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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

## US begins surveillance flights over Syria

### Intelligence gathering on Islamic State militants could pave way for airstrikes, sources say

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
AND **JULIE PACE**  
*The Associated Press*

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — The U.S. has begun surveillance flights over Syria after President Barack Obama gave the OK, U.S. officials said, a move that

could pave the way for airstrikes against Islamic State militant targets there.

While the White House says Obama has not approved military action inside Syria, additional intelligence on the militants would likely be necessary before he could take that step. Pentagon

officials have been drafting potential options for the president, including airstrikes.

One official said the administration has a need for reliable intelligence from Syria and called the surveillance flights an important avenue for obtaining data.

Two U.S. officials said Monday that Obama had approved the flights, while another U.S. official said early Tuesday that they had begun.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter by name, and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters in Kabul on Tuesday that the U.S. wants more clarity on the militants in Syria, but declined to comment on the surveillance flights.

**SEE FLIGHTS ON PAGE 7**



KHALIL HAMRA/AP

GAZA

## CEASE-FIRE REACHED

Israel, Hamas agree to open-ended truce | **Page 11**

## Obama lists 19 initiatives to overhaul VA system

By **HEATH DRUZIN**  
*Stars and Stripes*

With the veterans' health care system embroiled in scandal and a new generation coming home from war, President Barack Obama sought Tuesday to reassure American veterans that the government is committed to taking care of them.

"What I want you to know directly from me is that we are focused on this at the highest levels," he said, addressing the national conference of the American Legion, the nation's largest veterans group.

Obama said he will issue 49 executive orders, including automatic enrollment in a mental health program for troops leaving the service, and expansion of research and services for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, two of the most common injuries among veterans.

The speech comes as the Department of Veterans Affairs is scrambling to improve health care amid a scandal that has mired the department and cost former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki his job.

**SEE INITIATIVES ON PAGE 6**

**IG finds no proof that vets died from VA delays**  
**Page 6**

**Palestinians on Tuesday inspect the damage to the Italian Complex high-rise following several late-night Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City. Israel and Hamas announced Tuesday that they agreed to an open-ended cease-fire after seven weeks of fighting.**

### PACIFIC

US forces' return to Philippines sparks economic hopes

**Page 3**

### MILITARY

DOD investigates Marine 3-star for alleged retaliation

**Page 4**

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Some schools left out in power conference realignment

**Back page**



**Familiar faces go for gold at Emmy Awards show** » **Page 17**

**QUOTE**  
OF THE DAY

**“We’re just trying to stay positive. Positivity can raise everything up.”**

— A woman who identified herself only as “Driftwood,” after being stranded in a parking lot when heavy rains washed out the opening of the counterculture “Burning Man” festival

See story on Page 10

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**TODAY**  
IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 14
- Business ..... 18
- Classified ..... 19, 22
- Comics ..... 13
- Crossword ..... 13
- Faces ..... 16, 17
- Opinion ..... 20-21
- Sports ..... 23-32
- Weather ..... 18
- Wired World..... 15

**MIDEAST**

**Afghan candidate threatens to pull out of vote audit**

By AMIR SHAH AND REBECCA SANTANA  
*The Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — One of the two men vying to become Afghanistan's next president is threatening to boycott a ballot audit from the country's disputed presidential runoff, his adviser said Tuesday, a development that could further disrupt the already troubled process.

The complicated, U.N.-supervised audit of the 8 million votes from the June presidential runoff has been underway in Kabul for weeks.

The process followed allegations of vote fraud on both sides and is meant to decide whether Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister, or former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani will replace President Hamid Karzai.

Abdullah is apparently concerned that the audit has alleged-

ly failed to invalidate a sufficient number of ballots so far that would correspond to the level of vote fraud his team claims has taken place.

A top adviser for Abdullah told reporters on Tuesday that if Abdullah's concerns are not addressed by Wednesday morning, he will pull out of the audit.

“If our demands are not accepted, we will announce the end of this process,” said Fazel Ahmad Manawi.

“This process will not be acceptable to us and the result will not have any value.”

A spokesman for the Independent Election Commission, Noor Ahmad Noor, said the recount would proceed Wednesday regardless of whether Abdullah's team decided to take part.

The United Nations in a lengthy press release pointed out the high level of input each team has had in the audit process and said the



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

**Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah, center, talks to his supporters during a rally in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. He has voiced concerns over fraud in the ongoing ballot audit.**

audit would continue even if one side pulls out.

If Abdullah's team goes through with their boycott threat, it raises concerns that his supporters would not consider the result to be valid and increases the likelihood of violence in what has already been a tense and lengthy election.

Karzai has said the new president should be sworn in on Sept. 2, just two days ahead of a NATO summit to be held in Wales.

The lack of a new president has held up the signing of a security agreement between the U.S. and Afghanistan. Both candidates

have promised to sign the agreement, which Karzai rejected.

On Monday, the election commission announced the first invalidations in the audit, saying results from 72 of the 3,645 polling stations it initially assessed have been completely invalidated. Nearly 700 more polling stations were partially invalidated.

There was no immediate information on how the invalidations would affect the end result of the election. But Mujib Rahman Rahimi, a spokesman for Abdullah, said the low number of invalidations shows the audit “is not working.”

**Campbell becomes final ISAF commander**

*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Army Gen. John F. Campbell became the final commander of the NATO-led military coalition in Afghanistan during a ceremony Tuesday.

The former infantry officer and Special Forces commander takes over from Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., who will become commandant of the Marine Corps. The ceremony, at a military base in Kabul, was attended by Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Campbell assumes control of the International Security Assistance Force as it finishes withdrawing from bases across the country in preparation for the end of its combat mission later this year. Close to 44,000 troops from 48 countries serve in the coalition, nearly 30,000 of them American. More than 100,000 troops were stationed in the country at the height of the coalition's surge in 2010.

The challenges facing the general include planning for a post-2014 NATO and U.S. training and advisory role in the country. That task is complicated by the lack of formal agreements with the Afghan government and political uncertainty due to a presidential election that is still undecided.

An entrenched insurgency, meanwhile, threatens stability in some parts of the country, testing the abilities of Afghan security forces, who were developed, trained and equipped by the coalition at great cost. Those forces lack many of the tools that gave the ISAF the upper hand against insurgents, such as air support, medical evacuation and surveillance capabilities.



Campbell

Managing dwindling troop numbers to continue to provide that assistance in the most critical areas of the country will be another test. Plans call for U.S. troop numbers to fall to 9,800 by year's end.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel acknowledged those challenges while expressing confidence in Campbell.

“John's leadership comes at a defining moment, as Afghanistan undertakes a historic political transition, and the United States and our coalition partners transition from combat to training and support for Afghan forces,” Hagel said in a statement.

The continuing election crisis could add further complications, with some parties threatening civil unrest. On the same day Campbell assumed command, presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah threatened to withdraw from the election review process unless officials meet several technical demands that could change the process.

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## PACIFIC

# Philipinos expect boost from US forces' return

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

SUBIC BAY, Philippines — When Abu Sayyaf rebels staged a mass kidnapping in the southern Philippines in 2001, the U.S. military sent a small group of counterterrorism training experts and other support to help local troops.

The result: The Islamic rebels have been marginalized.

Now many Filipinos are hoping a larger American presence will help the Armed Forces of Philippines convert from a counterinsurgency force to one directed at external threats, such as from its neighbor to the north.

Today, a South Korean tourist is more likely than a U.S. servicemember to be spotted at Clark Air Base. The facility, 40 miles northwest of Manila, was the Air Force's largest overseas installation before its evacuation following the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo, and only a few warships are docked at nearby Subic Bay, which was once home to thousands of sailors and their dependents.

That's likely to change as the U.S. and Philippine governments work out the details of an agreement that will boost America's military presence on the islands to significant numbers for the first time since the U.S. bases were shut down two decades ago after an impasse was reached on negotiating a new lease.

The Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, signed by President Barack Obama during a state visit in April, allows U.S. forces and contractors to operate at agreed locations in the Philippines for at least 10 years. The agreement stipulates that the U.S. can't set up permanent bases — the revised Philippine Constitution bans that — but it hands over operational control of the locations to U.S. forces and allows them to stockpile defense equipment and supplies.

Philippine government officials have said three to five bases are being considered, initially, as hosts for the U.S. forces.

Pio Lorenza Batino, a defense undersecretary heading the Philippine side of the negotiations under the pact, told a news conference in May that one prospect is Fort Magsaysay, where Philipines-U.S. Balikatan exercises are often held.

Officials have remained coy about other potential locations, but Subic and Clark feature in most speculation along with other old U.S. bases and some civilian airports.

Having a large U.S. presence here remains a sticky subject in a country that once was an American colony. But the strongest resistance seems to be limited to students and leftist activists who have staged small but vocal protests regularly outside the U.S. Embassy for years. Other residents are eager to have American return.

Officials at both sides agree on is that China's recent expansion



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

**Warships are outnumbered by pleasure boats in Subic Bay, Philippines, these days. U.S. and Filipino officials recently signed an agreement that will allow the U.S. to use some bases to preposition ships and other military materiel.**

sonist moves in the South China Sea are worrying.

## Are US troops welcome?

U.S. military aircraft, which supported the Special Forces counterinsurgency training in the southern Philippines until recently, are already frequent visitors to Clark. Flight schedules are posted on the wall of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Club, just outside the gate in Angeles City, the meeting spot for hundreds of former American servicemembers still living nearby.

Hermie Barangan, who retired from the Air Force in 1984, was recently at the VFW reminiscing about his days as a member of the Air Force band at Clark. The pianist, who graduated from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Santo Thomas in Manila, goes there regularly to hang out with other retirees.

Barangan has been following the plans for the return of U.S. troops in the local newspapers with interest.

"It's more than good," he said of the agreement. "We welcome the U.S. forces."

He recalled when anti-American protests in Manila, Barangan said, but he thinks most Filipinos firmly support the return of U.S. forces.

The reason: Chinese aggression at Scarborough Shoal, a reef 123 miles west of Subic Bay that is claimed by China, Taiwan and the Philippines, and also in the Spratly Islands, a collection of

rocky outcrops not far from the Philippines' Palawan island.

The territories shelter rich fishing grounds and are thought to lie above vast reserves of oil, natural gas and other precious minerals. The Spratlys are subject to competing claims by the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei.

China, in the midst of a massive military buildup, has aggressively pursued its territorial claims — moving personnel onto some of the disputed islands and using maritime surveillance ships to harass other countries' vessels.

The presence of U.S. forces might stem the Chinese bullying and boost investor confidence in the Philippines, Barangan said.

"Who wants to come here and risk his money if it's not secure?" he said. "Japan is secure because of the U.S. 7th Fleet (based at Yokosuka)."

People who work near Clark, like dentist Arnel MacCay, hope more U.S. troops will be good for business.

"The income for Angeles city was huge when the Americans were here," he said. "From the 1940s until they left, a lot of doctors benefited, not just from them but from their dependents. Now only the retirees are left for us to treat."

A measure of the impact that the Americans had on the area: The main American-built four-lane road through town hasn't been improved since they left, he said.

Clark and Subic Bay haven't stood still in the past two decades. The facilities are run by government organizations — Clark Development Corp. and Subic Bay Metropolitan Corp. — that are looking for ways to make money in the civilian sector.

Clark is now an international airport with links throughout Asia and the Middle East. Land surrounding the base is being developed as industrial parks. A new toll road links it to Subic Bay, cutting what used to be a two-hour drive to 45 minutes.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Corp.'s website promotes its "natural deep harbor, sheltered anchorages and strategic location," along with shipping, tourism and real estate ventures.

Edgar Cruz, a retired petroleum industry worker who used to help pump fuel from the terminal at Subic to Clark, said most of his countrymen look forward to the Americans' return.

Cruz said he's angry about the Chinese efforts to take control of oil and gas off the coast of the Philippines.

"It is a large amount of petroleum that will be taken from around these islands," he said.

However, Cruz warned that U.S. personnel need to be on their best behavior.

"If something happens the military shouldn't cut it up," he said, referring to the case of Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, sentenced to 40 years by a Filipino judge for raping a woman at Subic Bay in 2005. Smith was detained at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, then returned to the U.S. following a settlement with the victim's family.

## Small, vocal opposition

Such incidents fuel groups opposed to a U.S. military presence.

The League of Filipino Students, for example, has been protesting the basing agreement outside the U.S. Embassy. Spokeswoman Charlotte Velasco said her group has also protested

"Chinese incursions" related to the maritime dispute.

"However, we assert that a sane and efficient way to solve this is not through U.S. military intervention," she said. "Chinese incursions can be efficiently solved through bilateral negotiations and by improving the Filipino people's capability to fight against aggressors, and not by enforcing a military agreement with the U.S."

Economic benefits from U.S. forces will be limited to areas close to their bases and won't have a long-lasting impact on the national economy, Velasco said.

"Intensified military intervention will ensue to stronger U.S. domination and control in the nation's economy and politics as planned under U.S.' rebalancing strategy or pivot to Asia," she said.

The students' views contrast with those of people like Cruz, who wants U.S. forces to come back and arm Filipino troops for any clash with China.

"They are giving billions of dollars (in military aid) to the Israelis and Egyptians," he said. "Why not give it to us? This is a strategic location in Asia, and during WWII we fought side by side with the Americans."

In Tacloban, recovering from last year's Typhoon Haiyan and far from the expected base locations, Mayor Alfred Romualdez is just as enthusiastic about a U.S. troop presence.

"If any aggression happens from any other country it goes without saying that we would be happy to help," he said. "We are not in a state where we can defend ourselves."

Patricio Abinales, a University of Hawaii expert on the Philippines, said the nation's armed forces have spent decades fighting communist and Islamic insurgents and aren't prepared to face an external threat.

"Most Filipinos welcome the presence of American troops — especially down south (where U.S. Special Forces worked until recently) — but also, with this China thing, they are more than happy to welcome the Americans," he said.

Anti-American protests have been small scale and led by academics and leftists, Abinales said.

"Once you get out of Manila there is strong support for American military presence," he added.

The counterinsurgency campaign in the southern Philippines has crushed the separatist Abu Sayyaf group, meaning the military can begin to evolve into a more conventional force, Abinales said.

"It will take five or six years before you have new officers oriented toward external defense rather than internal defense," he said.

To do that, the Philippines will need warships, combat jets and missiles, he said.

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MILITARY

# 3-star under investigation

IG looks into whistleblower case against Marine Corps Reserve chief

By **JON HARPER**  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense Office of Inspector General is investigating whether a three-star general tried to end another officer's career in retaliation for talking to politicians and other officials about incidents surrounding an insider attack in Afghanistan.

Maj. Jason C. Brezler, of the Marine Corps Reserve, has accused Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, the commander of the Reserve, of violating the Pentagon's whistleblower protection policy last year when he forced Brezler to go before a board of inquiry.

The IG informed Brezler that it was launching the investigation in an Aug. 19 letter, which was obtained by Stars and Stripes. Brezler filed the complaint in June.

Brezler, a Bronze Star recipient, is cooperating with investigators. He spent four hours with them last month giving a sworn statement, according to his lawyer, Kevin Carroll.

In accordance with policy, spokespersons for the IG and Ma-

rine Forces Reserve would not say whether an investigation was ongoing.

According to Carroll, Brezler believes that high-ranking Marine Corps officials sought to take him down after it was discovered that he was providing information to Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., and the U.S. District Attorney's Office-Eastern District of New York about an insider attack at Forward Operating Base Delhi, Afghanistan.

In July 2012, Brezler sent an email to Marine Corps officials in Helmand province, giving them information implicating Sarwar Jan, an Afghan police chief who was suspected of having Taliban ties and sexually assaulting children.

Despite Brezler's information, no action seems to have been taken against Jan. In August 2012, just weeks after Brezler sent the email, a teenager who had been influenced by Jan entered a base gym, shooting three Marines dead and wounding a fourth.

King wrote multiple letters to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos about the Delhi inci-

dent and about Brezler's accusations that he was being unfairly punished. King's efforts to get more information about Delhi and clear Brezler garnered significant media attention last year.

In December, the board of inquiry recommended Brezler be separated from the Marine Corps for "substantiated allegations of substandard performance of duty and misconduct."

The recommendation for separation must be approved by the secretary of the Navy before Brezler can be kicked out of the service.

Before going before the board, the Naval Academy graduate had previously been found to have mishandled classified information, including an instance when he used his personal email to send classified information to Marine Corps officials regarding Jan.



ALBERT F. HUNT/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

**Maj. Jason C. Brezler, left, meets with Afghan leaders in Nov Zaf, Afghanistan, in 2009.**



Mills

Brezler and another officer, who received the information, later self-reported the inappropriate transmission. Brezler did not believe that the information about Jan was classified when he emailed it, according to Carroll, saying some documents had "incomplete classification markings."

A subsequent Naval Criminal Investigative Service probe discovered that Brezler had improperly stored classified documents on his personal laptop, in violation of regulations.

Carroll said no classified infor-

mation held by Brezler was ever given to anyone who wasn't authorized to have it.

Brezler hopes the IG can save his military career.

"We would like to see the full facts come out about the homicides at Forward Operating Base Delhi," Carroll said "and [the recommendation for separation from the Marine Corps] to be withdrawn ... because it appears to have been an illegal act of whistleblower retaliation."

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# 1st Marine Regiment returns to Calif. base four months early

By **JENNIFER HLAD**  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — When the 1st Marine Regiment left for Afghanistan in February, they weren't anticipating being home until the end of the year. But on Monday, they became the last Marine regiment to return from Afghanistan — four months early.

Their families were certainly not upset about the schedule change.

Janice Perry and her two children all made posters for the occasion. Janice's poster noted that her husband, Chief Warrant Officer Jared Perry, had been gone for 10,072,800 seconds, and it was time for the Marine Corps to give him back.

Capt. Tobin Walker, the unit's assistant operations officer, was one of the fathers meeting a new baby for the first time at the homecoming. Walker's daughter, Moira, is 5 months old.

Walker said the deployment was busy and interesting, with all the changes happening at rapidly shifting Camp Leatherneck, but he was glad to see his family.

Another new baby, 4-month-old Liam Candelario, held a stuffed doll with a picture of his father, Cpl. Eric Candelario, printed on it. When Candelario got off the bus, he had a replacement toy strapped to his back. A teddy bear wearing a USO T-shirt.

Cpl. Trevor Bissett said he enjoyed his first deployment but that he was "more than ecstatic" when he learned they were coming home early.

The 1st Marine Regiment deployed much lighter than usual



JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes

**Children clutch "welcome home" signs as they hug their father, a Marine with the 1st Marine Regiment who returned Monday from a deployment in Helmand province, Afghanistan.**

when it left for Leatherneck. Instead of the 350 Marines commander Col. Peter Baumgarten planned to take, he learned a few months before the deployment that he would be taking only 45.

The trimmed-down unit was in charge of an international coalition of more than 3,000 troops serving as the security force for Camp Leatherneck and Camp Bastion in Helmand province.

Baumgarten said the security force worked to make sure the camp was secure and used guard towers, camera systems, patrols

**"I'd love to stay to the end, but I understand that we've got to lighten the load (there)."**

Col. **Peter Baumgarten**  
1st Marine Regiment commander

and "disruptive operations" to maintain security several miles out from the base's perimeter.

The 2012 attack on Camp Bastion that killed two Marines, wounded nine others and destroyed several jets, was always in the back of everyone's mind, Baumgarten said.

It's hard to know whether the security force's actions thwarted any specific plans, but there were no enemy attacks of any kind during their time there. Baumgarten said, and the situation when they left was as quiet as they had ever seen. The regiment turned over its duties to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, which had been part of the security task force since April.

While there may have been some "professional disappointment" from 1st Marines that they didn't get to see the mission

through until Camp Leatherneck is closed at the end of the year, Baumgarten said it was the right time to head home.

"I'd love to stay to the end," he said, "but I understand that we've got to lighten the load (there)."

During the regiment's deployment, the last Marine advisers in Sangin district left the area for good — and shortly afterward, the Taliban launched a vicious attack. The Afghan forces performed well, with limited support from international forces, Baumgarten said, but questions remain about how well Afghan forces will perform and how much support they will get from Kabul after coalition troops leave.

Baumgarten deployed twice to Iraq, including once near the end of U.S. operations there, and said it was "very disheartening" during

this deployment to see areas that had taken years to maintain and build lost in just a matter of days.

He said Iraq and Afghanistan are very different, and he tries not to draw parallels. But he said Iraq should be a "cautionary tale" for the Afghan government.

Before the Marines left with their families Monday, Baumgarten presented an award to one corporal and then spoke about the historic significance of the event.

The 1st Marine Regiment was the last Marine infantry regiment in combat in Vietnam, he said, and the unit's commander at the time, who later became the commander of the Marine Corps, brought the regiment's colors home in his suitcase. This time, the unit brought the colors home in a carrying case and flew them as they celebrated the end of their deployment.

"We're so glad to be home," Baumgarten said. "It was a great honor and a great opportunity. ... Now it's time for a well-deserved break."

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MILITARY

# Europe-based special operators get new chief

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Air Force Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Lengyel assumed command of Europe-based special operations troops on Tuesday, taking over leadership of a force that after years of focus on Afghanistan is turning its attention to NATO's borders.

"When many thought Europe would solely be a producer of world security, events of the past year have validated that this theater of operations still has an appetite to at times consume world security," Lengyel said during a change-of-command ceremony in Stuttgart, Germany.

Lengyel, who replaced Air Force Maj. Gen. Marshall Webb as head of Special Operations Command Europe, arrives as Europe confronts an array of security challenges that are threatening the post-Cold War order.

In Ukraine, Russia's annexation of the Crimea Peninsula and its continued support of pro-Russia separatists have prompted the U.S. and NATO to re-evaluate their assumptions about security in Europe. NATO members in eastern Europe are especially worried that an unpredictable Russia could destabilize the



broader region.

In response, SOCEUR troops have increased missions in the east during the past year, training and exercising with allied special operations forces.

At the same time, along NATO's southern flank there is heightened concern over the Islamic State, a militant group that has seized territory in Iraq and Syria. The fact that many of the group's fighters come from Europe is raising

fear that returning jihadists could carry out attacks at home.

Army Lt. Gen. William Garrett III, deputy commander at EUCCOM, credited Webb with leading the command's troops during a period of flux.

"During this time, he has transformed SOCEUR from a command focused on supporting operations in Afghanistan to a command that can operate in the face of a challenge in dealing



PHOTOS BY JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

Above: Lt. Gen. William Garrett III, left, U.S. European Command deputy commander, and Maj. Gen. Marshall Webb, right, applaud Maj. Gen. Gregory J. Lengyel, who assumed leadership of Special Operations Command Europe on Tuesday in Stuttgart, Germany.

Left: Troops stand in formation for the change-of-command ceremony.

with the complex issues across Europe," Garrett said.

While at EUCCOM, Webb oversaw the March Navy SEAL operation in the Mediterranean that resulted in the recapture of a hijacked Libyan oil tanker.

"One only has to turn on the news to look at what is happening on the borders of EUCCOM, in Syria, the eastern flank of Europe, the continuing trouble in north Africa," Webb said. "This is an uncertain world, and we've got

to be ready. And we are."

Webb will soon assume command of special operations forces at NATO.

Lengyel previously served as commandant of cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"You're joining us at a critical time in history," Garrett told him. "The security environment is changing around us."

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MIKE GROLL/AP

A statue of Sgt. Henry Johnson is displayed in the Arbor Hill neighborhood of Albany, N.Y.

## Hagel recommends Medal of Honor for WWI hero

By CHRIS CAROLA  
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — The secretary of defense has recommended a posthumous Medal of Honor for a black World War I soldier from upstate New York who saved a comrade while fighting off a German attack in France, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said Tuesday.

Chuck Hagel has sent Congress a letter saying Sgt. Henry Johnson should receive the nation's highest military decoration for bravery in combat, Schumer said. The railroad porter from Albany was serving in the all-black 369th Infantry Regiment when he killed or wounded several enemy soldiers while saving a fellow soldier from capture.

The president gets the final word on the medal request, which also requires passage of special legislation in Congress be-

cause Johnson's actions were more than five years ago. Schumer said he'll sponsor the legislation that would exempt Johnson from the Medal of Honor rules specifying that heroic actions have to have taken place within five years to be considered.

"Johnson should have received this recognition 95 years ago, and providing an exemption for him now is the right thing to do," said Schumer.

If approved, Johnson would become the 89th black soldier to receive the Medal of Honor and just the second for heroism during World War I, according to the Mount Pleasant, S.C.-based Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Virginia-born Johnson was working as a train station porter when he enlisted in the unit that became known as the "Harlem Hellfighters." Around midnight on May 15, 1918, he was standing guard duty with

another soldier when they were attacked by about two dozen Germans.

Both Americans were wounded, but despite his injuries, 5-foot-4 Johnson fought off the attack, using his knife and rifle to kill or wound several of the enemy who were trying to drag his comrade away.

His actions earned him one of France's highest military medals, but historians believe rampant Jim Crow-era racism at a time when the services were segregated kept Johnson from receiving American military honors.

In 2003, Johnson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second-highest military honor.

Johnson returned to Albany after the war. Plagued by his war wounds, he died a destitute alcoholic at age 32 at a veterans hospital in Illinois in 1929 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

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# VETERANS



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

Audience members listen as President Barack Obama speaks about veterans issues at the American Legion's 96th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., on Tuesday.

## Initiatives: President lays out priorities

### FROM FRONT PAGE

The department has been under fire since a whistleblower brought to light that thousands of patients had been sidetracked from care at VA hospitals, some dying while on long wait lists, and that administrators had cooked the books in order to make it appear patients were getting care more quickly.

The final report from the VA Office of Inspector General was expected to be released Tuesday afternoon.

In response to the scandal, Congress passed a \$17 billion dollar bill last month enabling the VA to hire more doctors and nurses and making it easier to fire underperforming officials. An aspect of the scandal that brought particular outrage was that bonuses for VA officials were often based on improvements in patient wait times, creating incentive to falsify data

For a closer look at Obama's mental-health initiatives, go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com)



at underperforming centers.

"If you engage in unethical practices or cover up a serious problem, you should be and will be fired," Obama said in his speech.

Obama also laid out five priorities for taking care of troops and veterans that included increasing funding for health care, tackling an epidemic of suicide, eliminating the VA backlog, decreasing veterans homelessness and making it easier for servicemembers to buy homes. The speech came shortly after the VA released numbers saying that homelessness among veterans was down 33 percent since 2010.

"The American people have to know that even as our war in Afghanistan comes to an end our

obligation to this generation has just begun," he said.

In a released statement, Paul Rieckoff, the CEO and founder of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, cautiously praised Obama's executive actions, but warned that addressing problems with veterans care "can't be just a one-off event or speech filled with more promises."

"These are, however, small steps on the very long road to fully supporting our community and re-establishing trust in the VA," he said. "Announcements and promises are easy, and we've been here many times before."

Newly appointed VA Secretary Bob McDonald has been speaking across the country about proposed changes to the VA health care system and was scheduled to address the Legion conference after Obama.

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## Colleges must charge veterans in-state tuition rate under VA overhaul law

By Travis J. Tritten  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A federal law passed earlier this month directing a massive \$16.5-billion overhaul of the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs health care system also aims to put pressure on colleges to lower education costs for veterans.

The law, called the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act, bars the VA from paying education assistance to colleges that charge veterans more than in-state tuition rates. Typically, students who reside in the same state as their public schools are given a break on tuition but veterans who moved often during their military careers may face difficulties meeting residency requirements.

The change means schools must either extend the lower tuition rates to veterans who use VA assistance or face losing revenue from the Montgomery GI Bill for active-duty forces and the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. Overcharging any one veteran would mean the loss of all VA tuition assistance payments, according to the staff of Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., an architect of the VA overhaul law.

Significant money is at stake: The VA says it has doled out more than \$20 billion in benefits to 773,000

vets and their family members under the Post-9/11 GI Bill since it became effective in 2009.

The law does not mandate the lower tuition, but instead gives a strong incentive for public colleges to tweak residency requirements and what they charge veterans, congressional staff members said.

The approach is similar to how the federal government pushed states to create uniform age limits for alcohol consumption in the 1980s, staff said.

The National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 requires states to prohibit anyone under 21 years old from purchasing or possessing alcohol or face losing federal highway funding, which is key to the construction and upkeep of roads and infrastructure.

The new VA law went into effect Aug. 7 when it was signed by President Barack Obama.

The overhaul came after months of scandal and outrage over the nationwide veteran health care system and revelations that veterans were unable to get timely appointments for treatment.

The law dramatically expands veteran access to private care, adds medical staff and facilities, and streamlines the firing of VA executives found to be incompetent or guilty of manipulating patient data.

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# VA health care audit finds issues, no fault for vet deaths

By Travis J. Tritten  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A far-reaching federal audit of the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system published Tuesday confirmed lapses that led to long treatment delays but found no proof that up to 40 vets died while waiting for care at a Phoenix hospital.

The long wait times were caused by ethical lapses among top leaders and middle management as well as lack of staff, increased patient demand, and an antiquated scheduling system, according to the audit.

Among those affected, 45 patients — some who died — "experienced unacceptable and troubling lapses in follow-up, coordination, quality, and continuity of care," auditors found. In a written response to the IG, newly appointed VA Secretary Bob McDonald said the audit was unable to "conclusively assert" that the lack of timely care caused deaths.

Independent IG auditors conducted the four-month investigation after a scandal erupted over reports of "the VA cooking patient wait-time records to hide long waits at hundreds of hospitals and clinics across the country. An interim IG audit report May 28 found that VA manipulation of records was systemic throughout the nation's largest integrated health care system and that veterans were waiting for care in Phoenix but were never added to an official wait list.

Overall, the most recent data reported by VA shows nearly 627,000 vets had been waiting more than a month for treatment as of Aug. 1, a figure that has fluctuated up and down from 591,000 since the department began publicly reporting the wait times on May 15.

"This report cannot capture the personal disappointment, frustration, and loss of faith of individual veterans and their family members with a health care system that often could not timely respond to their mental and physical health needs," the IG wrote in the audit published Tuesday. "Immediate and substantive changes

are needed."

The scandal led to the resignation of former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. In July, Congress approved spending an additional \$16 billion to help shore up the system.

The VA's Office of Inspector General has been investigating the delays for months and shared a draft report of its findings with VA officials.

**Immediate and substantive changes are needed.**

In a written memorandum about the report, IG audit report, McDonald said

"It is important to note that while OIG's case reviews in the report document substantial delays in care, and a quality-of-care concerns, OIG was unable to conclusively assert that the absence of timely quality care caused the death of these veterans."

Deputy VA Secretary Sloan Gibson confirmed the findings in an interview with The Associated Press. Gibson, however, stressed that veterans were still waiting too long for care, an issue the agency was working to fix.

"They looked to see if there was any causal relationship associated with the delay in care and the death of these veterans and they were unable to find one. But from my perspective, that don't make it OK," Gibson said. "Veterans were waiting too long for care and there were things being done, there were scheduling improprieties happening at Phoenix and frankly at other locations as well. Those are unacceptable."

In April, Dr. Samuel Foote, who had worked for the Phoenix VA for more than 20 years before retiring in December, brought the allegations to Congress.

The VA has said it was firing three executives of the Phoenix VA hospital. The agency has also said it planned to fire two supervisors and discipline four other employees in Colorado and Wyoming accused of falsifying health care data.

AP contributed to this story.  
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MIDEAST



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Civilians gather at the site of a car bomb in a commercial area of Baghdad on Tuesday.

# Car bombing kills at least 11 in Baghdad Shiite area

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A car bomb exploded on Tuesday in a busy Shiite area in eastern Baghdad, killing at least 11 people, officials said, the latest in a series of attacks to shake the Iraqi capital as the Shiite-led government struggles to dislodge Sunni militants from areas in the country's west and north.

The explosives-laden car went off during the morning rush hour in the main commercial area of the New Baghdad district. It was parked close to outdoor pet and vegetable markets and a traffic police office, according to a police officer. The attack also wounded 31, he added.

A medical official confirmed the casualty figures. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The bombing came a day after a wave of attacks targeted Shiite areas in several cities, including Baghdad, killing at least 58 people. Among them were 15 worshippers who died in a suicide bombing at a Shiite mosque in the same Baghdad neighborhood where Tuesday's car bomb struck.

In online statements, the Islamic State extremist group claimed responsibility for Monday's mosque attack and another in the Shiite-majority district of Utaifiya in Baghdad, where two

**‘The danger of Islamic State militants threatens the Kurdish people of Iraq and Iraqi Shiites as much as it threatens Iraqi Sunnis, other religious minorities in Iraq and all the people in this region.’**

**Mohammed Javad Zarif**  
Iranian foreign minister

car bombs tore through a busy commercial area near a crowded restaurant and killed at least 15 people.

Also, in two separate tweets, it took credit for car bombings in the revered Shiite city of Karbala and nearby Hillah city south of Baghdad that together killed at least 23 people on the same day.

The authenticity of the statements and tweets could not be independently verified, but they were posted on a militant website and Twitter accounts frequently used by the group.

No one has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attacks, which bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida-inspired militants.

In Iraq's self-ruled northern Kurdish region, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif said the militants threaten the whole region, not only Iraq.

“The danger of Islamic State militants threatens the Kurdish people of Iraq and Iraqi Shiites as much as it threatens Iraqi Sunnis, other religious minorities in Iraq and all the people in this region,” Zarif — who started an official

visit to Iraq on Sunday — said at a joint press conference with Kurdish regional President Masoud Barzani.

Iraq has faced a growing Sunni insurgency since early this year as the Islamic State and allied militants have taken over areas in the country's west and north. The crisis is Iraq's worst, since the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The Islamic State group has captured large swaths of territory in western and northern Iraq in a lightning offensive earlier this year.

The blitz stunned Iraqi security forces and the military, which melted away and withdrew as the Islamic State in June overran the northern cities of Mosul and Tikrit, as well as small towns and villages on their path.

Since then, tens of thousands of Iraqis, including members of Christian and other minorities, have been forced from their homes and displaced, while the Islamic State has carved out a self-styled caliphate in the large area straddling the Iraqi-Syrian border that it now controls.

# Flights: US meets with allies to better understand threat

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

“Clearly, the picture we have of ISIS on the Iraqi side is a more refined picture,” said Dempsey, using one of the acronyms for the Islamic State group. “The existence and activities of ISIS on the Syrian side, we have ... some insights into that, but we certainly want to have more insights into that as we craft a way forward.”

The U.S. began launching strikes against the Islamic State inside Iraq earlier this month, with Obama citing the threat to American personnel in the country and a humanitarian crisis in the north as his rationale. Top Pentagon officials have said the only way the threat from the militants can be fully eliminated is to go after the group inside neighboring Syria as well.

Obama has long resisted taking military action in Syria, a step that would plunge the U.S. into a country ravaged by an intractable civil war. However, the president's calculus appears to have shifted since the Islamic State announced last week that it had murdered American journalist James Foley, who was held hostage in Syria. The group is also threatening to kill other U.S. citizens being held by the extremists in Syria.

Sen. Bob Corker, of Tennessee, ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, said Tuesday the administration “has not yet shared with us what their plans are.” He said he hoped the White House would go to Congress with a request for an authorization to act.

“I think it's our responsibility as elected officials to let the American people know where we stand with respect to national security matters,” Corker told MSNBC. “For the American people's sake, Congress should weigh in. Congress should be a part of it.”

Dempsey, who was in Kabul for the U.S. military's change-of-command ceremony, has said he would recommend the military move against the Islamic State militants if that is a threat to the homeland. He didn't rule out strikes for any other critical reasons, but listed the homeland threat as one key trigger.

Dempsey also said the U.S. has been meeting with allies in the region to help develop a better understanding of the Islamic State's threat. He said he believes those talks are now beginning to “set the conditions for some kind of coalition to form.”

He said they are “trying to better understand the threat that ISIS poses, not just in Iraq and Syria but regionally,” Dempsey has said

he believes key allies in the region — including Jordan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia — will join the U.S. in quashing the Islamic State.

The White House would not comment on Obama's decision to authorize surveillance flights over Syria.

“We're not going to comment on intelligence or operational issues, but as we've been saying, we'll use all the tools at our disposal,” said Caitlin Hayden, spokeswoman for the White House National Security Council.

The U.S. had already stepped up its air surveillance of the Islamic State inside Iraq earlier this year as Obama began considering the prospect of airstrikes there. And the administration has run some surveillance missions over Syria, including ahead of an attempted mission to rescue Foley and other U.S. hostages this summer.

The U.S. special forces who were sent into Syria to carry out the rescue mission did

not find the hostages at the location where the military thought they were being held. Officials last week said the U.S. was continuing to seek out intelligence on the other hostages' whereabouts.

Administration officials have said a concern for Obama in seeking to take out the Islamic State inside Syria is the prospect that such an effort could unintentionally help embolden Syrian President Bashar Assad. The Islamic State group is among those seeking Assad's ouster.

“We're not interested in trying to help the Assad regime,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. However, he acknowledged that “there are a lot of cross-pres- sures here.”

**‘The existence and activities of ISIS (the Islamic State) on the Syrian side, we have ... some insights into that, but we certainly want to have more insights into that as we craft a way forward.’**

**Gen. Martin Dempsey**  
chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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# NATION



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Supporters of gay marriage attend a rally Monday at the federal plaza in Chicago. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments Tuesday on gay marriage fights from Indiana and Wisconsin.

## Appeals judges blast Ind., Wis. gay marriage bans

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Federal appeals judges blasted Tuesday at arguments defying gay marriage bans in Indiana and Wisconsin, with one Republican appointee comparing them to now-defunct laws that once outlawed weddings between blacks and whites.

As the legal skirmish over same-sex marriage shifted to the three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, more than 200 people lined up hoping to get a spot in the hearing room.

Attorneys general in both states are trying to reinstate bans that were ruled unconstitutional in June. The outcome of the case also could directly affect hundreds of couples who were married after federal judges overturned the bans but before their rulings were

put on hold pending appeal.

Judge Richard Posner, who was appointed by President Ronald Reagan, was dismissive when Wisconsin Assistant Attorney General Timothy Samuelson repeatedly pointed to "tradition" as the underlying justification for barring gay marriage.

"It was tradition to not allow blacks and whites to marry a tradition that got swept away," Posner said. Prohibition of same-sex marriage, he said, is "a tradition of hate ... and savage discrimination."

Posner frequently cut off Indiana Solicitor General Thomas Fischer just moments into his presentation and chided him to answer his questions. At one point, Posner nar through a list of psychological strains of unmarried same-sex couples, including having to struggle to grasp why

their schoolmates' parents were married and theirs weren't.

"What horrible stuff," Posner said. What benefits to society in barring gay marriage, he asked, "outrights that kind of damage to children?"

The answer has to do with "procreation," Fisher answered.

"All this is a reflection of biology," Fisher said. "Men and women make babies, same-sex couples do not. ... [W]e have to have a mechanism to regulate that, and marriage is that mechanism."

Besides Posner, the judges who heard the case were Ann Claire Williams, a Bill Clinton appointee, and David Hamilton, appointed by President Barack Obama. It's unclear when the court might issue a ruling.

Gay marriage is currently legal in 19 states as well as the District of Columbia.

## Napa quake hastens calls for early-warning system in Calif.

The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — The magnitude-6.0 earthquake that jolted California's wine capital may have caused at least \$1 billion in property damage, but it also added impetus to the state's effort to develop an early-warning system that might offer a few precious seconds for residents to duck under desks, trains to slow down and utility lines to be powered down before the seismic waves reach them.

California's senior senator, Democrat Dianne Feinstein, joined a chorus of renewed calls on Monday for the quick deployment of a quake activity alert system such as the ones already in operation in Mexico and Japan.

"Officials in Washington and

along the West Coast should partner with the private sector to make an interoperable earthquake early-warning system a reality, and we should do so as soon as possible before a much larger earthquake strikes," Feinstein said.

Such a system may be closer to reality than most Californians realize, though it's still years away. A bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last year ordered his Office of Emergency Services to develop a comprehensive statewide system and by 2016, identify sources of funding for it. An early-warning system would cost an estimated \$80 million.

The office's director, Mark Ghiladucci, said Monday that he pictures a network, financed with both private and public money,

made up of a government "backbone" and supplemented with data from private sources in more remote areas.

Richard Allen, director of the University of California, Berkeley, Seismological Lab, said his lab received a 10-second advance warning of light shaking when the seismic waves from Sunday's quake arrived there. Allen is among the researchers testing the earthquake warning system that is not yet available for public use, but is envisioned as the basis for the state's system.

"A few seconds means that you can move to your safe zone, that you can get under that sturdy table," Allen said. "That way you are not going to be injured by falling fireplaces and ceiling lights."

## Study: E-cigarettes more likely to lead to smoking among adolescents

The Washington Post

Adolescents who use e-cigarettes are much more likely to smoke conventional cigarettes, according to a study released Monday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The results show that 43.9 percent of sixth- through 12th-graders who had used e-cigarettes said they intended to light up tobacco cigarettes over the next year, compared with 21.5 percent who had never used the electronic nicotine delivery systems.

Overall, more than 263,000 adolescents who had never smoked before used e-cigarettes in 2013, up from 79,000 in 2011, the CDC reported in a study in the journal

Nicotine and Tobacco Research.

The data come from the agency's National Youth Tobacco Surveys for 2011-13.

The study also showed that 21.9 percent of the youths who had never smoked traditional cigarettes intended to try them in the next year but that, overall, the percentage who reported an intention to smoke declined "significantly" in the 2013 survey.

There is debate about whether e-cigarettes promote cigarette use or can help prevent it by offering people access to nicotine-laden vapor without the harmful chemicals in tobacco smoke. Others say that e-cigarettes may help wean smokers off tobacco.

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NATION

# Burning Man on rain delay

Rare storm turns site into a muddy mess

By SCOTT SONNER  
The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Hundreds of travelers on the road to Burning Man in their quest for oneness with nature and celebration of self-expression on a peaceful playa in northern Nevada's desert didn't expect to spend their first night in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart or Reno resort casino.

But most were taking it in stride and were largely optimistic — as so-called "Burners" are apt to be — that the gates to the counter-culture event would reopen Tuesday after rare rain showers in the Black Rock Desert turned the ancient lake bottom to a muddy quagmire the day before.

"You take it as it comes," said Mark Vanlerberghe, who left San Jose, Calif., in an RV that he ended up parking Monday at the Wal-Mart for the night when he heard the access road to the remote festival site was closed.

Dozens of RVs and vans bound for Burning Man were parked at the Wal-Mart at the Three Nations Plaza, and nearly 100 more across the street by sundown at the Grand Sierra Resort along U.S. Interstate 80 just east of downtown Reno.

The blinking casino lights and



SCOTT SONNER/AP

A rare rainstorm at the Black Rock Desert led Burning Man revelers to park more than 100 recreational vehicles Monday at a Wal-Mart and the Grand Sierra Resort Casino in Reno, Nev.

video billboards gave off a pink twinkle not unlike the various light shows at the weeklong desert gathering that culminates with the burning of a large wooden effigy the night before Labor Day. A record 68,000 people attended last year.

But the yellow stripes on the blacktop pavement with "Wrong Way" signs weren't exactly what the seekers of paradise on the playa had in mind for their way to soak up the various theme camps, art exhibits, all-night music and guerrilla theater, along with a decent dose of mudgy and a bunch of other stuff that's just plain weird.

"We're just trying to stay positive," said a woman from Oak-

land, Calif., who identified herself only as "Driftwood" while hanging out in the Wal-Mart parking lot with a group of first-timers from Texas.

"Positivity can raise everything up."

Barbara Quintanilla, of Houston, said the rain delay was the least of their worries in an RV with friends who didn't initially know whether the camper used diesel or regular gas, made a wrong turn out of Texas and ran over a sign post. Their destination is "Planet Earth," she said, "The Eighties' Camp."

Traveling companion Bill Sanchez, of Houston, said the voyage so far "has been brutal."

"We made a 2,000-mile trip and none of us had ever driven an RV before. It would only go 35 mph up hills," he said with a smile at the plaza on land owned by a Nevada tribe. "But through hard work and dedication, we will achieve our dreams."

Jahliele Paquin and Jeff Difabrizio were in their third mode of transportation on the way to their first "Burn" from their home in Canada's Northwest Territories. They flew from Yellowknife to Regina, Saskatchewan, and bought a van they drove to Reno, where it broke down Monday and they rented a car for the rest of the trip.

# Burger King deal includes Canada move

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Burger King says it struck a deal to buy Tim Hortons Inc. for about \$11 billion, a move that would give the fast-food company a stronger foothold in the coffee and breakfast market.

The corporate headquarters of the new company will be in Canada, which stands to help lower Burger King's corporate taxes. Such tax inversions have been criticized by President Barack Obama and Congress because they mean a loss of revenue for the U.S. government. Burger King and Tim Hortons said the chains will continue to be run independently and that Burger King will still operate out of Miami.

The deal would create the world's third-largest fast-food company, with about \$23 billion in sales and more than 18,000 locations, the companies said.

The tie-up could help Burger King and Tim Hortons pose a greater challenge to market leaders such as McDonald's and Starbucks and reflects a desire by both companies to expand internationally. Burger King, which has nearly 14,000 locations, has been striking deals to open more locations in developing markets.

Under the deal, Burger King will pay \$65.50 in cash and 0.8025 common shares of the new company for each Tim Hortons share. That represents total value per Tim Hortons share of \$94.05, based on Burger King's Monday closing stock price.

Alternatively, Tim Hortons shareholders may choose either all-cash or all stock in the new company.



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WORLD

# Gaza war cease-fire announced

BY **MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH  
AND KARIN LAUB**  
*The Associated Press*

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip** — Israel and Hamas announced Tuesday that they agreed to an open-ended cease-fire in the Gaza war after seven weeks of fighting that killed more than 2,200 people, the vast majority Palestinians.

The cease-fire was to take effect at 7 p.m. local time, but violence persisted until the last minute.

In Israel, mortar shells fired from Gaza killed one man and seriously wounded two people, authorities said.

In Gaza, police reported that an Israeli airstrike collapsed a seven-story building in the town of Beit Lahiya, the sixth high-rise to be toppled since the weekend. Booms from Israeli strikes could be heard in Gaza after the truce announcement was made.

In Gaza, massive celebratory gunfire erupted after 7 p.m. Chants normally reserved for Muslim holidays could be heard from mosque loudspeakers.

Earlier, officials from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the main groups fighting Israel, had said the cease-fire included an Israeli agreement to ease its blockade of Gaza to allow relief supplies and construction materials into the war-battered territory.

Talks on more complex issues, such as



**KHALIL HAMRA/AP**

**Palestinians have coffee next to the rubble of the Basia Tower, which collapsed from Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City on Tuesday.**

Hamas' demand to build an airport and a seaport for Gaza, would begin in a month, said Ziad Nakhala, a senior Islamic Jihad official.

The details of the cease-fire would effectively mean Hamas and Islamic Jihad settled for terms that are similar to those that ended more than a week of fighting with Israel in 2012.

Under those terms, Israel promised to ease restrictions gradually, while Hamas pledged to halt rocket fire from Gaza at Israel. The truce held for long stretches, but Gaza's border blockade also remained largely intact.

Even though it apparently had little to show for, Hamas declared victory.

"We are here today to declare the victory of the resistance, the victory of Gaza, with the help of God, and the steadfastness of our people and the noble resistance," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said in a news conference at Gaza's Shifa Hospital.

Israel and Egypt imposed the blockade after Hamas seized Gaza by force in 2007. Under the restrictions, virtually all of Ga-

za's 1.8 million people cannot trade or travel. Only a few thousand are able to leave the coastal territory every month.

During the war, Hamas had said it would only cease fire if the blockade is lifted.

However, Israeli pressure on the group has been escalating. Hamas is believed to be left with just one-third of its initial rocket arsenal of 10,000, while Israel says it has destroyed most of Hamas' network of military attack tunnels.

Israeli strikes have destroyed or severely damaged more than 17,000 Gaza homes, according to United Nations esti-mates, leaving about 100,000 people homeless. The number of dead has also been rising steadily, reaching at least 2,140 by Tuesday, with more than 11,000 Gazans wounded since July 8, Palestinian health officials said.

On the Israeli side, 69 people have been killed, all but four of them soldiers. Thousands of Israelis living near Gaza have fled their homes, including in recent days when Gaza militants stepped up mortar fire on southern Israel.

# Egypt, UAE hit militias in Libya

*The Washington Post*

**WASHINGTON** — The United Arab Emirates and Egypt have carried out a series of airstrikes in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, U.S. officials said Monday, marking an escalation in the chaotic war among Libya's rival militias that has driven American and other diplomats from the country.

The Obama administration did not know ahead of time about the highly unusual military intervention, although the U.S. was aware that action by Arab states might come as the crisis in Libya worsened, said one official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The airstrikes appear tied to fear over the growing muscle of Islamist militias. The region's monarchies and secular dictatorships are increasingly alarmed about Islamist gains from Libya to Syria and Iraq. The airstrikes may signal a new willingness by some Arab states to take on a more direct military role in the region's conflicts. American officials have long been worried about a proxy war in Libya, with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE backing more secular militias against Islamist forces supported by Qatar. The U.S. says Qatar is arming and funding Islamist forces in Libya.

During the weekend, Islamist militias blamed the airstrikes on Egypt and UAE. That prompted a denial by Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. The UAE government declined to comment. U.S. intelligence initially believed the claims of responsibility made by retired Libyan Gen. Khalifa Hifter, who is combating Libyan militia fighters.

# Putin, Poroshenko pressed to seek compromise in talks

BY **NATALIYA VASILEVA  
AND PETER LEONARD**  
*The Associated Press*

**MINSK, Belarus** — The presidents of Russia and Ukraine sat down for talks Tuesday, meeting face to face for the first time since June on the fighting that has engulfed Ukraine's separatist east.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Ukrainian Petro Poroshenko were joined by the presidents of Belarus and Kazakhstan and three senior officials from the European Union in the Belarusian capital of Minsk.

The meeting came as Ukraine said its forces had captured 10 Russian soldiers in eastern Ukraine and the shelling spread to a new front in the far southeast. Ukraine has repeatedly accused Russia of supporting and arming the rebels, which Russia denies daily.

"The fate of peace and the fate of Europe are being decided in Minsk today," Poroshenko said as the talks began.

Under pressure to seek a negotiated settlement and not a military victory, the Ukrainian president said the purpose of his visit was to start the process of searching for a political compromise and promised that the interests of Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine would be taken into account.

Putin devoted most of his opening remarks to trade, arguing that Ukraine's decision to sign an association agreement with the EU would lead to huge losses for Russia, which would then be forced to pro-

tect its economy. Russia had been counting on Ukraine joining a rival economic union that it is forming with Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Ukraine is set to ratify the EU association agreement in September.

On the fighting that began in April between Ukrainian troops and pro-Russia separatists, Putin said only that he was certain the conflict "could not be solved by further escalation of the military scenario without taking into account the vital interests of the southeast of the country and without a peaceful dialogue of its representatives."

Poroshenko would be unlikely to agree to Russia's frequent call for federalization — devolving wide powers to the regions from the central government — but could agree to allow them to have some expanded powers.

He also has spoken against holding a referendum on Ukraine's joining NATO. Russia's desire to keep Ukraine out of the alliance is seen as one of Moscow's key concerns.

Opening Tuesday's meeting, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko urged both sides to "discard political ambitions and not to seek political dividend."

Putin has so far ignored requests from the rebels to be annexed by Russia — unlike in March, when he annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. But Associated Press journalists on the border have seen the rebels with a wide range of military equipment — including tanks, Buk missile



**SERGEI BONDRARENKO, KAZAKH PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/AP**

**Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, greets Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko prior to their talks in Minsk, Belarus, on Tuesday.**

launchers and armored personnel carriers — and have run into many Russians among the rebel fighters.

Ukraine wants the rebels to hand back the territory they have captured in eastern Ukraine, while Putin wants to retain some sort of leverage over the mostly Russian-speaking region so Ukraine does not join NATO or the European Union.

The Facebook page for Ukraine's anti-rebel operation said soldiers from a Russian paratrooper division were captured Monday around Amvrosivka, a town near

the Russian border.

Towering columns of smoke rose Tuesday from outside a city in Ukraine's far southeast after what residents said was a heavy artillery barrage. Ukraine accused separatists and their Russian backers of trying to expand the conflict.

It was the second straight day that attacks were reported in the vicinity of Novozovsk, which is in eastern Ukraine's separatist Donetsk region but previously had seen little fighting.

WORLD

# Scot secession would have an impact on nukes

By GRIFF WITTE  
The Washington Post

HELENSBURGH, Scotland — For decades, Britain's contribution to the threat of global Armageddon has found a home on the tranquil shores of Gare Loch, Scotland, where soaring green mountains plunge into murky gray waters piled by sport kayakers, weekend yachtsmen — and nuclear-armed submarines.

The subs slip past this garrison town as quietly as sea monsters. Their dark hulls breach the water's surface on their way from base to the deepest oceans, where British naval crews spend months poised to unleash the doomsday payload.

But if Scotland votes "yes" in an independence referendum next month, the submarines could become nuclear-armed nomads without a port to call home. Washington's closest and most important ally could, in turn, be left without the ultimate deterrent, even as Europe's borders are being rattled anew by a resurgent Russia.

Former NATO Secretary-General George Robertson, a Scotsman, said in a speech in Washington earlier this year that a vote for independence would be "cataclysmic" for Western security, and that ejecting the nuclear submarines from Scotland would amount to "disarming the remainder of the United Kingdom."

The pro-independence campaign promptly accused Robertson of hyperbolic scaremongering. But the possibility that Britain could become the only permanent member of the U.N. Security Council without a nuclear deterrent underscores just how much is at stake far beyond these silent bays and verdant ridgelines when Scotland's 5 million residents go to the polls Sept. 18.

"The loss of Scotland would be a massive thing for the U.K. — far bigger than the 10 percent of the population that Scotland represents," said Phillips O'Brien, who directs the Scottish Center for War Studies at the University of Glasgow. "It would have a profound effect on both the external and internal view of what the U.K. represents, and the nukes are a big part of that."

Leaders of Scotland's secessionist movement say their independence nation would be a nuclear-free zone within four years of breaking off from Great Britain. The vow is a popular one among the movement's left-leaning voters, and the campaign has distributed fliers with instructions on how to disarm a nuclear bomb "that begin and end with voting for independence.

At the moment, that argument is losing out to those who advocate sticking with the United Kingdom — and with nuclear weapons. Polls show an approximate 10-point advantage for the unionist camp.

But with a substantial share of voters undecided, U.K. officials remain nervous that Scotland could bolt — and that the nuclear program could be a casualty. The possibility provides an uncomfortable backdrop for the NATO sum-

## Vote has nuclear implications

If Scotland votes "yes" on independence next month, Scottish leaders have vowed to make their country nuclear-free within four years. That's a problem for the rest of the United Kingdom, which bases its entire deployed nuclear arsenal near the mouth of the River Clyde in southwestern Scotland. If Britain decided to keep its nuclear arsenal after Scottish independence, it would have to consider a range of relocation options — all of which have significant drawbacks.

**Falmouth:** Today, nuclear missiles are stored at Coulport, a base that's 15 nautical miles from where the submarines dock, at Faslane. Storing the missiles at Falmouth, current site of a munitions facility, would put it 50 nautical miles from Devonport. The extra distance could be a barrier. And the move could cause an outcry in an area that thrives on tourism.

**Ile Longue, France:** France's nuclear naval base could be a possible home, but the logistics and politics would be tricky. French and U.K. officials would have to find a way to segregate their arsenals. The United States may be concerned that its technology, which drives the British program, could wind up in French hands.

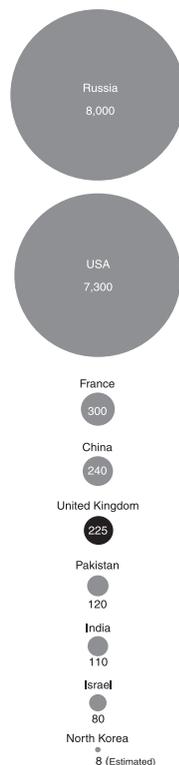
**Faslane:** Even if there's a "yes" vote, independence supporters acknowledge it will be necessary to keep the Trident program in Scotland for at least several years. But a permanent arrangement is unlikely. Britain would have to be willing to base its nuclear arsenal in a foreign country. Scotland would have to go back on its pledge to be nuclear-free.

**Devonport:** British subs already dock here. But making room for the nuclear-armed Vikings would likely require an expansion and a relocation of some of the vessels. Plus, the base's location near Plymouth could prompt opposition among the city's 265,000 residents.



SOURCES: Royal United Services Institute, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

## Nuclear weapons by nation in 2014



mit that Britain will host in Wales on Sept. 4 and 5.

With Britain's arsenal of 58 deployed Trident missiles based in Scotland, a "yes" vote would leave the remnants of the United Kingdom to find a new home for the weapons and the four Vanguard-class submarines that can be used to launch them.

But no such home exists. Building suitable bases to house the missiles and dock the subs in England would take at least a decade, experts say, and cost billions of dollars that the government doesn't

have. O'Brien said it's likely that Britain would decide to scrap its nuclear program rather than make painful cuts elsewhere.

Even without the challenge of relocating Trident, there are plans to slash 30,000 troops from Britain's armed forces by 2020, and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates earlier this year questioned whether Britain could be "a full partner" to Washington given the scale of the cuts.

Those doubts were reinforced this month when President Barack Obama announced airstrikes on

Islamic State militants in Iraq and Britain declined to join.

As much as Britain may be receding militarily, the process would probably be accelerated if the United Kingdom is torn in two, three centuries after Scotland and England joined forces.

An independence vote would be followed by years of negotiation and transition in which bases, hardware and personnel would be divided, said Malcolm Chalmers, research director at the Royal United Services Institute, a think tank. Scotland would have to build

autonomous defense forces, while Britain would be "distracted" by tough choices over what it can afford to do without.

"The U.K. might be absent from action for a significant number of years," Chalmers said.

If British officials did decide to keep Trident, he said, it would be because they wouldn't want "the additional humiliation of being forced to disarm" after losing a third of the U.K. land mass.

"There's no doubt that the U.K. has enjoyed peace for 60 years, and part of that is down to this deterrent. But the world is changing," said Vivien Dance, of Helensburgh, Scotland, who moved from England 44 years ago and is now a member of the local council. "I have a confidence in Scotland. Independence is a risk, but that's true of everything in life. We should take the chance."

**‘The loss of Scotland would be a massive thing for the U.K. — far bigger than the 10 percent of the population that Scotland represents.’**

Phillips O'Brien  
University of Glasgow, Scotland

GRIFF WITTE AND RICHARD JOHNSON/THE WASHINGTON POST



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman attacked by bear may face charges

**NV** RENO — A Lake Tahoe woman who was attacked by a black bear in her backyard could become the first person in the area charged with illegally feeding the wild animals.

California authorities said the woman, whose name hasn't been released, has been feeding bears for years in her yard on the lake's north shore at Kings Beach.

A similar problem a few miles east in Incline Village prompted the Nevada Department of Wildlife to issue a formal warning in December to another woman accused of illegally feeding several bears — three of which are now dead.

One of the bears had to be euthanized after it broke into a neighbor's car and exhibited bold behavior, making it a threat to public safety, NDOW spokesman Chris Healy said. Two of her cubs later were struck and killed by cars, which Healy said was at least an indirect result of their losing their natural fear of humans.

## Man dies while testing ultralight plane for sale

**MI** VERGENNES TOWNSHIP — Authorities in western Michigan said a man died in the crash of an ultralight aircraft that was being offered for sale.

Kent County Sheriff's Sgt. Russ Larson told The Grand Rapids Press that the crash happened about 11:30 a.m. Sunday at Lowell Airport in Vergennes Township, just north of Lowell and about 15 miles east of Grand Rapids.

Larson said the man drove from out of state to test the airplane, which an area resident was selling. Witnesses said the would-be buyer took off successfully once but crashed while trying a second takeoff.

WOOD-TV said authorities identified the dead man as Bryan Bowker, 67, of Edgewood, N. M.

## Marijuana farm a rare find near US border

**TX** RAYMONDVILLE — Officials said a 2-acre field of marijuana recently found just 25 miles from the Texas-Mexico border was sophisticated and highly unusual for its location.

Tons of marijuana cross the border daily, and large-scale grow operations are routinely found farther north in Texas and throughout the interior U.S.

Authorities said they can't recall such a large crop here so close to the border in at least the past 20 years. The 11,500-plant farm found Aug. 13 about 15 miles south of Raymondville was south of the Border Patrol's highway checkpoints leading out of the Rio Grande Valley. Authorities found it when immigrants suspected of entering the country illegally fell into the field.

No arrests have been made in relation to the marijuana crop.

## Librarian accused of rudeness drops case

**MI** GOBLES — A librarian in southwestern Michi-

## THE CENSUS

# 112M

The age in years of dinosaur tracks that will be open to the public for viewing this fall near Moab, Utah. There are more than 200 tracks — including those of an ankylosaurus, a dromaeosaurus and a menacing ancestor of the Tyrannosaurus rex — in an area smaller than a football field. They represent 10 different ancient animals that lived during the early Cretaceous period, said Utah Bureau of Land Management paleontologist Rebecca Hunt-Foster. They were first discovered in 2009 by a resident. Since then, paleontologists led by a team at the University of Colorado in Denver have studied them and prepared them for display.



JAMES NIELSEN, THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

## Dog meets mascot

Houston Baptist University mascot Mingo looks at a dog through a window during the Houston Humane Society's "Meet the Mascots" event Saturday. The HHS is teaming up with the mascots to help find permanent homes for the hundreds of pets awaiting adoption.

gan who refused a transfer after being accused of mistreating visitors is dropping her discrimination lawsuit in federal court.

"I was fighting Goliath," Shirley Whitt, 67, said Friday.

Whitt retired in 2011 after nearly 25 years instead of accepting a transfer to the Decatur branch from the Gobles branch in the Van Buren District Library system in Van Buren County.

In court filings, the library, located west of Kalamazoo, denied any age discrimination and said patrons regularly complained about Whitt's "poor demeanor" and "unwelcoming attitude."

## Woman with fake baby worried for trespassing

**CA** MERCED — A woman is under investigation after trying to enter a hospital maternity ward carrying a doll that looked like a living baby, police said Friday, but the woman said the dolls are meant to be therapeutic for patients.

Tonya Whitney and a man she later identified as her husband, first went into the hospital on

Aug. 16, each carrying a lifelike doll and drawing suspicion from security officials, who told the pair to leave, Merced police Capt. Tom Trinidad said.

They returned to Mercy Medical Center Aug. 18. Police said Whitney — this time wearing nurse's scrubs — again tried to enter the maternity ward. Hospital security took photos of the couple and their contact information, and police notified hospitals in the area of their activity.

Whitney, 41, was cited for misdemeanor trespassing and released. The case will be turned over to prosecutors for their consideration.

Police said they were concerned Whitney might have wanted to take a living baby.

## Police: Legally blind man shoots intruder

**FL** TAMPA — Authorities said a legally blind Tampa man shot an intruder who had broken in through a window in the house.

According to Tampa police, Melchisedec Williams, 50, heard

a crash and stomping late Sunday and got his gun. He then recognized the voice of his nephew, Isaiah Moses Carter, 15. He told police that he thought his nephew was there to harm him so he fired the gun to protect himself.

Carter was taken to Tampa General Hospital in serious condition. Officials said his injuries didn't appear to be life-threatening.

An investigation is ongoing.

## Couple accused of biting each other

**PA** DANVILLE — Police in central Pennsylvania said an engaged couple face assault and other charges for an altercation in which they allegedly bit one another.

The Bloomsburg Press Enterprise reported Monday that Darlene Frymoyer, 23, of Danville, and Joel Whitesell, 22, of Catawissa, are both accused in the Aug. 17 incident.

The paper said Frymoyer admits she bit him but said he also bit her, on the back, and slammed her down.

Court papers say he admits to

slamming her on a roadway. Authorities said she has a bite mark on his neck, and she has one on her right arm.

They're both charged with simple assault, disorderly conduct and harassment.

## Woman tackles man fleeing cops, taunts him

**WA** RICHLAND — A woman tackled a 20-year-old man fleeing from police in Washington state, then taunted him about being taken down by a grandmother.

Richland police Capt. Mike Cobb told the Tri-City Herald that Becky Powell, 40, was driving by Wednesday when she saw the man run from officers. She told her husband to speed ahead of the fleeing man and got out to confront him.

Powell said the man tried to stiff-arm her, but she felled him, pulling down his shorts in the process. She said she got help pinning the man down and asked him how it felt to be taken down by a mother of five and a grandmother of three.

From wire reports

WIRED WORLD

# Want a tech job?

## Picking what to study is vital in fast-moving field

By LISA GRACE LEDNICER  
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Aaron Saunders, chief executive of Clearly Innovative, took a traditional route to a tech career. He earned a computer science degree at Ohio Wesleyan, studied marketing and information technology en route to an MBA from NYU, then hopped through jobs as an application architect for Lotus Development, a designer of Web strategy for Time Warner Cable, and a manager for the redesign of an e-commerce site.

Now, at 50, Saunders is mentoring students who will be hired into jobs that didn't exist when he entered college 32 years ago: app coding. Social media management. User experience/user interface chief. Video game design. Data visualization specialist.

Saunders is part of this new arena. He runs a Washington startup he launched three years ago to advise companies on Web and mobile apps and modules. He has 15 employees, two overseas contractors and a New York-based apprentice. Most don't have computer science degrees. When he considers what colleges are teaching the people he hopes to hire someday, he isn't optimistic.

"Universities are slow to change," he said. "They need to rethink education. What you're teaching is just as important as how you're teaching it."

As tech jobs evolve at the pace of light through fiber-optic cable, Saunders and other leaders of tech firms such as Mozilla, Reddit and Tumblr say students should consider schools that not only will teach them traditional skills like coding, but also the softer skills that aren't listed in the course guide but are essential to the 21st-century workplace: working with others, problem-solving, the ability to pick up enough from disciplines other than their own to create products users believe are indispensable to their lives.

That means high-schoolers need to ask colleges different questions from the ones their parents might have asked. (After all, how many colleges have schools of problem-solving?) At the same time, colleges are trying to figure out what they should be teaching.

"Coding, editing video, design — it really is just the tip of the iceberg," said Mark Surman, executive director of the Mozilla Foundation, based in Mountain View, Calif. Mozilla produces the Web browser Firefox. "What's below the tip of the iceberg is participation, critical thinking and being able to collaborate. You really need to be a well-rounded, Renaissance, Internet-era kind of person."



Mark Surman, executive director of the Mozilla Foundation, stands in Mozilla's Toronto office in July.

Although it's still possible to get a job without a college degree, as companies mature they tend to look for employees who have experience collaborating with peers on projects and have picked up skills beyond, say, programming. Coding can be learned online, but students' ability to connect with people and with alumni who can steer them to internships, jobs and mentors can't easily be replicated outside a college setting.

Employers say the choice of a major isn't critical. It's the discipline to spend years on an area of study — and producing work that demonstrates the result of that effort — that persuades employers to take a chance on hiring someone in their 20s.

"We don't really care what school you go to," said Ellen Pao, senior vice president of strategic partnerships at Reddit, the San Francisco social news aggregation website that ranks content based on a user-influenced scoring system. "We're interested in people who really love what they do."

Employment statistics reflect the promise of job security for young people who want to pursue technology careers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 22.8

percent increase in employment for software developers through 2022, more than double the 10.8 percent increase in overall employment. The median wage isn't too shabby, either: \$101,410, according to the Labor Department. As more commerce — from making restaurant reservations to routing steel shipments — moves online and people increasingly search online via smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices instead of PCs, businesses will need more people to create and customize software, the Labor Department says.

U.S. News and World Report ranks "software developer" as the best tech job in 2014, up from seventh last year. Third, and ranked ninth overall on U.S. News' list of the 100 best jobs, is "Web developer" (median salary: \$62,500).

Meanwhile, the growth in tech-related college majors is surging. According to the Computing Research Association, enrollment in computing majors rose 13.4 percent in 2012-13, the sixth straight year of increasing undergraduate enrollment. In its last year of "11 Hot College Majors That Lead to Jobs," U.S. News included cybersecurity, data science and computer game design. The Princeton Review began



Andre Chung/For The Washington Post

Aaron Saunders, 50, founder of Clearly Innovative, a startup that develops mobile products and advises companies on Web and mobile apps and modules, sits in his Washington office in June.

ranking video-game design programs for undergraduates and graduates in 2009, starting with eight programs; its most recent survey ranked 50 programs.

"Students are really pushing for these types of majors, and schools are responding in kind," said David Soto, director of content development at the Princeton Review.

Mayank Jain, a 2012 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va., will be a junior this fall at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is working this summer at a startup in San Francisco, helping to develop an iPhone app. He said he wants to launch his own startup after college and was impressed with UT's strong computer science department and "spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation."

"The old paradigm of education was that you get good at one thing and you do that one thing for the rest of your life," Jain said. "Nowadays, students don't know what jobs are going to exist in the next two to three years. It's becoming less and less important to teach specific things and more important to teach how to think critically and solve problems."

FACES



MICHAEL A. SCHWARZ/For The Washington Post

**Brad Paisley, who created an unintentional controversy that carried well beyond country music with his song "Accidental Racist" last year, is back with his 11th album, "Moonshine in the Trunk."**

# 'I'm still on a journey'

Undeterred by controversy, Paisley keeps expanding genre's borders

By CHRIS RICHARDS  
The Washington Post

**C**ountry music is supposed to be about real life, and in real life, Brad Paisley is sipping Perrier.

Will we ever get to hear a Paisley lyric about French bubbles in little green bottles? This is a man who hung his star over Nashville singing about the perils of ticks, tanning beds and online dating. So, yeah, maybe we will.

Nashville loves to agonize over what country music should and shouldn't be, and that's the tangled yarn ball Paisley's been spinning on his finger for more than a decade. Of any country superstar working today, he's the guy with the songs most intimately connected to the contemporary American experience — the blood, the sweat, the tears, the beers and everything else in the grocery bag. He populates his lyrics with people who don't normally appear in country songs, giving them unfamiliar dramas in deeply familiar melodies. Sometimes, there's a political message. More often, there's a punch line.

"I defend everything I can with it," Paisley says. "Humor is such a great shield. You're going to get flak if you tell the wrong joke, but it's still the wrong joke. Give the wrong speech, you take it on the chin."

That's exactly where Paisley took it in April of last year when critics locked their ears on "Accidental Racist," an earnest duet with rapper LL Cool J about racial healing that

went wrong, then went viral. "I'm just a white man coming to you from the southland," Paisley sings on the refrain, "trying to understand what it's like not to be."

The song was ridiculed by bloggers, blasted by critics, eviscerated by Stephen Colbert and parodied on "Saturday Night Live." Then the great digital outrage machine did what it always does: It moved on to something else.

Paisley didn't. "I'm still on a journey to learn this stuff," the 41-year-old says, relaxing on his tour bus before a recent concert in Atlanta. "I want to hear what the professors and

the pundits have to say. I had great conversations with a couple of people who were vocally upset, and I'm trying to learn what I can do better."

As a songwriter, one of Paisley's central themes has always been "taking pride in progress" — in America's and, perhaps subconsciously, his own. Accordingly, his 11th album, "Moonshine in the Trunk," released Tuesday, finds him bouncing back from controversy while racing through the late country summer of his life.

He's been on tour, giving the late country legend Roger Miller a run for

**Nashville loves to agonize over what country music should and shouldn't be, and that's the tangled yarn ball Paisley's been spinning on his finger for more than a decade.**

his money as a guitarist and a cutup. He's been on television, serving as a judge on ABC's singing game show, "Rising Star." He's been at home on his farm outside Nashville, soaking up time with his young sons, Huck and Jasper, and his wife, actress Kimberly Williams. And he's been online, executing his own rogue publicity campaign, leaking songs from "Moonshine in the Trunk" on Twitter, one by one.

He calls the album "a Mason jar half-full" — which means lots of drinking songs and lots of optimism.

While the album's excessive sunshine might seem a little tone-deaf to anyone who's been following the news this summer, Paisley is far from oblivious. His music doesn't just chronicle the America we live in. It envisions the America he wants to live in.

"Thinking, 'Boy, are we blowing it now' — I don't want to do that," Paisley says. "I have two little boys. I want to say, 'Here are the possibilities.' This is the best time to be alive in the history of our country. And hopefully, this isn't as good as it gets."

He's the closest country music has come to Norman Rockwell.

Paisley, who embarked on his songwriting career immediately after graduating from Belmont University in Nashville in 1995, loves Rockwell — and he's quick to volunteer a fa-

vorite image. He saw it hanging at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch: two janitors taking a break from mopping a theater to lead through the playbill. "Love that one," he says, blinking hard so he can see it on his eyelids.

It's easy to imagine Paisley in a songwriting session, conjuring similar characters with his eyes clamped. He has a knack for singing from other perspectives, sometimes playing an opinionated narrator on the brink of a big realization.

This tactic usually works pretty well, but something went awry with "Accidental Racist." In the song, a guy in a Lymnrd Skynyrd T-shirt (Paisley) walks into a Starbucks and places his order with a black barista (LL Cool J), realizing the Confederate flag on his chest is problematic. Paisley's lyrics stepped out into a minefield — "It ain't like I can walk a mile in someone else's skin" — while LL's clunky response rhymes created dubious equivalencies. "If you don't judge my gold chains," he raps, "I'll forget the iron chains."

Paisley says the uproar that followed made him smarter. "And contrary to popular belief, I wasn't that dumb before," he says. "But discussion is all you can ask for. That's my biggest regret about that song: It became an argument and not a discussion."

To many critics, the song's broad strokes made the absurd suggestion that centuries of racial strife could be solved over a caramel macchiato. But Paisley was just doing what scores of country songwriters have been trying to do since Hank Williams roamed the Earth: cram life's complexities into tidy, legible, memorable, melodic three-minute packages.

"We were having a very personal discussion (within the song), and everyone said, 'How dare you speak for us?'" Paisley says. "But I think two people sitting at Starbucks can reach a conclusion together. As a country, we can't. But with that song, we were trying to say, 'Hey, you can talk about these things.'"

While the controversy over "Accidental Racist" raged almost completely outside of the country music world, it's worth remembering that Paisley was sending that message to country fans, a bloc that's overwhelming white and completely unaccustomed to being confronted with songs about race.

"I found incredible consolation in their reaction," Paisley says, "which was, 'Huh, I never thought about that.'"

## Rapper arrested on firearms charge

Platinum-selling rapper Young Jeezy was arrested on suspicion of possessing illegal firearms during an investigation into a fatal shooting at a rap concert in Silicon Valley, authorities said.

Mountain View, Calif., police spokesman Sgt. Saul Jaeger said Monday that the Atlanta rapper, whose real name is Jay Wayne Jenkins, was taken into custody Sunday by detectives along with five other people while executing

a search warrant at the Verizon Amphitheatre in Irvine, Calif.

The arrests come after 38-year-old Eric Johnson was killed while backstage at a concert Jeezy co-headlined with Wiz Khalifa at Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View on Friday. Jaeger said none of the arrested has been identified as suspects.

Jeezy was being held on \$1 million bail.

From The Associated Press



AP

## Prince to release new album in September

Prince is releasing a new album on Sept. 30.

The pop icon announced Monday that he will release "Art Official Age" on Warner Bros. Records, the label Prince was signed to from 1978 to the mid-1990s, but later battled for the rights to his music.

He reached a deal with Warner in April, earning the rights to the music he recorded on the label. Prince released key projects like "Purple Rain," "1999," "Diamonds

and Pearls" and "Around the World in a Day" on Warner.

Prince also will release the album "PlectrumElectrum" with his all-female band, 3RDEYEGIRL, on Sept. 30. The band includes guitarist Donna Grantis, drummer Hannah Ford Welton and bassist Ida Nielsen.

"Art Official Age" was described in a news release as a mix of soul, R&B and funk." It's his first album since 2010's "20Ten."

From The Associated Press

FACES



VISION FOR THE TELEVISION ACADEMY/AP

From left, Aaron Paul, Vince Gilligan, Anna Gunn and Bryan Cranston hold Emmys for outstanding drama series for "Breaking Bad" at the 66th Primetime Emmy Awards at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Monday in Los Angeles. "Thank you for this wonderful farewell to our show," the show's creator Gilligan said. The series ended last year. Paul, Gunn and Cranston each won individual acting awards as well.

# Drama 'Breaking Bad' wins big at Emmys

By LYNN ELBER  
The Associated Press

"Breaking Bad" and "Modern Family" triumphed at Monday's Emmy Awards, proving that established broadcast and cable fare retains the power to fend off challenges from upstart online series such as "Orange Is the New Black."

ABC's "Modern Family" won a fifth best comedy series Emmy, tying the record set by "Frasier," while the final season of AMC's "Breaking Bad" captured the top drama award and a trio of acting honors for its stars.

Bryan Cranston was honored as best actor in a drama for "Breaking Bad," proving that "True Detective" nominee Matthew McConaughey's movie-star appeal couldn't conquer all.

"I have gratitude for everything that has happened," Cranston said. His victory



"True Detective" stars Woody Harrelson, left, and Matthew McConaughey presented the award for outstanding lead actor in a miniseries or a movie. "So you won Oscar, (People magazine's) sexiest man alive and now you want an Emmy, too. Isn't that a little bit greedy?" Harrelson teased McConaughey. Both men were nominees for best actor in a drama. Cranston won.

ties him with four-time best drama actor champ Dennis Franz.

Cranston's co-stars Aaron Paul and Anna Gunn were honored in categories for best drama supporting acting — he for the third time and she for the second straight year — and the series won its second consecutive best drama award.

McConaughey was the object of too-handsome jokes by presenter Jimmy Kimmel and adoration by winner Gail Mancuso, honored as best director for an episode of "Modern Family."

CBS' "The Big Bang Theory" star Jim Parsons was crowned as best comedy series actor, giving him his fourth Emmy and putting him in company with all-time sitcom winners Carroll O'Connor, Kelsey Grammer and Michael J. Fox.

"Modern Family" also captured a best comedy supporting actor trophy for Ty Burrell. Allison Janney was honored as best supporting comedy actress for CBS' "Mom," adding to the trophy she'd already picked up as guest actress on "Masters of Sex."

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who received her third consecutive best comedy actress Emmy for the political comedy "Veep," drew big laughs as she stopped to exchange faux heated kisses with Cranston,



At top: "Modern Family" won its 5th Emmy for outstanding comedy series. Above left: "Big Bang Theory" star Jim Parsons won his fourth Emmy for outstanding lead actor in a comedy series. Above right: Julia Louis-Dreyfus won her third consecutive Emmy for her role on "Veep."

who earlier was her co-presenter and who appeared with her on "Seinfeld."

A broadcast win was scored by ABC's "The Good Wife" star Julianna Margulies, honored as best lead actress in a drama se-



"I think I may just change my name to the Col-borg. I am the Col-borg. Resistance is futile." — Commenter Stephen Colbert, whose show won for best variety series, commenting on Gwen Stefani mangling his name when announcing his win. When Colbert and winner Aaron Paul signed for their Emmy statuette, they added happy faces beside their names.



"Oh yes, this is much heavier than the other one." — Julianna Margulies, comparing the real Emmy she got backstage to the prop she was handed on camera when she accepted her award for best actress in a drama series.

Other Emmy winners

**Supporting actor, comedy series:** Ty Burrell, "Modern Family," ABC.

**Writing, comedy series:** Louis C.K., "Louie," FX.

**Supporting actress, comedy series:** Allison Janney, "Mom," CBS.

**Reality-competition program:** "The Amazing Race," CBS.

**Writing, miniseries, movie or dramatic special:** Stephen Moffat, "Sherlock: His Last Vow," PBS.

**Supporting actress, miniseries or movie:** Kathy Bates, "American Horror Story: Coven," FX.

**Supporting actor, miniseries or movie:** Martin Freeman, "Sherlock: His Last Vow," PBS.

**Actor, miniseries or movie:** Benedict Cumberbatch, "Sherlock: His Last Vow," PBS.

**Actress, miniseries or movie:** Jessica Lange, "American Horror Story: Coven," FX.

**Miniseries:** "Fargo," FX.  
**Movie:** "The Normal Heart," HBO.

**Writing, variety special:** Sarah Silverman, "Sarah Silverman: We Are Miracles," HBO.

From The Associated Press

ries. "What a wonderful time for women on television," Margulies said.

The ceremony's emotional high point came with Billy Crystal's restrained and graceful remembrance of Robin Williams, who was found dead Aug. 11.

"He made us laugh. Hard. Every time you saw him," Crystal said of Williams at the conclusion of a tribute to industry members who died within the past 12 months. "Robin Williams, what a concept."

Host Seth Meyers kicked off the ceremony by tweaking his home network, NBC, and other broadcasters for being eclipsed in the awards by cable series and online newcomers like "Orange Is the New Black."

Noting that the Emmys moved to Monday night to avoid a conflict with Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, he said that MTV doesn't really specialize in videos anymore.

"That's like network TV holding an awards show and giving all the trophies to cable and Netflix. That would be crazy," Meyers joked — but the outcome proved him wrong.

From The Associated Press



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OPINION

# Football is America's ultimate war game

By MARK EDMUNDSON

The NFL will be visiting London this year. Three regular-season games are set for Wembley Stadium, where the NFL has touched down annually since 2007. It's not surprising that the NFL wants to expand into new territories. Under the logic of capitalism, nothing stays still: You expand or you decline — there is no other possibility.

But will the NFL expand with real success into England or Europe, or much of anywhere else? Could American football ever become what soccer (football for everyone else) is, a truly international game?

I doubt it. I think football is a deeply American game, that it reflects our national identity and national values and that its export is a dubious proposition. The game is played in Canada, to be sure. But I think it's possible that Canadians are absorbed in the game roughly to the extent that they are absorbed in the values and worldview of their neighbor to the south.

"Baseball is what we were," wrote Mary McCrory, longtime Washington Post columnist. "Football is what we have become."

What exactly have we become that makes football the American game?

The best answers are sometimes the simplest. Football is a warlike game and we are now a warlike nation. Our love for football is a love, however self-aware, of ourselves as a fighting and (we hope) victorious people.

Until the end of World War II, it was possible for us Americans to think of ourselves as warlike only by accident. Europe had pulled us into the First World War — there were a great number of Americans who wished us to stay out. And when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, we had no choice but to fight. The soldiers who returned from the war by and large believed that the United States was now finished with conflict, at least for a long time to come. The U.S. was a peace-loving nation and it had earned the right to peace.

But then came Korea, Vietnam, three wars in the Middle East and no end of flare-ups around the world. One may think that our military engagements have been just-



Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. is hit by Cincinnati Bengals cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick during a punt return in a preseason game Sunday in Glendale, Ariz.

fied. One may think they have been necessary. But it is no longer really possible to think that America is a deeply peaceful, or even a peace-loving nation.

That kind of thinking smacks of the era when the national game truly was baseball. That game is skill-based, nonviolent and leisurely. Grunting effort has almost no part in baseball; it's about subtle prowess, well deployed. You can win a baseball game without hating your opponents. In fact, too much passion will probably undermine your skills. But in football, as skilled as its players are, you had best hate your opponent, or at least simulate some hatred for the space of 60 minutes of play.

Football is urban, tough and based to a large degree on the capacity to overwhelm the other team with sheer force. Football is

a tank attack, a sky-borne assault, a charge into the trenches for hand-to-hand fighting. Football is following orders and sticking to the strategy, it's about acting as a unit and taking hits for the group. Football is generals (coaches) and captains (quarterbacks) and the enlisted guys who play on the line.

Football is about destruction. Sure, you will be getting more points than the other team, but to get more points, you generally have to slam the life out of your opponents. You try to do away with their skill players — by violence. Knock out the first-string quarterback and chances are you will win.

It is beautiful, to be sure. The wide receiver competes with the ballet dancer in grace and style. The runner recalls the flashing leopard, the tiger on the move. It's lovely to watch. War can be beautiful

too, one understands. The bombs create a memorable light; the crack of rifles is its own music.

The rise of football over baseball is about a change in America's self-image. We've been ready to fight always (ask the Indian tribes or the Spanish who controlled much of the Southwest), but we haven't been ready to admit it. Now it's harder to escape the truth.

When people are willing to get publicly enthusiastic about football, they are showing a willingness to get enthusiastic about struggle and strife — maybe even about war, if they feel it is necessary. Granted, almost all games are sublimations of war. But no game is as close to war without slipping over to war as football is.

Aristotle thought that the purpose of a violent spectacle was to purge dangerous feelings from the audience. Tragedy discharged the excess of pity and fear that built up in individuals. They left the theater feeling calm. But Plato says something different. Plato fears that we become what we behold. See violence enacted on a stage and your capacity for violence will increase. To Plato, football would feed a national capacity for violent action and be fed by it in turn.

From this point of view, football and war could enter a mutually energizing relation with each other: the more football, the more war; the more war, the more football. If the modern world is truly a place where a nation must be ready to fight constantly in order to survive, then perhaps football serves a general good. But whether the only way to thrive as a nation and a people is through the capacity for warfare, one can certainly doubt.

The poet William Blake looked forward to a day when the wars of swords would be over and when men and women would hash out their differences through argument and imagination, through what he called the arts of mental fight.

May that day come soon.

Mark Edmundson, an English professor at the University of Virginia, is the author of the just published book "Why Football Matters: My Education in the Game." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

# Little evidence terrorists reaching US via Mexico

By JOSHUA KEATING

Slate

WASHINGTON

The Mexican government is expressing some irritation with Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who suggested last week that there's a "very real possibility" that members of the Islamic State or other terrorist groups are entering the United States illegally via Mexico. As Perry acknowledged in his own remarks — and as the Pentagon confirmed — there's "no clear evidence" that this is happening. But as is generally the case when fears of "el-Qaida" periodically emerge, a lack of evidence is no barrier to bold sweeping claims.

Intelligence officials have warned for some time that there's a possibility of terrorists entering the United States from Mexico, and there is indeed some evidence of groups like Hezbollah operating in South America. It would be foolish, then, to completely rule out the possibility that terrorists have crossed into the United States from our own Mexico way. But the frequent claim that this is already a major problem are ridiculous.

Last year, for instance, Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, declared on C-SPAN that "We know al-Qaida has camps over with the drug cartels on the other side of the Mexican border" and that the group's operatives are being trained to "act Hispanic." This claim appears to have been based on essentially nothing.

Also last year, Deroy Murdock, of National Review, argued that "there are at least 7,518 reasons to get the U.S./Mexican border under control." That figure refers to the number of citizens of State Department-listed "state sponsors of terrorism" arrested entering the United States — not just at the Mexican border — in fiscal 2011. More than half of those were from Cuba, a country that is still on the State Department's list for a variety of reasons but whose immigrant population in the U.S. is not known as a hotbed of jihadist sentiment. (This isn't to imply that those entering the United States from Syria or Afghanistan are likely terrorists. More likely, they're fleeing terrorism.)

In 2012, Breitbart.com and a number of other conservative sites claimed that then-Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano had "admitted" that terrorists

enter the U.S. from Mexico "from time to time." The evidence for this supposed admission: what seems like a deliberate misreading of a garbled answer during congressional testimony. (Napolitano hasn't always helped her own cause on this issue. In 2009 she had to walk back comments that seemed to suggest, falsely, that the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers had entered the U.S. from Canada.)

The best-documented case of a connection between Middle Eastern terrorism and Mexican drug cartels was facilitated by the U.S. government. Mansour Arbabsiar, an Iranian-American car dealer in Texas, was arrested in 2011, and later convicted, after trying to recruit a Mexican drug cartel to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States. The Obama administration's allegations that senior Iranian officials were likely in on the plot were met with some skepticism at the time. Whether or not that part of it is true, we do know that no actual Mexican gangs were involved. Arbabsiar's contact was an undercover Drug Enforcement Agency agent.

The DEA also set up a 2009 bust involving a deal between alleged members of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and Co-

lombia's FARC to smuggle cocaine through West Africa to Europe. This was cited by the agency as evidence of the possibility of an "unholy alliance between South American narco-terrorists and Islamic extremists." This despite the fact that there were never any actual South American narco-terrorists involved and DEA agents had set the whole thing up themselves. This case was also used in Congress to argue for tougher immigration rules — in this case, more scrutiny of travelers from Venezuela.

Again, it's not outside the realm of possibility that someone planning an attack could sneak over the border. But the scant reports of terrorists trying to enter the U.S. illegally are far outnumbered by the numerous well-documented plots by native-born Americans, naturalized citizens and foreigners entering the country with valid passports and visas.

Both security and counterterrorism are both important issues, but at this point the case for linking them seems pretty weak.

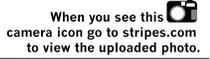
Joshua Keating is a staff writer at Slate focusing on international news, social science and related topics. He was previously an editor at Foreign Policy magazine.

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Motorcycles - Korea 168

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# SCOREBOARD

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## Pro football

### NFL AMERICAN CONFERENCE

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
Miami	2	1	0	667	55
New England	2	1	0	667	62
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	667	62
Buffalo	1	0	2	250	63

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
Houston	2	1	0	667	50
Tennessee	2	1	0	667	64
Jacksonville	1	2	0	333	47
Indianapolis	0	0	3	000	53

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	3	0	1	000	83
Washington	2	1	0	667	74
Pittsburgh	1	2	0	333	56
Cleveland	0	3	0	000	49

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
Denver	2	1	0	667	34
Kansas City	1	2	0	333	40
Atlanta	2	2	0	333	54
San Diego	1	2	0	333	48

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
N.Y. Giants	4	0	1	000	39
Philadelphia	2	1	0	667	52
Philadelphia	1	2	0	333	94
Dallas	0	0	4	000	57

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
New Orleans	3	0	1	000	85
Carolina	1	2	0	333	53
Tampa Bay	1	2	0	333	51

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
Minnesota	3	0	1	000	70
Atlanta	1	2	0	333	81
Detroit	1	2	0	667	52
Green Bay	2	0	2	667	48

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
Seattle	2	1	0	667	91
Arizona	1	2	0	333	49
San Francisco	1	2	0	333	24
St. Louis	2	0	3	333	61

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
Tampa Bay	27	Buffalo	14	Atlanta	22
Tennessee	24	Atlanta	17	Baltimore	23
Washington	20	Washington	17	New Orleans	23
Indianapolis	17	Indianapolis	17	Cleveland	14
Houston	18	Denver	17		

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
San Francisco	21	San Diego	7	Cincinnati	19
Arizona	13				

W	E	Pct	PF	PA	
Atlanta	4	Atlanta	3	Kansas City at Green Bay	4
Dallas at Pittsburgh	4	Indianapolis at Cincinnati	1	N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia	1
Carolina at Miami	1	Carolina at Miami	1	New England at N.Y. Giants	1
Washington at Tampa Bay	1	San Francisco at Houston	1	St. Louis at Cleveland	1
Denver at Dallas	1	Denver at Tennessee	1	Chicago at Cleveland	1
Arizona at San Diego	1	Seattle at Oakland	1		

## Pro basketball

### WNBA playoffs (N=if necessary)

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Eastern Conference</b>
Chicago 1, Atlanta 1
Chicago 80, Atlanta 77
<b>Western Conference</b>
Seattle 2, Washington 0
Indiana 78, Washington 73

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Eastern Conference</b>
Phoenix 2, Los Angeles 0
Phoenix 93, Los Angeles 68
<b>Western Conference</b>
Minnesota 2, San Antonio 0
Minnesota 85, San Antonio 84
Saturday: Minnesota 94, San Antonio 87

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Eastern Conference</b>
Indiana 5, Washington 76

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Western Conference</b>
Seattle 117, Washington 76

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Eastern Conference</b>
Phoenix 93, Los Angeles 68
Phoenix 93, Los Angeles 68
<b>Western Conference</b>
Minnesota 94, San Antonio 87

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Eastern Conference</b>
Indiana 5, Washington 76

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Western Conference</b>
Seattle 117, Washington 76

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Eastern Conference</b>
Phoenix 93, Los Angeles 68
Phoenix 93, Los Angeles 68
<b>Western Conference</b>
Minnesota 94, San Antonio 87

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Eastern Conference</b>
Indiana 5, Washington 76

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-3)
<b>Western Conference</b>
Seattle 117, Washington 76

## Tennis

### US Open Monday

At the USA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, New York

Prize: \$3.8 million (Grand Slam)

Surface: Hard (Outdoor)

First Round
Leonardo Mayer (Argentina), def. Albert Montanes, Spain, 6-2, 3-0, retired.
Andreas Seppi (Italy), def. Sergiy Stakhovskiy, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.
Andy Murray (8), Britain, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-5.
Nick Kyrgios, Australia, def. Mikhail Youzhny (2), Russia, 7-5, 7-6 (3), 2-6, 7-6 (1).
Matthias Bachinger, Germany, def. Radu Stancu, Czech Republic, 6-0, 6-2, 6-2.
Benoit Paire, France, def. Julien Benneteau (24), France, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-4, 6-6, 4-6.
Fernando Verdasco (21), Spain, def. Blaz Rola, Slovenia, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4.
Philipp Kohlschreiber (16), Germany, def. Francescoagnis, Argentina, 6-2, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Thomaz Bellucci, Brazil, def. Nicolas Mahut, France, 7-6 (4), 6-4, 5-1.
Flavia Pennetta (16), Italy, def. Andrea Beck, Germany, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (0).
Aleksandr Nedovyesov, Kazakhstan, def. James McGee, Ireland, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (3).
Peter Gojowczyk, Germany, def. Benjamin Becker, Germany, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.
Stan Wawrinka (3), Switzerland, def. Jiri Veselky, Czech Republic, 6-2, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3).
Tommy Robredo (16), Spain, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.
Blaž Kavcic, Slovenia, def. Donald Young, United States, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.
Melinda Czink (16), Hungary, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (1).
Andrey Kuznetsov, Russia, def. Bradley Klein, United States, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.
Michael Llodra, France, def. Daniel Gimeno-Pagola, Colombia, 6-4, 6-5, 6-5.
Jean-Yves Eschwege (30), France, def. Alexander Kolomojts, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.
Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, def. Gilles Muller, Luxembourg, 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5).
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Gregor Schmalzer, Argentina, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

### World rankings

Through Aug. 24

Rank	Player	Points	YTD Money
1	Rory McIlroy	5,377,075.35	\$2,893,568.55
2	Henrik Stenson	2,890,182.84	\$2,676,347.42
3	Justin Rose	2,539,293.83	\$2,498,789.80
4	Adam Scott	2,287,287.38	\$2,006,411.17
5	Matt Kuchar	1,962,382.99	\$1,668,114.17

### 2015 Ryder Cup points

At Gleneagles Hotel, Scotland

Sept. 26-28, 2014

Finalists	Points
1. x-Bubba Watson	6,930.038
2. x-Rickie Fowler	6,737,253
3. x-Jim Furyk	6,107,694
4. x-Jimmy Walker	6,111,405
5. x-Phil Mickelson	6,110,338
6. x-Matt Kuchar	5,114,665
7. x-Thomaz Bellucci	4,625,227
8. x-Jordan Spieth	3,658,227
9. x-Jack Johnson	3,568,694
10. x-Dustin Johnson	3,559,293
11. Zach Johnson	3,352,872
12. Adam Scott	3,282,872
13. Keegan Bradley	3,248,698
14. Chris Kirk	3,287,883
15. Justin Rose	3,156,270

### 2015 Presidents Cup

At Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea

Oct. 1-11, 2015

Through Aug. 24

Rank	Player	Points	YTD Money
1	Jimmy Walker	2,560	\$2,560,000
2	Jason Day	2,240	\$2,240,000
3	Zach Johnson	2,240	\$2,240,000
4	Justin Rose	2,116	\$2,116,000
5	Matt Kuchar	2,051	\$2,051,000
6	Jordan Spieth	1,882	\$1,882,000
7	Dustin Johnson	1,753	\$1,753,000
8	Patrick Reed	1,633	\$1,633,000
9	Henrik Stenson	1,564	\$1,564,000
10	Chris Kirk	1,496	\$1,496,000
11	Justin Rose	1,489	\$1,489,000
12	Kevin Na	1,489	\$1,489,000

### International

Through Aug. 24

Rank	Player	Points	YTD Money
1	Adam Scott	9,16	\$9,160,000
2	Jason Day	8,219	\$8,219,000
3	Hidetoshi Matsuyama	7,489	\$7,489,000
4	Char Schwartzel	6,243	\$6,243,000
5	Thongchai Jaidee	5,803	\$5,803,000
6	Graham Delavert	5,303	\$5,303,000
7	Chang Hee-jae	4,849	\$4,849,000
8	Ernie Els	4,849	\$4,849,000
9	Angel Cabrera	4,243	\$4,243,000
10	Matt Jones	4,243	\$4,243,000
11	John Senden	4,243	\$4,243,000
12	Christiaan Bezuidenhout	3,743	\$3,743,000
13	Koumei Ogi	3,243	\$3,243,000
14	Justin Kim	2,743	\$2,743,000
15	K.J. Choi	1,883	\$1,883,000

### FedEx Cup leaders

Through Aug. 24

Rank	Player	Points	YTD Money
1	Hunter Mahan	\$2,920,500	\$2,920,500
2	Rory McIlroy	2,419	\$2,419,000
3	Jimmy Walker	2,419	\$2,419,000
4	Justin Rose	2,369	\$2,369,000
5	Bubba Watson	2,369	\$2,369,000
6	Henrik Stenson	2,369	\$2,369,000
7	Jason Day	2,111	\$3,221,111
8	Patrick Reed	2,028	\$3,482,449
9	Adam Scott	1,919	\$3,202,872
10	Cameron Tringola	1,865	\$2,903,203
11	Justin Rose	1,865	\$2,903,203
12	Zach Johnson	1,780	\$3,059,189
13	Justin Rose	1,780	\$3,059,189
14	Dustin Johnson	1,769	\$4,249,189
15	Sergio Garcia	1,763	\$4,388,949
16	Adam Scott	1,763	\$4,388,949
17	Chris Kirk	1,654	\$3,035,867
18	Justin Rose	1,654	\$3,035,867
19	Stuart Appleby	1,637	\$1,452,291
20	Justin Rose	1,637	\$1,452,291
21	Bill Haas	1,540	\$2,357,378
22	Wesley Simpson	1,536	\$3,193,111
23	Justin Rose	1,536	\$3,193,111
24	Hideki Matsuyama	1,475	\$2,573,344
25	Henry English	1,469	\$2,898,822

## Deals

### Monday's transactions

#### BASEBALL

**Major League Baseball**

**MLB** - New York Yankees minor league RHP Andy Beresford (Charleston-SAL) and New York Yankees minor league LF Lewis Thompson (CFL Yankees) 50 games apiece, after each team notified the player of his release.

**American League**

**BOSTON RED SOX** - Signed SS Nance Bogerts on the 7-day concussion disabled list, retroactive to Aug. 23. Sent RHP Ryan Weir to the Lowell Spinners ( Pawtucket (L)).

**TEXAS RANGERS** - Placed OF Shin-Soo Choo on the 15-day DL, retroactive to Aug. 24. Released OF Michael Chavis from Round Rock (PCL). Pulverized the contract of C Tomas Telis from Round Rock.

**National League**

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** - Selected the contract of Jose Tabata from Indianapolis (IL). Optioned OF Gregory Polanco to Indianapolis. Reinstated INF Cliff Barnes from the 15-day DL. Designated INF Jayson Nix for assignment.

#### FOOTBALL

**NFL** - Suspended Washington S Brandon Meriweather for the first two regular season games of the 2014 season. Meriweather hit Baltimore WR Terrell Smith in a preseason game.

**ARIZONA CARDINALS** - Released LB Keith Smith to the NFL. Released LB Draheim, IR RB Reggie Dunn, K Jay Feely, LB Derrell Johnson, S Orhan Johnson, QB Jameson Williams, WR Dwayne Harris, WR Renfrow, CB Brandon Sermers, OT Max Starks, WR James Turner, TE Travis Bond, K Keegan Bradley.

**ATLANTA BRAVES** - Released S Orhan Johnson, LB Nick Dimarco, OT David Mills, CB Deji Obayomi, CB Marco Norcia, WR James Turner, WR James Turner, WR Mike Williams. Waived/injured OT Brett Van Der Horst, FB Ben Chavis, Placed DE Kapron Lewis-Moore, G Will Rackley and DE Warren Taylor on injured reserve.

**BUFFALO BILLS** - Released S Derek Brim, CB Dennis Dixon, P Jake Dobson, RB James Stewart, WR Terrence Harvey, K Dustin Hopkins, DT Damien Jacobs, CB James MacPherson, CB James MacPherson, G J.J. Ungs and RB Ronnie Wingo.

#### CHICAGO BEARS

Terminated the contract of QB Matt Barkley.

**CINCINNATI BENGALS** - Terminated the contract of QB Ryan Fitzpatrick. DT Larry Lackey, S Isaiah Lewis, K Quinn Sharp, WR Curtis Johnson.

**CLEVELAND BROWNS** - Released DB Royce Adams, RB Edwin Baker, OL Walid Dhaif, WR Travis Benjamin, WR Terrence LLOYD, WR Jonathan Krashinsky, LB Ryan Odoms, LB James McFarland, WR Millard Pough, WR Tim Smith, OL Jeremy Warren and RB Mike Anderson.

## US OPEN/SPORTS BRIEFS

## Cramping Murray survives opener

By RACHEL COHEN  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Spinning in 70 mph second serves, grabbing at his hamstring during points, Andy Murray greeted his way through head-to-toe cramps to win at the U.S. Open.

Murray outlasted Robin Haase 6-3, 7-6 (6), 1-6, 7-5 in the first round Monday during an afternoon that was hot but not particularly humid. He was mystified that the cramps came on so early — at the start of the third set after only about an hour and a half on court.

"When it starts to kind of go everywhere, you don't know exactly where it's going to creep up next," he said. "When you stretch one muscle, something else then cramps, too."

It started in the back of his left shoulder, and then quickly spread to his forearm. The right-handed Murray couldn't toss the ball high enough to get any pace on his serves.

Between points, he'd twist his body to awkwardly stretch his left side. After hitting a winner, he'd reach for his quad.

Murray was twice down a break in the fourth set, but the 70th-ranked Haase unraveled with a string of unforced errors. He wasted three break points in the final game, when a missed call also cost him.

The eighth-seeded Murray had felt confident in his conditioning after productive training sessions in Miami, where he weathered far more heat and humidity than this. He wondered if something was amiss in his nutrition.

"Cramping in my left forearm?" a bewildered Murray said. "I mean, I didn't use my left forearm a whole lot today."

Haase, also bothered by some cramping, said he didn't eat and drink enough beforehand because of an earlier-than-expected start — the first match on Louis Armstrong Stadium lasted just 47 minutes. But Murray said dehydration didn't seem to be his problem.

Serving for the fourth set at 5-3, Haase double-faulted on break point to allow Murray to get back on serve. Murray then went up 6-5 when he took Haase's second serve high and whacked a forehand winner.

With Murray trying to serve out the match, Haase smacked a deep return on his second break point that might have set him up to win the game. But the ball was called out, and after it was overturned on review, he had to re-plot the point. This time, Haase hit a volley into the net.

Murray is notorious for suddenly clutching at an ailment after a poorly played point. On this day, though, the misery was clearly real. The two-time major champion went after winners to short-en points, tried to stay upright to keep the strain off his legs. It was just enough to eke out the victory.

"I don't think if it would have gone to five sets I would've been the favorite," Murray said.

Three years ago, he and Haase did go five in New York, with Murray rallying from a two-set deficit to win in the second round.

After Monday's loss, Haase planned to complain to the ATP that he was denied treatment during the match for a sore foot. But



KATHY WILLENS/AP

Andy Murray stretches his cramping leg between serves against Robin Haase during their opening round match Monday in New York. Murray overcame head-to-toe cramping to win 6-3, 7-6 (6), 1-6, 7-5.

The Dutchman insisted he wasn't distracted by Murray's shows of discomfort.

"I was more busy with myself, and I was struggling myself," Haase said. "I tried to play my game. It didn't bother me what he did."

No such struggles for top-seeded Novak Djokovic, who breezed past U.S. Open novice Diego Schwartzman 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. Djokovic wrapped up the final match on opening day at the year's last Grand Slam event as the hour grew late, with fans calling out to him from the far-away seats at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I hope it was a midnight delight for all you guys," he told them in an on-court interview.

Fifth-seeded Maria Sharapova, who missed last year's tournament because of an injured right shoulder, made a successful return by

winning the final 10 games to beat Maria Kirilenko 6-4, 6-0 in a matchup of 27-year-old Russians and longtime friends. Alec Alec Baldwin got into the action, too, catching an out-of-bounds shot that sailed over Sharapova and bounced into the seats.

Also, 10th-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark advanced 6-1, 3-6, 2-0 when Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia had to stop because of an injured left hip.

Ninth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga also needed four sets to beat Juan Monaco 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-1. Nick Kyrgios — the Australian teen who stunned Rafael Nadal at Wimbledon — came back from three code violations, just one outburst away from default, in a 7-5, 7-6 (4), 2-6, 7-6 (1) upset of 21st-seeded Mikhail Youzhny.

Julien Benneteau, seeded 24th, was upset in five sets by fellow

Frenchman Benoit Paire.

Third-seeded Stan Wawrinka and fifth-seeded Milos Raonic both advanced in straight sets.

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic played later under the lights at Arthur Ashe Stadium in the first night session of the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Earlier, Venus Williams, 34, beat 43-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm 2-6, 6-3, 6-3. The combined age of 77 was believed to be the oldest for a women's Grand Slam pairing, the WTA said.

Along with the 19th-seeded Williams, 21st-seeded American Sloane Stephens also advanced by routing Amika Beck.

Second-seeded Simona Halep rallied from a set down for a 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-2 victory over 20-year-old Danielle Rose Collins, who was playing her first main draw match at a four-level event.

## Briefly

## USC's Shaw injured saving drowning nephew



EUGENE TANNER/AP

Southern California cornerback Josh Shaw injured both ankles leaping from a second-story balcony to save his 7-year-old nephew, Carter, from drowning.

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Southern California senior cornerback Josh Shaw injured both ankles after leaping from a second-story balcony to save his 7-year-old nephew from drowning in a pool.

Shaw was named a team captain on Saturday and later that night was attending a family function at a cousin's apartment in his hometown of Palmdale when he saw his nephew, Carter, who can't swim, struggling in the pool.

With no one around, Shaw jumped from the balcony onto the concrete below and crawled to the pool, where he pulled Carter to safety, he said. Unable to step out of the pool because of the pain in his ankles, Shaw lifted himself up the ladder with his upper body.

"I would do it again for whatever kid it was, it did not have to be my nephew," Shaw told the team website. "My ankles really hurt, but I am lucky to be surrounded by the best trainers and doctors in the

world. I am taking my rehab one day at a time, and I hope to be back on the field as soon as possible."

Shaw was taken to the hospital where he was diagnosed with two high ankle sprains and will be out indefinitely.

"That was a heroic act by Josh, putting his personal safety aside," Trojans coach Steve Sarkisian said. "But that's the kind of person he is. It is unfortunate that he'll be sidelined for a while and we will miss his leadership and play, but I know he'll be working hard to get back on the field as soon as possible."

In other college football news:

■ Jeremy Johnson will be No. 6 Auburn's starting quarterback against Arkansas, and Nick Marshall will play in the game.

That's about all Tigers coach Gus Malzhan would say about the situation on Tuesday. He had previously said Marshall and cornerback Jonathan Mincey would not start in the game after legal issues over the summer.

## Lampard retires from England

LONDON — Despite never winning a trophy with the so-called "golden generation," Frank Lampard retired from England's national team on Tuesday having provided his greatest legacy to soccer in one game he'd rather forget.

The midfielder prompted the introduction of goal-line technology when he was denied a clear goal in England's humiliating 4-1 loss to Germany at the 2010 World Cup.

But as football entered a new era in Brazil, Lampard was in the final act of an international career that began in 1999. The 36-year-old midfielder made just one appearance at the World Cup, earning a 106th and final cap in a 0-0 draw against Costa Rica when England was already out of contention to advance from the group stage.

"I have always been exceptionally proud and honored to represent my country and have to say looking back I have enjoyed every minute of wearing the England shirt," Lampard said.

NFL BRIEFS

# Redskins' Meriweather suspended 2 games

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — The NFL once again has suspended Washington Redskins safety Brandon Meriweather for his latest blow to the head of an opponent, which the league said is his sixth violation of player safety rules.

The league announced Monday that Meriweather will be suspended for the first two regular season games for his helmet-to-helmet hit on receiver Torrey Smith in the second quarter of Saturday night's preseason win over the Baltimore Ravens.

Meriweather will miss the opener against the Houston Texans on Sept. 7 and the Sept. 14 game against the Jacksonville Jaguars. He will not be allowed to attend team meetings or practices or appear at the team's facilities for any reason during the suspension.

The sanction was levied by Troy Vincent, a longtime NFL safety and now the league's executive vice president of football operations. The league said Vincent determined that Meriweather "delivered a forceful blow to the head and neck area of a defenseless receiver with no attempt to wrap up or make a conventional tackle."

The league said Meriweather has previously been disciplined five times for illegal hits to defenseless players. He was suspended two games last season after two helmet-first hits in a win over the Chicago Bears, but the penalty was reduced to one game after an appeal.

Meriweather's tendency to lead with his helmet — and aim for an opponent's head — has been a major point of concern since he joined the Redskins in 2012. On the play against Baltimore, he and Smith lowered their heads at roughly the same time as Smith went for a pass over the middle, but Meriweather lowered the crown of his helmet and clearly wasn't going for a hit instead of attempting a tackle. The pass was incomplete, and Meriweather was given a 15-yard penalty for a personal foul.

"I'm trying to do what the NFL asks of me," Meriweather said after the game. "After going through this offseason and working on the things that I need to work on, I get the first chance, and it seems like I failed."

Meriweather also suggested he's being held to a higher standard because of his past.

"I think they've been keeping a close eye on me for the last couple years," he said. "I'm just going to continue to work on my game and



KATHERINE FREY, THE WASHINGTON POST/AP

**Washington Redskins strong safety Brandon Meriweather (31) has previously been disciplined five times by the NFL for illegal hits to defenseless players. He was suspended two games last season after two helmet-first hits in a win over the Chicago Bears, but the penalty was reduced to one game after an appeal.**

try to get better to do the things they want me to do."

Coach Jay Gruden, speaking before the suspension was announced, said Meriweather was trying to avoid hitting Smith's helmet.

"He saw the ball and he tried to lower his target," Gruden said. "Unfortunately, as he was lowering his target, the receiver fell him and lowered his head also at the same time. It was a bang-bang play."

Meriweather can appeal the suspension. If it is upheld, the Redskins will have few options at an already thin position for the start of the regular season. Safety Phillip Thomas' status is in doubt after he reinjured his left foot, and fellow backup Bacarri Rambo has not tackled well in the open field. Ryan Clark is the other starter.

## Raiders QB Schaub out again with sore elbow

Oakland Raiders quarterback Matt Schaub missed his second straight day of practice Monday with a sore throwing elbow that has lingered throughout the preseason.

Rookie Derek Carr took first-

team snaps for a second straight day with Schaub serving as a spectator.

Schaub's status for Thursday night's exhibition finale against Seattle remains up in the air but he and coach Dennis Allen said they are confident he will be healthy enough to start the season opener Sept. 7 against the New York Jets.

"It's been something that's been around and we've been managing it and taking care of it," Schaub said. "It just got to a point where we need to figure out what is really happening and just take care of it."

Schaub said he has never dealt with this kind of soreness in his right elbow before but said he had no concerns that it would impact him this year.

## Giants G Schwartz out with dislocated big toe

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — New York Giants left guard Geoff Schwartz has a dislocated right big toe and will be in a walking boot for a week to 10 days.

The Giants announced on Tuesday that Schwartz was examined by Dr. Robert Anderson in Charlotte, North Carolina, and that

he will be evaluated weekly. The team did not indicate how long he will be sidelined.

Schwartz, who signed a four-year, \$16.8 million contract in the offseason, will begin rehabilitation after he gets out of the boot. He was hurt in Friday's game against the Jets.

"This is just a minor setback," Schwartz said. "I plan on attacking the rehab program so I can get back on the field as soon as possible with my teammates and help us win games."

## Lawyer: Gordon's DWI case is rescheduled

RALEIGH, N.C. — The attorney for Josh Gordon said the hearing for the Cleveland Browns receiver on a drunken-driving charge in North Carolina has been rescheduled for Nov. 18.

Gordon was due to appear in Wake County court Tuesday on charges of driving while impaired and speeding. Attorney Terry Fitzgugh said Gordon had a waiver to miss the pretrial appearance and the case is continued.

Gordon was arrested July 5 in Raleigh after being pulled for going 50 mph in a 35 mph zone.

He is still waiting to hear on whether he'll be suspended for all or part of the upcoming season for violating the league's substance-abuse program. The Pro Bowler led the NFL with 1,646 yards receiving last year.

## Roster moves

■ Receivers Joe Adams and Alec Lemon were among nine players released by the Houston Texans on Monday.

■ Safety Omar Brown and wide receiver LaQuan Williams are among 12 players cut by the Baltimore Ravens.

■ Kicker Jay Feely, quarterback Ryan Lindley and tackle Max Starks were among 13 players released by the Arizona Cardinals on Monday.

■ The Detroit Lions have decided to give seventh-round pick Nate Freese a chance to kick for them this season. Detroit cut kicker Giorgio Tavecchio, who was competing with Freese for the job.

■ The Kansas City Chiefs have waived offensive tackle Ryan McKeen and defensive backs Kevin Rutland and Diamond Smith on Tuesday to reach the 75-man roster limit. McKeen was trying to make a comeback in the NFL after spending last season working as an assistant coach at North Carolina.

■ Indianapolis waived 11 players Monday including safety David Sims, who was originally signed by the New York Giants as an undrafted rookie in 2011.

■ The Tennessee Titans waived 12 players on Monday including linebackers Kendrick Adams and Jonathan Willard.

■ Wide receiver Lamar Thomas, running back Terrance Cobb and injured cornerback Deion Belue were waived by the Jacksonville Jaguars. Also, the team is expected to place cornerback Aaron Colvin on the non-football injury list Tuesday. Colvin was not cut against the 75-player roster teams must be at by 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

■ The Buffalo Bills signed quarterback Jordan Palmer on Tuesday, two days after being cut by the Chicago Bears. Palmer lost the battle with Timmy Clausen to be the backup to Jay Cutler.

In five NFL seasons, Palmer has appeared in just four games and completed 10 of 15 passes for 59 yards and two interceptions.

The signing comes two days before the Bills (1-3) close their preseason hosting the Detroit Lions (2-1) on Thursday. Buffalo opens the season at Chicago on Sept. 7.

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## MLB

# Five HRs help O's snap losing skid

## AL East leader recovers from woeful weekend

By DAVID GINSBURG

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Baltimore Orioles have a knack for moving forward instead of looking back, a trait that just might be more important than their home-run power and solid pitching.

"The strength of his team is the ability to forget," center fielder Adam Jones said after Baltimore snapped a three-game losing streak with a 9-1 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday night.

Delmon Young, J.J. Hardy and Chris Davis homered in succession during a six-run fifth inning as the AL East-leading Orioles bounced back from a lamentable weekend in which they totaled only four runs and 13 hits in three losses to the last-place Chicago Cubs.

"Something happens, forget it, move on," Jones said. "It's three games. Flip 'em hooray. It's not the end of the world."

Baltimore hit five homers in all against the Rays, four off rookie Jake Odorizzi (9-11). Nick Markakis and Steve Pearce delivered back-to-back shots in the third to spark the Orioles to their ninth win in 13 games against Tampa Bay this season.

"It's good because it seemed like y'all went in panic mode when we got swept in Chicago," Young said. "We weren't scoring many runs, but it happens and then we're back in our division at home facing a guy we've seen before, a team we play, we know their tendencies and everything. And we've got better facilities here than Wrigley."

Chris Tillman (11-5) yielded an unearned run and three hits in seven innings. He is 4-0 in eight

starts since July 18.

"All our pitchers have been good," Hardy said, "but every fifth day when he takes the mound we feel like we've got a great chance to win."

Baltimore led 3-1 before pulling away in the fifth. Three straight singles produced a run before Young hit a three-run drive to left. Hardy chased Odorizzi with a shot to center, and Davis greeted Kirby Yates with his 22nd home run.

It was the first time since May 2012 that the Orioles homered in three successive at-bats.

Odorizzi yielded eight runs and 11 hits, both career highs, as were the four home runs.

"Jake has been hit a little bit this year, but he hasn't been hit like that in a long while," manager Joe Maddon said.

Odorizzi said: "It was an overall lousy night. I'm frustrated because I feel like I let the guys down. We need every win we can get now and I didn't keep us in the game."

Not unlike the Orioles, the Rays sought to quickly put this one behind them.

"We just take this one and throw it in the trash and come back tomorrow," Maddon said.

The Orioles added a fielding gem in the sixth when Jones made a leaping catch at the wall to rob Evan Longoria of a homer. Jones then threw out Matt Joyce, who tagged up from first base.

After the Rays scored in the third, Baltimore went up 3-1 in the bottom half. Markakis snapped an 0-for-21 skid with a two-run drive and Pearce followed with his 15th homer, the fourth in his past eight games.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

The Orioles' Nick Markakis high-fives teammates in the dugout after hitting a two-run home run in the third inning Monday against the Tampa Bay Rays in Baltimore. The Orioles won 9-1.



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

The Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton celebrates his three-run home run against the Angels during the fourth inning Monday in Anaheim, Calif. The Marlins won 7-1 to drop the Angels into a tie for the AL West.

## Roundup

# Marlins drop Angels into tie

By JOE RESNICK

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — In the first regular-season showdown between two of baseball's brightest young stars, Giancarlo Stanton upstaged Mike Trout with one very loud swing.

The Miami Marlins' slugger hit a three-run homer, highlighting their 7-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Monday night.

The loss dropped the Angels back into a tie for the AL West lead with Oakland, which won 8-2 in Houston.

Stanton and Trout entered the final interleague series of the season for both clubs leading their respective leagues in extra-base hits and total bases. Stanton also tops the NL in homers, RBIs, on-base percentage and slugging percentage. Trout, runner-up in AL MVP voting each of the past two seasons, was this year's All-Star game MVP.

"It's cool, but I wasn't anticipating it or circling it on the schedule or anything like that," Stanton said. "I was looking forward more to seeing my family than seeing him."

Jarrod Cosart (2-1) allowed a run and seven hits over 7 2/3 innings. He struck out four in his fourth outing since he was acquired from Houston at the July 31 trade deadline. The right-hander, who was 9-7 with the Astros, lost his shutout bid in the eighth on an RBI double by Kole Calhoun.

"I tried to attack the strike zone, first and foremost," Cosart said. "That's one of the best lineups in the game, and you know the names on the backs of the jerseys in the middle of it. So if you get those guys out and get complacent, then the bottom of the order can hurt you. Then when they flip it back

over, you're in a world of hurt."

Christian Yelich, a native of Thousand Oaks, Calif., and a product of the baseball camp run by Angels manager Mike Scioscia, was 3-for-5 with a pair of RBI singles and a double.

Wade LeBlanc (0-1) was charged with six runs and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings as a replacement for Garrett Richards, out for the season because of a torn patellar tendon in his left knee. This was LeBlanc's first big league start since May 6, 2013, when he lost at San Diego while pitching for the Marlins.

**Yankees 6, Royals 1:** Derek Jeter drove in two runs in his final scheduled trip to Kauffman Stadium, backing a sharp outpump from Michael Pineda and helping the Yankees beat the Royals for their fifth straight win.

Jacoby Ellsbury drove in a run in the seventh inning with the 1,000th hit of his career, then added a two-run homer in the ninth. Stephen Drew and Martin Prado also homered.

**Cardinals 3, Pirates 2:** Matt Holliday's two-run single in the seventh inning off Jared Hughes capped a late rally for visiting St. Louis.

Jon Jay's pinch-hit single tied the game with two outs in the seventh and Holliday followed with a sharp single to left off Hughes (6-4) to score Jay and Matt Carpenter.

**Athletics 8, Astros 2:** Jeff Samardzija pitched eight solid innings and Josh Donaldson drove in three runs to lead visiting Oakland.

Samardzija (4-3) allowed six hits, two runs and tied a season high with 10 strikeouts to bounce back from a two-game skid in which he yielded 11 runs combined. The right-hander was 2-7

with the Chicago Cubs before an early July trade.

**Phillies 3, Nationals 2:** A.J. Burnett struck out 12 in seven innings and Cody Asche and Carlos Ruiz homered to lead host Philadelphia.

**Red Sox 4, Blue Jays 3 (10):** Yoenis Cespedes singled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning and the Red Sox survived a ninth-inning collapse to beat host Toronto, snapping their losing streak at eight games.

Cespedes has 19 RBIs in 22 games since being traded to Boston on July 31.

**Rockies 3, Giants 2:** Tyler Matzek struck out seven in seven innings to end a five-start losing streak, and visiting Colorado capitalized on San Francisco's mistakes.

The Rockies have won four straight in San Francisco for the first time in club history.

**Brewers 10, Padres 1:** Ryan Braun and Aramis Ramirez homered to back Kyle Lohse's six effective innings as Milwaukee routed San Diego for its fifth straight road win.

Lohse (12-7) allowed a run and four hits in his first start since spraining his right ankle on Aug. 13. He beat the Padres for the fourth straight time.

**Rangers 2, Mariners 0:** Miles Mikolas allowed three hits in eight innings, J.P. Arenchibia singled home the go-ahead run in the fourth and Texas blanked host Seattle in the opener of a three-game set.

Mikolas (2-5) faced two batters more than the minimum, erasing two of the three hits he allowed with double plays. The right-hander struck out five and walked one. It was the first time Mikolas did not permit a run in 10 career starts.



# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## CONFERENCE PREVIEWS

### Sun Belt

# Favored Cajuns still all the rage

By **BRETT MARTEL**  
The Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS** — The Sun Belt Conference has lost a member and gained four new ones since last season. Unchanged are the expectations for defending champion Louisiana-Lafayette. The Ragin' Cajuns are favored to take the title again in 2014.

In the three seasons with Mark Hudspeth as coach, the Cajuns have won no fewer than nine games and finished with a New Orleans Bowl victory.

"We know you, being the favorite, we're going to get everybody's best shot every week, so we better come to play to match that intensity and hopefully surpass it," Hudspeth said. "It's going to be quite a challenge, but I really believe with the veteran team we have we're up to that challenge."

The Sun Belt veterans include senior dual-threat quarterback Terrance Broadway, the league preseason offensive player of the year, who also made the Davey O'Brien Award watch list.

Also returning on offense is running back Alonzo Harris, a Doak Walker watch list candidate.

"We're looking to translate that on the field," Broadway said.

**Season outlook:** Watch in the new-look Sun Belt.

**Momentum:** South Alabama was in only its first season of bowl eligibility last season and went 6-6 after closing 2013 on a three-game winning streak, including a 30-8 demolition of Louisiana-Lafayette. Now the Jaguars are among the favorites to challenge ULL for the league title.

**Famous name:** The Sun Belt lost one Petrino after losing to another Petrino, Matty Padgett, in a game with Western Kentucky in 2013 before heading back to Louisville as the Hilltoppers left the league. But Idaho's arrival as a full Sun Belt member brings Petrino's brother, Paul, The Vandals, picked ninth in the preseason coaches' poll, are banned from postseason play because of past academic performance.

**On the rise:** In addition to ULL's Harris, the preseason Doak Walker Award watch list includes three other Sun Belt running backs: Appalachian State's Marcus Cox, Arkansas State's Michael Gordon and Texas State's Robert Lowe.

**Moving up:** Two of the Sun Belt's new members, Appalachian State and Georgia Southern, have moved up after decades as dominant forces at the FCS level. Georgia Southern won six national titles, while Appalachian State won three.

**Coaching carousel:** Arkansas State, which tied ULL for the conference title last season, has its fourth new coach in four years. Former North Carolina offensive coordinator Blake Anderson takes over for Bryan Harsin, who left for Boise State. The Red Wolves were coached by Mississippi's Hugh Freeze in 2011 and Auburn's Gus Malzahn in 2012.

**Seeing respect:** In 2013, the Sun Belt was among the top mid-major conferences, going 8-1 against Conference USA, the Mountain West and MAC. This year, the Sun Belt champion is eligible for a New Year's Day bowl but will have to also play well enough to earn a bid to a bowl. In 2011, it had one bowl tie-in: the New Orleans Bowl. Now, with the new College Football Playoff bringing the chance for a New Year's Day bowl bid, the Sun Belt has affiliations with up to four bowls. The New Orleans, GoDaddy and Camellia bowls are the others.

#### Predicted order of finish:

1. Louisiana-Lafayette; 2. Arkansas State; 3. South Alabama; 4. Troy; 5. Louisiana-Monroe; 6. Texas State; 7. Appalachian State; 8. Georgia Southern; 9. Idaho; 10. Georgia State; 11. New Mexico State.



GAL BURTON/AP

**Quarterback Rakeem Cato is one of the reasons Marshall is the clear favorite in C-USA and a top contender for a CFP bowl berth.**

### Conference USA

# Herd won't shy away from expectations

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
The Associated Press

Marshall coach Doc Holliday likes all that he is hearing about his Thundering Herd in Conference USA.

"People are talking about the way we want to be talked about," said Holliday, whose team is the overwhelming C-USA favorite this season. "We have embraced those expectations as players and coaches, but we also understand that along with those expectations come responsibility."

Especially in the new College Football Playoff. The highest-ranked team from the five mid-major leagues is guaranteed a spot in one of the CFP's six bowl games with teams from the five power conferences.

"We've got a seat at the table if we just take care of business," Holliday said.

Marshall is led by quarterback Rakeem Cato and defensive lineman James Rouse, the C-USA preseason player of the year.

Cato has 10,176 yards passing in his career, with touchdowns in 32 consecutive games — and he worked this offseason to improve his deep throws. Rouse is one of eight returning starters on a defense that drastically improved last season, when Marshall won 10 games and the C-USA East title but lost at Rice in the league championship game.

"I'm just working hard," Cato said. "I'm just finding new ways to get myself better and get everybody around me on the same page I'm on."

So be ready to watch in Conference USA.

**More changes:** For the third season in a row, Conference USA has a different makeup. There are 13 football teams this season, with the additions of Old Dominion and Western Kentucky after the departures of Tulsa, Tulane and East Carolina. Charlotte will

### Mid-American Conference

# Are Huskies again top dog?

By **NOAH TRISTER**  
The Associated Press

A bump in the road or a changing of the guard? Northern Illinois arrived in Detroit for last year's Mid-American Conference championship game with an undefeated record, but the Huskies lost 47-27 to Bowling Green, ending their shot at a third straight league title.

Star quarterback Jordan Lynch has moved on to the NFL, and Northern Illinois is expected to face a significant challenge in the MAC's West division from Toledo.

The Huskies have represented the conference well, reaching the Orange Bowl at the end of the 2012 season, but the rest of the MAC has to feel as if there's now an opening at the top.

"This year is so much different than last year because we have so many people in different roles," Huskies coach Rod Carey said. "We're always changing. Hopefully it's a good change."

Don't write off Northern Illinois just yet. The showdown with Toledo — which may decide the division title — will be a home game for the Huskies.

And although Lynch is gone, Northern Illinois has had to replace top talent before and succeeded anyway. Chandler Harnish of the Huskies was the MAC's offensive player of the year in 2011 before Lynch won the award the past two seasons.

Some things to watch in the MAC this year:

**New stars:** Lynch was outplayed in last season's title game by Matt Johnson, and now the Bowling Green quarterback is the man dealing with all the hype as the season approaches. Johnson is on the preseason watch list for the Walter Camp Award, which goes to the nation's best player. Also keep an eye on Ball State running back Jahwan Edwards.

**Tough act to follow:** Lynch finished third in the Heisman Trophy vote in 2013, part of a remarkable 12 months in which the MAC also had a team (Northern Illinois) in a BCS bowl and a player (Central Michigan's Eric Fisher) picked No. 1 in the NFL draft. That stretch will be tough to top.

**Home cooking:** MAC schools always play their share of big-name opponents, but it's not new every one of them has a chance to do so at home. Toledo hosts Missouri on Sept. 6, and Buffalo hosts Baylor on Sept. 12. Massachusetts will play at home against Boston College and Colorado early in the season.

**Taking over:** There are four new coaches in the MAC since the end of the 2013 regular season — Dino Babers at Bowling Green, Chuck Martin at Miami of Ohio, Chris Creighton at Eastern Michigan and Mark Whipple at Massachusetts. Babers takes over the defending MAC champion after leading Eastern Illinois to a quarterfinal appearance in the Football Championship Subdivision.

**On the rise?:** Akron had lost 19 straight conference games before winning four of five down the stretch last season — a breakthrough that was perhaps foreshadowed by the Zips' near-upset of Michigan in September. Eight offensive starters return for coach Terry Bowden's team.

**West race:** Northern Illinois has played in the MAC title game the past four seasons, largely at the expense of Toledo, which has had its share of good teams as well over that span. Can the Rockets unseat the Huskies atop the West? Toledo returns 10 starters on defense, and Northern Illinois returns nine on offense. The teams meet Nov. 11.

#### Predicted order of finish:

- East — 1. Bowling Green; 2. Buffalo; 4. Kent State; 5. Ohio; 6. Miami (OH); 7. Massachusetts.

- West — 1. Northern Illinois; 2. Toledo; 3. Ball State; 4. Central Michigan; 5. Western Michigan; 6. Eastern Michigan.

**Title game winner:** Northern Illinois



# COLLEGE FOOTBALL



CHUCK LIDDY, RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER/MCT

East Carolina wide receiver Justin Hardy (2) and quarterback Shane Carden (5) celebrate a touchdown against North Carolina in 2013. Hardy needs 84 catches this season to pass Oklahoma's Ryan Broyles (349) for the FBS career record of 349 receptions, which he set in 2011, while Carden could own nearly every school career passing record by the end of the season.

## Pirates' duo chasing treasure

By AARON BEARD  
The Associated Press

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Justin Hardy and Shane Carden started their East Carolina careers working together on the scout team. Four years later, their connection means everything to the Pirates' pass-heavy attack — and has put both fifth-year seniors within reach of all kinds of records.

Hardy, a former walk-on, has the chance to set the bowl subdivision record for career catches and already owns the program record for career receiving yards. Carden, meanwhile, could own nearly every ECU career passing record by the end of the year.

"They were doing it the hard way when none of you guys even knew their name," offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley said. "They're still doing what they're doing, just on a little bit different stage."

The numbers have added up quickly, especially for Hardy.

He has 266 career catches, putting him 84 away from passing Oklahoma's Ryan Broyles (349) for the FBS career record set in 2011. Hardy had 88 catches as a sophomore and 114 as a junior.

"I still have to perform," Hardy said. "I've still got to practice hard. I've still got to practice like my position might get taken, so I'm not really focused on that right now."

Carden, who spent two years on the scout team, was the starting job early in 2012 and led the Pirates' spread offense ever since with Hardy as his go-to target.

That Carden-to-Hardy connection accounted for 1,284 yards last year to rank second among returning quarterback-receiver duos in FBS, according to STATS. Only Baylor's Bryce Petty and Antwan Goodley (1,339 yards) had more.

Carden and Hardy helped ECU average a program-record 40.2 points in the program's first 10-win season since 1991. That included road routs of Atlantic Coast Conference programs North Carolina and North Carolina State.

"That combo was as good as we saw at any point during the season," said Dan Disch, the Tar Heels' defensive coordinator and cornerbacks coach. "They both can give you fits, man."

Hardy's improbable climb began as an overlooked recruit with one Division II scholarship offer out of West Craven, a school running the spread offense about 25 miles southeast of the ECU campus in Vanceboro.

Donnie Kirkpatrick, Hardy's position coach, said the Pirates needed receivers after Ruffin McNeill took over as head coach in January 2010 and installed the spread. The 6-foot Hardy had played quarterback and receiver,

but lacked size or eye-popping speed. The coaches were divided as they compared film of Hardy and another out-of-state receiver so they brought in McNeill to make the call.

McNeill chose Hardy, who arrived that fall and earned a scholarship a year later.

"I'll say we were working hard on it," Kirkpatrick said with a chuckle. "But we got a little lucky, because we just about blew it."

As for Carden, Riley and McNeill had been in contact with the Houston native while they were assistants at Texas Tech before coming to Greenville.

Carden owns the program's top three single-game passing performances — his career high was 480 yards against Tulane in October — as well as its single-season passing yardage mark of 4,139 yards. He ranked in the top 10 nationally in passing yardage and passing touchdowns last year, and is on pace to set the school's career record for both categories.

Neither player talked much about the records ahead, saying they're more focused on the Pirates having a strong debut season in the American Athletic Conference.

"They're certainly in synch," Riley said. "They've got a special relationship, which all great quarterbacks and receivers do."

## American Athletic Conference

# Bearcats prepared to back up boasts

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

Being overlooked won't be a problem for Cincinnati this season.

The Bearcats are favored to win the American Athletic Conference — and loving it.

"As my teammates would say, 'It's about time.'" Cincinnati cornerback Adrian Witty said. "Since we've been here, it's no respect. We're winning. What else more do you want?"

"Here" is the Big East. Or at least it was the Big East. This is Year 2 of the American, the re-incarnated Big East. Cincinnati relocated from Conference USA to the Big East in 2005 and has had only two losing seasons since. Every other year the Bearcats have won at least eight games. They've won double-digits five times, played in two BCS bowls and are 29-9 in the last three years.

So, yes, when the Bearcats bring back 17 starters and hand the quarterback job to former five-star recruit and Notre Dame transfer Gunner Kiel, they are a deserving favorite to win the conference. And with a couple of tough nonconference road games at Ohio State and Miami, the Bearcats set themselves up for a chance to earn a spot in a New Year's bowl.

Some things to know about the AAC this season:

**No showdown:** Cincinnati and defending conference champion Central Florida won't play this season. The 11-team league plays eight conference games, so each team misses two league foes. And the conference championship game doesn't start until next season, when Navy joins to give the AAC 20 six-team divisions. The Bearcats seemed to draw the smoothest path to a title among top contenders with no UCF and Houston and East Carolina at home.

**Replacing Blake:** UCF QB Blake Bortles was the No. 3 overall pick in the NFL Draft. He'll be tough to replace. Likely getting

**Predicted order of finish:**

1. Cincinnati;
2. Houston;
3. Central Florida;
4. South Florida;
5. East Carolina;
6. Memphis;
7. SMU;
8. Tulsa;
9. Temple;
10. Tulane;
11. Connecticut.



the first crack will be sophomore Justin Holman. Also getting a look are redshirt freshman Pete DiMarco, freshman Tyler Harris, and Boise State transfer Nick Patti, who is from Orlando. SMU is the other team in the AAC replacing a star quarterback after Garrett Gilbert's departure.

**Welcome:** Tulane, Tulane and East Carolina join the AAC this season, three more Conference USA imports. Tulsa is coming off a tremendously disappointing season, going 3-9 after being picked as one of the favorites in C-USA. Tulane was one of last season's surprises, going 7-6. East Carolina has some retooling to do, but is expected to be the best of the newcomers, a league title contender.

**Hold that line:** Memphis is taking small steps forward under third-year coach Justin Fuente. If the Tigers take a big leap, they'll be led by one of the better defensive lines outside the Big Five conferences. DE Martin Iedeh had 11 1/2 sacks last season, and DE Ricky Hunter and NT Terry Redden are potential all-conference players.

**Sophomore stars:** Big things are expected from two sophomore quarterbacks who burst onto the scene as freshmen in 2013. Houston's John O'Korn threw for 3,117 yards and 28 touchdowns as the Cougars bounced back from a down 2012 to win eight games. He also has the best group of receivers in the conference, led by Deontay Greenberry.

Temple's P.J. Walker threw for 2,082 yards and 20 TDs and ran for 332 yards. He gives the Owls hope for a big bounce back from 2-10 in coach Matt Rhule's first season.

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# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## COACHES ON THE RISE

By RALPH D. Russo  
The Associated Press

Now that Chris Petersen has left Boise State for Washington, college football needs another coach from outside the so-called Big 5 conferences that will have his name come up for almost every big job. Six coaches whose names are likely to come up often when the jobs start coming open this season.



**Matt Campbell, Toledo**

At 34 years old, Campbell begins his third full season as the Rockets' coach and is still one of the youngest head coaches in the country. The former quarterback at Division III powerhouse Mount Union is 17-9 with the Rockets, who are expected to contend for a MAC title again. If he's not coaching in a Big 5 conference before he's 40, it'll be surprising.



**Doc Holliday, Marshall**

It's taken a few years for Holliday, a native of Hurricane, W.Va., to sort things out at Marshall but he's got it rolling now. The Thundering Herd went 10-4 last season and is primed for another big year in Conference USA. The 57-year-old former Mountaineers player and assistant coach also did a stint at Florida under Urban Meyer. If West Virginia were to dive back into the coaching market, Holliday seems like an obvious candidate.



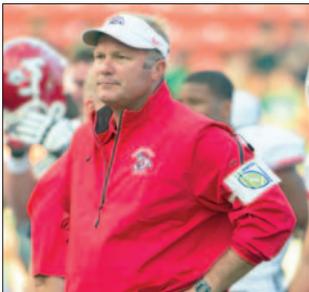
**Mark Hudspeth, Louisiana-Lafayette**

Hudspeth has put up three straight 9-4 seasons in Lafayette, La., and become something of a social media sensation for his impressive work in the weight room — he benches about as much as a linebacker. The Ragin' Cajuns are poised for another big year and with his roots in the south, he seems like a natural to eventually land in the SEC.



**Pete Lembo, Ball State**

Wake Forest and Connecticut both gave Lembo a look after last season. It was a long look from Wake Forest. The 44-year-old Lembo has won everywhere he has been, including 25-13 in three years at Ball State, a program that had cratered before he took over. Lembo signed a new contract this offseason that makes him the highest-paid coach in the MAC. An even bigger payday might not be far away.



**Tim DeRuiter, Fresno State**

The Bulldogs had lost their way. In two years, DeRuiter (20-6) has helped them find it again. Things get tougher this season with quarterback Derek Carr gone and one of the toughest nonconference schedules in the country. If DeRuiter can navigate through those two obstacles and lead Fresno State on another Mountain West title run, interest will be high for the 51-year-old former defensive coordinator.



**Willie Taggart, South Florida**

Taggart's first season with the Bulls started so poorly, he never could dig out. Coming off 2-10 season, some of the shine is off the former Stanford assistant under Jim Harbaugh. Still, the 37-year-old appears to have a bright future and a quick turnaround could put him back on the fast track to bigger things.

# Outside: Realignment favors Power 5 leagues

## FROM BACK PAGE

even if some didn't want to believe it, has now been officially ratified. The NCAA's recent vote to cede the wealthy football leagues autonomy basically codified the divisional lines.

If you didn't find a home before the music stopped, you got left behind. How the shakedown shook out:

### Atlantic Coast

The ACC finally completes its alignment box set by adding Louisville this year. The Cardinals bailed just in time as the Big East dismantled and reformed as a lesser union called the American Athletic Conference. Louisville joins Pittsburgh and Syracuse, which left the Big East last year.

The ACC is set with its 14-school alignment, championship game and protected place in the new College Football Playoff.

### Big Ten

The Big Ten's gurgling stops after adding Maryland from the ACC and Rutgers from the former Big East. The Big Ten now has 14 schools, divided into East and West divisions, a branding improvement from the fiasco of "Leaders" and "Legends" divisions.

Maryland and Rutgers join the more difficult East division, which includes Michigan State, Michigan, Ohio State and Penn State.

This is not Tom Harmon's Big Ten. Michigan's home schedule this year "features" Appalachian State, Miami (Ohio), Utah, Minnesota, Penn State, Indiana and Maryland.

### Big 12

The Big 12 is, well, what it is, stuck at 10 teams after the mid-night exodus of Texas A&M and Missouri to the Southeastern Conference.

Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby admits his league is "numerically challenged," but also happy just to be alive. The upside: His league's playing of a nine-game, round-robin schedule should produce the trustiest champion among the top leagues.

"I like our path to the championship," Bowlsby said of the new four-team playoff. "I think the fact we play everybody in our league is a nuance that is not going to be lost on the selection committee."

The downside for Power Five continuity is the Big 12 does not have enough schools to divide into leagues and play a championship game.

The NCAA requires two divisions of at least six schools. Bowlsby would like to get a waiver from the NCAA to at least explore the possibility of playing a title game with only 10 teams.

It makes sense the Big 12 might eventually add two schools to match the number on its masthead. Connecticut, Cincinnati and Central Florida might want to see that happen.

### Pac-12, SEC

The Pac-12 and SEC are locked and loaded. The addition of Utah and Colorado has not yet significantly enhanced the Pac 12, but it did allow the league to split into divisions and make more money with a title game. Missouri and Texas A&M have, surprisingly, added football left to the now 14-team SEC.

The Pac-12, SEC and Big Ten are the bedrocks as they have never. In modern times, lost a school to another corporate raider.

## Realignment scorecard

The cutthroat expansion game left a clear-cut list of winners and losers:

### Winners



**Notre Dame.** The Irish get the best of everything as they are allowed to remain football independent while playing five annual games against the ACC. Notre Dame also has contracted tie-ins to the Orange Bowl and ACC bowl roster.



**Texas Christian, Utah and Rutgers.** The first two escaped the Mountain West just before the iron curtain came down. TCU found a comfortable home in the Big 12, while Utah hit the hal-lelujah highway with its last-second invite to the Pac 12 after plans for 16 teams was scrapped.



Rutgers, really, is Big Ten-worthy? And they said pigs would fly first.

### Losers



**Brigham Young?** We could be wrong here, but the Cougars' decision to go independent in football could be a reach in the playoff era. BYU has a special niche and following, but it is not Notre Dame.



**Connecticut.** The Huskies are a former Big East football program that got boxed out,



mainly because of politics and foot-dragging, from following Syracuse and Pittsburgh to the expanded ACC.



**Boise State.** The Broncos had an incredible run in a BCS system that was stacked against teams in mid-major conferences. Boise tried to make a run for the Big East but was forced back to the Mountain West after the Big East collapsed.



**Bowlsby**

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## NONPOWER 5 CONFERENCE TEAMS TO WATCH

By STEVE MEGARGEY  
The Associated Press

The BCS may be a thing of the past, but there's still room in the new system for a variation of the traditional "BCS buster."

College football's new postseason format guarantees one team from the American Athletic Conference, Mountain West, Conference USA, Mid-American Conference or Sun Belt a spot in the Peach, Fiesta or Cotton bowls, assuming one of those teams doesn't end up in a national semifinal.

Here's a look at six contenders to earn that coveted invitation.



**Boise State**  
The most famous BCS buster of all now will try to have similar post-season fortune in the post-BCS world. Boise State went 8-5 last fall — matching its combined loss total from the previous five seasons — and watched former coach Chris Petersen leave for Washington after the season. But the Broncos still should compete with Utah State for the Mountain West title. If the Broncos upset Ole Miss in Atlanta on Aug. 28, they ought to be favored in the rest of their games.



**UCF**  
The reigning Fiesta Bowl champions will try to defend their American Athletic Conference title without quarterback Blake Bortles, selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars with the third overall pick in the draft. But the Knights return most of last year's defense, making a third straight season of at least 10 wins a distinct possibility. The toughest part of the schedule is early, as four of the first five games are home matchups with Penn State and BYU plus visits to Missouri and Houston.



**Bowling Green**  
Quarterback Matt Johnson and running back Travis Greene return after helping the Falcons go 10-4 and win a Mid-American Conference title last season. Bowling Green has enough talent to at least match that success this year under new coach Dino Babers, who took over after Wake Forest hired away Dave Clawson. Bowling Green will be a heavy underdog Sept. 20 at Wisconsin and also has a tricky game Nov. 19 at Toledo.



**Cincinnati**  
The Bearcats have won at least 10 games five of the last seven years and were picked to win the American Athletic Conference by the league's media. Cincinnati returns 16 starters from last year's 9-4 team and also welcomes Notre Dame transfer runner Kiel at quarterback. Cincinnati's tough nonconference schedule includes trips to Ohio State and Miami. Cincinnati and UCF — the likely top two teams in the American — don't face each other.



**Utah State**  
The Aggies' hopes could hinge on whether star quarterback Chuckie Keeton returns to peak form after tearing two knee ligaments last October. Utah State went 9-5 and won the Poinsettia Bowl last season even though the injury limited Keeton to just six games. The Aggies were 11-2 in 2012 when Keeton played a full season. The bad news for Utah State is that Keeton will be working behind a line that has only one returning starter. Utah State's season opener at Tennessee gives the Aggies a chance to get some national attention early.



**Marshall**  
The combination of a star quarterback (Rakeem Cat) and a favorable schedule have Marshall fans dreaming of the type of season they haven't enjoyed since the Chad Pennington or Byron Leftwich years. Cat led Marshall to a 10-4 record and a Military Bowl victory last season. The Thundering Herd should be favored in every game this season. Their road schedule includes FBS newcomer Old Dominion and five teams — Akron, Miami (Ohio), FIU, Southern Miss and UAB — that went combined 9-51 last season.



ELI LUCERO, THE HERALD JOURNAL/AP

Utah State quarterback Chuckie Keeton is back in form after tearing his ACL in the sixth game of last season. The Aggies were 11-2 in 2012 when he played a full season.



OTTO KITSINGER/AP

Boise State head coach Bryan Harsin talks to his team after a scrimmage on Aug. 15. The Broncos hired former player Keaton to maintain the program's momentum following Chris Petersen's departure.

## Mountain West Conference preview

# Boise State still contender

### Broncos hoping to maintain success despite coaching change

By JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

The Broncos of Boise State are among the original BCS busters, winning big bowl games and forcing themselves into the national-title conversation.

That was under Chris Petersen. Now, he's gone and so is the BCS.

Filling Petersen's shoes will be Bryan Harsin, the former Broncos player and offensive coordinator who will lead Boise State into the College Football Playoff era. "There's an expectation and a standard that's been set here," Harsin said. "I'd much rather come into that than inherit a rebuild, because your players know that. So we will embrace the past, but we can't rely on that because it's already happened. What are we going to do about it?"

Petersen had been at the helm in Boise since 2006 and put together the most successful run in school history, going 92-12 while winning a pair of BCS bowls before leaving this offseason to become the head coach at Washington.

To keep the momentum rolling, the school brought back Harsin, who helped create the Boise State juggernaut as an assistant coach and offensive coordinator from 2001-10. He spent two seasons as offensive coordinator at Texas and one as the head coach at Arkansas State before returning to his alma mater.

Harsin inherits a team that, by most accounts, underachieved last season, finishing 8-5 and out of the conference championship game.

The Broncos were picked to win the Mountain Division in the preseason media poll and return 13 starters, including eight on defense.

Some things to look for when

the Mountain West Conference kicks off its season on Aug. 28:

**Bulldogs in the West:** Fresno State won the inaugural Mountain West championship game a year ago and is the favorite to get back. If they do get there, it will likely be along a different route.

The Bulldogs lost all-everything quarterback Derek Carr to the NFL, but are loaded with quality defensive players, including don't-dare-throw-it-his-way safety Derron Smith.

**Ready to step up?:** Division favorites Fresno State and Boise State have questions heading into the season, leaving the door open for someone else to rise up. Utah State and San Diego State could be those teams. The Aggies have quarterback Chuckie Keeton and a solid defense, while the Aztecs are loaded with offensive talent.

**Heisman darkhorse:** Utah State got an early start on its Heisman Trophy campaign for Keeton. It was probably a wise move. He threw for 1,385 yards and 18 TDs with two interceptions in five games before having his season cut short by a knee injury. The senior was picked as the conference preseason player of the year.

**Big games:** Some of the top conference games of the season, ones that will likely have a huge impact on who plays in the MWC title game: Colorado State at Boise State, Sept. 6; San Diego State at Fresno State, Oct. 3; Fresno State at Boise State, Oct. 17; Utah State at Colorado State, Oct. 18; San Diego State at Boise State, Nov. 15; Utah State at Boise State, Nov. 29.

**Lobo return specialist:** Teams might want to think twice about kicking to New Mexico's Carlos Wiggins. He was the FBS leader in kick return yardage last season, averaging 29.6 yards, and

returned three for touchdowns to tie a conference record.

**Laramie buzz:** Football fans finally have something to get excited about in Wyoming. The Cowboys have had one winning season in the last nine, but return 17 starters and have a new coach in Craig Bohl, who led North Dakota State to three straight FCS National Championships.

**Fajardo returns:** The Mountain West lost some of its best quarterbacks from a year ago, which should give Nevada an edge with Cody Fajardo returning. He was hobbled by a sprained knee last season, but is the only active FBS quarterback to throw for 7,000 yards and rush for 2,000 career. **RB Kapri Bibbs,** Colorado State made some huge strides scoring last season. Bibbs scored 31 TDs and the Rams set a school record with 26.6 points per game — 15 more than in 2012. Now, about that defense ...

**Looking to rebound:** Air Force and Hawaii were picked last in their respective divisions after struggling last season. The Falcons won two nonconference games before going 0-8 in the MWC to finish 2-10. Hawaii coach Norm Chow could find himself on the hot seat if the Warriors have another season like 2013, when they went 1-11.

### Predicted order of finish:

**Mountain** — 1. Boise State, 2. Utah State, 3. Colorado State, 4. Wyoming; 5. New Mexico; 6. Air Force.

**West** — 1. Fresno State; 2. San Diego State; 3. Nevada; 4. UNLV; 5. San Jose State; 6. Hawaii.

**Title game winner:** Fresno State.



## SPORTS



**Powering through**  
Murray overcomes cramps to win  
opening match | Page 24

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Outside looking in

**Connecticut QB**  
Tim Boyle walks off the field after a 41-16 loss at Cincinnati on Oct. 19. The Huskies were passed over by all five power conferences when realignment drastically changed the college football landscape.

MICHAEL McANDREWS,  
HARTFORD COURANT/HCIT



TED S. WARREN/AP

## UConn left out in power conference shuffle

By CHRIS DUFRESNE  
*Los Angeles Times*

**I**n the children's game of musical chairs, the big loser is the kid who can't find a seat when the music stops. In college football's game of musical chairs, the big loser is probably Connecticut.

Or, in the expanded game, toss in Brigham Young and Boise State with Cincinnati and Central Florida close behind. After years of pillaging, plundering and back-stabbing — some of it during the season!

**Chris Petersen** was a winner in the conference realignment shakeout, leaving Boise State of the Mountain West to become head coach at power-conference member Washington of the Pac 12.

— one of college football's most distasteful chapters is happily ending.

Conference realignment, which dirtied up an entire decade starting with the Atlantic Coast Conference raiding the Big East of Miami, Virginia Tech and Boston College, is finally setting in wet cement.

The irony: It took the league that started it to stop it. The ACC, which somewhat recklessly set off the dominoes when it frontally attacked the Big East, found itself vulnerable after it completed its redesign by adding Pittsburgh, Syracuse and Louisville.

The Big Ten countered by stealing Maryland from the ACC with maybe a thought of going after Georgia Tech. The Big 12, decimated by what the ACC started, might have had a retribution eye on Florida State and/or Clemson.

Last year, though, the ACC effectively stopped this nonsense by getting its members to consent to a "grant of rights" agreement. This means any school that leaves the ACC between now and 2026-27 must surrender all its television rights back to the league.

That is simply not going to happen. Call this positive news the calm in a summer of storms.

There was a heavy price to pay for some, but the final contortions are almost complete.

The divide between the 65 schools in the Power Five conferences and everyone else, which existed before

SEE OUTSIDE ON PAGE 30

### Inside:

- La.-Lafayette class of the Sun Belt, Page 28
- Marshall is elite of C-USA, Page 28
- N. Illinois looks to regain MAC title, Page 28
- Cincinnati finally favored in AAC, Page 29
- ECU QB-WR duo chasing records, Page 29
- Coaches on the rise, Page 30
- Boise St. a contender in MWC, Page 31
- Nonpower conference teams to watch, Page 31

Redskins' Meriweather suspended 2 games  
NFL, Page 25

Orioles hit 5 HRS, snap 3-game skid  
MLB, Pages 26

