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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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# BLIZZARD OR BUST?

- Storm packs a punch in Massachusetts but largely spares New York, Philadelphia
- Forecasters, politicians left apologizing after much-hyped snow projections fizzle

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A member of the New York National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield provides emergency support to first responders in New York City on Monday. The storm heaped snow on Boston, eastern Massachusetts and parts of Long Island on Tuesday, but failed to live up to the hype in Philadelphia and New York City.

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
New York Air National Guard

## Amid Mideast turmoil, Obama signals new push for closer Saudi ties

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — President Barack Obama defended the U.S. government's willingness to cooperate closely with Saudi Arabia on national security despite deep concerns over human rights abuses, as he joined an array of current and former American statesmen Tuesday in paying respects following the death of King Abdullah.

U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia had been strained by Obama's decision not to launch airstrikes against the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad over the use of chemical weapons and by the White House's negotiations on a nuclear deal with the Saudis' archrival Iran. The Saudis also opposed U.S. policy toward the Arab Spring uprisings, accusing Washington of abandoning its

longtime friend Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

However, the rise of the Islamic State group and its battlefield successes in Syria and Iraq have given new importance to shoring up relations with the Saudis, despite ongoing differences such as terrorist funding that flows from the kingdom and Saudi human rights abuses.

SEE TIES ON PAGE 12



President Barack Obama meets new Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday.

CAROLYN KASTER/AP

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"We do not want our past to be our children's future."**

— Holocaust survivor Roman Kent, on the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz Nazi death camp, pleading for world leaders to remember the atrocities there and to fight for tolerance

See story on Page 18

# TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Kunsan-based airman fined for posting revenge porn
2. Michael Moore: 'Haters' have it all wrong on 'American Sniper' comments
3. Former Army sexual assaults prosecutor found guilty of rape
4. Service academies no longer needed
5. At least 10 dead, 21 hurt in crash of F-16 jet at NATO training in Spain

# COMING SOON

Music

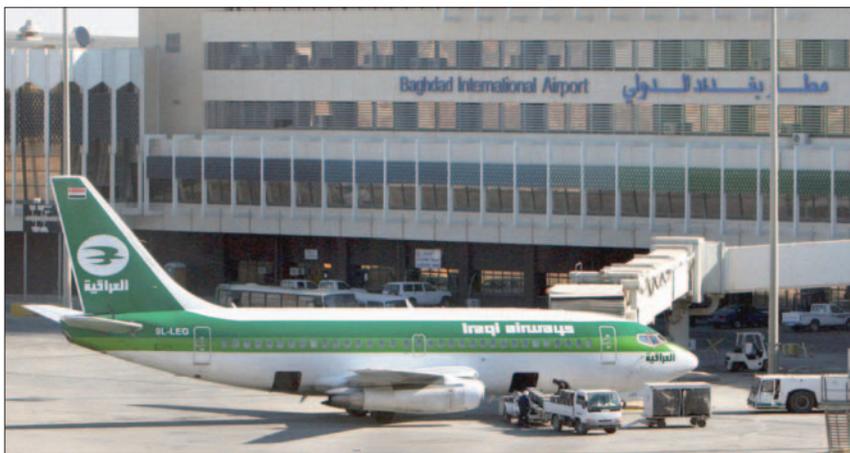
Is it OK these days to lip-synch?



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# WAR/MILITARY



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

An Iraqi Airways plane sits on the tarmac at Baghdad International Airport in Iraq on Dec. 28, 2005. Multiple airlines from the United Arab Emirates said Tuesday they were canceling flights to Baghdad after a passenger plane arriving from Dubai came under fire.

# Airlines halt flights to Baghdad

## No one injured as passenger plane comes under fire after landing in Iraqi capital

By ADAM SCHRECK  
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Several airlines suspended flights to Baghdad on Tuesday after a passenger plane arriving from the Mideast's busiest airport in Dubai came under fire as it landed in the Iraqi capital.

A prolonged suspension of flights could seriously limit travel options for Iraqi travelers and overseas businesspeople, diplomats and aid workers who rely on foreign carriers to deliver them to larger international transit hubs, particularly in the oil-rich Gulf.

Discount carrier FlyDubai said Flight 215 was struck on the fuselage by what appeared to small-arms fire Monday. All passengers were able to disembark normally and none required medical attention, the Dubai government-owned carrier said.

Passengers heading back to Dubai were put on a different plane as an investigation into the incident got underway, the airline said. A FlyDubai flight due to depart to Baghdad on Tuesday was canceled.

Dubai-based Emirates, the region's biggest airline, said it is

suspending flights to and from the Iraqi capital because of "operational and safety concerns" until further notice.

"We remain committed to our customers in Iraq and hope to resume services to Baghdad as soon as operational conditions allow," the airline said in an emailed statement.

Emirates will continue to fly to the northern Iraqi city of Irbil and the southern oil hub of Basra.

Etihad Airways, based in the Emirati capital of Abu Dhabi, said it also was suspending its Baghdad service indefinitely following a directive from the Gulf country's civil aviation authority. Budget carrier Air Arabia, based in the emirate of Sharjah, near Dubai, also confirmed it was suspending flights.

Other regional airlines followed suit.

Both Gulf Air, the national carrier of the island kingdom of Bahrain, and Lebanon's Middle East Airlines canceled their Tuesday flights to Baghdad.

Iraqi officials told The Associated Press that bullets hit the Fly-Dubai flight as it touched down Monday. It was unclear who was behind the shooting and whether the plane was deliberately targeted.

Baghdad International Airport is surrounded by a vast and heavily guarded security perimeter lined with concrete blast walls, making it difficult for insurgents to fire on incoming planes.

Last year, several airlines re-routed flights that pass through Iraqi airspace but aren't bound for the country as a precaution against Islamic State militants, who have seized large parts of the north and west of Iraq.

## Correction

A Jan. 26 story about whether basing cuts in Europe could sway Congress to approve military base closures in the U.S. misidentified the Association of Defense Communities. The ADC is a membership organization that represents military communities.



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## MILITARY

# Retired generals urge senators to lift spending cap

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Top retired military commanders on Tuesday warned the Senate that it should lift a mandatory cap on defense spending this year or put at risk military readiness as the world enters a new era of widespread conflict.

Retired Marine Gen. James Mattis, a former commander of U.S. Central Command, and former Army Chief of Staff Gen. John Keane testified against the budget caps and outlined the increasing dangers before the Senate Armed Services Committee at the behest of new chairman Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who is pressing for more defense dollars and deeper military intervention abroad.

The hearing comes as the White House and Defense Department prepared to release proposed annual budgets Monday that will include a spending cap resulting from sequestration and a political fight over cuts to troop benefits. Many lawmakers in the Senate and House say the modest \$1.7 billion increase to the cap of the \$523 billion 2016 defense budget should be removed to allow bigger increases.

"No nation in history has maintained its military power but failed to keep its fiscal house in order," Mattis said.

But Congress' agreement to cut defense dollars was meant to force wise choices on reducing spending and "it has failed in that regard," he said.

Spending caps are set to kick in across the federal government next fall as a way to decrease the nation's debt and will remain in place in the next decade, keeping defense spending to increases of about 2 percent.

With the fiscal 2016 budget proposals next week, Congress, the Obama administration and the DOD are set to begin another grappling match over whether military personnel expenditures such as pay, retirement and benefits should be slashed. The Pen-

tagon has argued those costs are ballooning and will crowd out other needs.

Mattis said the DOD cap should be repealed because it is sapping troop morale and causing uncertainty within the military.

Sen. Tim Wainwright, D-Va., said Congress and the military should first develop a foreign policy strategy and then come up with the money to cover it, but the spending limit is upending that process. "It has been allowing budgetary indecision to drive strategy, and that is the worst thing to do," Keane said.

The testimony also included comments from former CENTCOM commander Adm. William "Fox" Fallon, who said bickering over budget issues could raise doubts among American allies abroad.

Meanwhile, the cap comes as the United States is facing an array of global threats — Islamic radicalism, a resurgent Russia, a nuclear-armed Iran, a rising China — that has not been seen since the rise of the USSR during the Cold War, Keane said.

He told the Senate defense oversight panel that the country should generally take a more active military role around the world, including sending some ground troops to direct airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

"The removal of combat troops and planned drawdown of advisory forces in Afghanistan could be premature and thus create instability in the future, Keane said.

"How can we not learn the obvious and painful lesson from Iraq," he asked, and avoid pulling military forces according to a political time line.

President Barack Obama and his administration have "adopted a cheap fatalism" in claiming the various conflicts around the world have no military solution, McCain said in a statement submitted for the record. The senator was in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday and could not chat the hearing.

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## EOD command master chief relieved of duties

A command master chief officer was relieved of his duties Friday because of misconduct, Navy officials said in a news release.

A Navy investigation determined that Command Master Chief Petty Officer Bryan Bymer, of Virginia Beach, Va.-based Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 12, admitted to fraternization at a previous duty station.

The incident occurred before Bymer's promotion to command master chief petty officer, Navy spokesman Lt. Liza Dougherty told the Navy Times.

The publication also reported that Bymer's previous post was on Guam.

Bymer has been temporarily reassigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 2, and a replacement command master chief for EOD Mobile Unit 12 has not yet been named, the release said.

From staff reports



DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA/AP

Investigators work around the wreckage of planes the day after a crash at Los Llanos Air Base, Spain, on Tuesday. The death toll from the crash of a Greek F-16 fighter jet during a NATO pilot training program rose to 11 after a French airman who suffered serious burns died, Spain's Defense Ministry said.

## US airmen suffer minor injuries in Greek F-16 crash that killed 11

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
AND ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — About 80 airmen from RAF Lakenheath, England, are participating in the multinational exercise in Spain that was the scene Monday of a plane crash that killed 11 military personnel.

No Americans died, but Air Force officials say eight U.S. airmen with Lakenheath's 492nd Fighter Squadron suffered minor injuries, including scrapes, burns and smoke inhalation.

At least one of the squadron's three F-15E Strike Eagles deployed to Spain for the exercise was damaged in the crash, a Lakenheath spokesman wrote in an email. Another "is in such close proximity to the crash site that we haven't been able to assess damage yet."

There was no word as of early Tuesday afternoon whether, in wake of the crash, the exercise would continue or the airmen would return to England.

A Greek F-16 fighter jet lost thrust while taking off and crashed into five parked planes on the ground Monday at Los Llanos Air Base in southeastern Spain, according to The Associated Press.

In addition to the two Greek pilots aboard the two-seater jet, nine French airmen were killed.

The initial death toll was 10 but a French airman died from severe burns at Madrid's La Paz hospital, the Spanish Ministry of Defense said Tuesday.

Twenty people, French and Italian citizens, were injured and four remained hospitalized Tuesday in Madrid undergoing treatment for severe burns, the ministry said, according to the AP.

The crash, which is under investigation, triggered a series of explosions and a fire that took about an hour to put out, the AP reported.

Authorities were not able to retrieve the bodies of the 10 people killed at the scene by Tuesday afternoon because workers were cleaning up toxic fuel, the AP reported, quoting Capt. Jose Guerrer, an air force spokesman.

Three French jets and two Italian jets were damaged. A statement from Italy's Defense Ministry said "numerous" helicopters were damaged, according to the AP.

The aircraft and military personnel were taking part in the Tactical Leadership Program, a multinational effort formed in

1978 to enhance key leadership and mission planning skills needed for NATO operations, according to the U.S. Air Force.

On Tuesday, Gen. Frank Gorenc, U.S. Air Forces in Europe/Air Forces Africa and NATO Air Command commander, extended "deepest and heart-felt condolences" to the exercise partners involved in the aircraft accident.

"Once again, this tragic event highlights the significant cost and personal sacrifice made every day by allies and partners alike in the pursuit of the capability and interoperability necessary to assure and deter," he said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of those who perished."

The 10 NATO countries participating in the program are Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States.

The exercise began Jan. 19 at Los Llanos Air Base near the city of Albacete and is scheduled to run until mid-February, said Capt. Sybil Taunton, a spokesman for U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Africa. It's been held in Spain since 2009.

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## Airman fined in S. Korea for posting sex video

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
AND YOOK KYONG CHANG  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A 25-year-old Korean-based airman has been fined for posting a sex video online after recording it without his partner's permission.

On Jan. 13, the Jeonju District Court fined the dual U.S.-South Korean citizen 2 million won, or about \$1,848, and ordered him to attend a 16-hour sexual violence

therapy program for breaking a South Korean law concerning violent sexual crimes, according to sentencing documents.

Using his cellphone, the airman shot an approximately 20-second video of himself and a 25-year-old South Korean woman having sex in a hotel in July 2013. He posted the video on two websites in September and October 2014 after becoming angry at the woman.

The court said it determined

the airman's sentence because he confessed to posting the video, expressed deep regret and asked the websites to delete the video, according to the sentencing documents.

A court officer said the airman's full identity is not being released in order to protect his privacy. No military charges have been filed against him.

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MILITARY

# AFN technician's fate now in hands of military panel

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** — A panel of officers and enlisted began deliberations Tuesday in the trial of Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver, who is charged with killing one of his American Forces Network colleagues.

Government and defense lawyers delivered more than four hours of closing arguments Tuesday after two weeks of testimony that included Oliver taking the stand.

Oliver, an AFN technician, is charged with premeditated murder, making false official statements, obstructing justice and aggravated assault.

The panel, composed of four officers and six enlisted members, is similar to a civilian jury. However, unlike a civilian jury, which must reach a unanimous decision in criminal cases, only two-thirds

of the military panel must return a guilty verdict for a conviction.

If the panel finds Oliver not guilty of premeditated murder, it can still find him guilty of a lesser offense, ranging from unpremeditated murder to involuntary manslaughter.

During testimony Friday, Oliver acknowledged lying to German and Air Force investigators who questioned him after he was stopped by police early in the morning of Dec. 14, 2013. At that time, police found the body of Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov in the passenger seat of his car.

Independent autopsies by German and U.S. military authorities both found that Chepusov, a Navy broadcaster with AFN, died as a result of strangulation. Oliver testified that he choked Chepusov after a night of drinking but did not intend to kill him.

Oliver said he suspected Che-

pusov was dead and was on his way to dump the sailor's body when he was pulled over by police.

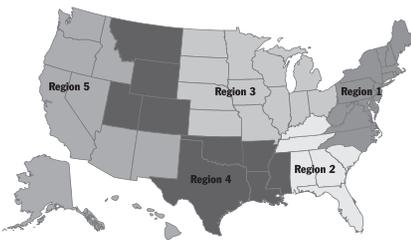
Two of the charges against Oliver — aggravated assault and one obstruction charge — stem from a separate incident in Ohio from 2012. Oliver testified he attacked a former friend who was dating his estranged wife. The former friend, in a video deposition, said Oliver agreed to stop attacking him only after he agreed not to press charges.

Air Force Judge (Col) Donald Eller told the panel to take as long as they needed to reach a verdict. The panel deliberated for nearly three hours Tuesday afternoon before breaking for the evening. They were to resume Wednesday morning.

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## Restructuring the VA

Currently, there are nine organizations within the Department of Veterans Affairs, all with different maps. Under a program called MyVA, VA aims to break the country into five regions by June 30.



Stars and Stripes

# VA revamp unveiled without cost estimate

By HEATH DRUZIN  
Stars and Stripes

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced a major restructuring effort Monday to streamline its often disjointed bureaucracy by standardizing service regions in the country and increasing coordination between them.

For years, the nine organizations within the department have divided the country into their own regions with little or no coordination. By June 30, VA aims to have the entire department under the same service boundaries through a program called MyVA, breaking the country into five regions.

Officials said in a conference call with reporters that the move is a cornerstone of VA Secretary Bob McDonald's push to overhaul the scandal-ridden organization. The VA does not have an estimate for how much the restructuring will cost, officials said, nor are there many details about what the changes will mean for veterans' care.

"The overall transformation will take a while," said Scott Blackburn, director of the MyVA Program Management Office. "There will be a lot of analysis and we'll know a lot more of the answers over the next couple of months."

The department has been undergoing changes since a national health care scandal cost former Secretary Eric Shinewski his job, following revelations that patients languished for years on secret lists to make wait

times appear artificially short. Some veterans died while awaiting care.

In addition, the VA has been criticized for a backlog of hundreds of thousands of disability claims and a confusing bureaucracy that often frustrates veterans seeking care and compensation for service-connected injuries.

The hope is that MyVA will make it easier for veterans to interact with the department.

"Ultimately, this reform will improve the Veteran experience by enabling Veterans to more easily navigate VA and access their earned care and benefits," McDonald said in a released statement.

One change, for example, allows call center agents to suspend or resume certain benefits payments without making veterans go through additional steps.

Officials said MyVA is the largest restructuring in the department's history, though details on exactly what it will entail or how the changes will be made were not announced Monday.

In terms of employees, Veterans Affairs is the second-largest department in the federal government, after the Department of Defense. Bob Snyder, the executive director of the MyVA Program Management Office, said despite consolidation in some parts of the department, he does not anticipate job cuts.

"There is more than enough work to do across the VA," he said. "This is not about cutting jobs."

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# VA head chided on Hill for not endorsing bill that allows bonuses to be rescinded

By HEATH DRUZIN  
Stars and Stripes

In a sign that some lawmakers may be losing patience with the man brought in to clean up the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Secretary Bob McDonald came under unusually personal criticism Tuesday during a hearing on a bill that would give him sweeping powers to rescind bonuses and reduce pensions.

After VA officials told the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs that the department had not taken a position on the bill, Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., gave a pointed response.

"We have a secretary of Veterans Affairs who can't make a decision on something that's so obvious," he said. "It's just extraordinary, and what it says to me and what it says to the veterans of this country is nothing's

really changed."

The VA did not immediately respond to a request for comment. McDonald, who replaced Eric Shinewski in July, has come under fire for not doing more to hold accountable officials connected to a health care scandal. He has said that he must work within the legal framework established to discipline employees.

VA counsel Kim McLeod said she is not aware of any current mechanism the department has to rescop bonuses from employees, except in the case of administrative errors.

The bill, introduced this month by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., is a response to what he sees as inaction in the face of the nationwide VA crisis. Many senior executives tied to secret lists that had veterans waiting months for care remain in their jobs or on

paid administrative leave. Some received lucrative bonuses.

"It's stunning to me that the VA does not have the ability to recoup a bonus if a crime is committed," Miller said.

H.R. 280 would also limit the amount of time employees being investigated for malfeasance can spend on administrative leave and the number of senior executives who receive bonuses in a single year.

VA officials said the department is still researching the bill. Veterans advocacy groups were generally supportive of it.

"When an executive receives a bonus after overseeing a system that failed veterans and caused suffering, it erodes the confidence of those veterans in the system meant to serve them," according to submitted testimony from Zachary Hearn, the American Legion's deputy director for claims, veterans affairs and rehabilitation.

The full bill can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/q9675cc>

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**H.R. 280 would also limit the amount of time employees being investigated for malfeasance can spend on administrative leave.**

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MILITARY

# Marine's request to drop murder case rejected

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Tuesday rejected an appeal by a U.S. Marine that it drop a murder case against him in the death of a transgender Filipino woman last year.

A Department of Justice panel said evidence from prosecutors against Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton showed that he killed Jennifer Laude after picking her

up in a bar in Olongapo city in October.

Police said Laude, formerly known as Jeffrey, was found dead in a hotel minutes after Pemberton left the room.

The case has ruffled opposition to a military agreement between Manila and Washington that allows U.S. custody over American servicemen accused of crimes in the Philippines.

Pemberton, from Bristol, Mass.,

took part in combat exercises involving thousands of American and Filipino troops.

U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg has said Washington is sensitive to Filipino sentiments over the killing and agreed to have Pemberton detained inside a Philippine military camp in Manila but under U.S. guard.

Pemberton's lawyers argued in the appeal that there was no direct evidence that he killed

Laude, but the panel said prosecutors can utilize circumstantial evidence to prove their case.

"If direct evidence is insisted upon under all circumstances, the guilt of vicious felons who committed heinous crimes in secret or in secluded places will be hard, if not impossible, to prove," it said.

It said it was established that Pemberton and several fellow Marines visited a bar where he

met Laude and the two agreed to get a room in a nearby hotel.

It cited testimony of a fellow Marine to investigators that Pemberton had told him, "I think I killed a he/she."

Benjamin Tolosa Jr., a lawyer for Pemberton, said the defense can ask the Justice Department to reconsider its decision. If that is also denied, they have the option of going to the Court of Appeals, he said.

## Mental health could play role in sniper killing trial

The Washington Post

Eddie Ray Routh barely knew Chris Kyle when he shot and killed the famed Navy SEAL sniper on a remote Texas shooting range on Feb. 2, 2013.

Routh, who admitted to police that he killed Kyle and the marksman's friend, Chad Littlefield, will have his day in court early next month. By then, news of Kyle's life, his "unverifiable" legacy and his tragic death will have already ricocheted around the world, thanks to the box-office hit "American Sniper."

The circumstances of Kyle's death aren't discussed in detail in the Oscar-nominated biopic, which mostly focuses on Kyle's career as one of the country's most praised and skilled snipers.

Though the movie is presented as a mini-chronicle of America's modern wars, it omits a chapter in Kyle's real-life story that reflects on war's dark, lingering consequences: his death at the hands of another veteran — one who had been scarred by the effects of war-related mental illness.

Routh's many troubles were the very reason Kyle and Littlefield were in contact with him. Kyle's quest for the rough Creek Lodge that day was likely part of an effort to help Routh deal with his post-traumatic stress disorder.

But at some point that day, Routh, a 27-year-old former Marine, opened fire on the two men, killing them and wrecking their Ford 350 truck and truck.

"He's all crazy," he's [expletive] psychotic," Routh's panicked sister, Laura Blevins, told the 911 dispatcher that day.

He was recently diagnosed with PTSD, "her husband, Gaines Blevins, added later on the call. It wasn't the first time Routh's family had called law enforcement pleading for help. He had been in and out of psychiatric wards for years. He had threatened to kill his family and himself — threats that were taken so seriously that a Marine friend removed all the weapons from the house for safekeeping.

Routh's relatives say he was formally diagnosed with PTSD. Recollections from family and friends suggest that he might have suf-



Chris Kyle, former Navy SEAL sniper, is shown with his wife, Taya, in 2012. Kyle was one of two people killed on the shooting range at Rough Creek Lodge near Glen Rose, Texas, on Feb. 2, 2013.

fered from other mental illnesses as well.

That Kyle would be killed by a veteran who was like so many others he tried to help — troubled by war and struggling to adjust to civilian life — was a tragedy layered upon a tragedy. Kyle had answered the call from Routh's mother to help her son, but Eddie Routh turned on him, shooting him in the back.

The people who knew Kyle best are not interested in the situation's dark irony.

"To try and even find an excuse is disgusting," his widow, Taya Kyle, recently told the Los Angeles Times. "I know people with PTSD, and it's very real and very hard. But it doesn't change your core character."

Yet the troubling connection between war veterans, mental illness and acts of violence is persistent.

A 2014 study found that veterans who had problems with PTSD or alcohol abuse were seven times more likely to engage in acts of "severe violence" than other veterans. In 2011, a New York Times analysis of some of those cases found dozens of examples of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans accused of murder; some of the veterans even turned weapons on themselves.

Routh's version of the story has yet to be fully told. Next month, that might finally happen.

His lawyer, J. Warren St. John, will reportedly pursue an insanity defense. But St. John has already questioned whether he can get a "fair trial" while a blockbuster film about one of the men his client killed plays in theaters nationwide.

St. John's petition to move the trial from Erath County in Texas has already been denied once. It will likely be even more difficult now to find a suitable venue where anyone can claim to not know Chris Kyle's name, or at least his "American Sniper" accomplishments.

It is also unclear whether Routh's diagnosed PTSD and mental illness will ultimately have any bearing on the trial.

Either way, both sides will try to disentangle Routh's complicated pre-war past from whatever mental scars he might bear.

## Former Army sex assault prosecutor guilty of rape

The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — A former U.S. Army prosecutor who oversaw sexual assault cases has been found guilty on rape and other charges following a six-day court-martial at Fort Bragg, military officials said Monday.

Maj. Erik J. Burris was found guilty on two charges of rape, a charge of forcible sodomy, four charges of assault and a charge of disobeying an order, the Army said in a five-sentence statement. Burris was sentenced to 20 years in prison, dismissed from the service and ordered to forfeit all pay, the statement said.

Burris, 39, had pleaded not guilty to the charges.

He could not be reached for comment, and the name of the lawyer representing him was not provided.

The statement emailed to media outlets Monday was the first issued by the Army about the case. It provided no details about the crimes for which Burris was convicted or whether they included other military personnel.

Fort Bragg spokeswoman Maj. Crystal Boring said Monday night that she could not provide further details about the evidence presented against Burris, which she said involved multiple victims.

"Our policy is not to comment on information that might reveal the identities of sexual assault or minor victims," Boring said. "We do not have a policy of issuing public releases on sexual assault cases and have received no previous media inquiries about this case."

Boring said Burris' name was listed on a public docket in ad-

vance of his trial, though a copy was no longer available. Such dockets do not list the specific charges against a defendant, only the numbered sections of military law at issue.

Nonmilitary personnel cannot access the sprawling North Carolina base or its federal courthouse without prior approval. Court documents such as legal motions and trial transcripts are supposed to be public under the Freedom of Information Act but are routinely not provided by the military until months, even years, after the case is resolved.

At the time he was charged, Burris was the chief of military justice for the 82nd Airborne, a position in which he supervised other military prosecutors handling criminal cases within the famed paratrooper division.

The military has been under intense scrutiny in recent years over its handling of sexual assault allegations. A trial was held at Fort Bragg last year for the man believed to be the highest-ranking U.S. military officer ever court-martialed on sexual assault charges.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair, who served as deputy commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, faced numerous criminal charges after he was accused of twice forcing a female captain who worked for him to perform oral sex during the course of a three-year extramarital affair, as well as inappropriate relationships with two other women.

The trial ended in March when Sinclair agreed to plead guilty to some of the less serious charges against him as part of a plea agreement that saw him retiring at a reduced rank while avoiding prison time.

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# MILITARY



ARMANDO GONZALES, COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

Sailors unload sonobuoys from an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay in the Arabian Sea in December 2012. Animal advocates oppose expanded use of the sonar-emitting buoys by the Navy.

## Navy wants expanded use of sonar-emitting buoys

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The U.S. Navy is seeking permits to expand sonar and other training exercises off the Pacific Coast, a proposal raising concerns from animal advocates who say that more sonar-emitting buoys would harm whales and other creatures that live in the water.

The Navy wants to deploy up to 720 sonobuoys at least 12 nautical miles off the coasts of Washington state, Oregon and Northern California. The devices, about 3 feet long and 6 inches in diameter, send out sonar signals underwater so air crews can train to detect submarines.

"It sounds drastic in numbers, but it's really not drastic in its impact," said John Mosher, Northwest environmental manager for the U.S. Pacific Fleet. "Anti-submarine warfare is a critical mission for the U.S. Navy."

The Navy's training range is home to endangered whales such as orcas, humpback and blue, as well as seals, sea lions and dolphins.

Critics say the noise from sonar can harass and kill whales and other marine life. They worry the Navy is expanding training exercises without also increasing efforts to reduce the impacts.

Steve Mashuda, a lawyer with the public-interest law firm Earthjustice, said they're not asking the Navy to stop training in the area.

"But it's a big ocean out there. You don't need to have all of those



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

An orca leaps from the water in Puget Sound, Wash., in January 2014. Animal advocates say the orcas are endangered by Navy sonar-emitting buoys.

square miles of training available 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Mashuda, whose group previously sued over permits issued to the Navy.

The Navy needs authorization from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under the Marine Mammal Protection Act because explosive detonations, sonar and vessel strikes have the

potential to disturb, injure or kill marine mammals. Its current five-year permit expires this year.

The Navy's preferred alternative proposes 30 bombing exercises per year, as well as increased air-to-surface missile exercises and anti-submarine tracking activities that use sonar. It is taking comments through Feb. 2 on its updated proposal.

## Gitmo judges hit with gender discrimination complaints by guards

By CAROL ROSENBERG  
Miami Herald

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVY BASE, Cuba — Some female soldiers at the prison's secret lockup for former CIA captives have filed gender discrimination complaints against two military judges who are forbidding women from handling prisoners to and from legal meetings.

One of the judges, Navy Capt. J.K. Waits, announced the development Monday at a hearing in the case of Abd al Hadi al Iraqi, accused of committing war crimes as commander of al-Qaida's Army in Afghanistan after the 2001 U.S. invasion.

It's the latest wrinkle in an ongoing tug-of-war over an apparent new assignment of female guards to escort duty moving so-called high-value captives to legal appointments from Camp 7, the secret lockup at Guantanamo where the U.S. keeps former captives of the spy agency's so-called Black Site program. The prisoners say that, for years, only male soldiers moved them out of respect for their religious and cultural belief that only women in their family can touch them.

The prison defends the male-female shackling and escort duty as consistent with the Pentagon's commitment to gender neutrality. It says, however, that only men still supervise Guantanamo prisoners' showers and conduct genital searches.

The issue arose in October when, according to Hadi defense lawyer Marine Corps Lt. Col. Tom Jasper, a female guard, for the first time since Hadi got to Guantanamo in 2007, tried to shackle him.

The Muslim man refused, and a squad of male soldiers forcibly shackled and moved him back to his Camp 7 cell.

Waits responded in November with an injunction against the use of female guards. He'll hear argument on whether to keep the ban this week. Defense lawyers characterize it as a religious rights issue at the prison that highlights its sensitivity to captives' Muslim traditions and religion. They have invoked the U.S. Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby religious accommodation decision.

The female guard issue is part of a long list of conditions-of-confinement challenges at the war

court to shifting prison practices for former CIA detainees whose harsh treatment was revealed in the recently released Senate "Torture Report."

In the female guard issue, an Army judge, Col. James L. Pohl, has issued a similar restraining order in the Sept. 11 conspiracy case, preventing female guards from touching alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four co-defendants. Those five men are accused of training, financing and otherwise assisting the 19 hijackers in the terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and at a Pennsylvania field.

Pohl filed a notice in his case Monday that a complaint had also been filed against him, according to a 9/11 case defense attorney, Air Force Capt. Michael Schwartz.

Pohl hadn't seen the complaint, according to the notice, but said it was "filed by female guards in regard to the Commission's interim order, AE254JJ."

Prison spokesmen provided no details on the complaint filed under the military's Equal Opportunity program whose motto is "Treating People with Dignity and Respect."

Reporters arriving for this week's war court session Sunday found a how-to brochure with the contact information of a newly assigned Air Force noncommissioned officer responsible for receiving such complaints posted on a bulletin board inside the reporters' work room.

It provided email and phone contacts for the prison's Equal Opportunity Manager, along with her photograph, and the slogan: "Equal Opportunity: A First Resource. Not a Last Resort."

Waits said that he was notified on Friday by the chief of the Navy/Marine Corps judiciary, a female officer, that the complaint was filed at the U.S. Southern Command, where Marine Gen. John F. Kelly has oversight of the prison. It was unclear whether Kelly would decide the sexual discrimination complaint.

The prison had no comment on where the complaints had been filed. But a military official who was not authorized to be identified said the women had done it through the detention center's Equal Opportunity office.

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# WAR ON TERRORISM



**Kurds wave the flags of outlawed rebel group PKK to celebrate in Istanbul, Turkey, on Monday, hours after Kurdish fighters backed by U.S.-led airstrikes pushed the Islamic State out of Kobani, Syria.**

## Kurds expand offensive beyond key Syrian town

By **BASSEM MROUE**  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Kurdish fighters expanded their offensive Tuesday after driving Islamic State militants from the Syrian border town of Kobani the previous day to retake dozens of surrounding villages still held by the militants, activists and officials said.

Pushing the Islamic State out of Kobani after a bloody, four-month campaign was a significant boost for both the Kurds and the U.S.-led coalition, though U.S. Central Command tempered Monday's victory by saying it estimated that 90 percent of Kobani was now controlled by Kurdish forces.

From Kobani, Kurdish troops took the fight Tuesday to the village of Shiran, southeast of the town, said Mustafa Bali, a Kobani-based activist. Earlier in the day, they captured the nearby village of Qarah Hlanj. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the capture of Qarah Hlanj and said the fighting near Shiran has intensified.

The victory in Kobani came at a high cost. "The city has been fully liberated," said senior Kurdish official Idriss Nassan, speaking by telephone from inside the

town. He said Kobani is "nearly destroyed."

In September, Islamic State fighters captured about 300 Kurdish villages and hamlets near Kobani and thrust into the town, occupying nearly half of it and sending tens of thousands of residents fleeing to Turkey.

The main Kurdish militia, the People's Protection Units, or YPG, aims to "liberate" all villages near the Kobani area from Islamic State fighters, the force's commander, Mohammed Barkhadan, told reporters Tuesday.

The scope of the destruction will make it hard for refugees to return anytime soon.

"The war in the town is over but the difficult task has begun," said Bali, the activist. "There is no water, electricity or sewage system."

Across the border, Turkish security forces fired tear gas Tuesday to prevent about 1,000 Kurds from crossing into Kobani to celebrate, Turkey's private Dogan news agency reported. Earlier, several legislators from Turkey's pro-Kurdish party traveled to Kobani.

Nawaf Khalil, a spokesman for Syria's powerful Kurdish Democratic Union Party, urged the world to help Kobani, he said, "deserves international support for its reconstruction."

## Anti-terrorism raids net 8 more suspects in France and Belgium

By **LORNE COOK**  
AND **LORI HINNANT**  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Anti-terrorism raids in France and Belgium netted eight more suspects on Tuesday as Paris urged its European Union partners to step up the fight against terrorism financing with new measures to make transactions more transparent.

Interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve said that raids in southern France detained five people and broke up "one more network" in a small town that has seen several youths leave to fight in Syria and Iraq.

He pledged the country's "total mobilization" against terrorism would continue unabated after attacks around Paris earlier this month by three Islamic radicals left 20 people dead, including the gunman.

In western Belgium, authorities detained three men and found a cache of arms in an operation linked to a terrorist threat, said

prosecutor spokeswoman Karlien Verveken.

The detention could not immediately be linked to a raid in the eastern town of Verviers earlier this month that left two suspects dead and later put seven more behind bars.

Belgian authorities said that raid had averted an imminent major terrorist attack against police and their offices.

At EU headquarters, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said he wants to rapidly seal a new EU anti-money-laundering deal "and to accelerate other complementary measures to be able to locate all these small movements that are at the heart of terrorist financing."

France wants tighter cooperation on sharing intelligence related to money-laundering, tougher legislation on freezing suspects' assets, and to improve the ability of customs services to track gold and other assets.

Bank account registries and

the control of virtual money like bitcoins could also be discussed.

The new EU money-laundering plans aim to ensure that the real owners of companies and trusts are listed in public registers in Europe, and to force banks, auditors, lawyers and others to be more vigilant about suspicious transactions.

Mindful of the attacks in France, and raids and arrests in other EU countries including Belgium, Germany, Greece and Spain, finance ministers want to fast-track the package and discuss the new French initiatives in parallel.

Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem said it is "crucial to cut off all terrorist groups of financing means, and any proposal that would lead to that I would very much support."

"We will look very positively at new initiatives," said Denmark's economy minister, Morten Ostergaard.

## Purported Islamic State message threatens lives of 2 held captive

The Associated Press

CAIRO — An online message purportedly from the Islamic State group warned Tuesday that a Japanese hostage and Jordanian pilot the extremists hold have less than "24 hours left to live."

The message, posted online Tuesday afternoon, again demanded the release of Sajida al-Rishawi, an Iraqi woman sentenced to death in Jordan for involvement in a 2005 terrorist attack that killed 60 people. It also mentioned Jordanian pilot 1st Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh, who is a captive of the Islamic State.

Tuesday's video matched a message released over the weekend, though it never bore the logo of the Islamic State's al-Furqan media arm. The weekend video showed a still photo of freelance journalist Kenji Goto, 47, holding what appears to be a photo of the body of Japanese hostage Haruna Yukawa.

The Associated Press could not independently verify either video. However, several militant websites affiliated with the Islamic State referenced the video and posted links to it late Tuesday afternoon.

A Japanese envoy in Jordan, Deputy Foreign Minister Yasuhide Nakayama, earlier expressed hope the two hostages would return home "with a smile on their faces."

"I hope we can all firmly work hard and join hands to cooperate, and for the two countries (Japan and Jordan) to cooperate, in order for us to see the day when the Jordanian pilot and our Japanese national Mr. Goto can both safely return to their own countries with a smile on their faces," he told re-



**In this image from an Oct. 3 report video released by Independent Press and Pacific Bridge Media & Consulting, Japanese video journalist Kenji Goto, 47, reports from a Kurdish town near Kobani, Syria. Islamic State militants are holding Goto hostage.**

porters late Monday night after another day of crisis talks in the Jordanian capital.

It was the first time a Japanese official mentioned al-Kaseasbeh, who has been held by the extremist Islamic State after crashing in December. It wasn't clear when the pilot's possible release had entered the picture.

Goto was seized in late October in Syria, apparently while trying to rescue Yukawa, who was captured by the militants last

summer. Japanese officials have indicated they are treating the video released over the weekend as authentic and thus accepting the likelihood that Yukawa, an adventurer captured in Syria last summer, was killed.

Securing the release of al-Rishawi would be a major propaganda coup for the Islamic State and would allow the group to reaffirm its links to al-Qaida in Iraq.

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NATION

# Boston blizzard howls; NY gets off easy

BY BOB SALSBERG  
AND DENISE LAVOIE  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — A howling blizzard with wind gusts over 70 mph heaped snow on Boston along with other stretches of lower New England and Long Island, N.Y., on Tuesday but failed to live up to the hype in Philadelphia and New York City, where buses and subways started rolling again in the morning.

In New England, the storm that arrived Monday evening was a bitter, paralyzing blast, while in the New York metro area, it was a bust that left forecasters apologizing and politicians defending their near-total shutdown on travel. Some residents grumbled, but others sounded a better-safe-than-sorry note and even expressed sympathy for the weatherman.

At least 2 feet of snow was expected in most of Massachusetts, potentially making it one of the top snowstorms of all time. The National Weather Service said a 78 mph gust was reported on Nantucket, and a 72 mph one on Martha's Vineyard.

"It felt like sand hitting you in the face," Bob Paglia said after walking his dog four times overnight in Whitman, a small town about 20 miles south of Boston.

Maureen Keller, who works at Gurney's, an oceanfront resort in Montauk, N.Y., on the tip of Long Island, said, "It feels like a hurricane with snow."

As of midmorning, the Boston area had about a foot of snow, while the far eastern tip of Long Island had more than 2 feet. Snowplow operators around New England struggled to keep up, and Boston police drove several dozen doctors and nurses to work at hospitals.

"At 4 o'clock this morning, it was the worst I've ever seen it," said Larry Messier, a snowplow driver in Columbia, Conn. "You could plow, and then five minutes later you'd have to plow again."

As the storm pushed into the Northeast on Monday, the region came to a near standstill, alarmed by forecasters' dire predictions. More than 7,700 flights were canceled, and schools, businesses and government offices closed.

But as the storm pushed northward, it tracked farther east than forecasters had been expecting, and conditions improved quickly in its wake. By midmorning Tuesday, New Jersey and New York City lifted driving bans, and buses and trains started rolling again, with a return to a full schedule expected Wednesday.

While Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey had braced for a foot or two of snow from what forecasters warned could be a storm of potentially historic proportions, they got far less than that. New York City received about 8 inches, Philadelphia a mere inch or so, New Jersey got up to 8 inches.

A National Weather Service forecaster in Mount Holly, N.J., apologized on Twitter for the off-target forecast.

"You made a lot of tough decisions expecting to get a light, and we didn't. Once again, I'm sorry," Gary Szatkowski tweeted.



A man chases his blowing umbrella during a snowstorm Tuesday in Boston.

AP photos



Left: An electronic board displays the status of departing flights at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J., following an overnight snowstorm. Right: Pedestrians walk bundled against the blowing snow in Boston.



The Manhattan-bound tube of the Midtown Tunnel in Queens, N.Y., drew scant traffic on Tuesday following a forecast of a severe winter storm. Manhattan was among the cities that didn't see nearly the amount of snow predicted.

## Mid-Atlantic dealt just 'glancing blow'

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the wild world of winter weather, location is everything. So small, last-minute changes in the air morphed what was supposed to be crippling feet of snow into a handful of inches.

Meteorologists say the nor'easter stayed about 75 to 100 miles east of its predicted track, which meant the western edge — New York and New Jersey — got 10 inches less than forecast.

The Mid-Atlantic region avoided the brunt of a powerful winter storm that pounded parts of the Northeast.

Snowfalls in Washington and Baltimore fell short of predictions, with about 1 inch each by Tuesday. Washington had been predicted to see up to 4 inches, and Baltimore had been expected to get up to 6 inches.

"We got a glancing blow," said Jim Lee, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The rest of Maryland and Delaware also saw lower-than-predicted snow totals. National Weather Service data show that the most that fell in Maryland was in Germantown in suburban Washington, at 4.5 inches. Fairfax in northern Virginia got 4.3 inches.

Most of Delaware saw barely an inch of snow, when up to 10 inches had been predicted.

Many school districts in the region closed Tuesday because of lingering snow showers and slick roads, and hundreds of flights were canceled in and out of the area's three major airports.

Eric Moran, 20, an oil industry worker from Swedesboro, N.J., was sleep-deprived but cheerful after a series of delayed and rerouted flights brought him to Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport on Tuesday morning.

Moran said he left Wichita Falls, Texas, early Monday afternoon, but his connecting flight from Dallas to Philadelphia was canceled. American Airlines put him on a flight to Chicago and another to Baltimore, which arrived about 1 a.m. Tuesday.

New Jersey officials had imposed highway travel restrictions because of the storm, so Moran asked his friend to wait until Tuesday to make the nearly 80-mile drive from southern New Jersey to the airport to take him home.

"I'm not paying a penny for another flight," Moran said. "And I'll be honest, I am tired of flying."

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NATION

# Ex-CIA officer spills US secrets

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**  
The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — For years, ex-CIA case officer Jeffrey Sterling was the one under indictment but prosecutors' primary focus of pursuit was journalist Jeffrey Risen.

Prosecutors believed Sterling leaked details to Risen about one of the government's most closely held secrets: a CIA mission to derail Iran's nuclear ambitions by giving them deliberately flawed blueprints.

Risen, though, wouldn't divulge his sources. Prosecutors sought court orders forcing Risen to testify, saying their job would be immeasurably more difficult without his testimony.

Ultimately, prosecutors won their case against Risen on Monday. Sterling was convicted federal court on all nine charges he faced after a two-week trial in which Risen never made an appearance.

Experts said the trial shows the government can pursue leak investigations without relying on recalcitrant reporters.

At issue in the two-week trial was who told Risen about the mission, one that former national security adviser Condoleezza Rice testified was one of America's best attempts to derail Iran's nuclear-weapons ambitions?

The case was delayed for years as prosecutors fought to force Risen to divulge his sources. Risen eventually lost his legal battle to quash a government subpoena. But at the trial, Risen ultimately decided not to call him to testify after the Justice Department, bowing to pressure from free-press advocates, promised it would not ask Risen sensitive questions about



Kevin Wolf/AP

**Former CIA officer Jeffrey Sterling leaves the Alexandria Federal Courthouse in Alexandria, Va., on Monday with his wife, Holly.**

his sources.

Lacking Risen's testimony, prosecutors acknowledged a lack of direct evidence against Sterling, 47, of O'Fallon, Mo., but said the circumstantial evidence against him was overwhelming.

Defense lawyers had said the evidence showed that Capitol Hill staffers who had been briefed on the classified operation were more likely the source of the leak.

Following the verdict, defense lawyer Edward MacMahon said he was disappointed, but "we still believe in Jeffrey's innocence." Sterling will have the option to appeal his case after he is sentenced in April. Motions to dismiss the case on various legal grounds are also still pending in front of the trial judge, U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema.

Lucy Dalghish, dean of the University of Maryland's journalism

school and former director of the Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press, said she was not surprised by the verdict, which followed days of testimony from CIA officials who testified without revealing their last names and from behind a gray screen that shielded their faces from the public.

"They're going to use this case to terrify federal employees. They're going to use this case to teach the intelligence community a lesson" about the consequences of leaks, she said.

The Obama administration has brought more leak cases than all of his predecessors combined. U.S. Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning, who leaked more than 700,000 secret military and diplomatic documents to the WikiLeaks website, was convicted at a military trial and sentenced to military prison.

# Obama: US needs framework for drone use, safety

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States has fallen behind technological advancements that have made small drones readily available and must update its laws to ensure safety, President Barack Obama said Tuesday in his first public comments about a drone that crashed on the White House grounds.

Obama said drones, properly used, have the potential to empower people in ways unimaginable just a decade ago. He said the federal government is playing catch-up to ensure they will be used safely in the U.S. and don't violate privacy.

"We don't yet have the legal structures and the architecture both globally and within individual countries to manage them the way that we need to," Obama said in a CNN interview. He said part

of his job in his final two years in office "is seeing if we can start providing some sort of framework that ensures that we get the good and minimize the bad."

Obama likened the 2-foot-long quadcopter that crashed on the presidential lawn to one that could be bought at a Radio Shack store, a reminder that technology that was once cutting-edge and expensive is now easily acquired by the American consumer.

He said drones have "incredibly useful functions," ranging from agriculture and conservation to package delivery, but that like with cyberspace, U.S. policies to deal with them are still a work in progress.

The drone-control debate has hit uncomfortably close to home for Obama, thanks to an apparently hapless hobbyist who later stepped forward to own up to a big



COURTESY OF THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE/AP

**This small drone crashed onto the White House grounds on Monday, triggering a major emergency response.**

mistake. Questions persist about why a night-owl drone operator would be flying it within range of the White House at 3 a.m. on Monday, but the Secret Service's early investigation suggested he meant no harm.

# Dems, GOP spar over probe into Benghazi attack

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A special U.S. House of Representatives committee investigating a 2012 attack in Libya that killed an American ambassador has devolved into partisan bickering.

As the panel holds its third public hearing Tuesday, Democrats complain that the panel's Republican chairman has excluded them from crucial steps in the investigation, while Republicans say Democrats are playing politics.

The Sept. 11, 2012, attack on a U.S. post in the Libyan city of Benghazi killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, foreign service Officer Sean Smith and two CIA contractors, Tyrone S. Woods and Glen Doherty.

A Libyan extremist, Ahmed Abu Khatalla, is facing trial on murder charges after he was captured in Libya and brought to the U.S.

In the aftermath of the attack, Republicans criticized the Obama administration and then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Some Republicans contend that the military help back recruits that could have saved lives and that Obama and Clinton lied to the public about the nature of the attack.

A report by the House Intelligence Committee last fall found that the CIA and the military acted properly in responding to the attack. Debunking a series of persistent allegations hinting at dark conspiracies, the panel determined there was no intelligence failure, no delay in sending a CIA rescue team, no missed opportunity for a military rescue and no evidence the CIA was covertly shipping arms from Libya to Syria.

Democrats deride the continued interest in Benghazi as a right-wing effort to keep talk of scandal fresh and harm a potential Clinton bid for the presidency in 2016 despite numerous investigations.

In a strongly worded letter, Rep. Elijah Cummings, the panel's top Democrat, said the panel's chairman, Rep. Trey Gowdy, a Republican, has used different standards for Republicans and Democrats and has held secret meetings with witnesses from the State Department and other agencies. Gowdy said in response late Monday that he has the authority to unilaterally subpoena witnesses, but he promised to give Democrats a week's notice before issuing such a subpoena.

# US announces charges in NY Russian spy ring case

By **TOM HAYS**

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Three Russian citizens were charged Monday in connection with a Cold War-style Russian spy ring that spoke in code, passed messages concealed in bags and magazines, and tried to recruit people with ties to an unnamed New York City university, authorities said.

The defendants were directed by Russian authorities to gather sensitive economic intelligence on potential U.S. sanctions against Russian banks and efforts here to develop alternative energy resources, according to a complaint filed in federal court in Manhattan.

Prosecutors say one defendant, Yevgeny Buryakov, posed as an employee in the Manhattan branch of a Russian bank. He was arrested Monday in the Bronx, where he lived with his Russian wife and two children.

At an initial court appearance, Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam Fee portrayed Buryakov as a pro-

fessional spy skilled at duplicity. "His life here, your honor, really is a deception," the prosecutor said.

Buryakov, 39, arrived in the United States in 2010 and had a work visa. His lawyer, Sabrina Shroff, lost an argument for bail after a magistrate judge agreed with the government that he had an incentive to flee since his cover was blown.

The two others named in the complaint, Igor Sporyshev and Victor Podobnyy — described as Buryakov's handlers — held low-level diplomatic positions. They were protected from prosecution because of their diplomatic status and are believed to have returned to Russia.

Between March 2012 and as recently as mid-September 2014, the FBI observed Buryakov and Sporyshev meeting 48 times in outdoor settings, the complaint says. Several of the meetings "involved Buryakov passing a bag, magazine or slip of paper to Sporyshev," it says.

WORLD

# Deadly attack on hotel in Libya



ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

An old Israeli tank sits in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights near the border with Syria on Tuesday.

## Israel retaliates after rockets strike from Syria

**By BAT SHEVA SOBELMAN**  
*Los Angeles Times*

JERUSALEM — At least two rockets fired from Syria landed in Israeli territory Tuesday, drawing retaliatory fire into Syria, Israel's military said.

The rockets landed on the Israeli-controlled side of the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East War. The rockets caused no injuries but prompted the evacuation of 1,000 visitors

from Mount Hermon, Israel's only ski site.

The Israeli army responded with artillery, firing about 20 shells at what it said was the source of fire in Syria. According to initial reports from Syria, two people were killed.

It was not immediately clear who fired the rockets, but Israel's security forces have been on high alert since an airstrike Jan. 18 killed a dozen members of the militant group Hezbollah and Iranian forces in Syria. Iran, Syria and

Hezbollah have vowed to retaliate for the operation, which was attributed to Israel.

Israel has signaled over the last week that it was not interested in an escalation but would react if attacked. "Israel will not tolerate any provocation and will hold governments responsible for organizations operating from their territory," Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said.

Meanwhile, Israel has beefed up its deployment of forces along its northern borders with Leba-

non and Syria since the strike. Its forces have begun digging deep ditches to prevent cross-border infiltration from Syria, local media report.

Following Tuesday's rocket fire, security authorities announced that the Mount Hermon ski site would remain closed for the time being, and police deployed several roadblocks to keep civilian traffic away from the border. Israeli farmers were instructed to stay out of fields and orchards in proximity to the border with Syria.

**By ESAM MOHAMED**  
*The Associated Press*

TRIPOLI, Libya — Gunmen stormed a luxury hotel in the Libyan capital of Tripoli on Tuesday, killing at least five foreigners and three guards, officials said.

The attack, which included a car bombing, struck the Corinthia Hotel, which sits along the Mediterranean Sea.

By Tuesday afternoon, Mahmoud Hamza, commander of the so-called Special Deterrent Force, told private satellite television station al-Nabaa that the situation was "under control," though he couldn't confirm the whereabouts of the gunmen. He also said five foreigners were killed, without elaborating.

Another security official earlier said the gunmen killed three guards and took hostages, but had no further information on the captives' identities.

The official also said that two commercial landmark towers behind the hotel were evacuated out of security concerns. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

A hotel staffer said the attack began when five masked gunmen wearing bulletproof vests stormed the hotel after security guards at the hotel's gate tried to stop them. He said they entered the hotel and fired randomly at the staff in the lobby.

The staffer said the gunmen fired in his direction when he opened his door to look out. He said he joined the rest of the staff and foreign guests fleeing out the hotel's back doors into the parking lot.

When they got there, he said a car bomb exploded in the parking lot only 100 yards away. He said that came after a protection force entered the lobby and opened fire on the attackers. He said two guards were immediately killed. The staffer spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared being targeted later by militants.

The car bomb left at least five cars in the parking lot burned, and it damaged some windows in the hotel's facade, he said.

The hotel had Italian, British and Turkish guests but was largely empty at the time of the attack, the staffer said. He said militia-backed Prime Minister Omar al-Hasbi usually lives at the hotel but was not there Tuesday. Al-Hasbi's security guards also weren't there, he said.

## Philippine commander fired after 44 commandos killed

**By JIM GOMEZ**  
*The Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine officials have removed the commander of a police special action force from his post after at least 44 antiterrorism commandos were killed in a clash with Muslim rebels in the country's south.

The government's biggest single-day combat loss in recent memory shocked many and led to fears it could endanger a recent peace deal signed with the biggest Muslim rebel group.

Interior Secretary Mar Roxas said Tuesday that police Director Getulio Napeñas did not clear Sunday's assault on top terrorism suspects in a remote village near Mamasapano town with him or with the national police chief.

Roxas said the commandos may have killed one of their targets, but they also became entangled in separate firefights with hard-line Muslim insurgents and members of the main Muslim rebel group, the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front. He said 44 commandos were killed and 12 others were wounded.

Roxas called the commandos "fallen heroes" who sacrificed their lives to try to capture Malaysian bombing suspect Zulkifli bin Hir, or Marwan. He may have been killed, and efforts are underway to confirm whether that is true, Roxas said. Another suspected terrorist, Filipino bomb-maker Abdul Basit Usman, managed to escape, Roxas said.

The United States has offered



AP

Members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Forces load bodies of police commandos into vehicles in Maguindanao, Philippines, on Monday.

up to \$5 million for Marwan's capture and \$1 million for Usman. Both have been blamed by U.S. and Philippine authorities for deadly bomb attacks and providing bomb-making training to al-Qaida-linked militants in the country's south.

After attacking Marwan, the po-

lice commandos came under fire from hard-line Muslim insurgents in the village, and some strayed elsewhere and became entangled in a firefight with members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, national police Deputy Director General Leonardo Espina said.

The Moro rebels signed a peace

deal with the government last March that aims to establish a more powerful and better-funded autonomous region for minority Muslims in the south and end a decadeslong rebellion. The conflict has left 150,000 people dead and helped stunt development in the country's poorest regions.

deal with the government last March that aims to establish a more powerful and better-funded autonomous region for minority Muslims in the south and end a decadeslong rebellion. The conflict has left 150,000 people dead and helped stunt development in the country's poorest regions.

WORLD



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

President Barack Obama is greeted by new Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud Salman as the president and first lady Michelle Obama arrive on Air Force One at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday.

# Ties: Obama seeks balance of interests

FROM FRONT PAGE

In a bid to balance human rights with strategic interests, Obama said he has found it most effective to apply steady pressure over human rights "even as we are getting business done that needs to get done."

"Sometimes we need to balance our need to speak to them about human rights issues with immediate concerns we have in terms of counterterrorism or dealing with regional stability," Obama said in a CNN interview in advance of his arrival.

King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud Salman formally greeted Obama and the U.S. delegation at Erga Palace on the outskirts of Riyadh, where dozens of Saudi officials filed through a marble-walled room to greet the Americans under massive crystal chandeliers. After a three-course dinner of grilled meats, baked lobster and Arabic and French desserts, Obama and Salman sat down for their first formal meeting without making any comments to reporters covering the visit.

Ahead of his arrival, Obama suggested that he would not be raising U.S. concerns about Saudi Arabia's flogging of blogger Raif Badawi, who was convicted of insulting Islam and sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes.

His first flogging took place in early January in front of dozens of

people in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, though a second round has been postponed after a doctor said his wounds from the first lashes had not yet healed.

"On this visit, obviously a lot of this is just paying respects to King Abdullah, who in his own fashion presented some modest reform efforts within the kingdom," Obama said.

Stepping off the plane earlier in Riyadh, the president and first lady Michelle Obama were greeted by Salman and a military band playing both countries' national anthems. Some of the all-male Saudi delegation shook hands with Mrs. Obama while others gave her a nod as they passed by. Mrs. Obama wore full-length clothing but no headscarf, as is typical for many Western women in Saudi Arabia, despite the strict dress code for Saudi women appearing in public.

Obama cut short the final day of his trip to India to make the four-hour stop in Riyadh. Further underscoring the key role Saudi Arabia has long played in U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East was the extensive delegation that joined Obama for the visit.

Secretary of State John Kerry joined Obama in Riyadh, along with former secretaries of state Condoleezza Rice and James Baker III, both of whom served Republican presidents. Former White House national security

advisers Brent Scowcroft, Sandy Berger and Stephen Hadley also made the trip, as did Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a frequent critic of Obama's Mideast policy.

CIA Director John Brennan and Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of U.S. Central Command, which oversees military activity in the Middle East, were also taking part in Tuesday's meetings with the Saudis. "It means the threshold of being bipartisan, high-level and people who worked very closely with Saudi Arabia over many years," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser.

The New York Times reported that the size of the American delegation suggested Washington's interest in bolstering its ties with the Saudis.

"It is very obvious that Obama wants to make a point, that 'We do care for Saudi Arabia, and I have assembled your friends and my foes and brought them with me,' Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi journalist and commentator, told the Times. "It is good, but will it be more than just paying condolences?"

Khashoggi said the two governments nearly understand that because of instability throughout the Middle East, they need a new regional policy "because whatever we had in the past has failed," he said.

# Fidel Castro comments on shift in US relations

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ  
The Associated Press

HAVANA — Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro, 88, ended his long silence over his country's decision to restore diplomatic ties with the United States, writing that he backs the negotiations even though he distrusts politics in Washington.

The comments were the first by the revolutionary leader on the topic with the U.S. since the historic Dec. 17 declaration that the

countries would move to restore ties broken more than a half-century ago.

"I don't trust the policy of the United States, nor have I exchanged a word with them, but this does not mean I reject a pacific solution to the conflicts," he wrote in a letter to a student federation read at the University of Havana. It also appeared in the Communist Party newspaper Granma.

"We will always defend cooperation and friendship with all the people of the world, including

with our political adversaries," he wrote.

Two weeks ago, Fidel Castro sent a letter to soccer legend Diego Maradona to quash rumors of his death. At the time, it was the first reported word from Castro in nearly three months. The letter was read on Venezuela state television network Telesur.

A serious illness forced Castro to step down from duties as president, handing over leadership to his younger brother, Raul.

# Argentine president calls for spy services overhaul

By PETER PRINGAMAN  
The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — President Cristina Fernandez called on Congress to dissolve Argentina's intelligence services in the wake of the mysterious death of a prosecutor, strongly denying his accusation that she had sought to shield former Iranian officials suspected in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish center.

In a nationally televised address late Monday, her first since the death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman hours before he was to give potentially explosive testimony on the alleged cover-up, Fernandez said her proposal to create a new spy agency would be presented to lawmakers by the end of the week.

She did not say who might have killed Nisman, but in recent letters posted on social media, she suggested that rogue intelligence agents may have orchestrated the death in a plot against her government. In the speech, she provided no new details of the alleged plot, and Fernandez herself oversees the intelligence agencies in question.

She said reforming the clandestine services was a "national debt" the country has had since the return of democracy in 1983. Argentina had several years of a brutal dictatorship, and Fernandez suggested that the problems of today had their roots in the years of that military government.

While government officials had previously labeled Nisman's allegations as absurd, Monday's

speech was the first time Fernandez had taken them on directly.

"It's unreasonable to think our government could even be suspected of such a maneuver," said Fernandez.

Nisman, 51, was found dead Jan. 18 in the bathroom in his apartment, a bullet in his right temple. A .22-caliber gun was found next to him. His death came days after he gave a judge a report alleging that Fernandez secretly reached a deal to prevent prosecution of former Iranian officials accused of involvement in the 1994 bombing of Argentina's largest Jewish center, which killed 85 people. She allegedly reached the deal in exchange for economic and trade benefits with Iran.

Iran has denied the accusation. Nisman's death has produced anti-government protests and myriad conspiracy theories, ranging from suicide to the involvement of Iranian intelligence agents.

Appearing rested and calm, Fernandez began with a spirited defense of all her government had done to try to solve the 1994 case.

She lambasted that more than 20 years later, Nisman had been convicted or even detained. She noted that her predecessor, husband and former President Nestor Kirchner, had appointed Nisman to the case after years of paralysis.

She said a 2013 memorandum of understanding with Iran was aimed at obtaining cooperation with the Middle Eastern power-house to finally seek justice for the bombing.



IVAN FERNANDEZ/AP

A protester in Plaza de Mayo square in Buenos Aires, Argentina, carries a sign Monday that reads, "We're all Nisman," referring to the death of special prosecutor Alberto Nisman.

# 3,000 child soldiers to be freed in South Sudan

JUBA, South Sudan — About 3,000 child soldiers will be gradually released from an armed group in South Sudan, the United Nations children's agency said after 280 children were freed Tuesday.

More phased releases will happen in the coming weeks, said UNICEF, which helped negotiate the freedom of the children, who range in age from 11 to 17.

"These children have been forced to do and see things no child should ever experience," UNICEF South Sudan Representative Jona-

than Veitch said in a statement. "The release of thousands of children requires a massive response to provide the support and protection these children need to begin rebuilding their lives."

They were recruited by the South Sudan Democratic Army Cobra Faction, an armed group whose leader, David Yau Yau, signed a peace agreement with the South Sudan government last year.

In 2014, about 12,000 children were used as soldiers by armed forces and groups across South Sudan, UNICEF said.

From The Associated Press

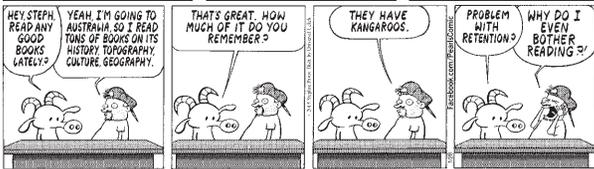
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



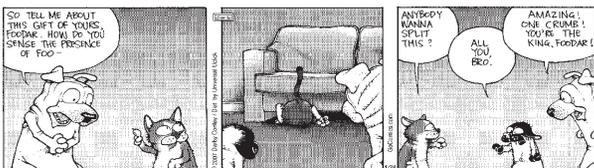
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12						13				14			
15					16					17			
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			21						22				
23	24	25			26		27		28		29	30	
31						32			34		35		
36							37		38		39	40	
				41				42		43		44	
45	46								47		48	49	50
51								52	53				
54									55			56	
57									58			59	

ACROSS

- 1 Scoop holder
- 5 Mandible
- 8 " — Funny That Way"
- 12 Pinnacle
- 13 Mound stat
- 14 François' father
- 15 Pillow stuffing
- 17 Picnic hamperer
- 18 Catch
- 19 Sulked
- 21 Hearty brew
- 22"... —sweet sorrow"

DOWN

- 1 Eatery
- 2 Tournament format
- 3 Like Felix, vis-a-vis Oscar
- 4 Additional
- 5 "Wow!"
- 6 Timetable abbr.
- 7 Nasty singers
- 8 Tidied (up)
- 9 1989 Winona Ryder film
- 10 Pennsylvania port
- 11 Transmit
- 16 Stop
- 20 Chic no more
- 23 Longoria or Mendes
- 24 Wager

25 Fraternity members

- 27 Archery bow wood
- 29 "To be or — ..."
- 30 Agent
- 32 Consecrates with oil
- 34 Starts liking, with "to"
- 37 Right angle
- 39 Mr. Gingrich
- 42 Classroom array
- 44 Nothing, to 48-Down
- 45 Performances
- 46 Opposite of "Giddyap!"
- 48 See 44-Down
- 49 Cheshire Cat's look
- 50 Being, to Brutus
- 53 "O Sole —"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1-28

CRYPTOQUIP

Y U S N Z Z F O H C J T P V J E Y C  
 K N V W F Y J S O X S Y V B  
 N H W J Y T V S A T K K . Y P Y Z Z  
 E N V B T V H V J Y Z J E S  
 X Y A A S U S V A !

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I GET WAY TOO RESTLESS AND ANGRY WHEN I'M ADMITTED TO A HOSPITAL. I'M AN IMPATIENT IN-PATIENT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals D



## WIRED WORLD

# High-tech shopping

## New innovations are aimed at improving in-store experience for savvy consumers

By SARAH HALZACK  
The Washington Post

**A**s more shopping moves online, retailers are looking for ways to step up the in-store experience to make sure it remains compelling and convenient.

The retail industry descended on New York earlier this month for the National Retail Federation's Big Show, an annual trade event where vendors showed off the innovative offerings that they hope will soon become commonplace in malls across the globe.

Some of the technology on display seemed a long way from ready to appear at your local shopping center or supermarket. Other innovations are already in use at chain stores right now, and they could change the way you shop.

Here's a roundup of what they are and how they work:

■ **Intel MemoMi MemoryMirror.** Ever had that moment in the dressing room when you just can't decide whether you want that new sweater in the blue or the red? Enter Intel's smart mirror, which is used at Neiman Marcus stores. Using hand gestures, shoppers can change the color of their outfit on screen and can even compare two looks side-by-side.

The smart mirror was impressively fast at toggling between different looks and, unlike other technology in this category, the movement and wrinkling of the fabric was reflected realistically on screen. One caveat: The orange-y red sweater you see in the mirror was actually more of a fire engine red in person, suggesting the color display might not be perfectly precise.

■ **Panasonic Powershelf.** There are few things more frustrating than scrambling over to your local grocery store just before it closes, only to realize they are out of that rice vinegar you wanted for your stir-fry recipe. The Panasonic Powershelf indirectly fixes this problem for shoppers by helping retailers reduce their out-of-stock goods. In

this system, a weight-sensitive mat is placed on a shelf. When a shopper lifts the last item off the shelf, a store employee instantly gets a text message notifying him or her of the exact product that needs to be restocked.

Powershelf also includes digital price tags, which allow the retailer to change their prices on the fly. If, say, a grocery store realizes it has a glut of bananas it need to sell before they spoil, it could drop the price instantly across its whole system or in one specific store. That's a great deal more efficient than changing paper price tags, especially at a supermarket that has thousands of different items for sale.

Powershelf is in use at 40 Whole Foods Markets. Because the technology relies on electrical inductive power, not batteries, it can even be used in a grocery freezer.

■ **Shelfbucks.** Data shows that the majority of shoppers are now researching their purchases on the Web before ultimately acquiring the item in the store. Shelfbucks aims to make it easier to conduct your online research in-store.

The technology is being piloted at Gamestop stores in Texas. Customers with the Gamestop app can hold their phone over the beacon device on the shelf and get access to a range of product reviews and other details about the game. As the signage specifies, customers can also get access to discounts on that item.

While many stores are deploying beacons to push coupons to shoppers' smartphones, Shelfbucks believes this tactic is ultimately equivalent to sending a spam e-mail. Instead, they're approach is to make the consumer be proactive about conducting research and accessing coupons, a fit-up that might have particular appeal to those concerned about privacy.

■ **Toshiba TCxAmplify.** Put simply, this technology enables you to do self-checkout at the grocery store using your smartphone. Toshiba's technology is built into the app of your favorite supermarket. You scan your items as you put them in your cart and, once you're finished shopping, you simply wave your phone in front of a com-



PHOTOS BY SARAH HALZACK/The Washington Post

**Above:** Intel's smart mirror lets shoppers use hand gestures to change the color of their outfit on screen and can compare two looks side-by-side.  
**Left:** Toshiba's TCxAmplify technology enables shoppers to self-checkout at the grocery store using a smartphone.



puter. Your whole list of items is displayed on screen as though you just went through a traditional checkout aisle, and the loyalty program discounts have already been applied (assuming you linked up your loyalty card with the app). You can then pay for the purchase using a credit card or a digital wallet such as Apple Pay.

TCxAmplify, which is in use at some Shop-Rite groceries, speeds up the checkout process and eliminates many of the frustrations of current self-checkout systems. But it has some key challenges to adoption. It still requires consumers to download a store app, something they have often been hesitant to do for all but their favorite few brands.

■ **Microsoft's fast-food self-ordering kiosk.** At first glance, this technology may

seem a little frivolous. Is it really that inconvenient to order a burger from a sales associate at a fast-food restaurant? Is this really solving a problem for the customer — or the retailer, for that matter?

But Microsoft says its deployment of the technology at some Hardee's restaurants is yielding a noteworthy result: Average check size is up in those restaurants as some 40 percent of kiosk users accept an up-sell option such as "Would you like to round your amount to \$20.00 and we'll add a chocolate chip cookie?"

If Microsoft continues to see similar results with other clients, look for this technology to become more widespread. Fast-food is not a high-margin business, and chains will be looking for any way they can to sell you more food.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Ex-Fox producer kills himself outside HQ

**NY** NEW YORK — Police said a former Fox News producer in Texas shot himself to death outside company headquarters in midtown Manhattan.

Philip Perea, 41, died after the shooting about 9 a.m. Monday outside News Corp.

Authorities said Perea had been handing out fliers about Fox News saying the company destroyed his career. Shortly thereafter, he shot himself outside the building that houses Fox News, the New York Post and The Wall Street Journal.

A weapon was recovered at the scene, and no one else was injured. Authorities said Perea left a note.

## Six Flags to run Batman ride backward in spring

**GA** AUSTELL — Holy roller coaster! The Batman ride at Six Flags over Georgia is going to run backward when the park opens for the season March 14.

The ride opened in the park in 1997 and has given more than 16 million rides since then, but they've all been in the same direction.

The new twist on the ride's old twists will take the cars up a 10-story hill in reverse, then let them fly 50 mph backward along 2,700 feet of track.

The reverse operation will last into early spring. The park in Austell, near Atlanta, will operate weekends through May 17 before opening daily for the summer season.

## 2 deliverymen robbed in separate incidents

**NC** FAYETTEVILLE — Detectives in Cumberland County said two pizza deliverymen were robbed in separate incidents over the weekend, with one of the crimes involving an empty home.

The Cumberland County Sheriff's Office said one pizza deliveryman was trying to make a delivery on Saturday. As he stood on the porch, three masked men approached him and one of them pointed a pistol at the deliveryman.

According to the sheriff's office, the men made off with \$20, the deliveryman's wallet and cellphone as well as food. Investigators determined the residence was vacant.

A second robbery occurred 20 minutes later. The deliveryman said three men approached after he made his delivery; they opened the passenger side door and pointed a gun at him. The suspects got away with \$46 and the victim's wallet.

## College locks dorms; armed man tale false

**NE** CHADRON — Chadron State College officials said a report about an armed man on campus proved to be false. The dorms were locked down for about six hours Saturday night

## THE CENSUS

# 300

The number of bison killed in the Jackson Hole, Wyo., region during the just-completed hunting season. The number eclipses the all-time high and helps reduce the number of wild bison to levels closer to what wildlife management prefers. The five-month bison hunt season ended Jan. 18. The Jackson Hole News & Guide reported that the previous record harvest for the Jackson Bison Herd was set in 2007, when 267 animals were killed.



PAUL M. WALSH, THE EAU CLAIRE (Wis.) LEADER-TELEGRAM/AP

## Raring to go

Odin Jorgenson, of Grand Marais, Minn., leaves the starting line of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon in Two Harbors, Minn., on Sunday. Slightly over 300 miles, the race goes along the North Shore Trail of Lake Superior. It is the longest, hardest marathon in the lower 48 states and is used as a qualifying event for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Alaska.

and Sunday morning as police searched the campus. A 16-year-old boy arrested in connection with a stolen vehicle south of the campus had told officers that an armed man was involved and in the area.

College officials locked down the dorms but didn't make a public announcement at the Chicoine Center, where a basketball game was being played.

Students who'd been at the game were allowed back into their dorms after showing identification.

## Zoo offers creepy way for loverlorn to get even

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Feeling the sting of rejection? Iching to get even with an ex? The San Francisco Zoo is offering the burned and spurned masses the chance to "adopt" a hissing cockroach or giant scorpion in honor of their special ex-someone for Valentine's Day.

The zoo is highlighting two of its less desirable inhabitants

through the adopt-an-animal program that is usually used to raise money for the care of more cuddly or attractive creatures.

For \$50 and up, donors can adopt a scorpion and have the zoo send a certificate and stuffed stinger to the person who inspired the adoption. The cockroach valentine that the zoo says represents "the detritus of your love life" costs \$25.

## Dog gets 2nd chance after escaping death

**UT** KANAB — A dog is getting a new lease on life at a Utah animal sanctuary a month after escaping a worse fate in Indiana: being euthanized and having its cremated ashes mixed with those of its late owner.

Staff members at the Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab said the male German shepherd named Bela has behavioral issues but is doing very well.

Connie Ley, of Aurora, Ind., who died in November, stipulated in her will that Bela either go to

the Utah sanctuary or be euthanized, cremated and mixed with her ashes. That's because Ley felt the 105-pound dog was aggressive and not safe around strangers, particularly children.

Sanctuary workers say although they notice Bela wagging his tail more, they're working to socialize him with people and other dogs.

## Naked violinist sues over arrest last year

**OR** PORTLAND — A Hillsboro man arrested after playing a violin while naked outside the federal courthouse in Portland last year is suing police.

The Oregonian reported that Matthew T. Mglej, 25, claims authorities used excessive force and violated his First Amendment rights. He named the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Portland Police Bureau as defendants in a lawsuit filed last week, and he's seeking \$1.1 million in damages.

Police arrested him for indecent exposure and carried him to a patrol car when he refused to walk. Mglej claims jail deputies cut his wrists by jerking on his handcuffs and called him names when he cried from the pain.

## Suspected burglar falls, lands in front of police

**TX** HOUSTON — Authorities said a man's plans to break into a Houston store fell through when he crashed through the ceiling and landed in front of police.

Houston police said the man climbed a tree and onto the roof of a Family Dollar store early Sunday morning, then managed to break a hole in the roof and enter the building.

After making his way into the store, the man fell through the ceiling just as a police officer arrived in response to a call about a potential burglary.

From wire reports

FACES

SUNDANCE QUICK QUOTE

**'Luckily I had just finished a Marvel film so I was already in a training mentality and then this movie happened and I was really just trying to focus on like as much cardio as possible because in this film I do a lot of running and a lot of running in 100 degree heat in Austin... it was like a sprint... it was very much like all one shot running around, sprinting. So I had to build up my cardio to be able to get to that place and also not to like, die.'**

— Cobie Smulders on playing a personal trainer in the comedy "Results," now screening at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah



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# Petty gets writing credit on Smith hit

By MESHIN FEKADU  
The Associated Press

Tom Petty has earned a writing credit on Sam Smith's megahit "Stay With Me" for its similarities to his song "I Won't Back Down."

Smith's representative said Monday the publisher of Petty's 1989 hit contacted the publishers of Smith's song, which was one of last year's biggest hits. Smith and "Stay With Me" writers James Napier and William Phillips say they agree their song is similar to Petty's song, written with Jeff Lynne.

"Although the likeness was a complete coincidence, all involved came to an immediate and amicable agreement in which Tom Petty and Jeff Lynne are now credited as co-writers of 'Stay With Me' along with Sam Smith, James Napier and William Phillips," they said in a statement.

Petty's "I Won't Back Down" peaked at No. 12 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart. A representative for Petty declined to comment.

"Stay With Me," Smith's debut song, has sold more than 3.5 million tracks and peaked at No. 2 on the Hot 100. The breakthrough British singer is nominated for six Grammy Awards at next month's



OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

**Tom Petty, above, and Jeff Lynne have been given co-writing credit on Sam Smith's megahit "Stay With Me" for its similarities to Petty's 1989 hit "I Won't Back Down." Although they say it is coincidental, Smith, inset, and "Stay With Me" writers James Napier and William Phillips say they agree their song is similar.**

show, including song of the year, an honor solely for the writers of a track.

The Recording Academy's senior vice president of awards, Bill Freimuth, said Monday that Petty and Lynne would not be added to the nominations list for the song.

"Since Lynne and Petty did not do any new writing for this work, we are considering their original work to have been interpolated by Napier, Phillips and Smith for 'Stay With Me,'" Freimuth said in a statement.

Lynne and Petty won't be considered Grammy nominees or recipients should the song win, he said. Rather, they would be given certificates to honor their participation in the work, just like other writers of sampled or interpolated work, he said.

Petty is still a contender at the Grammys: His latest album with the Heartbreakers, "Hypnotic Eye," is nominated for best rock album. It peaked at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 album chart last year.

Smith's other nominations include best new artist, album of the year and best pop vocal album for "The A-list," filed in Manhattan State Supreme Court paints a picture of careless, cocky doctors who ran roughshod over Rivers while she was unconscious, and it suggests that she died because of their incompetence. The suit seeks unspecified damages.

# Trainor, Styles write duet about heartbreak

The Associated Press

Meghan Trainor and Harry Styles have put their heartbreak into a duet.

The American singer known for the megahit "All About That Bass" and the One Direction star got together to write a song called "Someday Maybe."

Trainor, 21, told the Associated Press she was impressed with Styles' ability to tap into his emotions, but it's not certain that we'll ever hear the two perform the duet together.

"His lyric game for a 20-year-old boy was incredible," Trainor said. "I was just like... 'who hurt you Harry? You're so good at this. So good.'"

She said she is looking for the right people to sing the duet and doesn't know if she would record it with Styles.

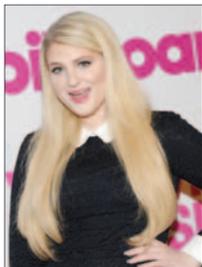
She said the song is about "being in a relationship with someone and then you break up and see them with someone else and you think, maybe when we're 50 and older we can probably get back together."

"It's beautiful," she added.

## Cumberbatch says sorry for using term 'colored'

Benedict Cumberbatch says he was an "idiot" to refer to non-white actors as "colored."

The Academy Award-nominated actor used the word on PBS talk show "Davis Smiley" last week while discussing diversity in the



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

**Meghan Trainor, above, and One Direction's Harry Styles have written a duet called "Someday Maybe." Trainor said she doesn't know if she will record the song with Styles.**

entertainment industry. He said that "as far as colored actors go," there were more opportunities in the U.S. than Britain, "and that's something that needs to change."

British anti-racism charity Show Racism the Red Card said it welcomed Cumberbatch's comments on diversity but felt the term he used was "outdated."

In a statement Monday, Cumberbatch apologized for his "thoughtless use of inappropriate language."

He said: "I'm devastated to have caused offence by using this

outmoded terminology. I offer my sincere apologies. I make no excuse for my being an idiot and know the damage is done."

## McCain voices approval of 'American Sniper'

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee says critics of U.S. foreign policy are disparaging the movie "American Sniper" and denigrating the memory of Chris Kyle, the Navy SEAL depicted in the film.

In a statement on Monday, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) congratulated director Clint Eastwood and the cast and crew of the movie for honoring the life of Kyle, whom he calls an American hero.

McCain said the film offers a compassionate portrayal of servicemen's, their wartime experiences, the burdens they often bear upon returning home and untold sacrifices of their families.

To critics like documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, the movie glorifies violence.

Moore, a staunch opponent of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, tweeted about the movie: "Snipers aren't heroes, and invaders are worse."

## Melissa Rivers files suit in Joan Rivers' death

While Joan Rivers lay sedated in a New York clinic, her doctors performed unauthorized medical procedures, snapped a selfie with

the comedian and failed to act as her vital signs deteriorated, according to a malpractice lawsuit filed Monday by her daughter, Melissa.

The 81-year-old comedian and star of "Fashion Police" on E! died Sept. 4, days after she went in for a routine endoscopy at Yorkville Endoscopy on Manhattan's Upper East Side and stopped breathing.

The lawsuit, filed in Manhattan State Supreme Court paints a picture of careless, cocky doctors who ran roughshod over Rivers while she was unconscious, and it suggests that she died because of their incompetence. The suit seeks unspecified damages.

## Other news

■ Emma Watson will play Belle in Disney's live-action remake of "Beauty and the Beast." The Walt Disney Co. announced the casting of the Harry Potter star Monday, setting the prettier half of the romance at the center of the fairy tale. Who will play the Beast hasn't yet been announced.

■ Ariana Grande isn't the only big-voiced singer performing at the NBA All-Star Game: Christina Aguilera has been added to the lineup. The league announced Tuesday that Aguilera will perform before the game on Feb. 15 at Madison Square Garden in New York City. She will sing a "New York-themed medley" during player introductions and be joined by dance troupe The Rockettes.

# WORLD



PHOTOS BY ALAN KEPLICZ/AP

Film director Steven Spielberg, center, leaves after attending the unveiling of a memorial plaque at the Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland, on Tuesday. Some 300 Holocaust survivors traveled to Auschwitz for the 70th anniversary of the camp's liberation by the Soviet Red Army in 1945.

# 70 YEARS LATER AUSCHWITZ

The Associated Press

BRZEZINKA, Poland — Some 300 Holocaust survivors gathered with world leaders Tuesday under an enormous tent over the gate and railroad tracks that marked the last journey for more than 1 million people murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz were tinged with a sense of melancholy over the fact that it is expected to be the last major anniversary that a significant number of survivors will be strong enough to attend — and a sense of anxiety at the growing anti-Semitism and radicalism in Europe and the Middle East.

One survivor, Roman Kent, became emotional as he issued a plea to world leaders to remember the atrocities and fight for tolerance.

"We do not want our past to be our children's future," he said to applause, fighting back tears and repeating those words a second time.

Among those in attendance were French President Francois Hollande, whose nation was the recent victim of terrorist attacks that targeted Jews and newspaper satirists.

Participants also included the presidents of Germany and Austria, the perpetrator nations that have spent decades atoning for their sins, as well as Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.



Holocaust survivors stand outside the gate of the Auschwitz Nazi death camp on Tuesday.



Holocaust survivor Igor Malitsky, left, of Ukraine, touches his face while attending a ceremony at the Executions Wall, or Wall of Death, of the Auschwitz death camp Tuesday.



A Holocaust survivor wears a prisoner armband at Auschwitz on Tuesday.





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OPINION

Lt. Clint Lorraine could be any one of us

By SEAN PARNELL

The vast majority of Americans cannot comprehend the reality of combat. Media portrayals, no matter how seemingly realistic, only dimly reflect the true nature of what it means to come under fire from an enemy. Films like "Lone Survivor" and "American Sniper" may be gripping, but the reality is even more intense, unsettling — and consequential.

Serving in Afghanistan in 2006-07 with the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division, my platoon and I engaged Taliban combatants repeatedly along the Pakistan border area. My platoon was deployed 485 days, with one of the highest casualty rates of the entire war.

The hardest lesson I learned was that in a combat situation, sheer uncertainty stalks you constantly. Amid that uncertainty, you're forced to make instantaneous decisions with incomplete information, surrounded by chaos and under unimaginable stress. A wrong call can result in tragedy.

To grasp the price of that uncertainty, consider the case of Clint Lorraine — a 29-year-old U.S. Army lieutenant sentenced to military prison for ordering his men to fire upon Afghan nationals he believed were a threat. The facts suggest the punishment rendered to Lorraine is a stark injustice — and is a chilling example to all who have had to make tough decisions in complex combat situations.

Here's what we know: In July 2012, Lorraine was a new platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne Division on patrol in Kandahar province with his platoon. Three Afghan men approached the platoon on a motorcycle. Believing the men to be a threat, Lorraine ordered his troops to open fire, killing two of the men (the third escaped).

In a war zone, such stories are common. What's unusual is what happened next.

Army officials accused Lorraine of violating the rules of engagement, saying the killed men were Afghan civilians. The young lieutenant was given a court-martial and charged with second-degree murder. In August 2013, he was found guilty and received a 20-year sentence. His most recent request for clemency was denied.

Uncertainty swirls around Lorraine's case. Any combat veteran will tell you that the lieutenant's position that day in Afghanistan was challenging, if not morally impossible. Had he allowed the men to continue approaching, and they had in fact been Taliban combatants — either attacking his platoon or surveilling their position for future attacks — his troops could have been injured or killed. If that happened, and he had failed to act, he would live in his own personal prison for the rest of his life — tormented by guilt and regret.

Moreover, serious questions have been raised about the fairness of Lorraine's trial. Lorraine's attorney maintains there is evidence that the Afghan men killed on that fateful day in 2012 had links to Taliban insurgents. There is also evidence that the Army has willfully withheld this evidence for an unknown reason. If true, that would shine a decidedly different light on Lorraine's order to fire.

The Army prosecutors who zealously pursued Lorraine's case seem to have forgotten a basic principle of military service: The benefit of the doubt in a combat situation should always go to our men on the battlefield. With the uncertainty surrounding the facts of Lorraine's case, he deserves that same benefit of the doubt.

As a combat veteran, I look at Lorraine's situation and realize his fate might just as easily have been mine. I am Clint Lorraine, just like thousands of other combat leaders who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Based on the standards used to prosecute

Lorraine, virtually any one of us could be in jail as a result of difficult decisions made in combat.

I can't say for certain I didn't make a wrong call while under combat strain; no one who's served under fire can. I know I was faced with tough decisions that required immediate judgments based on incomplete information, and I may have made mistakes.

In 2007, my men and I came under attack by Taliban insurgents, one of whom was wounded and rolled down a hill, coming to a stop near our patrol vehicles. As the man lay dying, one of the specialists under my command — spiking with adrenaline, fear and anger — wanted to finish him off. While I understood his desire to take decisive action against an enemy combatant who had posed a serious threat to our lives, I would not allow him to kill the wounded man. That was the right decision.

But I can also remember how and how it might have gone the other way if I had judged that man to be an immediate or future threat — and how I then might have found myself facing a military tribunal and potential imprisonment, just for seeking to keep my men safe. If I had made that decision, would I be in prison for 20 years?

The system built Clint Lorraine, but there may still be a chance to get it right. His case is being forwarded to the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals for review. His family and supporters should continue pressing for a fresh look at this case — because, if we are honest with ourselves, any one of us could be in his shoes. We are Clint Lorraine, and we will always have his back.

Sean Parnell, military adviser to Concerned Veterans for America, is a retired U.S. Army Airborne Ranger and served as a captain in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division. He is the author of "Outlaw Platoon: Heroes, Redeemers, Infidels, and the Brotherhood of War in Afghanistan."

Troops can help reduce human trafficking

By SHAWN VAN DYVER

My fellow San Diegans and I like to refer to our town as "America's Finest City." While that nickname makes it sound like things are wonderful here, that is not the case for everyone. The truth is that there is also a vibrant underground economy of drugs, labor and sexual exploitation occurring in my city — and all over the country at large. A recent indictment alleges that about 100 young girls were recruited from middle school and high school campuses in San Diego County as part of a cross-country sex trafficking ring. Some of these young girls are forced to have sex with 10 or more adult men per day.

Over the weekend, the Junior League of San Diego hosted a rally to raise awareness given that January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. At one point, a brave young woman took the stage to tell her story. She told the crowd about answering a modeling ad and being promptly raped when she came in for her "interview." She later learned that her rape was videotaped and distributed as pornography. She courageously walked us

through her struggles, which have culminated in a piece of art meant to shed light on the young men and women affected by this issue.

There are myriad heartbreaking stories. As survivors tell them, people become increasingly, and more visibly, uncomfortable. But being uncomfortable to hear such horrific tales is an essential response; we must turn that discomfort into action. Human trafficking affects not just undocumented immigrants and the poorest among us. Victims are our sons and daughters. Our nieces and nephews. Our brothers and sisters. And, yes, our mothers and fathers. Hotels in my city and yours are allowing this stuff to occur, and it is incumbent upon the stakeholders within the tourism industry to declare "enough is enough."

An ugly and uncomfortable secret is that the military is part of the problem. While I was in the military, many of my colleagues would discuss their weekend plans, which often included paying for sex either here or on the other side of the border. Sailors and Marines are certainly not prosecuted.

To be clear, I am not saying that the Department of Defense encourages this behavior; annual online training on the

subject is mandatory. I would, however, argue that, in my experience, the issue is not taken seriously enough, especially at the unit level. When sailors and Marines learn this behavior on deployments, they all too often bring it home and contribute to the trafficking economy.

This is a nonpartisan issue. Everyone agrees that human trafficking is terrible, so what can we do about it? Let's make 2015 the year that communities across the United States come off the map as destinations for human trafficking. We need to pay attention at restaurants and hotels where we dine and stay. We should give to organizations fighting every day to raise awareness, pass legislation and care for survivors. And we must call our elected officials and make sure they know it is an important issue to us. I for one am willing to let go of the "America's Finest City" rhetoric for a while — I'm looking for America's Finest Citizens to do something about this unchecked scourge.

Shawn VanDyver is a 12-year Navy veteran and a faculty member at three universities. He serves on a Human Trafficking Task Force out of San Diego and is co-director of the Truman National Security Project's San Diego Chapter. The views expressed here are his own.

Tell us what you think

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OPINION

# Cameron visit underscores vital UK-US ties

By ARTHUR I. CYR

While President Barack Obama's State of the Union address last week garnered much the greater media attention, the joint press conference the previous week with visiting British Prime Minister David Cameron was revealing — and perhaps more important. The State of the Union speech can be summed up as the now-standard highly partisan Washington exercise, with Obama combining cheerleading and credit-taking for Democratic policies with righteous preaching at the Republican sinners on the other side of the aisle.

The earlier Obama-Cameron session before Washington media by the leaders of two traditional allies underscored the established cooperation. They emphasized the importance of tough nuclear negotiations with Iran.

In other words, hard international realities were faced head-on. There was an honest effort to explain the high stakes involved, and also the great difficulty of negotiating a viable durable agreement with Tehran — no cheerleading here.

Cameron spent time contacting members of the Senate to try to mitigate pressures to impose more sanctions on Iran. The absence of any strong backlash reflects the unusually close nature of this alliance.

Britain's famed fictional sleuth Sherlock Holmes brilliantly solved one particularly vexing mystery by focusing on a dog that did not bark. The crucial evidence was not something that was present, but rather absent.

Likewise, the "special relationship" between Britain and the U.S., forged during the frustrating and terrible first years of World War II, has endured down to the present despite sometimes severe strains. The evening of the Anglo-American special relationship highlights important

events of that global total war, and the Cold War and post-Cold War era that have followed.

Cameron's predecessor, Tony Blair, paid a high political price for his faithful support of the administration of George W. Bush in the invasion of Iraq. Yet Blair survived politically, and led his Labour Party to another general election victory. More important, the Anglo-American military alliance, and the durable wider NATO structure, was at no point seriously threatened.

During the mid-1960s, the Johnson administration pressed extremely hard for at least token direct military participation in the Vietnam War. Australia and New Zealand, both members of the British Commonwealth, did provide forces. In the case of Australia, there was considerably more than a token commitment.

Britain remained out of that war, for understandable reasons. In hindsight, this lack of support by a close ally was a clear indication of the questionable nature of the American military adventure.

From the other direction, the most serious Anglo-American and wider Atlantic alliance crisis was over the Suez Canal in 1956. Britain, France and Israel launched a coordinated surprise military attack to retake the waterway and associated territory from Egypt's nationalist government.

President Dwight Eisenhower was completely opposed as well as offended by lack of consultation. His administration forced an abrupt halt to the operation. No crisis since has so seriously threatened the alliance.

Economics strengthens alliance cooperation. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's deregulation of the economy in the 1980s pays forwardly dividends today. Canary Wharf, formerly grim docks and working-class housing blocks in eastern London, has been transformed into a mammoth



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

This month, British Prime Minister David Cameron addressed the media with President Barack Obama in Washington and also contacted members of the Senate to try to mitigate pressures to impose more sanctions on Iran.

global commercial center. Massive modern skyscrapers dominate the horizon, complemented by fashionable retail outlets. Thatcher's heavy-handed style earned her the sobriquet of "Big Sister," but her forceful deregulation and opening of the economy were crucial to contemporary British prosperity and strength.

McGeorge Bundy, President John F. Kennedy's national security adviser, cogently summed up the Anglo-American special relationship as "someone to talk to." The conversation continues, to mutual benefit.

Arthur I. Cyr is Clausen Distinguished Professor at Carthage College.

# The root of US political paralysis is intolerance

By CLIVE CROOK  
Bloomberg News

For the next two years, the chances are good that the U.S. government will be almost completely paralyzed. After the midterm elections, power is more perfectly divided between a president and Congress that detest each other. Each sees its main job as blocking the other's ambitions. The Republican majorities on Capitol Hill will pass bills to make a point; the Democratic president will veto them.

The State of the Union address and the response to it set the pattern. The president laughed contemptuously at Congress, and Congress contemptuously laughed back. The prospect is for more of the dysfunction the country has already endured, carried to another level.

What are the roots of this dysfunction, and what's the answer? Many frustrated centrists blame an excess of ideology. The fundamental problem, they argue, is strongly held opinions at the increasingly distant ends of the political spectrum, with politicians and voters aligning themselves more closely around those poles.

I wonder if that's quite right. Increasing polarization — an observable fact in the U.S. — obviously makes government more difficult in a system based on divided powers. So the theory is true in that trivial sense. The deeper question is, what's driving the increase in polarization? Here, I think, the popular story may get

**In any system of democratic government, you're in trouble once blocking the other tribe's agenda assumes greater importance than advancing any aspect of your own.**

things backward. Ideology isn't driving polarization, polarization is driving ideology.

The salient characteristic of America's widening political divide — despite appearances to the contrary — isn't that liberals and conservatives disagree about everything. It's that they dislike one another for their views and ways of life, and don't care to disguise the fact. Partisan sorting by region and locality is both an expression of this trend and the reason it's likely to continue. In their daily lives, metropolitan liberals and rural or suburban conservatives have no need or occasion to meet, much less get on with one another — and, increasingly, that's exactly how both sides would have it.

In the U.S., progressives and conservatives are defined as much by culture as by politics — by the kind of jobs they do, the kind of clothes they wear, the beer they drink, the music they listen to and the TV shows they watch. As the tribes coalesce, political differences are seized upon and exaggerated as badges of identity. The cultural sorting comes first, the political polarization second. Intellectual inbreeding then drives the tribes farther apart.

To be sure, liberals and conservatives have different political values, and attach

different weights to the values they have in common. This has been intriguingly documented by the social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. And both sides seem convinced that the differences are growing. The question is whether these competing values are really as incompatible as both sides want to believe.

Even if they were, some kind of accommodation would have to be found. But I'm asking whether the differences are as fatal to political discourse as the tribes, intent on cultural segregation, choose to believe.

Every kind of practical politics is about trade-offs (and still would be, mind you, even if the entire country was ideologically aligned). Ideas about the proper role of government, for instance, have to balance concern for individual liberty against collective well-being. Almost nobody thinks that individual freedom is all that matters, or that collective well-being overrides every other concern. Almost nobody believes in laissez faire; almost nobody believes in central planning.

As individuals, most Americans, like most Europeans, make sense of the world through ideological compromise. What's the alternative? Once you accept that a balance has to be struck, that no single value

trumps another, and that getting it right can be difficult, it's harder to see somebody who disagrees with you as standing outside the realm of what's permissible.

Democracies don't need agreement. They do need tolerance of disagreement. The politically engaged — progressives and conservatives alike — mock the disenfranchised majority for asking, "Why can't we all just get along?" In one way, they're right: Politics divides, and it should. In another way, they're wrong. Getting along doesn't require milquetoast moderation, flaccid centrism or "moving beyond left and right." However, it does require some willingness to compromise, some curiosity about what might be valuable in the other side's point of view, and some minimal attention to the civic virtues of tolerance and restraint.

Without those virtues, which have never been more out of favor, it's easy to get locked into the dysfunctional cycle that Washington exemplifies. In any system of democratic government, you're in trouble once blocking the other tribe's agenda assumes greater importance than advancing any aspect of your own. In the American system of government, it's fatal. That's where things now stand — and the most worrying thing is that the politically engaged, almost without exception, are fine with it.

Clive Crook is a Bloomberg View columnist and a member of the Bloomberg View editorial board.

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## AUSTRALIAN OPEN

## Unfit Nadal falls in quarterfinals

By DENNIS PASSA  
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal kept telling anyone who would listen that his fitness levels wouldn't stand up to the rigors of a two-week Grand Slam tournament. Tomas Berdych proved him right.

Nadal, who had played only eight matches since last June coming to the Australian Open because of a right wrist injury and appendix surgery in early November, was knocked out in the quarterfinals 6-2, 6-0, 7-6 (5) on Tuesday by Berdych — who had lost 17 straight matches to the Spaniard.

"It is obvious that I needed something more to be more competitive," Nadal, a 14-time major winner, said. "As I said when I arrived here, the process always is not easy. When you have injuries, comebacks are difficult. But without being at my top level of tennis, I was able to be here in quarterfinals. Is not a bad result at all for me."

Berdych, while thankful for the win, was reminded of a quote from the late Vitas Gerulaitis after beating Jimmy Connors for the first time in 16 matches: "Nobody beats Vitas Gerulaitis 17 times in a row."

No one, not even Nadal, could beat Berdych 18 times in a row? "I've heard that one already," Berdych said, smiling.

Berdych will play sixth-seeded Andy Murray in the semis after the British player beat local hope Nick Kyrgios 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

The 19-year-old Kyrgios, who walked onto the court with his headphones on and gave two thumbs-up to the crowd, was at his crowd-pleasing best. After hitting a backhand drop shot at the net for winner in the second set, he spread out his arms for applause, and in the third set, he hit a between-the-legs shot that Murray easily returned.

"It was a tricky match," Murray said. "I tried to start as quick as possible because I know how

dangerous Nick is. He's a huge hitter of the ball, so I tried to keep it out of his strike zone as much as possible. Thankfully it worked."

On the women's side, Maria Sharapova moved closer to another Australian Open title, defeating 20-year-old Eugenie Bouchard 6-3, 6-2. The Russian made all the big points look easy and advanced to play Ekaterina Makarova, who earlier beat third-seeded Simona Halep 6-4, 6-0.

"I felt pretty good from the start, didn't feel I had too many letdowns," Sharapova said, adding that her close call in the second round — facing two match points against a qualifier — sharpened her focus for the rest of the tournament.

The last time Sharapova and Bouchard met — in the semifinals at the French Open last year — Bouchard won the first set before Sharapova came back to take the next two. The Russian then won the title at Roland Garros.

This time, Bouchard, who made the finals of Wimbledon and two other Grand Slam semis last year, didn't come close to taking a set, looking flat from the outset while being broken in her opening service game. The Genie Army, a group of young Australian men who cheer about the Canadian player, was left to sing another day.

"She didn't give me many chances, and against the great players you have to take any chances you can get," Bouchard said.

The other women's semifinalists will be determined on Wednesday when No. 1-ranked Serena Williams plays last year's finalist, Dominika Cibulkova, and Venus Williams, playing in her first Grand Slam quarterfinal in nearly five years, takes on 19-year-old American Madison Keys.

If the Williams sisters play each other in the semifinals, it would be their first meeting in a Grand Slam tournament since the Wimbledon final in 2009 — won by Serena.



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Novak Djokovic's coach Boris Becker, one of many ex-pros now coaching, watches a third-round match.

## Ex-pros offer coaching insight especially helpful at majors

By JUSTIN BERGMAN  
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Goran Ivanisevic won one Wimbledon title in his colorful tennis career, but the big-serving Croatian believes he might have won even more if he'd had an ex-player as his coach, like many of the top competitors do today.

"Bad luck I did not have someone like me to coach me when I was [playing]," he said Tuesday at the Australian Open. "I should have had this Goran to coach that Goran. Probably I would win at least five, six more Grand Slams."

Ivanisevic, 43, is now part of the latest trend in tennis — the exclusive but steadily growing club of former pro players who have turned to coaching in their post-retirement years.

The big-name stars like Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Murray may have glamorized the ex-player hires in recent years, taking on Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Ivan Lendl/Amelie Mauresmo, respectively. But the players just behind them in the rankings have also jumped on the bandwagon to try to close the gap and contend for slams.

Stan Wawrinka and Marin Cilic both won their first majors last year under the tutelage of former players — Wawrinka is coached by Swede Magnus Norman and Cilic by Ivanisevic. And Kei Nishikori has former French Open champion Michael Chang in his corner, while Milos Raonic is coached by Ivan Ljubicic, once ranked No. 3 in the world.

Chang believes the ex-player coaches have caught on among these players, in part, because they can bring valuable perspective from their own careers that could be the final piece needed for a breakthrough at the majors.

The fifth-seeded Nishikori hired Chang at the end of 2013 and credited to make his first Grand Slam final at the U.S. Open, where he was beaten by Cilic. He plays defending champion Wawrinka on Wednesday for a spot in the semifinals.

"The mentality and attitude ends up playing a very important role," the 42-year-old Chang said.

"We all know everybody can come out here and play great tennis, they all hit great forehands, great backhands and great serves, but the mindset is another element that the public and press don't see. Something that I try to help him out and give him good advice wherever I can."

Ivanisevic, who reached three Wimbledon finals before finally winning in 2001, sees how valuable this insight can be when looking back at his own career. "I say [to Cilic], 'Listen, you're going to learn only by learning not to the same mistakes that I did,'" he said. "It would take 10 days to tell you how many mistakes I made."

Ivanisevic has known Cilic since 2002 when he invited the then-14-year-old rising junior to practice with him. Cilic, who pulled out of this year's Australian Open due to a shoulder injury, hired Ivanisevic to coach him in 2013.

"It's nice to have somebody in the corner who was through all these things," Ivanisevic said. "Unfortunately, I could not do things with myself that I can do with him. But I succeeded with him, also made me proud."

Ljubicic, too, was drawn to coaching by the opportunity to help one of the game's rising stars take the next step. Raonic also plays for a spot in the semifinals Wednesday against Djokovic.

A former French Open semifinalist, Ljubicic, 35, said there's an expectation that an ex-player coach can have an immediate impact on a player's results, but this isn't necessarily the case.

His coaching relationship with Raonic, which began just a year after Ljubicic retired in 2012, got off to a rocky start.

"We had difficult first few weeks because [Raonic] was struggling, out of confidence and out of shape, but we decided to try a little bit longer and the results started to come," Ljubicic said.

Ljubicic said he wasn't going to return to the grind of the tennis tour for just any player, either. He wanted to coach a contender.

"[Milos is] one of the most determined and motivated people that I have ever met, and that meets my needs and my type of people that I want to work with," he said.

Chang, too, didn't take the decision to return to the tour lightly. He said it wouldn't have been possible without the help of his wife, who travels with him and takes care of their two children.

"It's fun to be able to work with Kei and to see him excel and improve," Chang said. "Spending time with my family is important, too."



ROB GRIFFITH/AP

Andy Murray's coach Amelie Mauresmo, left, and his fitness coach, Matt Little, watch Murray's quarterfinal match against Nick Kyrgios.



BERNAT ARMANGUE/AP

Tomas Berdych, left, is congratulated by Rafael Nadal at the net after winning their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## After ugly start, Wildcats in Big 12 title chase

### K-State sloughs off early troubles to charge up league standings

By DAVE SKRETTA  
The Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — It may have happened against Texas Southern, when Kansas State allowed an overlooked opponent to score four points in the final second for a numbing two-point defeat.

Or it may have been few days later, when the Wildcats couldn't crack 50 points in a loss to Georgia. Or a few days after that, when star guard Marcus Foster openly sulked after getting benched, and Kansas State was run out of the gym in its Big 12 opener at Oklahoma State.

At some point, everyone seemed to give up on the Wildcats. They were 7-7 at that point, their season in tatters amid discord and infighting. All the strife resulted in apathy, with legions of fans refusing to show up for a game against TCU. Thousands of empty purple seats filled Bramlage Coliseum.

Barely two weeks later, everything has changed.

Buoyed by five wins in six games, including against ranked opponents Oklahoma and Baylor and once-ranked Oklahoma State, the Wildcats (12-8, 5-2) have charged to the top of the Big 12 standings. They are just a half-game behind Kansas for

first place heading into Tuesday night's game against No. 17 West Virginia, which is tied with Iowa state another half-game back.

"I think we've made some progress, obviously. Five out of six in the league, and a game at Iowa State we played well enough to win, we just didn't play well enough at the end," Kansas State coach Bruce Weber said. "We've made progress. And that's the first thing on the board: You worry about how you're going to help the team, you're going to play well."

Therein stands the reason for so much dissension early in the season: selfishness.

The biggest offender was Foster, who acknowledged thinking too much about himself — his breakout freshman season, the potential NBA future that awaits him — and not enough about his team. The result was a benching, and that ugly scene in Stillwater. Foster looked a bit like a petulant child who had been grounded as he sat on the bench.

To his credit, Foster opened up to things. Rather than let a rift with Weber grow, he repaired the schism. The sophomore guard became the consummate team player, winning his way back into the starting lineup with inspired play.

When the Wildcats met the Cowboys again on Saturday, Fos-

ter scored 14 points in a win.

"It definitely felt like it was a long time ago, more than a couple weeks ago," Foster said quietly, "but my revenge was all about getting a win. All the other stuff, I don't worry about that. They beat us last time. I just wanted to get a win."

Foster is the most visible sign of change at Kansas State, but not the only one.

Nino Williams has gone from role player to star, pouring in 20 points in Saturday's victory over the Cowboys. Big man Thomas Gipson has emerged as a brute in the paint. Justin Edwards has finally grown accustomed to life in the Big 12 after transferring from Maine, scoring 14 points and making several key plays down the stretch against Oklahoma State. "I think it's just playing my game, relaxing more, helping Marcus get a break, helping Wes (Iwundu) get a break," Edwards said. "Just got to come in and produce."

The Wildcats have been producing just enough on offense, but it's been their feisty defense that has been outstanding. They've held 12 of their last 13 opponents to fewer than 65 points. The only team to break that ceiling was the Cyclones, one of the highest-scoring teams in the league.



OLIN WAGNER/AP

Kansas State forward Thomas Gipson has become a strong force in the paint and has helped the Wildcats rebound from a horrid start.

### Roundup

## No. 13 North Carolina pulls away from Syracuse

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Brice Johnson had 15 of his 17 points after halftime and No. 13 North Carolina shot 55 percent to beat Syracuse 93-83 on Monday night.

Nate Britt added a career-best 17 points and four three-pointers off the bench for the Tar Heels (17-4, 7-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), who pulled away in the final 4 minutes for their sixth straight win. UNC shot 62 percent in the second half and took

control once it stopped turning the ball over against the Orange's zone defense.

Johnson was key in UNC's second-half production. After managing just two points on one shot attempt in the first half, the 6-foot-9 junior went 5-for-5 after the break — including three straight baskets in the first 90 seconds of the half — and finished with 11 rebounds.

By the final horn, UNC had the best shooting percentage and scoring total allowed all season

by Syracuse (14-7, 5-3).

Marcus Paige finished with 22 points, six rebounds and eight assists to lead the Tar Heels, who won despite committing a season-high 20 turnovers that led to 21 points for Syracuse.

**No. 15 Iowa State 89, No. 19 Texas 96:** Georges Niang scored 19 points, Bryce Dejean-Jones had 18 and Iowa State held off visiting Texas.

Jameel McKay had 14 points for the Cyclones (15-4, 5-2 Big 12), who bounced back from a loss at

last-year Texas Tech by running up a huge lead that nearly slipped away.

Iowa State broke open a tight game with a 27-12 run and went ahead by 21 with 11:36 left. The Longhorns answered with a furious rally that pulled them to 87-84 on Jonathan Holmes' three-pointer with 22 seconds left.

**Army 68, American U 66:** Tanner Plomb made six of nine three-pointers and scored 26, and Dylan Cox hit the go-ahead

jumpers with four seconds left to help Army slip past host American University.

A layup by Marko Vasic gave American (11-9, 4-4 Patriot League) a 66-61 lead with 1:45 remaining.

Cox made a layup and, after a back-court violation by American, Plomb knocked down a three to tie it with 1:14 to go.

Vasic missed a layup on the other end and Plomb grabbed the rebound, setting up Cox's game-winner.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

# Tiger explains how cameraman broke teeth

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Tiger Woods was all smiles Tuesday — and with a full set of teeth.

Woods gave a play-by-play account of how his front tooth was knocked out in Italy on Jan. 19 while celebrating girlfriend Lindsey Vonn's record 63rd World Cup victory. He said one tooth was chipped and the other was cracked. Both were replaced before he arrived to start his season at the Phoenix Open.

He said he wore a skeleton-patterned scarf over his face to avoid being recognized, making a crack about how difficult that can be for a man of black heritage at a World Cup ski race in Italy.

"Not a lot of brown dudes at ski races, OK?" he said with a laugh, as cameras clicked at his smile.

Woods said when the race was completed, the podium presentation was moved up on a hill for the photographers. He went to the top of the hill, behind the cameras.

"All the camera guys are around me on their knees or moving all below, trying to get a picture because she's hugging people, saying congratulations to the other racers as they are coming down," he said. "Some already finished, some are there already in the changing area. Dude with a video camera on his shoulder right in front me, kneeling, stood up and turned and caught me square on the mouth."

Woods said he tried to keep his mask on "so the blood is not all over the place." He said the videographer hit the tooth on which he had root canal, chipping it. He said the other tooth had to be fixed, too, because it had cracked through it."

The photo of Woods missing a tooth became as big a sensation as Vonn's record victory. There did not appear to be any swelling on Woods' mouth when a photographer captured the image of his mouth slightly open and the scarf lowered.

Nicola Colli, the secretary general of the race organizing committee, told The Associated Press he was among those who escorted Woods from the tent to a snowmobile for him to leave "and there was no such incident."

Whether anyone believed the story from a week ago was not his concern.

"Dude, you guys ... it's just the way the media is," he said. "It is what it is."

## Boxer Taylor to get evaluation

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — IBF middle-weight champion Jermain Taylor must undergo a mental evaluation, an Arkansas judge said on Tuesday.

Pulaski County Circuit Judge Leon Johnson granted a request from Taylor's attorneys that he be moved to a state hospital for



RICK SCUTERA/AP

**Tiger Woods talks after playing a practice round at the Phoenix Open on Tuesday, in Scottsdale, Ariz.**

a full evaluation, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported.

He has pleaded not guilty to first-degree battery and first-degree terroristic threatening charges stemming from an August shooting of his cousin at his home in Mableton. And Taylor last week was charged with aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of a minor after police said he opened fire and threatened to shoot a family during a Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in Little Rock.

Prosecutors sought to have Taylor's bond revoked in the first case after last week's arrest, so he was arrested again pending Tuesday's hearing. Instead, the judge agreed to a request from Taylor's attorney, Hubert Alexander, to have him immediately enter a hospital for an evaluation.

"Everybody is saying this isn't the Jermain Taylor they know," Alexander said. "We're trying to figure out who in the heck it is."

Taylor won the IBF title in October, and has served as an unofficial ambassador for Arkansas since 2000, when he won a bronze medal at the Sydney Olympics.

## Solo could be left off roster

Goalkeeper Hope Solo faces the possibility of being left off the American roster for this year's Women's World Cup if she fails to complete tasks set for her by the U.S. Soccer Federation, which may include alcohol counseling.

The 33-year-old was suspended for 30

days last Wednesday for what the U.S. Soccer Federation called "an incident that occurred during the current WNT training camp" in Carson, Calif.

Asked whether she could be omitted from the team's World Cup roster, USSF President Sunil Gulati said Monday: "Look, that's possible. We hope that's not the case. We hope she's making progress and joins the team. That's certainly the goal, hers and ours."

Jerramy Stevens, Solo's husband, was driving a team vehicle when he was arrested last week on suspicion of driving under the influence, a person familiar with the details of the arrest told The Associated Press last week. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because they could not discuss the case publicly.

Solo was ordered to refrain from drinking alcohol last June after she was arrested on domestic violence charges at her sister's home in Kirkland, Wash. The charge was dropped this month.

Solo will miss exhibition games at France (Feb. 8) and at England (Feb. 13).

## Yanks weigh A-Rod payments

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees are thinking about not making a \$6 million payment to Alex Rodriguez if he hits six home runs and ties Willie Mays at 660 for fourth place on the career list.

Rodriguez signed a \$275 million, 10-year contract with the team in December 2007 and a separate marketing agreement that called for \$6 million payments for up to five milestone accomplishments designated by the Yankees. Each payment is due within 15 days of designation and is in exchange for rights such as using Rodriguez's name and image in selling licensed goods.

At the time of the marketing agreement, those accomplishments were contemplated to be tying the home run totals of Mays, Babe Ruth (714), Hank Aaron (755) and Barry Bonds (762), and breaking Bonds' major league record.

Rodriguez returns to the team next month after a season-long drug suspension and has three seasons and \$61 million in guaranteed money remaining in his contract.

New York's thought process on the \$6 million payment, first reported by the Daily News, was described to The Associated Press on Monday by a person familiar with the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity because no public statements were authorized. The Yankees are thinking of letting any accomplishment pass without declaring it a milestone.

A failure to declare a milestone and make a payment likely would trigger a grievance

on Rodriguez's behalf by the Major League Baseball Players Association.

## Kings cut center Richards

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — The Los Angeles Kings decided they could wait no longer for Mike Richards to regain his championship form.

The Kings cut Richards on waivers Monday when they returned from the All-Star break, finally acknowledging the veteran center's declining play.

Richards has been a key part of the Kings' two Stanley Cup championship teams in the past three seasons, playing a responsible two-way role and providing leadership. But his plummeting offensive production hasn't matched his exorbitant contract since shortly after he arrived in Los Angeles, which acquired him from Philadelphia in 2011.

Richards, who turns 30 next month, has only five goals and 10 assists in 47 games with Los Angeles this season. He has a minus-7 rating and has won only 48 percent of his faceoffs while playing on a depth line with the Kings — not the contributions expected of a player with a 12-year, \$69 million contract that has a \$5.75 million annual salary cap hit for the next six seasons.

In other NHL news: The NHL has suspended Flyers forward Zac Rinaldo for eight games for charging and boarding Penguins defenseman Kris Letang.

Rinaldo is considered a repeat offender under the terms of the league's labor agreement. He loses \$73,170.72 in salary, which goes to the players' emergency assistance fund.

## No changes to Chase formula

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR won't change its new championship format, which chairman Brian France said Monday is "overwhelmingly popular" with fans.

The Chase was revamped last year into an elimination-style system that created a winner-take-all final race among four drivers. Kevin Harvick won the season finale at Homestead in November to claim his first Sprint Cup title.

NASCAR launched the Chase in 2004 and tweaked it several times in the first 10 years. But it got a dramatic overhaul before the 2014 season, when the field was expanded to 16 drivers with four eliminated after every third Chase race. The final four drivers then went to Homestead even in the standings, with the highest finisher guaranteed the championship. The system worked in creating an eventful finale in which all four contenders raced for the win.

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NHL

# Caps among East contenders

## West race too close to call as season emerges from All-Star break

By JOHN WAWRO  
The Associated Press

**A**LLEX OVECHKIN's familiar gap-toothed grin has returned with the Washington Capitals in the thick of the Eastern Conference playoff hunt.

Hardly anyone's smiling in the West, where the standings are far more convoluted heading into the post-All-Star break of the NHL schedule, which opened with 11 games Tuesday night.

"It's hard," St. Louis Blues defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk said during the All-Star festivities in Columbus, Ohio, over the weekend. "If you lose three, four games in a row, it's scary because you find yourself in eighth place when you were in first a week ago."

It's a tale of two conferences. In the West, seven points separate the fourth-place San Jose Sharks from the 11th-place Dallas Stars. Don't count out the 12th-place Minnesota Wild, who rode a 23-10-7 second-half surge to clinch a playoff spot last year.

And then there's the defending Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings, who are a single point out of the postseason picture at the moment.

"We've had some spurts where we played pretty good," Kings forward Anze Kopitar said. "But we also had some moments where we didn't play very good at all."

In the East, the Capitals (24-13-9) are seventh, but part of a top-eight group of contenders that have begun separating themselves from the bottom eight.

And that, so far, is fine with Ovechkin who is feeling much better after one of his most trying years.

"Before the season, I said it's a very important year for us, for me, for the whole group of guys on the team," said Ovechkin, who made his fifth career NHL All-Star Game appearance. "We all wanted to come back and show last year was maybe a little bit of no luck."

The Capitals not only missed the playoffs for the first time in seven seasons, Ovechkin's frustrations were compounded on the other side of the Atlantic. That's where he and his fellow Russians willed under immense national pressure by failing to even sniff an Olympic medal on native soil at the Sochi Games.

The Capitals have successfully made the transition under new coach Barry Trotz, and shored up their defense by adding Brooks Orpik and Matt Niskanen.

Ovechkin's production has barely slowed, and put him in contention to win his fifth career and third straight scoring title. His 27 goals are one off the league lead shared by Dallas' Tyler Seguin and the New York Rangers' Rick



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Washington left wing Alex Ovechkin, right, skates with the puck in front of Edmonton center Derek Roy during the second period of a game on Jan. 20 in Washington. After missing the playoffs last season, Ovechkin and the Capitals find themselves in the thick of the Eastern Conference race.

**‘We’ve had some spurts where we played pretty good. We also had some moments where we didn’t play very good at all.’**

Anze Kopitar  
Los Angeles forward

Nash. And Ovechkin's defensive numbers are markedly improved. After finishing third to last in the NHL with a minus-35 rating, he's currently 40th with a plus-12.

Steven Stamkos, captain of the East-leading Tampa Bay Lightning, isn't exactly rooting for Alex The Great's return to the playoffs. But, he noted, it would be good for hockey to have such a high-profile player competing well into the spring.

The East teams outside the playoff hunt have plenty of catching up to do. The youth-laden Florida Panthers — whose roster includes rookie No. 1 pick, defenseman Aaron Ekblad — are ninth. Ottawa and Toronto are next with 47 points, and show few signs of consistency even after both Ontario rivals changed coaches over the past two months.

The West is filled with intrigue, which shouldn't come as a surprise after many top teams spent last summer stocking up on high-profile free agents. Still, there are three teams — San Jose (fourth place), Winnipeg (seventh) and Calgary (eighth) — that are in the

hunt despite not making many offseason splashes. Chicago and St. Louis both find themselves looking up in the Central Division at Nashville.

"It's a tough division to be in, but it's also a good division to be in," Blackhawks defenseman Brent Seabrook said. "We're all playing meaningful games down the stretch, getting ready for the playoffs."

Not all will make it. There is a race to watch at the other end of the standings. Buffalo (14-30-3) and Edmonton (12-26-9) have been locked in a battle for utility and, more important, the right to land the top draft prospects — Eric Olters forward Connor McDavid and U.S.-born, Boston University freshman Jack Eichel.

The Sabres are suddenly gaining the "edge" for last place and, with it, a guaranteed top-two selection. They entered the All-Star break having lost 11 straight in regulation — the NHL's worst streak since Pittsburgh lost 13 in a row from January to February 2004, according to STATS.

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	48	20	14	4	64	156	127
Detroit	47	27	11	9	63	139	119
Montreal	45	29	13	3	61	122	100
Boston	48	25	16	7	57	126	121
Washington	46	24	13	9	50	107	122
Ottawa	46	19	18	9	47	126	128
Toronto	48	22	23	3	47	142	150
Buffalo	47	14	30	3	31	89	167

### Metropolitan Division

N.Y. Islanders	46	26	12	8	63	151	129
Pittsburgh	46	26	12	8	60	138	117
N.Y. Rangers	46	24	13	9	58	134	106
Washington	46	24	13	9	57	137	120
Philadelphia	48	19	22	3	45	130	146
Columbus	45	20	22	3	43	113	142
New Jersey	47	17	22	8	42	107	134
Caroline	46	16	25	5	37	98	120

### Western Conference

#### Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Nashville	45	30	10	5	65	137	104
St. Louis	46	29	13	4	62	148	111
Chicago	47	30	15	2	62	148	108
Winnipeg	48	26	14	8	60	135	117
Colorado	48	20	18	10	50	125	137
Dallas	46	21	18	7	49	144	151
Minnesota	46	20	20	6	46	128	137

#### Pacific Division

Anaheim	47	21	10	6	68	139	124
San Jose	48	25	17	6	56	131	132
Vancouver	45	26	16	5	55	124	114
Calgary	47	25	19	3	53	136	125
Los Angeles	47	20	15	12	52	129	126
Arizona	46	26	15	3	37	105	156
Edmonton	47	12	26	9	33	109	158

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

### Monday's games

No games scheduled.

### Tuesday's games

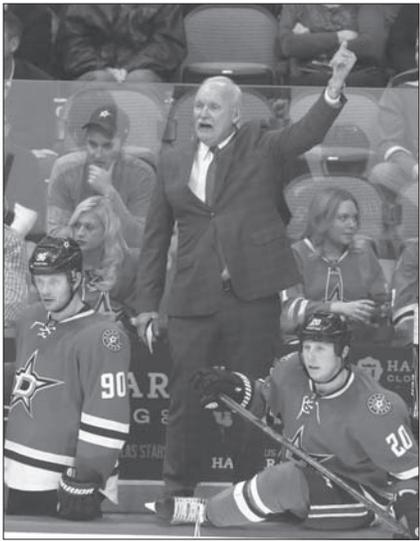
- N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders
- Arizona at Philadelphia
- Winnipeg at Pittsburgh
- Washington at Columbus
- Tampa Bay at Carolina
- Dallas at Montreal
- Detroit at Florida
- Colorado at Nashville
- Buffalo at Calgary
- Minnesota at Edmonton
- Anaheim at Vancouver

### Wednesday's games

- Toronto at New Jersey
- Pittsburgh at Washington
- Chicago at Los Angeles

### Thursday's games

- Boston at N.Y. Islanders
- Montreal at N.Y. Rangers
- Winnipeg at Philadelphia
- Arizona at Toronto
- Dallas at Ottawa
- Detroit at Tampa Bay
- Columbus at Florida
- Minnesota at Calgary
- Buffalo at Edmonton
- Anaheim at San Jose



LM OTERA/AP

Dallas coach Lindy Ruff, center, and the Stars are in 11th place in the Western Conference, but only seven points separate them from fourth-place San Jose as the season gets back underway.

## SUPER BOWL

## Kraft defends Pats, seeks NFL apology

New England owner says league owes QB, coach if investigation reveals no tampering

By BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

CHANDLER, Ariz. — The New England Patriots came out swinging upon their arrival at the Super Bowl.

Not star quarterback Tom Brady or All-Pro cornerback Darrelle Revis. Not coach Bill Belichick, either.

Robert Kraft, the team owner on Monday night demanded an apology from the league once the Patriots are found to be not guilty of breaking any rules regarding using underinflated footballs in the AFC championship game.

A conclusion Kraft is certain will occur. In an unscheduled statement, Kraft strongly defended his team's actions and integrity, growing more fiery with each sentence.

"I want to make it clear that I believe, unconditionally, that the New England Patriots have done nothing inappropriate in this process or in violation of NFL rules," Kraft said at the team's first media availability in Arizona.

"If the (Ted) Wells investigation is not able to definitively determine that our organization tampered with the air pressure in the footballs, I would expect and hope the league would apologize to our entire team, and in particular to coach (Bill) Belichick and Tom Brady, for what they've had to endure this week."

NFL Executive Vice President Jeff Pash and Ted Wells of the law firm of Paul Weiss are leading the probe. Wells was the investigator in the Miami Dolphins bullying scandal and has said the current investigation could last a while.

Kraft welcomes a thorough search. "I'm disappointed in the way this entire



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Patriots owner Robert Kraft reads a statement during a news conference Monday in Chandler, Ariz. Kraft addressed the media in defense of his team, which is under investigation by the NFL for using deflated footballs in the AFC championship game.

matter has been handled and reported upon," Kraft said, pointing directly to reports citing anonymous sources. "We expect hard facts rather than circumstantial leaked evidence to drive the conclusion of this investigation."

The NFL has said evidence shows the Patriots used underinflated footballs during the first half of the AFC title game victory over Indianapolis. The league is still determining how the balls were underinflated.

"I am confident that this investigation will uncover whatever the facts were that took place last Sunday and the science of

how game balls react to changes in the environment," Kraft added. "This would be in direct contrast to the public discourse, which has been driven by media leaks as opposed to actual data and facts. Because of this, many jumped to conclusions and made scarring accusations against our coach, quarterback and staff questioning the integrity of all involved."

Belichick and Brady followed Kraft to the podium, but basically left any comments on the investigation to their boss.

When asked if he was upset by the accusations and jokes of which he was the

subject, Brady said: "I've moved past those initial feelings and I want to move forward."

But moving away from the deflated footballs theme will be particularly difficult on media day, when just about any question has been fair game in the past.

So Kraft came out swinging before then with a speech tinged with emotion — and fire.

"Tom, Bill and I have been together for 15 years. They are my guys," said Kraft, who has three Super Bowl titles and three other trips to the big game since 2001.

"They are part of my family. Bill, Tom and I have had many difficult discussions over the years. I've never known them to lie to me. That's why I'm confident in saying what I just said."

"It bothers me greatly their reputations and integrity — and by association that of our team — has been called into question this week."

This hardly is the first time the Patriots have been under such scrutiny. Most famously was 2007, their undefeated regular season. Revelations that New England videotaped New York Jets coaches' signals during a game cost Belichick a \$500,000 fine, and the team was fined \$250,000 and stripped of its 2008 first-round draft choice by the NFL.

During this year's playoffs, Ravens coach John Harbaugh accused the Patriots of being deceitful with some alignments on offense. The NFL exonerated Kraft's team of any wrongdoing.

Now Kraft has taken the offensive.

"I, and our entire organization," he said, "believe strongly in the integrity of the game and the rules of fair play are properly, equitably and fairly enforced."

## Quiz: Questions help avoid surprises on field

## FROM BACK PAGE

What might an opposing defense do against a certain formation at a particular spot on the field?

What about that new play coaches added the previous day?

"We've all gotten caught," safety Devin McCourty said. "Some of the questions he asks you, you don't even think about it. I mean it usually results in us being very prepared at the end of the week."

Belichick might be an odd choice to go all Alex Trebek on his players.

The coach with all the questions is known for giving non-answers to reporters.

"We're on to Cincinnati," he said repeatedly after being asked about the team's problems following a 41-14 loss to Kansas City one week before playing the Bengals.

On Thursday, he said, "I don't have an explanation" for the Patriots use of underinflated balls in last Sunday night's 45-7 AFC championship game win over Indianapolis.

But his players, like school children crouching in their seats hoping not to be called on, know Belichick's surprise quizzes can keep them from being surprised in games.

**Preparation is everything until the battle starts, and then it doesn't mean anything.**

Bill Belichick  
Patriots coach

"He actually did catch me in the hallway when I was a rookie and he asked me a question a couple of years ago about a play," third-year linebacker Dont'a Hightower said. "Apparently it was a big play by a big player and I didn't get it. It's kind of frowned upon by all the other guys, so I learned my lesson then."

For all his obsession with preparation, Belichick knows there are limits. He recently paraphrased former President and five-star general Dwight D. Eisenhower while meeting with reporters.

"Preparation is everything until the battle starts, and then it doesn't mean anything," Belichick said. "Then you react to what happens in the game. In his case, what happens in the battle."

So if the Patriots have never seen the opponent's first five plays, they fall back on fundamentals such as tackling, covering a receiver or filling a gap, McCourty said.

"That will never steer you wrong," he said. "It's not the same as a battle. Those guys' lives are at stake."

The Patriots are preparing for their sixth Super Bowl in 14 years, all under Belichick. They've won three of them.

"Bill knows everything about a team, from personnel to the coaching staff, the players, everything," McCourty said. "By the end of the week, we usually know it, too."

Now they have more than a week to study, practice, and, perhaps, try to avoid Belichick's questions.

"They haven't been strange. They just catch you off guard," wide receiver Brandon LaFell said. "It's usually, 'What did we put in the game plan overnight on Tuesday,' just to see if you looked at the game plan."

And what if you don't answer correctly?

"You've got to," LaFell said, "or you'll have those questions every day."



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

New England head coach Bill Belichick likes to prepare his players for their upcoming opponents by quizzing them on aspects of the game ranging from additions to the playbooks to shoe sizes.

## SUPER BOWL



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

New England Patriots cornerback Brandon Browner got a Super Bowl ring without playing in the game for Seattle last season. Now he's a cornerback for the Patriots who will go for another championship, this time against the Seahawks.

## Browner aims for back-to-back Super Bowl rings when the Patriots face his former team

By HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Brandon Browner received a Super Bowl ring last year even though he was watching from home 3,000 miles from the Seattle Seahawks when they won the title.

Now the hard-hitting cornerback has a shot at more diamonds and another title, going face-to-face with receivers when the New England Patriots play his former team Sunday.

It's a matchup Browner craved after missing last season's Super Bowl while under suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy and then signing with the Patriots in March.

"It's crazy, man," Browner said. "I really had that vision when I signed here. Hopefully, we'd meet up with my old boys and it happened to work out that way."

While Seattle was pounding Denver 43-8 in New Jersey to win the championship, Browner watched from his Los Angeles-area home, frustrated he couldn't be on the field.

His indefinite suspension cost him the last two regular-season games plus three postseason games. In March, the indefinite exile was revised to four more games. Ten days later, he signed with the Patriots. After serving the suspension, he was inactive for two games then took over at cor-

**'I'm fortunate to be back in this thing the following year with a good football team, and with a bond that I've built with these guys like the one I built with the guys over there. It's a good feeling.'**

**Brandon Browner**  
Patriots cornerback

nerback opposite Darrelle Revis.

"He deserves a lot of credit to sit out four games and then come back and fall back right in stride," Patriots safety Devin McCourty said. "He hasn't missed a beat since he's been back."

At 6-feet-4 and 221 pounds, Browner has a physical style that can intimidate opponents but also hurt the Patriots. He committed 13 penalties while playing in nine regular-season games. But he hasn't backed off.

"He's brought an edge to the defense," McCourty said.

Now he has added incentive, a chance at a second straight NFL title against a team he has no ill feelings for.

"I was blessed and fortunate," said Browner, who served another four-game suspension in 2012 for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy. "I was suspended over there and I was still able to get a ring,

That was a decision by the coach and the owner to give me that. They didn't have to."

Since joining Revis, McCourty and safety Patrick Chung, Browner has solidified an already strong secondary that has great depth with Kyle Arrington, Duron Harmon and Logan Ryan.

McCourty said it's the most complete secondary he's been part of in five NFL seasons, all with the Patriots.

Next up is Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, a constant threat to run who can turn busted plays into critical ones — like his two-point conversion pass after a scramble in Seattle's 28-22 win over the Green Bay Packers for the NFC championship.

Browner will try to cover his receiver for as long as it takes to keep Wilson from completing a pass.

"Brandon Browner is a great professional," Patriots defensive coordinator Matt Pa-

tricia said, "a guy that's very intense, has a great work ethic, really studies hard, has a very competitive side and really wants to try to get everything right."

Last season, Browner teamed with Seattle's star cornerback Richard Sherman in what became known as the "Legion of Boom" secondary.

This season he's partnered with Revis, a cornerback considered by many to be better than Sherman.

"I'm older than Richard," said the 30-year-old Browner, who spent four years in the CFL with one Grey Cup championship before signing with Seattle in 2011. "I came in starting. Richard was one of the backups. So I couldn't take too much from him but I've always been a fan of Revis' technique."

Browner has a different style from both. He's bigger and more physical, a cornerback in a safety's or small linebacker's body.

And he brings another asset, a burning desire to contribute to a Super Bowl championship after missing that opportunity last year.

"It means a lot," Browner said. "I'm fortunate to be back in this thing the following year with a good football team, and with a bond that I've built with these guys like the one I built with the guys over there. It's a good feeling."

SUPER BOWL

# Beast mode may be on way out in Seattle

## Super Bowl could be last hurrah for bruising RB Lynch

By TIM BOOTH  
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — For all the importance placed around finding the right quarterback, the trade that brought Marshawn Lynch to Seattle part way through the 2010 season could be considered the most important transaction Pete Carroll made in the makeover of the Seahawks.

Lynch brought more than just skills as a running back. Lynch provided the Seahawks an attitude that spread through the locker room.

"I kind of love his act," Seattle general manager John Schneider said.

All that Lynch has provided the Seahawks makes it seem unfathomable that next Sunday's Super Bowl against New England could be his finale in Seattle.

No more showers of Skittles. No more Beast Mode moments. No more cat-and-mouse game avoiding the media.

Both the Seahawks and Lynch have decisions to make in the offseason. Whether it's time for Lynch to move on or if he'll play out the final year of his contract with Seattle.

If Lynch returns under his current contract, it would cost Seattle \$8.5 million against the salary cap, a number that would be unusual for a to-be 29-year-old running back.

Seattle could attempt to restructure or extend Lynch's contract to take less of a hit against its salary cap. They could decide it's time for backups Robert Turbin and Christine Michael to get their opportunities as Seattle's featured running backs.

Or Lynch could follow through on rumors that have followed him for nearly a year and decide to walk away from football.

Only one of those options is particularly pleasing to Seahawks fans and that's seeing Lynch continue. They've come to revel in the toughness and tight-and-refuse-to-be-tackled style with which Lynch runs. Beast Mode is an attitude Seattle has never had on the football field.

"He's a dog. His whole demeanor," Seattle safety Earl Thomas said. "He's a man [among] boys out there."

A case could be made that 2014 was Lynch's best season of his career and it started under an umbrella of speculation about his role.

Seattle coaches hinted in the offseason that backs such as Turbin and Michael could have more of a role in the offense and training camp began with Lynch holding out for the first week.

But once Lynch got on the field, his importance became clear. He rushed for more yards two seasons ago, but this season was a display of how Lynch has become more than just a ball carrier.

"It's been an extraordinary season that he's put out here because he's been so consistent for so long and he's been so physically right for so long," Carroll said.

Lynch's 17 touchdowns in the regular season, including four TD catches, were a career high. He caught 37 passes for a career-best 367 yards, becoming a more reliable receiving option out of the backfield. He's consistently been a capable blocker in pass protection.



PHOTOS BY RICK SCUTERA/AP

Since being acquired via trade during the 2010 season, Marshawn Lynch, pictured breaking tackles above, and catching a breather on the sideline, below, has been the burly engine behind the Seattle Seahawks machine. But with a contract dispute looming, there could soon be no more Skittles, no more Beast Mode and no more avoiding the media for the 29-year-old running back.



### Beast mode by the numbers

**771**      **2.8**      **18**

Number of yards of the 1,306 gained rushing by Seattle RB Marshawn Lynch this season that came after contact, the 2nd-highest total in the NFL.

Lynch's average yards gained after contact per attempt, highest in the league. In each of his four full seasons in Seattle, Lynch has gained 600+ yards after first contact.

Number of running backs who have rushed for over 1,300 yards in a season after turning age 29. Lynch, 29, has one more season on his current contract.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

"The thing that he brings to our offense is his versatility," quarterback Russell Wilson said. "People underestimate I think his ability to catch the football, his ability to block, his ability to run after contact. Just what he does in the backfield I mean I don't think there's another football player like him in terms of the running back position."

But that's only part of Lynch's story. Where his value is understated, and possibly most appreciated, is the ability to make something out of nothing.

To break tackles before he gets to the line of scrimmage and create a 3-yard gain out of what should be a 3-yard loss. It's a

skill others can try and emulate and never truly duplicate.

Of the 1,306 yards rushing this season for Lynch, 771 came after first contact according to STATS. That was the second-highest total in the league, but Lynch averaged 2.8 yards after contact per attempt — the best in the league for any running back.

In each of his four full seasons with Seattle, more than 600 yards rushing each season has come after Lynch was first hit. And 2014 was his highest total.

In the NFC title game last Sunday, Lynch's 157 yards rushing became a footnote to all the other craziness that occurred in Seattle's comeback. How good was

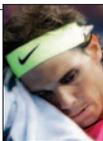
Lynch's performance against the Packers? He was one of five running backs in the past five seasons to rush for more than 150 yards in a playoff game.

If Lynch is back in 2015, he'll be facing the history that often catches up with running backs as they inch closer to age 30. Only 18 different running backs in NFL history have rushed for more than 1,300 yards in a season after turning 29.

But Lynch seems to be a different type of running back.

"He's hands down the best back in the game," New England defensive tackle Vince Wilfork said, "because he can hurt you any time he has the ball in his hands."

## SPORTS



**18th time's the charm**  
Nadal ousted in Aussie quarters  
by Berdych » **Page 24**

# POP QUIZ!

## Belichick tests Patriots' prep with surprise grillings

By HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Quick. Who are all the tight ends on the Buffalo Bills? In his first week with the Patriots in 2009, Rob Ninkovich was stumped when Bill Belichick surprised him with that question.

"Afterward, he came up to me and he said, 'You should also know their shoe size,'" the defensive end said. "So from then on I made sure I knew every single tight end. Couldn't find the shoe size, but I was trying."

His coach's pop quizzes — in team meetings, passing players in the hallway or anywhere they meet — can be a source of fear.

And that makes them study so they'll be better prepared for the next game.

"I think that puts us all on edge," special teams captain Matthew Slater said. "It's not about embarrassing a guy. It's not about putting a guy on the spot. It's about us being prepared and being ready to go on Sunday."

They better have the answers for the final test on Feb. 1 in the Super Bowl against the defending champion Seattle Seahawks in Glendale, Ariz.

Professor Belichick questions both veteran stars and young backups. Sometimes he'll ask one player if another's answer is correct.

"Heart's pounding, palms are sweating," running back Shane Vereen said of younger players' reactions.

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