

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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**A BORN FIGHTER**

**WOUNDED WARRIOR  
FOLLOWS HIS DREAM  
ALL THE WAY  
TO THE RING**

**PAGE 2**

Former soldier Chris Melendez signed a multi-year wrestling contract in June and will make his television debut on Wednesday with TNA Impact Wrestling.  
Courtesy of TNA Entertainment

## Obama casts Russia as obstacle to Europe peace

By JULIE PACE  
The Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia — Lashing out at Russia, President Barack Obama on Wednesday cast Moscow's aggression in Ukraine as a threat to peace in Europe. He vigorously vowed to come to the defense of NATO allies that fear they could be Vladimir Putin's next target.

"You lost your independence once before," Obama said following meetings with Baltic leaders in the Estonian capital of Tallinn. "With NATO, you'll never lose it again."

Obama, who faces criticism in the U.S. for being too cautious in confronting Russian President

**INSIDE**  
NATO aims to curb Russia without provoking it

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Obama says beheading videos won't intimidate U.S.

**Page 9**

Russian combat forces with Russian weapons in Russian tanks," he said during a speech at a packed concert hall.

Obama also took aim at one of Russia's main rationales for its provocations in Ukraine: the protection of Russian speakers living outside its borders. Like Ukraine, Estonia and other Baltic nations have sizeable Russian-speaking populations, compounding their fears that Moscow could seek to intervene inside their borders.

"We reject the lie that people cannot live and thrive together just because they have different backgrounds or speak a different language," Obama said.

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### MILITARY

DOD: Too soon to tell if Somalia drone strikes hit Islamic militant leader

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### AIR FORCE

Former Lackland trainer convicted in sex assaults dead in apparent suicide

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### FACES

Miranda Lambert earns record-tying 9 CMA nominations

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**NFL: Derek Carr at the head of rookie QB class » Back page**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"I just think that was a cowardly way to end his years. He's 28 years old, he had two kids and a wife. You go from being tip-top in the Air Force to being 6 feet under the ground."**

— Virginia Messick, the only woman to publicly identify herself as a friend of Airman Basic Luis Walker's rape victims, after he was found dead in his prison cell at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Air Force instructor convicted in Lackland sex scandal dies in prison
2. US Rep. Tammy Duckworth announces she's pregnant
3. Female fighters of the PKK may be the Islamic State's worst nightmare
4. 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade Kiowa squadron will be last in Army
5. Obama sending 350 more US troops to guard embassy in Baghdad

COMING SOON

Video games

"Madden NFL 15"



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MILITARY

# A modern gladiator

Former GI doesn't let war wounds get in way of his dream

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

Chris Melendez has had two dreams since he was a kid: to serve his country on the front lines and become a professional wrestler.

Impossibility never crossed his mind, even after an IED took most of his left leg in Baghdad's Sadr City in 2006.

The 4th Infantry Division soldier tackled rehabilitation with unusual resolve, walking within 40 days and leaving the hospital in eight months.

Now — fitted with a prosthesis — Melendez, 27, is taking his talents to the squared circle.

He signed a multi-year wrestling contract in June and will make his television debut Sept. 10 with TNA Impact Wrestling, the second-biggest wrestling promotion in the world.

The hulking, tattooed veteran hopes to inspire fellow wounded warriors to achieve their dreams despite their injuries. The only question when the bell sounds is not whether Melendez will be ready, colleagues say, but whether his opponents will see him sprinting at them from across the ring with or without his prosthesis.

"I want to inspire hope," Melendez told Stars and Stripes in a recent phone interview. "I've accomplished my dreams. I want to show people they can do it, too."

Melendez grew up in a rough Spanish Harlem neighborhood in New York City. As far back as he can remember, wrestling was his escape. His grandmother, Norma, would sit him on her lap and they would watch superstars such as Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, Hulk Hogan and "Macho Man" Randy Savage.

Melendez papered his walls with pictures of his favorite wrestlers and practiced moves with his friends on the sly. He was voted "most likely to become a professional wrestler" in his high school yearbook.

"I was always attracted to it, these larger-than-life characters," Melendez said. "I could see myself being one of them one day."

On Sept. 11, 2001, his world was turned upside down when his father, a Vietnam veteran, went radio silent while on the job in lower Manhattan. He came home later covered in debris.

"That upset me," he recalled. "It felt like someone knocked on my door picking a fight."

Melendez quit high school early and joined the Army the first chance he got in 2004, at age 17.

During his first deployment to Baghdad, where he served mostly as a machine gunner, roadside bombs were an almost daily occurrence. His unit would get hit, and everyone would pause for a moment to take stock of their injuries, then move on.

He was 23 days shy of finishing his yearlong deployment when he was hit on Sept. 29, 2006.

"I thought I was fine," he recalled. "My helmet was cracked. I was like, 'Wow, this is a bad one.'"

He tried to help his comrades through the smoke and metallic particles that lingered in the air when he made a horrific discovery.

"I was like, 'Someone's laying there,'" he recalled. "Wow, that's someone's leg. Something isn't right. I'm getting woozy."

Moved first to Germany for treatment, then Texas; he recovered quickly from his physical wounds, but internal injuries

posed the biggest challenge — post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. He separated from the Army because he couldn't see himself behind a desk, but lost the safety net of the military and people who understood what he had been through.

"I got home and felt out of place," he said. "You have to learn to deal with yourself again."

Part of the challenge was coping with nightmares and insomnia.

"It took a while for that to fade away," he said.

In 2009, Melendez was referred to a union job working on film sets by the Wounded Warrior Project. He asked for the most physically demanding position, so he became a grip, which includes lighting and camera setups. The pay was great and he went on to work on TV shows such as "Law and Order" and "Person of Interest" and film sets for Tyler Perry and "The Smurfs."

The itch to get on the wrestling mat didn't fade.

In 2011, Melendez began training at a small school in Brooklyn called the Doghouse. The Wounded Warrior Project stepped in again and introduced him to former WWE and current TNA wrestler Ken Anderson.

Anderson put him in touch with fellow TNA star "Bully Ray" LoMonaco, formerly of the WWE championship tag team The Dudley Boyz.

LoMonaco was inspired by Melendez's story and his passion, so he offered free training at his wrestling school in Florida if he would drop everything and take the leap of faith.

For Melendez, it wasn't even a question. "I didn't doubt myself one time," Melendez said. "I packed everything a month later and I took off."

LoMonaco said they threw him right into the fire of training with professionals.

"We never treated him differently," LoMonaco told Stars and Stripes by phone. "I've never seen him struggle one day [with his disability]. He's never used it



Courtesy of TNA Entertainment

**Professional wrestler Chris Melendez shows off the Purple Heart he was awarded after an IED took off his lower left leg in Iraq in 2006.**

as an excuse. He's kind of like the bionic man."

Melendez continued to work hard and improve. LoMonaco said. With a great story and ring charisma, he's the complete package.

LoMonaco felt so strongly about his star pupu that he approached TNA about signing him. TNA executives were equally excited.

"Chris Melendez is an American hero and an incredible inspiration," John Gaburick, executive vice president of TV production and talent for TNA Entertainment, wrote to Stars and Stripes. "Chris now has a significant platform to inspire millions by sharing the message that with persistence and determination achieving one's dream is possible."

Melendez is excited about his debut and what he hopes will be a long career in the industry he loves. He said opponents will be in for a rude awakening if they take him lightly because of his disability. He said he is faster and jumps higher without his prosthetic, and he knows there's a chance someone will take it from him at some point.

He feels at home under the lights, surrounded by the crowd, a modern gladiator.

"You have to completely give yourself to this to be successful, like the battlefield," he said. "I fight and I push. I do not stop."

burke.matt@stripes.com

**"I want to inspire hope. I've accomplished my dreams. I want to show people they can do it, too."**

Chris Melendez

former 4th Infantry Division soldier-turned-wrestler

- Associate of Science Business Computer Science General Education
- Bachelor of Science Business Administration Computer Science Criminal Justice Management Political Science Psychology Social Science Sport and Fitness Management
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# MILITARY

## Air Force to reprimand Krusinski rather than pursue court-martial

By **JON HARPER**  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has decided to punish a former sexual assault prevention officer accused of groping a woman outside a Washington-area restaurant last year by issuing him a letter of reprimand rather than pursue a court-martial, according to an Air Force document obtained by Stars and Stripes.

The disposition decision by Col. Bill Knight, the commander of the 11th Wing, “was based primarily on the fact that [Lt. Col. Jeffrey] Krusinski had already been acquitted during his civilian trial,” according to the document.

A letter of reprimand “is designed to improve, correct and instruct those who depart from standards of performance, conduct, bearing and integrity and whose actions degrade the individual and the unit’s mission,” according to the Air Force.

In keeping with service policy, the letter issued to Krusinski will be filed in an unfavorable information file. The officer’s senior rater has also decided to put the letter in Krusinski’s officer selection record, which could affect his ability to rise further through the ranks.

“This means he probably will not [be promoted],” an Air Force official said on condition of anonymity.

In the meantime, he remains on active duty and is supervising other airmen.

Allowing him to serve in a supervisory role “is being done with great oversight and is a conscious reflection of both his rank and performance since the incident. He has performed well and contributed in a positive manner that is within our expectations and requirements for a lieutenant

colonel in the Air Force,” according to the document.

Krusinski will not be discharged, according to the document, and he will remain eligible to apply for retirement benefits after completing 20 years of service. However, he could be forced to retire at a lower grade if service officials decide that the unfavorable information in his personnel records merits such a reduction.

Krusinski was arrested by Arlington County, Va., police in May 2013. He was initially charged with sexual battery in the incident, but Virginia prosecutors revised the charge to regular assault and battery, saying the sexual crime requires additional proof of sexual intent.

During a civilian trial in Arlington County Circuit Court in November 2013, a 23-year-old woman testified that Krusinski drunkenly groped her outside a bar, then verbally harassed her.

“I feel someone came up behind me — their chest is to my back, and they firmly grab my rear end as they’re walking by, and they ask me if I like it,” said the accuser, who broke down in tears during her testimony.

Another woman testified that she saw Krusinski grope the accuser. She also said he propositioned and groped her as well before she rebuffed him.

A civilian jury reached a verdict of not guilty following two days of testimony.

Forewoman Alison Kutchna said the jury had sympathy for the woman, but felt the evidence did not prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

Krusinski’s case drew considerable attention because at the time, he was the head of the Air Force’s sexual assault prevention and response office. The allegations came at a period when U.S. military leaders were under fire from lawmakers, advocacy groups and others for what critics charged were insufficient efforts to prosecute sexual assault cases.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chris Carroll contributed to this report. harper.jon@stripes.com twitter: @HarperStripes

## Jury in Blackwater case cautioned on immunity

WASHINGTON — A U.S. judge Tuesday urged jurors in the criminal case against four Blackwater security guards to proceed with caution when assessing testimony by the defendants’ former colleagues given under immunity.

District Judge Royce Lamberth stated in a written order in the case against four Blackwater guards to the jury, which began deliberations.

Lamberth reminded the jurors that one witness who testified at the trial had been allowed by prosecutors to enter guilty pleas to lesser crimes. The judge said other former Blackwater guards were given limited immunity

from prosecution in exchange for their cooperation with the government.

The guards who testified for the prosecution were Jeremy Ridgeway, Adam Frost, Marc Mealy and team leader Jimmy Watson.

Admonitions by judges are standard practice when it comes to witnesses who have made plea deals as Ridgeway did or have received immunity grants as did Frost, Mealy and Watson. Such witnesses can have motives that influence their testimony. In Ridgeway’s case, he wants prosecutors to write a letter on his behalf to the judge urging Lamberth to be lenient in his own sentencing.

From The Associated Press



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Pentagon press secretary Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby speaks during a briefing at the Pentagon on Tuesday. The Pentagon says the leader of the Somalia-based al-Shabab extremist group was the target of U.S. military airstrikes that hit an encampment and a vehicle Monday night.

# DOD: No word on al-Shabab leader following US strikes

By **JON HARPER**  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — It’s too early to tell whether the leader of an Islamic militant group in Somalia was killed in Monday drone strikes, according to the Pentagon.

“That work on verifying the success of that strike continues,” Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said Wednesday. Warren said the U.S. is using “intelligence means” to determine if the head of the al-Shabab network survived the U.S. attack. He declined to elaborate. The Defense Department disclosed details of the operation Tuesday.

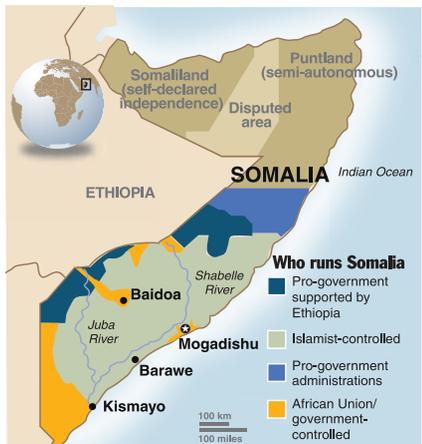
“At approximately 11:20 Eastern Time [on Monday], working from actionable intelligence, U.S. special operations forces, using manned and unmanned aircraft, destroyed an encampment and a vehicle, using several Hellfire missiles and laser-guided munitions. This operation was a direct strike against the al-Shabab network, specifically, the group’s leader, Ahmed Abdi-aw Mohamed, also known as Ahmed Godane,” Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters.

“We certainly believe that we hit what we were aiming at,” Kirby said, but he could not confirm that Godane or other al-Shabab leaders were killed.

“We are still assessing the results of the operation, and we’ll provide additional information when and if appropriate,” he said.

There were no U.S. troops on the ground before or after the attack, which occurred in southern Somalia, Kirby said.

Al-Shabab has been designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department. Godane claimed responsibility for the deadly Westgate Mall attack in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2013, in which at least 67 people died and more than 170



GREG GOOD/MCT

were injured. The group also has claimed responsibility for numerous bombings and assassinations in Somalia.

Al-Shabab continued to plan attacks against Westerners, including Americans in East Africa, according to Kirby.

“If he was killed, this is a very significant blow to their network, to their organization and, we believe, to their ability to continue to conduct terrorist attacks,” Kirby said.

Local reporters from Somalia have claimed that U.S. drones struck late Monday in southern Somalia, where top al-Shabab officials had been conducting meetings. The Associated Press reported that top

al-Shabab members were among the dead, although it remained unclear late Tuesday whether the group’s leader, Godane, was among the six militants reportedly killed.

Kirby also raised the prospect that more U.S. strikes will be conducted against militant targets in the region.

“We’re going to continue to use all the tools at our disposal... to dismantle al-Shabab and other terrorist groups who threaten U.S. interests as well as the interests of our allies and our partner nations,” he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chris Carroll contributed to this report. harper.jon@stripes.com

MILITARY

# Ex-Lackland trainer found dead in cell

Former Air Force staff sergeant was serving time for rape in wide-ranging scandal

By SIG CHRISTENSON  
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — A former Air Force staff sergeant who was serving time for rape in a prison cell at Lackland Air Force Base San Antonio-Lackland two years ago and sentenced to 20 years in prison died Sunday after apparently hanging himself in his prison cell.

Airman Basic Luis Walker, 28, was found unresponsive in his cell Friday afternoon at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He died at a hospital Sunday evening.

The Army is investigating his death and wouldn't release more details. A source familiar with the case, however, said Walker, who was given the longest prison sentence among instructors convicted in the Lackland sex abuse scandal, was found hanging in his cell. Walker's wife, Yeimi, declined to comment. The Air Education and Training Command said it notified all 10 of his victims Tuesday of his death as required by the 1994 federal Crime Victims' Act.

One of them, Virginia Messick, said she thinks Walker was overwhelmed with guilt. "I just think that was a cowardly way to end his years," said Messick, 23, of Valdosta, Ga., the only woman to publicly identify herself as one of his victims. "He's 28 years old, he had two kids and a wife. You go from being tip-top in the Air Force to being 6 feet under the ground. I mean, to me that's the only thing I can think, is that he couldn't live with himself."

Walker was one of 35 basic training instructors who have been investigated on suspicion of misconduct with 69 recruits and technical school students.

He was charged with rape, aggravated sexual assault, obstruction of justice and violating the Air Force training command's professional conduct code. He insisted during his trial that he was innocent.



Walker

The broad scandal became the worst in Air Force history and led to a training command investigation of the base and congressional hearings.

The investigation found a broken command culture and a gap in leadership that contributed to the sexual-assault scandal.

It said leaders were insulated from training and that barriers "at nearly every level" limited the flow of information about instructor misconduct at Lackland, home of Air Force basic training.

A makeover in basic and technical training followed. It was designed to give trainees more opportunities to report abuses and prevent a repeat of incidents in which instructors took advantage of recruits.

Time and time again, victims at Walker's 2012 trial, and in many others as well, talked of feeling powerless to stop their abuse.

Lackland held almost 30 sexual miscon-

duct trials. Only former Tech. Sgt. Jaime Rodriguez, a Houston-area Air Force recruiter who also was tried at Lackland, got a stiffer sentence — 27 years for a variety of sexual assaults.

But the Walker case was unlike any other; exposing problems in basic training that had been left uncorrected for years and contributed to instructor misconduct.

He was convicted of sexually preying on 10 young female trainees. Five were assaulted or subjected to his advances after he was allowed to return as an instructor in spring 2011 after having inappropriate Facebook contact with airmen in a technical training school.

In mid-May 2011, a woman told her former training camp instructor that Walker had assaulted her. She confided in a trainer who worked with Walker, and the report took more than a month to reach the desk of a squadron commander.

Jurors found him guilty of raping her, but Yeimi Walker said after the trial that her husband was innocent. She accused the women of lying, even though most of them never met, and the Air Force of "trying to make an example out of him."

Messick said she felt sympathy for Walker's family, but still chafed at the idea of his accusers perjuring themselves in a conspiracy against him.

"What he did to me is never going to go away regardless," she said. "I'm still going to have to deal with my PTSD because of him. And knowing that he isn't ever coming back is a good thing."

## US aids search for man in sea near Micronesia

Aircraft from Kadena Air Base in Japan and the Coast Guard in Hawaii have been called in to search for a man thought to have fallen overboard from a Japanese fishing ship southwest of Chuuk island in Micronesia.

The Yokohama Rescue Coordination Center notified Coast Guard Sector Guam on Tuesday that the 34-year-old man had been last seen on the Wakaba Maru 7 just past midnight Monday, according to a Guam Coast Guard statement.

The man is a citizen of Micronesia. It was unknown whether he was wearing a life preserver.

Other fishing vessels and a support helicopter conducted searches immediately after he was discovered missing.

The Guam Coast Guard is coordinating the search, currently being conducted by a Navy P-3 Orion aircraft from Kadena and two sister fishing vessels.

A Coast Guard C-130 plane traveling from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in Hawaii was expected to arrive at the search area Wednesday, 4:30 p.m. local time, after flying about 3,000 miles.

Micronesia is about 500 miles southeast of Guam.

The sea was relatively calm in the search area, with 10 mph winds and 5-foot waves.

From staff reports

### END OF SUMMER ESCOFFIER DINNER

An eight course dinner accompanied by a selection of fine wines and fabulous live entertainment

R.S.V.P. by Sept. 6 \$84 per person  
After Sept. 6 \$89 per person

September 13, Saturday

[Seating at 18:30] Dinner at 19:00

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Garnished with Rosettes of Homemade  
Gravlak, Salmon Caviar, Mustard Seed Oil and  
Wasabi Sesame Seeds

**SOUP**  
Beef Consommé  
Rich Double Strength Consommé, Garnished  
with Truffle and Foie Gras Wonton

**SEAFOOD**  
Timbale of Lobster  
Homemade Lobster Timbale, Served with a  
Vanilla Bean Scented Shellfish Sauce, Accompanied  
with Saffron Pasta and Seaweed Leafs

**GAME**  
Stuffed Quail  
Boneless Quail Filled with a Delicate Pheasant  
and Morel Mushroom Mousse, Served with a  
Madeira Wine Sauce, Garnished with Roasted  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
and Sautéed Shitake Mushrooms

**SORBET**  
Yuzu Fruit

**ENTRÉE**  
Veal Medallion  
Pan Seared Medallion of Veal Topped with  
Duxcel and Oven Roasted, Served with Port  
Wine Sauce, Garnished with Carmel Potatoes  
and Fresh Locally Grown Vegetables

**SALAD**  
Japanese Melon  
Fresh Japanese Cantaloupe Paired  
with Brie Cheese, Accompanied with  
Homemade Walnut Baguette

**DESSERT**  
Chocolate Pear Tart  
Fresh Berries with Crème Anglaise  
Raspberry Ice Cream

**Oktoberfest**

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THE NEW SANNO

## MILITARY

# Reports: 2 S. Korean soldiers die during captivity training

Stars and Stripes

Two South Korean soldiers apparently suffocated during an exercise meant to prepare them for capture by the enemy, South Korean military officials said Wednesday.

Citing a spokesman for the soldiers' unit, The New York Times reported Wednesday that the soldiers, staff sergeants in a special forces unit, died late Tuesday at their base in Jeungpyeong, about 60 miles southeast of Seoul. Their names were not released, but the spokesman, who requested anonymity, said the soldiers were in

their early 20s.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that while the Army said no physical assaults or torture took place during the training, it admitted to the leadership's failure "to properly manage the intensive and dangerous training."

"In the past, the command had carried out such training, but it was suspended for unidentified reasons," Choi said, as reported by Yonhap. "Upon the order of the commander, however, the special forces were to resume the exercise this year."

The training exercise was

meant to enhance soldiers' endurance should they be taken prisoner, the Times reported.

The soldiers were required to kneel with hoods over their heads and their hands tied behind their backs.

Trainers realized the exercise was going wrong when another soldier, who was later hospitalized, screamed and flailed his legs, the spokesman said.

He said the military was investigating the deaths, with a particular focus on whether the training had been properly supervised.

## As BRAC looms, Biden to visit Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

The Associated Press

KITTERY, Maine — Vice President Joe Biden is going to get a firsthand look at work done at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard before another possible round of base closings.

Union leader Paul O'Connor, who invited the vice president, said he wants Biden to see the collaboration between managers and workers to improve performance. He said such techniques could be used elsewhere in the federal government.

"We are living proof that collaboration — working together, finding ways to resolve issues — is far more beneficial than being adversarial and confrontational," said O'Connor, president of the Metal Trades Council, which represents 2,500 of the shipyard's 6,000 workers. "We can accom-

plish so much more working together. That's the core of our philosophy."

The vice president was expected to spend about two hours in the shipyard on Wednesday and will address workers.

Biden is a potential 2014 Democratic candidate for president and trips to the politically important shipyard have become a popular stop for those seeking their party's nomination.

The 214-year-old Navy yard that repairs and overhauls nuclear submarines in Kittery has survived three reviews from the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, including the most recent in 2005.

The Defense Department has pressed for another round, but has been rebuffed by Congress.

## 4 S. Korean soldiers charged with homicide in hazing incident

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean military prosecutors have charged four soldiers with homicide over the hazing death of a young army conscript in April, the country's Defense Ministry

said Tuesday.

The soldiers were previously charged with manslaughter, but prosecutors decided on a more serious homicide charge after concluding that the four likely knew the 21-year-old victim, private first class Yoon Seung-ju, could

die. If convicted, the accused face a minimum of five years in prison and potentially life imprisonment or the death penalty, ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said.

According to prosecutors, the suspects regularly bullied the victim for about a month. They alleg-

edly struck him in the chest and forced him to swallow a chunk of food that clogged his airway before he collapsed.

Bullying and hazing are serious problems in South Korea's military. Service is mandatory for all able-bodied men between

the ages of 18 and 35.

In June, five died after a shooting rampage at an army unit close to the North Korean border. The sergeant charged with the shooting spree said he opened fire on his colleagues after being bullied for an extended period.

# Celebrate the Week With Yokosuka MWR



### Officers' Club

243-5030

#### Japanese Shogun Buffet

Friday, September 5 from 1500 to 1900 in Kosano Dining Room  
Enjoy our authentic Japanese Shogun Buffet. We're talking much more than just sushi! \$19.95 adults, \$10.95 kids 8-11, \$8.95 kids 4-7. Open to all authorized patrons.

#### Hispanic Heritage

September 15 through October 15 from 1700 to 2100  
We will offer a traditional Hispanic Heritage Month meal for only \$9.95 for adults and \$5.95 for children 4 - 11 years old. Open to all hands.

#### Brilliant Lunch Buffets

Monday through Friday from 1100 to 1330 in Kosano Dining Room  
Try one of our quality themed buffets. A core menu is also available. \$9.95/person. Open to all authorized patrons.

### CPO Club

243-5506

CPO Club Dining room is open to all hands all the time!

#### Chef's Special Menu

Thursdays from 1700 to 2100

If food is an experience for you, then try the Chef Special Recipe each week prepared by our very own Chef Aikawa and Chef Miura. Please call 243-5506 for more details.

### Steak & Seafood Night

Fridays from 1700 to 2100

Your choice of steak or seafood accompanied with our delightful salad bar selections. Limited menu is also available.

### Club Alliance

243-3000

#### End of Summer Aloha Bingo

Saturday, September 6 doors open at 1000, first game at 1300  
Celebrate the end of summer with big jackpots and delicious food at our Hawaiian themed bingo bash! Enjoy a delicious Hawaiian buffet including Kahlua Pork, Mahi Mahi, Slow Roasted Ginger Pork and lots of sides, salad and dessert. All guests receive a lei and souvenir photograph. Guests who wear Hawaiian or Tiki themed attire (shirts/dresses) will receive a complimentary card for the \$3,000 game! Buffet opens at 1100. Guaranteed \$10,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 jackpots! Advanced tickets are available at all Yokosuka clubs, and ITT.

#### Garlic Night

Saturday, September 13 from 1700 to 2045 in Italian Gardens  
Follow your nose to Italian Gardens for our famous garlic night!

#### Rock Night

Tuesdays from 1600 to 2400

Straight up rock, and nothing else!

### Club Takemiya

246-8077

#### Surf and Turf Night

Saturdays from 1700 to 2100

Treat yourself to a combination of seafood (surf) and beef/chicken (turf) entrée with your choice of side. Special changes weekly. Only \$14.95

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### Negishi Club

242-4151

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# NATO SUMMIT



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

President Barack Obama and Estonian Prime Minister Taavi Roivas speak to U.S. and Estonian servicemembers in Tallinn, Estonia, on Wednesday.

## Obstacle: Obama using 3-day Europe trip to reassure allies of US commitment

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Despite the president's tough talk, the U.S. and Europe have been unable to shift Putin's calculus in the monthlong crisis in eastern Ukraine. While multiple rounds of Western sanctions have damaged Russia's economy, the penalties have not pushed Putin to end what the White House says is unfettered support for pro-Russia separatists who have stirred upheaval in key cities.

Obama offered no new options for penalizing Russia beyond more sanctions, and reiterated his opposition to getting involved in the conflict militarily.

Shortly after the president arrived in Estonia on Wednesday morning, there was a brief flicker of hope for a resolution to the conflict. The Ukrainian president's office announced that it had reached a cease-fire agreement with Putin. But the statement was ambiguous, and a top rebel figure quickly said no cease-fire was possible without Ukraine withdrawing its forces.

Estonia and other countries in the region that were once under Soviet control have been warily eyeing Putin's aggression and fear he could set his sights on their nations next. Unlike Ukraine, the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are NATO members and have been seeking firm commitments that the U.S. and other alliance powers would come to their defense if Russia were to encroach on their territory.

Obama's three-day trip to Europe is aimed at offering just those assurances. Following a meeting with the leaders of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, he declared that the U.S. commitment to security of NATO's newest members runs deep.

"We will defend our NATO allies — every ally," he said. "In this alliance, there are no old members or new members, no senior partners or junior partners — there are just allies, pure and simple. And we will

defend the territorial integrity of every single one."

Obama's comments were welcomed by Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who said the U.S. commitment to his country has "helped set an example for other NATO allies." Still, he continued to push for a more persistent NATO military presence in his country, something some allies have been loath to do because of a 1997 agreement with Russia in which the alliance agreed not to put permanent bases on Russia's borders.

"I would argue this is an unforeseen and new security environment," Ilves said.

Obama departed Estonia Wednesday evening for Wales, where a high-stakes NATO summit will get underway Thursday. The alliance is expected to approve plans to station more troops and equipment in Eastern Europe, with the aim of building a rapid response force that could deploy within 48 hours.

He addressed U.S. and Estonian troops at the airport before leaving.

"You're sending a powerful message that, as NATO allies, we stand together," Obama said. "We stand as one."

He earlier had announced that he was sending more Air Force units and aircraft to the Baltics, and called Estonia's Amari Air Base an ideal location to base those forces.

Obama is the second sitting American president to visit Estonia, following President George W. Bush, who traveled here in 2006. Upon his arrival, Obama wrote in a guest book that it was an honor to visit "a nation that shows what free people can achieve together."

The Baltics were invaded by the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany during World War II. After the Soviet Union crumbled, the Baltic countries turned to the West and joined the European Union and NATO in 2004, much to the chagrin of Russia.

# Slowing the roll of Russia is the goal at meeting

By JOHN THOR DAHLBURG  
The Associated Press

NEWPORT, Wales — The heady "we won the Cold War" days are over. When President Barack Obama and other NATO leaders assemble here Thursday for a key summit meeting, their No. 1 goal will be an old and familiar one: protecting vulnerable alliance members from Russia without goading the Kremlin into military action.

After reaching out to Russia for two decades as a potential partner, NATO is once again looking for ways to curb the Kremlin's territorial ambitions without sparking a full-scale return to expensive and risky Cold War confrontation.

But the U.S.-led alliance's eastward march into Moscow's old sphere of influence, and the demonstrated willingness of Russian President Vladimir Putin to use military might to respond when it suits Moscow's strategic goals, have created a volatile and potentially dangerous situation.

Some fear getting sucked into a spiral of moves and countermoves that in the most nightmarish of scenarios might escalate into head-on confrontation between Putin's nuclear-capable military and NATO's own forces.

On Monday, NATO announced plans for a new rapid-deployment force and the advance stockpiling of ammunition and fuel to better protect Poland and other alliance members in Eastern Europe that feel threatened by Russia.

The following day, in the latest twist of the screw, a senior Russian military official announced Moscow would be revising its own strategy to account for "changing military dangers and military threats."

For months, the U.S. and its allies have accused the Russians of

blatant, ongoing military interference in eastern Ukraine on behalf of the local Russian minority, following Moscow's takeover and annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March.

Despite repeated Russian denials, NATO has estimated that at least 1,000 Russian soldiers have entered Ukraine, helping turn the tide in favor of pro-Russia insurgents.

In a report issued in July, the Defense Committee of the British House of Commons said NATO is particularly vulnerable to Russia's now-proven capability to wage a novel type of warfare that marshals military and nonmilitary components including disinformation campaigns conducted over social media, fomenting civil disorder, and the use of troops operating in disguise or without identifying insignia.

A senior NATO official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not empowered to make public statements, said Monday that enhancing alliance capabilities to counter such "hybrid" or "asymmetric" warfare is one of a package of proposals that Obama and leaders of NATO's 27 other member nations will consider at their meetings in southern Wales.

But while vowing to do more to protect frontline members of the alliance, NATO leaders appear determined to minimize the chances of provoking Putin and his generals.

One intangible that may be contributing to the cautious mood: this year's sobering commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, a four-year slaughter some historians contend Europe's Great Powers blithely embarked upon before thinking through the consequences of their acts.

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NATO SUMMIT

# NATO coalition in Afghanistan shrinking fast

By DEB RIECHMANN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alongside the exodus of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, soldiers who hail from countries like Singapore and Slovenia, Mongolia and Malaysia have been packing up too, leaving behind an ever-shrinking NATO coalition.

The coalition has been fighting the war for more than a decade, but that combat mission ends in 17 weeks. On the agenda at this week's NATO meeting in Wales is nailing down which countries will contribute how many troops to the post-2014 mission to continue training the Afghan forces and who will pay the salaries of the Afghan policemen and soldiers going forward.

"There already has been so much blood and treasure invested in no one wants to see this turn into what is happening in Iraq right now," said retired Adm. James Stavridis, who was NATO supreme allied commander from 2008 to 2013. "I think people realize we need to continue to advise and mentor the security forces for several more years."

There are about 30,700 U.S. forces still in Afghanistan, and President Barack Obama has said he wants to keep 9,800 American troops in the country after the end of the year. The number of non-American troops stands at roughly 14,400 — down from 65 percent from a peak in May 2011 — and is shrinking fast.

Some countries like Britain, with 3,936; Germany, with 2,250; and Italy with 1,653 still have a sizeable number of troops in the country. But 17 countries — representing about a third of current 48-nation coalition — have just 25 or fewer troops still deployed. They are Austria, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, El Salvador, Estonia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Montenegro, New Zealand, Slovenia, Sweden, Tonga and Ukraine. At its peak, about 50 nations

were contributing troops to Afghanistan. Stavridis, who is now dean of the Fletcher School, a graduate school of international affairs at Tufts University in Massachusetts, predicted that the number of troop-contributing countries will drop to between 15 and 20 after the end of this year.

Starting next year, the U.S. has committed to keeping 9,800 troops in Afghanistan as part of a new NATO mission dubbed Resolute Support, which will train, advise and assist Afghan soldiers and policemen. About 4,000 to 5,000 non-American troops — mostly from Britain, Germany, Italy and Turkey — will be deployed as well, although the actual size of the new mission has not been finalized.

Formalizing those deployments will be contingent on the U.S. and NATO signing formal agreements with the Afghan government, which is in the throes of a bitterly contested presidential election. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has refused to sign them, leaving

**“There already has been so much blood and treasure invested in no one wants to see this turn into what is happening in Iraq right now. I think people realize we need to continue to advise and mentor the security forces for several more years.”**

**Retired Adm. James Stavridis**  
NATO supreme allied commander from 2008 to 2013



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

**Afghan National Army soldiers stand guard during a military exercise on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, on April 30. The Afghan National Security Forces depend on billions of dollars in funding from the U.S. and its allies that is at risk after President Hamid Karzai's refusal to sign a security agreement to keep U.S. trainers in the country after the NATO-led coalition ends its mission.**

the job to his successor.

"The winner of the election was supposed to have been announced by now, but the two candidates — Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani — have alleged widespread election fraud and are fighting over a recount of votes.

Besides troop numbers, a key unresolved issue is which countries will make good on financial commitments to pay the salaries of Afghanistan security forces in the future, something the Afghan government will not be able to do on its own for years.

NATO has put the price tag of a 228,500-strong Afghan security force at about \$4 billion a year, while another study carried out for Congress called for a larger base Afghan force of 344,300 plus 29,100 auxiliary forces at a cost of about \$6 billion a year.

Stavridis predicted that more nations — probably 40 to 50 — will be willing to bankroll the Afghan security forces, partly because it's much cheaper than deploying their own troops there.

But war fatigue is rampant across the United States and Europe, and political realities could create a financial crisis in Afghanistan in coming years, warned Omar Hamid, who specializes in terrorism threats in Afghanistan and other countries at IHS Jane's, which specializes in defense and security analysis.

"There have been commitments, but that does not account for political changes within the NATO countries," Hamid said. "The appetite to fund at current levels is doubtful with changes in governments and fresh elections in France and Germany or wherever."



AP

**Afghan security forces inspect the site of a suicide attack in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, on Saturday.**

If the Afghan government can't pay its troops, political instability will spread in the country, support for the security forces will decline, and some policemen and soldiers will simply leave the forces, he said.

"If you start having problems with salaries to troops, police officers not being paid or those sorts

of issues, then that problem escalates and you have the possibility of people withdrawing or pulling out or units refusing to fight. That is the risk.

"As far as the political appetite to continue funding Afghanistan at current levels — that is bound to decline over the next four to five years," Hamid said.

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# CRISIS IN UKRAINE

# Putin peace plan calls for Ukraine forces to retreat

By Jim Heintz and Nataliya Vasilyeva  
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — A day ahead of a NATO summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin issued his own peace plan for eastern Ukraine, calling on the Russia-backed insurgents there to “stop advancing” and urging Ukraine to withdraw its troops from the region.

Hours earlier, Ukraine had issued a vague statement about agreeing with Putin on cease-fire steps. The separatists rejected the move, saying no cease-fire was possible without a pullback by Ukraine, while Putin’s spokesman claimed that Moscow could not agree to a cease-fire because it was not a party to the conflict.

The back-and-forth came as President Barack Obama arrived in Estonia in a show of solidarity with NATO allies who fear they could be the next target of Russia’s aggression. NATO is holding a summit in Wales on Thursday, with plans to approve a rapid-response team to counter the Russian threat.

Putin, for his part, is eager to avoid further international sanctions that could hurt his resource-based economy.

Putin, speaking in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator, said he came up with a seven-point peace plan on the plane trip there — one in which Kiev must withdraw its troops and stop its artillery strikes.

“The warring parties should immediately coordinate and do the following things together,” Putin said in televised comments. “The first thing is for the armed forces and insurgents of the southeast of Ukraine to stop active advancing in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

“Second is for the Ukrainian military to withdraw their troops at a safe distance that will make

artillery and other strikes on populated areas impossible,” he added.

Putin also urged an unconditional exchange of prisoners and said he expected a final agreement between Kiev and the rebels to be reached Friday at peace talks in Minsk, Belarus.

The Interfax news agency later carried positive remarks from top rebel commander Miroslav Rudenko, who said “there’ll be no sense in a military solution to the conflict” if Kiev was to withdraw its troops.

Stock markets jumped on first reports of a possible cease-fire deal, but later eased back slightly. By early afternoon in Europe, Russia’s MICEX benchmark was up 2.7 percent, while the ruble rose 1.4 percent against the U.S. dollar.

Rebel leaders said earlier this week that they would respect Ukraine’s sovereignty in exchange for autonomy — a shift from earlier calls for full independence or possible absorption into Russia. Putin has ignored their calls for annexation — unlike in March, when Russia annexed Crimea.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has spoken in favor of devolving some of the central government’s powers to the regions, but that is far short of autonomy for the rebellious east.

Obama said it was too early



SENEDI GRITS/AP

A wooden cross marks the grave of a Ukrainian government soldier in the village of Osykove, eastern Ukraine, on Tuesday. Ukrainian troops have over the past week suffered a string of major military losses in their offensive against Russia-backed separatist rebels.

to tell what the announcements Wednesday from Ukraine and Russia meant. He noted previous unsuccessful cease-fire attempts and questioned whether the separatists would abide by a new cease-fire.

“We haven’t seen a lot of follow-up on so-called announced cease-fires,” Obama said. “Having said that, if in fact Russia is prepared to stop financing, arming, training, in many cases joining with Russian troops activities in Ukraine and is serious about a political settlement, that is something we all hope for.”

Ukraine, NATO and the West have accused Russia of sending its troops and weapons to support the insurgents. Moscow has denied the charge. Associated Press reporters have run into numerous Russian fighters among the rebels and have seen large convoys of heavy military equipment driving in eastern Ukraine from the direction of Russia.

## Report: 87 Ukrainian troops’ bodies retrieved

KIEV, Ukraine — A Ukrainian military official said the bodies of 87 soldiers killed while fighting Russia-backed rebels have been evacuated from southeastern Ukraine.

Mykhailo Logvinov, a military official in the southeastern region of Zaporizhye, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying Wednesday that the bodies have been delivered to the area from the eastern city of Ilovaysk.

The rebels routed the Ukrainian forces in Ilovaysk and other eastern areas over the past week, forcing them to retreat. The rebel gains sharply turned the tide in their favor after weeks of Ukrainian advances.

Media reports said at least 100 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed around Ilovaysk.

From The Associated Press

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“If in fact Russia is prepared to stop financing, arming, training, in many cases joining with Russian troops activities in Ukraine and is serious about a political settlement, that is something we all hope for.”

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# MIDEAST

## 'We will not be intimidated'

### Reacting to 2nd beheading, Obama vows to 'destroy' Islamic State

By Julie Pace  
The Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia — President Barack Obama said Wednesday that the United States will not be intimidated by Islamic State militants after the beheading of a second American journalist and will build a coalition to "degrade and destroy" the group.

Obama did not give a timeline for deciding on a strategy to go after the extremist group's operations in Syria. "It's going to take time for us to be able to roll them back," the president said at a news conference during a visit to Europe.

The president's comments came after he said the United States had verified the authenticity of a video released Tuesday showing the beheading of freelance reporter Steven Sotloff, two weeks after journalist James Foley was similarly killed.

Obama vowed the U.S. would not forget the "terrible crime against these two fine young men."

"We will not be intimidated. Their horrific acts only unite us as a country and stiffen our resolve to take the fight against these terrorists," Obama said. "And those who make the mistake of harming Americans will learn that we will not forget, and that our reach is long and that justice will be served."



**Iraqi security forces hold a flag of the Islamic State they captured during an operation outside Amiri, Iraq, a day after security forces backed by U.S. airstrikes broke a two-month siege by insurgents in a rare victory for government forces.**

Obama also elaborated on his statement last week that "we don't have a strategy yet" for dealing with the Islamic State group in Syria. Republicans quickly seized on the remark to argue the president lacks a coherent approach to fighting the extremist group.

"It is very important from my perspective that when we send our pilots in to do a job, that we know that this is a mission that's going to work, that we're very clear on what our objectives are, what our targets are," Obama said. "We've made the case to Congress and we've made the case to the American people, and we've got allies behind us so that it's not just a one-off, but it's something that over time is going to be effective."

In the Sotloff video, a masked militant warns Obama that as long as U.S. airstrikes against the militant group continue, "our knife will continue to strike the

necks of your people."

Obama responded that the airstrikes have been effective in blunting the militant threat and he will continue to battle the "barbaric and ultimately empty vision" that the Islamic State represents.

## 350 more troops assigned to US embassy in Baghdad

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is adding 350 more troops to help protect the American Embassy in Baghdad and its support facilities in the capital, raising the number of U.S. forces in the country to more than 1,000, officials said Tuesday.

President Barack Obama approved the additional troops for protection of American personnel following a request by the State Department and a review and recommendation by the Defense Department, the White House said in a statement.

The buildup of U.S. troops in Baghdad follows the growing threat from Islamic State militants in northern Iraq. Since early August the U.S. has carried out 124 airstrikes against the militants, the latest taking place near Mosul Dam on Monday.

The additional troops will

not serve in a combat role, the White House said. Most are from the Army and some are Marines, the Pentagon said in a statement.

Approximately 820 troops have now been assigned to augment diplomatic security in Iraq, said Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon's spokesman.

The additional troops will come from within the U.S. Central Command area of operations and will include a headquarters element, medical personnel, associated helicopters and an air liaison team, Kirby said. Fifty-five troops in Baghdad since June will be redeployed outside of Iraq and replaced by 405 newly deployed troops, he said.

An airstrike Monday near Mosul Dam involved fighters and attack aircraft that damaged or destroyed 16 armed vehicles, Central Command said in a statement late Tuesday.

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MIDEAST

# Nations seek to stop jihadis' travel

By LORI HINNANT AND RAPHAEL SATTER  
The Associated Press

PARIS — New laws make it easier to seize passports. Suspected fighters are plucked from planes. Authorities block finances and shut down radical mosques.

And behind the scenes, Silicon Valley firms are under increasing pressure to wipe extremist content from websites as Western intelligence agencies explore new technologies to identify returning fighters at the border.

Governments in France to Indonesia have launched urgent drives to cut off one of the Islamic State group's biggest sources of strength: foreign fighters. At the heart of the drive is mounting concern that the organization is training the next generation of international terrorists.

Those fears have gained urgency from the group's horrific methods. A British militant is suspected of beheading two American journalists, and a Frenchman who fought with the Islamic State group is accused in a deadly attack on a Jewish museum in Belgium.

With each video that ricochets around social networks, the militants gain new recruits.

"If neglected, I am certain that after a month they will reach Europe and, after another month, America," Saudi King Abdullah said Friday, calling for a strong international response to the onslaught in Syria and Iraq.

Britain has taken a particularly active role in censoring content deemed to break the country's strict rules against extremist propaganda. U.K. officials recently revealed they have been granted "super flagger" status on sites such as YouTube, meaning their requests to remove videos are fast-tracked.

Over the past four years, an Internet-focused counterterrorism unit of London's Metropolitan Police instigated the removal of 45,000 pieces of content, the force said last week. Islamic State militants, however, have just as quickly found other, more decentralized platforms.

In the U.S., officials are trying to identify potential jihadis by comparing travel patterns with those of people who have already joined the fight, a counterterrorism official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss intelligence



AMEL ENRICH/AP

Bosnian police officers detain a man Wednesday in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo. Police say they have detained 15 people suspected of having fought in Syria and Iraq or of recruiting and funding other Balkan men to join the Islamic militants there.

matters.

A French law to seize passports is being fast-tracked through parliament, and the government is ramping up arrests of increasingly young teenagers making plans for jihad.

That can mean last-minute arrests at the airport, as happened to a 16-year-old girl and her alleged recruiter trying to pass through security in Nice on Saturday, and to a man at Australia's Melbourne Airport who was pulled off a flight last week carrying tens of thousands of dollars in cash and the Islamic State group's black-and-white flag in his luggage.

In Bosnia, authorities carried out a major anti-terrorism sweep on Wednesday. They detained 16 people suspected of fighting in Syria and Iraq and recruiting Balkan men to join Islamic militants there.

Anti-jihadi efforts are being ramped up in traditionally Muslim countries as well. Indonesia is breaking up meetings of Islamic State

supporters and seizing items promoting the group, and Tunisia is shutting down mosques and suspected financiers.

For the radicals who have already reached Syria, the focus of European spy agencies is on trying to identify them when they return. That can mean scouring social media sites for photos of foreign fighters or electronic intercepts for hints of terrorist activity abroad.

The concern is that returning fighters will launch attacks at home. Australia draws on lessons from Afghanistan a decade ago, saying that of the 25 citizens who returned after fighting against Western interests there, two-thirds became involved in terrorist activities back home.

"People who kill without compunction in other countries are hardly likely to be law-abiding citizens should they return to Australia," Prime Minister Tony Abbott told Parliament on Monday.

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NATION

# 'New kind of Republican' in fight for Colo. seat

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI  
The Associated Press

DENVER — Senate candidate Cory Gardner has released a pair of campaign ads reaching out to Colorado's all-important centrist voters, who have soured on some GOP positions, and cast himself as a "new kind of Republican" who supports over-the-counter birth control pills and renewable energy.

The TV spots released this week come in a close race against Democratic Sen. Mark Udall in a swing state that has become increasingly reluctant to elect conservatives as coastal transplants have pushed the politics to the left.

Democrats have won every top-of-the-ticket statewide race in Colorado since 2004, and Udall and his allies have followed the established playbook by attacking Gardner as being against reproductive rights and the environment.

But Gardner, a U.S. House representative, has hit back with his new ads.

In the first, which launched Monday, Gardner walks past wind turbines and asks, "So what's a Republican, like me, doing at a wind farm?" He notes that he co-authored legislation, backed by a former Democratic governor, to



CHRIS SCHNEIDER/AP

**Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., officially announced his candidacy for the U.S. Senate in March. Gardner on Tuesday released the second of two ads calling himself "a new kind of Republican."**

create a state agency to support new Colorado renewable energy businesses.

The ad's female narrator calls Gardner "a new kind of Republican."

Then, in a spot unveiled Tuesday, Gardner, who is anti-abortion, highlights his proposal to make birth control pills available without a prescription. Gardner tells a mostly female audience in the ad that Udall "wants to keep government bureaucrats between you and your health care plan."

Gardner's campaign and other conservatives say the congressman is responding to a Democratic caricature of his positions.

But Democrats say Gardner is trying to sell himself as a centrist in the line of Udall, a well-known environmentalist and abortion

rights supporter.

They noted that Gardner's birth control ad comes after Udall and others hammered him for his prior support of measures that could outlaw some forms of birth control. Gardner has since disavowed one of the criticized proposals.

Seth Masket, a political scientist at the University of Denver, said Gardner's ads are clearly "on Democratic turf" but changing positions and emphasis may not be damaging.

"It's easy to attack a candidate who does that as a flip-flopper" but there's not much evidence showing that to be politically damaging, Masket said.

Republicans need to net six Senate seats in November to win control of the chamber.

# Judge mulls release of Mo. teen's record

## 2 request family court make public list of any juvenile arrests of teen slain by police

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER  
The Associated Press

CLAYTON, Mo. — Lingering questions about Michael Brown could be answered Wednesday as a judge considers two media requests to release any possible juvenile records of the unarmed 18-year-old who was killed by a Missouri police officer last month.

Juvenile records are confidential in Missouri, so it's not definitively known if Brown was arrested before he legally became an adult. Police have said Brown had no adult criminal record. The family's attorney, Benjamin Crump, has refused to discuss whether Brown had a juvenile record.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch and a California online journalist have filed separate petitions in St. Louis County Family Court to determine whether Brown had past legal trouble. Both cite an overriding public right to know Brown's background after his shooting death by Ferguson officer Darren Wilson sparked more than a week of sometimes violent protests and drew international scrutiny.

The more basic argument boils

down to the question of whether Brown's privacy rights extend beyond the grave.

The lawsuit by Charles C. Johnson of Fresno, Calif., cites a 1984 Missouri Court of Appeals ruling in which the juvenile records of an 18-year-old who was killed while shoplifting at a supermarket were released as part of a wrongful death lawsuit.

In that case, the mother of the young man killed after he was beaten by a store security guard in the 1979 robbery challenged a trial court's decision to release the records. They were sought by the defendants to help determine the value of the 18-year-old's lost earning capacity.

"It's a really interesting issue," said Jean Maneke, a Kansas City lawyer who is counsel to the Missouri Press Association. "It certainly is not much of a stretch to go from the case law that exists right now to that theory."

But Washington University law professor Mae Quinn, director of the school's juvenile law clinic, called the case cited by Johnson, editor-in-chief of the website GotNews.com, "completely irrelevant," since he does not have a vested legal interest in the Brown case.

# GOP's 2016 class seek international credibility

The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was traveling to Mexico on Wednesday, officially on a trade mission for his state. But the Republican also is a potential 2016 presidential candidate, with a plenty of swagger but little foreign policy experience.

Christie is just one of the Republicans trying to beef up his foreign policy credentials for a possible general election showdown against Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former secretary of state. America's role in international affairs is likely to be a key issue in the 2016 contest regardless of the candidates. After consecutive elections focused largely on the American economy, foreign affairs has returned to the forefront with the rise of the Islamic State militant group in Syria and Iraq and the Russia-backed rebellion in Ukraine.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., an eye doctor, recently returned from Guatemala, where he performed eye surgeries with news cameras in tow. Former Sen. Rick Santorum



MEL EVANS/AP

**New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie walks along the Ocean City, N.J., boardwalk after a town hall meeting last month. Christie, a potential 2016 presidential candidate, was heading to Mexico on Wednesday.**

just returned from Israel; former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is there now. Two days after Christie returns from Mexico, Texas Gov. Rick Perry is expected to head to China and Japan.

So with New Jersey exporting \$2 billion worth of goods to Mexico, Christie becomes the latest potential presidential contender to cross the border on official business — and in pursuit of interna-

tional expertise and credibility. "If you're a national leader of the party and you go abroad and you meet other foreign leaders, you learn," Christie, who also is chairman of the Republican Governors Association, told reporters. "And that'll make you a better leader."

They are all following paths out of the U.S. well-worn by presidential contenders with little foreign

policy experience.

For Christie, the trip also offers him a chance to rebuild his image amid a damaging political scandal. Christie's aides were implicated in the closure of Access Lanes to the bridge that links New Jersey to Manhattan, apparent retribution against a mayor who refused to endorse the governor's re-election bid. Christie has not been personally implicated.

# Family devastated about Uzi tragedy, lawyer says

PHOENIX — An attorney for the parents of a 9-year-old girl who accidentally killed an Arizona shooting range instructor with an Uzi said Tuesday the family is devastated by the tragedy that occurred on a brief excursion during a vacation.

The statement came as investigators released police reports and emergency call recordings involving the Aug. 25 shooting of instructor Charles Vacca at the Last Stop range in White Hills, Ariz., about 60 miles south of Las Vegas.

New Jersey-based lawyer Kevin Walsh said the family "prayed day and night that (Vacca) would survive his injury, and they continue to pray for his family during this terribly difficult time."

The family had taken a shuttle from Las Vegas to the range. After arriving, the girl, her parents, sister and brother took a monster truck ride before heading to the shooting range.

The girl's father was the first one in the party to handle a weapon. After he fired shots, Vacca instructed the girl on how to shoot the gun, showed her a shooting stance, and helped her fire a few rounds, the reports state.

From The Associated Press

NATION

# Teen lockup has history of issues

By ERIK SCHELZG  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The juvenile detention center where 30 teens escaped under a fence has a long history of violence, allegations of sexual abuse and previous efforts to break out.

All but seven of the teens from the Woodland Hills Youth Development Center were taken back into custody by Tuesday, a day after they escaped. Officials said they had kicked out metal panels under the windows in common areas of their dorms to reach the courtyard and slipped out under a weak spot in the perimeter fence late Monday night.

The facility was the site of a previous breakout attempt in 2004 in which more than a dozen teens armed with broom handles and hurling bricks injured 16 staffers before they were dispersed by police in riot gear. In May, one staff member was injured when a half-dozen students got into the courtyard, but never made it any farther.

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice ranked Woodland Hills as 13th in the country among juvenile facilities where there had been reports of sexual abuse by staffers.

The facility saw a spike in assaults in 2012 after the state placed older teenagers there from a shuttered facility in eastern Tennessee. Between July and September of that year, police had to be called at least 47 times for assistance, which surpassed

total police visits for the previous two years combined.

Among the acts of violence listed in police records is that of a guard trapped in a headlock who is repeatedly punched by a young man. Another assault involved a staff member who was ambushed by four youths and beaten until he was rescued by colleagues.

In the most recent event, the teens — ages 14 to 19 — left their rooms about 11 p.m. Monday night and gathered in common areas. With just 16 unarmed adults to keep watch over 78 youths in 12 dormitories, the staff was “overwhelmed,” said Tennessee Department of Children’s Services spokesman Rob Johnson.

Police caught up with some of the teens walking along roads or coming out of the woods. Some turned themselves in. And some were swiftly returned to the detention center by their own families for their own good.

“He broke loose, he was gone, but he’s back now,” said Lavanda Knowles, whose nephew joined the escape. “I just want to know that he’s here safely and he’s OK — I don’t want the police jumping on him, nobody beating on him or nothing.”

The fence is buried 8 inches deep in the ground, but the teens found a spot where they could slip out underneath it. There are no guard towers or barbed wire at the facility.

None of the staff was hurt, and initially they simply called other staffers for backup to help bring the teens back into the dormitories.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

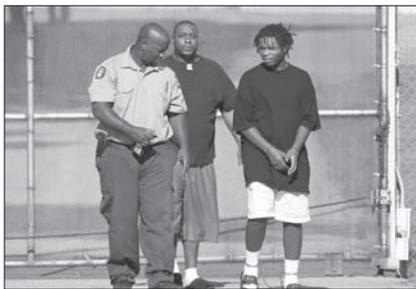
A crew checks for weak spots Tuesday in the fence surrounding the Woodland Hills Youth Development Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Once they spotted the teens escaping the perimeter fence, they alerted police and the Tennessee Highway Patrol joined the search.

While juvenile records are sealed, police released the names and mug shots of the remaining fugitives, all of whom are 17 or 18 years old. None is a convicted killer, said Melvin Whitlow, the facility’s superintendent.

Once caught by the teens who escaped were being taken to juvenile court to face potential escape charges, officials said. Most of the 78 juvenile delinquents held at the center Monday night had committed at least three felonies, Johnson said.

The fence was fixed and the center was calm and back under control by Tuesday morning, Johnson said.



One of 32 escaped teenagers, right, is taken into custody Tuesday after he was turned in by family members, according to a Tennessee Department of Children’s Services spokesman.

## 47-hour week is average

The Associated Press

Full-time American workers labor the equivalent of nearly an additional day each week, averaging 47 hours instead of the standard 40, according to Gallup poll results released Friday.

Just 42 percent of full-time employees work 40 hours a week, the traditional total based on five 9 a.m.-to-5 p.m. workdays, Gallup said.

Nearly the same percentage — 39 percent — say they work at least 50 hours a week. And almost one in five Americans, or 18 percent, said their workweek stretched 60 hours or more.

“The 40-hour workweek is widely regarded as the standard for full-time employment, and many federal employment laws — including the Affordable Care Act, or ‘Obamacare’ — use this threshold to define what a full-time employee is,” Gallup said.

“However, barely four in 10 full-time workers in the U.S. indicate they work precisely this much,” Gallup said.

Salaried employees work an average of 49 hours a week, compared with 44 hours for people paid by the hour. A quarter of salaried workers said they spend 60 or more hours a week on the job.

The overall 47-hour average workweek has held roughly steady for 14 years, Gallup said. But the percentage of workers with full-time employment now is 43 percent, down from about 50 percent before the Great Recession.



Ben Fiolletto, The Press of Atlantic City/AP

Dealers leave Revel on Tuesday after their last shifts before the casino closed. Laid-off casino workers began filing for unemployment Wednesday.

## Atlantic City casino workers line up for unemployment

The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Hundreds of newly laid-off casino workers began filing for unemployment Wednesday morning, the first attendees at an assistance center that expects to process 5,000 workers over the next three days.

The session at the Atlantic City Convention Center came after a brutal weekend that saw more than 5,000 employees at the closed Showboat and Revel lose their jobs. Officials from the state Department of Labor and the main casino workers’ union, Local 54 of Unite-HERE, helped displaced workers file for unemployment and gave them information on signing up for health insurance and other benefits.

By mid-September, Atlantic City, which started the year with 12 casinos, will be down to eight, and almost 8,000 people will be out of work. Trump Plaza is closing Sept. 16, and the Atlantic Club shut down in January.

“It’s really depressing,” said Dale Browne, who worked as a housekeeper at Showboat for 14 years and suddenly

finds herself without a job. “You have all these people out of work now. Nobody knows where their next paycheck is coming from.”

“People have mortgages, kids in school. We’re afraid the crime rate is going to go up. I want to say we’ll be all right down the road, but right now it’s rough.”

Ruth Ann Joyce and her husband, Michael, were hired together as bartenders at Showboat when it opened in March 1987, raising a family on their casino jobs.

“We had good jobs,” she said. “We made good money. We had great benefits. We worked hard and we were rewarded for it. For the past 27 years, we had the American dream.”

“This closing is a tragedy and it didn’t have to happen.”

The State Department of Labor had 40 workers helping applicants register for unemployment and connect with job search resources.

Other social service agencies helped enroll them for health insurance and food assistance.

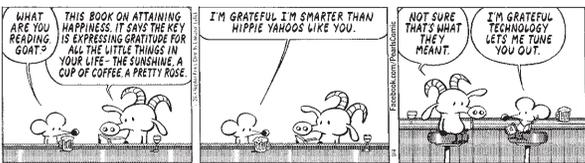
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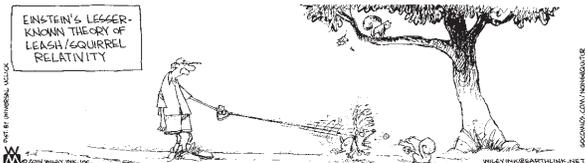
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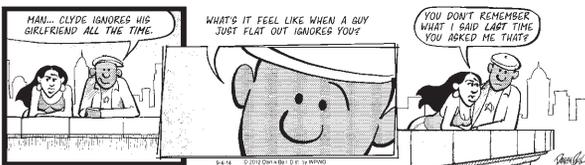
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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18			19		20	21					
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32				33					34		
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		39				40	41				
42	43			44		45			46	47	48
49				50	51				52		
53				54					55		
56				57					58		

ACROSS

- 1 Noted pirate captain
- 5 Weed loudly
- 8 Mail org.
- 12 Great Lake
- 13 Definite article
- 14 Old portico
- 15 Branch
- 16 Decay
- 17 — and crafts
- 18 Phony
- 20 Surprise attack
- 22 French refusal
- 23 Last (Abbr.)
- 24 Twilight
- 27 Utility gauge
- 32 Frequently in verse
- 33 Second ph.
- 34 Before
- 35 Wizard
- 38 Actor Pitt
- 39 A billion years
- 40 Mimic
- 42 Emmy, Oscar et al.
- 45 Gilligan's home
- 49 Powerful shark
- 50 Triumph
- 52 TV chef Bobby
- 53 Microwave
- 54 Exist
- 55 Kennedy matriarch
- 56 Antitoxins

DOWN

- 1 Brown seaweed
- 2 Rainbow
- 3 Canadian coin
- 4 Bust, as a myth
- 5 More potent
- 6 "So that's it, eh?"
- 7 Greek consonant
- 8 In working order
- 9 One walking proudly
- 10 Cookware
- 11 Obi
- 19 Accomplish
- 21 Silent
- 24 Windows predecessor
- 25 E.T.'s craft?
- 26 One barely getting along?
- 28 Hatchet
- 29 Sieve
- 30 Geological time
- 31 Roulette bet
- 32 Beer brand
- 33 Conclude
- 34 "By the way..."
- 37 Bats' home?
- 41 Minor prophet
- 42 Great quietly
- 44 Hit a fly
- 46 Burn soother
- 47 Houston org.
- 48 Worker
- 51 Writer Levin

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	U	S	H	P	T	A	A	B	I	E
A	S	I	A	L	E	I	P	E	C	S
B	E	T	R	A	I	E	D	A	L	E
A	R	E	A	S	S	P	R	I	T	E
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V	I	C	U	N	A	R	H	O	D	A
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9-4

CRYPTOQUIP

YWB GJ GXNZS BFGKV WFGW  
 BEKV RVERSV QJEX JEWFPYJU  
 GIEZ W WFW NGKEZB  
 VUTRWYGJ IET-QYJU. WZW WZW!  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: APPARENTLY, RHINOCEROS FROM PARIS MUST BE VERY MUSICAL, BECAUSE THEY ALL HAVE FRENCH HORNS.  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals T

NATION

# As seat space shrinks, fliers' tempers rising

By SCOTT MAYEROWITZ  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Squeezed into tighter and tighter spaces, airline passengers appear to be rebelling, taking their frustrations out on other fliers.

Three U.S. flights made unscheduled landings in the past eight days after passengers got into fights over the ability to recline their seats. Disputes over a tiny bit of personal space might seem petty, but for passengers whose knees are already banging into tray tables, every inch counts.

"Seats are getting closer together," said Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants, which represents 60,000 flight attendants at 19 airlines. "We have to de-escalate conflict all the time."

There are fights over overhead bin space, legroom and where to put winter coats.

"We haven't hit the end of it," Nelson said. "The conditions continue to march in a direction that will lead to more and more conflict."

Airlines today are juggling terrorism warnings in Britain, the Ebola outbreak in Africa and an Icelandic volcano erupting and threatening to close down European airspace. Yet, the issue of disruptive passengers has captured the world's attention.

It's getting to the point where the pre-flight safety videos need an additional warning: Be nice to your neighbor.

The International Air Transport As-

sociation calls unruly passengers "an escalating problem," saying there was one incident for every 1,300 flights in the past three years.

Today's flying experience is far from glamorous. Passengers wait in long lines for security screening, push and shove at the gate to be first on board, and then fight for the limited overhead bin space. They are already agitated by the time they arrive at their row and see how cramped it is.

To boost their profits, airlines have been adding more rows of seats to planes in the past few years.

Southwest and United both took away 1 inch from each row on certain jets to make room for six more seats. American is increasing the number of seats on its Boeing 737-800s from 150 to 160. Delta installed new, smaller toilets in its 737-900s, enabling it to squeeze in an extra four seats. And to make room for a first-class cabin with lie-flat beds, on its transcontinental flights, JetBlue reduced the distance between coach seats by 1 inch.

But passengers aren't just losing legroom; they're losing elbow room.

Airlines sold 84 percent of their seats on domestic flights so far this year, up from 81 percent five years ago and 74 percent a decade ago, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. That means there are fewer and fewer empty middle seats on which passengers can spread out.

The latest spate of passenger problems



Rows of slimline seats await installation aboard a Southwest Airlines 737 at the carrier's headquarters in Dallas. Tighter spacing between seats is leading to conflicts among squeezed passengers.

started Aug. 24, when a man on a United flight prevented the woman in front of him from reclining thanks to a \$21.95 gadget called the Knee Defender. It attaches to a passenger's tray table and prevents the person in front from reclining. A flight attendant told the man to remove the device. He refused, and the passenger one row forward dumped a cup of water on him.

Three days later, on an American flight from Miami to Paris, two passengers got into a fight, again over a reclining seat, and the plane was diverted to Boston.

Then on Monday night, on a Delta flight from New York to West Palm Beach, Fla., a woman resting her head on a tray table got upset when the passenger in front of her reclined his seat, hitting her in the head. That plane was diverted to Jacksonville,

Fla. It can cost an airline \$6,000 an hour, plus airport landing fees, to divert the standard domestic jet, according to independent airline analyst Robert Mann.

"These costs are among the reasons why airlines ought to be arbitrating these in-flight issues instead of diverting, not to mention the significant inconvenience to all customers and possible disruption of onward connections," Mann said.

Ben Balanza, CEO of Spirit Airlines, said that if airlines install seats that can recline, passengers should have the right to recline. Of course, Spirit and Allegiant Air are the only U.S. airlines to install seats that don't recline.

"People should lose the emotion," Balanza said. "We've never had to divert because of legroom issues."

# Automakers eye easing credit to drive sales

By TOM KRISHER  
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Big discounts. Six- or seven-year loans, in some cases to buyers who would have been turned down in the past.

As the auto industry strives to sustain its post-recession comeback, car companies are resorting to tactics that some experts warn will lead to trouble down the road.

Vehicle discounts have risen 5.5 percent from a year ago. More than a quarter of new buyers are choosing to lease, a historically high percentage. Auto company lending arms are making more loans to people with low credit scores. The industry is adding factory capacity. And the average price of a car keeps rising, forcing some customers to borrow for longer terms to keep payments down.

Annual auto sales in the U.S. should top 16 million for the first time in seven years. But the pent-up consumer demand that has driven sales is ebbing. Sales are predicted to grow 5.5 percent this year, the slowest pace since the financial crisis.



A row of new Ford Fusions awaits potential buyers at an automobile dealership in Zelenenko, Pa. After making steady gains in the years since the recession, the pace of auto sales is beginning to slow.

The big discounts and other steps eventually should help push sales above 17 million, most experts say.

But Honda Motor Co. U.S. sales chief John Mendel last week scolded competitors for using "short-term" tactics such as subprime loans, 72-month terms and increased sales to rental car companies to pad their sales.

"We have no desire to go there," said Mendel, whose company's sales through July have fallen 1.3 percent, trailing the industry.

Some on Wall Street see a price to pay.

"It could be a disaster later on," said Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas. "We're clearly robbing Peter to pay Paul." He sees sales growing to an annual rate

of 18 million in 2017 — then sinking to 14 million a year later. That will mean factory closings, restructurings and thousands of job cuts just for companies to break even.

Not all forecasts are that dire and no one is predicting a repeat of billion-dollar losses and cars piling up on dealer lots. Automakers have cut costs and are better positioned to handle a downturn than they were in 2008 and 2009.

Still, easier credit brings back not-so-fond memories for at least one auto dealer.

"It just seems like 2007 all over again," said veteran Toyota dealer Earl Stewart, of North Palm Beach, Fla. "The credit ease with which people are financed is as liberal and loose as it ever was."

# Study casts doubt on double mastectomies

By LINDSEY TANNER  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Removing both breasts to treat cancer affecting only one side doesn't boost survival chances for most women, compared with surgery that removes just the tumor, a large study suggests. The results raise concerns about riskier, potentially unnecessary operations that increasing numbers of women are choosing.

The study involved nearly 200,000 California women treated for cancer in one breast and followed for several years afterward.

Ten-year survival rates were nearly identical — roughly 82 percent — for women who had lumpectomies to remove the tumor plus radiation and for those who had double mastectomies. Women who had a single mastectomy, removal of just the cancerous breast, fared slightly worse.

The results confirm what many doctors have suspected, said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, deputy chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society.

"There's no guarantee that by having the second breast removed that you will do better," said Lichtenfeld, who had no role in the research.

In the study, just over half the

women had lumpectomy treatment. The number who had double mastectomies increased substantially to 12 percent between 1998 and 2011. The trend was most notable in women younger than 40, climbing from just 4 percent to 33 percent.

Other research suggests that removing both breasts to treat one-sided cancer may improve survival chances for the relatively small number of women who have genetic breast cancer or strong family histories of the disease, said study co-author Scarlett Gomez, a research scientist with the Cancer Prevention Institute of California. But most breast cancer patients have neither of those risks.

"The medical community is paying increasing attention to overtreatment and excessive costs, and the study results raise questions about reasons for rising use of an expensive, potentially risky treatment" of "dubious effectiveness," the researchers said.

The study was published Tuesday in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association. A journal editorial notes that the study echoes previous research and adds to a debate about the rising prevalence of double mastectomies.

WORLD

# ‘World is losing’ Ebola fight, health official says

By LENA H. SUN AND BRADY DENNIS  
The Washington Post

**‘There is a window of opportunity to tamp this down, but that window is closing. We need action now to scale up, and we need to scale up to massive levels.’**

Tom Frieden  
director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

WASHINGTON — Leading international health officials said Tuesday that the Ebola epidemic in West Africa is accelerating and the window for getting it under control is closing.

“Six months into the worst Ebola epidemic in history, the world is losing the battle to contain it,” Joseph Liu, international president of the medical charity Doctors Without Borders, said in a briefing at the United Nations. She faulted world leaders for failing to recognize the severity of the crisis sooner and said charities and West African governments alone do not have the capacity to stem the outbreak.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Tom Frieden, who returned Monday from a weeklong trip to the countries hit hardest by the epidemic — Li-

beria, Sierra Leone and Guinea — said he was shocked by how rapidly the disease is spreading.

There is widespread transmission in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and a troubling spike in cases in Guinea, which until now has had more success controlling the outbreak, he said. That increase has taken place in one community where many have resisted preventive measures, such as spraying bleach, and mistakenly believe those measures are spreading Ebola.

“There is a window of opportunity to tamp this down, but that window is closing,” Frieden said. “We need action now to scale up, and we need to scale up to massive levels. ... I cannot overstate the need for an urgent response.”

Meanwhile, a U.S. missionary doctor working in Liberia tested positive for Ebola, according to the organization SIM USA. The doctor, who was not identified, was treating obstetrics patients at the organization’s ELWA Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia.

He was not working with Ebola patients in the facility’s isolation unit, which is separate from the main hospital, according to the organization. SIM USA said it was unclear how he contracted the virus, which is spread through contact with bodily fluids.

The doctor is the fourth American to be diagnosed with the hemorrhagic disease that has killed more than half the people who have become infected during this epidemic. The doctor is suspected at least 3,069 people and killed more than 1,500 of them, making it the largest and most deadly Ebola outbreak in history.

Liu described overwhelmed isolation centers, riots breaking out over controversial quarantines, infected bodies lying in the streets, medical workers dying in shocking numbers, entire health systems crumbling and Ebola wards with such scant resources that they are little more than where “people go to die alone.”

## Dethroned beauty queen says she’s not a thief

By ESTHER HTUSAN  
The Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar — A dethroned 16-year-old beauty queen from Myanmar said Tuesday she won’t return her bejeweled \$100,000 crown until pageant organizers apologize for calling her a liar and a thief.

May Myat Noe, the country’s first winner of an international beauty contest, lashed out at her accusers at a tightly packed news conference.

She said representatives of the Miss Asia Pacific World pageant lied about her age — saying she was 18 instead of 16 — and tried to pressure her into getting plastic surgery “from head-to-toe.”

Noe denied having breast implants as claimed by David Kim, director of media for the pageant. He said the surgery was provided free of charge, part of efforts to boost the teen into super-stardom.

Kim said Noe was stripped of her title last week because she was dishonest and unappreciative, and that she ran off with her tiara after learning of the decision.

Noe said she boarded a plane for Myanmar before getting word.



GENEMU AMARASINGHE / AP

May Myat Noe on Tuesday adjusts the \$100,000 crown that organizers of the 2014 Miss Asia Pacific World pageant say she ran off with.

She said she did not intend to steal the crown, but also wasn’t going to give it back without a “sorry,” not just to her, but also to

Myanmar. “I’m not even proud of this crown,” she said after opening a blue box and placing the tiara on

the table in front of her. “I don’t want a crown from an organization with such a bad reputation.”

## Japan’s prime minister names 5 women to Cabinet

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan’s prime minister picked five women for his Cabinet on Wednesday, matching the past record and sending the strongest message yet about his determination to revive the economy by getting women on board as workers and leaders.

Japan has a vast pool of talented, well-educated women, but they are far under-represented in

positions of power in government and corporations.

Women make up 10 percent of parliament and just 3.9 percent of board members of listed Japanese companies, versus 12 percent at U.S. corporations and 18 percent in France.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated Wednesday that a key part of his “Abenomics” growth strategy is making greater use of women and promoting them to

leadership posts — a campaign dubbed “womenomics,” a term he has embraced. Abe has set a goal of having women in 30 percent of leadership positions in both the private and public sectors by 2020.

Having five women in the Cabinet, which currently has 18 members, is rare for Japan. It matches the highest number, set in 2010, under Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Abe’s previous Cabinet, dissolved earlier in the day, had two female ministers.

Although holding ministerial positions are in some ways ceremonial in Japan, where government affairs are largely run by professional bureaucrats, expanding the presence of women in a place as high-profile as the Cabinet is a step toward sexual equality in Japan.

## UN’s Iran nuke probe stalls again

The Associated Press

VIENNA — A new and seemingly promising U.N. probe of allegations that Iran worked on atomic arms has stalled, diplomats say, leaving investigators not much further than where they started a decade ago and dampening U.S. hopes of reaching an overarching nuclear deal with Tehran by a November deadline.

Expectations were high just two weeks ago, when chief U.N. nuclear inspector Yukiya Amano emerged from talks in Tehran with Iranian President Hasan Rouhani saying Iran had given “a firm commitment” of cooperation.

“We have started and that is important,” Amano said, suggesting that the years of deadlock had been broken.

His high-profile trip was meant to kick-start the latest effort to investigate the allegations. The investigation was agreed to in February but had made little progress.

Two diplomats told The Associated Press that Amano’s International Atomic Energy Agency will report no substantial progress this week when it issues its latest confidential report on the status of the investigations — a finding that could impact on the Iran-six power nuclear talks.

IAEA spokeswoman Gill Tudor said Wednesday the agency would have no comment.

The IAEA inquiry is formally separate from those U.S.-led talks. But Washington says a final deal must include a conclusion by the IAEA that it has satisfactorily completed its investigation.

With the IAEA still making little headway in getting answers on a dossier of allegations that extends to more than 1,000 pages, it is unlikely to be able to make that ruling by the Nov. 24 deadline, even if the two sides agree by then on the rest of a deal meant to limit Iran’s nuclear capacities in exchange for sanctions relief.



FACES

# High on 'V'

## Levine says Maroon 5 stuck with successful formula on fifth album

By MIKAEL WOOD  
Los Angeles Times

Adam Levine is a busy man. The 35-year-old frontman of Maroon 5 was at home in Encino, Calif., recently preparing for a weekend jam-packed with promotion for the band's new album, not to mention final rehearsals for a performance on MTV's Video Music Awards. And after that? Meetings related to Levine's other job as a coach on NBC's "The Voice," which begins its seventh season on Sept. 22.

Maroon 5's fifth studio disc, "V," follows 2012's "Overexposed," which sold more than 1 million copies and spawned four top 10 singles. Those are impressive statistics for any act, but for Maroon 5 they're also a validation of its decision — unusual for an ostensible rock band — to recruit some of pop's highest-profile songwriters and producers.

**Los Angeles Times: For the first time in Maroon 5's history, you collaborated with Top 40 wizards like Max Martin and Benny Blanco on "Overexposed." They're back for "V."**

**Levine:** If it ain't broke, don't fix it. It's a huge relief for me, because for a long time it felt like making an album was this daunting task, and I had to be at the center of it. It wasn't my fun anymore.

**Because you were trying to do it all?**

I was trying to control it all. But if you want to be a band

that's going to be around for 20 or 30 years, you're going to have to change what you do at some point. We developed a really nice system on the last record — we found songs we were passionate about, developed them and put our stamp on them — and I think we all started to enjoy ourselves in the studio. This time we kept it going, but looked for different types of songs.

**And from some different songwriters. "Sugar" was co-written by Dr. Luke, who's known for huge hits by Katy Perry and Brityre Spears.**

The second I heard that song, I was totally blown away. It was a really cool opportunity to go in a direction that I've always wanted to go in — kind of bridging the gap between things that I love about soul and funk and Prince, but also very poppy. I'd never been able to quite master that idea.

**As slick as the songs are on "V," many of them still have really biting lyrics about soured relationships.**

To me, there's something so sickly sweet about so much pop; it has to be subverted in some way. I hesitate to use the word "edge," because it's not like there's anything edgy about Maroon 5. But if I don't add my personal edge to it, it tends to get very soft. Max Martin, Benny Blanco, Ryan Tedder — those guys' No. 1 priority is: What's gonna hit? My No. 1 priority is: How is it gonna hit? And my No. 2 priority is the same as theirs.



MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

Adam Levine and Maroon 5 have recruited some of pop music's biggest songwriters and producers on their fifth studio album, "V."

# Lambert's 9 CMA noms tie record

By CHRIS TALBOTT  
The Associated Press

Miranda Lambert released the most ambitious album of her career this year, and Country Music Association voters responded by giving her a record-tying load of nominations.

Lambert has nine nominations for the 48th CMA Awards, tying her own mark for the most nods to a female nominee, and nearly doubling her nearest competitor when the list was announced Wednesday in New York. Dierks Bentley is next with five nominations, and Eric Church and Keith Urban have four apiece.

Lambert, 30, is up for top honor entertainer of the year along with husband Blake Shelton and has nominations for major categories album of the year for "Platinum," song and single of the year for "Automatic" and is vying for her fifth straight female vocalist of the year trophy.

Urban, George Strait and Luke Bryan round out the entertainer of the year category where Lambert and Bryan are seeking their first win in that coveted category. Bryan and Urban also are up for album of the year. Bryan's "Crash My Party" and Urban's "Fuse" join Bentley's "Riser" and Church's "The Outsiders" in the category.

New artist of the year nominees are Brandy Clark, Brett Eldredge, Kip Moore, Thomas Rhett and Cole Swindell.

Bryan and Shelton are tied with Kacey Musgraves and Carrie Underwood with three nominations apiece. The nominations were announced on NBC's "Good Morning America" and at a news conference by Darius Rucker and Little Big Town. Underwood and Brad Paisley will host the Nov. 5 show live from Nashville.

Lambert padded out her list of nominations with two apiece in the vocal event ("Something Bad" with Underwood and "We Were Us" with Urban) and music video ("Automatic" and "Something Bad") categories. "Automatic," the first single from "Platinum," was nominated for both song and single of the year as well.

Voters have an interesting choice to make in the entertainer of the year category. Lambert and Bryan are arguably the genre's top stars, and voters could justifiably reward either. Strait is seeking his second consecutive win in the category after announcing he would retire from the road. He played his final concert earlier this year, setting attendance records at the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium. And "American Idol" judge Urban and "The Voice" coach Shelton remain two of country's most visible stars.



Lambert



Justin Bieber

## Ontario police: Bieber charged with assault

Canadian pop star Justin Bieber faces new charges after police said Tuesday he was arrested for dangerous driving and assault following a collision between a minivan and an ATV that led to a physical altercation in southwestern Ontario.

Ontario Provincial Police said the incident happened Aug. 29 near Bieber's hometown of Stratford and that he was released on a promise to appear in court Sept. 29. They said the driver of the ATV and an occupant of the minivan "engaged in a physical altercation."

Constable Kees Wijnnands said there were no injuries as a result of the collision.

From The Associated Press

## Book of Streisand pics out in December

How obsessive are Barbra Streisand's fans? A coffee table book might provide an answer.

Publisher Taschen announced Wednesday that "Barbra: Streisand's Early Years in Hollywood, 1968-1976" will be published in December. According to Taschen, the book will include more than 240 images, many of them never published before. The text will feature a conversation between photojournalists Steve Schapiro and Lawrence Schiller, both of whom worked with Streisand. But the main Collector's Edition is limited — 1,000 copies at \$750 apiece. Two "Art Editions" will have 100 copies each, and cost \$1,800.

From The Associated Press



Barbra Streisand



Larry David

## Larry David play goes to Broadway in February

Theater fans, get ready to laugh uncomfortably — Larry David has found a Broadway theater and some co-stars for his writing and acting stage debut.

Producers said Tuesday that the "Curb Your Enthusiasm" star's play "Fish in the Dark" will star Rosie Perez, Jayne Houduyshell, Jake Cannavale, Jonny Orsini and Jerry Adler. Anna D. Shapiro, who won a Tony Award for staging "August: Osage County," will direct. Opening night is set for March 5.

David, who also was the co-creator, head writer and executive producer of "Seinfeld," has called his play "a comedy about a death in the family."

From The Associated Press

## Other news

■ **Joan Rivers'** family is confirming that the 81-year-old comedian is on life support after going into cardiac arrest last week during a procedure at a doctor's office. Her daughter, Melissa Rivers, said in a statement Tuesday that the family is extremely grateful for the public support.

■ Netflix Inc. has struck a deal with Warner Bros. Worldwide Television Distribution to run the television series "Gotham" worldwide following its first season. The highly anticipated show, which will start its initial season on Fox on Sept. 22, occurs in Batman's Gotham City and depicts an orphaned Bruce Wayne and future Commissioner James Gordon. Stars include Ben McKenzie and Jade Pinkett Smith.

■ Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor will be honored by Pennsylvania's Bryn Mawr College for her legal career. Sotomayor will receive the 2015 Katharine Hepburn Medal, given to women who embody "the intelligence, drive and independence" of the Oscar-winning actress.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Home Depot fears possible credit hack

By ANNE D'INNOCENZO  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Home Depot may be the latest retailer to suffer a major credit card data breach. The Atlanta-based home improvement retailer told The Associated Press Tuesday that it is working with both banks and law enforcement to investigate "unusual activity" that would point to a hack.

"Protecting our customers' information is something we take extremely seriously, and we are aggressively gathering facts at this point while working to protect customers," said Paula Drake, a spokeswoman at Home Depot. She said the retailer would notify customers immediately if it confirms a breach.

Shares of Home Depot Inc. fell \$1.88, or 2 percent, to close at \$91.15.

Hackers have broken security walls for many retailers in recent months, including Target,

grocery store chain SuperValu, P.F. Chang's and the thrift store operations of Goodwill. The rash of breaches has rattled shoppers' confidence in the security of their personal data and pushed retailers, banks and card companies to increase cybersecurity.

The possible data breach at Home Depot was first reported by Brian Krebs, of Krebs on Security, a website that focuses on cybersecurity. Krebs said multiple banks reported "evidence that Home Depot stores may be the source of a massive new batch of stolen credit and debit cards" that went on sale on the black market earlier Tuesday.

Krebs reported that it's not clear how many stores were affected but preliminary analysis indicates the breach may have affected all 2,200 Home Depot stores in the U.S. Several banks that were contacted said they believe the breach may have started in late April or early May.

"If that is accurate — and if

swiped at a point-of-sale terminal, chip cards use a one-time code that moves between the chip and the retailer's register. The result is a transfer of data that is useless to anyone except the parties involved. Chip cards are also nearly impossible to copy, experts say.

Krebs said that the party responsible for the breach may be the same group of Russian and Ukrainian hackers suspected in the Target breach late last year. Krebs also broke the news of Target's breach.

even a majority of Home Depot stores were compromised — this breach could be many times larger than Target, which had 40 million credit and debit cards stolen over a three-week period," said the Krebs post.

**"This breach could be many times larger than Target, which had 40 million credit and debit cards stolen."**

**Brian Krebs**  
cybersecurity expert

chips into U.S. credit and debit cards. Supports say chip cards are safer, because unlike magnetic strip cards that transfer a credit card number when they are

even a majority of Home Depot stores were compromised — this breach could be many times larger than Target, which had 40 million credit and debit cards stolen over a three-week period," said the Krebs post.

Krebs said that the party responsible for the breach may be the same group of Russian and Ukrainian hackers suspected in the Target breach late last year. Krebs also broke the news of Target's breach.

even a majority of Home Depot stores were compromised — this breach could be many times larger than Target, which had 40 million credit and debit cards stolen over a three-week period," said the Krebs post.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 4)	\$1.2490
Dollar buys (Sept. 4)	€0.7413
British pound (Sept. 4)	\$1.6169
Japanese yen (Sept. 4)	102.00
South Korean won (Sept. 4)	992.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6463
Canada (Dollar)	1.0906
China (Yuan)	6.1644
Denmark (Krone)	6.6523
Egypt (Pound)	7.1506
Euro	\$1.3146/0.7607
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7503
Hungary (Forint)	238.64
Israel (Sheqel)	3.5720
Japan (Yen)	104.97
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2850
Norway (Krone)	6.2201
Philippines (Peso)	43.60
Poland (Zloty)	3.19
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7538
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2519
South Korea (Won)	1,020.02
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9185
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.04
Turkey (Lira)	1.6598

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-local currency exchange rates (i.e., non-UK currencies), British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

Sept. 2, 2014	
Dow Jones industrials	-30.89 17,067.56
Nasdaq composite	+17.92 4,598.19
Standard & Poor's 500	-1.09 2,002.28
Russell 2000	+5.12 1,179.47

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	3.18

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	92	71	Cldy	Fort Wayne	87	69	Pcldy	Louisville	92	74	Pcldy	Pocatello	72	39	Cir	Sioux City	83	55	Pcldy	
Ablene, Texas	96	74	Pcldy	Cheyenne	68	44	Cir	Fresno	94	61	Cir	Lubbock	92	68	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	61	62	Cir	Sioux Falls	78	51	Pcldy	
Akron, Ohio	85	66	Pcldy	Chicago	88	75	Pcldy	Goodland	81	52	Cir	Macon	92	72	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	85	59	59	Cir	South Bend	87	73	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	84	52	Cir	Cincinnati	89	69	Pcldy	Grand Junction	80	60	Pcldy	Madison	88	66	Pcldy	Providence	86	65	Cir	Soukan	74	50	Cir	
Albuquerque	87	65	Pcldy	Cleveland	85	68	Cir	Grand Rapids	87	71	Rain	Medford	91	57	Cir	Pueblo	89	55	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	91	73	Pcldy	
Allentown, Pa.	86	63	Cir	Colorado Springs	82	51	Pcldy	Great Falls	66	44	Pcldy	Memphis	94	75	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	91	71	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	92	71	Cir	
Amarillo	93	66	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	95	72	Cldy	Green Bay	86	63	Pcldy	Miami Beach	89	80	Rain	Rapid City	69	46	Pcldy	St. Louis	95	76	Pcldy	
Anchorage	61	49	Pcldy	Columbus, Ga.	92	74	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	90	70	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	94	73	Cir	Reno	86	54	Cir	Tallahassee	93	72	Cldy	
Ashville	84	62	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	86	68	Pcldy	Harrisburg	85	66	Cir	Mobile	85	71	Cir	Richmond	91	70	Cir	Tampa	91	76	Rain	
Atlanta	90	72	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	86	61	Cir	Hartford Springfield	87	61	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	88	54	Pcldy	Roanoke	88	69	Cir	Toledo	90	72	Pcldy	
Atlantic City	87	68	Cir	Corpus Christi	93	77	Cldy	Helena	69	44	Pcldy	Missoula	69	39	Pcldy	Rochester	86	69	Cir	Topeka	95	70	Cir	
Austin	96	76	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	97	78	Cir	Honolulu	89	78	Cir	Mobile	89	78	Cir	Rockford	69	69	Pcldy	Tucson	100	76	Pcldy	
Baltimore	89	69	Pcldy	Dayton	86	69	Pcldy	Houston	93	77	Cldy	Montgomery	94	73	Rain	Sacramento	92	60	Cir	Tulsa	96	75	Cir	
Baton Rouge	93	73	Rain	Daytona Beach	91	76	Rain	Huntsville	94	72	Pcldy	Nashville	92	73	Pcldy	St. Louis	95	76	Pcldy	Tupelo	92	72	Pcldy	
Bilings	84	46	Pcldy	Denver	72	48	Pcldy	Indianapolis	88	70	Cldy	New Orleans	91	77	Rain	St. Petersburg	91	78	Rain	Waco	98	77	Pcldy	
Birmingham	92	73	Cldy	Des Moines	90	64	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	94	72	Rain	New York City	87	69	Cir	St. Thomas	89	79	Cir	Washington	90	72	Pcldy	
Bismarck	66	43	Cir	Detroit	86	70	Pcldy	Jacksonville	90	73	Pcldy	Newark	88	68	Cir	Salem, Ore.	87	56	Pcldy	W. Palm Beach	88	79	Rain	
Boise	92	50	Cir	Duluth	70	55	Cldy	Juneau	57	50	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	89	73	Cldy	Salt Lake City	76	57	Cir	Wichita	95	70	Cir	
Boston	84	67	Cir	El Paso	92	72	Pcldy	Kansas City	92	69	Cir	North Platte	78	51	Cir	San Angelo	95	74	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	97	76	Cir	
Bridgeport	85	66	Cir	Elkins	82	61	Pcldy	Key West	90	70	Cldy	Okla City	86	74	Cir	San Antonio	96	78	Cir	Wilkes-Barre	86	64	Cir	
Brownsville	91	78	Cldy	Erie	82	69	Cir	Knoxville	90	70	Cldy	Omaha	87	59	Pcldy	San Diego	77	69	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	87	68	Cir	
Buffalo	84	70	Cir	Eugene	87	52	Cldy	Lake Charles	92	76	Cir	Orlando	93	75	Rain	San Francisco	75	61	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	87	68	Cir	
Burlington, Vt.	82	64	Cir	Evansville	90	72	Pcldy	Lansing	87	70	Cldy	Paducah	92	72	Pcldy	San Jose	81	60	Pcldy	Youngstown	84	64	Pcldy	
Caribou, Maine	77	58	Cir	Fairbanks	55	34	Cldy	Las Vegas	102	78	Cir	Pendleton	78	49	Cir	Santa Fe	83	56	Pcldy					
Casper	65	41	Pcldy	Fargo	73	46	Cir	Lansing	91	71	Pcldy	Peoria	92	72	Pcldy	St. Marie	77	62	Rain					
Charleston, S.C.	91	76	Pcldy	Flagstaff	77	49	Cldy	Lincoln	87	58	Pcldy	Philadelphia	88	67	Cir	Savannah	90	75	Pcldy					
Charleston, W.Va.	87	66	Pcldy	Flint	87	70	Cldy	Little Rock	94	78	Cir	Phoenix	105	84	Cir	Seattle	75	56	Cir					
Charlotte, N.C.	89	71	Cldy	Fort Smith	96	73	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	87	66	Pcldy	Shreveport	96	76	Pcldy					

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Tue., 111, Bullhead City, Ariz.  
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OPINION

Back Kurds in the fight against terrorism

By HARRY SCHUTE JR.

On Aug. 14, President Barack Obama said in a news conference that "we broke the siege of Mount Sinjar," referring to the military and humanitarian aid missions to relieve the crisis facing Yazidi Kurds trapped on that mountain by Islamic State fighters.

Certainly, the efforts of U.S. aviators in attacking Islamic State targets and delivering aid, in conjunction with the ground attacks of Kurdish peshmerga forces, were critical in allowing most of those trapped on the mountain to find refuge in other Kurdistan-controlled areas. Yes, the siege is broken, but the job is far from done.

The civilized world still faces a daunting humanitarian problem that exists across Iraqi Kurdistan, as well as an undefeated, brutal terrorist state in the well-equipped and well-funded Islamic State. Now is not the time to breathe a sigh of relief, but, instead, it is time to double down and get the job done.

Both the humanitarian and military problems must be addressed simultaneously, as they are both pending disasters if not taken seriously.

On the humanitarian side, Iraqi Kurdistan is hosting more than 1.2 million refugees and internally displaced people. Many are minorities, including Christians, Yazidis and Shabaks, who have been driven from their homes by the Islamic State at the threat of conversion or death. They are living in tent camps, parks, unfinished buildings, church sanctuaries and private homes. The Kurdistan Regional Government is doing its best, with the United

Nations' assistance, to provide for those people. But the government also faces a budget crisis. It has received no budget payments from Baghdad since the beginning of the year and is fighting a war against the Islamic State. The KRG will have to provide shelter, food and support for the refugees who will not be able to return to their homes as long as the Islamic State holds sway over their towns and villages.

The military situation is not much better. Although the peshmerga have a reputation as fierce and loyal fighters—I saw them in action and they were instrumental in ensuring all of my soldiers returned home safely in 2004—they are heavily outmatched by the Islamic State. The peshmerga are using Soviet-era equipment captured from Saddam Hussein's army before 2003. The Islamic State, on the other hand, has modern U.S. equipment captured from several Iraqi army divisions when they evaporated before the Islamic State in June. One can only be so brave when fighting with obsolete equipment and limited ammunition.

The U.S. airstrikes and pledges of military equipment are much appreciated and very much needed, but this support must be ongoing, as the peshmerga are at the tip of the spear in the civilized world's fight against the Islamic State.

Why should the United States help defend Iraqi Kurdistan? Quite simply, it is the one part of Iraq that is a success story out of the eight years Americans toiled to bring peace and stability to Iraq.

Iraq's people accepted the challenge and thrived with limited U.S. support while the rest of Iraq burned. It is a land of tolerance,

full of religious minorities and non-Arab Muslims. Kurdistan was to be the threat-free, one of the most pro-American, democratic and secular places in the Middle East—it is Israel—would be at risk of extinction. It is in our strategic interests to ensure that the Kurds do not fail.

Let's be clear: The KRG is not asking for a single U.S. soldier on the ground to join them in the fight. They are prepared to do that work themselves. But they do need modern equipment and training, and support from the air.

Assisting in the defense of Kurdistan should be a priority for the United States and the civilized world. That first step must then be followed up with a grand strategy that, at a minimum, should include: cutting off funding to the Islamic State; interdicting the flow of recruits to the Islamic State, especially from the West; facilitating the formation of an inclusive new Iraqi government that includes Sunni Arabs; helping Sunni choke the Islamic State of support; and, supporting Iraqis and Syrians to take the fight to the Islamic State.

This is a fight that must be taken to the Islamic State—here and now. If not, the monsters of the Islamic State will be more than happy to export their medieval blend of terrorism and intolerance to the rest of the world, making al-Qaida look like a bunch of schoolyard bullies in the process.

Harry Schute Jr. is a retired colonel who commanded a U.S. Army Reserve civil affairs battalion in Kurdistan, was chief of staff for the Coalition Joint Authority North, and is currently a senior security adviser to the Kurdistan Regional Government. This column first appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Extremists reinforce one another's radical views

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN

Bloomberg News

Why do people become violent extremists? You might speculate that the answer is poverty. George W. Bush thought so: "We fight against poverty because hope is an answer to terror." Or you might think a lack of education explains it. Laura Bush thought so: "A lasting victory in the war against terror depends on educating the world's children."

Neither of these answers is correct, however. Most extremists, including those who commit violence, are not poor and do not lack education.

Suicide bombers are likely to have more income and more education than most people in their home nation, research shows. A few years after the attacks of Sept. 11, people in Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan and Turkey with higher than average incomes were no less likely to say that suicide attacks against Westerners were justified. People with more education were actually more likely to reach that conclusion.

Similarly, among Palestinians, support for violence against Israeli targets is pervasive—not lower among people with relatively high earnings and education than it is among those who are illiterate and unemployed.

In light of those findings, Princeton economist Alan Krueger said, "To understand who joins terrorist organizations, instead of asking who has a low salary and few opportunities, we should ask who holds strong political views and is confident enough to try to impose an extremist vision by violent means?" That's the right question. And at least part of the answer comes from social dynamics, as illuminated by some old, and seemingly far afield,

experiments in group psychology.

The original experiments, conducted in 1961 by James Stoner, a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, worked as follows. A number of Americans were assembled into groups and asked whether they would like to take certain hypothetical risks—to try a new job, to invest in a foreign country, to escape from a prisoner-of-war camp, or to run for political office. As it turned out, participation in group decision-making made people more inclined to take such risks. Stoner's findings were later replicated by many others, leading to the conclusion that when people act in groups, they experience what Stoner called a "risky shift."

But later studies drew that conclusion into serious question. Answering many of the same questions on which Americans displayed a risky shift, citizens of Taiwan displayed a shift toward greater caution. How come?

Everything depends on the group members' original inclinations. When people are initially disposed toward risk-taking, their discussions lead them further in that direction. When people are initially disposed toward caution, their discussions make them more cautious still. While the Americans started out risk-inclined, the Taiwanese started out risk-averse, and that simple difference explained the opposing shifts.

In short, groups tend to polarize. On political issues, group polarization occurs every day.

In France, for example, group members who start out suspicious of the United States become even more so after they exchange points of view. If people are inclined to want to punish some wrongdoer, they become even more determined to lead them to favor a more severe punish-

ment. Likewise, people with radical tendencies become more radical after group discussion—and more willing to favor breaking the law.

Why does group polarization occur? The first answer involves information. Suppose that most group members begin by thinking that some religious group, leader or nation is evil. If so, they will hear a lot of arguments to that effect. As they absorb them, they will be inclined to move toward a more extreme version of their initial judgment.

People also care about their reputations, so some group members will adjust their positions in the direction of the dominant view. A disturbing implication is that if group members listen only to one another, and if most of them have extremist tendencies, the whole group might well march toward greater radicalism and even brutality.

Writing in 1998, Russell Hardin, a political scientist at New York University, drew attention to the "crippled epistemology of extremism," by which he meant to emphasize how little extremists know. Focused on Islamic fundamentalists, Hardin was concerned about what happens "when the fanatic is in a group of like-minded people, and especially when the group isolates itself from the others."

Over the years ahead, the international effort to combat violent extremism will sometimes require force, and it will sometimes require economic pressure. But it will succeed only if it disrupts recruitment and radicalization by enclaves of like-minded people.

Cass R. Sunstein, the former administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, is a professor at Harvard Law School and a Bloomberg View columnist.

## OPINION

## Nude selfie scandal also reveals our cruelty

By ALYSSA ROSENBERG  
The Washington Post

Summer went out on an awfully sour note this weekend with the release of a large cache of intimate pictures pilfered from the private files of famous people. The story is simultaneously sordid and trivial, the sort of thing that is guaranteed to do well on a holiday weekend. But in a strange way, it also ties together some of the events of a disturbing summer, crystallizing the callousness and nastiness that has become our response to so many ugly events and that is an excuse not to search for systemic solutions to serious problems or to invest ourselves in the lives of other people.

The theft and release of the photos are callous enough. These periodic violations suggest a sense of extreme entitlement to famous people's bodies, a contempt for the idea that people in public life have the right to define any zone of privacy and a sense of glee about the possibility of exposing famous individuals as human and vulnerable.

But the response to these sorts of leaks comes with its own sort of cruelty. Rather than casting a jaundiced eye at large corporations that fail to keep their clients' data safe or railing against the impulse to pry into other people's intimate lives, we see sentiments such as the one expressed by New York Times technology columnist Nick Bilton. "Put together a list of tips for celebs after latest leak. 1. Don't take nude selfies 2. Don't take nude selfies 3. Don't take nude selfies," Bilton tweeted on Monday.

As tech reporter Kashmir Hill pointed out in Forbes, this kind of response is the digital equivalent of abstinence-only sex for celebs after latest leak. It sets unrealistic and expectations of contemporary relationships. And it shares a smug moralism with that sort of thinking: Anyone who experiences a bad outcome from bowing to a partner's request (much less acting for his or her own pleasure) deserves it and ought to be held up as a cautionary lesson

for everyone else.

The tendency to destroy people who have already been victimized takes an even uglier form in the attempts to shade the characters of murdered young black men in order to render their deaths somehow justifiable.

After Trayvon Martin was shot to death by neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman, people who wanted to believe that he was a dangerous thug rather than a child circulated a photo that was supposed to be a current shot of Martin. It was actually a picture of the much-older and taller rapper the Game, but the image served its purpose: to suggest that Martin represented a significant threat who warranted a deadly response.

That same odd attempt to suggest that the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., last month was the obvious and correct response because of his nature is already underway. Fox News harped on unconfirmed reports that Darren Wilson, the officer who shot and killed Brown, suffered a serious injury in an altercation with Brown before the killing. The Ferguson police department muddied the waters by appearing to suggest that Wilson was pursuing Brown as a suspect in the theft of some cigarrillos from a convenience store. The facts that Brown liked hip-hop and sometimes smoked marijuana have been held up as character evidence in the case, rather than as proof that Brown was a fairly average teenager.

And getting a drunk person is not actually a crime. Our penal code does not proscribe the death penalty for marijuana possession or for petty theft. And it takes a certain creative expansion of colonial American sexual morality to suggest that people who look at stolen naked photos ought to simultaneously be able to get sexual gratification from those photos. It is the subjects of them for having taken or posed for said pictures in the first place.

But these realities do not stop many of us from engaging in self-justifying, self-satisfied moral mathematics to shame and defame victims, a move that helps



CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence was among the victims of the recent online release of a large cache of intimate pictures pilfered from the private files of famous people.

us to accept terrible things that happen rather than confront the organizations and practices responsible for them, be the bad actors cloud storage lockers or a police department in Missouri.

And when we are not blaming victims, we are creating them. My colleague Radley Balko has written a series of posts on what he calls the criminalization of parenthood. This might best be defined as an increasingly visible tendency for citizens to call the police not only when they believe a child is imminent danger, but also when they believe that other parents are not living up to their own standards for how children ought to be raised. (Among the offenses that have merited calls to the police: letting children play by themselves.)

In many of these cases, calling the police appears to be an alternative to being inconvenienced. Rather than waiting by a car where a child has been left in a car seat to make sure their parents come back or asking after a child who is playing alone in a park, involving law enforcement is a way of opting out of what is supposed to be a collective responsibility for and concern

with the safety of children. As uncomfortable as these interactions might be for all participants, they are surely preferable to involving the police.

This particular form of opting out can do serious damage to families. As Balko puts it, "It doesn't benefit these kids in the least to give their parents a criminal record, smear their parents' names in their neighborhoods and communities and make it more difficult for their parents to find a job."

These situations are all very different and raise many disparate issues, but a disturbing thread runs through all of them: a sense that we have little in common and less to gain from standing together than in shaming and blaming each other.

This tendency is not exactly new. But just as contemporary technology gives people the capacity to break into others' private lives and to spread self-justifying theories, it also helps us broadcast an amplified portrait of ourselves. The resulting image is awfully ugly.

Alyssa Rosenberg blogs about pop culture for The Washington Post's Opinions section.

## Refocusing on the human side of the gun debate

By COURTLAND MILLOY  
The Washington Post

When my daughter was 14, she accompanied me to an FBI shooting range in Quantico, Va. An FBI SWAT team leader showed us how to fire a Heckler & Koch M4 carbine gun. His safety regime was strict. The first time my daughter took a shot, in semiautomatic mode, there were four hands holding the gun — hers and his.

That experience, in 1992, came to mind after the tragic accident last week at a gun range in Arizona. A 9-year-old girl lost control of the Uzi submachine gun she was firing and fatally shot the instructor standing next to her. I can understand why so many people were appalled, but there are other lessons in the tragedy besides the common refrain: Don't give a little girl a submachine gun.

A cellphone video released by police shows just how fast the gun turned fatal. It's over in a flash. You have to watch closely to see what went wrong. Pay attention — that's a lesson in itself and one not easily learned in our distracted, impatient, multitasking society. Giving my daughter car keys for the first time was far more worrisome than setting her up with a gun. Important lessons about gun safety are

also likely to be missed because of how we "debate" gun control vs. gun rights in this country, the winner being the side that makes the most political hay out of a killing before the TV cameras move on to something else.

The discourse this time was arguably worse than most because of how unfairly some have treated the families.

The death of the winner of the debate over youngsters and guns, with many people wondering what sort of parents would let a child handle an Uzi," The Associated Press reported Aug. 27, two days after the shooting.

Charles C.W. Cooke, an Oxford-educated conservative columnist, took his shot in the National Review on Aug. 27.

"Contra the Piers Morgans of the world," he wrote, referring to the former CNN talk show host, "I don't think it tells us too much about the law, nor do I think it's that relevant to the question of firearms in the United States. It does suggest gross negligence on the behalf of the range, the instructor, and the parents."

Some might even agree with him, but it takes a cold finger to point blame at a dead man and heartbroken parents as they try to console a traumatized girl.

A lesson: The family of the instructor who died in the Aug. 29 shooting called the girl's family a few days after the shoot-

ing to see how she was doing and to assure her that they knew she had done nothing wrong. Contrast to callousness.

Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, was also gracious, writing on the MSNBC website, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families." But it wasn't long before she launched into that dysfunctional debate about making hay out of homicides.

"While news of the tragic Arizona shooting reverberated around the country yesterday, the NRA's campaign to attract female members, NRA Women, sent an ill-timed tweet about how kids can 'have fun at the shooting range,' before quickly deleting it," she wrote. "And the gun lobby supports laws that prohibit doctors from having life-saving conversations with patients about the risks of gun injury and how to avoid them."

Watts had begun a lesson in gun safety with an appeal to "a society that regards itself as moral and ethical," but she became preoccupied with the NRA, calling for a "conversation" about gun safety and then concluding in the same sentence that "it's also a conversation in which the gun lobby refuses to participate."

I'm a gun owner. I can't speak for the other estimated 70 million gun owners, but my gun lobby is not about refusing to participate in a conversation.

I visited the FBI outdoor training facility to learn more about automatic weapons, which were being used to devastating effect in drive-by shootings. The year before, 1991, there were 479 homicides reported in the District of Columbia.

My daughter just wanted a chance to shoot a gun, having declared her intent to join the Marines. (She became an acupuncture student instead.)

The instructor handed out eye and ear protection, put up some paper targets and slowly guided us through various shooting modes — from semiautomatic to three-shot bursts to a few blasts on full auto.

He also took our picture afterward. We were standing next to one of the targets. My daughter is smiling, having bested me two bulls'-eyes to none.

I wish it had ended that way for the 9-year-old girl and her family.

Of course, I don't expect those for whom guns are an amenity to understand the appeal of a firearm or a shooting range. But during my outings, I get to see the gun owners and not just the guns. The ones I know tend to be independent-minded and to place a premium on self-sufficiency, which includes self-defense.

Focus more on the people. Both sides should.

Everything else is just making hay.  
Courtland Milloy is a Washington Post columnist.





# NFL PREVIEW

## NFC NORTH

# Elite talent adds up to plenty of points

### The problem's on the other side of the ball

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**  
The Associated Press

**G**reen Bay's grab of the NFC North for the third straight season, giving the Packers seven of the 12 titles since the division formed, was predictable.

That unremarkable 8-7-1 record they won it with was the real surprise.

Chicago took a step back, too, and Minnesota plummeted badly. Detroit was the only team with more victories than the previous year, but still had a losing mark and fired its coach. Such mediocrity, though, should not mask the abundance of elite talent that still exists in this quartet.

From stars Aaron Rodgers, Adrian Peterson and Calvin Johnson to up-and-comers Cordarrelle Patterson, Alshon Jeffrey and Eddie Lacy, with standouts like Reggie Bush, Brandon Marshall and Randall Cobb somewhere in between, the NFC North could probably field a Pro Bowl offense all by itself.

The Packers, Lions and Bears all ranked in the top eight in the league in total yards, and even the Vikings with their quarterback problems finished 13th, higher than five playoff teams.

For this division to again produce a true championship-caliber team, keeping those key players healthy all year is the first prerequisite. Then the defenses must get better. If not, and this season looks a lot like the last, well, the games are bound to be entertaining with all those big-play guys throwing, running and catching the ball.

Here are some things to know about the NFC North this year:

**In case of injury, call...** When the previously infallible Rodgers went down with a broken collarbone, the dynamic of the division changed. The Packers were very badly good enough to survive his absence

and beat the Bears in the final week, which served as a play-in game for the NFC playoffs. That was quite the feat considering they lost Cobb, outside linebacker Clay Matthews, left tackle Bryan Bulaga and several other starters for multiple games.

The injuries transcended all three Wisconsin borders.

Josh McCown helped the Bears withstand quarterback Jay Cutler's torn groin, but the defense lost Henry Melton, D.J. Williams, Lance Briggs and Charles Tillman for a total of 38 games. Johnson wasn't the same Megatron for the Lions, missing two games and fighting knee and finger trouble that prompted offseason procedures. Peterson had a similar letdown with the Vikings, spraining his foot in December and needing surgery on his groin in January.

**Picked the Pack, did Peppers:** The Packers made a rare splash in free agency by signing eight-time Pro Bowl pick Julius Peppers, who played the last four years with the Bears. Peppers, whose 119 career sacks are the third most among active players, is making the transition from the traditional 4-3 defensive end to the 3-4 scheme at age 34. He could, though, provide a valuable boost to a defense that sagged down the stretch last year.

"I'm looking forward to not only proving to myself that I can do it, but proving to the outsiders who don't think I can do it," Peppers said.

**More defense spending:** One spot ahead of Peppers on the active player sacks list is Jared Allen, who also switched NFC North rivals by leaving the Vikings for the Bears. Like Peppers, Allen at 32 is past his prime at a speed-based position. But the five-time Pro Bowl pick, too, will be eager to prove he's not done as a dominant pass rusher. The Bears were tied for last in the league



ANN HEISENFELT/AP

**Vikings running back Adrian Peterson is just one of many elite offensive players in the NFC North. But the division has only a handful of standout defensive players.**

in sacks last year and gave up the second-most points, fewer than only the Vikings.

**Bridge to Bridgewater:** The Vikings have a new coach in Mike Zimmer and a new quarterback in Teddy Bridgewater, though the first-round draft pick from Louisville has been behind veteran Matt Cassel on the depth chart since he arrived. Cassel played well enough last season after Christian Ponder lost the job to give the Vikings confidence in him until Bridgewater is ready to take over — whether that is this September, next September or somewhere in between.

"I think Teddy's going to be a great player," Zimmer said.

**Roar restoration:** Jim Schwartz was replaced by Jim Caldwell as coach of the Lions. Detroit went 10-6 and made the playoffs in 2011, then slumped to 4-12 in 2012 and squandered a 6-3 start with control of the division, only to finish 7-9 in 2013.

Addressing any particular weaknesses on the roster was not as important over the winter and spring as rebuilding confidence and optimism within a group that still boasts plenty of star-caliber players.

"I believe we're on the threshold of some great things," Caldwell said. "I think the organization is ready, the city of Detroit is ready, our fan base is ready, and I think our players are ready as well."

## Team capsules in predicted order of finish

### Green Bay Packers



**New faces:** DL Julius Peppers, rookies S Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, WR Davante Adams.

**Key losses:** WR James Jones, TE Jermaine Finley, C Evan Dietrich-Smith, DT Ryan Pickett, DL Johnny

Jolly.

**Strengths:** QB, RB, WR, G, T, OLB, CB.

**Weaknesses:** TE, C, S.

**What's new:** Packers hope Peppers improves pass rush. After no interceptions from safeties last season, Clinton-Dix was drafted and Micah Hyde moved from cornerback, all in effort to add playmakers to defense.

**Expectations:** Aaron Rodgers has been sharp, though questions remain at receiver beyond Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb. Offense could be even more dangerous with strong RB group led by Eddie Lacy. If Clay Matthews returns to form, and defense can generate more turnovers, look for deep playoff run.

### Chicago Bears



**New faces:** DE Jared Allen, DE LaMarr Houston, DE Willie Young, S Ryan Mundy, rookie CB Kyle Fuller.

**Key losses:** DE Julius Peppers, KR Devin Hester, QB Josh McCown.

**Strengths:** QB, RB, WR, TE, DE, CB, K.

**Weaknesses:** S, P, KR.

**What's new:** Might not be another Monsters of the Midway, but a defense that could perhaps hold its own and complement the high-powered offense.

**Expectations:** Bears finished B-8 last season with that prolific offense, but missed playoffs for sixth time in seven years because of defense struggled. That group got a big makeover, highlighted by signing of Allen. Questions remain at safety along with some linebacker and defensive tackle spots. Offense has all 11 starters back. Depth could be issue if QB Jay Cutler or RB Matt Forte get hurt, with no proven backups.

### Minnesota Vikings



**New faces:** Head coach Mike Zimmer, offensive coordinator Norv Turner, rookie LB Anthony Barr, CB Captain Munnerlyn, DT Linval Joseph, LB Jasper Brinkley, rookie QB Teddy Bridgewater, rookie RB

Jerick McKinnon.

**Key losses:** DE Jared Allen, DT Kevin Williams, RB Toby Gerhart, LB Erin Henderson, DT Letroy Guion, CB Chris Cook.

**Strengths:** RB, WR, OL.

**Weaknesses:** LB, DB.

**What's new:** Adrian Peterson will still be focal point, but Vikings hope to turn some of his carries into catches for strategic variation and health preservation.

**Expectations:** Munnerlyn is major upgrade, but secondary still has questions. Quarterback matters most. Matt Cassel must stretch handful of strong performances last year over whole season; Bridgewater waits if Cassel struggles.

### Detroit Lions



**New faces:** Coach Jim Caldwell, WR Golden Tate, S James Iredigbo, CB Cassius Vaughn, rookie TE Eric Ebron.

**Key losses:** S Louis Delmas, WR Nate Burleson, CB Chris Houston, DE Willie

Young, K David Akers.

**Strengths:** WR, OL, DL.

**Weaknesses:** DB, K.

**What's new:** Lions hired Caldwell hoping he can guide talented roster to playoffs after Detroit collapsed down stretch under Jim Schwartz. After losing Delmas and Houston, secondary is potential trouble spot.

**Expectations:** Matthew Stafford still has room to grow as passer, and with Calvin Johnson and Reggie Bush, offense could be terrific. Ndamukong Suh anchors defensive line, but he's in final year of contract, so pressure will be on team to take big step forward in 2014.

# NFL PREVIEW

## NFC WEST

# Seattle tries to stay atop loaded division

### These four may be league's deepest group

By **Tim Booth**  
The Associated Press

**SEATTLE** Forget about the NFC West. Last year proved the NFC West is the deepest division in the NFL.

Whether it was San Francisco and Seattle, the league's best rivalry, meeting in the NFC championship game, or the Seahawks posting the most lopsided Super Bowl victory in two decades by routing Denver, the profile of the NFC West is drastically different from a few years ago.

NFC West depth goes beyond just the Seahawks. The four teams combined to go 42-22 a year ago, the best of any division, and could be that good again.

There are concerns for each team entering 2014. St. Louis must recover from another Sam Bradford season-ending injury. Arizona must replace linebackers Daryl Washington and Carlos Dansby, and defensive tackle Darnell Dockett. San Francisco will play at least half the season without All-Pro linebacker NaVorro Bowman.

And Seattle must deal with the attention and scrutiny that comes with being the defending champion.

"They're good, they're the defending champs. They're in our division, there's a lot of motivation there," San Francisco's Justin Smith said.

Here are some things to know in the NFC West:

**Crown of thorns:** Seattle has never been a champion. But Pete Carroll has.

His blueprint for keeping the Seahawks elite involved locking up All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman and safety Earl Thomas, plus receiver Doug Baldwin to contract extensions, re-signing DE Michael Bennett, and never resting on what happened last season. The Seahawks also avoided a contract dispute with RB Marshawn Lynch and have seen glimpses of

the punch a healthy WR Percy Harvin could add to their offense.

Their defense might not match the suffocating numbers posted a year ago, but if quarterback Russell Wilson and the offense continues to evolve the Seahawks might not need the best defense to remain atop the division.

"If you're going to have a good team you're going to have to deal with these guys and these good teams, so that's what we're faced with," Carroll said. "Whoever comes out on top of the division is really going to be ready to play anybody."

**Last exit:** Just off Highway 101, the 49ers move into their new palatial home this season — Levi's Stadium — replacing the outdated Candlestick Park, and trying to regain their perch atop the division.

QB Colin Kaepernick is locked up long-term and he will have tight end Vernon Davis, WRs Michael Crabtree, Anquan Boldin and Stevie Johnson as targets all season. Frank Gore and rookie Carlos Hyde will be the featured backs of an offense that again will rely heavily on the run.

Defensively there are more concerns. The secondary has been completely remodeled since the Niners' Super Bowl appearance two seasons ago. Bowman likely won't be back until at least midseason after a gruesome knee injury in the NFC championship game and LB Aldon Smith will miss a similar amount of time serving his nine-game penalty from the league.

"For us, we have been close. We did go one year. That's not good enough, we want to bring it home," linebacker Patrick Willis said.

**Man of the hour:** The defense Jeff Fisher has built in St. Louis is impressive. Whether the defense was enough to vault the Rams into contention was in question before Bradford's injury. Now the defense



Ben Margot/AP

**Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, left, will be in prime position to cash in with a huge contract after this season if he can lead Seattle back to the Super Bowl.**

might need to be light's out for St. Louis to improve on last season's seven victories with journeyman Shaun Hill under center.

When Bradford tore his left ACL in Game 7 last season, there was an abrupt shift to a ground-heavy offense under backup Kellen Clemens. They'll still emphasize hand-offs to Zac Stacy and Benny Cunningham. But Hill also will get a chance to air it out a bit to the likes of newcomer Kenny Britt and improving youngsters Tavon Austin, Brian Quick and Steedman Bailey. Journeyman Shaun Hill likely will fall onto the arm of Bradford.

St. Louis has a dominant front four on defense with Chris Long, Robert Quinn, Michael Brockers and the addition of rookie Aaron Donald. But the secondary must improve.

**Big wave:** Arizona was one of the hottest teams at the end of last season after finally clicking under coach Bruce Arians,

winning seven of its final nine. The Cardinals also hold the distinction of being the only team to win in Seattle since 2011 after knocking off the Seahawks in Week 16.

Quarterback Carson Palmer has another year in Arians' system and Larry Fitzgerald remains an elite pass catcher. Andre Ellington established himself as Arizona's leading rusher with 652 yards and three touchdowns his rookie season.

But the Cardinals are struggling to replace Dansby and Washington, and Dockett tearing his ACL is another significant loss. The secondary could be second best in the NFC behind Seattle thanks to incumbent CB Patrick Peterson and the additions of Antonio Cromartie and rookie Deuce Boucaud.

"I really like the way our team battled through the second half of the season," Arians said. "It makes this one more important and easier to get started."

## Team capsules in predicted order of finish

### Seattle Seahawks



**New faces:** DT Kevin Williams, rookie WR Paul Richardson, T Justin Britt, T Eric Winston, rookie DE Cassius Marsh.

**Key losses:** WR Golden Tate, T Breno Giacomini, G Paul McQuistan, DE Red

Bryant, DE Chris Clemens, CB Walter Thurmond, T Michael Bowie, DT Clinton McDonald.

**Strengths:** QB, RB, WR, CB, S, K.

**Weaknesses:** OL.

**What's new:** Speed everywhere on offense. With Percy Harvin healthy, addition of rookie Richardson and expected addition of RB Christine Michael to game plan, Seattle possesses speed to stretch defenses to sideline but also vertically downfield.

**Expectations:** Seattle might be best positioned team to repeat as Super Bowl champs in 10 years since repeat was last accomplished by New England. Still young, still talented. And offseason losses through free agency have been mitigated by additions or young players who barely saw action last season during title run. QB Russell Wilson could set stage for massive offseason payday by leading Seattle to another Super Bowl trip.

### San Francisco 49ers



**New faces:** S Antoine Bethea, WRs Brandon Lloyd and Stevie Johnson, OL Jonathan Martin, rookie RB Carlos Hyde.

**Key losses:** S Donte Whitner, CBs Trent Brown and Carlos Rogers, halfback

RG Alex Boone.

**Strengths:** QB, LB, WR, TE, OL.

**Weaknesses:** DB, depth on DL.

**What's new:** Colin Kaepernick has his deepest receiving corps yet and challenge will be keeping everybody involved, while offense features more streamlined playbook intended to simplify certain elements.

**Expectations:** Defense that has been among NFL's best will be missing All-Pro linebacker NaVorro Bowman for at least half-season as he recovers from left knee surgery following devastating injury in NFC championship game at Seattle. 49ers also lost NT Glenn Dorsey toiceps injury, and team will need to be at full strength to challenge defending Super Bowl champion Seahawks.

### St. Louis Rams



**New faces:** WR Kenny Britt, rookie G-T Greg Robinson, DT Aaron Donald, RB TE Mason, DB Lamaricus Joiner, DB Maurice Alexander, DB E.J. Gaines, DE Michael Sam; defensive coordinator Gregg Williams.

**Key losses:** CB Cortland Finnegan, G Chris Williams, QB Kellen Clemens.

**Strengths:** OL, DL, LB, QB, TE.

**Weaknesses:** DB, WR.

**What's new:** Williams is putting stamp on defense that aspires to top 10 status. System hasn't changed much but there will be more blitzing, taking pressure off unproven secondary. It's hoped Britt, entering his sixth season, can settle down, avoid off-field problems and be veteran leader of young group at wide receiver.

**Expectations:** Coach Jeff Fisher has returned respectability to franchise with consecutive seven-win campaigns, capitalizing on draft pick bonanza from Robert Griffin III trade with Redskins. Sam Bradford's injury is a big hit, but Fisher has assembled a strong supporting cast, so Shaun Hill has talent around him. Still, Bradford's loss and the stiff competition in NFC West could prevent true breakthrough.

### Arizona Cardinals



**New faces:** LT Jared Veldheer, CB Antonio Cromartie, ILB Larry Foote, KR-WR Ted Ginn Jr., TE John Carlson, RB Jonathan Dwyer, RB-FB Robert Huges.

**Key losses:** ILB Carlos Dansby, ILB Daryl Washington, DT Darnell Dockett, LG Darryl Collegee, WR Andre Roberts, RT Eric Winston, TE Jake Ballard.

**Strengths:** WR, CB, S, QB, RB, DE, P.

**Weaknesses:** OL, ILB.

**What's new:** Speed. Coach Bruce Arians loves "fast little guys" and he has pair in Ginn and rookie John Brown, a sensation in preseason. Deep threat is designed to open space for Larry Fitzgerald, Michael Floyd, Andre Ellington and Carlson.

**Expectations:** In Arians' first year, Cardinals won seven of last nine to finish 10-6 but failed to make playoffs in rugged NFC West. Optimism abounds with QB Carson Palmer comfortable in Arians' offense and with multitude of receivers. Fast, elusive Ellington counted on as runner and receiver. Defense, sixth in NFL last year, could take step back.

NFL

# For openers, offenses want to get rolling

## Wilson-led unit was unstoppable in preseason

By **TIM BOOTH**  
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Through-out the preseason, quarterback Russell Wilson and the starting offense of the Seattle Seahawks were never really stopped.

Wilson was on the field for 13 possessions in the four preseason games. He directed Seattle to touchdowns on nine possessions, two field goals and just one punt.

During one stretch in the second and third preseason games, Seattle scored on nine consecutive possessions with Wilson under center and the streak was only broken when a lengthy field goal attempt hit an upright.

It's was an impressive rate of success, even for offenses that don't have much meaning or have opponents game planning to try and stop the Seahawks offense.

How much that can carry into the regular season is one of the biggest questions for Seattle headed into Thursday night's season opener against Green Bay.

The Seahawks have a pretty good idea of what they are going to get from a defense that was the best in the NFL a season ago and returns mostly intact. But if the offense can be more consistent than a year ago, the Seahawks could look like the team that dominated the Super Bowl.

"I think we expect it to. That's the only thing we have to look at going into the year," Seattle tight end Zach Miller said. "Obviously we practice against a very good defense, so that helps."

"Almost every chance we've gotten the football we've put points on the board so with the way Russell is just growing and becoming a better player I think our offense that's the expectation when we get



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

**Russell Wilson had a QB rating of 133.8 during the preseason and led the Seahawks to scores on 11 of 13 possessions.**

the football."

Wilson was in for all of four plays against the Raiders, completing three passes for 77 yards and throwing a 25-yard touchdown pass. Wilson finished the preseason 33-for-42 for 437 yards, three touchdowns and a QB rating of 133.8, the second best for any quarterback during the preseason.

As a nod to the potential potency of their offense, the Seahawks kept seven wide receivers and three tight ends on their final 53-man roster. While that's likely to be in flux throughout the season, it's the most pass catchers coach Pete Carroll has kept on the initial roster to start any of his five seasons as Seattle's coach.

Consider Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy among those that believe that the preseason could be the Seahawks reality on the offensive side.

"I think you have to be very impressed with our offense," McCarthy said. "On Russell Wilson and their ability to stay in favorably down and distance and keep the mix of the run and the pass. They've always been outstanding running the football, but they look like they're a lot more balanced now, and very dynamic in the perimeter."

## Lacy, Rodgers give Packers balance

By **GENARO C. ARMAS**  
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — In Eddie Lacy, the Packers' offense has found balance.

The physical running back had 1,178 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns when he won the Offensive Rookie of the Year Award in 2013 — and that was with quarterback Aaron Rodgers sidelined for seven weeks with a collarbone injury.

Just imagine what a full year of Lacy and Rodgers together in the backfield could do for Green Bay's already potent attack.

"Together, we definitely can be explosive," Lacy said Sunday.

Better not leave out the offensive line, too — not with a difficult season opener looming Thursday against the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks.

"It takes the guys up front, as well, and they've been working hard and making sure they block their man. So, it should be a good year for us," Lacy said.

There is no tougher place to get started than in Seattle in front of the Seahawks' notoriously loud crowd, and against a defense that, when last seen, overpowered Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos.

Rodgers witnessed the rout in person from a box at LifeLine Stadium.

Maybe he didn't give the game his full attention the whole time, but he certainly saw enough.

"They got into a rhythm there with their pass rush and with their coverages, you know made some good plays," he said. "They play with a lot of confidence, have a little swagger about 'em, and it's a tough place to play."

There's nothing, then, like having the option of being able to hand off to one of the top young running backs in the league to help keep a defense guessing. Opponents brought a safety down closer to

the line of scrimmage more often last year while Rodgers was out to concentrate on slowing Lacy.

"I'm not sure what's going to change with the back in there full-time, but either way we should at different times find some more one (safety), one-on-one looks" for receivers Jarrett Boykin, Randall Cobb and Jordy Nelson, Rodgers said. "And we've got to win those one-on-one battles."

As usual for the Packers, there is an emphasis on tempo. Coach Mike McCarthy likes picking up the pace, and the first-string offense looked good during limited preseason snaps in operating without a huddle.

It's all about trying to dictate the tempo. A no-huddle attack theoretically makes it more difficult for defenses to substitute personnel, and keeps bigger defensive linemen on the field longer.

"We're going to try to go out and do what we do best and that's our no-huddle. Speed the tempo up and try to be successful," Nelson said.

McCarthy also has placed an emphasis this preseason on getting Lacy and backups James Starks and DuJuan Harris ready for three-down work, in part to minimize substitutions during a series and avoid interrupting the tempo.

Lacy has had extensive work on pass-catching drills in practice. He also wants to get better when getting past the first wave of defenders in the trenches.

Rodgers described Lacy as an instinctive runner.

"He's a talented guy. He's a smart, smart player. He knows how to play the game. He plays at a very good tempo," Rodgers said. "He's a talented guy in the protection schemes. And he can catch the ball out of the backfield. But it's like we've seen in this league, you need multiple backs to be successful."



**Green Bay Packers (0-0) at Seattle Seahawks (0-0)**  
AFN-Sports  
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JEFF ROBERSON/AP

**The Packers' Eddie Lacy ran for 1,178 yards last season, mostly with QB Aaron Rodgers sidelined.**

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NFL

# Start: Carr named Raiders' starting quarterback this week

**FROM BACK PAGE**

and Carr will start over Schaub Sunday. Surely, that was welcome news for fans who created the trending Twitter topic #StartTheCarr.

"He's a tough kid, mentally," former Raiders coach Jon Gruden said of Carr, a three-year starter at Fresno State whom the Raiders drafted in the second round, 36th overall. "I think he's ready to go, and I think his performance against Seattle made it a slam dunk if you ask me."

Gruden is the voice of authority when it comes to the rookie quarterback class as a whole. He knows Carr well, just as he knows the three first-round quarterbacks selected before him: Jacksonville's Blake Bortles, Cleveland's Johnny Manziel and Minnesota's Teddy Bridgewater — none of whom is slated to start when his team opens the season Sunday.

"A lot of these kids are underclassmen — Bortles, Johnny Man-

**I thought Carr had the best arm talent in the draft. ... I think he's the best quarterback the Raiders have had from a prospect standpoint in a long time.'**

**Jon Gruden**

ESPN announcer and former NFL head coach



ziel, Bridgewater," Gruden said. "I think that's one of the reasons why their head coaches are going to be reluctant to start them right away. I think those three kids, albeit they're good prospects, look, they didn't complete their NCAA eligibility. And normally quarterbacks do that."

That said, all four of those rookies could be starting soon enough.

The 6-foot-5 Bortles, who has drawn comparisons to Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger, has been

scorching this summer, showing touch and accuracy on short, mid-range and deep passes. He completed a league-high 11 passes of 20-plus yards in four games.

Manziel, the 22nd pick, made a predictable splash in the run-up to the season, but didn't earn the starting job. His jersey shot to No. 1 on the sales charts, he played aerobic instructor "Johnny Jam Boogie" in a Snickers commercial, and he was fined \$12,000 by the league for making an obscene

gesture to Washington's sideline.

There was no wavering from first-year Browns coach Mike Pettine when it came to naming the starting quarterback. Two weeks before the regular season, Pettine announced the job would go to Brian Hoyer, who had three starts in 2013 before a season-ending knee injury. But Manziel likely is one bad Hoyer game — or even one bad half — from taking over.

Bridgewater, the last pick of the first round, improved by the week this summer after struggling in his exhibition opener. He threw a league-best five touchdown passes in exhibition games, tied with New England rookie Jimmy Garoppolo, and directed a game-winning two-minute drill in Week 2 of the preseason that had teammates calling him "Teddy Two Minutes."

No one has a more comprehensive view of the rookie quarterback class as a whole than Gruden, who spends an entire day one-on-one with each of the top prospects for his ESPN pre-draft series, "Gruden's QB Camp." Each episode features one quarterback and the two break down tape, draw up plays on the white board and go through a workout at a local practice field.

"I thought Carr had the best arm talent in the draft," Gruden said. "He's a senior, has taken a lot of snaps, has made a lot of throws. He's got a pedigree with his brother (quarterback David Carr, selected No. 1 overall by Houston in 2002). And to be honest, I think he's the best quarterback the Raiders have had from a prospect standpoint in a while."

**How the rookies stack up**

A statistical breakdown of how six rookie quarterbacks — Oakland's Derek Carr, Cleveland's Johnny Manziel, Minnesota's Teddy Bridgewater, Jacksonville's Blake Bortles, New England's Jimmy Garoppolo and Tennessee's Zach Mettenberger — fared during the preseason:

**Derek Carr, Oakland Raiders**

	<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>
	45	30
	<b>Yds</b>	<b>TD</b>
	326	4
	<b>Int</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	1	108.2

**Blake Bortles, Jacksonville Jaguars**

	<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>
	51	32
	<b>Yds</b>	<b>TD</b>
	521	2
	<b>Int</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	0	110.0

**Johnny Manziel, Cleveland Browns**

	<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>
	59	30
	<b>Yds</b>	<b>TD</b>
	296	2
	<b>Int</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	0	76.7

**Jimmy Garoppolo, New England Patriots**

	<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>
	79	46
	<b>Yds</b>	<b>TD</b>
	618	5
	<b>Int</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	1	99.0

**Teddy Bridgewater, Minnesota Vikings**

	<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>
	49	30
	<b>Yds</b>	<b>TD</b>
	283	5
	<b>Int</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	0	111.2

**Zach Mettenberger, Tennessee Titans**

	<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>
	68	47
	<b>Yds</b>	<b>TD</b>
	659	2
	<b>Int</b>	<b>Rating</b>
	2	97.6

Source: cbsports.com

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## MLB

# Kershaw wins 17th, Dodgers down Nats

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Even the red-hot Washington Nationals offense proved no match for Clayton Kershaw.

Kershaw pitched eight strong innings for his major league leading 17th win and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Washington Nationals 4-1 Tuesday night.

Kershaw (17-3) gave up three hits and one run, walked two and struck out eight in work his third straight start and lower his ML-leading ERA to 1.70. He also went 1-for-2 with a run scored at the plate.

“He spoils us, that’s for sure,” Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. “He’s just so valuable for us.”

The Nationals came in with 14 home runs in their previous four games, including four against the Dodgers on Monday.

Kershaw quickly quieted their bats, working through six shutout innings before giving up a solo homer to Bryce Harper in the seventh, his only bloop of the night. It was the first homer hit by a lefty against Kershaw this season.

“He just didn’t give us any opportunities,” Nationals manager Matt Williams said. “That’s why he’s doing so well. He’s just not making any mistakes.”

Kershaw retired 12 straight at one point and, with his eight strikeouts, surpassed the 200-strikeout mark for the fifth consecutive season. He joins Hall of Famers Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale and Don Sutton as the only pitchers in franchise history with at least five seasons of 200 strikeouts.

“You always want to be consistent,” Kershaw said. “You try to give your team

a chance. When you only get to contribute once every five days it’s important for the starting pitcher to get some momentum.”

Kershaw was also responsible for jump starting the Dodgers offense. He laced a one-out single to center in the fifth, advanced to third on Dee Gordon’s single and scored on Adrian Gonzalez’s infield single to break a scoreless tie.

“He was impressive all the way around tonight,” Mattingly said. “Getting our offense going, going hard first to third on the basepaths, it just shows what a competitor he is.”

Gordon raced home from second on Gonzalez’s single when shortstop Ian Desmond’s throw to the plate sailed over the head of catcher Wilson Ramos.

Juan Uribe added a two-run homer in the sixth to extend the Dodgers’ lead to 4-0, and that was enough for Kershaw and closer Kenley Jansen.

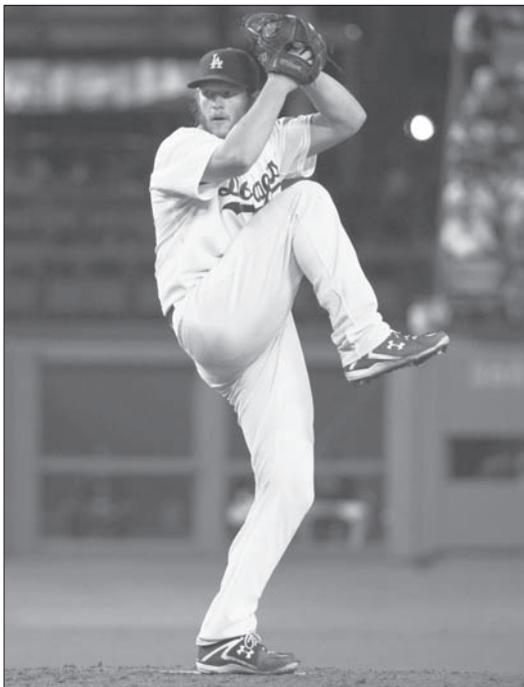
Jansen came on in the ninth and pitched a hitless frame for his 39th save.

Doug Fister (12-6) took the loss for the Nationals. He went five-plus innings, gave up 10 hits, four runs, walked two and struck out two.

Gonzalez went 2-for-3 with a walk, Carl Crawford and A.J. Ellis both went 2-for-4 and Joc Pederson got his first career hit in his first career start, a bloop single to center in the second inning off Fister.

With the win, the Dodgers (78-61) moved within a game of the Nationals (78-59) for the National League’s best record.

“We needed to get the W tonight,” Kershaw said. “It was good to get it.”



BLAINE OHGASHI, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

**Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw pitched eight innings Tuesday in picking up his 17th victory. He gave up one run on three hits, walked two and struck out eight.**

## Roundup

# Wainwright helps out at plate as well as on mound

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — To earn his 16th win, Adam Wainwright really needed his bat.

Wainwright matched his career best with three RBIs, an unexpected boost that helped carry the St. Louis Cardinals to a 6-4 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday night.

“There’s usually two or three games a year that you swing the outcome if you can provide something offensively,” Wainwright said. “I just made a couple of good swings.”

The bottom of the order was the difference in the fourth win in a row for the NL Central leaders. Eighth-place hitter Peter Bourjos singled twice with an RBI, and seventh-place hitter Daniel Descalso walked twice and scored twice.

Randal Grichuk added three hits and made a nice diving catch in right field to rob Starting Marte of a go-ahead extra-base hit.

“I feel like we’re really ready to take off,” Bourjos said. “We’re getting contributions from everybody.”

Wainwright (16-9) prevailed despite allowing three home runs



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

**St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright gestures to his team’s dugout after hitting a two-run single during the fourth inning of Tuesday’s game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in St. Louis.**

to match his career worst. He left after Starting Marte’s two-run shot shaved the lead to 5-4 with none out in the seventh. It was the first time he had allowed more than one homer all season.

Russell Martin and Jordy Mer-

cer homered with the bases empty for the Pirates, who have lost three in a row and were frustrated to get beaten by Wainwright’s bat. He doubled his season RBI total and is batting .203 overall.

**Tigers 4, Indians 2:** J.D. Mar-

tinez hit a three-run homer off cody Clady Allen in the ninth inning, lifting visiting Detroit over Cleveland.

**Mariners 6, Athletics 5:** James Paxton pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning and visiting Seattle held off a late rally to hand Oakland its fifth loss in six games.

**Royals 2, Rangers 1:** Salvador Perez hit a scorching liner off the glove of third baseman Adrian Beltre for a single, allowing Jarrod Dyson to score the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for host Kansas City.

**Red Sox 9, Yankees 4:** Xander Bogaerts homered among his four hits and fellow rookie Mookie Betts also went deep during a big night at the plate, powering visiting Boston past New York.

**Orioles 5, Reds 4:** Bud Norris pitched six shutout innings, Nelson Cruz notched his career-high 91st RBI during a four-run first, and host Baltimore beat Cincinnati.

**Astros 8, Angels 3:** Jose Altuve had four hits for the second straight game and Brad Peacock threw 6½ solid innings, leading host Houston past Los Angeles.

**Giants 12, Rockies 7:** Buster Posey homered, doubled twice and drove in four runs, rallying visiting San Francisco past Colorado.

**Phillies 4, Braves 0:** Kyle Kendrick allowed three hits in seven innings, Carlos Ruiz homered and drove in two runs as visiting Philadelphia shut out struggling Atlanta.

**Cubs 7, Brewers 1:** Jake Arrieta pitched six solid innings and host Chicago handed Milwaukee its seventh straight loss.

**Blue Jays 8, Rays 2:** Jose Reyes hit a three-run homer for visiting Toronto and R.A. Dickey gave up two hits in seven innings.

**Mets 8, Marlins 6:** David Wright broke out of his offensive woes with three hits and three RBIs, leading visiting New York past Miami.

**White Sox 6, Twins 3 (10):** Tyler Flowers’ first career multi-homer game lifted visiting Chicago over Minnesota.

**Padres 2, Diamondbacks 1:** Cory Spangenberg’s first big league home run came on the first pitch he saw as a pinch hitter in the ninth inning and lifted host San Diego over Arizona.

# RYDER CUP/US OPEN

## Watson defends last pick Simpson

### US captain passes over Kirk, fills out roster for Gleneagles with vets Bradley, Mahan

By Doug Ferguson  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. captain Tom Watson said he wanted to fill out his Ryder Cup team with players who were on form and starting to peak.

The final pick was more about two years ago than what happened the day before.

Watson went with experience — and a gut feeling — when he chose Keegan Bradley, Hunter Mahan and Webb Simpson to complete an American team that will try to end two decades of European dominance in the Ryder Cup.

He didn't decide until Tuesday morning to go with Simpson, persuaded by a pair of big wins he had in the last Ryder Cup. That was enough for Watson to take him over Chris Kirk, who went head-to-head with Rory McIlroy over the last 36 holes Monday and won the Deutsche Bank Championship.

"Nobody is going to expect us to win," Watson said Tuesday night from Rockefeller Center. "But I fully expect us to win."

Bradley and Mahan weren't surprising choices.

Bradley wears his Ryder Cup passion proudly, and he made a sterling debut two years ago by winning all three team matches with Phil Mickelson. Even last week, he didn't hide how badly he wanted to be on the team.

Mahan won The Barclays two weeks ago against one of the strongest fields of the year. He is one of only three players on the U.S. team who has experience winning a Ryder Cup, even though he is associated more with being in the decisive match that Graeme McDowell won in Wales to deliver another win to Europe. Simpson was a small mystery.

In his Ryder Cup debut at Medinah, he teamed with Bubba Watson for a pair of 5-and-4 victories. Simpson also lost two matches, including a singles match to Ian Poulter in a match he never traveled to.



Simpson

Poulter was the last two holes for a 2-up victory.

Kirk, who has never played in a Ryder Cup, finished ahead of Simpson in the standings and won a FedEx Cup playoff event.

"People have to realize that's a snapshot," Watson said. "You have to look at the total package, the total picture. That's just one tournament. ... The final decision

of Webb, that was the toughest of the decisions because Webb had some good play and he had some bad play. He missed a few cuts recently. But he's shown what he can do.

"The guy can get it done," he said. "He can flat get it done."

Watson bristled when asked whether he contradicted himself by saying he was looking for the hot hand after qualifying had ended at the PGA Championship, and then choosing a hot hand from two years ago.

"Why do you think I said that? Why do you think I put the pressure on them?" he said. "I put the pressure on them to play well to see if they could play well under pressure. It's not a contradiction. Webb played some damn good golf."

Whomever he chose, Watson's message was clear: The Ryder Cup, to be played Sept. 26-28 at Gleneagles, is all about redemption.

The Americans were poised to win at Medinah two years ago when they took a 10-6 lead into the final day, only for Poulter, Justin Rose, Sergio Garcia and Martin Kaymer to deliver key putts and big comebacks that allowed Europe to retain the cup.

Europe has won seven of the last nine times, and it will be heavily favored in Scotland.

Early Tuesday, at the European Tour headquarters in Wentworth, captain Paul McGinley selected Poulter, Lee Westwood and Stephen Gallacher.

Bradley said last week at the Deutsche Bank Championship there wasn't a moment that he was not thinking about the Ryder Cup.

"I made no secret how badly I want to go back and win the Ryder Cup," he said. "This is a redemption year for a lot of guys who were on the team last year."

Bradley and Simpson are among seven players who were on that U.S. team that was on the losing end of the "Miracle at Medinah." The others are Jim Furyk, Zach Johnson, Matt Kuchar, Phil Mickelson and Bubba Watson.

Mahan knows better than most what it's like to lose. The 2010 matches came down to the final game, and McDowell went 2-1 with a birdie on the 16th hole. Mahan stubbed a chip short of the 17th green that, but secured a European victory, and it seemed to him as though all of Wales stormed across the green when it was over.

"Losing lingers," he said. "It's been four years, but it feels like yesterday. I remember walking off the green and everyone was having a big party, and I felt like I haven't changed a lot, to be honest. I haven't changed a lot," Mon-



MIKE GROLL/AP

Gael Monfils returns a shot to Grigor Dimitrov during their fourth round match on Tuesday. Monfils, who has never reached a grand slam final, won 7-5, 7-6 (6), 7-5.

## Surprising Monfils gets past Dimitrov into quarterfinals

By Howard Fendrick  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gael Monfils follows his own rules.

The guy does things on a tennis court no one else has — or can. Just search his name on YouTube and watch any of many video clips showcasing his speed and agility, start with the parallel-to-the-ground, a few-feet-in-the-air dive at this year's French Open.

He sips soda during breaks in his matches, raising the can in a toast to his agent.

He is currently without any coach at all, in an era when some players have two.

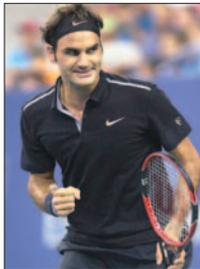
What Monfils has never done, despite all his talent — and in some cases, because he has appeared to value style over substance right there on court, in the middle of a point, preferring the spectacular to the sufficient — is reach a Grand Slam final.

He took a step closer Tuesday at the U.S. Open during a surprisingly matter-of-fact 7-5, 7-6 (6), 7-5 victory in the fourth round over No. 7-seeded Grigor Dimitrov, a man considered one of the sport's up-and-comers.

There is a narrative building around the 20th-seeded Monfils' success so far this year at Flushing Meadows, where he hasn't dropped a set en route to reaching the quarterfinals for the first time since 2010: He has matured, is playing more carefully, more seriously.

The Frenchman, who will face Roger Federer for a spot in the semifinals, rejected that notion after Tuesday's win.

"I'm the same. So I will say I'm a bit more lucky than I was maybe sometime in the past. I think I haven't changed a lot, to be honest. I haven't changed a lot," Mon-



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Roger Federer pumps his fist after winning the second set against Roberto Bautista Agut during their fourth-round match at the U.S. Open on Tuesday.

file said. "I just play maybe solid today, but I'm still the same."

As if to prove that, there was the unusual sequence in the second set. Trailing 40-love as Dimitrov served, Monfils stood halfway between the baseline and the service line to receive, and then casually and halftheartedly flicked a return long to lose the game. He walked to the change-over to a chorus of boos from the spectators in Arthur Ashe Stadium, plopped down for the break, chucked a towel at the adjacent chair and started barking something toward his guest box in the stands.

Asked about that afterward, Monfils said he was angry at himself at that moment and just wanted to get that game over with.

"I was like, 'Just serve, because obviously I give you the game. So it's OK,'" he said. "It's nothing

against anyone. I was upset."

Monfils' lone Grand Slam semifinal appearance came at the 2008 French Open, when he lost to Federer, part of a 2-7 career mark against the 17-time major champion.

Federer advanced to the U.S. Open quarterfinals for the 10th time in 11 years by eliminating 17th-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 Tuesday night. Federer won the point on 35 of 52 trips to the net.

The other quarterfinal matchup on that half of the draw will be No. 6 Tomas Berdych against No. 14 Marin Cilic. Berdych beat 20-year-old Dominic Thiem 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; Cilic was a 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 winner against No. 26 Gilles Simon, who was treated for a back problem early on.

In women's quarterfinals Tuesday, 39th-ranked Peng Shuai of China ended the precocious run of 17-year-old Belinda Bencic of Switzerland 6-2, 6-1. Peng's next opponent will be No. 10 Caroline Wozniacki, the 2009 U.S. Open runner-up, who overwhelmed No. 13 Sara Errani 6-0, 6-1 in a wind-whipped match Tuesday night.

In the afternoon, with the temperature topping 90 degrees and the humidity at about 50 percent, Monfils and Dimitrov appeared sluggish at times.

"Where should I begin?" said Dimitrov, a Wimbledon semifinalist in July. "Just a bad match for me."

A key moment came in the second-set tiebreaker, when Dimitrov went ahead 6-4. On the first set point, Dimitrov nearly lost his balance as he shanked a forehand off Monfils' mediocre drop shot.

"One of my worst drop shots I ever hit," Monfils said, grinning, "and he hit a frame."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Broncos' Welker suspended four games

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The Denver Broncos will be without Wes Welker for the first four games of the season after the NFL said the receiver violated the league's performance-enhancing drug policy.

Normally, the league announces such violations on Monday. News of Welker's ban didn't come down until late Tuesday, after the league offices had closed and the Broncos had already finished drawing up blueprints for their opener against Indianapolis, undoubtedly with Welker playing a prominent role.

ESPN first reported Welker's suspension, saying the violation had to do with amphetamines.

Welker told the Denver Post in an email that he was "as shocked as everyone at today's news." He noted he's meticulous about what he puts in his body and would "never knowingly take a substance to gain a competitive advantage in any way."

The 11th-year pro who's been the NFL's top slot receiver over the last decade added that he never concerned himself with the league's drug rules but now realizes those policies "are clearly flawed."

While it takes multiple violations of the league's substance-abuse policies to trigger a suspension, a four-game ban is issued for a single violation of the NFL's ban on performance-enhancing substances.

Welker's suspension will cost him roughly \$706,000 in base salary.

"Tonight's news regarding Wes is very disappointing, but we understand the league's authority in this area," coach John Fox said in a statement. "While it's unfortunate to not have him to start the year, I have full confidence in our wide receivers and expect that group to continue playing at a high level."

In other NFL news:

■ Michael Sam's second chance will be with the Dallas Cowboys.

Coach Jason Garrett said Wednesday that the league's first openly gay player will be added to the practice roster.

The Cowboys, who are seeking



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

**Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker will miss the first four games of the season after the NFL said Tuesday he violated the league's performance-enhancing drug policy.**

help with their pass rush because of injuries and the offseason release of franchise sack leader DeMarcus Ware, added Sam four days after he was released by St. Louis when teams had to cut rosters to 53 players.

Sam isn't likely to be on the active roster for Sunday's opener against San Francisco.

Any team can sign Sam off the Cowboys' practice squad, but would have to put him on the 53-man roster for a minimum of four weeks.

■ Former Dallas Cowboys defensive tackle Josh Brent is being allowed to return to the NFL, though he won't play right away.

The NFL on Tuesday outlined conditions Brent must meet to be eligible to play when the Cowboys return from their bye week in November.

Brent retired last year and was sentenced to 180 days in jail after a trial in January in the intoxication manslaughter death of teammate Jerry Brown, a practice squad linebacker for the Cowboys. A 10-year prison sentence was suspended.

The league says Brent will be suspended for the first 10 games of the season and can't participate in team activities for the first six weeks. He won't be allowed to visit the team's practice facility for the first six weeks except to meet with people associated with his rehab.

■ The family of Junior Seau has opted out of the proposed NFL settlement with former players over concussion-related injuries.

The family will continue its wrongful death lawsuit against the league. Seau, a star linebacker for 20 seasons who made 11 Pro Bowls, committed suicide in 2012.

The NFL in June agreed to remove a \$675 million cap on damages from thousands of concussion-related claims. A federal judge preliminarily approved the settlement in July.

But former players and their families have the option to not participate in the settlement and pursue their own lawsuits.

■ The New York Giants have placed starting guard Geoff

Schwartz on recallable injured reserve and signed veteran lineman Adam Snyder.

The Giants' decision on Wednesday to designate Schwartz to return from injured reserve means that he won't be eligible to play until Nov. 3 against Indianapolis. The six-year veteran signed a \$16.8 million free agent contract in the offseason and dislocated his right big toe on Aug. 22 against the Jets.

Snyder is a 10-year veteran, playing nine seasons with the San Francisco 49ers. He has appeared in 137 regular-season games with 87 starts, including four at left guard last season. He was waived by the 49ers.

### Taurasi leads Mercury into WNBA Finals

PHOENIX — Diana Taurasi had 31 points, including a 50-footer at the end of the third quarter, to lead the Phoenix Mercury to a 96-78 win over the Minnesota Lynx on Tuesday night, putting the Mercury into the WNBA Finals.

Taurasi scored the first eight points of the fourth quarter to give Phoenix an 80-67 lead with 7:19 left. Minnesota had eliminated Phoenix in the 2011 and 2013 en route to winning the title.

The Mercury, which had the best record in the league, will face the winner of Wednesday's Chicago-Indiana game.

Minnesota missed its first 10 shots of the fourth period, falling behind 85-67 by midway through the quarter.

Seimone Augustus had 13 of her 21 points in the third quarter as the Lynx erased a 10-point deficit. Lindsay Whalen had 20 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

### Europe to have 5 vice captains for Ryder Cup

VIRGINIA WATER, England — Europe will be taking five vice captains to the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles, with Padraig Harrington, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Jose Maria Olazabal added to the list of Paul McGinley's assistants on Wednesday.

McGinley had named Sam Torrance and Des Smyth as his first two vice captains in March.

"I know it's been common in the past to have three or four vice captains but I've gone for five because I feel an extra person is justified due to the additional workload which comes from being the home team," McGinley said in a European Tour statement.

There were five vice captains under Colin Montgomerie at the 2010 Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor, which the European team won to regain the trophy.

Olazabal was captain of the European team that came from 10-6 down on the final day to beat the United States in Medinah in 2012, and played in the competition on seven occasions. It will be the Spaniard's third Ryder Cup as a vice captain.

Jimenez also has been vice captain twice before, in 1997 and 2012. Harrington has played in six Ryder Cups but has never been a vice captain.

The Ryder Cup at Gleneagles, Scotland, is from Sept. 26-28. Europe is seeking an eighth win in 10 competitions.

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## SPORTS

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# Start the Carr

## Raiders' QB heads rookie class

BY SAM FARMER

*Los Angeles Times*

**I**n each of the past six NFL seasons, at least one rookie quarterback has started an opener.

That trend will continue this season, but the Oakland Raiders took the suspense right down to the wire.

Using the whole play clock before tipping their hand, the Raiders headed into the week without announcing whether rookie

Derek Carr or veteran Matt Schaub would start Sunday's opener against the New York Jets.

Fox's Jay Glazer tweeted Monday that Raiders players have been informed there had been a switch

**SEE START ON PAGE 27**

Oakland Raiders quarterback Derek Carr celebrates after a TD pass against the Seattle Seahawks in a preseason game last week.

MARCO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP



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