

# STARS AND STRIPES

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Free to Deployed Areas

WAR ON TERRORISM

## WEIGHING A 'MODEST' INCREASE

Military leaders raise specter of sending ground troops into combat in Iraq » Page 4

EVAN VUCCI/AP

Gen. Martin Dempsey, right, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, listens as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel testifies before the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday.

## Report: Army officer cuts disproportionately affect prior enlisted

Stars and Stripes

The post-9/11 military force reductions are starting to cut into the field-grade officer corps, and for reasons the Army has not explained, a disproportionate number — nearly one in five — began as enlisted soldiers, ac-

ording to The New York Times.

Faced with declining budgets, the largest of the services cut its force this year to 508,000 soldiers from 530,000, with plans to trim 20,000 more troops next year.

Cuts had largely come through attrition and reductions in recruit-

ing and had mostly affected low-ranking enlisted soldiers. This summer, the cuts fell on officers as well, including 1,188 captains and 550 majors, many of whom were intending on making a career of the military, the Times wrote.

Being forced out of a life they

have known for a decade or more has been a disruption as shocking and painful as being laid off, the Times noted. They are losing jobs and, in many cases, receiving smaller pensions than they had expected — or no pensions at all. They are being forced to give up

their identities as soldiers. Some are losing their ranks or status as officers. All must be out by April.

"It's our culture, it's our family, it's our language," Capt. Bill Moore, who works in intelligence at Fort Bragg, N.C., told the Times.

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### FACES

Rihanna promotes album, fragrance at Fort Belvoir, Va.

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### EBOLA OUTBREAK

Pentagon dials back number of troops in W. Africa deployment

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### COLLEGE HOOPS

Talent-filled rosters should make for 'year of the team'

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Army hopes algorithm can help ID soldiers at risk for suicide » Page 3

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

**“You can issue all the executive orders you want. If you don’t have any money to enforce them, they don’t go very far. We’re going to be pretty aggressive in using the power of the purse.”**

— Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., on a GOP plan to give states the option of not complying with an EPA mandate to limit greenhouse gas emissions

See story on Page 9

# PACIFIC

## Intel officer reassigned after probe

### Pacific Fleet official removed over classified information disclosure

By **ERIK SLAVIN**  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A senior Pacific Fleet official known for his blunt assessment of China has been reassigned following an investigation into mishandling of classified information.

Capt. James Fanell, formerly the Hawaii-based command’s top intelligence officer, is now working as an aide at fleet headquarters, Navy spokesman Capt. Darryn James said Thursday.

James declined to provide specifics on Fanell’s removal, citing privacy concerns.

A defense official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record said Fanell was removed because he had inappropriately disclosed classified information.

The Pacific Fleet investigation also raised concerns of a negative climate in Fanell’s office, the defense official said.

Fanell’s views first gained attention in 2013 at the U.S. Naval Institute West conference, during which he stated that the Chinese PLA



DAVID KOLMEL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**Capt. James Fanell addresses the audience at a ceremony at U.S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters in June 2013 to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the Battle of Midway. Fanell has been reassigned over the reported mishandling of classified information.**

Navy’s expansion was focused on sinking an opposing fleet and was largely about countering the U.S. Navy.

At the same conference this year, Fanell’s assessment that China is gathering the capability to fight Japan in a “short, sharp war” made it to Fox News, The New York Times and several international news outlets.

Fanell’s previous outspoken views on China led to speculation that he was removed because of them — a claim Pacific Fleet officials strongly denied Thursday.

“Capt. Fanell’s internal reassignment on Oct. 31 was in no way related to his views on China,” James said. “Any reporting that implies such speculation is not only inaccurate, it is wholly misleading and irresponsible. It is not true.”

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4. Germans urge closer ties with US at honor ceremony
5. UAE emerges as quiet, potent US ally

# COMING SOON



### Music

Garth Brooks back with new album

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## Leave halted at Subic Bay amid transgender slaying case

By **SETH ROBSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Sailors on ships docked at Subic Bay won’t get shore leave while authorities determine the fate of a Marine accused of a slaying there.

“In consideration of recent events in Olongapo City, the United States has temporarily restricted shore leave for all U.S. forces [visiting] the Subic Bay area,” according to an official at the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

Marine Pfc. Joseph Scott Pemberton, who has been in custody in the Philippines for almost a month, is suspected of involvement in the death of Jeffrey Laude, 26, a transgender person

also known as Jennifer, whose body was found Oct. 11 in a motel bathroom.

The death, which prompted protests from family members and anti-American activists, comes at a crucial time for U.S.-Filipino relations as the countries prepare to implement an agreement that will see thousands of U.S. troops rotate through bases in the Philippines over the next decade.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chairman Robert Garcia told the AFP news agency earlier this month that nine U.S. Navy ships had canceled visits to the port. Ships were still scheduled to visit for emergency repairs, but crews wouldn’t be allowed ashore, he said.

Cmdr. William Marks, spokesman for the U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet, said Thursday that no “announced visits” to the Philippines had been canceled.

“USNS Mary Sears has been at Subic Bay and just left, and the USNS Henson (an oceanic survey ship) just arrived yesterday,” he said.

Port visits are often not confirmed until a week or even a few days before a ship arrives, Marks said.

“To say that all port visits have been canceled for the next two months is not accurate,” he said. “We just do not have any confirmed port visits to the Philippines right now. Of course port visits of U.S. Navy ships to the

Philippines is a key part of the U.S.-Philippine alliance so we’re always looking for opportunities to get our ships there.”

The embassy official, who asked not to be identified, said many factors that go into arranging port calls and that schedules of a particular ship can change for a variety of reasons.

“The U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Pacific Command are working together to review each port call to ensure U.S. servicemembers still have an opportunity to visit the Philippines and experience the food, culture and strong historic ties between our two countries,” the official said.

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## MILITARY

# Study offers help with suicide prevention

## Army using algorithm developed after analysis of hospitalized soldiers deemed at risk

By ALAN ZAREMBO  
Los Angeles Times

The U.S. Army has a new analytical tool that officials hope will counter a surge in suicides by identifying soldiers whose history, age and injuries indicate they are at high risk of taking their own lives.

In an analysis involving all 40,820 U.S. soldiers hospitalized for psychiatric problems over a six-year period, researchers created an algorithm to identify some of the Army personnel most likely to commit suicide. Sixty-eight of the soldiers killed themselves within a year of hospitalization.

More than 14,000 suicides occurred among the 1,947 soldiers whose health histories and other characteristics gathered from Army records placed them in the algorithm's highest risk

group.

Ronald Kessler, a Harvard University sociologist and suicide expert who led the study — published Wednesday in *JAMA Psychiatry* — said the statistical model could be used to target suicide prevention efforts.

"We saw quite a few people who killed themselves within six weeks of getting out of the hospital without any follow-up visit," he said.

In the six years covered in the study — 2004 to 2009 — the annual suicide rate in the Army was 18.5 suicides per 100,000 soldiers. The rate among soldiers hospitalized for psychiatric problems was more than 14 times that.

Within that group, the researchers wanted to see if they could come in on those at greatest risk.

Computers combed through

421 variables on each soldier drawn from 38 military data systems. Using a method known as "machine learning," the researchers identified roughly two dozen factors that proved most important.

The soldiers most likely to take their own lives were men with past suicidal behavior and a history of psychiatric disorders and criminal offenses, including weapons possession and verbal assaults.

Soldiers with hearing loss also faced heightened risk — a strong indicator that they had suffered a head injury. So did enlisting in the Army after age 27, most likely because those soldiers had already experienced trouble finding their way in life.

In all, the 5 percent of soldiers identified as highest risk accounted for 36 of the 68 suicides and had an annual rate of 3,824 suicides per

100,000 — more than 200 times the overall rate in the Army.

Rates of accidental deaths and suicide attempts were also significantly greater among the 1,947 soldiers in the high-risk group. Seven died in accidents and 555 made a suicide attempt within a year of hospitalization.

The Army has put in place an array of suicide-prevention programs, but most were applied broadly to all personnel, said Dr. Eric Schoemaker, who served as surgeon general of the Army until 2012.

The new research will allow the Army to focus on soldiers at greatest risk, Schoemaker said.

In Britain, a variety of interventions have reduced the suicide rate among civilians who were hospitalized for psychiatric problems. They include mandatory outpatient visits after discharge

and community crisis teams to monitor patients.

Suicides among former psychiatric inpatients account for about 12 percent of all suicides in the Army.

Kessler and other researchers are working on similar analyses aimed at identifying the soldiers most likely to take their lives in other groups known to be at elevated risk, including psychiatric outpatients, soldiers in their first term of service and those on their first deployment.

Traditionally, the Army has been psychologically healthier than the rest of society because of screening, fitness standards and access to health care. Soldiers committed suicide at about half the rate of civilians with similar demographics.

Starting in 2004, the Army rate has essentially caught up.

## USS Fort Worth: 400 fixes made and crew ready to sail for Asia

By JENNIFER HLAJ  
Stars and Stripes

SAN DIEGO — The USS Fort Worth is slated to depart Monday for Asia, where it will operate largely out of Singapore for 16 months, the longest deployment of a U.S. Navy ship in more than 41 years.

Almost a year after the first littoral combat ship deployed to Singapore, contractors and crews have completed some 400 improvements to the ship and are finishing last-minute preparations, Navy officials said.

The crew of 54, plus the 24-person aviation squadron, will swap out early next year, and that group will be replaced again late in 2015, said Cmdr. Ken Bridgewater, the ship's commander. The crew will switch out a third time before it returns to San Diego. After 16 months, the Fort Worth will be replaced by the USS Freedom.

Navy officials told Reuters news service that this would be the longest deployment of a U.S. Navy ship since the carrier Midway was underway for 327 days in 1973. The Midway used one crew.

The Navy wants to keep the Fort Worth deployed for a long time to stress the Navy's logistics capabilities and to understand where problems might arise.

The Freedom, which spent 10 months in Southeast Asia dealing with significant maintenance problems — the ship lost propulsion during a replenishment, and had issues with its steering water jets — also delivered humanitarian

relief supplies to areas of the Philippines hardest hit by a 2013 typhoon.

Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican poised to head the Senate Armed Services Committee, has questioned the ships' ability to survive attacks at sea.

The Pentagon is reviewing Navy recommendations on whether to upgrade the ships, modify them or switch to a different design. The decisions will be part of the fiscal 2016 budget request.

The Navy has taken advantage of the lessons learned on the Freedom's maiden voyage and incorporated those and other changes into the Fort Worth — including different air compressors, fixes to cooling systems that experienced corrosion issues and a 15 percent increase in fuel capacity, in addition to cosmetic changes, the commander of the ship and the commodore of LCS Squadron 1 said.

The Fort Worth will be the first LCS to deploy with both an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter and an MQ-8B Fire Scout unmanned helicopter. The ship also has crew members and the necessary equipment for "visit, board, search and seizure" missions, to include anti-piracy operations.

The LCS is a fast ship with a shallow draft, which allows it to go into ports other Navy ships can't access, Bridgewater said.

"We can go in and engage with a lot more partners and allies," he said.

The Fort Worth uses water jets instead of traditional propellers, which allows the ship to "walk



JENNIFER HLAJ/Stars and Stripes

**Chief Petty Officer Beth Simpson-Fuchs explains the consoles for the USS Fort Worth's 577mm gun ship on Wednesday at Naval Base San Diego. The littoral combat ship leaves for Singapore on Monday.**

sideways," pivot and get into tight spaces, Bridgewater said.

Capt. Randy Garner, commodore of LCS Squadron 1, said the ship offers extensive automation, which means it can do more with fewer people. Crews operate without any administrative tasks, so those costs have been transferred to supporting shore commands.

The ship's design allows different "packages" of gear designed for different missions, Garner and Bridgewater said. The Fort Worth is loaded with the surface warfare package; the two other packages are still in the testing phases.

The surface warfare package includes two 30-mm gun systems, two 11-meter rigid hull inflatable boats that can launch out of the back of the ship, and the two helicopters. The ship also has a 57-mm gun with a range of 10.5 miles to guard against small boat

threats, Bridgewater said.

Navy planners view the LCS as a cheaper alternative to rotating a larger ship into the region. An Arleigh Burke-class destroyer generally has more than 300 crew members and requires more fuel, water and other resources. Operations and support normally make up about 70 percent of costs over a ship's service life.

However, LCS critics question whether the originally envisioned savings will prove accurate.

The Navy planned the LCS to have a core crew of 40 sailors and mission and module crews of 15 to 20 sailors, according to a July Government Accountability Office report on the USS Freedom's 2013 deployment to Singapore. It later increased that number after finding sailors were overworked and not getting enough sleep.

The Navy expects to have an LCS manpower study done

next year, although the GAO report sees potential flaws in the findings.

"Manpower studies do not account for the issue of core crews relying on mission module crew and contractor ship riders to assist with their core crew functions," according to the report.

The LCS class of ships consists of two variants, the Freedom and the Independence, which has a distinctly different hull. The Freedom variant team is led by Lockheed Martin. The Independence variant team is being led by General Dynamics, Bath Iron Works and Austal USA.

The ship is expected to do patrols, training and joint exercises around Singapore, the South China Sea and elsewhere in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

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## MILITARY

# US considering Iraq ground combat role

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is considering sending a limited number of American ground forces to fight alongside Iraqi troops as they launch complex missions to regain territory lost to Islamic State militants, the country's top military officer said Thursday.

Thus far, American military personnel have been limited to serving as rear guard advisers to the Iraqi security forces and the Kurdish peshmerga. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said that could change as the campaign against the Islamic State becomes more difficult.

"As it evolves, there are certain operations that could be more complex than the ones in which the Iraqi security forces are currently involved," Dempsey told the House Armed Services Committee. "There are some places along the path that I think will be fairly complex terrain for them, including, for example, Mosul. And, eventually, as they need to restore the border between Iraq and Syria."

Dempsey said he was not predicting that American troops would be required alongside Iraqi forces in such operations, "but we're certainly considering it."

In any event, Dempsey said the number of U.S. combat troops being sent alongside the Iraqis would be relatively small.

"We've established a modest footprint," he said. "Any expansion of that, I think, would be equally modest. I just don't foresee a circumstance when it would be particularly interesting to take this fight on ourselves with a large military contingent."

President Barack Obama made ending the Iraq War a centerpiece of his foreign policy in his first term and repeatedly has stated that American soldiers would not return to ground combat in Iraq. That position has come under fire from congressional Republicans, who question whether the opera-



A CodePink demonstrator is removed Thursday by Capitol Hill police after interrupting a House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington on the Islamic State group with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey.

tion against the Islamic State can succeed without a change in the White House policy.

The Obama Administration is hoping that the new Shiite-led government in Baghdad will provide enough of a role for Sunni and Kurdish minorities that the Iraqi people as a whole will be able to handle the ground war on their own.

"If those assumptions are invalid, I will have to adjust my recommendations," Dempsey said.

Despite Dempsey's comments, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, appearing at the same hearing, repeated the administration's position that "U.S. military personnel will not be engaged in a ground combat mission."

Republican hawks have criticized the administration for that taking that position.

"How can you successfully execute the mission you've been given to degrade and ultimately

destroy ISIL when some of your best options are taken off the table?" asked committee chairman, Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., using an acronym for the Islamic State. "Declaring we won't use ground forces is like telling your opponent you're not going to play your best players."

The Obama administration has asked Congress to authorize the use of military force against the Islamic State. In August, the White House said it did not need a new congressional authorization. However, Obama said last week he would request a new authorization.

McKeon said that any authorization request that ruled out ground forces would be "D.O.A." in Congress.

"I will not support sending our military into harm's way with their arms tied behind their backs," McKeon said.

In a written statement, Rep.

Adam Smith, D-Wash., the Ranking Democrat on the committee, said he is "skeptical that we can assemble a majority" to pass use-of-force legislation because of the differences between the White House and the Republicans on Capitol Hill.

Regarding Syria, Hagel was asked whether the U.S. should also go after the regime of President Bashar Assad. The Obama administration has said that Assad has lost legitimacy, but thus far has refrained from using military force against his government, which is currently fighting the Islamic State.

The Turks and several key Arab allies of the United States reportedly want the U.S. to facilitate the overthrow of Assad. CNN reported this week that the administration is rethinking its strategy in Syria.

Hagel told lawmakers that debates about whether to go

after Assad pose a "fundamental question" for American policymakers.

"Assad is part of the equation, of course. But ... you could change Assad today and that's not going to change all the dynamics quickly, certainly in Syria," he said. "[Assad] is a longer-term player in this ... but [the Islamic State] is right now ... threatening the country of Iraq and the government of Iraq, and so that's why we are dealing with that component first — because we must."

Another point of contention at the hearing was the administration's decision to continue to release detainees from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"The risk to our forces increases even more with terrorist detainees returning to the battlefield ... The roughly 150 detainees that are left are the worst of the worst. To continue these releases — just as we have had to open a new front in the war on terror — is unwise," McKeon said.

Hagel cited intelligence community assessments that the risk of detainees returning to the battlefield is low, and he told lawmakers that the releases will continue.

"If I can get assurances required by the host governments ... that it substantially mitigates the risks, then I will sign" the release orders, he said.

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## Cuts: Many soldiers say money a factor in separation picks

### FROM FRONT PAGE

"A lot of us have been in since high school," Moore said. "We fought, we gave everything, our families have given everything, and they just give us a handshake and say, 'Thank you for your service.'"

When the Army announced the impending officer cuts a year ago, officials said they would target officers with evidence of poor performance or misconduct.

An internal Army briefing disclosed by a military website in September showed the majority of captains being forced out had no blemishes on their records. The briefing, a copy of which was obtained by The Times, also showed that officers who had joined the Army as enlisted soldiers, then

endured the demanding process required to rise into the officer corps, were three times as likely as captains who graduated from West Point to be forced to retire.

Many of the prior enlisted had been encouraged to make the jump to the officer corps between 2006 and 2009, when the Iraq War was raging and the Pentagon was struggling to replace junior officers who were leaving the Army as soon as their initial commitments were over, often because they were worn out by multiple deployments.

The soldiers who volunteered to fill the gap — older than most junior officers because they had been enlisted — were picked from the best of the ranks, and some had to earn bachelor's degrees to

make the cut. Many said in interviews they believed they are now being pushed out because they are entitled to more pay and are eligible for retirement earlier because they've been in the Army longer than other commissioned officers.

"The Army knew we had more years and they could save money by cutting us," said Capt. Tina Patton, 43, a combat medic who became an officer in 2007. "Looking back at our records, a lot of us can't figure out why else we would be cut."

The Army declined to discuss its criteria.

"Selections for separation are based on a soldier's manner of performance relative to their peers while serving as a commis-

sioned officer," Lt. Col. Benjamin Garrett, an Army spokesman, told The Times in an email. "The boards retained those with the highest demonstrated levels of performance and the most potential for future contributions on active duty."

Capt. Tawanna Jamison, 43, who served 22 years in the Army but only seven as a captain, will get a sergeant's retirement pay of \$2,200 per month, less than half of what a retired captain receives, which is about \$4,500.

"I could be facing bankruptcy," she said. "I was helping my daughter pay for college. Now she's on her own. I couldn't have planned for this. It's hard not to feel like the Army [is] trying to save money on our backs."



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EUROPE



MINDAUGAS KULIŠ/AF

Training in Lithuania

Members of the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division attend military exercise Iron Sword 2014 at the Gaizium Training Range in Pabrade, 38 miles north of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. The exercise this year in Lithuania from Nov. 2-14 involves more than 2,500 military personnel from nine NATO member states.

Ukraine warns of deteriorating security situation

By PETER LEONARD  
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine warned Thursday that the security situation in rebel-held areas in the east has steadily worsened as separatist fighters move closer to demarcation lines separating them from government forces.

A cease-fire agreed on in September between rebels and Ukraine's government in effect has been rendered invalid as intense hostilities proceed on a daily basis.

National Security and Defense Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko said the Russian army is massing troops, including air defense units, near the border. Ukraine accuses Russia of directly supplying separatist forces.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich on Thursday reiterated Moscow's denial of that charge.

"There have been and are no military movements across the border or, all the more, any presence of our troops in the south-east of Ukraine," he said.

Ukrainian warnings of potential renewed intense hostilities follow multiple recent observations of large military convoys on the move around separatist-controlled areas. Trucks transporting troops, ammunition, fuel and large-caliber artillery systems have been seen traveling primarily in the direction of Donetsk, the main rebel city.

Ukraine and NATO have said they believe the equipment has been delivered from Russia, although they have yet to provide conclusive evidence for their claims.

Teams from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that are monitoring two Russian-Ukrainian frontier crossings have noted an increase in the number of people in military clothing traveling across the border over the past week.

"The (observer teams saw) 665 men and women in military-style dress crossing the border in both directions. This is the highest number observed so far," the OSCE said in a statement Wednesday.

Naples command training to lead NATO response force

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — With ground forces in Germany, air assets in France and maritime forces off the coast of Spain, assembling NATO's parts into a single fighting force is complicated by distance and communication.

The events of the past year have added new challenges as the NATO command staff here prepares to assume control of the 25,000-strong NATO Response Force, which is viewed as a counterweight to expanded Russian operations in the east.

NATO Joint Forces Command Naples is in the middle of a two-week exercise testing its ability to direct the response force, a ready-to-assemble force comprising units set aside by member states and commanded on a rotational basis by staffs in Naples and Brunssum, the Netherlands. The exercise, called Trident Juncture, is a capstone to a year of training for the smaller tactical units — the air, sea, land and special operations commands — that will become part of the reaction force in 2015 and fall under Naples' control.

During the September NATO summit in Wales, the alliance's member states placed more emphasis on the response force and underlined the need for it to become faster and more flexible.

Trident Juncture "places a premium on the readiness and

**'It's not just 10 individual threat streams. It's 10 of them facing us together at one time.'**

Lt. Gen. D. Michael Day  
deputy commander of JFC Naples

responsiveness of the force," said Navy Adm. Mark Ferguson, commander of JFC Naples and U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa.

The annual exercise is using simulations to test JFC Naples' control of the subordinate units across Europe during a series of operations in a rapidly evolving crisis.

The scenario — an invasion of the Baltic nation of Estonia by a fictitious, neighboring nation-state — mirrors the concerns of nations on NATO's eastern flank who, like Ukraine, were once part of the Soviet Union and have considerable populations of Russian speakers.

The conflict evolves over time, officials say, changing from a large-scale ground war to stability operations and irregular warfare. Threats will often overlap or reinforce one another, mimicking the kind of hybrid warfare seen in Ukraine, where NATO officials

have said Russia employs special operations, cyberwar and information operations.

"It's not just 10 individual threat streams," said Canadian Forces Lt. Gen. D. Michael Day, deputy commander of JFC Naples and head of the command staff for the exercise. "It's 10 of them facing us together at one time."

Complicating matters is the act of managing incoming reports from, and disseminating outgoing orders to, six subordinate commands across Europe, ranging from a shipboard command of a Spanish maritime force to a Polish staff in Krakow in charge of special operations.

"There are many, many, many moving parts and there is a great deal of uncertainty," said British Army Lt. Gen. Robert Weighill, deputy chief of staff for operations at JFC Naples. "So exercising command in this type of environment is very challenging."

Staff at NATO's Joint Warfare Center in Stavanger, Norway, will role-play the forward headquarters and logistical arm of the effort, taking all traffic from component commands to provide a clear battlefield picture to Naples. An evaluation team from the JWC will also grade the performance of the Naples command staff, submitting its report to Ferguson, who will decide whether to certify his team for the next year.

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## MILITARY

# VA allowing extra time to challenge firings

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — VA officials told lawmakers Thursday that it has been giving federal executives linked to its nationwide health care scandal more time to appeal firings because a new law aimed at faster terminations may violate their rights.

Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson told a House oversight committee the agency is allowing executives targeted for termination an additional five days to make their cases. He said the VA fears the massive overhaul law passed during the summer does not provide enough time and would result in the overturning of firings by an appeals board.

Months after the overhaul law passed, the VA has proposed disciplinary action against about 42 executives but has not fired any managers linked to the manipulation of records to hide long wait times at veterans' hospitals, including Sharon Helman, the director at the Phoenix facility where the off-books scheduling scandal erupted. The lack of action has rankled some in Congress who want faster action to root out a widespread culture of wrongdoing that led to the problems.

"The case law is very clear that we have to provide a reasonable opportunity [for VA executives] to respond to charges," Gibson said. The additional five days is not included in the law but was added after "clear and unequivocal"

advice from VA legal counsel, he said. The overhaul passed in August streamlined an appeals process that often took many months and replaced it with one that can be completed in a month — one week for an executive to file an appeal and three weeks for an appeals board to rule on the appeal.

Gibson said the additional time was an effort by VA to square the requirements of the new law with legal precedent that indicated executives are entitled to a longer appeals window.

Members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee called the change an unnecessary new layer of bureaucracy that ignores the intent of Congress.

"The law is clear — it says they should be fired," said Rep. Jeff

Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the veterans committee and a key architect of the VA overhaul law.

Miller said the agency does not appear to be taking the deep problems with employee misconduct seriously despite it blowing up into the biggest scandal in VA history. About 90 health care facilities across the country were found to have manipulated patient wait-time data and some doctors claimed vets may have died due to the delays.

"I am not seeing the corresponding efforts to see those involved held accountable for their actions," Miller said.

The Senate has also strongly criticized the lack of firings. VA Secretary Bob McDonald has said in recent weeks there have

been no terminations due to ongoing criminal investigations by the FBI and due to the agency's efforts to compile cases against the employees.

Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas, said he accepted Gibson's explanation for the slow progress on rooting out employee misconduct, but the public is becoming impatient for action at facilities such as the El Paso VA in his district.

O'Rourke asked Gibson how long it would take, "within this calendar year, within the next six months, to see the firings we are expecting?"

Gibson said he would check with VA staff and get back to the congressman.

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## 'Valor' concert drives donations for veterans

By JOHN WOODROW COX  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Before introducing rock star Dave Grohl at Tuesday night's Concert for Valor, film star Meryl Streep told those packed onto the National Mall and watching on HBO about something more important.

"Please: Go to theconcerforvalor.com and read about the veterans' service organizations like Semper Fi Fund and Give an Hour and Soldier On," she said. "Find your way to give and honor the valor of those who serve."

None of the three organizations has well-known brands, and their combined exposure to the audience (including Streep's pause for a cheer) was about nine seconds long, but the impact was immediate — and dramatic.

Semper Fi's Web traffic spiked, helping fuel 355 contributions that totaled nearly \$60,000 by night's end. Give an Hour, which provides free mental health care to veterans, received 60 times as much money as it does on a typical day. Donations to Soldier On, which helps homeless veterans, surged to their highest level in the charity's 13-year existence.

"Because we don't advertise, many people don't know about us," said Wendy Lethin, vice president of community outreach for Semper Fi Fund, which gives financial assistance to wounded warriors. "To have that sort of exposure from someone who is so highly thought of, there's no doubt it gives us credibility."

Benefit concerts have long been used to raise millions of dollars for all kinds of causes, from famine relief in Africa to aid for the families of victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Though the Concert for Valor was not held exclusively to raise money, 16 organizations were featured on the concert's website and mentioned at least once by celebrity presenters.

Comedian John Oliver implored viewers at home to visit the site of the Pat Tillman Foundation, which awards college scholarships to veterans and their spouses.

"If you're thinking [at] home of not doing that, think of it this way — it's literally the least you can do," he said.

The foundation received an onslaught of emails from veterans either interested in applying or from civilians who wanted to help.

"Motivated by the concert for valor," wrote one person.

The Fisher House Foundation, which helps veterans adjust to life at home, received a \$3,000 donation just minutes after comedian George Lopez mentioned the nonprofit group.

The Bob Woodruff Foundation received more than \$13,000, the vast majority of which came in after Woodruff, a journalist wounded in Iraq, addressed the crowd. The foundation helps injured servicemembers and their families get back on their feet.

The Fisher House Foundation, also mentioned by Woodruff, raised \$75,000 on Tuesday, more than twice what it did on Veterans Day a year ago. Team Rubicon — featured in a stirring short film at the concert about how the group uses disaster relief efforts to give veterans a sense of purpose — received about \$20,000 during the three-hour extravaganza.

Hiring Our Heroes, run by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, wasn't mentioned until after 9 p.m. but still drew more online traffic than on any day this year but one, when the Pittsburgh Steelers featured the organization on their website during a Sunday night football game.



MEREDITH TIBBETTS/Stars and Stripes

Bruce Springsteen performs Tuesday during the "Concert for Valor" at the National Mall in Washington.

## Bruce Springsteen's anti-war songs at Veterans Day event stir ill will

By JUSTIN MOYER  
The Washington Post

At the "Concert for Valor" on the Mall Tuesday night in Washington, D.C., Bruce Springsteen caught social media heat for a song choice: Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son," which he performed with Zac Brown and Dave Grohl during Brown's set. Though written by leather-voiced classic rock mastermind John Fogerty — a man Springsteen once called "our generation's Hank Williams" — this is lyrical terrain familiar to the Boss. "Fortunate Son" takes on income inequality and unthinking patriotism.

But it was the third chorus that really got people's dander up on the Mall. In that one, Fogerty insisted he "ain't no military son."

On Veterans Day, in the heart of a centuries-old democracy fighting interminable foreign wars, George Washington — this didn't

go over well.

"The song, not to put too fine a point on it, is an anti-war screed, taking shots at

**COMMENTARY** "the red and blue," the Weekly Standard wrote. "It was a particularly terrible choice given that Fortunate Son is, moreover, an anti-draft song, and this concert was largely organized to honor those who volunteered to fight in Afghanistan and Iraq."

And then there was Twitter. "Will never understand why Fortunate Son played during 'patriotic' scenarios. Not really getting this," *The Concert For Valor* — Colette Moran (@ColetteMoran)

But Springsteen did have his defenders. "If you think Fortunate Son was inappropriate for tonight's concert, you've clearly never paid attention to the lyrics. #VeteransDay"

— Karen Hensley (@Karen)

Indeed, at the same concert, Springsteen also performed a dirge-like version of "Born in the U.S.A."

"I wrote this 30 years ago — think it still holds," Springsteen said before playing the song.

While some think "Born in the U.S.A." is an American anthem, a quick look at the lyrics confirms that it's more of an anti-anthem anthem overtly critical of the Vietnam War.

So, starting right now, let's agree: Songs like "Fortunate Son" and "Born in the U.S.A." while they criticize the armed forces, aren't anti-American in the sense that it's more of an anti-anthem anthem overtly critical of the Vietnam War.

Or, as Mark Twain put it: "The true patriotism, the only rational patriotism, is loyalty to the Nation all the time, loyalty to the Government when it deserves it."

OK?

## EBOLA OUTBREAK

# Military to use fewer troops in Ebola fight

By CHRIS CARROLL  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The need for U.S. military support in the battle against Ebola in West Africa is smaller than expected, officials say.

On Wednesday, the general in charge of the operation said a planned troop deployment to Africa was dropping by about 1,000 service-members — a 25 percent cut. The Defense Department official in charge of special operations told Congress on Thursday that the DOD is now being asked to build 12 Ebola treatment units around the country, down from the 17 initially planned.

There are now 2,200 troops, some from each service branch, in Liberia, expected to top out just short of 3,000 in mid-December, said Army Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, commander of Operation United Assistance, which began in September.

The Pentagon had planned to send about 4,000 troops to Africa to help deal with the largest Ebola outbreak in history. The outbreak may now be waning in Liberia, but Ebola continues to kill there and elsewhere, with a death toll that recently topped 5,000, according to the World Health Organization.

The bulk of American troops are deploying to help with engineering and logistical demands, functions which U.S. officials discovered Liberians were better able to handle than expected. Volesky told reporters at the Pentagon via teleconference Wednesday from the capital, Monrovia.

“What we found working with [the U.S. Agency for International Development] and the government of Liberia was that there was a lot of capacity here that we didn’t know about before, and so that enabled us to reduce the forces that we thought we originally had to bring,” he said.



STEPHEN WANDERA/AP

**A passenger arriving at the airport in Entebbe, Uganda, on Thursday has her temperature checked to screen for Ebola. The U.S. military has reduced its planned troop deployment in West Africa intended to help stop the spread of the deadly virus.**

USAID had already identified and begun working with capable local contractors able to help construct treatment facilities, Volesky said. Liberian troops, meanwhile, did most of the work building the first of the Ebola treatment units, which are planned for completion by the end of the year, he said.

## Fewer treatment units

Speaking before House legislators Thursday during a hearing on the American response to the Ebola outbreak, Michael Lumpkin, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, said the DOD is now planning only 12 Ebola treatment units.

A defense official at the Pentagon said the number was scaled back from 17 in consultation with the Liberian government and the USAID, the lead U.S. agency on Ebola in Africa.

So far no U.S. troops or DOD civilians have shown any signs of infection, which Volesky said was a result of effective training in personal protection from the virus both before and during the deployment. Commanders are keeping close watch over their troops, he said.

You won’t see soldiers roaming all over Liberia; we’ve got it very controlled,” he said. “They go places where there’s a mission, and we just make sure that we’re following all those protocols.”

More than 80 airmen, sailors, Marines and soldiers who were due to return to Virginia on Thursday after a deployment to Liberia

will spend 21 days in quarantine at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., being monitored for symptoms, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Deborah R. Malac said during the teleconference Wednesday that while the number of cases is still rising, Ebola infection rates in the country have dropped significantly. Just 45 people throughout the country became infected Tuesday, compared with about 100 contracting the virus daily in Monrovia alone at the height of the outbreak, she said.

President Barack Obama’s decision to send the U.S. military sparked an influx of international nongovernmental organizations willing to help fight the disease, she said during the Wednesday teleconference.

“The presence of the U.S. military and the capacity that they bring to the table has been a real confidence builder for all of these NGO partners who are now stepping forward in response to help us with this effort,” Malac said.

Lumpkin on Thursday told Congress that U.S. military participation was galvanizing the battle against Ebola in West Africa, and filling a crucial gap while the rest of the world tries gear up a response.

“The Ebola epidemic we face truly is a national security issue,” he said. “Absent our government’s coordinated response in West Africa, the virus spreads (and) brings the risk of more cases here in the United States.”

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## Troops to be quarantined at Va. base

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 80 troops were scheduled to enter three weeks of quarantine in Virginia on Thursday after their return from a mission fighting an Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

The 51 airmen, 27 sailors, four Marines and two soldiers were to arrive by military aircraft at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., in the early afternoon, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said in written statement Thursday.

The group, none of whom is showing symptoms of Ebola, will be medically screened on arrival. They’ll then enter a 21-day period of what the Pentagon calls “controlled monitoring” in secluded buildings near the flightline, Kirby said. During their isolation, troops will be screened twice daily for symptoms at a medical facility dedicated to the servicemembers back from Liberia.

Defense Department officials say the monitoring period, in which all troops who spend more than a short time in the Ebola zone must participate, is intended to be comfortable. Two of the larger buildings will be used as a dining hall and a gym, Kirby said.

“The facilities will include all appropriate amenities,” he said. “Troops will be able to communicate with family members via telephone and electronic means.”

Kirby said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel “joins all Americans in welcoming the troops home” and promised to provide all the care and support they’ve earned.

“Secretary Hagel is both proud and grateful for the service rendered by these men and women in the critically important mission of trying to stop the spread of Ebola at its source,” he said.

About 2,200 U.S. troops are deployed to Liberia to help build treatment facilities, train health care workers and provide testing services to identify those who are infected.

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## MILITARY

# Experts: NK progress on missiles limited

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

How far along North Korea has come in miniaturizing nuclear warheads for use on intercontinental missiles depends on the target, experts say.

North Korea has been testing a medium-range intercontinental missile that could reach South Korea or Japan since the late 1980s, said Joel S. Wit, a visiting scholar at Johns Hopkins University's U.S.-Korea Institute in Washington. The country would have to be "pretty incompetent" to have not developed a warhead design for that missile type after so many years, he said.

Miniaturizing sufficiently for a long-range missile that could reach the U.S. is a different story.

"I don't think there's anyone who would say [North Korea] could [put one] on top of an ICBM — or at least no one I know," Wit said. "It doesn't exist in North Korea."

Such a nuclear missile would require far more testing than North Korea has done. After several failed attempts, the country in late 2012 successfully launched its three-

stage Unha-3 rocket, deploying a satellite in space that failed to work.

As ballistic missile expert Michael Elleman noted in an analysis last year for the nonpartisan Arms Control Association, based in Washington, the technological requirements differ between a satellite rocket launch and a ballistic missile launch — particularly the need for a functional re-entry vehicle to keep the warhead from burning up while descending from space.

"Although space launch activities offer an opportunity to accumulate experience and generate data that could aid efforts to develop long-range ballistic missiles, the results have limited application to ballistic missiles," Elleman wrote.

"Only a fraction of the overall missile development issues can be addressed when testing the system as a satellite launcher," Elleman wrote. "Other requirements, most notably re-entry technologies and operational flexibility requirements, cannot be adequately addressed by satellite launches. A proven satellite launch vehicle would still need to be flight-tested as a ballistic missile

a half-dozen or more times before it would be combat ready.

"For these reasons and others, the universal trend has been to convert ballistic missiles into space launchers, not the opposite, as evidenced by the Soviet, U.S., and Chinese experiences."

Dr. William Wieninger, an expert on weapons of mass destruction at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, said the presumption is that North Korea will eventually develop a bomb about the size of the one used by the U.S. on Hiroshima in World War II, which would be small enough to mount on a rocket.

"The rocket would almost certainly have a very low accuracy," he said. "A Hiroshima-sized warhead on a very inaccurate rocket is essentially a weapon of terror. It has very little military significance because they really can't expect to hit what they're shooting at."

Historically, nuclear-armed intercontinental missiles have been a means of defense relying on threat of use. During the Cold War, NATO was able to leverage

its conventional military force in Europe against a much larger Soviet military because NATO's nuclear weapons assured mutual destruction.

Analysts generally agree that even though North Korea behaves erratically at times, it's a rational regime that understands risk.

"The main reason that North Korea would not seriously consider using a nuclear weapon against the U.S. or South Korea is because they understand the consequences," said Greg Thielmann, a senior fellow at the Arms Control Association. "It would be the end of their regime. If there's one thing that Kim Jong Un and his clique is interested in, it's preserving their regime."

An extensive 2012 analysis of North Korea's nuclear missile threat by Markus Schiller with the Rand Corp. characterized the program as a "bluff."

The program is a "paper tiger," Schiller wrote, that "largely appears to be a political tool to gain strategic leverage, fortify the regime's domestic power, and deter other countries ... from military action."

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WUOR/AP

A fire burns on a nuclear submarine at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, on May 23, 2012. A report by Navy investigators is critical of the response to the fire.

## Navy report faults response, preparedness in sub fire

By DAVID SHARP  
AND JENNIFER MCDERMOTT  
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — A fire that crippled a nuclear submarine at a shipyard showed that the Navy had become complacent about safety in industrial settings and put too much faith in land-based firefighters who had never trained to battle a blaze aboard a submarine, Navy investigators concluded.

The investigators also said there was confusion at the start of the May 2012 fire at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and that there were too many firefighters in which no water was being put on the flames.

The conclusions were included in more than 100 pages of documents obtained by The Associated Press via a Freedom of Information Act request.

It took 12 hours and the efforts of more than 100 firefighters to douse the Groton, Conn.-based USS Miami after a worker who wanted to go home early set a small fire that quickly spread. Though the sub was saved, the Navy ultimately decided to scrap it after the repair bill hit \$700 million.

The fire severely damaged living quarters, the command and control center and a torpedo room, but it did not reach the nu-

clear propulsion components. Seven people were hurt dousing the flames.

"Complacency had set in, based on the infrequency of shipyard fires and relative success of fire prevention measures," the report said. "Also, there was an assumption that the proximity to far more assets, especially federal firefighters, reduced the likelihood of a fire not being quickly contained. This organizational reluctance to prepare for a fire of this scale should serve as a wake-up call — largely fires can and do happen in industrial environments."

The Navy launched a series of investigations that led to recommendations, including the installation of temporary automatic fire-detection systems while vessels are being repaired or overhauled.

The full report released by U.S. Fleet

Forces Command indicated how dire the situation became aboard the Los Angeles-class submarine, which was undergoing a 20-month overhaul in Kittery, Maine. At one point, officials discussed abandoning their firefighting efforts and flooding the dry dock when it appeared the submarine was going to be lost. Instead, firefighters battling extreme heat and limited visibility eventually beat back the blaze.

Investigators said shipyard firefighters were unfamiliar with the submarine's layout and that there was no requirement for certification to battle a fire in a shipboard environment — or even conduct a walk-through to familiarize themselves with the sub. They also said the firefighting force had been reduced, leading to a greater reliance on civilian firefighters.

A regional assessment of the 26-person shipyard fire department was conducted in October 2011 and found them to be fully ready, despite the department having conducted no live fire training since 2006, the report said.

While the report cited lack of readiness by firefighters, the Navy also said it was to blame for failing to incorporate lessons learned from past fires into training.

The report included 99 recommendations — virtually all of which were redacted.

## Input sought on technology in classrooms

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — For the first time, students, parents and educators with the Department of Defense Education Activity have the opportunity to participate in a national survey about technology use and interest in the classroom.

The Speak Up 2014 online survey is open through Dec. 19.

This is an opportunity to speak up, DODEA Director Tom Brady said in a statement. "Data from the survey will allow DODEA to make better technology decisions in many areas, as well as how we resource our classrooms and the type of professional development teachers want."

The survey asks K-12 students, educators and parents how they use — and how they would like to use — technology for learning.

For students, survey questions are geared to particular grade levels — and some are open-ended. Last year, for example, students in kindergarten to second grade were asked to explain what they like about using computers or the Internet to learn science or math. Students in grades 9 to 12 were asked to "pick a subject and tell us how using technology in that class could make that subject more interesting for you."

Students need a password, to be assigned locally, to access this year's survey.

Administered by Project Tomorrow, a nonprofit national education organization based in California, the Speak Up survey has been around for more than a decade, with so far more than 3.4 million participants, according to the group's website. National data findings will be released in the spring during two congressional briefings, according to DODEA. Districts and schools will also have access to the results.

For the first time, others in the community are also invited to participate in the survey, according to the survey website.

The online survey takes about 20 minutes to complete; answers are confidential. It is available at <http://www.speakup4schools.org/SpeakUp2014/Default.aspx>.

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NATION

# GOP leaders pan US-China deal on climate

By Ed O'Keefe,  
David Nakama  
and Steven Mufson  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Any hope for Congress to reconvene with a sense of bipartisanship was quickly erased Wednesday morning as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, sharply criticized the announcement of a new climate deal between the United States and China.

McConnell made his comments during a morning coffee with 10 newly elected Republican senators in his office off the Senate floor. As his new colleagues stood beaming, McConnell was asked by reporters whether he planned to shift the Senate to the political middle in hopes of reaching accord with President Barack Obama and Democrats.

"The president continues to send a signal that he has no intention of moving toward the

middle," said McConnell, who is in line to become the new Senate majority leader in January. "I was particularly distressed by the deal he's reached with the Chinese on his current trip, which, as I read the agreement, it requires the Chinese to do nothing at all for 16 years, while these carbon emission regulations are creating havoc in my state and other states across the country."

In his initial reaction, McConnell said, "This unrealistic plan that the president would dump on his successor would ensure higher utility rates and far fewer jobs."

Boehner denounced the agreement as "the latest example of the president's crusade against affordable, reliable energy that is already hurting jobs and squeezing middle-class families."

The speaker, who will preside over an increased GOP majority when the new Congress convenes, charged in a statement that Obama "intends to double down on his job-crushing poli-

cies no matter how devastating the impact," and he pledged that Republicans would continue to make blocking Obama's energy policies a priority for the rest of his term.

Top administration officials made it clear Wednesday the president would pursue some of his top priorities despite GOP opposition. Speaking to reporters on a press call Wednesday, Environmental Protection Agency administrator Gina McCarthy said Obama has for months emphasized the importance of curbing greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change for months.

"The president has been very clear in the direction in which he is moving," McCarthy said. "He is not changing at all."

While there is little lawmakers can do to block the U.S.-China climate agreement, McConnell's aides have already started investigating ways they could block or delay implementation of the EPA's proposed rule to limit greenhouse gas emissions from

existing power plants, which is set to become final next June. Rather than pushing for an outright reversal of the rule before it's finalized, according to individuals familiar with these deliberations, Senate Republicans are looking at passing language that would give states the option of not complying with the EPA mandate until litigation on the issue is resolved, or that would bar federal authorities from enforcing the rule.

"You can issue all the executive orders you want. If you don't have any money to enforce them, they don't go very far," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. "We're going to be pretty aggressive in using the power of the purse."

McConnell's home state of Kentucky is heavily dependent on its coal industry, and he made his criticisms of the Obama administration's carbon emission and climate change policies central themes of his re-election campaign. McConnell handily won his race in the Nov. 4 midterm elections.

"I would welcome the president moving to the middle," he said. "I've said before I hope we can do some business on trade and maybe tax reform. First indications have not been helpful."

McConnell said he was especially pleased to see such a large class of incoming Republican senators and noted that one more may soon join up once results are finalized in Louisiana.

Other Republicans joined McConnell and Boehner in trashing the deal.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., who is widely expected to assume the chairmanship of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in January, called the pledges by Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping "hollow and not believable," and he suggested that the agreement was tilted in China's interest.

"The United States will be required to more severely reduce our carbon emissions while China won't have to reduce anything," Inhofe said.

## House, Senate to vote on Keystone pipeline

By Donna Cassata  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A political gambit by an endangered Senate Democrat broke loose long-stalled legislation to force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline as Congress returned to a Capitol where reports of last week's Republican blowout are still sinking in.

Sen. Mary Landrieu, of energy-rich Louisiana, facing an uphill fight to hold her seat in a Dec. 6 runoff, called for the vote on approving the long-stalled pipeline project.

Senate passage of the bill as early as next Tuesday would force President Barack Obama either to sign it into law or to veto the measure just weeks after devastating Democratic losses in the Nov. 4 elections. Obama has delayed a decision on the pipeline, which environmentalists maintain would have a negative impact and would contribute to climate change.

Republicans and several moderate Democrats insist that construction of the pipeline would create tens of thousands of jobs.

The pipeline is critical to Canada, which needs infrastructure in place to export its growing oil sands production, and the Obama administration's delays have caused friction between the two countries.

The White House stopped short of directly threatening a veto, but spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama takes a "dim view" of legislative efforts to force action on the project. Earnest reiterated Obama's preference for evaluating the pipeline through a long-stalled State Department review.

It was unclear what impact the votes would have on Louisiana's Senate race.

Republicans swept the midterm congressional elections, wresting control of the Senate and expanding their majority in the House. The Republicans are assured of 53 of the 100 Senate seats when the new Congress takes office in January. Louisiana would make it 54.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Landrieu spoke of bipartisanship and her willingness to work with Republicans. She pressed for a speedy vote on Keystone.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., chair of the Senate Energy Committee, speaks to reporters Wednesday at the Capitol in Washington about the new urgency to get congressional approval for the Keystone XL pipeline as Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., looks on.

Echoing Landrieu's plea were moderate Democrats from Republican states who argued for the project that would carry oil from Canada south to the Gulf Coast. The southern leg of the

pipeline between Oklahoma and Texas is already operational.

The Republican sponsor of the bill, Sen. John Hoeven, of North Dakota, said the measure has the support of all 45 Republicans

and 11 Democrats in the still-Democratic-controlled Senate.

It will be incumbent upon Landrieu to persuade four more Democrats to back the measure to reach the 60-vote threshold.

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## NATION

# Drones used to patrol half of Mexican border

By ELLIOTT SPAGAT  
AND BRIAN SKOLOFF  
*The Associated Press*

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. — The U.S. government now patrols nearly half the Mexican border by drones alone in a largely unheralded shift to control desolate stretches where there are no agents, camera towers, ground sensors or fences, and it plans to expand the strategy to the Canadian border.

It represents a significant departure from a decades-old approach that emphasizes boots on the ground and fences. Since 2000, the number of Border Patrol agents on the 1,954-mile border more than doubled to surpass 18,000 and fencing multiplied nine times to 700 miles.

Under the new approach, Predator Bs sweep remote mountains, canyons and rivers with a high-resolution video camera and return within three days for another video in the same spot, according to two officials with direct knowledge of the effort on condition of anonymity because details have not been made public.

The two videos are then overlaid for analysts who use sophisticated software to identify tiny changes — perhaps the tracks of a farmer or cows, perhaps those

of immigrants who entered the country illegally or a drug-laden Hummer, they said.

About 92 percent of drone missions have shown no change in terrain, but the others raised enough questions to dispatch agents to determine if someone got away, sometimes by helicopter because the area is so remote. The agents look for any sign of human activity — footprints, broken twigs, trash.

About 4 percent of missions have been false alarms, like tracks of livestock or farmers, and about 2 percent are inconclusive. The remaining 2 percent offer evidence of illegal crossings from Mexico, which typically result in the planting of ground sensors for closer monitoring.

The government has operated about 10,000 drone flights under the strategy, known internally as “change detection,” since it began in March 2013. The flights currently cover about 900 miles, much of it in Texas, and are expected to expand to the Canadian border by the end of 2015.

The purpose is to assign agents where illegal activity is highest, said R. Gil Kerlikowske, commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, the Border Patrol’s parent agency, which operates nine unmanned aircraft across the country.

## School district removes calendar’s religious names

By BEN NUCKOLS  
*The Associated Press*

Presented with the opportunity to recognize a Muslim holiday on the school calendar for the first time, leaders of Maryland’s largest school district went a different direction: They removed all mention of religious holidays from the calendar.

Many school districts nationwide don’t spell out religious holidays on the calendar, having replaced “Christmas Break” with the secular “Winter Break.” But school officials in Montgomery County, Md., a wealthy and diverse Washington suburb, are being criticized for the impetus behind their decision: a push by Muslims to close schools on the Eid holy days.

Muslim activists had asked the board to note on next year’s calendar that Yom Kippur, a day when schools are already closed, is also Eid al-Adha. The two holidays do not always fall on the same date. But the board rejected

that proposal, instead voting 7-1 to close schools on the same days as usual without mentioning their religious associations.

As a result, Christians and Jews are upset at the removal of their holidays from the calendar, and Muslims are upset that theirs weren’t included. Conservative bloggers seized on the decision as part of a perceived “war on Christmas” by secular forces. Muslims accused the board of hiding behind secularism to protect more established communities.

“It was a no-win situation for us,” school board chairman Phil Kaufman said.

The Constitution bars public schools from using religious holidays as a reason for closing. Schools can close only if opening would significantly affect their operation — essentially, because so many students and teachers would be absent that the school couldn’t function. That’s why the county opted to close schools on the Jewish high holidays starting in the 1970s.



WABC/AP

A window washer straddles the space between his dangling scaffolding and 1 World Trade Center on Wednesday as New York City firefighters remove him from the scaffolding as it hangs 68 stories high in New York.

## World Trade Center scaffold mishap under investigation

By JAKE PEARSON  
*The Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Investigators are looking into the collapse of a World Trade Center scaffold that left two window washers dangling from the nation’s tallest skyscraper, 1 World Trade Center.

The workers were trapped 68 stories above the street when a cable suddenly developed slack Wednesday.

The workers held on to the teetering platform for two agonizing hours. One called his wife during the ordeal, fearful that it might be his last opportunity to speak to her.

Firefighters used diamond

cutters to saw through a double-layered window and pulled the men to safety.

The dramatic rescue, coming a little more than a week after the building officially opened, was followed by throngs of New Yorkers watching from the ground and many more around the world watching on live TV.

The window washers, Juan Lizama and Juan Lopez, were working on the south side of the lower Manhattan building when one of the platform’s four cables abruptly gave way, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said. The open-topped platform tilted sharply and swayed slightly between the 68th and 69th floors,

he said.

“It suddenly went from horizontal to nearly vertical,” Nigro said.

Officials haven’t determined what caused the cable problem, the fire commissioner said.

It was unclear whether anything about the design of the 1,776-foot-tall, 104-story skyscraper complicates working on the window-washing scaffolds, which went into service in June.

The silvery, \$3.9 billion skyscraper that rose from the ashes of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack opened last week to 175 employees of magazine publisher Conde Nast.

## Study: Pot changes brains of young users

By KELLY GIBLON  
*Bloomberg News*

Heavy marijuana users had different brain shapes and lower IQs than nonusers in a newly published study, suggesting a potential danger to young people who abuse the drug.

The research in this week’s Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences used magnetic resonance imaging to measure people who used marijuana three times per day on average. The users had smaller amounts of gray matter and increased connectivity in the orbitofrontal cortex — a section associated with decision-making and response to

rewards — and the changes were more pronounced in people who had started using earlier.

The study adds to a growing collection of evidence that marijuana alters the young brain, just as more parts of the U.S. are decriminalizing the drug and more young people are using it. Current research indicates the brain doesn’t reach maturity until age 25 or 30, and people should hold off heavy pot use before then, said Francesca Filbey, who co-authored the study.

The data included 48 heavy marijuana users, 28 years old on average, plus 62 nonusers of the same genders and ages. The research, which controlled for al-

cohol and tobacco use, suggested people who used frequently had increased connectivity in their brains — possibly compensating for the effects of drug use, Filbey said.

After about five years of drug use, the increased connectivity dropped off, which could mean that the brain was no longer able to make up for the negative effects of the marijuana. The earlier someone started, the worse the result.

Study participants who consumed marijuana also scored lower on IQ tests than nonusers, though the study didn’t draw a correlation between those results and brain differences.

## NATION



SETH PERLMAN/AP

**The timing of the health law's expanded coverage couldn't have been better** Shawn Turner, 54, a medical transcriptionist in central Illinois.

## Nick of time

Shawn Turner didn't realize it when the health insurance program debuted, but she would become a dramatic example of its purpose.

A 54-year-old medical transcriptionist in the tiny Illinois village of Cisco, Turner had gotten health benefits through her job for 15 years. "The main reason I wasn't was to get the health insurance," she said.

Then, last year, she lost coverage when her employer outsourced her work to an Internet-based transcription service. Her husband, Lloyd, who owns an auto body shop, had been on her policy so he lost his insurance, too.

In December, the Turners signed up for a "silver," or medium grade, plan on the new government website listing policies available. They would pay \$236 a month and the government would pay the insurance company \$830 a month, a subsidy based on their estimated \$22,000 income. Their deductible was \$750.

A few weeks after her coverage started, she was suddenly doubled over with abdominal pain that sent her to the emergency room. It was uterine cancer.

"I was in shock, just kind of numb," she said.

From late January through July she endured two surgeries and chemotherapy. Blue Cross Blue Shield covered more than \$265,000 in medical bills, a sum that otherwise "could have wiped us out, I would imagine," she said.

Today, Turner said, her doctors believe she's cancer-free. Her once-lustrous brown hair is beginning to grow back after chemotherapy. She's preparing to look for a part-time job as her strength returns. The Turners were able to keep their small house on the edge of town surrounded by corn and soybean fields.

"We got to keep our livelihood and we didn't become a detriment to society and our hospitals got paid," Lloyd Turner said.

## A search for a specialist

Vince and Patty Mastracco, an enterprising Northern California couple, have always preferred to take care of themselves. He's a self-described "house rat," a real estate agent who loves to show houses and meet new people. She's a food stylist and recipe consultant with a bright collection of camera-friendly blouses ready for her TV cooking appearances.

They purchased their policies before the Affordable Care Act and never had difficulty getting care. Last year, they chose a similarly priced "bronze" policy on California's version of the health marketplace.

"I did not expect to be 100 percent happy with the changes, but at the same time I did not expect we would receive less bang for our buck," said Vince, 63.

A lump on Patty's knee led to a maddening search for a bone specialist who would accept their insurance. Four orthopedists rejected her without much explanation. An MRI showed the lump was probably not-

# 4 stories

## of how new health care law affected Americans

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON  
The Associated Press

More than 7 million people have signed up for private health insurance under the system introduced last year for those who were uninsured or had policies considered substandard.

What happened to them since has varied greatly.

Many have been happy with their new insurance, according to polls. Others are encountering a variety of snags — high premiums, telephone runarounds or difficulty getting care. Together their experiences provide a glimpse of how the largest social program launched since Medicare has worked out for the people involved.

With lessons learned, the program enters its second year with enrollment beginning Saturday.

## More for more

For 10 years, Steve Duchesne, 49, carefully purchased health insurance that covered what he believed his family of five needed — catastrophic illness and injury — and omitted what it didn't, such as full vision care services and treatment for drug abuse.

Now, under the new system, he has more insurance than he's ever had, but at a higher cost, and he's not happy about it.

The public relations consultant's old plan was canceled because it didn't include all the minimum services required under the new law. His monthly health insurance costs have risen from \$645 a month to \$1,033 a month for the new policy.

"We're a middle-class family with what I consider a middle-class income for our area," said Duchesne, who lives in Redondo Beach, Calif. No subsidies were available for a family of five with a household income of more than \$110,000.

Duchesne said he's had to drop his adult dental coverage, reduce his contribution to his individual retirement account and cut other household expenses to make up the



NICK UY/AP

**Steve Duchesne has more insurance than he's ever had, but at higher cost, and he's not happy about it.**

cost difference.

"The idea the government would destroy my health insurance policy — one that I was satisfied with, which met our needs and was affordable — and force us to buy a new product that's 60 percent more expensive, is shocking to me," Duchesne said.



MORRY GASH/AP

**Pat Barone signed up for a new health plan last year that costs her just \$50 a month, but technical glitches with HealthCare.gov have kept her in constant fear of losing her insurance.**

## Perseverance required

Pat Barone has the willpower to lose 90 pounds and keep it off. She turned that perseverance into a weight-loss coaching business that has led to speaking engagements and clients on four continents.

But her resolve has been tested by the new health insurance system.

After losing her insurance following a divorce in 2013, Barone, 59, of Madison, Wis., signed up for a new health plan last year that costs her just \$50 a month and also covers her 21-year-old son.

But the technical snafus have been endless. In July she began getting requests from the plan's government administrator to send paperwork verifying her citizenship and income or her coverage would be terminated. She got the documents, but the system's website, HealthCare.gov, wouldn't upload them.

"When I finally got someone on the phone, they instructed me to mail the documents in. I did that, but I am being barraged by monthly email, snail mail and phone calls to get my documents filed, or I will lose coverage," Barone said.

The letters, she said, "are kind of demanding and threatening." For now she's decided to take the assurances from operators at the HealthCare.gov telephone help line that she can ignore the warnings. She hopes they're right.

Despite the problems, she said, she's delighted with the coverage. "It's a godsend to those of us who don't have other alternatives," Barone said. "I have used it for preventative care with no problems."

**Vince and Patty Mastracco have been unable to find a specialist who would accept their insurance.**

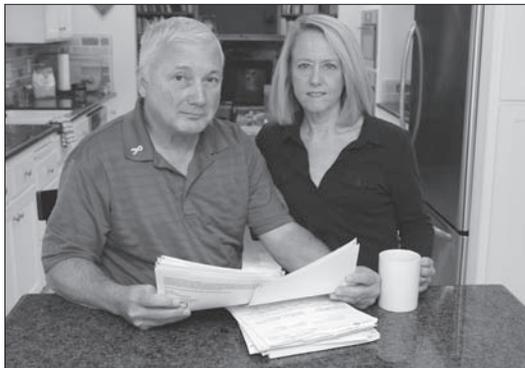
RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

ing, but she wanted a specialist to look.

"To date we still have not identified a doctor that accepts our insurance and will accept her as a patient," Vince said. It's a common pattern with the most economical policies: The insurance companies are paying doctors lower rates so fewer are joining their networks. A recent small national survey conducted by the Urban Institute found that 14 percent of newly insured adults with marketplace plans say they've had trouble finding a doctor.

"I believe that this is a case where, by design, (our plan) is now being made to resemble an HMO," he said, referring to the health maintenance organizations that inspired a patient backlash in the 1990s for limiting care. "An inferior HMO."

The couple will be shopping for a new policy this year, hoping for a better network.



## WORLD

## Global leaders wrap up Asia talks

The Associated Press

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar — President Barack Obama and other world leaders wrapping up a series of summits in Myanmar on Thursday were expected to offer expressions of concern about issues ranging from territorial disputes in the South China Sea to the Islamic State group but no firm recommendations.

Some experts still say the meeting is more than just a talk shop, and that it is a chance for political foes to sit down together in a safe atmosphere.

Millions of dollars are spent hosting Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the East Asia summits, and Myanmar ran the two-day event in its purpose-built capital Naypyitaw with military-like discipline.

Presidents and prime ministers from 10 Southeast Asian nations met Wednesday and were joined Thursday by Obama and leaders from China, India, South Korea and Thailand, among others.

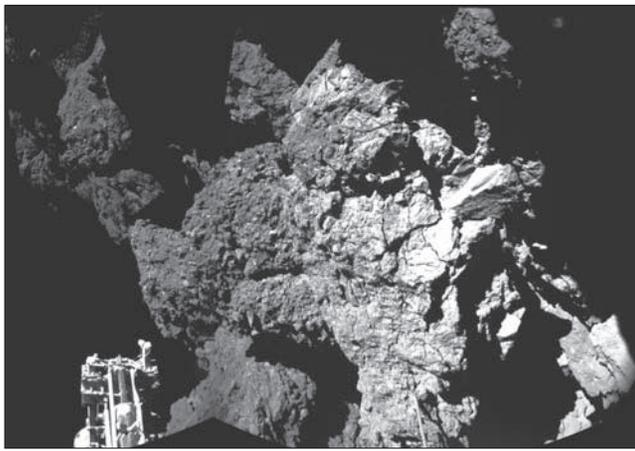
Here are highlights from the draft "final" statements, which were written ahead of the meetings and circulated before the talks began:

■ **The South China Sea.** Territorial disputes in the South China Sea, which is of tremendous strategic importance to everyone, including Washington, need to be solved peacefully and through dialogue. Southeast Asian nations and China should work toward the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

■ **Ebola.** Ebola poses a global threat to peace and security and relief assistance is needed to help fight the deadly virus in the hardest-hit West Africa nations, home to most of the world's 5,000 deaths. When necessary, leaders from Southeast Asian nations will seek technical assistance from the World Health Organization to help detect and respond to public health threats.

■ **Islamic State group.** Participants reiterated that they supported efforts to restore law and order inside Iraq as it and the world at large struggle with threats posed by the Islamic State group. They called on Iraq and international partners to ensure the protection of civilians and access to humanitarian assistance for those affected by the conflict. Participants also urged the Islamic State group to accept the safe and unconditional release of all those who are kept hostage by the group or associated individuals and entities.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit on Wednesday and the East Asia Summit on Thursday bring together more than 18 leaders. They include Obama, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



A photo created from different images taken with the CIVA camera system released Thursday shows Rosetta's lander, Philae, safely on the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

## A comet with a view

European Space Agency releases 1st image from lander

The Associated Press

BERLIN — The European Space Agency on Thursday published the first image taken from the surface of a comet, and said that its Philae lander is still "stable" despite a failure to latch on properly to the rocky terrain.

The lander scored a historic first Wednesday, touching down on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko after a decadelong, 4 billion-mile journey through space aboard its mother ship, Rosetta.

Scientists' jubilation was slightly dampened because the harpoons which were meant to anchor the lander to the surface failed to deploy, causing it to bounce twice before it came to

rest on the comet's nucleus.

"Philae is stable, sitting on the nucleus and is producing data," Gerhard Schwehm, a scientist on the Rosetta mission, told The Associated Press. "The lander is very healthy."

The photo sent back to Earth shows a rocky surface, with one of the lander's 3 feet in the corner of the frame.

Scientists are still analyzing what effect the two bounces had on the spacecraft and plan to release further details. Communication with the lander is slow, with signals taking more than 28 minutes to travel some 300 million miles between Earth and the Rosetta orbiter.

Schwelm said it may still be

possible to fire the harpoons but that would be done only if it doesn't imperil the lander.

Another key question is whether Philae's drill can be used to extract samples from beneath the surface without pushing the lander into space. Gravity on the comet is 1/100,000th that of Earth, meaning the washing machine-sized lander weighs just 0.04 ounces there.

Philae and Rosetta will use 21 instruments to analyze the comet over the coming months. Scientists hope the \$1.6 billion project will help them better understand comets and other celestial objects, as well as possibly answer questions about the origins of life on Earth.

## Indian doctor denies role in sterilization deaths of 13

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The doctor who conducted sterilization procedures after which 13 women died in central India was arrested but insisted he didn't do anything wrong — even though he said he used to perform up to 10 times more surgeries a day than allowed.

Dr. R.K. Gupta, who had been hiding since Saturday's operations, was arrested at a relative's home near Bilaspur city late Wednesday, said Dr. S.K. Mandal, the chief medical officer of Chhattisgarh state.

Gupta denied responsibility for the deaths and blamed medication given to the women after the surgeries.

A total of 83 women had the surgeries as part of a free government-run mass sterilization campaign and were sent home that evening. Dozens became ill and were rushed in ambulances to private hospitals in Bilaspur.

Mandal said at least 13 women died and dozens more were hospitalized, including at least 16 who are fighting for their lives.

Gupta had performed the 83 surgeries in six hours — a clear breach of government protocol which prohibits surgeons from performing more than 30 sterilizations in a day, Mandal said. He said investigators were also trying to determine whether the women, all of them poor villagers, had been given tainted medicines.

"I am not guilty. I have been performing surgeries for a long time and there has never been any problem," Gupta told reporters in Bilaspur around the time of his arrest.

"I have a history of completing up to 200 to 300 surgeries in one day," he said. "There are no written guidelines, but what we should know is that it is not our job to perform more than 30 operations in a day."

He said the patients began throwing up and complaining of dizziness and weakness after they were given medication following the operations.

Gupta has been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, local Inspector General of Police Pawan Dey told the Press Trust of India news agency. If found guilty he would face a maximum punishment of life in prison.

Experts say the deaths are the result of a lack of medical oversight and because of sterilization targets set by the Indian government as part of its efforts to stabilize the country's booming population.

In the 1970s, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed a policy of forcibly sterilizing men who had already fathered two children. Opponents said the program targeted unmarried and poor men, but the government denied for operating on low-income patients.

## Poll: Latin America steadily drops Catholicism

The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Latin Americans born into Roman Catholic families have increasingly left the faith for Protestant churches, while many others have dropped organized religion altogether in a major shift in the region's religious identity, according to a survey released Thursday.

While 84 percent of Latin American adults report they were raised Catholic, only 69 percent currently identify as such, said the Pew Research Center in Washington. At the same time, Protestants have gained members. About one in five Latin Americans were raised Protestant, but nearly one in five now call them-

selves Protestant. About 4 percent of Latin Americans report they were raised with no religion, but 8 percent say they have no tie to any faith.

The survey, conducted between October 2013 and February 2014, outlines the challenge for Catholic leaders in a region that was once a stronghold for the faith. Latin America still has about 425 million Catholics, or 40 percent of adherents worldwide, according to the poll. But the exodus from the church continues.

The losses were part of the reason for the 2013 election of Pope Francis, the former archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, who is the first Latin American pontiff. In most countries of the region,

two-thirds or more respondents held positive views of Francis. But the authors of the Pew report said former Catholics are more skeptical of the pope than those still in the church, with only a majority of ex-Catholics in Argentina and Uruguay viewing him favorably.

According to Pew, the percentage of Catholic-born people flocking to Protestant churches has steadily grown in recent decades in nearly all 18 countries and Puerto Rico where the poll was conducted. "In most of the countries surveyed, at least a third of current Protestants were raised in the Catholic Church, and half or more say they were baptized as Catholics," the authors of the report said.

## NATION



Brenda Mader gives her 7-year-old service dog, Max, a ride on her scooter in Lewisburg, Pa., in 2011.

BRENDA MADER FAMILY/AP

# Rough & tumble

DOGS TOPPING PEOPLE IN NEED OF KNEE SURGERY

By SUE MANNING  
The Associated Press

Leonard Sands poses with his dog, Molly, in Fountain Hills, Ariz. Molly, a 3-year-old, 65-pound pit bull, got her first surgery after being injured in December 2012. Just as it was healing, the ligament in her other knee gave out and she underwent a second operation.

CAROL SANDS/AP



**D**ASHING after a ball or tumbling off a couch make dogs up to 10 times as likely to get surgery on a key knee ligament that is similar to the one athletes often injure.

Playing sports like soccer, basketball or volleyball can lead people to traumatically tear their anterior cruciate ligament, more commonly known as the ACL, during games or practices. Dogs can get hurt that way, too, but it's more likely their subtle strains will grow over time from an everyday strain to a painful obstacle because of the animals' high level of activity.

"I think the average dog is infinitely more athletic than the average person," said Dr. Ross Lirtzman, a veterinary surgeon at Arizona Canine Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Group.

While dogs are living longer and becoming bigger parts of people's lives, more pet owners are getting the surgeries for their pets, Lirtzman said. But with increasing interest in the operations comes potential pitfalls. Veterinary care isn't as well-regulated as the medical industry, so heartbreak can follow if pet owners fail to get a qualified surgeon for the operation.

The surgeries worked for Molly, a 3-year-old, 65-pound pit bull, who lives with her owner in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale. The dog got her first surgery after being injured in December 2012. Just as it was healing, the ligament in her other knee gave out and she underwent a second operation, owner Leonard Sands said.

"Everything she was able to do prior to surgery, she was able to do after," Sands said. "She still can't beat the greyhounds at the dog park, but she swims, hikes, climbs and runs like crazy."

Since the surgeries, she has become a certified therapy dog, is a regular at children's and veteran's hospitals and keeps up with Sands, 68, and his wife, who live on a golf course and go hiking, walking and bike riding.

Dogs don't have an ACL, but a similar cranial cruciate ligament, or CrCL. Lirtzman doesn't believe the numbers of dogs getting knee ligament operations have changed much since figures were published about five years ago in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The journal estimated just over 1 million CrCL surgeries were being done each year.

About 200,000 people are diagnosed with ACL tears annually. About half get surgery, and the rest are treated with

rest, rehabilitation and a special brace to keep the knee from shifting, said Dr. Alan Reznik, an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in sports medicine at Yale University School of Medicine and has a private practice in New Haven, Conn.

Dog surgery can cost up to \$5,000, depending on location, while ACL surgery can cost as much as \$27,000, according to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Many professional athletes have come back from successful ACL surgery, but it takes a year out of their careers, said Reznik, an academy member who's performed thousands of operations and written two books — "I've Fallen and I Can Get Up" and "The Knee and Shoulder Handbook."

Surgery gave a boost to Max, Brenda Mader's 7-year-old service dog, after his left knee gave out.

"When he's down, I'm down; and when I'm down, he's down," said Mader, 51, of Lewisburg, Pa., who has multiple sclerosis. Max has been with her five years, helping her keep her balance, shop at the grocery store and do laundry.

These days, when they play, Mader keeps the ball on the ground so Max won't jump, but she falls or can't turn in bed, she doesn't hesitate to call him for help.

## MILITARY



NATIONAL ARCHIVES/AP

Two combat swimmers with the Maritime Unit of the Office of Strategic Services conduct a training exercise in Helford, England, for a mission to destroy German submarine pens in France during World War II.

# Before SEALS

Book recounts history of WWII's combat swimmers

By CHRIS CAROLA  
The Associated Press



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

**Frank Monteleone was a Navy radio operator and fluent in Italian, a combination that got him recruited to join the Maritime Unit of the OSS.**

of America's Most Elite Unit."

The book's release comes as two members of the SEAL team that killed Osama bin Laden in 2011 are making headlines and drawing criticism from U.S. military authorities for going public about their roles in taking down the terrorist leader inside his compound in Pakistan.

"I've always wanted to do a book on these (World War II) guys," said author Patrick K. O'Donnell. "The bin Laden raid was sort of the culmination of what all these men had built from 1943 to 1945."

O'Donnell, the author of eight previous books on WWII military and intelligence history, had met Monteleone 15 years ago while researching a book on the OSS, which was led by Gen. William "Wild Bill" Donovan, a Buffalo-born Wall Street lawyer. For the Maritime Unit, Donovan's OSS



NATIONAL ARCHIVES/AP

Members of the combat swimmers and other OSS operatives launch a mission from a submarine in the South Pacific in 1945.

recruiters sought out yachtsmen, Olympic-caliber swimmers and California "beach rats" — lifeguards and surfers.

Monteleone, the son of Italian immigrants, was recruited by the OSS because he spoke fluent Italian and was trained as a Navy radio operator.

"The radio operator was the key to the mission," O'Donnell said. "If you could not send and receive information on missions behind the lines, you were dead."

Monteleone, 89, said he went through "all kinds of training" with the OSS, including demolition and hand-to-hand combat, but had missed out on parachute training, a must for any OSS operator.

Once in the Mediterranean Theater, his detachment was assigned to the British Eighth Army.

"When they sent me to the British, they wanted to know if I had jump training," Monteleone, a retired tailor living in Staten Island, told The Associated Press in phone interview. "I said no, and they gave it to me right then and there."

Monteleone said he conducted dangerous missions nearly the entire length of Italy, from the beaches at Anzio to the Alps, often working with Italian partisans behind the lines.

Some of the missions entailed landing on beaches at night using the inflated craft that resembled

mattresses and were powered by silent electrical motors. Monteleone and his Italian comrades had another name for the teardrop-shaped vessel: "tartuga," Italian for turtle.

About 13,000 people served in the OSS during the war, but only a few hundred were in the Maritime Unit.

O'Donnell believes Monteleone may be one of the last still living. Another member included in the book is Gordon Soltau, a combat swimmer considered one of the Navy's first "frogmen."

Soltau, who starred for the San Francisco 49ers during the 1950s, died in California at 89 on Oct. 26, just days before "First SEALS" was published.



# “Your Holiday Bill Is On Us!” SWEEPSTAKES

Each time you use your MILITARY STAR® card at any Army and Air Force Exchange facility or [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com) between November 1 – December 31, 2014 you will be automatically entered to win one of these prizes!

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Your private label MILITARY STAR® bill paid in full!

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Use your MILITARY STAR® card at any Army and Air Force Exchange Service facility or [shopmyexchange.com](http://shopmyexchange.com) from November 1 – December 31, 2014 and be automatically entered into the MILITARY STAR® Sweepstakes. Every purchase you make with your MILITARY STAR® card during this time frame counts as one entry. The more purchases you make with your MILITARY STAR® card increases your chances of winning.

For alternative method of entry and complete details, See Official Rules at [www.MyECP.com/CustomerAds/Page/Exchange.com](http://www.MyECP.com/CustomerAds/Page/Exchange.com)

FAITH

# The stand

## Evangelical college's position on gay rights causes uproar

By RACHEL ZOLL  
The Associated Press

**D** Michael Lindsay thought he was on safe political ground when he signed the letter.

President Barack Obama was about to expand job protection for gays employed by federal contractors. Under the proposed changes, faith-based charities with federal grants worried they could lose the right to hire and fire according to their religious beliefs. Religious leaders flooded the White House with pleas to maintain or broaden the exemption.

Among them was one endorsed by Lindsay, president of Gordon College, a small evangelical school, and 13 evangelical and Roman Catholic leaders.

In the end, Obama left the existing exemption in place. But it was no victory for Lindsay.

His stand last July came at a cost — to him and the school — that he never anticipated: broken relationships with nearby cities, the loss of a key backer for a federal grant, a review by the regional college accrediting agency, and campus protest and alumni pushback over whether the school should maintain its ban on “homosexual practice” as part of its life and conduct standards.

“I signed the letter as a way of trying to show my personal support,” Lindsay said during an interview at the Wenham campus, about 25 miles north of Boston. “Obviously, if I had known the response that in particular Gordon College would receive, I wouldn’t sign.”

Lindsay had learned the hard way just how much gay rights had been dividing members of his own community and driving a wedge between his school and local communities.

### Changing landscape

Gordon is among the many conservative religious institutions struggling to find their place in a landscape rapidly changing in favor of gay rights. Their view of marriage as the union of one man and one woman is being challenged not only from outside, but also from within their own faith communities, and once-uncomfortable partnerships with public organizations are being re-evaluated according to new terms.

After coming under fire for its ban on hiring faculty in same-sex relationships, Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia announced this year to delay a decision on whether to uphold the policy, which means it won’t be enforced for now. World Vision, a Christian international relief agency based in Washington state, said last March it would hire gays and lesbians, but quickly backtracked after drawing condemnation from evangelical leaders and losing thousands of donors.

At several evangelical colleges, students have formed advocacy groups on gay acceptance, such as OneWheaton, at Wheaton College



Gordon College in Wenham, Mass.

PHOTOS BY AP



### The president

Gordon College President D. Michael Lindsay signed a letter against expanded job protection for gays employed by federal contractors. “I signed the letter as a way of trying to show my personal support,” he said. “Obviously, if I had known the response that in particular Gordon College would receive, I wouldn’t sign.”



### The controversy

The college's mission statement is displayed near the entrance. Gordon College is among the many conservative religious institutions struggling to find their place in a landscape rapidly changing in favor of gay rights.



### The reaction

Paul O. Miller, a 2008 Gordon College graduate and founder of OneGordon, an LGBT rights group, speaks during an interview in Boston. “There should be the same sexual ethic for LGBT and heterosexual students,” Miller said.

in Illinois.

Lindsay's support for an exemption from a civil right for gays unleashed long-simmering campus tensions over the school's assertion that it has created a safe place for lesbian and gay students, while maintaining a conduct policy that singles them out. The school bars sex outside of marriage for everyone in the Gordon community, while also specifically banning “homosexual practice.” OneGordon, a group for gay students, alumni and their allies, is now pressing the college to eliminate the language.

“There should be the same sexual ethic for LGBT and heterosexual students,” said Paul O. Miller, an alumnus and co-founder of OneGordon. The uproar over Lindsay's letter also prompted local community leaders to take another look at Gordon's policies. The college hires gays and lesbians, but effectively requires them to be celibate.

Mayor Kim Driscoll, of Salem, responded by ending Gordon's contract to manage the city's Old Town Hall. Salem's Peabody Essex Museum ended its academic relationship with the school and withdrew support for Gordon's grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities. The New England Association of Schools & Colleges started a review of the controversy.

Some community leaders said they didn't know before that Gordon was an evangelical institution, or didn't fully understand what that meant.

“I had no idea that Gordon was even a Christian school,” said Rick Starbard, a Lynn public school teacher for 14 years and a School Committee member for five. The committee voted 4-3 in late August to end its 11-year partnership between Gordon and Lynn public schools over Lindsay's position. Thousands of Gordon volunteers had taught English to refugees,

installed art in public elementary schools, distributed toys and gift cards at Christmas and helped students with their homework. Gordon had an office downtown, with a director who joined the boards of several local service agencies.

“Anybody can have the personal beliefs that they want, but it does become different when you play in a public school,” said Starbard, who nonetheless voted to keep the partnership with Gordon. “I think there was a knee-jerk reaction to this and people didn't think out the long-term implications.”

“Tucked into a forested corner of a small town, Gordon is known for staying out of public fights on divisive social issues. When the Massachusetts Supreme Court recognized same-sex marriage in 2003, making the state the first in the country to do so, then-Gordon President Judson Carlberg issued no public statement.”

Among its peers in Christian

higher education, Gordon sits on the liberal end of the spectrum. The college upholds the Bible as the authoritative word of God while providing the “freedom to offer constructive criticism of this tradition.”

Evolution is taught in the science program. Draped nude models are used for art students learning to draw the body — unusual in Christian art programs. An alcohol ban is only for campus and school events, instead of the blanket prohibition sometimes found at other evangelical schools. The 1,700 or so undergraduates are encouraged to respect different views of what it means to be Christian.

“Unity does not mean sameness,” Gordon professor Sharon Ketcham told students at a chapel service this semester. “No one here is asking you to be the same.”

Yet the school is grounded in conservative Christian beliefs. At the campus entrance, on a sign between two granite pillars, the school spells out its mission to instill “Christian character” in students.

“I'm OK in civil society for there to be civil unions, insurance rights, domestic partnerships, all those kinds of things,” Lindsay said. “But the difference is I think we need to pay attention to — this is a religious institution that presumably might be asked to betray one of its core convictions.”

### Easing controversy

Lindsay said he has received several offers from legal groups who want to represent Gordon in lawsuits that would allow the broken partnerships amount to unconstitutional retaliation for free speech. He insists he will not take that path. Instead, he has been working to ease the controversy.

He has met with faculty and staff and with gay students and alumni. He spoke to a teachers' union in nearby Georgetown, which agreed to continue to host Gordon student-teachers, and sent letters to superintendents of other public schools where Gordon students trained.

When the fall semester began, Lindsay went to six dorms, one two nights to answer questions from undergraduates. Gordon has formed a working group including trustees, students, administrators and faculty to address some of the concerns raised about the challenge of gay students on campus. The group, which includes a gay student and some faculty who oppose the current life and conduct statement, will meet through February.

Lindsay said he wouldn't be taking public stands in the future on any publicly chosen issues. “He made a mistake in signing it,” said James Trent, a sociologist and Gordon professor for 11 years who supports eliminating the ban on “homosexual practice.” “The middle ground begins to wear when you're oppressing people. How do you slightly oppress someone?”

NATION

# Path to replace last icebreaker not clear

US ability to reach Arctic might be at risk without breakthrough on funding

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The last U.S. icebreaker capable of crushing through the thickest ice of the Antarctic and Arctic resumed its mission after the latest repairs to postpone its already past-due retirement.

Climate change makes the 38-year-old Polar Star Icebreaker's science and security missions ever more vital, according to scientists and other backers of rebuilding the country's dwindling ice fleet.

The ship headed home to Seattle on Tuesday before starting its new assignment, said U.S. Coast Guard spokeswoman Chief Warrant Officer Allyson Conroy.

Earlier Tuesday, crew members of the Coast Guard vessel drilled before leaving the former naval shipyard at Mare Island, across the bay from San Francisco. Shipyard workers replaced worn, 18-foot-high propellers for refitting and carried out other work on the country's sole remaining heavy icebreaker, now eight years beyond its scheduled decommissioning date. The icebreaker is expected to head for Antarctica shortly after Thanksgiving.

By late January, the Polar Star will loom over the western Antarctic on its key annual mission — breaking through ice for the yearly resupply of U.S. researchers at the McMurdo Research Station and another research center at the South Pole.

With 75,000 horsepower and a hull strong enough to batter through 6 feet of ice at running

speed, the Polar Star is the only operational U.S. vessel capable of getting the food, fuel and research material to the two Antarctic research stations.

If they "didn't get that resupply, it would shut down or severely curtail the amount of science" at the two U.S. Antarctic centers, Capt. Matt Walker, the Polar Star's commander, said Monday afternoon from the Polar Star, with the icebreaker's gangway up for departure.

"It puts a huge weight of responsibility that we cannot fail, we cannot suffer catastrophic casualty to our equipment, because the resupply of McMurdo wouldn't occur," Walker said. "We have no redundancy in the U.S. system."

Engine troubles in 2010 took the only other heavy U.S. icebreaker, the Polar Sea, out of service.

The U.S. Coast Guard has one other icebreaker, a medium-size one, which mainly works in the Arctic. The National Science Foundation has a still-lighter icebreaker for research. The Russian government, by contrast, has 18 icebreakers, including four nuclear-powered and operational heavy icebreakers. Russia on Monday announced the planned start of work on a new icebreaker to supply that country's growing military presence in the Arctic and tug Russian combat ships through Arctic ice.

While the Obama administration, Congress and the Coast Guard all say maintaining at least one heavy icebreaker is essential for maintaining U.S. security



U.S. COAST GUARD/AP

The U.S. Coast Guard's Polar Star icebreaker is the country's last vessel capable of breaking through the heaviest ice of the Arctic Circle, and resupplying the U.S. polar research station there. At 38 years old, it's a decade past its decommissioning date.

and science, no funding proposals have yet gained momentum to have a new heavy U.S. icebreaker built before age forces the Polar Star out of service, any time from five to 20 years from now.

Without active heavy icebreak-

ers, "the control of the Arctic is in the hands of Russia," Rep. John Garamendi, of California, the ranking Democrat on the House subcommittee that oversees the Coast Guard and maritime affairs, said Tuesday.

The Arctic is estimated to hold more than 10 percent of the world's undiscovered oil reserves, nearly one-third of undiscovered gas reserves, and remains a strategically critical area for the United States, congressional researchers said earlier this year.

Melting ice means traffic has increased in the Bering Strait, between Russia and Alaska, 118 percent since 2008. More melting means more vessels will be coming within harm's way of ice.

Meanwhile, researchers say study of the 1.5 million-year-old ice of the Antarctic is critical to tracking the Earth's increasingly variable weather and the course of man-made climate change.

For American researchers, too, growing differences this year between the Russian and U.S. governments over Ukraine, Syria and other matters are increasing doubts about the Russia-U.S. logistical cooperation in science that bloomed after the Cold War.

"The idea of sharing space stations or icebreakers with them — you feel a little less secure relying on them, because of the tensions, and the fact we're sort of poking each other in the eye lately," said Ted Scambos, senior research scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Colorado and a veteran Antarctic researcher.

For Walker, the Polar Star's captain, each yearly run to the Antarctic is a run at unlocking critical secrets held in its ice.

"I think it's critical to humankind to be able to conduct the research work that they do in the Antarctic," he said. "It's fundamental to be able to predict or ascertain information about the climate change. The only place you can get that kind of information is Antarctica."

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## FACES

# SOUND ON

## Rihanna teases new music at military base

BY HANNAH BUCHDAL  
The Associated Press

Rihanna won't say when she plans to release new music, but she is confident about what it sounds like.

"I can't give you any hints of when it will drop. It's going to be great, that's all I'm going to tell



PHOTOS BY KEVIN WOLFF/AP

Rihanna shares a hug with Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Farrington during an event promoting her *Rogue Man* cologne at Fort Belvoir in Virginia on Wednesday.

you, and I'm excited about it," said the singer at a meet-and-greet Wednesday with fans at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The critic she is worried about is herself.

"I try to battle myself and outdo everything I've done, and that's been the hardest thing to do. You start overthinking things at times," she confessed.

The 26-year-old typically has released albums in November in the past, but wouldn't comment on that. She just said, "I can't wait for everybody to hear (the music) little by little. ... little by little. I can't wait."

Rihanna also brought along her new men's fragrance, *Rogue Man*.

"I feel like, what better way to get these people excited than to get them something nice, to smell good. They're running around all day working hard. And, you know, the guys are sexy. They need to smell sexy." She also joked about not having a rogue man of her own, saying with a wink, "hopefully I'll find one here today on the base."



## Robert Plant quashes reunion claims

Robert Plant says there is no truth to reports he turned down a lucrative offer from Virgin boss Richard Branson to play Led Zeppelin reunion shows.

A statement from Plant spokesman Ken Weinstein says the singer "has not been in receipt of any offers in recent months" about Led Zeppelin gigs, and hasn't met or communicated with Branson in 50 years.

Wednesday's statement said Plant was "disappointed with any confusion this current fabricated story may bring."

Citing a Led Zeppelin song, Branson said in a blog post he was "dazed and confused" by reports he had offered the band 500 million pounds (\$800 million) to reform.

Led Zeppelin disbanded after drummer John Bonham died in 1980. Surviving members Plant, Jimmy Page and John Paul Jones last performed together in 2007.

## Bono's private plane loses hatch

Berlin airport authorities say U2 front man Bono's private plane lost a hatch as it was coming in for a landing in the German capital, but the Irish singer was never in any danger.

Airport spokesman Ralf Kunkel told the news agency dpa that the 32-by-40-inch rear hatch landed in the vicinity of Schoenefeld airport, on Berlin's south-eastern edge.

Kunkel, who didn't immediately return calls seeking comment, says it was not clear how the hatch came off and that German authorities were investigating.

He says the aircraft, which was flying from Dublin, was never in danger of crashing and landed safely Wednesday.

## Other news

■ New York City police say "Cake Boss" Buddy Valastro was arrested on a drunken driving charge around 1 a.m. Thursday.

■ Ian Somerhalder, star of *The Vampire Diaries*, has publicly shown his opposition to a proposal to set up a fracking well north of New Orleans. nola.com/TheTimes-Picayune reports that Somerhalder attended a public meeting Wednesday where many in the crowd waved signs against the proposed well.

■ The City of London has given actor Morgan Freeman the Freedom of the City award. The time-honored ceremony makes Freeman a freeman in the City of London. The award is believed to have originated in the 13th century. The ceremony was held Wednesday at London's Guildhall.

■ A trial over television actor Stephen Collins' divorce was delayed Wednesday after his estranged wife's attorney withdrew from the case hours before testimony was to begin. Judge Mark Juhas, slated to preside over the trial, ordered the proceedings to be delayed until Jan. 5 to give Collins' wife Paye Grant time to find a new lawyer.

From The Associated Press

# Aldean: Writers, publishers should be paid fairly

BY KRISTEN M. HALL  
The Associated Press

Country star Jason Aldean pulled one of the year's hottest country albums — his latest record, "Old Boots, New Dirt" — off the music streaming service Spotify because he said he wants songwriters, publishers, producers and engineers to get fairly compensated.

Aldean joined Taylor Swift and other artists who have decided to remove their music from the service, which allows users to stream albums for free. The album has sold more than 467,000 copies since its release Oct. 7 and hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart. It also had

the biggest first week for a country album on Spotify with more than 3 million streams.

"The debate the whole music industry is having on streaming is complicated," Aldean said in his first statement given to The Associated Press since the album was removed Monday. "And while I'm definitely paying attention to the business side of things, I am first and foremost an artist. I'm an artist whose career has been built by the songwriters, publishers, producers and engineers that line Music Row in Nashville. What they do has value, and I want everyone who is involved in making my music to be paid fairly. This is about trying to

do what is right for the people who have given me a great life."

Aldean has certainly benefited from digital sales and streams in his career and was recognized this year by the Recording Industry Association of America as the top digital male country artist in history with more than 21.5 million in digital single certifications, counting song downloads and on-demand streams. "I don't know what the future holds or what my record label will ultimately decide to do with streaming partners, but for now, we made a mutual decision to hold my album back," he said.

# Moore says TV is 'the most enticing medium for an actor'

BY ALICIA RANCILO  
The Associated Press

Mandy Moore has stepped back into the spotlight with a recurring role on Fox's "Red Band Society."

Moore, a singer-actress, plays Dr. Erin Grace, the new chief of surgery. She had worked at the hospital, but took a year off to work with Doctors Without Borders. She

had also dated Dave Annable's character, Dr. Adam McAndrew, and her promotion is one that he was gunning for.

"Red Band Society," airing Sundays on AFN-Family, follows the doctors and their long-term teen patients at a children's hospital. "I've been brought in to sort of stir it up on the adult side," said Moore in a recent interview.

Moore was approached about the show before the part was written. She "loved ev-

erything" about the pilot episode. "I really thought it was such a unique tone from everything else on TV right now," she said.

The 30-year-old, known for films like "A Walk to Remember" and "Saved" wanted a job in television. "I think it's the most enticing medium for an actor out there right now," she said.

Moore is also known for her music. She said she's been recording and hopes to release something early next year.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Suspected marijuana found in child's diaper

**MI** BATTLE CREEK — Police in Battle Creek say a small baggie of suspected marijuana was found in the diaper of a 1-year-old girl at a day care center.

The Battle Creek Enquirer reported that an employee told officers she made the discovery on the morning of Nov. 5 while changing the child's diaper.

The worker told police that the child arrived with a clean diaper and she believes the suspected marijuana could have gotten into the diaper before the child was dropped off at the day care.

Police were awaiting a lab test on the green leafy substance to confirm whether it is the drug.

## Officials plead the 5th at hearings on charter

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Officials from an embattled Philadelphia charter school invoked their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination 77 times at hearings on the future of its charter.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported Wednesday that administrators from the Walter Palmer Leadership Learning Partners Charter School refused to answer questions on topics ranging from qualifications to the accuracy of invoices.

Last week's hearings were part of the Philadelphia school district's fight to revoke Walter Palmer's charter amid academic and financial stability concerns. The school's also the subject of a federal investigation.

A court recently ordered the school to return \$1.5 million to the district after finding it enrolled twice the number of students allowed.

## E-cigarette explosion blamed in house fire

**WA** TACOMA — A house fire in Tacoma that seriously injured a man was reportedly started by an e-cigarette explosion.

Fire Battalion Chief Dave McRoberts said the cause remains under investigation but a woman said her electronic cigarette exploded, spilling liquid that set a couch on fire.

The News Tribune reported that firefighters rescued a man from inside the burning house Tuesday afternoon. He was taken to a hospital with burns and smoke inhalation.

There were five people in the house, which had been converted to six apartments. Firefighters had to pry residents off the roof and two others escaped on their own.

## Veterans disgusted by theft of memorial flag

**MA** FALL RIVER — Military veterans are reacting with disgust after someone stole a flag from atop a memorial erected to honor those who served in World War II.

Fall River said they don't have any suspects in the

## THE CENSUS

# \$4,000

The value of a 1979 Gibson Les Paul guitar that a Tennessee man is accused of stealing and pawning for \$1,000. WKRN-TV in Nashville reported that police charged Donald Nelson, 36, on Tuesday with the theft of the vintage guitar during a home break-in in May. Police said Nelson told officers he bought the guitar from a woman in Bowling Green, Ky., for \$1,500.



AMY SMOTHERMAN BURGESS, KNOXVILLE (TENN.) NEWS SENTINEL/AP

## Polishing the dome

A crew from Apex Window Cleaning polishes the windows on the Sunsphere in Knoxville, Tenn., on Wednesday. The 74-foot gold-colored glass sphere, which served as a symbol for the 1982 World's Fair, has 360 glass panes, covering about 14,000 square feet. Each pane contains 14-karat gold.

theft, which occurred as families were stopping by the city's Ivo Jima Memorial in Bicentennial Park to reflect and lay flowers on Veterans Day.

WJAR-TV reported the city replaced the flag almost immediately Tuesday — but veterans are decrying not just the theft but the timing. Vietnam veteran John Raymond called the act a disgrace and said whoever is responsible doesn't understand the significance of the flag.

## College senior wins county write-in vote

**NH** HANOVER — A Dartmouth College senior from Chicago is Grafton County's newly elected fraternity brother of probate after his fraternity brothers launched an impromptu write-in campaign Election Day.

The Valley News reported that Mick Wopinski won the seat with 20 write-in votes in a race that featured no official candidates.

Wopinski's Alpha Delta fraternity brother Sam Todd wrote in his friend's name and then rallied

others to do the same.

The newspaper reported the position was formerly a full-time job, but most of its duties were repealed and shifted to the circuit court clerk in 2011. The salary is \$100 a year.

Wopinski says he's researching what the job entails and still trying to decide whether he'll accept the position.

## Researchers seek way to track wild bobcats

**WV** MORGANTOWN — Researchers say observing bobcats in the wild isn't easy because the animals are solitary and elusive.

West Virginia University researchers tasked with evaluating the state's bobcat population found a solution. They're going to use DNA to develop an assessment of the bobcat population's size, health and movements.

The university said the study's findings will help the state determine whether the bobcat trapping season should be shortened or lengthened, and whether the

annual three-becat limit should be reduced or increased.

Researchers will use devices called hair-snares to collect DNA samples from bobcats across the state. The devices attract animals and obtain hair samples as the animals step over or walk by them.

## Chicago aquarium has adopted sea otter pup

**IL** CHICAGO — The Shedd Aquarium in Chicago has acquired a sea otter pup that was found alone on a California beach.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that the aquarium said the weeks-old female otter arrived in Chicago last week after being cared for at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, Calif., for the first four weeks of her life. She was just days old and weighed 2 pounds when a passerby found her.

Animal care experts and veterinarians are teaching her to groom and feed herself. She's

also learning to regulate her body temperature by getting in and out of the water.

## Live hand grenade removed from home

**NY** ALBION — Authorities said a live hand grenade from World War II was removed from a western New York home.

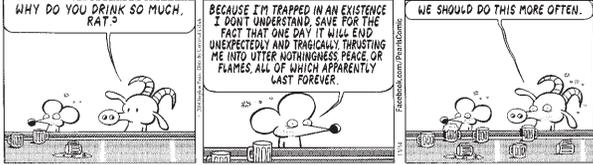
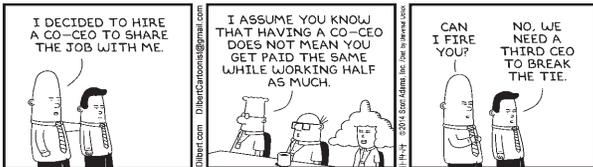
Police in the Albion in Orleans County said a contractor was cleaning out the house when he found the grenade in the basement. The woman who lived in the house since the 1920s had recently moved in with relatives.

The sheriff's office bomb squad in neighboring Monroe County was called in and determined the grenade was from World War II. Police removed the explosive from the home and detonated it at another location.

Police believe the grenade was brought home by one of the homeowner's relatives who served in the military during the war.

From wire reports





Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
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	18						19			
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41				42	43				44	45
46							47			48
49							50			51

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lustrous black
  - 4 Actor Lowe
  - 8 Boars' mates
  - 12 Acapulco gold
  - 13 Type of pudding
  - 14 Mine entrance
  - 15 Patterned silks
  - 17 Bart's sister
  - 18 Meds measure
  - 19 Breast-pocket accessory
  - 20 Enjoys the hammock
  - 22 — McAn
  - 24 Concept
  - 25 Trite notions
  - 29 Cattle call
  - 30 Duplicity
  - 31 Before
  - 32 Served as intermediary
  - 34 Zoo structure
  - 35 Full house, e.g.
  - 36 Sin city
  - 37 Pipe type
  - 40 Part of a Batman costume
  - 41 Slender
  - 42 Form of male bonding
  - 46 Con
  - 47 Mary's follower
  - 48 Insult (Sl.)
  - 49 Resumes, briefly
  - 50 "Take — Train"
  - 51 Perched
- DOWN**
- 23 Contain
  - 25 Incinerate
  - 26 Maze runner's problems
  - 27 Therefore
  - 28 Equip
  - 30 Appearance
  - 33 Military garb
  - 34 Nightclub in a Manilow song
  - 36 Ballroom dance
  - 37 Spill the beans
  - 38 Hindu noble
  - 39 Grooving on
  - 40 Arrive
  - 42 Lunch order, briefly
  - 43 "Go, team!"
  - 44 Spy org.
  - 45 "Guinness Book" suffix

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	A	S	K	I	K	E	A	B	L	E	A	B	L	E
U	G	L	I	N	O	R	E	O						
S	H	L	L	I	D	R	O	A	N					
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11-14

CRYPTOQUIP

TGICH IBTI MPX SLZNELMRX  
 JTHSCK BEQ OTH EL ELC  
 NHZLM JRTOC, BC BTK T QCLQC  
 ZG E WJZPLKELM KZZW.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PREVIOUS U.S. PRESIDENT WHO ALWAYS INSISTED ON HAVING THINGS NEAT AND ORDERLY: TIDY ROOSEVELT.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals D

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OPINION

Helping a reform-minded VA secretary

By MARTIN SCHRAM

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

**A**t last, America's military veterans seem to have a secretary of Veterans Affairs who gets it.

Robert McDonald, the former chairman, president and CEO of Procter & Gamble who came to the VA just three and a half months ago, has made clear in his words and early deeds that there must be sweeping systemic changes at the VA. And also what he calls a change in the "culture" that permeates the VA.

The new secretary celebrated Veterans Day this week by issuing a sweeping reorganization plan designed to finally make the system work. He has also fired 35 VA employees for concealing VA hospital backlogs and begun procedures to remove 1,000 more.

But while he and his new team have visited more than 100 VA sites, McDonald still may not grasp the full malevolent extent to which the cultural VA mindset has fostered what veterans feel is a VA policy of delay and deny toward claims filed by veterans (or VA "customers," as the ex-P&G head now wants his department to call veterans).

It was back in 2008 that I first chronicled the VA's litany of failures and suggested a number of solutions, in my book, "Vets Under Siege: How America Deceives and Dishonors Those Who Fight Our Battles." Now a new VA secretary seems determined to make sweeping reforms and affect a cultural sea change.

And our job today is just to make sure McDonald gets the benefit of what many faithful readers already know. (Here it could get awkward, because as VA officials discovered, their new boss doesn't want to be called "Mr. McDonald." To prefer, simply, "Bob." And his underlings have opted for a middle-ground salutation: "Secretary Bob." So here goes.)

**MEMO TO: Secretary Bob**  
**RE: Stage Two — Solving Problems by Changing the VA's Culture/Mindset**



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

**New Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald has fired 35 employees for concealing hospital backlogs and begun procedures to remove 1,000 more.**

1. Why veterans sometimes feel "VA" stands for "Veterans' Adversaries": In 2005, National Guardsman Garrett Anderson, of Champaign, Ill., was driving a truck near Baghdad when an improvised explosive device detonated. He lost his right arm, broke his jaw and his body was riddled with shrapnel. The VA claim adjudicator granted him benefits for his lost arm and broken jaw, but declined to award shrapnel injury benefits with these mind-boggling words: "Shrapnel wounds all over body not service connected." There are scores (maybe hundreds or even thousands) of similar, hauntingly infuriating examples.
2. Bureaucratic blinders: In January 2011, a World War II vet, who retired to

Florida after a long postal service career, died. He was getting VA and U.S. Postal Service pension. His wife, needing basic living income, promptly sent the VA and USPS requests for her spousal share of the pensions and copies of his death certificate. Days later, USPS responded and she received her first monthly pension share in February. But nothing from the VA, except more paperwork. Half a year later, after I asked a top VA official about it, she finally got her first pension check in August (with retroactive back payments). When I asked the VA's top benefits official why USPS could respond immediately but the VA didn't, he calmly explained the VA pension was more complicated because she might deserve more money if her husband died of his war injuries. So I asked the most obvious question: Why couldn't the VA immediately pay her the base amount (like the USPS did) and then if the VA calculator she deserved more? The VA official gave a follow check? The VA official's eye opened wide in surprise: Yes, that's how it should be done, he said, and wrote himself a note about it.

But of course, Secretary Bob, if your VA officials really saw themselves as veterans' advocates, they'd have come up with that simple solution ages ago. You are pushing your notion that veterans should think of your department as "My VA." And, on CBS News' "60 Minutes," when asked what values you want to instill at the VA, you said: "It's integrity, it's advocacy, it's respect, it's excellence."

Well, it's time to revive an idea I've long proposed: To end the VA cultural mindset that resulted in veterans viewing the VA as Veterans' Adversaries — and encourage VA employees to view themselves as Veterans' Advocates, then an official department name-change will instantly accomplish that.

And you'll have a new title: secretary of the Department of Veterans Advocacy.

Martin Schram, a McClatchy-Tribune op-ed columnist, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

Forming alliances, as they did before WWI

By ROBERT FREEMAN

**A**t the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the Great War was over. But the "War to End All Wars" famously didn't live up to its billing. Still, it had greater impact on the world than any event of the last thousand years. The question is whether another such war might be looming today.

It was in World War I that humanity first practiced the industrialization of human slaughter — 16 million people were killed, more than 17 million were wounded. No one could seem to stop it. During the height of the carnage, at the battle of the Somme, about 60,000 died the first day. Four great empires expired in the war, more than in any other event in history. The German, Austrian, Russian and Ottoman empires were destroyed and dismembered. Out of their carcasses were born 11 new countries.

Five of those countries — Iraq, Jordan, Palestine (now Israel), Syria and Lebanon — are in the Middle East. They are still the source of some of the most intractable conflicts on the planet.

Communism came into being as a state-based system as a result of World War I. The war played a major role in bringing down the government of the Russian czar in 1917. Into the breach leapt the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin. Their seizure of power set the stage for one of the most enduring conflicts of the 20th century, the Cold War.

And World War I was the moment in history when the center of global power shifted, from Europe to the United States, where it has resided ever since.

In other words, industrialized war, communism, the U.S. as the dominant world power and the modern Middle East had their origins in World War I. No event of the last 1,000 years has so decisively rearranged the architecture of global power.

But could such a tectonic upheaval happen again? Three patterns of conflict in the world today remind us of patterns that presaged World War I.

The first is the fact of a declining imperial power being confronted by a rapidly growing upstart. In World War I, Britain was the declining power while Germany was the galloping upstart. In 1850, Britain controlled almost 60 percent of the entire world's wealth, compared with 3 percent for Germany. By 1913, Britain's share had shrunk to 14 percent, and Germany's had risen to 21 percent.

Today, the dominant global power is the United States. It is being challenged, at least economically, by China. In October, China became the largest economy in the world in purchasing power parity terms. It could shortly surpass the U.S. in raw terms. Economic power inevitably translates into political power — an echo of early 1900s.

and Russia.

Today, world powers are again forming alliances. They are the U.S. and Europe, as the dominant powers, against Russia and China, the challengers. The current conflict in Ukraine has driven Russia and China closer together. They may be joined in their alliance by Brazil, India and South Africa. Think of it as the "haves" versus the "want-to-haves."

The final parallel is conflict in the Middle East. World War I was fueled by the rivalry about who would control the collapsing Ottoman Empire, with its oil riches in the Persian Gulf. Germany had made friends with the Ottomans. If they seized the gulf it would have posed an existential threat to Britain, which ran its globally deployed navy on oil. The war lost.

The conflict in the Middle East today is about oil as well. Oil is the lifeblood of industrial civilization, but it is running out. The U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 is now notorious for having been carried out under false pretenses, the real story being oil. Still, today we fight for who will control the Persian Gulf, and, therefore, the world.

It's been said that "history never repeats itself, but it does rhyme." There won't be a second World War I, but we can hear the rhymes of history echoing from that tectonic upheaval of 96 years ago.

Robert Freeman is the author of "The Best One-War War," "Germany and Austria-Hungary Face Off against England, France and Russia," "The Protestant Reformation" and "The Cold War." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### Obama right on 'net neutrality' (Raleigh, N.C.) News & Observer

It's no small irony that President Barack Obama supported protections for an open Internet on the same day he arrived in China, a nation that notoriously controls and censors Internet communications.

The president is trying to ensure "net neutrality." The term means that information moving on the Internet — except for illegal material, such as child pornography — is treated equally and not subject to blockages, slowdowns or special tolls determined by providers.

"Net neutrality conflicts with the desire of Internet providers like Verizon, AT&T, Comcast and Time Warner Cable to establish "fast lanes" for which users pay more to move data at higher speeds. They say that traffic controls and high-speed lanes are a natural evolution of the nation's information superhighway and that government regulations will slow commerce and innovation.

"We are stunned the president would abandon the longstanding, bipartisan policy of lightly regulating the Internet and calling for extreme" regulation, said Michael Howell, president and CEO of the National Cable Television Association, the primary lobbying arm of the cable industry.

But the industry's call for "freedom" is really a demand that those who control the means of Internet communications be able to stifle the flow and character of Internet content. The president and other advocates of net neutrality say a truly free Internet would be shaped by the tastes and needs of consumers, not by the monopolies that control the pipelines.

To ensure net neutrality, the president called on the FCC to treat Internet providers like public utilities just as phone companies are regulated.

The FCC should move to protect net neutrality. When Internet providers file lawsuits in response, the FCC's authority should be upheld by the courts. The Internet is becoming the main transmitter of communications in the United States. How it responds to the public's needs should not be left to phone companies and especially not to the cable titans that have already established records of high monopoly pricing and wretched consumer service.

### Obamacare numbers confusing Anniston (Ala.) Star

One of the Affordable Care Act's bothresome traits is its reliance on numbers to show its success — and those numbers vary, depending on who provides them.

That said, President Barack Obama's signature legislation is having a profound effect on health care in the United States. By any measure, more Americans have health insurance today than before the law was first enacted in 2010. The numbers in the uninsured this year, by most estimates, Obamacare may be a flawed law, but in that sense, it is working.

Saturday marks the law's second open-enrollment period — a critical phase in Obamacare's growth. But here's where the numbers begin to vary.

On Monday, the Obama administration



Kim Kyung-Hoon/AP

### Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Beijing on Monday.

estimated that 9.1 million people would sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act by the end of 2015. That's several million fewer than most independent projections and those of the Congressional Budget Office, according to The New York Times. The CBO's estimate: 13 million in 2015.

Anne Pilipic, the president of the non-profit Enroll America, which advocates for expanded health care coverage, told The Times that the White House had taken "a pragmatic, analytical approach" to its 2015 projections. It's easy to understand why.

Memories of Obamacare's botched rollout and website issues haven't fully subsided. What was to be the shining moment of Obama's presidency was overwhelmed by a website that crashed under pressure. Months went by before the story about the Affordable Care Act wasn't a story about an administration with a balky, ineffective online sign-up.

Today, the Obama administration's reserved projections are in sharp contrast to its bold predictions of the past. Understandable? Yes. But it's a byproduct of previous mistakes, an administration that would rather undersell the law's potential now instead of being forced to address missed goals tomorrow.

As we've seen for the last six years, this White House has excelled at messaging and timing, especially on matters as important as the Affordable Care Act. Lowballing its projections on Obamacare may limit future disappointments, but it's hardly the tact of a confident administration.

### FBI ruse put reporters at risk The Seattle Times

Americans of every stripe should echo The Associated Press' recent demand that the FBI never present its agents as journalists again.

This appeal comes after the FBI acknowledged two weeks ago that one of its agents posed as an AP reporter to snare a teenager making bomb threats against a Thurston County high school in 2007.

FBI Director James Comey argued in a Nov. 7 letter to The New York Times that, when such tactics are employed, they are done "reasonably and legally," and are subject to close court supervision.

Journalists disagree, and so should anyone who values the fundamental freedoms of American life. If sources think that journalists are cooperating with law enforcement, or actually are law enforcement officers, those sources with important information to tell would not trust reporters. Stories would not be shared, investigated, published. The watchdog would not be as strong.

The AP's demand is grounded in the

constitutional guarantee that the press be free from any government interference. More fundamentally, that First Amendment aegis preserves the freedom to share ideas and convey information vital to a functioning republic.

By impersonating journalists, the FBI directly infringes upon the freedoms the Founding Fathers explicitly safeguarded in the Bill of Rights.

Instead of ensuring the safety of Americans, the secretive intelligence agency could be endangering the lives of America's truth-tellers. Such impersonations could impair the safety of journalists if violent sources, at home and abroad, suspect they are cops instead. ...

This deception undermines core American principles. It should stop.

### Tension greets China, Japan The Washington Post

China's Xi Jinping and Japan's Shinzo Abe were careful not to smile when they met in Beijing on Monday — the first encounter between the leaders of Asia's two biggest powers since either took office.

Their 25-minute get-together nevertheless represented a welcome step toward easing tensions in East Asia. At the beginning of the year, the two nations were embroiled in a deepening conflict over a string of tiny islands, exacerbated by the expansive foreign policy ambitions of both leaders. While neither the dispute nor the conflicting agendas have been resolved, the dangerous downward spiral of Japanese-Chinese relations has at least been arrested.

For that, credit mostly goes to Abe, who played suitor to Xi in seeking a meeting at the Asian summit meeting in Beijing. The Japanese leader has rankled leaders and public opinion around the region with nationalist rhetoric and gestures such as a visit to a Tokyo shrine where war criminals are among those honored. But Abe's government has mostly been on the defensive in the dispute over the Senkaku (or Diaoyu) Islands, which have long been under Japan's control but have been the target of increasingly assertive claims — and naval incursions — by China.

Xi, who during his first two years in power has overseen a disturbing series of aggressive acts toward other countries in the South China Sea, has played on easily roused public hostility toward Japan. While ostensibly trying to meet Abe, the Chinese president set a couple of tough conditions for reversing himself: that Japan acknowledge that the sovereignty of the islands was disputed and that Abe pledge not to return to the Yasukuni shrine. In the end both issues were finessed. Abe made no public promise, but dispatched emissaries who privately assured Beijing he

planned no future Yasukuni visits, and the two governments agreed on a statement saying they had "different positions" on the islands.

The fragile accord is a help to President Barack Obama, who has been hoping to build closer ties to Xi even while supporting U.S. allies — including the Philippines as well as Japan — in the redefining of their exaggerated territorial claims. Obama usefully made it clear this year that the United States would come to Japan's defense in the event of an attack on its forces around the islands, but he also pressed Abe to avoid further nationalist gestures. Asian fears that China might be emboldened by Obama's reluctance to use U.S. hard power in Syria or Ukraine, voiced by numerous official visitors to Washington, have not borne out.

That leaves unanswered whether the Sino-Japanese summit reflects a stepping back by Xi from the aggressive foreign policy of his first two years. With his power in Beijing apparently consolidated, and myriad domestic problems to address, that would be a logical tactical step for a ruler with eight years left in his prospective tenure. Xi's glow as he shook Abe's hand did not seem to foretell such a change. But Abe expressed optimism Tuesday that Japan and China would "return to our basic focus of mutually beneficial and strategic relations." We hope China shares that goal.

### Cooperate on foreign policy (Minneapolis) Star Tribune

Congressional Republicans resoundingly won the midterm election battle. Now the GOP needs to pivot from campaigning to governing, and President Barack Obama will need to work with the new majority despite the divide, and even enmity, that separates them.

Foreign policy offers both sides a chance to cooperate, if not coalesce, on shared objectives.

Obama's first part, Obama should better articulate his foreign policy strategy. Adversaries and allies alike perceive America as close to rudderless, which can invite aggression and even military miscalculation that could necessitate U.S. force. And Congress should consider that hobbling Obama further only exacerbates the foreign policy fecklessness that the GOP campaigned against. Instead, it's time to bilaterally advance U.S. interests.

Obama has signaled that he will ask Congress for authorization to use force in the fight against the Islamic State group. That is long overdue, and should spur a spirited dialogue about what Obama's stated goal of "degrading and ultimately destroying" the Islamic State really means.

Those who think the fight should be left to local forces will have their say. Those who concur with the growing consensus that U.S. strategy is woefully on "moderate" forces in Syria is unworkable should make their case, too, and most important, weigh in on whether to deploy combat troops. Doing so is the most profound decision a president makes, and Congress should shelter our sort of the decision.

Of course, an effective foreign policy must rely on more than force. The most effective tool, diplomacy, can be bolstered by free-trade agreements. Two major pacts are pending: The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a 12-nation free trade agreement under negotiation with the United States, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. The other proposed deal, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, would link the U.S. and the European Union.

As the world's most innovative and productive nations, the U.S. and Europe stand to benefit from free-trade agreements, despite the disruption they can cause.

Politics stopping at the water's edge may be an anachronism of a more cohesive era. For Congress and Obama, however, presenting a more united front on critical foreign policy issues should be a bipartisan goal.



# NHL/MLB

## Roundup

# Kesler's hat trick lifts Ducks

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Ryan Kesler jumped into the Freeway Faceoff with both skates, getting the puck past Jonathan Quick three times and leading the Anaheim Ducks to a thrilling comeback victory on Wednesday night.

Looks like the Ducks' rivalry with the Los Angeles Kings is still sizzling from last season's playoff meeting — and now it has a prominent new player.

Kesler netted two third-period goals and scored again in the shootout, lifting the Ducks over the Kings 6-5.

Ryan Getzlaf scored the tying goal with 1:39 left in regulation as Anaheim survived a dramatic finish to the Southern California rivals' first meeting since the Kings beat the Ducks in seven grueling second-round postseason games last spring.

After he caught his breath from matching his career-high with three points, Kesler knew he was in the middle of something special.

"It was intense and fun," said Kesler, who arrived from Vancouver in a major summer trade. "It was two good teams going against each other. It kind of had the same feeling as the Kings-Canucks rivalry."

Those clubs have a rivalry, all right — but this local derby is a bit bigger. The playoff series added red spark to what had been a purely geographical rivalry, and the regular-season series continues Saturday at Staples Center.

"People know what the rivalry is all about now," said Anaheim coach Bruce Boudreau, whose club had dropped its last three games in shootouts. "We never quit. I thought we played so hard. We kept coming back, and I think we got tired of losing in the shootout."

Jacob Silfverberg got his first goal of the season and scored in the shootout for the Ducks. Jason LaBarbera made 14 saves for Anaheim after relieving Frederik Andersen, stopping Jeff Carter and Anze Kopitar in the shootout.

**Maple Leafs 6, Bruins 1** | Phil Kessel scored twice, and host Toronto tallied four goals during a nine-minute stretch to chase Vezina Trophy winner Tuukka Rask and rout Boston.



KYUSUNG GONG, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

The Ducks' Ryan Kesler, right, controls the puck against the Kings in Wednesday. Kesler helped Anaheim rally in the Freeway Faceoff.

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference										Friday's games													
Atlantic Division					Metropolitan Division					Central Division					Pacific Division								
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts				
Tampa Bay	16	11	4	2	24	Pittsburgh	14	10	3	0	21	Washington	15	7	5	3	17	Vancouver	16	10	3	2	22
Montreal	16	11	4	1	23	N.Y. Islanders	15	10	5	0	20	N.Y. Rangers	15	7	5	2	16	Anaheim	16	10	3	3	23
Toronto	16	11	4	2	20	Philadelphia	14	7	5	2	16	Winnipeg	14	7	5	2	14	Los Angeles	15	8	4	3	19
Boston	17	10	5	2	20	N.J. Devils	15	7	6	2	16	Minnesota	14	7	7	0	14	San Jose	17	9	6	2	20
Detroit	15	7	3	5	19	New Jersey	16	7	7	2	16	Colorado	17	7	7	3	13	Los Angeles	15	8	4	3	19
Ottawa	15	4	4	4	18	Carolina	14	5	6	3	13	Dallas	15	6	4	4	14	St. Louis	15	6	4	4	14
Florida	13	5	4	4	14	Columbus	15	10	2	2	22	San Jose	17	9	6	2	20	San Jose	17	9	6	2	20
Washington	15	12	2	6	31						Edmonton	15	6	8	1	13	Edmonton	15	6	8	1	13	
											Los Angeles	15	6	8	1	13	Los Angeles	15	6	8	1	13	

Western Conference											
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts		
Nashville	16	10	3	2	22	Chicago	16	9	6	1	19
St. Louis	15	10	4	1	21	Winnipeg	14	7	7	0	14
Chicago	16	9	6	1	19	Minnesota	14	7	7	0	14
St. Louis	15	10	4	1	21	Colorado	17	7	7	3	13
Chicago	16	9	6	1	19	Colorado	17	7	7	3	13
St. Louis	15	10	4	1	21						

Maple Leafs 6, Bruins 1										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	
Boston	0	1	0	0	Toronto	1	4	1	0	1-1
Toronto	1	4	1	0						

Wednesday										
Maple Leafs 6, Bruins 1					Boston 0, Bruins 1					
Boston	0	1	0	0	Toronto	1	4	1	0	1-1
Toronto	1	4	1	0						

Tuesday's games									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Chicago 3, Tampa Bay 2	N.Y. Islanders 6, Colorado 2	N.Y. Rangers 5, Pittsburgh 0	Washington 2, Columbus 2	Montreal 3, Winnipeg 0	Florida 4, San Jose 1	St. Louis 6, Buffalo 1	Nashville 3, Edmonton 2	Dallas 4, Arizona 3	Vancouver 4, Ottawa 3

Wednesday's games									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Anaheim 6, Los Angeles 5	Toronto 6, Boston 1	Colorado at N.Y. Rangers	Winnipeg at Carolina	Boston at Montreal	San Jose at Tampa Bay	Nashville at St. Louis	Buffalo at Minnesota	Arizona at Calgary	Ottawa at Edmonton

Thursday's games									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Colorado at N.Y. Rangers	Winnipeg at Carolina	Boston at Montreal	San Jose at Tampa Bay	Nashville at St. Louis	Buffalo at Minnesota	Arizona at Calgary	Ottawa at Edmonton	Dallas at Los Angeles	

# Kershaw, Kluber win Cy Young Awards

By BEN WALKER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Everyone expected Clayton Kershaw to pitch a shutout, and he did — a unanimous choice for the NL Cy Young Award.

Corey Kluber edging out Felix Hernandez for the AL pitching prize, that was no sure thing.

Now, the big question: Is Kershaw the Most Valuable Player, too?

"I can't even really fathom it happening," Kershaw said on a conference call Wednesday, shortly after winning his third Cy Young in four seasons.

Kershaw led the majors in victories and ERA and threw a no-hitter, going 21-3 with a 1.77 ERA for the NL West champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

The 26-year-old lefty with a wicked curveball was to find out Thursday if he's the first NL pitcher to sweep the MVP and Cy Young honors since Bob Gibson in 1968.

"I think a lot of things probably are to go right," Kershaw said, adding, "there are so many people out there who don't think a pitcher should win."

Pittsburgh center fielder Andrew McCutchen, who won the NL MVP last year, and Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton are competing against Kershaw for the honor.

"Everybody's going to have an opinion" on the position player-vs.-pitcher debate, Kershaw said.

His thought? "I don't really have an opinion either way," he said, diplomatically.

"I think most valuable is such a tough thing to assess," he said.

Kershaw won the Cy Young for the second year in a row, getting all 30 first-place votes in balloting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Johnny Cueto of Cincinnati was second with 112 points, followed by Adam Wainwright of St. Louis (97) and World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner of San Francisco (28).

Voting was completed before the postseason began. Kershaw went 0-2 with a 7.82 ERA in a Division Series loss to St. Louis, leaving him at 1-5 with a 5.12 ERA in his playoff career.

Kluber's dominant second half headed him down 17 of 30 first-place votes and 169 points, while Seattle ace King Felix got 13 firsts and 159 points. Chris Sale of the

Chicago White Sox was third with 78 points.

"I think I'm definitely surprised," said Kluber, who "just assumed" Hernandez would win.

Nicknamed "Klubert" for his stoic demeanor, his plans after the announcement were far from flashy.

"Probably go home and give my daughters a bath," he said.

A 28-year-old righty, Kluber went 18-9 to tie for the AL lead in wins. He had a 2.44 ERA in his first full major league season and 269 strikeouts, two behind league leader David Price.

Kluber has consecutive 14-strikeout games in September, not done since Arizona's Randy Johnson in 2004. He became Cleveland's fourth Cy Young winner, joining Gaylord Perry (1972), CC Sabathia (2007) and Cliff Lee (2008).

To have your name mentioned along with theirs in certain categories is humbling," Kluber said.

Hernandez, who won the AL award in 2010, went 15-6 with a league-leading 2.14 ERA. He struck out 248 in 236 innings.

"I don't know what to say. That was tough," Hernandez said. "A little disappointed."

Kershaw joined Dodgers Hall of Fame lefty Sandy Koufax as one of nine pitchers with at least three Cy Youngs. Roger Clemens leads the list with seven.

The previous pitcher with an unanimous win was Detroit's Justin Verlander, who took the AL Cy Young and MVP in 2011. A year earlier, Philadelphia's Roy Halladay unanimously won the NL Cy Young.

Verlander is among six AL pitchers to take the Cy Young and MVP since Gibson's NL sweep nearly a half-century ago.

Kershaw became the first pitcher to lead the majors in ERA for four straight years.

## Scoreboard

Cy Young Voting									
Total points on a 7-4-3-2-1 basis									
Player	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total			
Kluber, Cleveland	17	11	4	2	0	169			
Hernandez, Sea	13	17	0	0	0	159			
Sale, ChiW	0	2	19	5	3	78			

NL									
Player	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total			
Kershaw, LAD	30	23	4	1	0	210			
Cueto, Cin	11	0	0	0	0	111			
Wainwright, StL	7	23	1	0	0	97			

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NBA

Roundup

# Daws, Pelicans run past Lakers

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Anthony Davis and Tyreke Evans were off and running the moment Kobe Bryant's 20-foot jumper bounced off the rim and into the hands of 7-foot Pelicans center Omer Asik.

Evans took the outlet pass, drove forcefully toward the left side of the lane and then flicked aloft an underhanded lob that Davis threw down for a crowd-plesing, alley-oop dunk.

Solid defense against the only significant scoring threat the reigning Los Angeles Lakers possess right now created opportunities for New Orleans to run. Davis had 25 points, 12 rebounds and six blocked shots, and the Pelicans opened a 23-point lead on the way to a 109-102 victory Wednesday night.

"When we continue to defend like that, the offense is going to come," said Pelicans coach Monty Williams, whose team had 18 fast-break points. "When you don't have to call plays because you are running in transition it is hard for the opposing team to set up."

Evans had 19 points and 11 assists for New Orleans one game after going 2-for-14 in a loss at Cleveland on Monday night.

"I was definitely disappointed in the Cleveland game," Evans said. "I knew I was going to bounce back and be aggressive and that's what I did."

Ryan Anderson and Jrue Holiday each added 17 points for New Orleans.

Bryant finished with 33, the most a player has scored against New Orleans this season, but had to take 28 shots to do it. He missed 18, one night after setting the NBA record for most missed field goals in a career.

"We all just tried to corral him," Holiday said. "We just wanted to give Kobe a lot of different looks, try to make him uncomfortable."

Bryant sounded less concerned about his offense than his team's defense.

New Orleans dominated inside, outscoring Los Angeles 60-34 in the paint. The Pelicans shot 54.9 percent, compared to 41.7 percent for the Lakers.

"It should be fixable," Bryant said. "We just need to play the lane and take care of the paint."

**Rockets 113, Timberwolves 101:** At Mexico City, Dwight Howard had 22 points and 10 rebounds, James Harden scored 23 points and added 10 assists, and Houston beat Minnesota in the first regular-season game played south of the border since 1997.

Howard, who missed the Rockets' only loss of the season Saturday against Golden State, came back strong. He was 9-for-16 from the field and blocked four shots in 33 minutes.

**Pacers 81, Heat 75:** Chris Copeland scored 17 points and put his team ahead to stay on a layup with 43 seconds left, and Roy Hibbert had 16 points and 15 rebounds to help undermanned Indiana beat host Miami.

Miami had three late shots at the lead, but a jumper by Luol Deng missed, Hibbert blocked a dunk attempt by Deng, and Chris Bosh airballed a three-pointer.

**Trail Blazers 130, Nuggets 113:** Damian Lillard had 27 points and a season-high nine assists as visiting Portland used a huge first half to hand skidding Denver its sixth straight defeat.

The Trail Blazers led 84-50 at halftime, one basket from matching the team record for points in a half (86) set against Golden State on Jan. 5, 1986.

**Wizards 107, Pistons 103:** John Wall had 27 points and 11 assists as host Washington held off Detroit.

The teams traded the lead on five consecutive baskets before Wall's jumper with 1:11 to play put the Wizards ahead 101-100. Marcin Gortat, who had 13 points and 14 rebounds, dunked with 38 seconds to play, giving Washington a three-point lead.

**Thunder 109, Celtics 94:** Reggie Jackson had 28 points and eight assists, and Anthony Morrow scored 28 in lift injury-riddled Oklahoma City over host Boston.

It was the second win in six games for the Thunder, who are missing stars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

**Magic 97, Knicks 95:** Evan Fournier scored a career-high 28 points and Orlando bounced back from a poor finish with a good one, handing host New York its sixth straight loss.

Nikola Vucevic added 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Magic, who led by 11 after three quarters in Toronto a night earlier, only to lose 104-100. This time, they trailed 85-83 midway through the final period before taking control.

Carmelo Anthony scored 27 points for the Knicks, who were held in 19 in the fourth quarter and still haven't reached 100 this season.

**Pelicans 100, Jazz 97:** Paul Millsap had 30 points and 17 rebounds, and Jeff Teague added 17 points to help Atlanta beat Utah.

Kyle Korver's three-pointer from the left wing with 58 seconds to play put the Hawks up 100-97 and marked the game's 18th lead change.

Alec Burks finished with 22 points and Derrick Favors scored 20 for the Jazz.

**Suns 112, Nets 104:** Gerald Green came off the bench to score 28 points and host Phoenix erased a 19-point deficit to beat Brooklyn.

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	4	3	.571
Brooklyn	3	3	.500
Boston	2	2	.500
New York	2	2	.500
Philadelphia	1	3	.250

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Washington	2	2	.500
Atlanta	4	3	.571
Orlando	4	3	.571
Charlotte	3	3	.500
Indiana	3	3	.500
Oklahoma City	3	3	.500

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Chicago	2	2	.500
Cleveland	3	3	.500
Minnesota	3	3	.500
Indiana	3	3	.500
Detroit	6	2	.750

Western Conference			
Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Memphis	7	1	.875
Dallas	5	3	.625
New Orleans	4	3	.571
San Antonio	4	3	.571
Portland	3	3	.500
Oklahoma City	3	3	.500
Utah	2	2	.500
Minnesota	2	2	.500
Denver	6	2	.750

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Golden State	2	2	.500
Oklahoma City	2	2	.500
Phoenix	2	2	.500
L.A. Lakers	1	2	.333

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Golden State	2	2	.500
Phoenix	2	2	.500
Portland	2	2	.500
San Antonio	1	2	.333
L.A. Lakers	1	2	.333

Tuesday's games			
Time	Home	Visitor	Score
7:00	LA Lakers	Orlando	107-103
7:00	LA Lakers	Phoenix	107-95
7:00	LA Lakers	Portland	109-94
7:00	LA Lakers	San Antonio	109-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Utah	109-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Washington	107-103
7:00	LA Lakers	Atlanta	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Charlotte	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Chicago	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Cleveland	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Denver	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Detroit	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Golden State	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Indiana	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Los Angeles	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Miami	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Memphis	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Minnesota	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	New Orleans	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	New York	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Philadelphia	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Pittsburgh	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Sacramento	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	San Diego	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Toronto	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Washington	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Wizards	107-94
7:00	LA Lakers	Zion	107-94



**GERALD HERBERT/AP**  
Pelicans forward Anthony Davis dunks during the second half on Wednesday against the Lakers. New Orleans won 109-102.

### Suns 112, Nets 104

**BROOKLYN** — Johnson 7-16 6-7 21, Garnett 5-8 2-12, Lopez 6-13 4-16, Williams 5-10 2-2 14, Bogdanovic 4-10 4-4 14, Televotic 6-11 0-0 15, Jack 2-4 4-4 8, Mills-Pepper 0-2 1-4, Anderson 0-2 2-2, Kirilenko 0-0 0-0 0, Gutierrez 0-0 0-0 0, Jefferson 0-0 0-0 0, Total Fours—25 32-104.

**PHOENIX** — Marc Morris 3-7 0-0 6, Mark Morris 4-11 0-0 15, M.Plumlee 4-7 0-0 8, Bledsoe 4-5 2-2 11, G.Dragic 7-15 1-1 18, Tucker 2-3 2-6, Len 2-1 2-5, Tolliver 0-0 0-0, Thomas 3-13 9-23, Green 7-15 11-22 28, Totals 39-81 26-29 112.

**Brooklyn** 29 34 21 20-104  
**Phoenix** 17 32 29 34-112

Three-point Goals—Brooklyn 9-21 (Televotic 4-8, Bogdanovic 2-4, Williams 2-5, Johnson 1-3, Jack 0-1), Phoenix 8-24 (G.Dragic 3-6, Thomas 3-8, Bledsoe 1-1, Mark Morris 1-2, Tolliver 0-1, Marc Morris 0-1, Tucker 0-1, Green 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Brooklyn 49 (Garnett 10), Phoenix 49 (M.Plumlee 10). Assists—Brooklyn 17 (Williams 5), Phoenix 25 (Phenic 22). Technicals—Tucker 4, L.S.H. (R.O.S.).

### Pelicans 109, Lakers 102

**LA LAKERS** — Johnson 4-9 1-11 10, Boucher 3-15 4-8, Hill 2-9 2-3, Lin 4-11 6-9 15, Bryant 10-28 8-33 5, Davis 3-6 2-2 8, Price 8-10 0-0, Henry 1-2 0-2, Clarkson 3-2 4-8 8, Sacre 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 38-84 25-32 102.

**NEW ORLEANS** — Evans 9-16 12 19, A.Davis 12-16 14 25, Asik 3-1 2-7, Holiday 8-17 0-0 20, Anderson 2-8 3-7, Babbitt 1-2 0-0, Anderson 7-12 0-0 17, Rivers 3-6 1-2 8, Al Jefferson 2-4 5-6, Withey 0-0 0-0 0. Total Fours—113 29 23 34-109.

**New Orleans** 29 34 21 20-109  
**Los Angeles** 23 28 34 20-102

Three-point Goals—L.A. Lakers 7-21 (Bryant 5-11, Lin 1-3, Johnson 1-5, Price 0-2), New Orleans 8-19 (Anderson 3-7, Evans 2-8, Babbitt 1-1, Rivers 1-2, Holiday 0-2), New Orleans 17 (Anderson 3-7, Evans 2-8, Babbitt 1-1, Rivers 1-2, Holiday 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 47 (Davis 11), New Orleans 53 (Asik 13). Assists—L.A. Lakers 15 (Bryant 5), New Orleans 24 (Totals Fours—36 49-112). Ejected—Price, A—17,359 (16,867).

### Pacers 81, Heat 75

**INDIANA** — Copeland 7-17 0-0 17, Scoll 3-15 4-8, Hill 2-9 2-3, Lin 4-11 6-9 15, Bryant 10-28 8-33 5, Davis 3-6 2-2 8, Price 8-10 0-0, Henry 1-2 0-2, Clarkson 3-2 4-8 8, Sacre 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 38-84 25-32 102.

**MIAMI** — Deng 2-10 0-0 5, Williams 5-6 0-0, Hibbert 7-14 2-2 16, Sloan 5-9 0-0, Wade 8-16 2-0, Anderson 0-1 0-0 8, Gortat 1-2 0-0 2, Anderson 7-12 0-0 17, Rivers 3-6 1-2 8, Napier 1-3 0-0 3, Enns 1-1 0-0 3, Haslem 0-0 0-0 0. Total Fours—29 28 21 34-109.

### Thunder 109, Celtics 94

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Thomas 3-5 1-2 7, Ibaka 5-10 0-0 11, Adams 3-8 3-4 9, Jackson 8-15 1-6 23, Harden 8-23 2-23 23, Morrow 11-16 2-22, Perkins 3-6 0-6 6, Collison 4-10 2-2 12, Telfair 1-2 2-4 2, Total Fours—109 27 34 21 34-109.

**BOSTON** — Green 4-14 5-14 11, Sullinger 10-17 0-7, Brantley 1-12 4, Young 1-5 0-0 2, Bradley 7-19 1-17, Zeller 1-10 0-0 2, O'Quinn 1-2 0-0 2, Foster 0-0 0-0 0, 0-0 0-0, Wallace 0-0 0-0 0, Young 1-1 0-0 3, Totals 37-87 13-13 94.

### Trail Blazers 130, Nuggets 113

**PORTLAND** — Crabbe 2-6 2-22 7, Aldridge 4-7 1-12, Lopez 8-13 3-18,illard 10-16 2-27, Matthews 4-10 2-12, McCollum 4-8 2-15, Wright 2-4 0-0 4, Barton 2-5 0-6, Barton 2-5 0-6, Leonard 1-2 2-3, Wright 1-2 2-4, Robinson 1-2 2-3, Chandler 3-6 2-4, Teague 1-1 1-1, Faried 3-8 4-7, Wright 2-4 0-0 4, Barton 2-5 0-6, Barton 2-5 0-6, Hayward 7-11, Quainance 5 (Millsap 27). Assists—Utah 28 (Burke 11), Atlanta 23 (Bryant 10), Portland 22 (Lopez 10), Atlanta 12 (Technicals—Atlanta defensive three seconds, A—12,959 (18,729).

### Trail Blazers 130, Nuggets 113

**PORTLAND** — Crabbe 2-6 2-22 7, Aldridge 4-7 1-12, Lopez 8-13 3-18,illard 10-16 2-27, Matthews 4-10 2-12, McCollum 4-8 2-15, Wright 2-4 0-0 4, Barton 2-5 0-6, Barton 2-5 0-6, Leonard 1-2 2-3, Wright 1-2 2-4, Robinson 1-2 2-3, Chandler 3-6 2-4, Teague 1-1 1-1, Faried 3-8 4-7, Wright 2-4 0-0 4, Barton 2-5 0-6, Barton 2-5 0-6, Hayward 7-11, Quainance 5 (Millsap 27). Assists—Utah 28 (Burke 11), Atlanta 23 (Bryant 10), Portland 22 (Lopez 10), Atlanta 12 (Technicals—Atlanta defensive three seconds, A—12,959 (18,729).

### Trail Blazers 130, Nuggets 113

**PORTLAND** — Crabbe 2-6 2-22 7, Aldridge 4-7 1-12, Lopez 8-13 3-18,illard 10-16 2-27, Matthews 4-10 2-12, McCollum 4-8 2-15, Wright 2-4 0-0 4, Barton 2-5 0-6, Barton 2-5 0-6, Leonard 1-2 2-3, Wright 1-2 2-4, Robinson 1-2 2-3, Chandler 3-6 2-4, Teague 1-1 1-1, Faried 3-8 4-7, Wright 2-4 0-0 4, Barton 2-5 0-6, Barton 2-5 0-6, Hayward 7-11, Quainance 5 (Millsap 27). Assists—Utah 28 (Burke 11), Atlanta 23 (Bryant 10), Portland 22 (Lopez 10), Atlanta 12 (Technicals—Atlanta defensive three seconds, A—12,959 (18,729).

### Wizards 107, Pistons 103

**WASHINGTON** — Poirier 5-11 2-13, Nene 4-9 0-8, Gortat 7-12 0-2 14, Wall 7-9 12-12, Temple 1-5 4-6 6, Humphries 5-10 2-4 12, Turner 1-3 0-0 2, Butler 7-8 12-18, Seraphin 3-6 0-6, Miller 0-0 2-1 1, Totals 43-83 24-33 107.

**DETROIT** — Smith 3-10 0-6, Monroe 6-6 7-8, Drummond 1-3 0-2 4, Jennings 11-19 7-22, Caldwell-Pope 8-14 0-20, Butler 2-9 0-9, Anthony 0-0 0-0, Singler 2-7 1-2 6, Jerrett 2-3 2-2 6, Augustin 3-7 3-8, Totals 38-81 22-20 103.

### Wizards 107, Pistons 103

**WASHINGTON** — Poirier 5-11 2-13, Nene 4-9 0-8, Gortat 7-12 0-2 14, Wall 7-9 12-12, Temple 1-5 4-6 6, Humphries 5-10 2-4 12, Turner 1-3 0-0 2, Butler 7-8 12-18, Seraphin 3-6 0-6, Miller 0-0 2-1 1, Totals 43-83 24-33 107.

**DETROIT** — Smith 3-10 0-6, Monroe 6-6 7-8, Drummond 1-3 0-2 4, Jennings 11-19 7-22, Caldwell-Pope 8-14 0-20, Butler 2-9 0-9, Anthony 0-0 0-0, Singler 2-7 1-2 6, Jerrett 2-3 2-2 6, Augustin 3-7 3-8, Totals 38-81 22-20 103.

### Wizards 107, Pistons 103

**WASHINGTON** — Poirier 5-11 2-13, Nene 4-9 0-8, Gortat 7-12 0-2 14, Wall 7-9 12-12, Temple 1-5 4-6 6, Humphries 5-10 2-4 12, Turner 1-3 0-0 2, Butler 7-8 12-18, Seraphin 3-6 0-6, Miller 0-0 2-1 1, Totals 43-83 24-33 107.

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### Wizards 107, Pistons 103

**WASHINGTON** — Poirier 5-11 2-13, Nene 4-9 0-8, Gortat 7-12 0-2 14, Wall 7-9 12-12, Temple 1-5 4-6 6, Humphries 5-10 2-4 12, Turner 1-3 0-0 2, Butler 7-8 12-18, Seraphin 3-6 0-6, Miller 0-0 2-1 1, Totals 43-83 24-33 107.

**DETROIT** — Smith 3-10 0-6, Monroe 6-6 7-8, Drummond 1-3 0-2 4, Jennings 11-19 7-22, Caldwell-Pope 8-14 0-20, Butler 2-9 0-9, Anthony 0-0 0-0, Singler 2-7 1-2 6, Jerrett 2-3 2-2 6, Augustin 3-7 3-8, Totals 38-81 22-20 103.

### Hawks 100, Jazz 97

**UTAH** — Hayward 5-16 0-3, Favors 9-11 2-4 20, Kanter 7-11 0-22, Burke 5-15 0-11, Burke 3-9 3-11, Exum 1-5 0-0 2, Booker 5-7 0-10, Gortat 2-1-13, Ingles 0-2 0-0 0, Clark 1-2 0-0 2, Novak 0-0 0-0 0.

**ATLANTA** — Selfolotsha 5-8 0-10, Millsap 2-4 0-0 2, Anderson 2-1-13, Ingles 0-2 0-0 0, Clark 1-2 0-0 2, Novak 0-0 0-0 0.

### Hawks 100, Jazz 97

**UTAH** — Hayward 5-16 0-3, Favors 9-11 2-4 20, Kanter 7-11 0-22, Burke 5-15 0-11, Burke 3-9 3-11, Exum 1-5 0-0 2, Booker 5-7 0-10, Gortat 2-1-13, Ingles 0-2 0-0 0, Clark 1-2 0-0 2, Novak 0-0 0-0 0.

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**ATLANTA** — Selfolotsha 5-8 0-10, Millsap 2-4 0-0 2, Anderson 2-1-13, Ingles 0-2 0-0 0, Clark 1-2 0-0 2, Novak 0-0 0-0 0.

### Hawks 100, Jazz 97

**UTAH** — Hayward 5-16 0-3, Favors 9-11 2-4 20, Kanter 7-11 0-22, Burke 5-15 0-11, Burke 3-9 3-11, Exum 1-5 0-0 2, Booker 5-7 0-10, Gortat 2-1-13, Ingles 0-2 0-0 0, Clark 1-2 0-0 2, Novak 0-0 0-0 0.

**ATLANTA** — Selfolotsha 5-8 0-10, Millsap 2-4 0-0 2, Anderson 2-1-13, Ingles 0-2 0-0 0, Clark 1-2 0-0 2, Novak 0-0 0-0 0.

NFL



PHIL MASTURZA/Akron Beacon Journal/MCT

Cleveland Browns punter Spencer Lanning is kicked in the head by Pittsburgh return man Antonio Brown on Sept. 7 in Pittsburgh. At 5-foot-10 and 180 pounds, Brown is small by NFL standards. But that hasn't seemed to make any difference to the wide receiver, who has become of Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's favorite targets.

# Small size, big impact

## Shorter, lighter receivers are proving worth

By WILL GRAVES  
The Associated Press

### PITTSBURGH

**T**he NFL's leading receiver — the one taken in the sixth round of the 2010 draft as an unknown, undersized project — would like to have a word.

"I'm not a little guy," Antonio Brown says.

Point out that at 5-foot-10 and 180 pounds the frenetic Pittsburgh Steelers star is hardly considered an NFL prototype, and Brown shrugs.

"I'm not a little guy," he repeats.

And the scouts who believed he was a fringe prospect at best four years ago, favoring the likes of Marcus Easley, Kerry Meier and Dezmon Briscoe, all 6-2 or taller, all no longer in the league?

"They made a mistake," Brown said with a smile.

Freed by a crackdown on illegal contact in the secondary, bolstered by creative sets designed to get him in open space, and emboldened by a chip on his shoulder that never seems to go away, Brown is spearheading a mini-revolution at his position.

Scooch over, Calvin Johnson. Make room, Julio Jones. Hold up there, AJ Green and Dez Bryant. You've got company.

Midway through the season, the NFL's most electric playmakers are the guys whose modest frames belie big-time numbers.

After 10 weeks of play, Brown's 70 receptions and 1,070 yards receiving are tops in the league and his eight touchdowns are tied for fourth. Brown's childhood buddy TY Hilton of the Indianapolis Colts — generously listed at 5-9 — is third in yards and sixth in yards per catch.

They're not alone. Seven of the top 11 players in yards receiving are under 6 feet tall. Emmanuel Sanders (5-11) is developing into Peyton Manning's

### Did you know

Seven of the top 11 players in yards receiving are under 6 feet tall, led by Pittsburgh's Antonio Brown with 1,070 through 10 weeks.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

favorite target in Denver. Golden Tate (5-10) has become so explosive the Lions are soaring even with Johnson — Megatron himself — struggling to stay healthy. Julian Edelman (5-10) is a Wes Welker-type in New England. Washington is a mess but DeSean Jackson (5-10) and his not-a-type 21.8 yards per reception offer the beleaguered franchise and quarterback Robert Griffin III a glimmer of hope.

In Baltimore, a rejuvenated 35-year-old Steve Smith is the old-school boss in the midst of a late-career renaissance. The 5-9 veteran already has four 100-yard receiving games at a time when most guys at his position have evolved into part-time role players if they have a job at all.

"The little guys are coming back to rule the world," Smith said with a laugh. "We're coming back (and) we're here to stay. That's the bottom line. That's what it's about. The big guys, you can throw it up to them but at the end of the day when you want to move the sticks, you have to throw it to the little guys. We move the needle."

They're doing more than that. They're finding the end zone with the same frequency as their larger — and largely higher profile — colleagues.

AP Sports Writers Mike Marot, Emmanuel Sanders, Joseph White in Washington, Genaro Armas in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Rob Maaddi in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Game becoming more positionless

By JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Basketball coaches long ago developed numerical shorthand for positions on the floor to define players' roles and help diagram plays.

The point guard is referred to as the 1, the shooting guard 2, small forward 3, power forward 4 and the center is the 5.

Those numbers don't add up quite as much anymore.

With the game becoming more up-tempo and players developing a wider array of skills, more coaches are willing to throw out

**‘The fact that a big guy is going to play closer — what if you didn't have a big guy?’**

the concept of positions and put their best five players on the floor. Welcome to the era of positionless basketball. “Teams are going smaller and caring more about skill,” UNLV coach Dave Rice said. “There are still some teams that play big — and we still have the ability to do that some — but I think you see more and more across the country (is) positionless basketball, just playing more skilled guys, multiple guys on the floor who can handle the ball, multiple guys who can space the floor and just make plays for each other and share it.”

From the early days of basketball, players' roles were defined by their positions: The point guard distributed the ball, the shooting guard and small forward were the slashers and shooters, the power forward did the heavy lifting inside and the center camped near the rim at both ends of the floor.

Now, true point guards are hard to find, replaced by combo guards who are just as good at scoring as

setting teammates up.

Back-to-the-basket big men are all but extinct; the tallest players on the court are often their teams' best perimeter shooters. Small forwards and shooting guards are essentially the same player on most teams. A player who has one position on offense may switch to another on defense.

Everyone on the floor, it seems, can do a little bit of everything.

“The mentality, especially for a lot of our guys, is they can play any position at any time,” Duke junior forward Amile Jefferson said. “Because they can do a lot of things on the court, they can be at different positions.”

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski has long been a proponent of ignoring positions and has used the concept while coaching Team USA in international competition.

The difference now is positionless basketball has become more prevalent. Except for a handful of teams that have a true point guard or back-down center, college basketball is filled with teams that spread the floor and rely on interchangeable parts.

“Our game doesn't have a position,” Krzyzewski said. “You have five guys working together trying to stop the other five guys from creating a shot. The fact that a big guy is going to play closer — what if you didn't have a big guy?”

Following the example set by big, athletic players like Kevin Durant and LeBron James, the new big kids seem far more interested in losing someone with a crossover dribble or stroking in a three-pointer than shooting a jump hook from 3 feet. Personal coaches and elite travel team coaches have added to skill development, creating taller players with guard-like skills.

And with that, the game has changed, becoming more up-tempo and more reliant on the three-point shot.

AP Basketball Writer Aaron Beard in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this story.



CHARLIE NEIBERG/ALP

Iowa State forward Georges Niang goes into the season 25 pounds lighter than he was a year ago.

# Players shed pounds to hone body of work

By LUKE MEREDITH  
The Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State's Georges Niang was already one of the nation's top players.

Imagine what Niang can do now that he's in shape.

His broken foot in last season's NCAA tournament provided the impetus to fix perhaps the only thing keeping him from becoming an All-American: his fitness.

Niang averaged 16.7 points and 4.5 rebounds last season despite being in less than ideal shape. So Niang set about reshaping his body, and he'll head into the season 25 pounds lighter.

“He's the same old Georges. He's just a little bit more explosive. He's got a little bit more stamina,” Iowa State coach Fred Hoiberg said.

Niang isn't the only notable college basketball player slimmer than ever in 2014-15.

North Carolina's Kennedy Meeks has shed about 50 pounds since arriving on campus as a freshman. NC State's forward Beejay Anya is roughly 60 pounds lighter in his second season.

Tennessee forward Dominic Woodson has dropped nearly 25 pounds in the offseason in an effort to adjust to new coach Donnie Tyndall's up-tempo system. Virginia swingman Justin Anderson has lost close to 15 pounds as he looks for an expanded role this season.

Niang, a 6-foot-7 forward, made himself a star with an array of spin moves and crafty bank shots. He's also an excellent passer — a major plus in coach Fred Hoiberg's space-oriented attack — and has a knack for hitting more

## By the numbers

# 25

Number of pounds Iowa State forward Georges Niang lost between last season and this season.

# 320

Weight of North Carolina's Kennedy Meeks when he arrived on campus a year ago. Now he's at 270.

than three most power forwards would even shoot.

Niang's talents have made him invaluable to the 14th-ranked Cyclones, especially in late-game situations. But Niang noticed he'd get tired as the game went on, and that led to mental mistakes and turnovers in crucial moments.

“By this time last year I felt like I was a little worn out,” Niang said. “I feel rejuvenated and I feel a lot healthier. I took a step in the right direction by helping myself out.”

The 6-9 Meeks showed up in Chapel Hill just more than a year ago at 320 pounds. He dropped to 290 by the start of last season, averaging 7.6 points and 6.1 rebounds.

Meeks is now about 270 pounds. He could very well be one of this season's breakout stars for the sixth-ranked Tar Heels.

“He's more explosive. I want him to be more aggressive thinking. That doesn't mean foul people. Get the ball and go stronger to the basket. You're not carrying 285 to 295 now,” North Carolina coach Roy Williams said.

Anya, who is 6-9, struggled with his weight all season and yet still ranked ninth in the ACC in blocked shots in 2013-14. He's now listed at 295 pounds and, like Meeks, could emerge as one of the ACC's most improved players.

“Now that I'm in better shape, I'm more capable of going up and down the court,” Anya said. “I can go in there for 10-15 minute stretches without them having to take me out.”

SOURCE: The Associated Press



ADAM LAU, KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL/AP

Tennessee forward Dominic Woodson has dropped nearly 25 pounds in the offseason.



ROBERT WILLET, RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER/MCT

Duke junior forward Amile Jefferson says the mentality of many of his teammates is that they can play any position at any time.

AP Sports Writers Aaron Beard in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Joedy McCreary in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Steve Megarage in Knoxville, Tennessee contributed to this report.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Year of the team?

Lack of fantastic freshmen puts focus on depth

By JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

The 2013-14 college basketball season was known as the year of the freshman. With the likes of one-and-doners like Andrew Wiggins, Jabari Parker and Aaron Gordon, it lived up to the billing, too.

This season, the stars aren't shining so bright and it is teams that are on the marquee instead: Kentucky's 12-deep roster, Arizona's loaded squad and the experienced Badgers of Wisconsin.

Year of the team doesn't exactly have the same ring to it, but it's more to the essence of what college basketball is about.

Just look at Kansas. The Jayhawks, ranked No. 5 in The Associated Press preseason poll, lost two lottery picks and may be even better this season.

"This is a team like that in that there's not a first, second or third pick right now," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "I mean, I'm not saying somebody couldn't become that eventually, but right now there's not. But we've got a whole bunch of good players and I'm excited about that because we do have good basketball players."

The team with the highest number of good players, at least on paper, is preseason No. 1 Kentucky.

The Wildcats have another batch of potential first-round NBA picks in John Calipari's latest recruiting class and, in a twist, have many of their star players back from a team that played for a national championship. They are so deep that Calipari is trying a platoon system.

Arizona coach Sean Miller may have his best team yet, which is saying something for a team that's been within seconds of the Final Four twice in three seasons. Wisconsin made it to the Final Four last season and has nearly everyone back, including center Frank Kaminsky. Duke's loaded, too, adding a strong recruiting class headed by preseason All-American Jahil Okafor.

But it's not just about who has the best talent. Chemistry is a big part of which teams make deep March runs.

"I just keep telling our team no championship teams are here in November," Arizona senior point guard T.J. McConnell said. "We can't predict the future. It only matters in March."

Predicting this season's star players could be tough, too, though there are some quality choices.

Kaminsky led the Badgers to the Final Four, is a nightmare matchup as a 7-footer who can shoot and is a preseason All-American. North Carolina point guard Marcus Paige was perhaps college basketball's best go-to player last season. Kentucky has returning stars like big-shot Aaron Harrison, his twin Aaron and athletic 7-footer Willie Cauley-Stein.

The freshmen class might not be quite as sparkly as last season's, but there's definitely talent.

Okafor was the third freshman preseason All-American in five years and could make the Blue Devils quickly forget the loss of Parker to the NBA. Athletic Stanley Johnson could do the same at Arizona, which lost one-and-done forward Aaron Gordon.

Big man Cliff Alexander will be a handful at Kansas and Karl-Anthony Towns might be the most talented player on Kentucky's roster this season.

The conference with the best group of teams will likely be the powerful ACC.

Last season, the ACC picked up Syracuse, Pittsburgh and Notre Dame. Louisville will be a part of the conference this season, giving it four Hall of Fame coaches and grinder of a schedule for its teams.

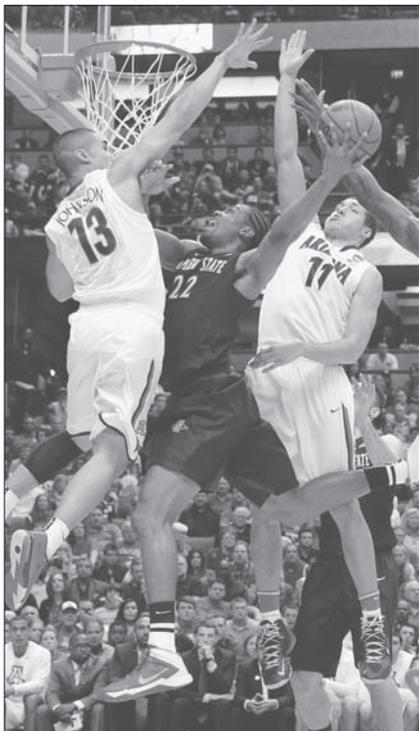
"Based on past successes, this may be the strongest collection of basketball programs in history," ACC Commissioner John Swofford said. "I think historically it certainly falls into that category."

It all begins today.

Back page photos courtesy of the Associated Press.

**'I just keep telling our team no championship teams are here in November. We can't predict the future. It only matters in March.'**

T.J. McConnell  
Arizona senior point guard



JAE C. HONG/AP

San Diego State forward Josh Davis (22) shoots between Arizona guards Nick Johnson (13) and Aaron Gordon (11) in Anaheim, Calif., on March 27. There are fewer star players in college basketball this season, putting the focus back on the team instead of individuals.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Baylor guard Gary Franklin (4) has a shot stopped by Wisconsin forward Frank Kaminsky (44) in Anaheim, Calif., on March 27. No. 3 Wisconsin has one of the nation's top frontcourts with preseason All-American Kaminsky and athletic forward Sam Dekker.

## Badgers, Wildcats among nation's best front lines

By GENARO C. ARMAS  
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Seven-footer Frank Kaminsky's inside-out game won't take opponents by surprise this year. Getting named a preseason All-American kind of takes away any element of surprise that the jump-shooting big man may have had left.

Double team Kaminsky and Sam Dekker can make opponents pay just as dearly from just about anywhere on the court — just like Kaminsky.

This is the predicament that opponents of the third-ranked Badgers must face all season.

Coach Bo Ryan likes big men who can stretch the floor and shoot the three. In Kaminsky and Dekker, he may have his best frontcourt tandem yet in his 14th year in Madison.

A look at some of the other top frontcourts in the country for the college basketball season:

**Arizona:** Goodbye Aaron Gordon, hello Stanley Johnson. The athletic, 6-foot-7 Johnson could be a one-and-done phenom for the Wildcats, who were already fortified with the return of 6-foot-9 junior Brandon Ashley from a broken foot. Seven-footer Caleb Tarzewski averaged 9.9 points last season, while 6-7 Rondae Hollis-Jefferson averaged 9.1 points.

**Duke:** Speaking of freshman phenoms, the 6-11, 270-pound Jahil Okafor is the latest presumed one-year wonder for the Blue Devils. Okafor has already been called "a dominant player" by coach Mike Krzyzewski. A preseason All-American before playing a college minute, Okafor averaged 24 points and 11.3 rebounds as a high school senior. Amile Jefferson, a 6-9 junior, also returns in the frontcourt.

**Kentucky:** The Wildcats keep stockpiling first-year talent, with 6-11 Karl Anthony Towns and 6-10 Trey Lyles joining a frontcourt

that already has returning 7-footers Willie Cauley-Stein and Dakari Johnson.

**Louisville:** Not to be outdone by their in-state rivals, the Cardinals boast preseason All-American forward Montrezl Harrell. The athletic, 6-foot-8 Harrell averaged 14 points and 8.4 rebounds last season. Coach Rick Pitino wants another returnee, 6-5 senior forward Wayne Blackshear (8.2 points) to be more aggressive this year.

**Texas:** Don't mess with Texas in the paint. The stocky Longhorns already return 6-10 center Prince Ibeh, 6-8 forward Jonathan Holmes and 6-9, 285-pound forward Cam Ridley. Prized recruit Myles Turner, a 6-11 forward, could end up being the best of the bunch. The freshman can block shots and hit threes. Coach Rick Barnes has so much depth he has said he has tinkered in practice with a lineup using four forwards to go with point guard Isaiah Taylor.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## RBs in spotlight for Wisconsin-Nebraska

## Defenses know where to focus most attention

By GENARO C. ARMAS  
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — It sounds like good buddies Melvin Gordon and Ameer Abdullah were maintaining radio silence most of this week.

If that's the case, two of the nation's top running backs will communicate next on Saturday, when Gordon and No. 22 Wisconsin host Abdullah and No. 11 Nebraska in what could be a Big Ten West division elimination game.

Let the games begin between the potential Heisman Trophy finalists.

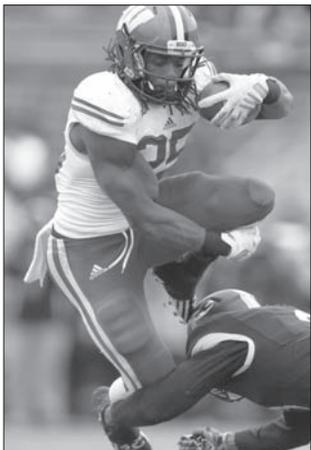
Abdullah texted Gordon on Monday morning. "But he said, 'I'll see you Saturday,' so it don't sound like we'll be talking until then," Abdullah said with a chuckle. "Yeah, that's pretty much what it sounded like, that last text."

Gordon and Abdullah are the headline acts, and deservedly so. Gordon leads the country at 166.8 yards per game; Abdullah leads the country with 187.9 all-purpose yards per game. Their friendly foxtrot on the rushing charts would alone make for a compelling story line.

But this game has much broader implications.

The Cornhuskers (8-1) and Badgers (7-2) are tied with Minnesota atop the Big Ten West with 4-1 league records. The winner gets an edge in claiming the division title and the trip to Indianapolis for the conference championship game.

This is exactly the position that Wisconsin was hoping to be in despite losing to Northwestern 20-14 on Oct. 4. Since then, the Badgers have won four straight by double



AJ MAST/AP

**Wisconsin running back Melvin Gordon, left, leaps over Purdue's Leroy Clark during the second half last Saturday. His duel with Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah is the highlight of the key Big Ten game.**

digits.

The running game is rolling and the nation's top-ranked defense just keeps getting better. It's happening just in time for the defining three-game stretch to end the regular season, with home games against Nebraska and Minnesota sandwiched around a trip to Iowa.

But the Badgers' collective focus is trained entirely on the Cornhuskers.

"It's going to be a great environment for us," coach Gary Andersen said. "It's the only game that matters. A lot of that is coach-talk, but it's really true."

This will be Wisconsin's big-

gest home game under Andersen since he took over here in 2013, though the even-keeled coach himself would rather not get involved in such talk.

"We're going to approach it exactly the same," he said.

It is a sound plan given the overwhelmingly positive results of late. The two-quarterback system with starter Joel Stave and mobile, change-of-pace junior Tanner McEvoy is finally gaining traction to balance the offense.

Until last week, the Badgers alternated Stave and McEvoy by series, with Stave getting the majority of playing time. But in last week's 34-16 win over Purdue,



ERIC GREGORY, THE JOURNAL-STAR/AP

**Nebraska running back Ameer Abdullah is expected to be at full strength for this week's game at Wisconsin after spraining his left knee against Purdue on Nov. 1.**

Stave and McEvoy alternated at times by play.

Stave still saw the majority of snaps, but the system worked with Stave going 19-for-29 for 219 yards with two touchdowns, and McEvoy running for a 13-yard score.

"Just the flexibility within the offense is huge for us," Andersen said.

But make no mistake — all eyes at Camp Randall on Saturday will be on the highly anticipated duel between Gordon and Abdullah. Gordon is pretty sure each team's defense is already a little annoyed by the all the Heisman hype.

"And they're going to be tried



No. 22 Wisconsin (7-2)  
at No. 11 Nebraska (8-1)  
AFN-Xtra  
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET  
5:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

of hearing it come Saturday," Gordon said. "They're going to be ready to shut both of us down. Me and him, we're going to have to run hard — one cut and go."

Only the Badgers' defense would rather throw up a roadblock to Abdullah.

## By the numbers

# 166.8

Yards rushing per game for Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon, tops in the nation. Nebraska's Ameer Abdullah is sixth with 138.9 yards per game.

# 187.89

All-purpose yards per game for Nebraska's Abdullah, No. 1 in the nation among RBs. Wisconsin's Gordon is second with 176 per game.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

## Expansion leaves Big Ten with uneven schedules

By NOAH TRISTER  
The Associated Press

If Minnesota was the Big Ten's West Division, the Golden Gophers will have done it the hard way.

This weekend, coach Jerry Kill's team hosts Ohio State, which just took control of the East by hammering Michigan State on the road. Although the Golden Gophers are tied atop their division with Wisconsin and Nebraska, they're at a bit of a disadvantage. The Badgers and Cornhuskers don't have to face the Buckeyes during the regular season.

"We've just got to do our job. I've said that all along," Kill said. "We've had a tough schedule, and it's not getting any easier, but that's the challenge that our football team has, and we're looking forward to that challenge."

With the addition of Maryland and Rutgers this season, the Big Ten now has two seven-team divisions, and there's no way for everyone in the league to play every-

one else. Instead, each team plays two opponents from the other division, meaning some of the league's top teams won't necessarily face each other.

Right now, No. 11 Nebraska (8-1, 4-1), No. 22 Wisconsin (7-2, 4-1) and Minnesota (7-2, 4-1) are tied atop the West. Nebraska's crossover games this year are against Michigan State and Rutgers, and the Cornhuskers already lost to the Spartans. Wisconsin beat Rutgers and Maryland handily. Minnesota beat Michigan and now here come the eighth-ranked Buckeyes.

Advantage, Wisconsin.

"With new teams coming in from Maryland and Rutgers and realignment and those type of things, those games, it'll circle back around," Kill said. "It's part of it, and we understand it from adding teams."

The schedule may hurt Ohio State as well. The Buckeyes made a major statement last weekend with their 49-37 victory at Michigan State — the first Big Ten loss for the Spartans since 2012. But even if Ohio State beats everyone it plays from the Big Ten,

it's hard to say how much that will impress college football's playoff committee.

Before beating Michigan State, the Buckeyes' best victory this season was probably against Maryland or Penn State, and neither of those wins was much of a head turner for a team climbing back in the polls from a two-touchdown loss at home to unranked Virginia Tech. If Ohio State had a chance to play both Nebraska and Wisconsin, the Buckeyes might be able to bolster their résumé a bit, but their best-case scenario now is probably a win over one of those two teams in the Big Ten title game.

Contrast that with the Big 12, in which each team plays all nine of its conference rivals. Teams like TCU and Baylor don't have to worry about missing a chance to earn a quality win.

The Big Ten is going to a nine-game conference schedule in 2016, so it will be marginally harder for the top teams in different divisions to miss each other during the regular season.

"I'm sure there will always be some questions, year in and year out. Who's going to be in the driver seat when you get late in the year? And who's playing well? Who's not playing well?" Wisconsin coach Gary Andersen said. "But nine games should definitely help that. We'll have more cross-over games, so you're going to have more — whatever you want to call those — the quality matchups or big-time matchups."

Wisconsin faces Nebraska this weekend, then Minnesota takes on Nebraska and Wisconsin to end the regular season. The Gophers have their title hopes very much in their own hands — but unless they can pull off an upset against Ohio State, they won't have much margin for error when they play the Badgers and Cornhuskers.

So Ohio State's dominance could end up affecting both division races this year.

"We had a good win against Iowa [last weekend], and then you go home, you get a little bit of time," Kill said. "And then you watch the Michigan State-Ohio State game. And then you don't sleep."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



GERRY MELLENDEZ/The State/MCT

**Auburn defensive lineman Jeffrey Whitaker (54) brings down South Carolina running back Brandon Wilds on Oct. 25. The No. 9 Tigers' defense will focus on curtailing Georgia RB Todd Gurley this week.**

# Auburn's struggling defense facing Gurley

By JOHN ZENOR  
The Associated Press



**No. 9 Auburn (7-2, 4-2 SEC)  
at No. 16 Georgia (7-2, 5-2)  
AFN-Sports  
1:15 a.m. Sunday JKT  
9:15 a.m. Sunday JKT**

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn's defense has been struggling against quarterbacks ranging from a Heisman Trophy contender to a freshman making his first road start.

Now, the ninth-ranked Tigers face a different but equally formidable challenge: Trying to contain No. 16 Georgia's star tailback Todd Gurley on Saturday night upon his return from a four-game suspension for accepting money for autographs.

"Nobody's stopped him and some of them slowed him down a bit," Auburn defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson said. "The only guy that stopped him was the autograph guy."

Jokes aside, the Tigers' defensive problems became serious over the past month. Auburn's secondary was picked apart by Texas A&M freshman Kyle Allen in the first half of a 41-38 defeat, and Auburn fared even worse against Mississippi State star Dak Prescott.

Gurley and the Bulldogs represent just the latest challenge.

Auburn opponents have been averaging 487 yards and 36 points over the last four games, including losses to the Aggies and Mississippi State.

It's especially disturbing for a defense that appeared to have improved dramatically over last season before starting a downward slide, particularly against the pass.

Auburn fans barely got a chance to rattle Allen before he threw a 60-yard touchdown pass four plays into the game and a 36-yarder less than a minute later after a turnover.

The Tigers did hold Texas A&M to two field goals in the second half.

"Getting off to the start, that's been the thing that we've got to fix," Tigers coach Gus Malzahn said. "Once we get into the game, especially the second half, our guys are playing better and they're settling down and all that."

"We've got to get off to a better start defensively earlier in the game."

Auburn did get a boost from the return of safety Jermaine Whitehead against the Aggies. He worked his way back onto the

defense for the first time since returning from a suspension after starting out just playing on special teams.

Whitehead had an interception to help out a secondary that has given up 12 touchdown passes and an average of 320 yards passing during that four-game stretch.

The Tigers have been better against the run with a front line that lacks a consistent pass rusher. Defensive end Carl Lawson, who was expected to fill that role, has been sidelined all season by a knee injury sustained in the spring.

Gurley was averaging 154.6 yards on the ground over the first five games, and freshman Nick Chubb put up big numbers in his absence.

They presents a different kind of task for a defense that has been so porous against the pass.

Prescott is the only player to rush for 100 yards against the Tigers this season. But they still have to correct issues ranging from missed tackles to poor communication and busted assignments.

Auburn made it to the national championship game last season with a defense ranked 86th in total yards allowed, while coming up with some big defensive stands.

"I would say we have to do a better job of reacting sometimes," defensive tackle Gabe Wright said. "That's the thing, when you play in the SEC, you're going to play against great coaches and these coaches bring in great talent."

"I really believe it is a game of adjustments. We of course have to do a better job of starting off better. I always felt like since last year when the new coaching staff came in, we've always been good on third downs and in the fourth quarter. That's something we really have to get back to and stressing."

# Back in the spotlight

## No. 1 Mississippi State prepares for SEC West showdown vs. Alabama after lull in schedule

By DAVID BRANDT  
The Associated Press

STARVILLE, Miss. — No. 1 Mississippi State has been an afterthought on college football's landscape during the past few weeks, securing in-hum wins over inferior opponents with regular monotony.

That all changes on Saturday. The Bulldogs (9-0, 5-0 Southeastern Conference, No. 1 CFP) travel to face No. 4 Alabama (8-1, 5-1, No. 5 CFP) in Tuscaloosa in what will be a showdown for Western Division supremacy. The game begins a pivotal three-game stretch, which also includes Vanderbilt and rival Mississippi.

Just minutes after Mississippi State beat Tennessee-Martin 45-16 on Saturday night, the Bulldogs had already switched their focus to the Tide.

"This is what you play for," Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen said. "We're in the middle of November, competing for first place in the SEC West, which is what it's all about. That's what you come here for. That's what we want our program to be like."

Mississippi State goes into the Alabama game on a 12-game winning streak that's second in the nation behind Florida State. That's one of many reasons the Bulldogs have plenty of confidence despite losing six straight games in the series dating to 2007.

The Tide is riding high after a come-from-behind, 20-13 overtime win over LSU in Death Valley.



**No. 1 Mississippi St. (9-0, 5-0)  
at No. 4 Alabama (8-1, 5-1)  
AFN-Sports  
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET  
5:30 a.m. Sunday JKT**

"Playing in big time games in November means you're playing in November for championships," quarterback Dak Prescott said. "To go to Tuscaloosa where the hunted is a challenge we are willing to take."

Prescott had a good game against Tennessee-Martin, throwing for two touchdowns and running for a 48-yard touchdown before being pulled from the game in the third quarter after the Bulldogs had built a big lead.

The 6-foot-2, 230-pound junior has been dealing with an injured left ankle, but looked healthy against the Skyhawks, scrambling for the long touchdown score and moving in the pocket with ease.

Mississippi State also cleaned up some of its miscues from previous weeks. After eight turnovers over a three-game stretch against Auburn, Kentucky and Arkansas, the first-team offense didn't have any against Tennessee-Martin.

The Bulldogs' offense continues to be nearly unstopable — they're on pace for single-season program records in both points

and total yards. But Mullen is still frustrated with his defense's inability to force three-and-outs and turnovers.

"I give our guys credit, we're finding ways to make plays, we're finding ways to win the game, even though we're doing a lot of things that you can't do to win games," Mullen said.

Mississippi State showed its depth in the win against Tennessee-Martin, which might prove useful in what will likely be a physically taxing game against Alabama. Ashton Shumpert ran for 82 yards and a touchdown

while Brandon Holloway had 70 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Freshman Gabe Myles caught a team-high five passes for 54 yards.

Junior Joe Morrow — the team's

ninth-leading receiver coming into the game — caught a 55-yard touchdown pass.

While the Bulldogs will lean on stars like Prescott, running back Josh Robinson and receiver De'Runnya Wilson against the Tide, the hope is Alabama will have to be mindful of everyone on the field.

"We don't want teams to fear one of us," Morrow said. "We want them to fear all of us."

**'We don't want teams to fear one of us. We want them to fear all of us.'**

Joe Morrow  
Miss. St. WR



JIM LYTTLE/AP

Mississippi State running back Brandon Holloway, left, sprints to the end zone for a touchdown ahead of UT-Martin defender Taino Fears-Perez last week. After several weeks of facing inferior opponents, the top-ranked Bulldogs face a tough test against No. 4 Alabama in an SEC Western Division showdown.

# SPORTS



**Golden arms**  
Dodgers' Kershaw, Indians' Kluber  
win Cy Young Awards | **Page 25**

## Spartans! ★ Huskies! ★ Bulldogs! ★ Cardinals!

# TEAM BEAT



HOT!!!  
HOT!!!  
HOT!!!

### WILDCATS!

**coach calipari**  
RECRUITING WIZARD

Preseason  
**No. 1**  
Incredible  
Depth Of  
Talent!

**Back for more**  
Badgers better than ever!

### Marcus!

Can North Carolina's best  
**Go-to player**  
get even better?

**ACC!**  
"Strongest collection... in history..."

### Star search

★ Kansas copes with loss of **two** lottery picks

★ Can Kentucky's **Karl-Anthony Towns** live up to the **hype?**

Season preview:  
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### Jayhawk-O-Rama!

Wisconsin, Nebraska prepare for battle of running backs | **College football, Page 30**

Undersized receivers thriving in pass-friendly offenses | **NFL, Page 27**

