brinsley took off running after the shooting. Officers chased him down to a nearby subway station, where he shot himself in the head.

A silver handgun was recovered at the scene, Bratton said.

The Rev. Al Sharpton said Garner’s family has no connection to the suspect and denounced the violence.

Brown’s family condemned the shooting in a statement posted



JOHN MINICILLO/AP

Mourners stand at attention as the bodies of two fallen NYPD police officers are transported from Woodhull Medical Center on Saturday in New York. An armed man killed both officers before running into a nearby subway station and committing suicide, police said.

online by their attorney.

Garner, who was black, died after he was taken down by a white officer during an arrest on suspicion of selling loose cigarettes. The 18-year-old Brown, who was black, was fatally shot by a white officer. He was unarmed.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said the killings of Ramos and Liu strike at the heart of the city.

“Our city is in mourning. Our

hearts are heavy,” said de Blasio, who spoke softly with most eyes. “It is an attack on all of us.”

The tragedy ended a bizarre route for Brinsley that began in Maryland early Saturday. He went to the home of a former girlfriend in a Baltimore suburb and shot and wounded her. Police there said they noticed Brinsley posting from the woman’s Instagram account threats to kill New

York officers.

Baltimore-area officials sent a warning to New York City police, who received it moments too late, Bratton said.

Ramos was married with a 13-year-old son and had another in college, police and a friend said. He had been on the job since 2012 and was a school safety officer. Liu had been on the job for seven years and was married two months ago.

## Protesters’ rally disrupts holiday shopping at Mall of America

The Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — A mass of demonstrators chanting “Black lives matter” converged in the Mall of America rotunda Saturday as part of a protest against police brutality that caused at least part of the mall to shut down on one of the busiest days for holiday shopping.

The group Black Lives Matter Minneapolis had more than 3,000 people confirm on Facebook that they would attend. Official crowd estimates weren’t immediately available, but pictures posted to social media by local news organizations showed the rotunda was full. Organizer Mica Grimm estimated about 3,000 people participated.

The rally is part of protests that have been going on nationwide after white police officers weren’t charged in the deaths of unarmed black men in Missouri and New York.

The Mall of America increased security, and certain parts of the mall were closed for some time. Signs were posted at some entrances advising shoppers that the east side of the mall was on lockdown.

Bloomington police said 25 people were arrested, mainly for reasons such as trespassing. Commander Mark Stehlik said he was not aware of any injuries or property damage.

About 30 minutes after the planned protest began, a final warning to disperse was given, and police in riot gear began clearing the rotunda, the Star Tri-



AARON LAVINSKY, THE STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Demonstrators filled the Mall of America rotunda Saturday in Bloomington, Minn., to protest police brutality.

bune reported. A large group of protesters began leaving the mall, but others migrated to a shopping area and occupied two levels. A small “die-in” with people lying on the floor was staged in front of several stores.

About an hour later, organizers sent out a group text message advising those who were still inside to exit. Live video from KSTP-TV showed police in riot gear were marching through the mall’s skyway, ushering protesters outside.

During the planned rally, protesters in the rotunda shouted “While you’re on your shopping spree, black people cannot breathe!” — a reference to the chokehold a police officer placed on Eric Garner, who died in New York. As they were dispersing, they walked down the hall with their arms raised, shouting “Hands up, don’t shoot!”

Grimm told the AP that organizers believed the protest was a success.

“Our goal is to bring more attention to these issues — and what just happened, nobody can ignore,” she said.

## Prosecutors: Fraudster used funds to freeze wife

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An accused financial fraudster used backers’ money for a personal and uncommon purpose, prosecutors say: to have his wife’s body cryogenically frozen.

While telling investors he was putting their money in commodities, foreign exchange trading pools and precious metals, Whitefan Chay instead used over \$150,000 of it on cryogenics after his wife’s death about five years ago, Manhattan federal prosecutors said in a fraud indictment.

Prosecutors say the 38-year-old fled New York for Peru while under investigation in 2011, and they have been unable to locate him since. Neither he nor any law-

yer for him responded to a related civil suit that the federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission filed against him last year.

Chay, 38, solicited more than \$5 million from people for investment pools, promising returns around 24 percent a year and telling them there was “no risk in this activity,” prosecutors said.

Instead, he lost over \$2 million of the investors’ money and used much of the rest for luxury personal expenses and his wife’s preservation, according to prosecutors.

Prosecutors said Chay bolstered his deceit by sending out bogus account statements and using new investors’ contributions to pay phony returns to earlier backers.

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## NATION

# 2014 frustrates US hopes for Israel-Palestine peace

By LARA JAKES  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State John Kerry is ending 2014 much in the same way he started it, frustrated in efforts to push Israel and Palestinians toward peace.

With a diplomatic showdown looming this past week over Arab plans to force Israel from occupied Palestinian lands within three years, Kerry prepared for a quick trip to Jordan in hopes of finding a calmer alternative.

By Thursday, the crisis appeared to have been averted when Palestinian and Jordanian officials said they would not push their resolution to an immediate vote in the U.N. Security Council, partly because the U.S. threatened a veto.

The fast-moving political drama was small, if temporary, victory for America's chief diplomat in his quest to end generations of fighting and tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. But it also showed how unlikely it is that Kerry can help restart peace talks soon, much less achieve the lasting truce he long has hoped to arrange.

"If people come together, work together, exert an effort to try to find the common ground here, I'm confident that the people of Israel are as interested in peace as are the people in Palestine, in the West Bank, in Jordan, and in the region," Kerry said recently. "But this is not the moment to opine on that process," Kerry said.

Last January, Kerry was immersed in the latest round of

peace talks that were set to expire in late April. He started the year on a plane to Jerusalem, where he was greeted by Palestinian protests, threats of new Israeli settlement construction and criticism from U.S. officials over how the Obama administration was handling the delicate negotiations.

The hits kept coming. Even as he urged both sides to resist tit-for-tat barbs, Kerry was lambasted by Israel's defense minister as "obsessive" and "messianic" and was accused of ignoring demands that Palestinian officials said had to be part of a final deal.

He pushed Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to uphold a pledge to release Palestinian prisoners, but to no avail. He prodded Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to consider rec-



EVAN VUCCA/AP

**U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Villa Taverna in Rome on Dec. 15.**

ognizing Israel as a Jewish state, but was soundly rejected.

In the end, disputes over territorial borders, security, refugees and the fate of Jerusalem could not be settled. The final breakdown was set into motion when Israel moved ahead with plans to build settlement units in an area of east Jerusalem that Palestinians consider their territory.

"And, poof, that was sort of

the moment," Kerry told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in early April, just weeks before a deadline for a framework plan toward a final peace deal.

Soon afterward, Abbas agreed to form a unity government with Palestinian political rival Hamas, which Israel and the U.S. consider a terrorist organization. Israel angrily cut off the peace negotiations.

## Obama says US can influence new generation in Cuba

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said his plan to normalize relations with Cuba gives the U.S. a chance to influence events at an important moment of change for the communist nation, and he brushed off critics who accuse him of kowtowing to dictators.

Obama said a half-century of trying to push out the Castro government through isolation has not worked. He said his administration is taking a look at whether to remove Cuba from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terror, acknowledging that Ha-

vana's inclusion makes it difficult for the U.S. to pursue closer ties.

"If we engage, we have the opportunity to influence the course of events at a time when there's going to be some generational change in that country," Obama told CNN's "State of the Union" in an interview that aired Sunday. "And I think we should seize it and I intend to do so."

Obama's move to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba elicited cheers from longtime opponents of the strict U.S. position toward Cuba. But his announcement last week also drew fierce opposition, in-

cluding from some U.S. lawmakers in both parties who said Obama failed to win any commitments from Cuba to demoralize before the easing of U.S. penalties and travel restrictions.

On Saturday, Cuban opposition leaders in Miami joined Cuban-American politicians and activists, pledging to oppose Obama's plan.

Cuban President Raul Castro, speaking to the Cuban Assembly, said that Cuba would not renounce its communist system despite the normalization of ties with the U.S. He paraded three convicted spies just

released from U.S. prison, and they shook their fists in victory in front of parliament.

Obama said it's wrong to accuse him of letting dictators outmaneuver him, citing Russian President Vladimir Putin as an example.

After all, Russia's currency is now collapsing under the weight of U.S. and European penalties, he pointed out.

"There is this knee-jerk sense, I think, on the part of some in the foreign policy establishment that, you know, shooting first and thinking about it second projects strength," Obama said.

## Bush officials performed little oversight of CIA interrogation program

By KEN DILANIAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In July 2004, despite growing internal concerns about the CIA's brutal interrogation methods, senior members of George W. Bush's national security team gave the agency permission to employ the harsh tactics against an al-Qaida facilitator the agency suspected was linked to a plot to disrupt the upcoming presidential election.

After weeks of torture that included being subjected to prolonged stress positions and sleep

deprivation at a secret site in Romania, the prisoner, Janat Gul, begged to be killed. But he steadfastly denied knowledge of any plot, CIA records show, leading interrogators to conclude he was not the hardened terrorist they thought he was, and that the informant who fingered him was a liar.

Yet there is no evidence the CIA relayed that information to the White House and the Justice Department, which continued to cite the case in legal justifications for the use of the brutal techniques.

In subsequent correspondence and testimony, the agency called

the interrogation of Gul a success story on the grounds that it helped expose their original source as a fabricator.

The Gul case is an example of what a Senate investigation portrays as a dysfunctional relationship between the Bush White House and the CIA regarding the brutal interrogation program. The White House didn't press very hard for information, and the agency withheld details about the brutality of the techniques while exaggerating their effectiveness, the report shows.

In an interview with The As-

sociated Press, Alberto Gonzales, the former attorney general who was White House counsel when harsh CIA interrogations were approved, said it was not the White House's responsibility to manage the program. Gonzales was the only former senior Bush administration official who agreed to speak on the record about the matter.

Once executive branch lawyers declared it legal for the CIA to use harsh methods on al-Qaida prisoners in secret facilities, Gonzales said, it was up to the spy agency to oversee the me-

chanics, to punish abuses, and to keep policymakers informed. So Bush officials can't be blamed if CIA officers did things that were not authorized, or misinformed White House officials, as the report alleges, he said.

"Whether or not they followed the guidance, quite frankly, the oversight responsibility fell to the inspector general and general counsel of the CIA," said Gonzales, who is now a law professor at Belmont University in Tennessee. "We just wouldn't know about it, because that was not our responsibility."



*Veteran operator Pike Logan and partner Jennifer Cahill learn that their latest actions have gotten them fired, despite having saved thousands of innocent lives. But their shock and fury are cut short when a terrorist organization starts targeting military relatives — and taking them hostage.*

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NATION

# US mulls putting N. Korea on terrorism sponsor list

By JOSH LEDERMAN  
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — President Barack Obama says the United States is reviewing whether to put North Korea back on its list of state sponsors of terrorism as Washington decides how to respond to what he calls an “act of cybervandalism,” not one of war, against a movie company.

Sony Pictures Entertainment, which said it canceled the theatrical release of “The Interview” after distributors refused to show it, pledged to find a way to get the film out. “How it’s going to be distributed, I don’t think anybody knows quite yet,” a Sony lawyer said. The comedy involves a plot to assassinate North Korea’s leader.

Obama is promising to respond “proportionately” to an attack that law enforcement blames on North Korea. “We’re not going to be intimidated by some cyber-hackers,” he said.

The president said the U.S. would examine the facts to determine whether North Korea should land back on the terrorism sponsors list.

“We’re going to review those through a process that’s already in place,” Obama told CNN’s “State of the Union” in an interview broadcast Sunday.

While raising the possibility of a terrorism designation, Obama also asserted, “I don’t think it was an act of war. I think it was an act of cybervandalism that was very costly, very expensive. We take it very seriously.”

Obama’s description drew immediate scorn from two Republicans who are longtime critics of his foreign policy.

“It is a new form of warfare, and we have to counter with that form of warfare with a better form of warfare,” said Arizona Sen. John McCain.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina called it “an act of terrorism” and favored reimposing sanctions and adding North Korea to the terrorism list. The U.S. needs to “make it so hard on the North Koreans that they don’t want to do this in the future.”

North Korea spent two decades on the list under the Bush administration removed it in 2008 during nuclear negotiations. Only Iran, Sudan, Syria and Cuba remain on the list, which triggers sanctions that limit U.S. aid, defense exports and certain financial transactions.

Adding North Korea back could be difficult. To meet the criteria, the State Department must deter-



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

A poster for “The Interview” lays on the ground after being pulled from a display case at a Carmike Cinemas movie theater in Atlanta. Sony Pictures Entertainment cancelled the film’s Dec. 25 opening after a hacker group made threats against theaters showing the movie. The FBI named North Korea as the source of the attacks.

mine that a country has repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism, a definition that traditionally has referred to violent, physical attacks rather than hacking.

North Korea threatened to strike back at the United States if Obama retaliated, the National Defense Commission said in a statement carried by the country’s official Korean Central News Agency. The statement offered no details of a possible response.

The U.S. is asking China for help as it considers how to respond to the hack. A senior Obama administration official says the U.S. and China have shared information about the attack and that Washington has asked for Beijing’s cooperation.

The official was not authorized to comment by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The next decision — how to respond — is hanging over the president as he vacations with his family in Hawaii.

Obama’s options are limited. The U.S. already has trade penalties in place and there is no appetite for military action.

# Sony: ‘No choice’ in shelving movie

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Following pointed criticism from President Barack Obama for shelving “The Interview,” Sony Pictures Entertainment defended its decision, claiming it had no choice but to cancel the film’s Christmas Day theatrical release.

Obama said during a press conference Friday that Sony “made a mistake” in dropping “The Interview.” However, the studio fired back, saying the cancellation happened only because the country’s top theater chains pulled out. “This was their decision,” Sony said in a statement.

“Without theaters, we could not release it in the theaters on Christmas Day. We had no choice.”

Sony insists it has only cancelled the Christmas Day release and that it has been “actively surveying alternatives” to release the film on a different platform.

“It is still our hope that anyone who wants to see this movie will get the opportunity to do so,” said Sony.

The back-and-forth volleying between one of Hollywood’s top studios and the President of the United States was only the latest dramatic turn in

the four weeks since a hacker group calling itself Guardians of Peace crippled Sony Pictures’ computer systems and began leaking emails and data, insisting that the Seth Rogen North Korea satire not be released. The hacking escalated to terrorist threats against theaters showing the film. On Friday, the FBI officially named North Korea as the source of the hacking attacks.

“We were taken by surprise by the theaters, which is what we want to do first. Now we’re trying to proceed and figure out what the next steps would be,” Sony Pictures Entertainment CEO Michael Lynton told CNN on Friday.

By putting the blame at the feet of North American exhibitors, Sony seemingly appears to contradict earlier accounts of events.

The top multiplex chains in North America dropped “The Interview” on Wednesday only after Sony informed them that it would not protest if the theaters pulled the film.

Sony employees on Friday received an email from the hackers praising the “wise” decision to withdraw the film and warned against distributing it in “any format.”

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**‘I don’t think it was an act of war. I think it was an act of cybervandalism that was very costly, very expensive. We take it very seriously.’**

President Barack Obama

WORLD

# Pakistan makes arrests in Taliban attack on school

By ZARAR KHAN  
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Authorities made several arrests Sunday in the case of the Taliban school attack that killed 148 in the northwestern city of Peshawar, officials said.

"Quite a few suspects who were facilitators in one way or the other have been taken into custody," Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said, adding that the interrogations were "moving ahead in a positive manner." He did not disclose their identities or say how many there were.

Seven Taliban gunmen wearing explosives belts stormed the world on Tuesday by storming into the military-run school and slaughtering 148 people, including 132 students. Another nearly 121 students were wounded in the ensuing eight-hour siege of the school, located in an area where many military families live.

The group claims it fights to establish a ruling system based on its own harsh brand of Islam. It has killed thousands over nearly a decade.

The Taliban say they attacked

the school in revenge for an army operation against them in North Waziristan, launched in mid-June. The army says it has so far killed over 1,200 militants in the operation.

The government bombed the militants' hideouts in country's tribal area along the Afghan border in response, and also lifted a ban on the execution of convicted terrorists.

Over the weekend, it acted upon the lifting of the ban, executing six men convicted on terrorism charges. Two of the convicts were hanged Friday, and another four on Sunday, according to two Pakistani government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the information to the media.

All six belonged to local Pakistani militant groups who had turned against the state and were convicted for involvement in two attempts to assassinate former President Pervez Musharraf.

Local militants have threatened attacks to avenge the hanged men.



FAREED KHAN/AP

A Pakistani Christian boy dressed as Santa Claus holds a poster to condemn last Tuesday's Taliban attack on a military-run school in Peshawar, as he and other children take part in a demonstration Sunday in Karachi, Pakistan.

# Captives killed by militants on video

By HARUNA UMAR  
The Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria — A new video from Nigeria's home-grown Boko Haram extremists shows gunmen mowing down civilians lying face down in a dorm, and a leader saying they are being killed because they are "infidels" or nonbelievers.

There are so many corpses that the gunmen have difficulty stepping to reach bodies still twitching with life. Most appear to be adult men.

"We have made sure the floor of this hall is turned red with blood, and this is how it is going to be in all

future attacks and arrests of infidels," the group leader says in a message. "From now, killing, slaughtering, destructions and bombing will be our religious duty anywhere we invade."

Boko Haram

religious duty anywhere we invade."

The video released to journalists late Saturday comes two days after fleeing villagers reported that the extremists are rounding up elderly people and killing them in two schools in Gwoza, in northeast Nigeria.

The setting of the latest video appears to be a school, a long dormitory furnished with bunk beds which the leader says is in Bama. Students and schools are frequently targeted by Boko Haram, which means "Western education is sinful" in the Hausa language.

## Saudi Arabia denies oil price conspiracy

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia's oil chief on Sunday dismissed allegations that his kingdom conspired to bring down oil prices in order to harm other countries and told a summit of Arab energy leaders that he was confident the market would stabilize.

The kingdom, which is dependent on oil revenues, is able to weather lower oil prices due to large reserves built up over the years. Non-OPEC member Russia and other nations like Iraq, Iran and Venezuela need prices substantially above present levels to meet budget goals and want to drive prices up.

From The Associated Press

# Sierra Leone urges safe burials to stem Ebola

By SARAH DILORENZO  
The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — The radio announcement is chilling and blunt: "If I die, I want the deaths to stop with me."

Dr. Desmond Williams continues: "I want to give my family the permission to request a safe and dignified medical burial for me."

The announcement is part of a campaign to urge Sierra Leoneans to abandon traditional burial practices that are fueling the spread of Ebola in the West African country.

Ebola has killed more than 2,000 people in Sierra Leone, and unsafe burials may be responsible for up to 70 percent of new infections, experts say.

Officials are resorting to increasingly desperate measures to clamp down on traditional burials in Sierra Leone, where Ebola is now spreading fastest. The head of the Ebola response has even threatened to jail people who prepare the corpses of their loved ones.

Williams, a Sierra Leonean-American doctor who works for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, took to the airwaves last month as part of efforts to encourage people to avoid dangerous burial practices. Now



TANYA BINDRA/AP

Health care workers load a man suspected of suffering from Ebola into an ambulance in Kenema, Sierra Leone, in September.

similar pledges have been made by prominent Sierra Leoneans, including the communications director for the Health Ministry, pop stars and radio DJs.

But old ways are hard to break. Many believe a traditional burial is necessary to make sure the dead don't return to haunt the living. Funerals are important social occasions in the three most-affected countries — Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. Peo-

ple often travel great distances to attend, and bodies are typically washed and dressed by relatives or friends.

Unfortunately, these practices are the perfect breeding ground for Ebola: The bodies of Ebola victims can be up to 10 times more infectious than those of people living with the disease, according to the International Federation of the Red Cross.

A well-attended funeral where

many people touch the body provides the opportunity for the disease to disperse into a crowd and then be carried long distances back to their homes, where it can seed new clusters, according to Rebecca Bunnell, a behavioral epidemiologist with the CDC.

People have been washing their hands more and avoiding crowded places, but changing burial traditions has proven particularly hard.

Burial teams arriving at homes sometimes find the Ebola victims already washed or dressed. Now officials are warning that those who persist in traditional burial practices will be jailed once it's clear they have not caught the disease.

"Burials and funerals are deeply, deeply ingrained in Sierra Leone," said Austin Demby, a Sierra Leonean-American epidemiologist who has also taken the burial pledge. He is the director of a U.S. government AIDS program but has been helping with Ebola containment. "People put a lot of premium on this."

It's hard to pin down just how many dangerous burials are taking place because they are secret, but even the most conservative estimates suggest that burials are responsible for at least one-quarter of all infections in the region.

## WORLD

# Russia's independent TV fights interference

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Among the five TV journalists interviewing Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, the odd one out was easy to spot: Mikhail Zygar's questions were sharper than those of the others, who headed back to spacious television studios while Zygar broadcast his piece from a Moscow living room.

The Dozhd news channel, whose editor-in-chief Zygar was given a Committee to Protect Journalists award last month, rose to prominence in 2011 with its coverage of the mass protests against President Vladimir Putin — which state-owned television largely ignored.

As other Russian television channels have grown increasingly subservient this year, providing propaganda backing for the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and Russia's aggressive policy toward Ukraine, Dozhd did not follow the lead — and is now paying for it.

Putin's government has been careful not to order the channel to shut down, but a Kremlin-instigated smear campaign has driven this rare independent broadcaster to the brink of demise.

Past strollers and bicycles in the hall, a Soviet-era apartment in central Moscow now houses the studio of Dozhd, whose combined online and TV audience



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANCHENKO/AP

**Engineers work in a control room in Dozhd's studio-apartment in Moscow this month. A Kremlin-instigated smear campaign is causing a slow demise of Dozhd, Russia's only independent TV channel.**

is about 12 million. Anchorman Pavel Lobkov sits on a chair in what was once a spacious living room.

Lobkov, 47, shrugs off the challenges, recalling his early days in television during the Soviet Union's perestroika era.

"Things were probably even

tougher then: We had no Internet, no Skype, no cellphones. I went live from war zones, so these comfortable surroundings of an apartment can hardly unsettle me," he said.

Lobkov spent most of his television career on NTV, a legendary channel taken over by state-con-

trolled gas company Gazprom in 2001, a move that forced independent journalists to flee.

NTV, owned by oligarch Vladimir Gusinsky, was a leading TV channel that offered a view different from the Kremlin. The government effectively wrested the channel from Gusinsky's con-

trol and entrusted it to Gazprom to run in Putin's first major crackdown on independent media.

Now at Dozhd, Lobkov says he's reliving the same pressure and harassment campaign he experienced at NTV when "all tools of the government were used."

During Putin's 15 years in office, the Russian television landscape has been sanitized to the point where news coverage on all channels is almost identical. State channels toe the Kremlin line and private channels, most of which are owned by Kremlin-friendly oligarchs or state-controlled conglomerates like Gazprom, are just as obedient.

Dozhd's troubles began when it was aggressively covering the daily anti-government protests in Ukraine, which state-owned television dismissed as a neo-Nazi coup.

Journalists at Dozhd admit the state propaganda is taking its toll, convincing Russians to believe in the supremacy of national interests. But the country's shrinking economy and decline in living standards — the ruble has lost around half its value since January — could soon change that.

"The situation that our country has gotten itself into is a lot more serious, and in this situation our audience needs our work even more, so we don't even think about stopping," Zygar said. "It's our work, it's our fight."

## Anger rising in Nicaragua as canal to break ground

The Associated Press

RIO GRANDE, Nicaragua — As a conscripted soldier during the Contra War of the 1980s, Esteban Ruiz used to flee from battles because he didn't want to have to kill anyone. But now, as the 47-year-old farmer prepares to fight for his land, Ruiz insists, "I'm not going to run."

Ruiz's property on the banks of Nicaragua's Rio Grande sits in the path of a \$50 billion transoceanic waterway set to break ground on Monday. Nicaraguan officials will start building access roads on state-owned land as the first step in creating a canal expected to rival that of Panama — a project supporters say will directly employ 50,000 people and dramatically boost the country's GDP.

Farmers like Ruiz worry they'll fight "until the last breath" to protect their land. Nicaragua's government is determined to push through. The project, which opponents call President Daniel Ortega's pipe dream, is provoking growing anger. Many complain Ortega is giving too much away to HKND, the Hong Kong-based company set to develop and operate it. Landowners fear they'll be displaced without fair compensation. Environmentalists accuse the government of ram-rod-



ESTEBAN FÉLIX/AP

**Protesters carry a banner with a map of Lake Nicaragua during a national march against the construction of the planned inter-oceanic canal in Managua, Nicaragua, earlier this month.**

past mandated reviews and ignoring the threat that cargo traffic will pose to Lake Nicaragua, the country's main source of fresh water. On Dec. 10, as many as 5,000 people marched through the capital, Managua. Observers said it was the largest anti-government action in years.

Projected to span some 173 miles between the Caribbean and the Pacific, backers say the canal

would lift many out of poverty in the Western Hemisphere's second-poorest country. In Obrajuelo, a sleepy fishing village on the banks of Lake Nicaragua, dozens of residents gathered on a recent afternoon to celebrate a girl's second birthday. A white bunny pinata hung from a rope in front of graffiti scrawled on homes by their very owners: "Ortega sell-out"; "Chinese go away."

## Hong Kong elite's vices unveiled in graft trial

Bloomberg News

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's highest-profile corruption trial opened the door on a world of fine wine, race horses and mistresses — exposing cozy ties between government and big business as protesters demanding free elections camped within view of the court.

Jurors heard a tale of family infighting for control of the \$41 billion Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., the world's second-most-valuable real estate empire, and secret payments to Hong Kong's former No. 2 official, who bankrupted himself with his overspending.

Billionaire Thomas Kwok, 63, was remained in custody on Friday in Hong Kong after being convicted of conspiring with the Chinese city's then-Chief Secretary Rafael Hui to commit misconduct in public office. Hui will appeal. Kwok was acquitted of two other charges while his younger brother Raymond, 61, was cleared on all counts. Hui was guilty of five charges after a 127-day trial. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for Monday.

Testimony in the case touched on the themes of business-government collusion and inequality that contributed to the city's 2-month-old democracy protest camps cleared by police last week. Hui

and the brothers served on the 1,200 member committee that chose the city's leader in 2012 and which will vet candidates for its first popular vote, something the protesters cozy to continuing fighting. Hui had helped orchestrate the government's intervention in Hong Kong's stock market that was widely credited with stemming the impact of the Asian financial crisis in 1998. He later ran the city's compulsory pension fund, a tenant of Sun Hung Kai, and became chief secretary in 2005.

Hui testified he spent as much as \$1 million buying properties, handbags and watches for a mistress, a young woman from Shanghai. He bet on horses and paid for their stables at Hong Kong's exclusive jockey club, where he was a member who would treat guests to lavish meals.

Hui supported his lifestyle with sweetheart loans from his friends, and only paid off the interest.

Despite cheating "to save some tax payments," he was \$6.7 million in debt by 2010.

The arrest of Thomas and Raymond Kwok on March 29, 2012, sparked the company's biggest share plunge in 14 years. Thomas resigned his positions, with his son Adam succeeding him as an executive director. The company said after the verdicts.

## WORLD

# Surfs up in Gaza City

By FARES AKRAM  
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — As wintry winds battered the Gaza Strip, sending many inside, two Palestinian men instead rushed for the breaking waves of the Mediterranean Sea.

Mohammed Abu Jayyab, 41, and his friend Ahmed Abu Hasira, 35, represent two of about two dozen surfers catching waves in the blockaded strip, which has endured three devastating wars with Israel in six years, the most recent this summer.

The Gaza Surf Club describes the sport as a way to “forget about the hardships of living in Gaza.” But that’s not really the case as the two men splash into water cold enough to take their breath away even in wetsuits. Raw or only partially treated sewage now churns into the waves.

“We take to the sea engulfed with fears of infection. In the past, the water was better,” said

**‘We have been surfing for 20 years and we did not lose any chance to surf. This sport runs in our blood.’**

Mohammed Abu Jayyah  
Palestinian surfer

Abu Jayyab, a father of five.

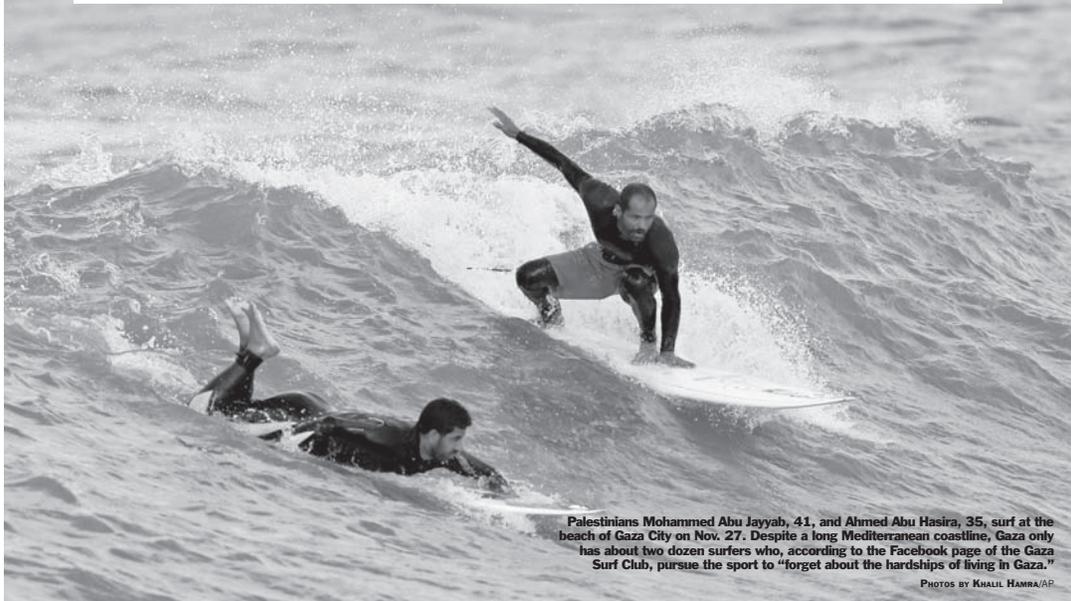
The sewage in the Mediterranean stems from long-standing electricity shortages linked to a border blockade enforced by Israel and Egypt since the Islamic militant Hamas seized control of Gaza in 2007. Rolling power cuts disrupt pumps handling sewage for the strip’s 1.8 million people. Those cuts intensified after the summer’s war, which the United Nations said killed some 2,200 Palestinians, along with 72

on the Israeli side.

When Abu Jayyab started out as an amateur in the 1990s, he used homemade wooden boards that injured him at least four times. Now, the clubs’ boards bears the logos of world organizations that donated them, including Surfing 4 Peace, founded by American surfer Dorian “Doc” Paskowitz, who died in November at age 93.

“God bless his soul,” Abu Jayyab said. For now, Abu Jayyab hasn’t taken part in any international surfing competition, in part due to the sport not receiving official support in Gaza and because of frequent border closures. But he said he never misses a chance to get in the water.

“We have been surfing for 20 years and we did not lose any chance to surf,” Abu Jayyab said recently before jumping into the water near Gaza City’s fishing harbor. “This sport runs in our blood.”



Palestinians Mohammed Abu Jayyab, 41, and Ahmed Abu Hasira, 35, surf at the beach of Gaza City on Nov. 27. Despite a long Mediterranean coastline, Gaza only has about two dozen surfers who, according to the Facebook page of the Gaza Surf Club, pursue the sport to “forget about the hardships of living in Gaza.”

PHOTOS BY KNALL HANNA/AP

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13						14		
15		16							17		
		18				19		20			
21	22	23				24					
25			26		27		28		29	30	
31		32		33		34		35			
36			37		38		39		40		
	41			42		43		44			
45	46					47					
48				49		50			51	52	53
54									56		
57						58				59	

ACROSS

- 1 Just a handful
- 4 North-easternmost state
- 9 Lunch order, for short
- 12 Gold, in Guadalajara
- 13 Noted 2011 bankruptcy
- 14 Deli loaf
- 15 Air
- 17 Invisible
- 18 — tai
- 19 Quick trip
- 21 Do diletantly
- 22 Put into words
- 25 This dir.
- 26 Lorne Michaels show, briefly
- 28 — vortex
- 31 Horse's halter?
- 33 Pitch
- 35 Forum garment
- 36 Below, poetically
- 38 Affirmative
- 40 Three strikes
- 41 Let fall
- 43 Sounds the hour, maybe
- 45 Burrito alternative
- 47 Long, crosser
- 48 Lucy of "Elementary"
- 49 Hit laterally
- 54 Branch
- 55 Bizarre
- 56 U-boat, for example

DOWN

- 1 Watch chain
- 2 Blunder
- 3 Court
- 4 Olympians' awards
- 5 Really old
- 6 Playwright Levin
- 7 Olfactory organs
- 8 Snare
- 9 Type of woven carpet
- 10 Singer Loretta
- 11 Prepared to drive
- 16 State Dept. figure
- 20 Laugh-a-minute
- 21 Sunup
- 22 Liniment target
- 23 Track-and-field event
- 27 Deposit
- 29 Chills and fever
- 30 Charlie Brown's interjection
- 32 Longfellow's "The Bell of —"
- 34 Get back
- 37 Rapid growth area
- 39 Colorations
- 42 Cole Porter title city
- 44 "Monty Python" opener
- 45 Banner
- 46 Ethereal
- 50 Raw mineral
- 51 Doctrine
- 52 Pair
- 53 Recede

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

12-22

CRYPTOQUIP

OST WTRQDI-OTRZIRMJMF  
 OSPSPHJMF ISKR TLMZ,  
 HSLPX ZSKR WQZRWQPRTZ  
 LZR QODRT-XJMFRT KJMDZ?  
 Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE IMPROMPTU  
 SPEAKER COULD HAVE A COLD OR FLU.  
 HE'S DELIVERING LOTS OF OFF-THE-COUGH  
 REMARKS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals B

WORLD

Italian plastic surgeon Roberto Viel gives Italian Irina Tzoneva, a 43-year-old restaurant manager, a treatment at London Centre for Aesthetic Surgery in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

PHOTOS BY JAMRAN JEBRELL/AP



# MEDICAL TOURISM MAKES FOR BIG BUSINESS IN DUBAI

By AYA BATRAWY  
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Dubai, the emirate known for its celebration of over-the-top glamour and luxury, is racing ahead to dominate the Middle East's plastic surgery market with plans to attract half a million medical tourists in six years.

Where cosmopolitan Beirut was once the region's best known city for going under the knife, turmoil in Syria and violence often spilling into Lebanon is driving away wealthy Arab tourists. After splashing out on medical infrastructure over the past years, Dubai already ranks globally and aims to move up the list of top international destinations for medical tourism.

It plans to attract 20 million tourists by 2020 — with half a million medical tourists bringing in revenues of \$710 million. The Dubai Health Authority says that around 120,000 medical tourists came last year, generating revenue of around \$200 million — a 12 percent boost from the previous year.

That already puts it ahead of Turkey, with 110,000 medical travelers, and Costa Rica, with 40,000 to 65,000, according to 2013 figures from Patients Beyond Borders, a U.S. group that collects data on the industry. Lebanon does not rank among top countries for medical travel, but Beirut was once the region's premier spot for nips and tucks, notably drawing many Arab celebrities.

Globally, medical tourism is big busi-

ness. It is estimated to generate \$50 billion to \$60 billion a year and grow to an annual \$100 billion in the next decade.

To cash in on the boom, Dubai has rolled out three-month renewable visas for medical tourists and their companions and launched a campaign to brand itself as the Middle East's top destination for wellness and plastic surgery.

Vasilica Baltateanu, who started up the United Arab Emirates' first plastic surgery consultancy, Vasilica Aesthetics, said Dubai's glamour factor is driving the trend among the region's well-heeled tourists who want to shop, indulge in spas and relax in opulent hotels.

"You don't find them going anymore to Beirut and (they) are coming to Dubai. Why? It's much safer in Dubai," she said. "I think they also choose Dubai because there are the best restaurants here, the best hotels. So you do a surgery and at the same time you can have a nice holiday."

The World Travel & Tourism Council said in its annual 2014 report that the UAE was expected to attract 12.2 million international tourists this year, with Lebanon welcoming just 1.3 million.

A company specialized in laser treatments, Silkor, says it brought its business to Dubai instead of waiting for Gulf clients to come to Lebanon, where it has opened eight branches since its founding 15 years ago. In less than half that time, the company established six branches in the UAE and has plans to open two more.

"Gulf clients would come to Lebanon in



Emma Jordan, a 33-year-old British resident of Dubai and mother of three, receives a treatment called Legato Microplasma for her stretch mark removal from Jelena Jovanovic, a skin care and laser specialist, at the Wellbeing Medical Centre in Dubai.

the past," said Owner Representative Sylva Wayzany, adding that now "unfortunately the situation in Lebanon doesn't help" to make it attractive for medical tourists.

To cater to the Gulf's demand for cosmetic procedures, Dr. Luiz Toledo, one of the world's most famous plastic surgeons in liposuction and the "Brazilian butt lift," closed his practice in Brazil and moved to Dubai in 2006 because he saw less competition in the Gulf and an opportunity to keep quality and prices up.

"If you think about 20 years ago, nobody in the world heard about Dubai. And today there is not a person in the world that hasn't heard about it," said Toledo.

Last year, he saw patients from 73 different countries. His new practice has a private wing for high-rolling Arab clientele.

Dubai has rapidly become home to one of the world's highest saturations of plastic surgeons. Toledo says that in the U.S.

there are 20 plastic surgeons for every 1 million people, compared to 52 per million in Dubai. The Emirates Plastic Surgery Society, a professional group where he is a board member, says its membership has more than doubled to 150 in the past eight years.

The Dubai Health Authority says there are around 150 licensed plastic surgeons in Dubai alone.

Emma Jordan, a 33-year-old British resident of Dubai and mother of three, chose to undergo breast augmentation and stretch mark removal here instead of in London, because while the price was similar at around \$9,200, waiting times were shorter and the procedure more personal.

"I think possibly back home, it's more clinical. You have a consultation; you don't always see the surgeon before and after. Sometimes you see a nurse (instead)," she said. "It's a huge difference."

## SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

# Fabricating drones from shrooms

## NASA builds biodegradable drone using fungi, wasp spit, cellulose

BY RACHEL FELTMAN

The Washington Post

**A** group of college students has created an environmentally friendly drone — think veggie leather.

Led by one of NASA's synthetic biology experts, they made an unmanned aerial vehicle almost entirely out of biodegradable materials. After a crash, these little fliers would basically disappear.

Drones can be a great help in dealing with environmental issues, flying into protected wooded areas to count the surviving population of an endangered animal, or over remote coral reefs to assess their condition.

But sometimes they can turn into litter: If a drone goes down in a protected area, it might not be possible for anyone to retrieve the hunk of metal and plastic.

"I have colleagues who do remote sensing in sensitive areas, and there was a UAV lost for a couple months in an area you really wouldn't want to lose one in," said Lynn Rothschild, of NASA's Ames Research Center.

Rothschild serves as an adviser for a team competing in the International Genetically Engineered Machine, or iGEM, competition, and the issue of downed-drone litter seemed like a good one for her group to tackle.

"Normally, I just give them free reign, but then there are 15 very bright students who all want to do 15 or 30 different things," she said. "So this year, I suggested an overall

project. But they really just ran with it from there."

One of her students found a company called Ecovative Design that was growing the team's dream material: blocks of fungal foam.

Mushrooms are made up of a structure called mycelium. It grows looking almost like a spider web when it's spread out, but it can grow to fit the confines it's placed in, eventually forming a tough chunk of foamy material. By putting mycelium into a mold filled with a tasty growing medium, like dead leaves or straw, you can create a custom-shaped mushroom block — or, in this case, a custom-shaped mushroom drone frame. A blast of heat kills the mycelium to freeze growth.

"You end up with this great material that's just leftover fungal bits," Rothschild said.

To make the frame more durable, the students created a bioplastic to coat it with.

You can make a kind of veggie leather using bacteria that create cellulose — the tough stuff that creates cell walls in plants. The bacterial cellulose

is grown in a sheet and harvested, then wrapped around the mycelium frame. When it dries, it's tough and hard.

But the team's biohacking didn't stop there: They also harnessed the power of the insect world to keep their drone from dissolving in mid-air. The drone is covered in proteins cloned from paper wasp saliva, which the insects use to waterproof their nests.

For now, that's as far as the drone's biodegradability goes: It still uses a traditional rotor, battery and controls. But other researchers around the world are already working on creating biodegradable versions of these components, Rothschild said. And her team is investigating the use of biological sensors, which would allow them to replace some of the sensors on the drone with bacteria.

"Eventually, I'd say that most, if not all, of the drone could be made from biological materials," she said.

Rothschild is excited about the ways the drone could be used in research on Earth, but she has bigger plans for them, too: She's already submitted a proposal to NASA to push this tech forward for Mars missions. The lightweight, unobtrusive, home-grown nature of the robots would make them perfect for use on the red planet.

**'You end up with this great material that's just leftover fungal bits.'**

Lynn Rothschild  
NASA Ames Research  
Center

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Skier digs head out of snow after avalanche

**AK** ANCHORAGE— AN Alaska backcountry skier walked away uninjured after being buried under a 350-foot-wide avalanche, and survived because he was initially able to dig his head out of the snow, officials with the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center said.

The skier, whom officials would not identify, was then pulled from the snow by a companion who arrived within six minutes of the slide. Thursday, the center's avalanche forecaster, John Fitzgerald, told the Alaska Dispatch News.

About a foot of snow covered the skier's head, Fitzgerald said. The man could "move his arm enough to dig his head and arms out."

The skier who was buried had triggered the avalanche Thursday afternoon. The slide traveled down about a thousand feet on the southwest face of Sunburst Ridge, located along Turmagain Pass, just south of Anchorage. His companion avoided the avalanche by riding on the outside of the slide area.

## Recovered baby Jesus statue will get GPS

**IN** FRANKLIN— The baby Jesus is getting a tracking device.

A statue of the newborn Jesus recently stolen and then returned to a central Indiana retirement home will soon be equipped with a GPS monitor.

New York-based BrickHouse Security is donating several GPS monitors to the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin that will be put inside the Jesus statue and the home's other Nativity figurines.

The 2-foot-long baby Jesus statue was stolen Dec. 7 and then returned four days later.

## Voucher schools were overpaid nearly \$4M

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — A new study has found that 80 private Indiana schools involved in the state's school voucher program were overpaid nearly \$4 million and have returned that money to the state.

The study released Wednesday by the Indiana Non-Public Education Association shows that 80 of the more than 300 private schools participating in Indiana's voucher program were overpaid \$3.9 million over three years after making unintentional errors in calculating voucher costs.

Indiana Catholic Conference officials told the Evansville Courier and Press most errors occurred when schools didn't recognize multichild and employee discounts before calculating voucher amounts.

## Out-of-work electrician wins \$1 million

**WI** GRESHAM — An out-of-work Wisconsin electrician whose long-term disability ran out over a year ago has won \$1 million from the Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes.

## THE CENSUS

# \$350K

The value of more than 150 cattle that have recently gone missing in Idaho. Authorities suspect modern-day cattle rustling as beef prices have soared. The losses include a herd of 50 Black Angus consisting of 25 cows and 25 calves valued at \$150,000. Another herd of 41 cow-calf pairs, meaning 82 animals total, plus 10 cow-calf pairs, or 20 animals, from another rancher.



David Tulis/AP

## Lots of toys for tots

Sean, right, and Ryan Duffy take the lead Friday as their dad and several of his real estate firm's employees wheel baskets of toys to the checkout counter at an Alpharetta, Ga., Wal-Mart. The Duffys matched toy donations one-for-one during a Christmas toy drive for the Toys for Tots charity.

Karl Jonsson was home with his wife and teenage daughter on Tuesday when the Prize Patrol staff showed up and surprised him with roses and balloons, a large ceremonial check for \$1 million and a real check for \$25,000.

Jonsson has been out of work for more than three years due to a string of injuries, Press-Gazette Media reported. His family moved from Nebraska into his parents' home in rural Gresham when it was clear that a tear in his bicep tendon wasn't healing properly. Jonsson, his wife and two daughters have been living there for the past three years.

Jonsson said his plans to use the money to pay bills.

## Neighbor complaints force end of tree sales

**RI** WOONSOCKET — A Rhode Island man has been ordered to stop selling Christmas trees from his yard after neighbors complained to City Hall.

Douglas Taft told the Woonsocket Call he was selling the trees as a fundraiser for his daughter's high school track team.

He said he called City Hall first and was told there would be no problem.

He bought 16 trees from a local garden center for \$16 each and began selling them for \$26.

He was issued a cease and desist order about two weeks ago. Taft said he still has about a dozen unsold trees.

City Solicitor Michael Marcello said it's illegal to run a business from a residential zone, and if someone with the city told Taft he could sell Christmas trees, they gave him bad information.

## Towns recognized for voter turnout

**CT** HARTFORD — Connecticut election officials have announced this year's winners of the "Democracy Cup" for towns and cities with the highest voter turnout.

With 75 percent turnout in the November election, Cornwall was the highest in the state for the November election and claimed the honor for small towns. Guilford had the best turnout among mid-size towns with 71 percent and Glastonbury topped the list for large towns at 69 percent. Fairfield led Connecticut cities with 57 percent turnout.

The awards were announced by Secretary of the State Denise Merrill. While 56 percent of registered voters turnout to vote statewide, she said small towns set an example for all voters.

The Democracy Cup was created as a way to encourage voter participation. The honors come with trophies and a ceremony to be planned later.

## Firm works to make 'moon mail' a reality

**PA** PITTSBURGH — An outer-space delivery firm that is working with Carnegie Mellon University to put a

privately owned lunar rover on the moon is offering to "mail" personal keepsakes to the moon as a way to help fund the partnership's rocket launch.

Astrobotic Technology and Carnegie Mellon are trying to get their lunar rover to the moon to win \$20 million in an international contest sponsored by Google to promote privately funded lunar exploration.

Astrobotic, a spin-off company of CMU, has leased a rocket built by a private California firm, SpaceX, to carry the lunar rover and is offering the MoonMail service to help pay for the trip.

On Dec. 11, Astrobotic launched moonmail.com, a website where people can sign up to send keepsakes to the moon, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported.

The cargo is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Department of Defense.

From wire reports

## FACES

## Stephen Colbert vs. 'Stephen Colbert'

A reminder of his origins, history as he says farewell

The Associated Press

Stephen Colbert departed Comedy Central's satirical political talk show "The Colbert Report" after nine years on Dec. 18. He will become host of the "Late Show" in May. So ends the "Stephen Colbert" character he created: the outlandishly tongue-in-cheek conservative host who leapt from late-night TV to become a political and pop culture phenomenon. Many of his "Colbert Nation" fans are left trying to imagine life without his incessant lampooning of the Washington establishment and TV pundits. Here's a brief explanation of Stephen Colbert and the alter ego he is retiring:

### A satirical spinoff

The actor and comedian first created his Colbert character in 1997 as a correspondent for Comedy Central's "The Daily Show." The persona, described by the real Colbert as "self-important, poorly informed, well-intentioned but an idiot," got his own show in 2005. Largely inspired by conservative Bill O'Reilly, the Fox News pundit, the satirical, fact-challenged "Stephen Colbert" preached the opposite of what the real-life Colbert meant to say, a long-running joke that never ran its course. The underlying theme was a forceful poke at bombastic nationalism as discontort over the Iraq War was surging. "The Colbert Report" won four Emmys and two Peabody awards.

### Colbert for president?!

In the first episode, Colbert coined the term "truthiness," defining it as "truth that comes from the gut, not books." The American Dialect Society and Merriam-Webster named "truthiness" the word of the year. As Colbert's character gained popularity, he escaped the confines of cable TV. He famously skewered President George W. Bush at the White House Correspondents' dinner in 2006. He attempted to run for president in 2008, testified before a congressional committee on immigration reform and raised real money in an award-winning parody of loosened political fundraising laws with his Super Political Action Committee, "Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow." A study published this year by the Annenberg Public Policy Center found Colbert had more success explaining complex fundraising rules than traditional media.



SMITHSONIAN/AP

To mark the end of Stephen Colbert's nine-year run on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery borrowed Colbert's portrait, which was created for the show's final season. It will be on display in Washington through April 19, once again between the bathtubs and above a water fountain. His painting was previously displayed there in 2008.

## Angela Bassett tackles new challenges in 'Freak Show'

BY LUAINEE LEE  
Tribune News Service

Actors love playing all different kinds of characters; it is their grand passion. But Angela Bassett was dumfounded when she discovered she was going to play a gender-challenged creature on "American Horror Story: Freak Show."

"I didn't have a clue whatsoever what the part might be, what it might encompass when I signed on," says Bassett, who played an entirely different character on the show last season.

"I just knew I had a great time the previous year, and if that was any indication, it was going to be a wild ride. I think it was about two weeks before I was scheduled to come down to start shooting that I got the

hot-off-the-press script. I sat down to read it to see. And I remember wondering, 'Now, HOW I am going to know who I am?'"

"Then you read the stage directions: 'African-American woman in her 40s, hermaphrodite, three breasts, and a ding-a-ling.' You're like, 'Oh, my gosh! You immediately close the pages, and have to walk around and process that for a minute. You're thinking, 'What does that mean? Oh, my gosh. If they thought I was crazy demonic last year, what are they going to think this year?' I just knew that it was absolutely going to be something that I had never



Bassett

done before. What does an actor crave but new challenges? This certainly was going to be one of those."

Bassett, 56, says the hardest thing for her on "Freak Show" was the time it took from filming to actually seeing the character. "As an actor you're used to putting on characters, taking them off, becoming someone else, doing your research, working on that," says Bassett. "I think what I found most challenging about television and shedding one character and having to come up with another, is that there's this lag time before I get to actually see what the characters are looking like, or sounding like, or how they're coming across," she says.

Bassett, who earned a master's degree from the Yale School of Drama, says achieving that goal so young was a matter of determination.



The WB

Stephen Collins played a minister on the TV series "7th Heaven."

### Collins on sex abuse: 'I had put that stuff behind me'

In excerpts from an interview with ABC's Kate Couric released Dec. 18, actor Stephen Collins discussed allegations he molested young girls.

Indeed, Collins admitted wrongdoing — and said his Christian faith helped him put his bad behavior behind him. Here's a transcript of the excerpt:

Couric: "Did you feel at times that you were leading a double life in any way?"

Collins: "No — because first of all I had put that stuff behind me. I'm a flawed person and in the church — it's actually one of the things I love about the church — it's one of the things, it's really one of the main things about the Christian faith is, you know, Christ says in so many ways: 'Bring me that which about you which is broken. Bring it.'

"And most people are broken in some way. Most people either get to or have to or choose to hide it. This came out. I didn't choose this to come out. I didn't want to have to deal with these things publicly. I had dealt with them very, very strongly and committed in my private life, but I think I'm a human being with flaws and I have done everything I can to address them."

Collins played a Protestant minister and the father of seven on the WB show "7th Heaven," leaving fans stunned when a recording surfaced of him discussing molesting a girl.

The actor acknowledged and apologized for abusing three victims between 1973 and 1974 in People magazine last week.

"I deeply regret the mistakes I've made and any pain I caused these three women," Collins wrote. "I admit to, apologize for, and take responsibility for what I did."

### Other news

■ ABC News says Byron Pitts is taking over for Dan Abrams as a co-anchor of "Nightline." Pitts joins Dan Harris and Juju Chang on the anchor team. Abrams will remain chief legal analyst for ABC News, as well as continuing to run his company, Abrams Media.

■ Lennon & Maisy, the Canadian-born music and acting team, will soon be Lennon & Maisy the co-authors. HarperCollins Publishers announced Dec. 19 that the young Stella sisters, stars of the TV series "Nashville," are working on the picture book "In the Waves." Based on their song of the same name, "In the Waves" tells of boogie boards and homemade lemonade and a few unexpected adventures. The illustrations will be by Steve Bjorkman. The book is scheduled to come out April 28.

■ Kid Rock will perform a pre-race concert at the Daytona 500 in February. Daytona International Speedway said Friday he will play several hits as well as new single "First Kiss." Kid Rock's appearance coincides with the launch of his album "First Kiss." The album will be released Feb. 24, two days after the showcase race.

From wire reports



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OPINION

Black teens get different facts-of-life talk

By CLAUDE KNOBLER

What I remember most about the day I asked a black friend how to warn my son about the police was that he stumbled forward out of his chair and pointed his finger at me, making sure I heard each and every word he had to say.

My wife and I had adopted our son, Nat, from Ethiopia nearly 10 years before, so we weren't new to the issues facing a mixed-race family. We had encountered very little in the way of overt racism in our liberal Southern California community. Yes, once, in a checkout line, a cashier had looked at my three children — two white, one not — and asked whether they were all mine. When I said they were, he helpfully informed me "one of them is black," as if that might have escaped my notice.

Still, having spent the first five years of his life in Africa and the next 10 attending a touchy-feely, warm and culturally developmental school that holds multiracial awareness days, Nat, has, by and large, avoided the systematic racism and harassment that have so rightly occupied our national discussion of late. Until, that is, push came to shove. Literally.

It was a shoving match, the sort that used to happen daily in schools when I was younger but that now can swiftly bring calls from school officials. Nat hadn't started it, but that shouldn't and doesn't matter; he and the other boy, who was white, were disciplined. When Nat came home, he said that it wasn't fair. The other boy had been in three such incidents, and Nat had never caused any trouble at school. The other boy had started the physical part of the conflict, too, yet they got identical punishments.

There are discussions I have felt ready to have as a parent: the facts of life, colleges, how to write an essay and the correct way

**He had to know that when he did get pulled over, he had to call the officer "Sir" or "Ma'am" and be as respectful as he could.**

to parallel-park a car. But the conversation I had to have with Nat was more difficult than any I'd ever had.

As a father, I try not to lose my temper, but this time, I wanted my son to know how important my words were. I shouted that yes, of course, it wasn't fair, and that he had to know it often might be that way. He would get blamed more often than his white friends when there was trouble. People would punish him more harshly and often more unreasonably than his brother. He had to know that, unlike his blond sister, he would always be a suspect in the eyes of many people. It wasn't fair, and yes, he had to know that it was real. I shouted and kept shouting.

There were going to be days when the police in our nice little town — for no clear reason — would pull him over when he was alone in our car, and he needed to know how to respond. Nat treats me with the same amount of respect and deference most teenage boys bestow upon their fathers, which is to say none at all. That's fine, I told him. But he had to know that when he did get pulled over, he had to call the officer "Sir" or "Ma'am" and be as respectful as he could. When they stop you, I told him, you can't look angry. You can't look upset. It's too dangerous.

A few days later, I was having lunch with my friend. He's a bit older than me, suc-

cessful in his work and, yes, black. Hesitantly, I asked him whether I'd done the right thing, since no police officer has ever treated me with anything but kindness and decency. Was I right, is that the sort of thing a black man would tell his son to prepare him for the world?

That's when my friend stumbled out of his chair. He's a quiet man, and sometimes when we speak I have to lean in to make sure I hear everything he has to say. Not this time. He pointed at me as he righted himself. He stood straight for a moment, staring, before he spoke, very slowly and clearly. "You have to. He's got to know what to do when he gets stopped by the police. You have to get to make sure he's ready. Because it's going to happen."

I thought of the conversations I'd had with my other children. If they were lost, I'd told them, they could always go to a policeman for help. The police were their friends.

I don't think I was wrong to say that, and I don't think I was wrong to tell Nat how careful he had to be when addressing a police officer. I hope he'll meet a day when any of my three children need to call the police for help but, if that day comes, I still believe a brave man or woman in uniform would come and do anything they could to assist any one of my kids.

I can't pretend that I know all the details of any one case nor claim that I understand the pain of people in any community. I know that I have three children and have had to tell only one of them what to do when he is pulled over without cause. "That's not fair," my son told me. "It isn't," I agreed. "But it is his own life."

Claude Knobler is the author of the forthcoming book "More Love (Less Panic): 7 Lessons I Learned About Life, Love, and Parenting After We Adopted Our Son From Ethiopia." Column first appeared in The Washington Post.

States, localities big part of immigration reform

By ADAM HUNTER

Immigration is again front and center in the domestic political debate. Congress may or may not pass legislation to reform the nation's immigration system, but in the meantime President Barack Obama has taken executive action to make as many as 5 million unauthorized immigrants eligible for deportation. What happens next is open for debate but, however Washington acts, state and local governments will have important roles to play because any changes in national immigration policy will inevitably affect them.

And it's not just the border states that need to pay attention to federal changes in immigration policy. According to the Pew Research Center, about 3.5 million unauthorized immigrants lived in the United States in 1990, with 80 percent of them in six states: California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Texas. By 2012, only 60 percent of these immigrants were in those six states, with faster growth in new gateway states, primarily in the South and West. Today, the country's 11.2 million unauthorized immigrants are spread across 50 states and the District of Columbia. And there are now 32 states in which the unauthorized proportion of their immigrant population is at least 25 percent, with the highest in Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Idaho and Oklahoma.

Previous federal reform efforts illustrate how all levels of government interact on immigration policy. In 2012, the Obama administration created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) process, which allows unauthorized young

immigrants to live and work in the United States for a limited period but does not provide them with legal status or a pathway to citizenship. The 600,000 (and counting) people currently in the program are required to meet certain criteria, including proving that they came to the United States as children and have lived in the country for a specified time. As part of his executive action, the president announced an expansion to DACA and a new program for unauthorized immigrants who are parents of U.S. citizen or permanent resident children.

Although the federal government, which is in charge of admitting immigrants to the country and providing work authorization, administers such programs, many aspects of implementation fall to states, cities and other entities.

For example, after the DACA program, increased demand for services required New York City to provide \$18 million for additional adult education classes and legal services for applicants. A backlog of transcript requests in Los Angeles had slowed district attorneys logging hundreds of thousands of dollars in overtime. In response to fraudulent activity and price gauging, California state lawmakers passed a consumer protection law limiting who can charge individuals for DACA services.

Whether responding to the president's latest executive action, or further congressional legislation, state and local governments may be called on to contribute in four key ways:

■ Documentation. State and local governments may be the source of the paperwork applicants need to meet eligibility requirements for new programs, includ-

ing documents proving they have been in the United States for a defined period and, depending on the program, have met any educational requirements, or have U.S.-born children.

■ Education. State and local institutions may face increased demand for public education or other specified classes that applicants may need to qualify.

■ Protection from fraudulent or predatory providers of immigration legal services. Historically, states have also played a prominent role in protecting immigrants from scam targets.

■ Outreach and public education. States and localities may be called on to inform potential applicants about new programs, including eligibility and application requirements.

While Washington debates action on immigration, federal officials need to recognize that their decisions will have an impact on other levels of government and organizations across the country. Consulting with state and local officials on timelines, required documentation, costs and other issues is critical. At the same time, state and local officials need to understand how federal changes will affect them and consider how to respond.

Immigration will remain a complex and emotional issue, but careful planning at all levels of government can make the system work more efficiently. Conversely, without understanding the interplay of the federal government and other jurisdictions, any immigration reform efforts could fall short.

Adam Hunter directs The Pew Charitable Trusts' work on immigration and the states.

# Looking at the news

## A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



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NBA



RAY CARLM, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS

The Spurs' Cory Joseph (5) drives against the Mavericks' Rajon Rondo (9) during the first half Saturday in Dallas. Rondo made his debut for Dallas in 99-93 victory.

Roundup

# Ellis stars in Rondo's debut

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The star of Rajon Rondo's debut with the Dallas Mavericks on Saturday night was Monta Ellis — the teammate whom the Mavericks hope helps Rondo form a lethal backcourt combination that will make them championship contenders.

Ellis equaled his season high with 38 points, including 11 during the final four minutes, as the Mavericks rallied late to beat the depleted San Antonio Spurs 99-93. Ellis broke a 99-93 tie with a driving basket with 1:48 to play to give Dallas the lead for good. He shot 15-for-23 from the field and made four steals.

The Spurs dropped their fourth straight, including three-overtime games on Wednesday and Friday. "I felt it," Ellis said of his late surge. "It's in my blood. Those guys were tired from last night, and they're defense let up, so we took advantage."

Rondo, the four-time All-Star who played his first eight-plus seasons with the Boston Celtics, scored six points on 3-for-11 shooting. Acquired Thursday in a multi-player trade, he had nine assists, seven rebounds.

"It was exciting," Rondo said. "Best part was we got the win." Dirk Nowitzki, limited to 13 points on 4-for-14 shooting, said of his new teammate: "I actually think that he knows the plays better than some of our own guys."

Marcio Belinelli led San Antonio with 21 points. Aron Baynes added a career-high 16 points. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich dressed 10 players and played only eight. Veterans Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili, who logged 90 and 71 minutes in the triple-overtime games, respectively, were left home. Danny Green and

Tiago Splitter dressed but didn't play. They already were missing injured Tony Parker (hamstring) and Kawhi Leonard (hand) while Patty Mills (back) has yet to play this season.

"Giving up 25 points off turn-overs on the road is not going to make it easy to win a game," Popovich said. "But I thought the effort and the play out of these guys was really spectacular."

Rondo missed his only two field-goal attempts of the opening half and scored his first points on a Maverick with 7:59 to play in the third quarter on a drive that ended with goaltending by Boris Diaw.

"Rondo's definitely a great player," the Spurs' Cory Joseph said. "He fills the stat sheet. He definitely can rebound. He can always pass the ball, so you've got to be aware on the weak side."

**Suns 99, Knicks 90:** Eric Bledsoe had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points, and Phoenix beat host New York.

Markieff Morris added 19 points for the Suns, who won their second straight after a six-game skid.

Thomas made a three-pointer to open the fourth quarter, giving Phoenix the lead for good and triggering an 8-0 burst. Marcus Morris made another and Alex Lin tipped in a miss for a 75-68 lead, and the Knicks were playing catch-up from there.

**Tail Blazers 114, Pelicans 88:** LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead Portland over host New Orleans.

While Portland (22-6) was coming off a triple overtime win at San Antonio a night earlier, it was New Orleans that appeared tired. Including Anthony Davis'

3-for-14 shooting, the Pelicans (13-13) made only 35 percent of their shots. Davis finished with seven points and six rebounds.

**Hornets 104, Jazz 86:** Kemba Walker had 20 points, Al Jefferson added 19 points and 10 rebounds and host Charlotte beat Utah.

Jefferson nearly registered his third straight game with at least 20 points and 10 rebounds but left the game with six minutes remaining with a mild groin strain and did not return. Jefferson was available to play, but the Hornets had the game in hand and didn't want to risk further injury.

**Hawks 104, Rockets 97:** Kyle Korver scored 22 points, including seven points late, to help visit Atlanta hold on.

The game was tied with three minutes left before Atlanta used a 7-0 run to make it 97-90 with just under a minute to go. Korver hit one of his four three-pointers during that run.

**Hawks 76, Pacers 73:** Danilo Gallinari scored 19 points, including a three-pointer to spark a key fourth-quarter run, and host Denver beat Indiana.

Ty Lawson added 15 points and 10 assists for the Nuggets, who won games on successive nights after losing six of seven coming into the back-to-back set.

**Clippers 106, Bucks 102:** Chris Paul scored nine of his 27 points in the final 4:04 and Blake Griffin added 24, leading host Los Angeles over Milwaukee.

Griffin, coming off back-to-back 30-point games against Indiana and Denver, picked up his third foul with 5:41 left in the half and the Clippers trailing 42-38. Griffin made a critical tip-in of Paul's missed 20-footer with 5 seconds to play. Milwaukee's Khris Middleton missed a desperation three-pointer as time expired.

# Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	10	14	41.7%
Boston	10	14	41.7%
Brooklyn	11	14	43.8%
New York	5	24	17.3%
Philadelphia	10	18	35.7%

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Washington	19	6	76.0%
Atlanta	19	7	73.1%
Miami	12	15	44.4%
Orlando	10	18	35.7%
Charlotte	8	19	29.6%

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Chicago	17	9	65.4%
Cleveland	15	10	60.0%
Milwaukee	14	11	56.0%
Indiana	8	19	29.6%
Detroit	8	22	26.8%

## Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Memphis	15	8	65.4%
Houston	11	12	47.6%
Dallas	20	8	71.4%
San Antonio	11	11	50.0%
New Orleans	13	13	50.0%

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Portland	14	8	63.6%
Oklahoma City	13	14	48.3%
Utah	17	7	70.6%
Golden State	8	20	28.6%
Minnesota	20	10	66.7%

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Jose	19	8	70.2%
LA Clippers	19	7	73.0%
Phoenix	14	10	58.1%
Sacramento	12	12	50.0%
LA Lakers	18	10	64.3%

## Friday's games

Charlotte 109, Philadelphia 91
Utah 107, LA Lakers 104
Washington 105, Miami 103
Toronto 110, Detroit 100
Boston 114, Minnesota 99
Cleveland 95, Brooklyn 91
Chicago 102, Memphis 97
Portland 129, San Antonio 119, 3OT
Denver 109, LA Clippers 104
Oklahoma City 104, LA Lakers 103

## Saturday's games

Phoenix 99, Memphis 99
Portland 114, New Orleans 88
Charlotte 104, Utah 104
Atlanta 104, Houston 97
Dallas 99, San Antonio 93
Denver 76, Indiana 73
LA Clippers 106, Milwaukee 102

## Sunday's games

New York at Toronto
LA Lakers at Sacramento
LA Clippers at Washington
Boston at Miami
LA Clippers at Orlando
Detroit at Brooklyn
New Orleans at Oklahoma City
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SPORTS BRIEFS

# Boxer Ali hospitalized with pneumonia

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Boxing great Muhammad Ali was hospitalized with a mild case of pneumonia that was caught early and should result in a short hospital stay, an Ali spokesman said Saturday night.

The three-time world heavyweight champion, who is battling Parkinson's disease, is being treated by his team of doctors and is in stable condition, said his spokesman, Bob Gunnell.

"He went into the hospital this morning," Gunnell said in a phone interview. "He has a mild case of pneumonia and the prognosis is good."

Gunnell declined to say where the 72-year-old Ali is hospitalized. No other details are being released due to the Ali family's request for privacy, he said.

Ali appeared in public in September to attend a ceremony in his hometown of Louisville for the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards. He did not speak.

Ali retired from boxing in 1981 and devoted himself to social causes. He traveled the world on humanitarian missions, mingling with the masses and rubbing elbows with world leaders. Ali received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2005.

The Muhammad Ali Center, in Louisville, is dedicated to Ali's humanitarian causes and also showcases his boxing career.

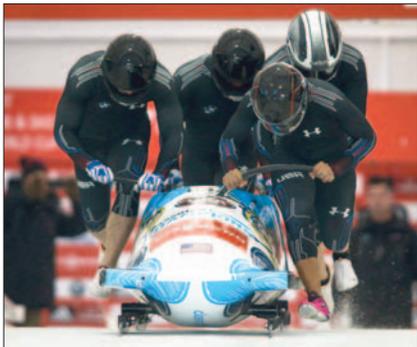
## US women compete in 4-person bobsled

CALGARY, Alberta — American Elana Meyers Taylor and Canada's Kaillie Humphries became the first women to race in a four-person event in World Cup bobsled history Saturday.

Humphries finished 15th with a two-run time of 1 minute, 48.87 seconds, and Meyers Taylor was 16th out of the 17 finishers in 1:49.52. The International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation declared the four-person discipline gender neutral this fall.

"Everyone was so excited to see us race today and it really helped me realize the significance of the moment," Meyers Taylor said. "There were some little girls at the track that were excited to watch women's bobsled today, and hopefully what Kaillie and I are doing inspires them."

"I hope someday a woman rac-



JEFF MCINTOSH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

**Americans Elana Meyers Taylor, Dustin Greenwood, Carlo Valdes, and Adrian Adams compete in the World Cup 4-person bobsled event in Calgary on Saturday.**

ing in four-man isn't news. I'm willing to do anything it takes to advance our sport, even if it means racing twice in a day."

Earlier, Meyers Taylor teamed with Cherrille Garret, to win the women's race, finishing in 1:51.7.

## Vonn crashes in bid for record-tying victory

VAL D'ISERE, France — American Lindsey Vonn's bid for a record-equating 62nd World Cup win will have to wait a little while longer.

The four-time World Cup winner crashed out of Sunday's super-G race after entering a gate slightly too wide, as Elisabeth Georgl beat Olympic champion Anna Fenninger by .05 seconds to lead an Austrian 1-2.

Although Vonn did no damage to her troublesome right knee — after only starting to race again recently following two operations — she landed heavily on her right elbow.

"I was risking everything and attacking the course. That sometimes happens in super-G, you don't have any training runs and you have just one inspection," Vonn said. "I hit my elbow, somehow funny. I have some ice on it. It's just a little bit swollen but no big deal."

After winning Saturday's downhill, Vonn was looking for a fourth consecutive podium fin-

ish and was .01 ahead of Georgl's time on the first split.

Overall leader Tina Maze of Slovenia finished third, .13 behind Georgl.

## Ligety settles for 2nd in GS behind Hirscher

ALTA BADIA, Italy — Ted Ligety needs some training. A lot of it. And some snow would help, too.

Struggling with a broken wrist and without the training volume he normally relies on, the Olympic champion was beaten soundly by Austrian rival Marcel Hirscher again in an unusually bumpy World Cup giant slalom race Sunday.

Hirscher led after the opening run then extended his gap in the second leg to finish a whopping 1.45 seconds ahead of Ligety for his third consecutive victory in the technical events of GS and slalom. Thomas Panara of France placed third, 1.48 back, for his third podium result on the Gran Risa course.

Ligety, who normally dominates the GS events and has won this race twice, attributed his recent struggles to a lack of training. That's partly due to the week he lost from his injury but mostly due to a lack of snow everywhere from Chile to Colorado to the Alps.

"I'm a guy that likes a lot of skiing. I like to take 10 runs a day

and ski a bunch of days. Whereas some guys don't like that kind of volume," said the American, who has won only one race this season. "I get confidence out of skiing that kind of volume. Hopefully it snows somewhere or they can make snow somewhere and I get some training in."

It was Hirscher's third career victory on the Gran Risa, having also won this race last year plus a slalom in 2011. Italian great Alberto Tomba holds the record of four wins on the Gran Risa.

## 'Hands up' Rams donate to needy in Ferguson

JENNINGS, Mo. — The St. Louis Rams players who did the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" gesture treated residents of nearby Ferguson to some holiday cheer on Friday.

Tight end Jared Cook and wide receivers Tavon Austin, Kenny

Britt, Stedman Bailey and Chris Givens donated \$10,000 and participated in the inaugural holiday event co-sponsored by the St. Louis Urban League.

The players scoured racks of coats for kids, searching for the right sizes, and posed for photos and signed hundreds of autographs.

"We just want to give back to the community," Britt said. "Hopefully, this is not just a one-year deal. Hopefully, we keep it going."

Players helped purchase toys, coats, gloves, hats, non-perishable food and necessities such as shampoo and detergent.

The area has been hit hard by protests, looting and unrest in the months since the fatal shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown, who is black, by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, who is white.



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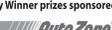
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## MLB



PAUL BEATY/AP

Pitcher Jon Lester puts on a Cubs jersey and hat after being introduced during a news conference in Chicago on Monday. Lester agreed to a \$155 million, six-year contract with the Cubs at the winter meetings last week that set baseball records for largest signing bonus and biggest upfront payment.

## Big moves, bigger dreams

### Wheeling and dealing Cubs, White Sox prove that in the Windy City, hope really does spring eternal

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — As the cranes and trucks hummed just beyond the chain-link fence along Waveland Avenue, Erika Pflederer stopped to take it all in.

She could see the exposed back of Wrigley Field's brick outfield wall and the grandstand seats with the bleachers torn out. In the transformation of the famous ballpark she sees a change for the better for the Chicago Cubs, too.

"I think it's insanely exciting," says Pflederer, a longtime Cubs fan. "It finally feels like we're on the verge of really trying to accomplish [something big]. We've all said maybe someday, maybe next year. It feels like we're finally on the verge or really making it happen."

It's not just Cubs fans who are

thinking big. So are the White Sox faithful.

North Side and South Side, there's a big baseball buzz in Chicago. Both teams have made sweeping changes after 73-win seasons and sent enthusiasm soaring.

The Cubs brought in one of the game's best managers in Joe Maddon in October and landed top starter Jon Lester with a six-year, \$155 million deal during baseball's winter meetings this month. In the process they made it clear that they are serious about bringing home a championship.

The White Sox, not to be outdone, added a front-line starter who grew up rooting for them in Jeff Samardzija and closer David Robertson to a pitching staff that already includes All-Star Chris Sale. They gave their lineup a boost, too, bringing in Melky Ca-

brera and Adam LaRoche to help support AL Rookie of the Year Jose Abreu.

"I loved every move they have made this off-season," said Craig Coleman of Chicago, a White Sox fan since the late 1970s.

There's hope that his favorite team is poised to make a move after enduring 188 losses the past two years and that the Cubs are ready to put five straight losing seasons behind them, not to mention a certain tight drought.

"I think it's exciting," said Theo Epstein, the Cubs president of baseball operations who has been busy since he was hired in October 2011. "Chicago baseball hasn't been what it should be the last few years and with both teams taking a big step forward this winter, it only benefits Chicago baseball fans."

## Marlins view Prado as upgrade at 3B

BY STEVEN WINE  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Miami Marlins opted to replace NL comeback player of the year Casey McGehee with Martin Prado at third base because they want greater athleticism and a more favorable contract at the position.

Even so, trading McGehee to the Giants wasn't an easy decision, Miami president of baseball operations Michael Hill said Saturday.

"It was probably one of the toughest phone calls I've ever had to make, to let him know he'd been traded," Hill said.

Miami acquired Prado from the Yankees on Friday, and then traded McGehee for a pair of right-handed minor league pitchers.

Prado, 31, hit .316 with seven homers and 16 RBIs in 133 at-bats for New York last year. He's two years away from free agency, while McGehee, 32, can become a free agent after the 2015 season.

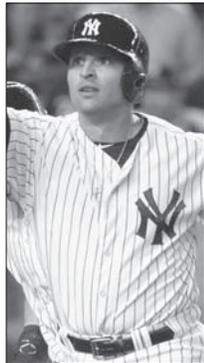
"Prado brings athleticism to both sides of the ball, offensively and defensively," Hill said. "And the control — we know we have him for two years. Casey was on the brink of free agency. Given the opportunity, we felt it would be a good fit to bring Martin over."

With the deals, the Marlins have changed 75 percent of their infield this offseason. Second baseman Dee Gordon and first baseman Michael Morse are the other newcomers.

In the deal with the Yankees, the Marlins acquired right-hander David Phelps for righty Nathan Eovaldi, first baseman Garrett Jones and minor league right-hander Domingo German.

Phelps provides depth in the rotation, which will be without ace Jose Fernandez early in the season while he recovers from elbow surgery. Phelps is expected to compete for the fifth starting spot and can also relieve.

"It should be interesting to see how it unfolds, but we love the versatility," Hill said. "We know the big man, Jose, is coming back in June or July, and we wanted to give ourselves as much flexibility as possible in our staff."



KATHY KMONICK/AP

The Marlins acquired versatile third baseman Martin Prado, pictured, and pitcher David Phelps from the Yankees in exchange for pitcher Nathan Eovaldi, outfielder Garrett Jones and minor league pitcher Domingo German on Friday.

Right-hander Dan Haren, acquired in a seven-player trade with the Dodgers last week, is considering retirement and hasn't made a decision, Hill said.

"He's still working through it," Hill said. "We're going to give him the time he needs. I just continue to stress to him that this is a good team, and we want him to be part of it. He would fit nicely."

The Marlins haven't given Haren a deadline, Hill said.

Fernandez and slugger Giancarlo Stanton are on schedule in their recoveries from surgery, Hill said. Stanton, whose season was curtailed when he was hit in the face by a pitch in September, has begun his normal offseason training regimen in his native California.

"He's good to go," Hill said. "He's working out, in the cage. He's getting ready hopefully for an MVP season."

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# Cause for concern?

## Injuries force Broncos to dig deep in linebacker corps

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Aside from Von Miller, Denver's once-deep linebacker corps has been reduced to four guys playing their first NFL season and an undrafted third-year pro who's started just five games.

Steven Johnson, who at 26 qualifies as the greybeard among greenhorns, swears he isn't concerned.

"I don't think there's any drop-off, because I look at all these guys over here, and they've got that hunger in their eye, just like I got," Johnson said. "Because all of us at the beginning of the year weren't starters, but now we're starting on this, and the team is counting on us. We're kind of relishing that opportunity. ... We're ready to go."

The Broncos (11-3) can clinch a first-round bye in the playoffs with a win at Cincinnati (9-4-1) Monday night. They'll try to do that without three front-line linebackers: Danny Trevathan, Nate Irving and Brandon Marshall.

Losing Marshall until the playoffs with a sprained right foot and the two others to season-ending knee injuries "puts the onus on the front, especially in the run game to make sure we're doing our job plus a little bit more," nose tackle Terrance Knighton said.

Rookie Todd Davis, whom Denver claimed off waivers from New Orleans last month, is expected to lead the way, along with Johnson as the Broncos try to stuff Bengals running backs Jeremy Hill and Giovanni Bernard.

Also prepping for increased roles are rookies Corey Nelson and Lamin Barrow and second-year pro Lereentee McCray, who spent his rookie year on IR.

"Our coaches put together a good plan where Todd's not going to be out there on his own," Knighton said. "He's not going to have to make every play. You have two veteran safeties (in Rahim Moore and T.J. Ward) back there behind him and you have two veteran guys in front of him with me and Derek Wolfe."

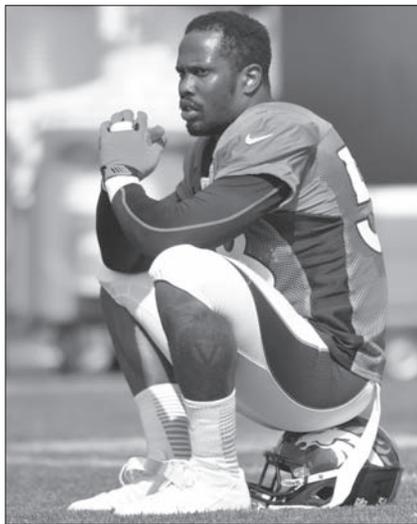
"So, our linebackers will be well-protected — but they're not

going to be in a position where they dictate the game. Our defense as a whole dictates the game."

The Broncos sport the NFL's fourth-rated defense and they're second only to Detroit at stopping the run. But they'll be without their top tackler in Marshall and last year's leading tackler in Trevathan, both of whom were hurt last week.

Johnson thinks the young linebackers will hold up, saying, "A lot of people think we're a little depleted at linebacker but I don't think so at all. So we're going to go out there and it's not going to be any drop-off. We're going to go out there and fight like we usually do."

Asked just how realistic of an expectation that was with all the injuries, defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio had this to say Friday: "I take whoever we have up and available and coach them up to be at their best and we expect them to play at a high standard. That's the way we approached it last year, when we fought through (injuries to) a bunch of different guys. And we never make excuses."



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

The Broncos' Von Miller, above, will be without fellow linebackers Danny Trevathan, Nate Irving, and Brandon Marshall on Monday night when Denver attempts to clinch a first-round playoff bye with a win over the Cincinnati Bengals.

# Charge: Novak's 40-yard FG sends Niners to fourth straight loss

FROM BACK PAGE

Nick Novak's 40-yard field goal nearly 5 minutes into overtime completed the unlikely rally, giving the Chargers a 38-35 victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Saturday night.

"Obviously, an unbelievable finish," coach Mike McCoy said. "We had about as bad a first half as we could possibly play. ... You saw a lot of emotion on the sideline throughout that second half — the excitement, the energy, the way we play football."

Rivers found playmakers in Antonio Gates and Eddie Royal when two of San Diego's offensive stars were down with injuries.

He completed his fourth touchdown pass of the day with a tying 11-yard TD pass to Malcolm Floyd with 29 seconds left in regulation after completing a pair of fourth-and-longs as the Chargers (9-6) forced overtime.

Phil Dawson's 60-yard field goal attempt for San Francisco as regulation ended fell way short. Quinton Patton then fumbled in overtime to set up San Diego's winning drive.

"What a comeback. It's one of the greatest I've been a part of, and it keeps us alive," Novak said. "To kick the game-winner, do-or-die kick ... loved being in that moment."

On a night nearly everything clicked for the home team until the waning moments, Rivers made plays without wide receiver Keenan Allen and running back Ryan Mathews.

He shined with the season on the line. The Chargers came in needing to win out and get some



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

San Francisco quarterback Colin Kaepernick runs against the San Diego Chargers during Saturday's game in Santa Clara, Calif. The 49ers lost 38-35 in overtime.

help after beginning the week tied with Kansas City and Buffalo, one game out of the final wild-card berth. San Diego ends the season at Kansas City next Sunday.

Rivers converted fourth-and-8 and fourth-and-10 on the key final San Diego drive of the fourth quarter.

"We just got going and fell into a rhythm," Rivers said. "At half-

time, we didn't know if we could make the way back, but we were going to fight. That's who we are."

The 49ers blew just their second game when leading by 21 or more at halftime and lost their fourth straight game under embattled coach Jim Harbaugh. They lost 42-41 to Minnesota on Oct. 24, 1965, after leading 35-14 at halftime.

Colin Kaepernick ran 90 yards for a touchdown and Frank Gore had a 52-yard touchdown run as the Niners (7-8) grabbed early momentum.

"Right now there's not much to say," Harbaugh said. "That's a tough one."

Rivers threw touchdown passes of 21 and 1 yard to Antonio Gates and another to Eddie Royal, but also was hurt by three intercept-

tions. On one of those, Antoine Bethea had a 49-yard return for his first career touchdown. A defense minus recently released starting lineman Ray McDonald never let Rivers find a rhythm.

The 31-year-old Gore finished with 158 yards and he needs 38 yards in the final game next weekend against Arizona for a fourth consecutive 1,000-yard season and eighth in his 10 NFL seasons. His scoring run was his longest since a 64-yarder on Nov. 1, 2009, at Indianapolis. It also was the longest TD run allowed by San Diego since 2010 before Kaepernick topped it.

Gore had more yards in this game than in his previous four games combined, and New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez was in attendance wearing the running back's red No. 21 jersey.

Rookie Bruce Ellington caught an 8-yard touchdown pass from Kaepernick early in the second quarter that put the Niners up 21-0, then ran for a 1-yard score late in the half before leaving with a hamstring injury.

Rivers, 33-for-54 for 356 yards, sat out Wednesday's practice with chest and back injuries.

"We've got the best quarterback in the league," Floyd said. "We had faith in us."

Harbaugh, who is facing a constant swirl of speculation about his future — like a report alma mater Michigan has made him a six-year offer to coach the Wolverines — has said there's still plenty to play for, like a winning season despite the disappointment following three straight trips to the NFC championship game.

NFL



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Redskins receiver and former Eagle DeSean Jackson pulls in a pass as Philadelphia cornerback Bradley Fletcher chases during the second half on Saturday, Washington upset the Eagles 27-24.

Scoreboard

American Conference

East		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	11	3	0	0	.786	442	280
Buffalo	8	6	0	0	.571	302	254
Miami	7	0	0	0	.500	327	301
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	0	.214	230	360
South		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Indianapolis	10	0	0	0	.714	424	317
Houston	7	0	0	0	.500	324	277
Jacksonville	3	12	0	0	.200	232	389
Tennessee	2	13	0	0	.133	244	411
North		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	9	6	1	0	.679	311	289
Pittsburgh	9	5	0	0	.643	389	339
San Diego	9	6	0	0	.600	341	329
Kansas City	7	0	0	0	.571	322	254
Oakland	2	12	0	0	.143	213	381

National Conference

East		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	10	4	0	0	.714	361	328
Philadelphia	9	6	0	0	.600	440	374
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	0	.357	317	339
Tampa Bay	4	0	0	0	.286	284	394
South		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	6	8	0	0	.429	364	374
Carolina	5	9	0	0	.357	348	363
Atlanta	5	0	0	0	.432	254	367
Tampa Bay	4	0	0	0	.286	284	394
North		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Detroit	10	0	0	0	.714	261	238
Green Bay	10	4	0	0	.714	436	325
Minnesota	6	8	0	0	.429	277	297
Chicago	6	0	0	0	.429	296	409
West		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Arizona	11	1	0	0	.786	287	244
Seattle	10	4	0	0	.714	339	242
San Francisco	7	8	0	0	.467	266	323
St. Louis	6	0	0	0	.429	291	297

Saturday's games

Washington 27, Philadelphia 24  
San Diego 38, San Francisco 35, OT

Sunday's games

Baltimore at Houston  
Detroit at Chicago  
Atlanta at New Orleans  
Minnesota at Miami  
Cleveland at Carolina  
Green Bay at Tampa Bay  
Kansas City at Pittsburgh  
New England at N.Y. Jets  
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis  
Buffalo at Oakland  
Indianapolis at Dallas  
Seattle at Arizona

Monday's game

Denver at Cincinnati  
Sunday, Dec. 28  
Indianapolis at Tennessee  
Detroit at Green Bay  
Jacksonville at Houston  
San Diego at Kansas City  
Chicago at Minnesota  
Carolina at Atlanta  
Cleveland at Baltimore  
Dallas at Washington  
N.Y. Jets at Miami  
Buffalo at New England  
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants  
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh  
New Orleans at Tampa Bay  
Arizona at San Francisco  
St. Louis at Seattle  
Oakland at Denver

Saturday

Redskins 27, Eagles 24

Philadelphia 10 0 14 3-27  
Washington 7 7 0 14 3-27  
Was—FG Forbath 25, 6:04.  
Phi—McCoy 11 run (Parkey kick), 1:49.  
Was—Morris 28 run (Forbath kick), :19.  
Third Quarter  
Phi—Cooper 3 pass from Sanchez (Parkey kick), 3:39.  
Was—Young 1 run (Forbath kick), 6:26.  
Was—Young 1 run (Forbath kick), 6:46.  
Fourth Quarter  
Phi—Cooper 16 pass from Sanchez (Parkey kick), 10:27.  
Phi—FG Parkey 22, 6:17.  
Was—FG Forbath 26, :05.  
A—78,897.

Phi	Was
First downs	30 21
Total Net Yards	495 305
Rushes-yards	31-134 29-100
Passing	351 205
Punt Returns	2-10 0-0
Kickoff Returns	3-60 4-95
Interceptions Ret.	1-1 1-0
Comp-Att-Int	37-50-11 16-23-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-13 2-15
Fumbles-Lost	2-3-0 3-4-3
Penalties-Yards	13-102 3-15
Time of Possession	32:04 27:56

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS  
Rushing—Philadelphia, McCoy 22, 88, Morris 21, 83, Griffin III 5-11, Redd Jr. 1-4, Young 2-2.  
Passing—Philadelphia, Sanchez 37-50-11, 374, Washington, Griffin III 16-23-1, 220.  
Receiving—Philadelphia, Ertz 15-115, Spolton 6-43, Cooper 5-33, McClain 4-62, Matthews 5-28, McCoy 2-28, Colek 1-15.  
Washington, Jackson 4-126, Garcon 4-61, Thompson 3-5, Reed 2-5, Roberts 1-14, Paulsen 1-5, Young 1-3.  
Missed field goals—Philadelphia, Parkey 34 (WR), 46 (WR).

Chargers 38, 49ers 35 (OT)

San Diego 0 7 14 14 3-38  
San Francisco 0 7 21 7 0 0-35  
First Quarter  
SF—Gore 52 run (Dawson kick), 13:12.  
Second Quarter  
SF—Ellington 9 pass from Kaepernick (Dawson kick), 13:36.  
SF—Bethea 49 interception return (Dawson kick), 10:20.  
SD—Royal 15 pass from Rivers (Novak kick), 5:09.  
SF—Ellington 1 run (Dawson kick), :06.  
Third Quarter  
SD—Gates 1 pass from Rivers (Novak kick), 5:49.  
SD—Lugert fumble recovery in end zone (Novak kick), 3:26.  
SF—Kaepernick 90 run (Dawson kick), 2:26.  
Fourth Quarter  
SD—Gates 21 pass from Rivers (Novak kick), 5:15.  
SD—Floyd 11 pass from Rivers (Novak kick), :29.  
Overtime  
SD—FG Novak 40, 10:06.  
SF—70,699.

SD	SF
First downs	28 21
Total Net Yards	446 447
Rushes-yards	24-98 40-355
Passing	348 92
Punt Returns	0-0 3-34
Kickoff Returns	4-106 7-163
Interceptions Ret.	0-0 3-73
Comp-Att-Int	33-54-3 15-24-4
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-28 3-22
Fumbles-Lost	4-5-0 3-4-8
Penalties-Yards	8-38 9-92
Time of Possession	34:13 30:35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS  
Rushing—San Diego, Oliver 19-53, R.Brown 7-33, D.Brown 6-12, San Francisco, Gore 26-158, Kaepernick 7-151, Patton 1-20, All-Smith 2-14, Ellington 5-12, Miller 1-0.  
Passing—San Diego, Rivers 33-54-3, 356.  
Receiving—San Diego, Royal 10-94, Gates 7-92, Inman 7-79, Floyd 4-50, Oliver 3-26, R.Brown 1-9, D.Brown 1-4, San Francisco, Boldin 7-61, Miller 2-22, Patton 2-9, All-Smith 2-9, Ellington 1-8, Crabtree 1-5.  
Missed field goals—San Francisco, Dawson 60 (SF).

# Eagles' mistakes dim playoff hopes

Redskins play spoiler; Philly eliminated from wild card and a long shot for NFC East title

By JOSEPH WHITE  
The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — The Philadelphia Eagles have proved themselves to be a miracle, a team that got away with its faults until it couldn't any longer. Leaders in the NFC East as recently as a week ago, they're now just about done in the playoff race, and they're in no position to argue that they deserve any better.

Penalties, missed field goals, two more turnovers by Mark Sanchez and an inability to keep track of former teammate DeSean Jackson turned into a 27-24 loss to the lowly Washington Redskins on Saturday night, the Eagles' third straight defeat and one that gives Dallas two chances to clinch the NFC East.

"We're currently minus-9 in the turnover margin, so us having nine wins is really impressive for that," said safety Malcolm Jenkins, echoing the mood of a locker room hit with a communal reality check. "And really we were on borrowed time playing that style of football. If we had run the table in December with that kind of football, it would have been surprising, and it's something we didn't fix."

Sanchez's interception with 1:31 remaining — his 13th turnover in seven games — led to Kai Forbath's winning 26-yard field goal with 5 seconds remaining as the Redskins (4-11) snapped a six-game losing streak.

The Eagles (9-6) were rooting for Indianapolis to beat the Cowboys (10-4) on Sunday. A Dallas win eliminates Philadelphia. A Dallas loss keeps a modicum of hope alive.

"I'm not going to throw a party and watch it," receiver Jeremy Maclin said. "I'm going to watch it at home."

The loss also knocked Philadelphia from the wild-card race and clinched a playoff berth for Detroit.

Sanchez set an Eagles record with 37 completions in 50 attempts for a career-high 374 yards with two touchdowns to Riley Cooper, and tight end Zach Ertz set a franchise game record with 15 catches. But Sanchez lost a fumble for the third time this season and threw his 10th interception to put the Eagles' NFL-leading turnover tally at 36.

Robert Griffin III, back from his recent benching after a season-long neck injury to Colt McCoy, went 16-for-23 for 220 yards with one interception for the Redskins to win in his first complete game in 13 months. Griffin's only other win as a starter this season came when he was injured in the first quarter against Jacksonville in



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III reacts to Saturday's victory over the Eagles.

Week 2

First-year coach Jay Gruden, who has frequently been critical of Griffin, gave a glowing assessment, saying RG3 "did an outstanding job of managing the football game."

"You would think that a 3-11 football team would just quit," Griffin said. "And we're not."

From the Eagles' perspective, everything seemed to go wrong in pairs. Two wide-riders by rookie kicker Cody Parkey — doubling his number of misses this season — were converted into two 1-yard touchdown runs by Darrel Young.

One of those Washington scoring drives included roughing-the-passer penalties by Brandon Graham and Vinny Curry in a span of four plays. The other drive featured a 55-yard over-the-shoulder grab by Jackson, the second 50-plus Griffin-to-Jackson connection in the game.

"I missed kicks and we lost the game," said Parkey, who has been battling a groin injury in his kicking leg. "I don't think there's any words to really describe it. You let yourself down. You let your teammates down. The kicks had nothing to do with my groin."

Curry also had a roughing-the-passer call on the Redskins' winning drive. Earlier, a pass-interference call on Nate Allen in the end zone set up Young's second scoring run. Philadelphia was flagged 13 times for 102 yards.

"We're beating ourselves with the penalties," defensive coordinator Bill Davis said. "They stay on the field, and they get more shots on goal, and bad things happen in the NFL."

With the scored tied and the season on the line, Sanchez made the game's final mistake, the interception to cornerback Bashaud Breeland at Washington's 42.

"We wanted to spoil their Christmas and send them home," Griffin said, "and we did our part."



MARK TENALL/AP

Eagles kicker Cody Parkey, left, is tapped on the helmet by Brandon Barair after missing a field goal on Saturday.

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## No. 1 Kentucky dismantles UCLA

By Andrew Seligman  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — No. 1 Kentucky made it look so easy that coach John Calipari felt the need to point out he had actual human beings on the court.

The only question was the final score, and that took longer to decide than the game.

Devin Booker had 19 points, and the Wildcats scored the first 24 points in an 83-44 victory over UCLA on Saturday.

"They're not machines and they're not computers," Calipari said. "They don't play great every time out."

The sure looked like machines the way they dominated this game.

Aaron Harrison added 15 points, and the Wildcats (12-0) handed the Bruins (8-4) one of their most-lopsided losses ever.

The first meeting between the storied programs in eight years turned ugly as soon as the game started, with Kentucky dominating UCLA in every possible way. It was so bad that officials lost track of one of the Bruins' second-half baskets and put out an amended box score about 90 minutes after the game.

It hardly mattered. The opening 24-0 run was eight shy of the record between two Division I teams, set by Connecticut against New Hampshire on Dec. 12, 1990. And the 39-point margin was nine shy of the Bruins' record.

Kentucky led 41-7 at the intermission. It was the lowest point total in a half for UCLA and the fewest by a Kentucky opponent since December 1943.

"We just have to keep playing against ourselves," Booker said. "Coach always stresses that to us — that we're not playing against the other team, we're playing against ourselves. Just keep play-

ing. You can't look at the score."

UCLA coach Steve Alford was so impressed he said the Wildcats might not lose a game this season.

"If they continue to play at that level defensively, I'm a firm believer they got a chance to run this thing out," he said.

Kentucky was simply too deep and too athletic, with a 10-man rotation and three starters standing 6 feet 10 or taller. Some of those players probably would get more time and put up bigger numbers elsewhere. But they almost certainly would not be on a team as dominating as this one.

"People can watch these guys in 20 minutes and know how really good they are," Calipari said. "They don't need 40 minutes, and these kids are great. We're a really good team with a bunch of guys, 10 guys, that all could score double figures."

Booker hit five of six three-pointers and seven of 10 shots overall. Harrison made three three-pointers, nailing one to start the game, and Kentucky hit 12 in all from long range to the delight of their cheering fans.

The Wildcats also played stifling defense, with the Bruins missing their first 17 shots and going 19-0-71.

Isaac Hamilton led UCLA with 14 points and Bryce Alford scored 13. But they came after Kentucky put this one away — which didn't take long.

In the second game of a double-header at the United Center that started with No. 24 North Carolina beating No. 12 Ohio State, the Wildcats erased all doubt about this one almost as soon as it started.

Harrison's three from the wing got things started, and Kentucky just poured it on from there, blocking shots, breaking for dunks and nailing jumpers.



NAAM Y. HUN/AP

Kentucky forward Karl-Anthony Towns shoots despite the defense of UCLA forward Tony Parker during the first half Saturday in Chicago.



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Ohio State guard Shannon Scott drives to the basket between North Carolina forward Kennedy Meeks, left, and guard Nate Britt during the first half Saturday in Chicago.

### Roundup

## UNC topples No. 12 Ohio St.

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Playing in Michael Jordan's longtime home is a big deal for North Carolina, and the Tar Heels honored their most famous basketball alum with a winning performance.

Brice Johnson had 18 points on 8-for-10 shooting, and No. 24 North Carolina used its stout defense to hold off No. 12 Ohio State 82-74 on Saturday.

Jordan led the Tar Heels to the national championship in 1982, and then powered the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles during his Hall of Fame career. The Tar Heels had their picture taken in front of Jordan's statue at the United Center on Friday, and Johnson said he got the chills when he looked up during Saturday's national anthem and saw Jordan's No. 23 hanging from the rafters.

"Just a great opportunity to be here and just to be able to get a win here," said Johnson, who also had nine rebounds.

Marcus Paige added 16 points for the Tar Heels (8-3), and Kennedy Meeks finished with eight points, 13 boards and two blocked shots. Meeks and Johnson led North Carolina to a 53-40 rebounding advantage in the opener of a college basketball doubleheader at the home of the Bulls and NHL's Blackhawks.

Johnson and Meeks "have done a great job this year of being an inside presence," Paige said. "We wanted Kennedy to finish a little stronger around the basket today, but Brice was great."

Marc Loving made five three-pointers and scored 19 points for Ohio State (9-2), and that had won four in a row. Sam Thompson scored 17, and D'Angelo Russell had 11 points and eight rebounds.

But the Buckeyes shot 35 percent. They were averaging 84.2 points and shooting 53.7 percent coming into the day.

"That's one of the best defenses

in the country, and you look at the size, you're going to have to make some tough shots in order to beat those guys just in terms of their length," Ohio State coach Thad Matta said.

The Tar Heels led by as many as 18 in the second half, but Thompson helped the Buckeyes get back in the game by attacking the rim. The former Chicago high school star had an alley-op jam and a rebound dunk, and then added four consecutive foul shots during a 10-2 Ohio State run that pulled the Buckeyes within eight with 5:48 remaining.

**No. 4 Louisville 76, Western Kentucky 67:** Terry Rozier took charge after the first-half ejection of Montrezl Harrell to score a career-high 32 points, including 26 in the second half for visiting Louisville.

**No. 7 Villanova 82, Syracuse 77 (OT):** JayVaughn Pinkston had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Darrun Hilliard scored 23 points and host Villanova beat Syracuse to improve to 11-0.

The Wildcats never led until overtime and rallied from a 15-point hole to stun their former Big East rival.

**No. 8 Gonzaga 63, Cal Poly 50:** Kevin Pangos scored 11 of his 16 points in the second half and host Gonzaga struggled to shake pesky Cal Poly before pulling away.

**No. 9 Texas 78, Long Beach State 68:** Javan Felix scored a season-best 17 points, helping host Texas.

Felix made 6 of 9 shots, including three three-pointers. The reserve guard's previous high this season was 11 points.

**No. 10 Kansas 96, Lafayette 69:** Freshman Kelly Oubre Jr. had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Frank Mason added 14 points and nine assists for host Kansas.

**No. 13 Iowa State 83, Drake 54:** Naz Long scored 13 points and Monte Morris had 12 to lead

host Iowa State.

**No. 14 Utah 59, UNLV 46:** Delon Wright scored 17 points, Brandon Taylor had 16, and Utah beat UNLV in the MGM Grand Showcase.

Utah (8-2) had 12 steals — including six by Taylor and four by Wright — to cap a rough stretch by winning for the third time in four games.

**No. 16 Washington 69, No. 15 Oklahoma 67:** Jernard Jarreau scored 12 points, and Washington held on to beat Oklahoma in the MGM Grand Showcase.

The Huskies (10-0) led by as many as 20 in the first half, but only scored three points in the final 4:01 of the game.

**No. 19 San Diego State 70, Ball State 57:** Winston Shepard scored 15 points and JJ O'Brien had 13 to lead host San Diego State.

**No. 21 Notre Dame 94, Purdue 63:** Pat Connaughton had 19 points and 14 rebounds, leading Notre Dame past Purdue in the Crossroads Classic.

**No. 22 West Virginia 83, N.C. State 69:** Juwan Staten scored 24 points in West Virginia's victory — their third straight.

**Indiana 82, No. 23 Butler 73:** Troy Williams matched his career high with 22 points and Kevin "Yogi" Ferrell added 20 to help Indiana beat Butler in the Crossroads Classic.

**Texas Southern 71, No. 25 Michigan State 64 (OT):** Chris Thomas scored 22 points, and unheralded Texas Southern outlasted host Michigan State.

The Tigers (2-8) were coming off a 40-point loss to Gonzaga, but coach Mike Davis' team was poised throughout against Michigan State.

**UC Davis 81, Air Force 75:** Corey Hawkins scored 22 points, Josh Fox added 19 more and visiting UC Davis pulled away with a 16-2 run in the second half.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Air Force earns 10th win in Potato Bowl

## RB Davern, defense shine for Falcons

By NICK JEZIERNY  
The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Air Force capped one of the best turnarounds in college football, using a strong ground attack and a huge defensive touchdown to beat Western Michigan in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Shayne Davern ran for a career-high 101 yards and two touchdowns and Air Force won 38-24 on a soggy Saturday night.

The Falcons finished the season 10-3 after going 2-10 last year.

“We’re night and day from where we were last year,” Air Force coach Troy Calhoun said. “This is just one season — we know that. It’s a neat accomplishment with amazing contributions by a lot of people.” That was the case Saturday.

Miami of Ohio was the last team to follow a 10-loss season with 10 victories, going from 1-11 in 2009 to 10-4 in 2010.

Western Michigan finished 8-5 after going 1-11 last season. The loss dropped the program’s postseason record to 0-6.

Davern was selected the team’s most valuable player. He ran 6 yards on a fake punt in the second quarter that kept a drive alive and helped the Falcons take a 20-10 halftime lead.

Calhoun said special teams coordinator Ben Miller practically begged him to call the fake punt.

“He’s really sharp,” Calhoun said. “He said, ‘It’s there and we need to do it.’ And we did.”

Air Force increased its lead to 23-10 on Will Conant’s 31-yard field goal, but the Broncos pulled to 23-17 on a 35-yard touchdown pass, the second of three scoring passes from Zach Terrell to Corey Davis.

After forcing an Air Force punt on the next possession, Western Michigan’s Daniel Braverman returned a punt for a touchdown, but the play was called back because



DARIN OSWALD, THE IDAHO STATESMAN/AP

**Air Force running back Shayne Davern breaks through the Western Michigan defense and runs for a touchdown in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl on Saturday. Davern ran for a career-high 101 yards and was the game MVP.**

of an illegal block in the back.

“It was a penalty,” Western Michigan coach P.J. Fleck said. “We didn’t need the block. You’re not going to beat a team like that making that many mistakes.”

Western Michigan tried to rally in the fourth quarter and moved into Air Force territory. But Terrell was hit while scrambling by Falcons linebacker Shane Proctor and fumbled. Air Force defensive back Dexter White scooped up the loose ball and returned it 60 yards for the game-clinching touchdown.

“That was big,” Air Force linebacker Jordan Pierce said. “I’m proud of our defense. That touchdown really turned the game in our favor — that’s all she wrote.”

“I didn’t realize someone was behind me,” Terrell said. “The ball is our program. I can’t tell that happen. I have to have a vice grip on the ball and can’t let it get out.”

Fleck agreed that play was a back-breaker.

“That’s a 14-point swing in about 35 seconds,” Fleck said. “We’ve got to learn from that and find ways to win. That’s how quick

a football game can change.”

Western Michigan entered the game averaging 178.5 yards per game rushing but finished with only 79 on 26 carries.

“Give Air Force all the credit,” Fleck said. “It was like running uphill, both ways in the snow backwards against their defense.”

Air Force snapped a two-bowl losing streak.

“This means a lot to us,” Davern said. “It just feels awesome, especially for the seniors. We got a 10-win season.”

## Bowls roundup

## QB Wilson leads Utes’ rout of Rams

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Right from the start, quarterback Travis Wilson and No. 23 Utah had Colorado State on the run in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Wilson rushed for a season-best 91 yards, scored three touchdowns and passed for one in a 45-10 rout Saturday.

“I’m not going to say it’s his absolute strong suit, but he’s a capable runner,” Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. “He’s deceptive.”

So were the Utes, who have won 11 of their last 12 bowl games.

Utah (9-4) scored on its first three possessions and used big plays that measured 36, 49 and 60 yards. They also employed what Whittingham called some “trickery.”

On their first offensive snap, the Utes confused Colorado State when Wilson flipped the ball to running back Devontae Booker, who threw it back to Wilson, who then heaved it down field to Kaelin Clay for 36 yards to the Colorado State 17.

Two plays later, Wilson scored from 8 yards out.

“We hit us with an explosive play right off the bat,” Colorado State interim coach Doug Baldwin said.

“Normally we start fast, but they started fast. Then we went three-and-out and they hit us again with a long run. Their explosiveness early hurt us,” he said.

Wilson rushed for a season-high 91 yards on 11 carries and completed 17 of 26 passes for 158 yards.

“I saw that the running was working for me and I definitely took advantage of it,” he said. “A lot of the runs I was able to read. The O-line did a great job of blocking, and having Booker running well too definitely set me up for some good runs.”

Utah finished with 548 total yards, including 359 on the ground. Booker ran for 162 yards and a TD.

Colorado State (10-3) played a ranked team for the first time this season — it has lost its last 16 games against teams in the Top 25.

## New Orleans Bowl

**Louisiana-Lafayette 16, Nevada 3:** Terrance Broadway passed for 227 yards and a touchdown. Hunter Stover kicked three field goals and the Rajun Cajuns beat the Wolf Pack.

Broadway set an NCAA Division I bowl record by completing his first 14 passes.

Stover made a career-long 46-yard field goal in the first half and added kicks of 35 and 30 yards to help Louisiana-Lafayette (9-4) complete its fourth consecutive nine-victory season with their fourth straight New Orleans Bowl win.

The Wolf Pack (7-6) gained only 89 yards on the ground and failed to score a touchdown for the first time since being shut out at Notre Dame in 2009.

## New Mexico Bowl

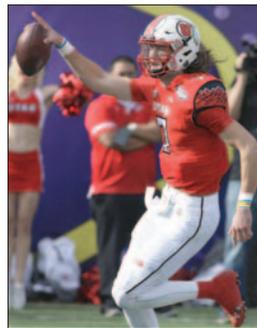
**Utah State 21, UTEP 6:** At Albuquerque, N.M., Nick Vigil ran for a touchdown and combined with brother Zach to make 16 tackles for Utah State (10-4), which won a bowl game for the third straight year.

UTEP (7-6) is 0-6 in postseason play since winning the 1967 Sun Bowl.

Linebackers Nick and Zach Vigil helped prevent the Miners from putting together consistent drives, with senior Zach making nine stops. Nick scored on a 3-yard run for a 14-3 lead in the third quarter.

## Camellia Bowl

**Blooming Green 33, South Alabama 28:** At Montgomery, Ala., Roger Lewis caught a 14-3 yard touchdown pass from James



JOHN LOCHER/AP

**Utah quarterback Travis Wilson runs for a touchdown against Colorado State in the Las Vegas Bowl on Saturday.**

Knapke with 1:04 remaining to lift the Falcons.

South Alabama (8-6) responded one play after the Jaguars (6-7) took their first lead.

Game MVP Knapke was 25-for-39 passing for 368 yards and two long touchdowns to Lewis.

## SPORTS



**Rolling out Rondo**  
Mavs top Spurs in first game following blockbuster trade | **Page 25**

NFL



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

San Diego Chargers wide receiver Eddie Royal, right, stiff arms San Francisco 49ers defensive back Chris Culliver during Saturday's game in Santa Clara, Calif.

# Late charge

## Rivers, San Diego rally from 21-point deficit to beat 49ers

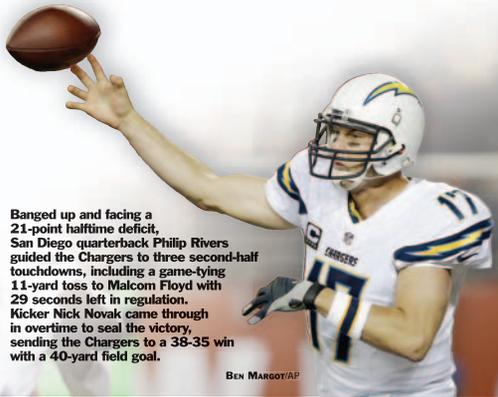
By JANIE MCCAULEY  
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Philip Rivers looked at the 21-point deficit on the scoreboard at halftime and even he wondered whether the San Diego Chargers had it in

them to come back. The season depended on it, so Rivers took charge.

He prevailed through a balky back and a sore chest to keep San Diego's slim playoff chances alive, rallying his team to tie it in the final minute.

**SEE CHARGE ON PAGE 28**



Banged up and facing a 21-point halftime deficit, San Diego quarterback Philip Rivers guided the Chargers to three second-half touchdowns, including a game-tying 11-yard toss to Malcolm Floyd with 29 seconds left in regulation. Kicker Nick Novak came through in overtime to seal the victory, sending the Chargers to a 38-35 win with a 40-yard field goal.

BEN MARGOT/AP

No. 1 Kentucky embarrasses UCLA  
College basketball, Page 30

Air Force soars in Potato Bowl  
College football, Page 31

