

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Free to Deployed Areas

## WAR ON TERRORISM

# PROPAGANDA VALUE IN KOBANI?

US-led coalition seeks military, moral victory in Syrian town

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People watch fighting in Kobani, Syria, between Syrian Kurds and Islamic State militants from the outskirts of Suruc, near the Turkey-Syria border.

LEFT: PETER ARKIS/AP

## US health officials on the defensive over Ebola outbreak

By JIM KUHNHENN  
*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials said Thursday they still don't know how two nurses caught Ebola from a patient, as criticism increased from lawmakers who questioned whether the nation is prepared to stop the deadly

virus from spreading in the U.S.

The revelation that one of the hospital nurses was cleared to fly on a commercial airline the day before she was diagnosed raised new alarms about the American response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The death toll is expected to climb above 4,500 in

Africa, all but a few within Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, the World Health Organization said.

The first nurse stricken in the U.S., Nina Pham, who contracted Ebola after treating a Liberian man in Dallas, was being flown to the National Institutes of Health outside Washington, while a sec-

ond nurse has already been transferred to a biohazard infectious disease center at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

The nurses, Pham and Amber Joy Vinson, had been involved in providing care to Thomas Duncan, who died of Ebola last week.

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Lawmakers point to response mistakes, say American public is losing confidence

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Royal flush: KC beats Orioles to close out series

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'Batman v. Superman' kicks off 10-film slate of DC superhero flicks

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**QUOTE**  
OF THE DAY

**"Bottom line, ISIS has the strategic initiative. The U.S. is simply reacting to wherever ISIS is threatening the most."**

— Analyst and retired U.S. naval aviator Christopher Harmer, on the uneven use of U.S.-led air power during the past week in the fight against Islamic State militants

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**MILITARY**

**Base bids farewell to 'Elephant Cage'**

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

**TOKYO** — Misawa Air Base began the long-planned dismantling of the Cold War-era antenna array known as the "Elephant Cage" on Wednesday.

The Elephant Cage earned its nickname in part due to the secrecy surrounding it.

The cage, which was built between 1963 and 1965, stood 137 feet tall and contained three concentric circles. It was impossible to ignore, but its purpose remained classified for years.

On a website maintained by the Federation of American Scientists, a former airman wrote that his Misawa-based supervisor, Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Rabig, perpetuated the Elephant Cage moniker.

"He maintained that was their purpose and justified the explanation by pointing out: 'They work pretty well, don't they? You



JORDYN RUCKER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**Misawa Air Base's AN/FLR-9 antenna, known as the "Elephant Cage," stands just before the start of demolition on Wednesday.**

don't see any elephants running around loose do you? I guess the name stuck."

Others speculated that the cage, known properly as the FLR-9, was a "missile catcher" deployed to defend against a Soviet Union attack.

Its actual purpose was a bit less dramatic.

The Elephant Cage, which was modeled on a previous, German design, was built to detect high-

frequency radio waves transmitted by the Soviet Union and its satellite states. It could directionally locate signals from up to 4,000 nautical miles away, according to Misawa officials.

With the advancement of space-based and other technologies, the Elephant Cage has outlived its usefulness, Air Force officials said.

Misawa's version was one of several cages built around the

world at various installations, including Clark Air Base in the Philippines and RAF Chicksands in England.

The last Elephant Cage still operating is at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska.

The Elephant Cage at Misawa was decommissioned in 2012 and was supposed to be dismantled last year, but contracting and funding issues delayed it until now, Misawa officials said.

When demolition is completed, the Air Force will have a pleasant dilemma on its hands: what to do with a large chunk of waterfront property.

"There are talks of possibly expanding Leftwich Park, which is near the site," 35th Fighter Wing spokesman Staff Sgt. Tong Duong said.

Grass will be replanted at the site in the near term, Duong added.

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**New suit for soldiers recharges batteries sans wires**

By **DAN LAMOTHE**  
*The Washington Post*

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. armed forces have been grappling for years with how to reduce the weight ground troops carry with them on patrol. The problem: the "Christmas tree effect," in which radios and a variety of other electronics are increasingly hung on their body armor like ornaments, weighing them down in the field.

Defense contractor BAE Systems has developed a new suit known as Broadword to combat that and demonstrated it this week at the annual conference of the Association of the United States Army in Washington. The suit includes woven fabric that conducts electricity and transmits data without cords, allowing combat troops to cut down on batteries and to recharge their equipment while plugged into the suit or inductive "charging pouches," said Chris Colston, a business development director for BAE.

"Because of the weave, there is (sic) infinite ways that the power and data can make it through," Colston said.

The Army and the Marine Corps both are evaluating the system, Colston said. It is powered by a flexible battery along its wearer's spine that recharges each time he or she sits on a "charging pad" mounted to a vehicle suit.

The company does not say what material



C.J. LW/Stars and Stripes

**The Broadword suit by BAE Systems is displayed Oct. 15 at the Association of the United States Army conference in Washington.**

the conductive yards use. But it says it has proven that it will not electrocute soldiers, and included a power management system that allows them to turn on or off the recharging to the devices of their choice. It works with

existing radios, an effort to get the suit fielded sooner rather than later.

"We recognize that if we're going to introduce something like this, it needs to work with existing systems," Colston said.

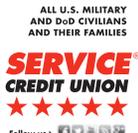


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## MILITARY



Stars and Stripes

Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., commander of U.S. Army Europe, shown in August, is set to retire Nov. 5.

# USAREUR leader set to retire

## Campbell cites successes as he prepares to leave post, military

By **MATT MILLHAM**  
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr.'s tenure as commander of U.S. Army Europe — which ends next month when he retires — has arguably carried more risk and uncertainty than that of any of his recent predecessors.

When he came into the job two years ago, a massive downsizing was underway and the threat to European security from Russia seemed to have receded into history.

Now, as he is set to step down Nov. 5, new threats lay at the continent's southern and eastern frontier, with Islamic militants fighting along the border of NATO ally Turkey and Russia backing a separatist war in Ukraine.

Today, USAREUR has about 29,000 soldiers, roughly a tenth of what it had at the Cold War's peak. Yet, despite its diminished size and the growing number of contingents it has to respond to, Campbell remains optimistic that the U.S. and its allies in the region will persevere.

"I don't wake up every morning thinking, 'Am I deterring Russia?'" Campbell told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday, moments after stepping off a flight from Latvia, a country that borders Russia. U.S. troops have deployed to Latvia and two other Baltic states in response to Moscow's aggression against Ukraine. "I wake up every morning saying, 'Are we doing the right thing from a training and readiness'" standpoint?

"If the Russians were to step into NATO territory, I think you would see a pretty swift reaction, not only from the U.S. but from NATO allies," he said.

USAREUR's job these days isn't about deterrence, Campbell said. With two ground combat brigades and an aviation brigade, the command has fewer combat troops than the roughly 17,000 Russia has massed on Ukraine's border.

What USAREUR does is provide reassurance to regional allies.

Within weeks of Russia's annexation of Crimea in March, USAREUR deployed soldiers from the 73rd Airborne Brigade to Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to

train with the armies of NATO allies closest to the conflict.

That was reassuring to Maj. Gen. Almantas Leika, Lithuania's land forces commander, who said then that the U.S. deployment "shows that we can rely on our ally."

"This is a very clear signal, and we read the signal very clearly," he said.

That show of combined resolve does more to deter potential aggressors than anything the U.S. could do unilaterally, said Campbell, who will hand over USAREUR command to Lt. Gen. Frederick "Ben" Hodges, who now heads NATO's Allied Land Command in Turkey.

Campbell points to a ceremony he attended Tuesday in Latvia, where U.S. infantry companies swapped out to continue the training mission. Such a small force would typically garner little to no media attention, but 24 news outlets attended the event, Campbell said.

"Half of them were Russian-speaking. If, in a small way, it does deter something, that's fine," he said, but he's more concerned about training and readiness.

To that end, the U.S. has been engaged in a flurry of exercises across Europe, including in Ukraine.

Operation Atlantic Resolve, the mission to reassure the Baltics and Poland of NATO's commitment, continues with the U.S. at the forefront. Campbell said he would like to see more participation from other NATO countries.

"But I'm not going to point or single out anyone," he said. "I think everybody's doing what they can right now. And they understand the importance of the mission and where it's going and what we can do."

He won't criticize Turkey either for its tepid response to Islamic State militants pressing against its — and thus NATO's — southern border.

The U.S., along with Germany and the Netherlands, rushed Patriot air defense missile systems to Turkey's border with Syria in early 2013, just after Campbell took command of USAREUR. Turkey asked for the deployments, which continue today, when cross-border shelling from Syria's civil war made it seem that conflict might

spill into the NATO ally's territory.

Now the U.S. is rallying a coalition to counter the Islamic State, which is broadly seen as a greater threat to regional and global security.

"I believe in the end run they'll do what's right for Turkey and they'll do what's right for NATO," Campbell said. "And I'm optimistic that will include supporting the fight against ISIL," he said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

Two months before Campbell took command of USAREUR, Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, handed him a letter. It contained three main points, Campbell said: Improve USAREUR's relationship with U.S. European Command, enhance interoperability with NATO and take care of families and soldiers.

The command's efforts during the last year have highlighted its success in meeting the first two objectives, Campbell said, but the job of taking care of soldiers and families is never finished.

He's gone hand after sexual assault, hosting two conferences with senior leaders to address the problem. The number of sexual assault reports in the command increased under his tenure, which he believes indicates that soldiers have greater confidence in their leadership to hold perpetrators accountable and care for victims.

Even one suicide or sexual assault is too many, he said, "but I think we've put more discipline and rigor in the system and helping ourselves see ourselves."

As for what's next for Campbell, who retires from the Army, he's settling in North Carolina, where he and his wife have built a home. He grew up in the military, was in ROTC in college and got his commission right afterward. He's spent 36 years in the Army, and that's the only life he said he's ever really known.

He said he'll take a few months off before looking for another job. He wants to stay away from Washington.

"After doing this for so long, I'd like to do kind of try something else."

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# Hagel sees busy future for Army, facing wider range of threats

By **JON HARPER**  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As the post-9/11 counterinsurgency wars come to an end, the Army must reorient itself to conduct full-spectrum operations and new missions, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said Wednesday.

"In the near term, the Army is unlikely to repeat another Iraq- or Afghanistan-type campaign — that is, regime change and occupation followed by nation-building under fire," he told audience members at an Association of the United States Army conference in Washington.

He said the service must be prepared to deal with a wider range of threats, including a revisionist Russia, disruptive technologies like cyberwarfare, humanitarian crises like the Ebola outbreak in Africa and "hybrid warfare" where America's adversaries combine the insurgent tactics with the technologies of advanced militaries.

To prepare for the tasks of the future, the Pentagon chief said that soldiers need to experience full-spectrum training at brigade-level centers where they are immersed in realistic threat scenarios facing guerrilla, terrorist, criminal and sophisticated conventional forces.

He singled out the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., as model facilities for such activities.

Hagel's remarks came at a time when some believe that the Army's relative importance is on the wane as the war in Afghanistan winds down and the Pentagon's attention is shifting to the Pacific, where the Navy and Air Force would likely play the leading role in potential conflicts.

"This does not mean that demand for the Army is diminishing, or that the Army's place in our national security strategy is eroding. It is not," Hagel said.

He told the audience that the service that did "most of the fighting and dying" in Iraq and Afghanistan will remain very busy with overseas deployments and rotations, large-scale training missions and other efforts. The Army won't become a "garrison" force at home, according to Hagel.

He said the Army might adopt new missions and tactics that could prove useful for the Pacific pivot, including flying helicopters off ships, and leveraging its arsenal of long-range precision-guided missiles, rockets, artillery and air defense systems to keep the sea lanes open and provide coastal defense.

But Hagel warned that the Army's busy future could be undermined by Congress.

"We've seen how quickly a battle-hardened Army can waver into a force that is ill-equipped and ill-prepared to carry out its mission," he said. "We've seen the consequences."

He called Congress' failure to reverse the looming defense budget cuts known as sequestration as "an irresponsible deferral of responsibility," and warned that cuts could result in an Army that isn't ready to carry out the missions assigned to it in the future.

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# WAR ON TERRORISM

# US pounds militants in Kobani

## Officials: Effort aimed at massed Islamic State fighters

By KAREN DEYOUNG  
AND LIZ SLY  
The Washington Post

For the moment, at least, the once-obscure Syrian town of Kobani, along the Turkish border, has become the epicenter of the overall U.S. and coalition fight to degrade and demoralize Islamic State militants.

Airstrikes in and around the town have sharply increased, to nearly 40 in a 48-hour period this week. At the same time, strikes elsewhere in Syria have virtually stopped. Air attacks in neighboring Iraq have slowed significantly in recent days, in part because of bad weather and poor visibility.

U.S. officials said their objective is less Kobani itself — which they said still may fall to the militants — than the opportunity it presents to hit massed Islamic State forces.

“One of the reasons you’re seeing more strikes there is because there’s more ISIL there,” Rear Adm. John F. Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said Wednesday, using an acronym for the Islamic State. He said that “hundreds” of militants have been killed.

But Kobani also has come to represent a potential propaganda victory the Obama administration is eager to deny the militants.

“Part of the dynamic we want to show is that these guys aren’t ten feet tall,” said a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the motivation for target selection beyond purely military objectives. “A lot of their edge has been psychological.”

“They’re like a shark; if they’re not swimming, they’re sinking,” the official said. “That’s how they recruit foreign fighters and establish themselves as the vanguard of global jihad.”

### ‘Acute media attention’

The militant siege of Kobani, the official acknowledged, has become the subject of “acute media attention,” with news cameras just across the border in Turkey transmitting live images of combat. The United Nations last week warned of a “genocide” if the militants are allowed to take over. French President François Hollande — whose government is participating in coalition activities in Iraq but not in Syria — this week called on all nations to do their utmost to help save the town.

This week, the dominant image has been of U.S. airstrikes.

“I don’t want to suggest that our military actions are driven by the simple fact that this is a town that can be seen by cameras,” the senior official said. “I do think it’s fair to say that we have an interest in blunting their momentum to show

that they are not this inevitably advancing force that they have portrayed themselves as being.”

A senior Defense Department official acknowledged the town’s propaganda value to the Islamic State but insisted that “we are not dropping bombs on them to make them look weak. We are dropping bombs on them to make them weak.”

### Differing assessments

There were sharply differing assessments Wednesday of the effect of the airstrikes. “Right now, we believe it’s still being defended and still in their hands,” Kirby said of the Syrian Kurdish fighters in the town. But Kobani, he said, “could very well still fall.”

Other U.S. military officials, with access to real-time intelligence assessments, said the militants have continued to pour in resources and remain in control of a significant portion of the town.

Kurdish fighters and activists on the ground said that two days of relentless attacks have turned the tide in their favor.

Ihsan Naasan, the deputy foreign minister of Kobani’s self-proclaimed government, said Kurdish defenders had pushed the jihadists back more than 4 miles from the western edge of the town by nightfall Wednesday and were advancing into the eastern and southern neighborhoods of the city.

He claimed that Kurdish fighters with the People’s Protection Units, or YPG, now control 80 percent of Kobani after losing more than half of it in heavy fighting in past days.

“The YPG now have the initiative,” Naasan said, speaking from inside the town. “They are on the counteroffensive against the Islamic State.”

If the Kurdish fighters manage to retake Kobani, it would be the first time that U.S. strikes have helped eject the Islamic State from territory in Syria since the air war was expanded to include the northern and eastern parts of the country a little over three weeks ago.

The border town, nestled amid rolling farmland in a remote part of north-central Syria, has limited strategic significance. Islamic State fighters had advanced toward it unimpeded, capturing scores of tiny villages across a large swath of territory along the way and sending more than 100,000 people fleeing in panic into Turkish territory.

Although daily U.S. airstrikes had begun in Kobani more than a week earlier, it was only on Tuesday, as militant reinforcements were said to have arrived, that coalition sorties sharply escalated. On Thursday, the U.S. Central Command said its fighters and bombers had conducted 14 airstrikes on Islamic State buildings and fighting positions. On Wednesday, it had carried out 18 strikes

in the previous 24 hours, on top of 21 reported the previous day.

Ground-shaking explosions reverberated repeatedly across the countryside spanning the Syria-Turkey border Wednesday, sending plumes of smoke billowing from the town. Kurdish activists said that the bodies of “tens” of Islamic State fighters lay strewn around the streets of bombed neighborhoods that they said were subsequently retaken by defenders.

The Islamic State, which typically boasts about its conquests in videos and statements on social media, has fallen silent on the Kobani battle amid unconfirmed reports that some of its more senior commanders have been killed. Among those mentioned are leaders known as Abu Khattab al-Kurdi, from the town of Halabja in Iraq’s Kurdish region, and Abu Mohammed al-Amriki, a Chechen who was said to have lived in the United States for a decade before leaving to fight in Syria.

### Defending ‘terrorists’

The intensified effort has put the United States in the curious position of bombing to defend a Kurdish faction allied in opposition to its usual regional allies. The Kurdish YPG militia defending the town is affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, which in the past has waged a bloody insurgency against Turkey and is designated as a terrorist organization by both Turkey and the United States.

The group is also at odds with Washington’s long-standing Kurdish allies in Iraq and its Syrian affiliates, which accuse the Syrian Kurdish faction of working on behalf of Syrian President Bashar Assad, a charge the group denies.

Kurdish officials say the YPG has been unofficially cooperating with the United States, delivering the coordinates of Islamic State positions to coalition officials in Iraqi Kurdistan’s capital, Irbil. Kirby, at the Pentagon, declined to comment on the report.

Turkey has refused to allow supplies across the border to the YPG, a situation the Obama administration would like to reverse. U.S. diplomats and a Pentagon planning team coordinating Turkey’s contribution to the anti-Islamic State coalition are seeking to make the two sides their antipathy toward the Kurds and to allow the fighters free access to regroup and resupply themselves on the other side of the border.

Retired Gen. John Allen, the administration’s coordinator for the coalition who last week visited Turkey, said Wednesday that the goal of the airstrikes was to provide “white space” for the defenders and to “give some time to the fighters to organize on the ground.”



TREVOR WELSH/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson sails in the Pacific Ocean on Sept. 23.

# USS Carl Vinson to take over Syria, Iraq airstrikes

By HENDRICK SIMOES  
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group reported for duty Wednesday in the Middle East, where it will take over from the George H.W. Bush, which has been heavily engaged in the bombing campaign against Islamic State militants.

Warplanes from the Bush have been conducting airstrikes on the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria since Aug. 8 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

U.S. 5th Fleet officials said the Vinson is in the midst of a turnover with the Bush, which is nearing the end of its scheduled nine-month deployment to the 6th Fleet and 5th Fleet areas of responsibility. The ship left Norfolk, Va., on Feb. 15.

Earlier this month, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert said that for now one aircraft carrier is adequate to meet operational demands in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S.-led coalition began bombing Islamic State militants in August after they occupied a large area of western Iraq and threatened the capital, Baghdad. Last month, the aerial campaign was extended to Syria. Currently, much of the effort is focused on the Kurdish town of Kobani on Syria’s border with Turkey, where Islamic State fighters equipped with tanks, artillery and trucks with mounted machine guns and autocannons have made substantial gains in recent weeks against the lightly armed Kurdish defenders.

There have been five airstrikes in Iraq and 18 airstrikes in Syria since Tuesday, U.S. Central Command officials reported Wednesday.

The San Diego-based Vinson is accompanied in the region by the guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill and the guided-missile destroyers USS Gridley, USS Stewart and USS Dewey. The entire strike group left home Aug. 22, with about 6,200 sailors on a scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and the Middle East.

The Makin Island amphibious ready group, which relieved the Bataan group in September, is also in the region supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. The group brings with it a variety of aircraft, including MV-22B Ospreys, AV-8B Harriers, CH-53E Super Stallions, AH-1Z Super Cobras and UH-1Y Hueys.

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

## US wants NATO allies' aid retraining Iraqis

By GOPAL RATNAM  
Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON — The difficult and dangerous task of retraining Iraqi security forces to take on the Islamic State militants who made impressive gains in the north and west of Iraq will require large numbers of trainers from the United States and NATO nations, according to a person familiar with joint assessments by the American-led coalition and the Iraqi government.

The expanded retraining effort being proposed by the United States may require as many as 1,000 foreign trainers from the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Australia, led by American advisers, to restore the beleaguered Iraqi security forces to a battle-ready state, said the person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because no decisions have been made. The United States already has about 1,500 advisers in the country, and Western European allies have signaled their ability to send hundreds of trainers each, the person said.

While Britain and France are participating in airstrikes against the Islamic State and Germany is supporting Kurdish rebels in Iraq, getting those countries' parliaments to approve sending ground troops into a war zone to train Iraqi forces is likely to be enormously complicated politically given the war fatigue in Washington and other Western capitals.

Alongside the significantly expanded training mission, the U.S.-led coalition also wants to create an Iraqi national guard force of about two to three brigades, or as many as 15,000 troops, drawn from Sunni tribes in Anbar province. Those militiamen reporting to provincial governors would be charged with keeping the Islamic State out of the Sunni heartland. Many of those tribesmen and their leaders participated in a 2006 uprising called the Anbar Awakening that helped the United States defeat al-Qaida in Iraq, only to turn on the government of then-Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who refused to pay the fighters or fold them into the standing Iraqi military after the violence subsided.

The U.S. has proposed that the guard units be recruited, trained and paid by Iraq's Defense Ministry, as opposed to how it was done during the 2006 uprising, when the U.S. recruited the tribes and had Baghdad pay for them, the person familiar with the discussion said. Some of Iraq's Sunni Arab neighbors may help defray the cost of retraining Iraqi troops and the cost of the national guard units, the person said.

The U.S. still is in the early stages of assembling an effective coalition to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the Islamic State, as President Barack Obama has described the mission. But getting countries to sign up while questions about the future of Syrian President Bashar Assad remain unanswered is at the heart of the Obama administration's challenge. Many Sunni Arab nations and NATO countries want to see

Assad go, while Obama has declined to get the United States involved in what he sees as an intractable civil war in Syria.

The one issue on which many countries agree is the need for Iraq's military — gutted as a result of al-Maliki removing talented Sunni officers and replacing them with Shiite loyalists — to be reconstituted to fight the Islamic State. Western officials, particularly those in the U.S., were stunned by how rapidly the Iraqi army collapsed in the early stages of the

Islamic State's assault, fleeing by the tens of thousands and leaving behind large quantities of American-provided weaponry.

The key question of how the region's Sunni Arab countries will contribute to retraining Iraqi security forces is part of the intense discussions between the White House and the government of new Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. Both sides are trying to strike a balance between inviting such involvement and angering Iran, the Shiite power whose support is criti-

cal to al-Abadi's tenure.

The U.S. is hoping that many NATO members will readily consent to sending their troops to train Iraqi forces, particularly after troubling revelations that citizens from Western Europe and Australia are both victims of the Islamic State and participants alongside the militant group. The British Parliament in September overwhelmingly approved airstrikes against the Islamic State in Iraq after the militant group posted a YouTube video of the

beheading of captured British aid worker David Haines. France and Germany also have signed up to support rebels fighting the Islamic State in Iraq.

Arab countries have been reluctant to wholeheartedly support the U.S. strategy because it's still unclear how the Obama administration hopes to tackle the Islamic State without addressing the group's presence in Syria, which would require the U.S. to answer the question of what happens to Assad.

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# WAR ON TERRORISM

# Iraqis desperate for US air cover

By SUSANNAH GEORGE  
McClatchy Foreign Staff

IRBIL, Iraq — With the U.S. seemingly focused on helping Kurdish militias fight off an Islamic State advance at Kobani on the Turkey-Syria border, Islamist militants this week have seized one key military base in Iraqi Anbar province and have laid siege to another, with no major increase in U.S. air support for the beleaguered Iraqi security forces.

Reports from Kobani indicate that intense U.S. airstrikes there have driven back Islamic State fighters, while in Anbar the militants' advance has been unrelenting. On Tuesday, the Islamic State captured heavy artillery and an unknown number of weapons including machine guns and ammunition. The U.S. has sent a large force base outside the city of Hit. Now the group has surrounded the Ain Asad air base, northwest of Hit, the country's third-largest military facility.

Yet the number of U.S. strikes in Anbar over the past week has plummeted compared with the previous week and have been far fewer than those launched near Kobani, a Kurdish city whose strategic importance is in dispute but which has been fighting can be viewed easily from the side of Turkey.

The U.S. Central Command has announced just five airstrikes in Anbar in the past week, compared with 16 last week, while the number of air assaults near Kobani in the same period totals 70 — 39 of them in the last two days.

Iraqi troops at the Ain Asad base in Anbar say they are desperate for U.S. air support.

"It's not possible to get in any supplies by land," explained a member of Iraq's security forces inside the base reached by phone. Speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to a reporter, he said the base is surrounded, and while the Iraqi military has delivered some supplies by air, the forces holed up there are not hopeful.

"Forces in the base are almost collapsed psychologically and scared," he said. "I cannot say for how long we can hold the base."

What his men need now, he said, is air cover.

"If air cover is provided," he said, "we will attack the militants in the nearby villages and stop their advance."

Analysts suggest the uneven use of U.S.-led air power over the past week is due in part to limited capacity and in part to a failure in the overall strategy in the fight against Islamic State, which is also known as ISIL and ISIS.

"U.S. assets are partially overstretched," said Christopher Harmer, a retired U.S. naval aviator and currently a senior naval analyst at the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington research center. "The core problem is that the U.S. does not have the strategic initiative. We are reacting to where ISIS is advancing, rather

**‘The core problem is that the U.S. does not have the strategic initiative. We are reacting to where ISIS is advancing, rather than proactively implementing a strategy to defeat them.’**

Christopher Harmer  
senior naval analyst at the  
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than proactively implementing a strategy to defeat them."

While the Islamic State has maintained a presence on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital for months, using the pockets of territory to launch isolated attacks inside Baghdad like Tuesday's car bombing that killed Shiite parliamentarian Ahmed al Khafaji, the fall of Anbar province out of government hands would allow the group to pose a direct, sustained threat to Baghdad.

During an interview Sunday on the ABC News program "This Week with George Stephanopoulos," Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted the group had come within "striking distance" of the airport, prompting the U.S. last week to send Apache helicopters into the fight, a risky move given that the low altitudes the crafts fly at leave them vulnerable to ground fire.

Dempsey said Islamic State forces had moved within 12 miles of the airport when the Apaches were sent to engage them as they battled Iraqi ground forces. "This is a case where you're not going to wait until they're climbing over the wall," Dempsey said of the battle. "Had they overrun the Iraqi unit it was a straight shot to the airport. So, we're not going to allow that to happen. We need that airport."

"Bottom line," said Harmer, the former naval aviator, "ISIS has the strategic initiative. The U.S. is simply reacting to wherever ISIS is threatening the most."



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Security forces watch a tow truck lift a destroyed vehicle at the site of a car bomb explosion in the largely Shiite eastern neighborhood of Talibiyah in Baghdad on Thursday.

# Attacks in Iraq kill at least 47

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants unleashed a wave of attacks in Iraq on Thursday, mainly targeting Shiite areas in and around the capital of Baghdad, killing at least 47 people and wounding dozens, authorities said.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the day's deadliest attack. The Sunni militant group

has overrun vast areas in western and northern Iraq as well as parts of neighboring Syria, and has vowed to destabilize and eventually take over Baghdad.

In that strike, two parked car bombs exploded simultaneously in a commercial area in the northern Dolaie neighborhood, killing 14 civilians and wounding 34 others, a police officer said.

Angry residents in the neighborhood threw stones at police checkpoints and police cars that arrived to respond to the blasts, prompting police to withdraw from the area.

Senior Iraqi officials have tried to reassure residents that the capital is too well-protected for militants to capture, even as they struggle to stop frequent near-daily deadly attacks.

# Kurds are holding their own in Syria

The Associated Press

MURSTIPPINAR, Turkey — Intensified U.S.-led airstrikes and a determined Kurdish military force on the ground appear to have had some success in halting advances by Islamic State fighters on a strategic Kurdish town near Syria's border with Turkey — at least for now.

On Wednesday, the Kurdish militiamen were fighting ferocious street battles with the Sunni extremists in Kobani and making advances on some fronts, hours after the U.S.-led coalition stepped up its aerial campaign.

In a surprising display of resilience, the Kurdish fighters have held out against the more experienced jihadists a month into the militants' offensive on the frontier town, hanging on to their territory against all expectations.

"People underestimate the power of determination," said Farhad Shami, a Kurdish activist in Kobani. "The Kurds have a cause and are prepared to die fighting for it."

The Islamic State launched

its offensive on Kobani in mid-September, capturing dozens of nearby Kurdish villages and a third of the town in lightning advances that sent massive waves of civilians fleeing across the border into Turkey.

Days later, the U.S. and its allies began bombing Islamic State targets in Syria, but the strikes were slow to take off in Kobani and appeared largely ineffective. Expectations were that the town would fall to the militants within days.

The Kurdish fighters, however, have put up a formidable fight, despite feeling a deep sense of abandonment by an international community they believe has failed to come to their rescue as it did with their brethren and other minorities in Iraq threatened by Islamic State militants.

Abdurrahman and other Syria observers say the Kurds have shown much more tenacity and resilience than other Syrian rebel factions who ended up making "tactical retreats" or simply fled jihadi onslaughts in other areas of Syria.

Equally important in the past few days has been more concentrated airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition in and around Kobani targeting Islamic State infrastructure and positions.

The U.S. military says it launched 39 airstrikes near Kobani in the past 48 hours, designed to disrupt Islamic State reinforcements and resupply and to prevent the extremist group's fighters from massing combat power on the Kurdish-held sections of Kobani.

Plumes of smoke rising from the strikes were visible across the border in Turkey.

Capitalizing on those strikes, fighters of the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, made some progress against the militants. Wednesday, said Asya Abdullah, a Syrian Kurdish leader.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency said the Kurdish forces planted two flags on the hill after retaking it from the Islamic State and removing the black flag the extremists had hoisted earlier in the week.

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## PACIFIC

# Report: US ill-prepared to control WMDs

By RACHEL OSWALD

CQ Roll Call

After a disquieting six-week disappearance from the public spotlight that raised concerns abroad about the stability of the regime, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un reappeared on Tuesday, according to state-run news reports in Pyongyang.

His unexplained absence serves as a reminder of just how little public information exists about the stability of his volatile regime, which controls the country's nuclear arsenal, experts told CQ Roll Call.

"We really have a difficult time understanding decision-making and governance (in North Korea), and we really don't have a clear idea of how a succession might actually take place," said Eric Larson, a senior defense policy researcher at the RAND Corp. "It's difficult to really understand how they are thinking about weapons of mass destruction other than perhaps as a way to preserve the regime."

Larson is the co-author of a recent report by RAND questioning the readiness of the U.S. military to conduct a large-scale weapons of mass destruction elimination mission inside North Korea or elsewhere if the need arises.

In the event of a power vacuum in Pyongyang, the United States and regional allies such as Japan and South Korea would have to move fast to lock down the country's arsenal of presumed biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and materials.

According to a scenario outlined in the report, in the event the regime collapses, a force of 188,000 U.S. ground troops would be required to "seize key sites, secure them, search and clear of (weapons of mass destruction) and establish and protect the logistics routes needed to sustain operations."

The RAND study found that even though the Defense Department considers preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction a "primary mission" of the U.S. armed services, the Pentagon does not include such potential missions in its calculations for determining force strength and capability requirements.

Defense Department spokeswoman Cynthia Smith said the department was still reviewing the report but pointed to the official Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, released in June, which lists as a "priority objective" managing the weapons of mass destruction risks that can arise from fragile or failed states.

Larson said he'd reviewed the strategy and believes a troublesome gap exists in the amount of resources the Pentagon directs toward what it considers "a top objective."

"The issue from our perspective is not whether there is a good strategy or sufficient doctrine," Larson said. "It really comes down to putting resources on this

problem that are commensurate with the priority it is given."

He pointed out that the Pentagon in its 2012 Strategic Defense Guidance did not include weapons counterproliferation as a mission that should be used in determining the appropriate size of the military.

"We strongly urge (the Defense Department) to raise the priority of this mission area so it's among the first rank of missions that are essentially used for sizing forces, particularly ground forces," Larson said.

The report asserts that "relatively little investment" has been made in the U.S. military's capabilities to conduct weapons of mass destruction counterproliferation operations.

The Pentagon received \$446.2 million in fiscal 2013 for activities explicitly related to eliminating or reducing the threat of weapons of mass destruction, according to figures compiled by the nonpartisan Nuclear Threat Initiative's Securing the Bomb program. The

Obama administration requested \$528.5 million for similar activities in fiscal 2014. Fiscal 2014 enacted levels were not available.

Larson said lawmakers engaging the Pentagon in budget discussions should address counterproliferation questions as they weigh threat assessments and the president's annual budget request.

"Why is countering weapons of mass destruction not considered to be one of the missions that drive force-sizing in the Department of Defense?" Larson asked.

"This is a particularly important question now that we understand the force requirements could be really quite substantial."

A Democratic congressional aide who is well-informed on national defense issues called the findings "interesting" but added, "I'm not sure how much it moves the dial in the debate over the size of the active force."

The House Armed Services Committee's majority staff declined to comment on the report.



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## MILITARY

## Choice Cards are unlikely to make deadline

By TOM PHILPOTT

Congress last August gave the Department of Veteran Affairs 90 days to issue medical Choice Cards to 9.1 million veterans enrolled in VA care.

The tight deadline of Nov. 5 won't be met, say representatives of major veteran organizations who attend periodic VA briefings on plans for rollout of the Choice Card.

The card will ensure veterans have access to private sector health care if they live more than 40 miles from a VA clinic or hospital, or if they face unacceptable waits, usually longer than 30 days, to access VA health care.

The simple guarantee, centerpiece of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, is not so simple to deliver, at least in 90 days.

"I have heard nothing to lead me to believe they will get any [cards] out by November 5th," said Joseph Violante, legislative director for Disabled American Veterans. He doesn't even think the VA has picked a vendor yet to make the cards.

The VA declined a request to interview the official in charge of the Choice Card rollout because key decisions are not yet final. A VA statement called the law "highly complex" and said officials are striving to implement it "as quickly and efficiently as possible," and "the goal has always been to meet the timelines set forth in the Act."

Vet advocates didn't disagree. Violante said he thought from the start the 90-day deadline was impossible for the VA to meet.

While the card program is to end in three years or when \$10 billion has been spent on care, whichever occurs first, the VA still must build or buy expertise to run it, write regulations to govern it and decide how to monitor providers and care they deliver. It also must ensure health records are returned to the VA to be merged with VA records for continuity of care. The VA also must educate vets on who can use the card, how they can use it and when.

Roughly 700,000 to 800,000 veterans, less than 10 percent of current enrollees, will be eligible to use the card immediately if they need care. About 300,000 of those qualify because they live far from VA care. The VA intends to issue cards to those two groups as soon

as it can.

In phases, it will send cards to all other veterans enrolled in VA health care as of Aug. 1, and to those who enroll later if they had active-duty service in a theater of combat operations within the previous five years.

The mandate in the law to give the card to more than 8 million veterans who won't be eligible to use it worries vet advocates. Some veterans or even doctors could be confused and accept care the VA won't cover.

Others will be surprised that the law makes the VA payer of last resort when a Choice Card is used, said Bob Norton, deputy director of government relations for the Military Officer Association of America. That means users with other health insurance or Tricare eligibility will see those plans billed for any care arranged using the card. For Tricare to be tapped, the veteran will have to be a military disabled retiree or longevity retiree. "I'm sure DoD is not going to be very happy," Norton said.

The VA already knows who lives more than 40 miles from VA care. But the law allows the VA to adjust the 30-day wait threshold and it likely will, based on type of care needed. Waits longer than 30 days might be reasonable, for example, for hearing exams, with shorter waits for cardiology appointments.

When vets get their cards, they will have a phone number to call to verify eligibility and begin use. The VA likely will decide it must offer veterans a choice to use a VA-contracted provider or find their own physician. If so, when veterans choose non-network providers, Violante predicted, "it's going to create a terrible situation for VA to try to follow that veteran's treatment."

Bob Wallace, executive director of Veterans of Foreign Wars, said the VFW would prefer that eligible vets pick providers from the VA Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) networks, run by TriWest Healthcare Alliance of Phoenix and HealthNet Federal Services, of Arlington, Va. PC3 already backstops VA health care on primary and specialty care needs. Its providers also must meet VA timeliness and quality measures and make prompt transfer of medical records back to the VA.

"We don't want to see the vet-

## MILITARY UPDATE

eran go to someone who's not the specialist they need," Wallace said. "We also want to make sure the records go back to the VA because that could affect their claims down the road."

Some entity also needs to manage the program, from verifying eligibility to coordinating episodes of care to paying providers and collecting co-pay from vets when appropriate. Rather than build that capacity, the VA leans toward hiring a third-party administrator with nationwide experience such as Aetna or Kaiser.

As Congress rushed to shape legislation to address the wait-time scandal around multiple VA facilities, it was Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who insisted Choice Card be part of the final package. Many vet groups are wary of its potential to shift veterans' care and resources permanently to the private sector and weaken the VA's integrated health system with its unmatched array of specialty care services for the most severely ill and injured.

Vet groups have argued that the VA simply was underfunded, leaving it short of doctors, nurses, support staff and space as enrollments grew, leading to long waits and cooked books. The Congressional Research Service in June said VA health care enrollment rose 78 percent since 2001. That's

the effect of recent wars and of decisions trying many vet health conditions today to long ago exposures to combat stress and toxins such as Agent Orange.

Choice Card has created sky-high expectations among vets who hope for unlimited access to any type of care. Many vets also are expecting to get the card soon, a point Carl Blake, legislative director for Paralyzed Veterans of America, said he has emphasized in meetings with VA officials.

"We have impressed upon them they probably need to figure out a way to have something rolling out" by Nov. 5, Blake said.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, Va. 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military\_Update.

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## Training may affect traffic on Ramstein

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A joint German-American training exercise planned for Ramstein Air Base on Saturday may cause some gate closures and traffic delays on or around the base.

Members of the 86th Airlift Wing will participate in the exercise, along with German volunteer fire departments, first responders and medical services from Kaiserslautern, Donnersberg and Birkenfeld counties, according to an Air Force news release.

Residents in local communities

may hear noise from the use of the public address system, smoke machines and emergency vehicles, as well as other activities from the flight line area. Those activities should not be cause for concern, the Air Force said.

Traffic on or around the base may also be affected, and gates may be closed temporarily.

The exercise is based on the Agreement on Mutual Assistance in Fire Protection, General Aid and Disaster Preparedness. It tests responders' preparedness and is not related to any real-world events, a base spokesman said Thursday.

From staff reports

## MILITARY

# Witness takes deal in AFN slaying case

By Matt Millham  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Spc. Cody Kramer pleaded guilty Thursday to lying to investigators as part of a pretrial agreement that requires him to testify against a colleague charged with murder in the death of an American Forces Network broadcaster.

A military judge sentenced Kramer to nine months of confinement, a reduction to private and forfeiture of \$1,000 a month for nine months. Because of the pretrial agreement, Kramer's sentence will be reduced to six months, with credit for 106 days he spent confined to Sembach Kaserne.

Few details about the mid-December 2013 slaying of Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepurov emerged in Thursday's proceeding, and no witnesses were called to testify until the sentencing portion of the proceeding. Kramer waived the right to a military jury and instead faced only a judge, who accepted his guilty plea after more than an hour of questioning.

Kramer told the judge that Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver, who will go on trial in January, "is the man who committed the murder."

Oliver was pulled over for driving erratically Dec. 14, 2013, and German police discovered Chepurov dead in the passenger seat of his car.

Kramer also testified that Oliver had tried to solicit him to kill another servicemember who was present during the killing after Oliver told Kramer he had killed Chepurov.

"I started to panic," Kramer said. "I started to hyperventilate." He said Oliver showed him Chepurov's body, and he touched the sailor's head to see if he was alive. Kramer said he didn't try to revive Chepurov when he realized he was dead.

Kramer told the judge that Oliver asked him to help move the body, but he refused, telling Oliver "I can't have anything to do with this."

Investigators questioned Kramer about the slaying on Dec. 19, then again on Dec. 27 on suspicion that he'd earlier lied to police. During the second meeting, he told an Army special agent that he'd slept through the altercation between Oliver and Chepurov. As part of his plea agreement, he admitted that was a lie.

"I was awake the entire time," he told the judge Thursday.

The night of the slaying, Kramer was one of five servicemembers hanging out at the apartment of Air Force Staff Sgt. Thomas Skinkle after drinking in downtown Kaiserslautern. All five of the men worked for AFN at Ramstein Air Base.

On the way to Skinkle's, Kramer said, he and Chepurov got into an argument over an incident at an office Thanksgiving party a few weeks earlier. The argument picked up later inside the apartment's kitchen.

That argument ended when Kramer left the kitchen and went to the living room, he said. Later, Oliver began arguing with Chepurov in the kitchen.

Kramer said he'd lied to agents about whether he'd seen any part of the altercation between Oliver and Chepurov out of fear of getting dragged into the investigation. Kramer was 5 years old when his 3-year-old sister was abducted and killed, and he said the situation reminded him of that and that he had a history of trying to hide from trouble.

Under oath, he told the judge, "I had seen Staff Sgt. Oliver on top of Chepurov's body."

Before the slaying, Kramer had put Skinkle to bed in his room, leaving only himself and Air Force Staff Sgt. Shao-Lung Ping in the living room, which was separated from the kitchen by a door. Ping left after the killing, and Kramer said Oliver asked him to kill Ping.

Asked why Oliver made such a solicitation, Kramer told the judge he believed Oliver was concerned that Ping might have seen something.

During sentencing arguments, Capt. Daniel O'Connor, one of two lawyers for the prosecution, asked the judge to sentence Kramer to a dishonorable discharge and at least three years of confinement. The sentence, he said, is about "honoring the dead."

Capt. Samuel Landes, one of Kramer's defense attorneys, said the false official statement to which Kramer pleaded guilty to making wasn't as serious as the prosecution was making it out to be and that it didn't have any impact on the case.

By the time Kramer made the statement, Oliver had already been confined and had confessed to the killing, Landes said.

"He's not guilty of obstructing justice" or an accessory to murder. And, Landes said, Kramer is the only witness who can testify to the fact that Chepurov was already dead when Oliver put him in the passenger seat of the car.

Kramer will have to testify against his former friend and colleague to fulfill his end of the pretrial agreement.

Chepurov's family was critical of the outcome of the proceedings against Kramer, alleging that the Army rushed to broker a pretrial agreement without crucial DNA evidence in hand.

"Dmitry's family views Kramer as a criminal and as an accomplice to this murder," Dennis Bushmitch, one of Chepurov's brothers, said in a statement. "He had numerous chances to prevent our brother and son from being assaulted and then ruthlessly murdered."

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## Afghans arrest 2 Haqqani leaders

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two senior leaders of the al-Qaida-linked Haqqani network have been arrested in eastern Khost province, the Afghan intelligence service said Thursday, claiming a major blow to the Pakistan-based militant group.

Anis Haqqani, a brother of the network's leader, and Hafiz Rashid, who allegedly helped equip suicide bombers and select targets for attacks, were detained

Tuesday in a special operation, the National Directorate of Security in a statement.

"It is one of the biggest and most important arrests by NDS, and has strategic impact on this network and can cause disorder in its operations and weaken its fighting capabilities," the statement said, without providing details. The Associated Press could not immediately reach a Taliban spokesman for comment.

The statement said Anis Haqqani was an expert in computers and use of propaganda through social

networks, and played a key role in the group's strategic decisions as a deputy to his brother, network leader Sirajuddin Haqqani.

"He (Anis) was responsible for collecting and preparing funds from Arab countries to carry out operations of this network," the NDS statement said.

Rashid was responsible for choosing targets and providing equipment to suicide bombers in Afghanistan, it said.

The Haqqanis are allied with al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban.

From The Associated Press

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# EBOLA OUTBREAK

# GOP: Government credibility wanes on Ebola

By ERICA WERNER  
AND MATTHEW DALY  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers indignantly criticized the government response to the arrival of Ebola in U.S. shores Thursday in a tense congressional hearing. Top public health officials defended their actions as American public unease grew over the possibility of the deadly virus spreading widely here — something health experts insisted was a remote possibility. “People are scared,” said

Rep. Fred Upton, a Republican and chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. “People’s lives are at stake, and the response so far has been unacceptable.”

Dr. Thomas Frieden, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said he remained confident in the ability of the U.S. health care system to combat Ebola.

“Working with our partners we have been able to stop every prior Ebola outbreak, and we will stop this one,” he said. “We know how to control Ebola, even in this

period.”

But even as he offered reassurances, Frieden raised alarms of his own about threats to this country if the raging epidemic in West Africa, which has already claimed more than 4,000 lives, cannot be stopped.

“There are no shortcuts in the control of Ebola and it is not easy to control it. To protect the United States we need to step it at its source,” he said.

“One of the things I fear about Ebola is that it could spread more widely in Africa. If this were to happen, it could become a threat

to our health system and the health care we give for a long time to come.”

Fears over the disease are on the rise as two nurses tested positive after caring for a patient in Dallas who died of the disease. One of them was cleared by the CDC to travel on a commercial plane after registering a slightly elevated fever, officials disclosed on Wednesday.

Lawmakers had tough questions on hospital protocols and travel restrictions. Several Republicans suggested a partial travel ban for people who’ve been

in West Africa.

Election-year politics were evident in the hearing room with balloting less than a month away. Two House members in highly contested Senate races, Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., and Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, left the campaign trail to appear at Thursday’s hearing.

President Barack Obama canceled travel plans to stay at the White House and to oversee government’s response to the Ebola problem.

# Outbreak: Obama urges global emphasis on combating crisis in Africa

## FROM FRONT PAGE

In Washington, President Barack Obama directed his administration to respond in a “much more aggressive way” to the threat and, for the second day in a row, canceled his out-of-town trips to stay in Washington and to monitor the Ebola response.

Even as Obama sought to calm new fears about Ebola in the U.S., he cautioned against letting them overshadow the far more urgent crisis unfolding in West Africa. Underlining his emphasis on international action, Obama called European leaders Wednesday to discuss better coordination in the fight against Ebola in West Africa and to issue a call for more money and personnel “to bend the curve of the epidemic.”

On Thursday, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged continued support but made no specific, new aid offers. China last month pledged \$33 million in assistance and dispatched doctors and medical supplies.

Leading up to what was expected to be a combative hearing in Congress, the chairman of a House committee said it appeared that U.S. hospitals were not ready and health care workers weren’t properly trained or equipped.

Federal health officials made “false assumptions” about the level of readiness and that “can get you in a lot of trouble,” Rep. Tim Murphy said on MSNBC.

In Europe, Spain’s government is wrestling with similar questions. The condition of a nursing assistant infected with Ebola at a Madrid hospital appeared to be improving, but a person who came into contact with her before she was hospitalized developed a fever and was being tested Thursday.

That second person is not a health care worker, a Spanish Health Ministry spokesman said. To this point, only hospital workers — the Madrid nursing assistant and the two nurses in Dallas — had been known to have contracted Ebola outside West Africa during the outbreak that began in March.

Amid increasing global concern, France said that on Saturday it will begin screening passengers who arrive at Paris’ Charles de Gaulle airport on the once-daily flight from Guinea’s capital.

In the U.S., Customs and health officials at airports in Chicago, Atlanta, suburban Washington and Newark, N.J., were to begin taking the temperatures of passengers from the three hardest-hit West African countries Thursday. The screenings, using no-touch thermometers, started last Saturday at New York’s Kennedy International Airport.

“Despite these latest incidents, we remain confident that our public health and health care systems can prevent an Ebola outbreak here,” Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in prepared testimony for the hearing on Capitol Hill.

With hospitals and airports on heightened alert, Frieden said the CDC is receiving hundreds of requests for help in ruling out Ebola in travelers. So far, 12 cases merited testing, he said, but the patient who later died at the Dallas hospital has been the sole traveler with the disease.

Frieden said investigators are trying to figure out how the nurses caught the virus from that Liberian patient, Thomas Eric Duncan. In the meantime, he said, their cases show a need to strengthen the infection-control procedures that “allowed for exposure to the virus.”

Duncan’s death and the sick health care workers in the U.S. and Spain “intensify our concern about the global health threat,” said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

He said two Ebola vaccine candidates were undergoing a first phase of human clinical testing this fall. But he cautioned that scientists were still in the early stages of seeking new treatments or a vaccine.

A nurse at the Dallas hospital, Texas Health Presbyterian, on Thursday described a “chaotic scene” when the hospital faced its first Ebola patient, Liberian traveler Thomas Eric Duncan and J.

Briana Aguirre, who has helped treat the first nurse who was infected, told NBC’s “Today” show she felt exposed in the protective gear the hospital provided.

“In the second week of an Ebola crisis at my hospital, the only gear they were offering us at that time,

and up until that time, is gear that is allowing our necks to be uncovered?” Aguirre said, adding that she piled on gloves and booties in triplicate and wore a plastic suit up to her neck.

The hospital said it used the protective gear recommended by the CDC and updated the equipment as CDC guidelines changed. Because nurses complained that their necks were exposed, the hospital ordered hoods for them, according to a statement from Texas Health Presbyterian.

Frieden said that Vinson never should have been allowed to fly on a commercial jetliner because she had been exposed to the virus while caring for the first Ebola patient.



TONY DEJAK/AP

Police keep watch Thursday on a home in Tallmadge, Ohio, where nurse Amber Joy Vinson stayed during the weekend before flying home to Dallas. Vinson was diagnosed with Ebola shortly after visiting the area last weekend.

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# EUROPE

## New private school a step closer in K-town

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Plans to open a private international school in Kaiserslautern by next fall advanced a step further after a sufficient number of families, including some Americans, expressed interest in sending their children there, city official said Thursday.

"We have definite intent to move forward," said Andrea Oliver, the director of U.S. relations for the city.

Many details still need to be hashed out, but Oliver said it's likely International School Kaiserslautern would initially comprise kindergarten through middle-school grades, with the intention of expanding at some point to a full secondary school program.

Instruction would be in English with a strong secondary focus on German.

Families interested in learning more about the school are invited to attend two "open days" at International School Neustadt on Nov. 6 and Nov. 24, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Parents can register online for one of the open day time slots at: <http://is-kaiserslautern.de/>

The city circulated a survey this spring to gauge support for school.

Oliver said in May that the city needed to see at minimum potential interest from 180 to 200 students to move forward. Survey results indicated that about

330 children might enroll in the school, Oliver said. "That's parents of children that expressed an interest," she said.

"We had responses from truly an international crowd," Oliver said. "We had Germans, some Americans, but also other nationalities," including from NATO families assigned to allied air command headquarters at Ramstein Air Base.

Air Force Master Sgt. Emily Lizak, who works for the allied air command's base support group, said Wednesday about 35 NATO employees and spouses attended a town hall meeting the command hosted in September to learn more about the school.

"There is an interest," she said.

The draw is the English-based curriculum. NATO families that don't qualify for free base schooling either pay to send their children to Department of Defense Dependents School or opt for a German school and hire tutors to assist with the language difference, she said.

As of May, 91 students paid tuition to attend a base school in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, according to an official with Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe. Those include children of Air Force and Army contractors, foreign service workers and U.S. companies. Annual tuition costs from \$23,000 to \$26,500, and the family member must have base access.

Tuition costs for the international school in Kaiserslautern



SLOBODAN LERIC/Stars and Stripes

A historic building on a hill overlooking central Kaiserslautern is a possible venue for the international school planned for the city. The complex, set in a large park, was previously used by German army as a regional recruitment office.

are still being worked out, Oliver said. She offered a rough estimate of between 800 and 1,000 euros per month, per child, with discounts given to additional children from the same family.

"Part of it depends on the number of kids that sign up, and it also depends on the cost of the facility," she said.

SBW Haus des Lernens would run the school. The Swiss company operates 16 schools worldwide, including one in the Rheinland-Pfalz city of Neustadt, according

to its website. That school is about 45 minutes by car from downtown Kaiserslautern.

The city of Kaiserslautern initiated the project and sought a company that would run the school, Oliver said.

It's hoped the school will foster economic development and enhance the city's desirability as a location for international businesses. Helping the city facilitate the project is ZukunftsRegion Westpfalz, an association of business, political and other leaders

from the region.

The city is looking for a location for the school. Its "dream" spot is the former German military's recruiting center, a "beautiful," historical villa in the center of town, Oliver said. The German government owns the property but is expected to put it up for bid in the near future, she said.

"We have potential investors who are interested in buying it and renting it to the school," she said.

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JASON KANDER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

NATION

# Talk-show host Springer hits road for Ohio candidate

By ANN SANNER  
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An election fight is nothing compared with what Jerry Springer sees in his day job.

The former Cincinnati mayor now makes his money as the ringmaster of a pugilistic talk show circus, but he said it's the exchange of political ideas that excites him most.

Springer — once named "Democrat of the Year" in Ohio — remains politically active in the swing state where he previously aspired to be governor.



Springer

In recent years, Springer has headlined a county Democratic Party's annual dinner and appeared at a fish fry on behalf of a local candidate. On Thursday, he is slated to appear at an early-voting event in Warren for state Sen. Nina Turner, the Democratic candidate for Ohio's secretary of state.

"It's just something I believe in," he said in an interview Mon-

day with The Associated Press. "It sounds like a corny answer: But that's, honestly — there's no hidden motive. It's not like, you know, someone's going to get me a job."

At age 70, Springer said he doesn't plan to seek elected office, either. But he weighed it several times after serving as Cincinnati mayor in the late 1970s.

The former campaign aide to Robert F. Kennedy served on Cincinnati's city council — once winning back a seat after a prostitution scandal — and spent a year as mayor before a failed campaign for governor in 1982. He flirted with U.S. Senate bids before the 2000 and 2004 elections and toyed with another gubernatorial run in 2006.

"Theater's stuff I can do without personally running for office, and that is to back causes and candidates," he said.

Springer has given at least \$12,000 to gubernatorial candidate Ed Fitzgerald, \$10,000 to attorney general candidate David Pepper, and \$5,000 to treasurer candidate Connie Pillich, according to state campaign finance reports this year. He also gave the state Democratic party at least \$28,000.

# Senator's son among 4 indicted in dogs' deaths

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Four people — including a son of U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake — have been indicted on animal cruelty charges after 21 dogs died at a Gilbert, Ariz., kennel in June, prosecutors said Wednesday.

A grand jury indicted Green Acre Dog Boarding owners Jesse and Malesia Hughes along with daughter Logan Flake and son-in-law Austin Flake, Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery said.

The Hugheses said the animals died of heat exhaustion on June 2 in an 8-foot-by-12-foot room when one dog chewed through the air conditioner's power cord after the caretakers left the facil-

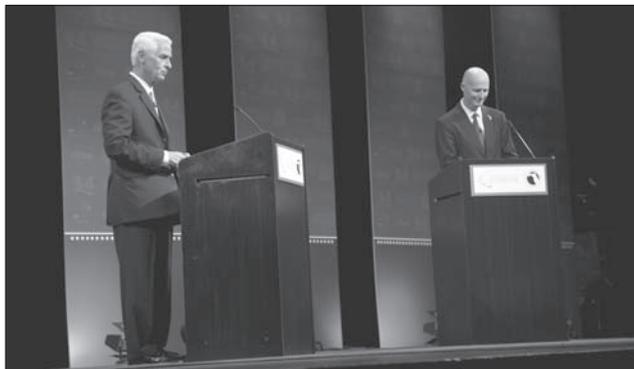
ity for the night.

The couple were vacationing in Florida at the time and said their daughter and son-in-law were in charge of watching the dogs, authorities said.

The Hughes reportedly tried to save the animals by hosing and icing them down, but authorities said they didn't call for emergency assistance before the dogs died.

A veterinarian who performed necropsies on some of the dogs said they likely suffocated.

County sheriff's investigators said in July that no evidence was found that a chewed-up electrical wire had cut power to a cooling unit and forwarded their findings to Montgomery's office.



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Florida Republican Gov. Rick Scott, right, and his Democratic challenger, former Republican Gov. Charlie Crist, participate in their second debate Wednesday in Davie, Fla.

# Florida out of the gate at start of early voting

By BILL BARROW  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Midterm elections are almost three weeks away, yet more than 904,000 Americans already have cast their ballots, with almost 60 percent of those early voters in Florida, according to data compiled by The Associated Press from election officials in 11 states.

Those numbers are climbing daily as more states begin their advance voting periods and more voters return mail-in ballots ahead of Nov. 4.

Early voting doesn't predict electoral outcomes, but both major parties emphasized the opportunity in recent elections as they try to lock in core supporters. Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia allow some form of advance voting other than traditional absentee voting requiring an excuse.

A spokesman for national Democrats, Justin Barasky, said the party is especially focused on encouraging early voting by Democrats who usually don't participate in midterms. Returns show that historically, casual voters who support Democrats in

presidential elections are more likely to stay home than average Republican voters.

In the 2010 midterms, when Republicans regained control of the House and won sweeping victories in statehouses around the country, advance voting accounted for almost 27 million ballots out of more than 89 million, meaning about 3 out of 10 voters cast early ballots. Almost 129 million people voted in the 2012 presidential election, 35.8 percent of them before Election Day.

This year's midterms will determine which party controls the Senate for the final two years of President Barack Obama's administration. Republicans are expected to pad their House majority. There are also 36 governor's races.

Noteworthy figures from around the country:

■ **Florida:** Republican Gov. Rick Scott faces a tough re-election challenge from Democrat Charlie Crist, himself a former Republican governor who switched parties to run for his old job. GOP voters account for 48.3 percent of the 535,000 ballots already cast, with registered Democrats accounting for 34.5 percent.

■ **Iowa:** In a state key to Senate control, registered Democrats account for 45 percent of the 151,656 early ballots returned in Iowa, with Republicans at 39 percent and independents at 16 percent. Republican Senate candidate Joni Ernst hopes to pick up one of the six additional seats the GOP needs for a majority. Rep. Bruce Braley also seeks to succeed Democratic Tom Harkin, who is retiring.

■ **Georgia:** With two high-profile races, almost 67,000 Georgians already have voted, about 8.5 percent of the 2010 advance vote total. Republican David Perdue and Democrat Michelle Nunn are in a tight Senate race to succeed Republican Saxby Chambliss, who's retiring. Democratic state Sen. Jason Carter, the former president's grandson, wants to unseat Republican Gov. Nathan Deal.

■ **North Carolina:** The battle between Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan and Republican challenger Thom Tillis is intense, but mail-in ballots are only a trickle since in-person advance voting has yet to begin. Through Wednesday morning, election offices had received just 10,000 returned early ballots, just 1 percent of the 2010 total.

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## NATION

# Millions plan to participate in earthquake drill

The Associated Press

LA MIRADA, Calif. — Millions of people planned to drop, cover and hold on in a drill Thursday to prepare communities in California and elsewhere for the next big earthquake.

More than 10 million Californians signed up to participate at 10:16 a.m. PDT in drills in another 15 million people this year in dozens of states and countries including Italy and Canada, according to organizers.

A full-scale exercise for emergency responders to prepare for a potential magnitude-6.7 earthquake also was to be held at Biola University in La Mirada. The suburb southeast of Los Angeles was rattled by a magnitude-5.1 earthquake in March.

The annual drill began in 2006 in California. Here's more on the Great ShakeOut and how Californians can prepare for an earthquake:

■ **Drop, cover, hold on.** The best way for residents to survive an earthquake is not to start running, said Ken Kondo, emergency program manager at the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management. The key is to drop, seek cover under a table and hold on to avoid being thrown or struck by falling debris, he said. Kondo added that residents who aren't flexing their homes in a recent Northern California earthquake injured their feet while running over broken glass. Resi-

dents should keep an emergency kit with a flashlight, batteries, radio and covered shoes under the bed, he said.

■ **Simulated response.** In past years, organizers have carried out the full-scale exercise at an elementary school, a train station and a medical center. A university campus presents a distinct challenge because students who hail from less earthquake-prone regions may not know what to do, Kondo said. At Biola University, two dozen students were to act as victims in a simulated disaster scene.

■ **Major earthquakes.** California has not suffered a devastating quake since the 1994 Northridge disaster that killed 60 people and injured more than 7,000 in metropolitan Los Angeles. In 1989, a magnitude-6.9 earthquake in the San Francisco Bay region killed 63 people, injured nearly 3,800 and caused up to \$10 billion in damage.

■ **Injuries and damage.** A magnitude-6.0 earthquake struck Napa Valley earlier this year. One woman suffered a head injury and later died and scores of people were injured. In Southern California, buildings damaged in the March earthquake are still being repaired. Brea's City Hall has undergone \$550,000 in repairs while fixes still need to be made to local schools, said Anna Cave, the city's emergency preparedness coordinator.

# Seattle megachurch's embattled founder quits

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Seattle megachurch founder Mark Driscoll, who has been under fire amid questions about his leadership style and falling membership in his Mars Hill Church, has stepped down, the church announced on its website Wednesday.

Driscoll, whose church grew to attract more than 12,000 at branches across five states, submitted his resignation Tuesday as elder and lead pastor, concluding "it would be best for the health of our family, and for the Mars Hill family, that we step aside from further ministry at the church," according to the Mars Hill website.

The church currently has multiple branches in Washington and one location each in Oregon, California and New Mexico. Last month, it closed its Phoenix location as a Mars Hill church.

Driscoll's resignation came after a group of church elders recently ended an investigation into a series of formal charges brought against him.

The church's board said on its website Wednesday that Driscoll was not asked to resign, and that they were surprised to receive his resignation letter.

Driscoll took a leave of absence in August so church leaders could investigate whether he was fit to lead, following accusations that he bullied members, threatened opponents, lied and oversaw mismanagement of church funds, the Seattle Times has reported.

The church said Wednesday that its lengthy investigation found Driscoll has been "guilty of arrogance, responding to conflict with a quick temper and harsh speech, and leading the staff and elders in a domineering manner."



PHOTOS BY JAC C. HONG/AP

Inmate Michael Sterling, center, performs Sept. 30 during an Actors' Gang Prison Project workshop at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco, Calif.

# Pilot program returns arts funding to California prisons

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

The Associated Press

NORCO, Calif. — Christopher Bisbano leaps onto the stage and his body transforms: He cries out for his true love, and then contorts his face into a droopy pout as the audience hollers with laughter. "I loooooove yoooo, is-aaaahell-aaaa!" he cries, drawing out each syllable for extra laughs as his hat slips jauntily to the side.

Bisbano, 47, is one of the most talented actors on this stage, with years of experience — but he is also a convicted felon doing 23 years and 4 months in a California state prison for attempted murder.

Now, the nonprofit acting program that trained Bisbano behind bars is expanding thanks to its slice of a \$2.5 million arts pilot project from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The funding will bring state-funded arts of all kinds to inmates at more than a dozen prisons for the first time since California's once-renowned prison arts network withered during tough budget times more than a decade ago.

The arts investment comes as California enters the third year of a dramatic overhaul of prisons. With support from Gov. Jerry Brown, the budget for prison rehabilitation programs jumped by more than \$20 million last year, with funding for arts guaranteed until 2016.

Those backing the arts hope the new funding will help prove a link between participation and success upon parole to help combat a recidivism rate that at one point approached 70 percent.

The investment is "basically saying that there's many angles to take for rehabilitation and the arts is one of them — it's very powerful," said Caitlin Trotter, of the California Arts Council, which is



Actor Tim Robbins, center, who serves as the artistic director of the Actors' Gang Prison Project, laughs while watching inmates perform.

working closely with Corrections to administer the funding.

Critics say they are wary of pouring so much money into the arts when the state is still struggling to implement parts of its prison reform.

Three years ago, the state shifted responsibility for lower-level felons to county jails, leaving only the most serious offenders in state prison.

"You need to teach them how to get a job. You need to teach them how to keep from going back to that environment in the first place," said Harriet Salarno, founder and chairwoman of Crime Victims United of California.

A small study done by state prison officials in the 1980s — when California's earlier arts program was robust — followed parolees for two years and found that those who had participated were 27 percent less likely to reoffend.

But arts advocates acknowledge there aren't any current studies that show similar results. They point instead to anecdotal evidence, including interviews with inmates, that suggests those who participate in the arts have

fewer behavioral problems and better self-esteem than those who don't.

"It's not just painting your face and putting on a costume. They're really examining what they're thinking and feeling and why they react the way they do in certain situations," said Kristina Khokhobashvili, a prison spokeswoman. "We were looking for programs that go deep."

At a recent performance at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco, 16 inmates of all races riffed off each other as they showed off their improvisational skills. The performance capped an eight-week class run by the Actor Project, an outreach of actor Tim Robbins' company, The Actors' Gang.

The nonprofit has been working with inmates since 2006 and has a 200-inmate waiting list. Now, it will expand to two more prisons this year and more next year.

"It gives them a way to focus their energies and to get in touch with emotional states that they've never felt in their life," said Robbins, who works with inmates regularly.

## WORLD

# Hong Kong leader offers talks as anger rises

By SYLVIA HUI  
AND KELVIN CHAN  
*The Associated Press*

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's leader tried to soothe tensions with student-led democracy demonstrators Thursday by reviving an offer of talks, though public anger over a video of police kicking a handcuffed activist complicates efforts to end an increasingly bitter political standoff.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said the government is ready to start a dialogue with protest leaders as soon as next week.

There was no immediate response from the student leaders,

and it was unclear whether the proposed meeting can overcome the vast differences between the two sides.

Many in Hong Kong were outraged after police officers were caught on camera early Wednesday kicking a protester with his hands cuffed behind his back. The seven officers, who have been suspended, were among hundreds battling with activists for two nights in a row over control of a busy road next to city government headquarters and near the protesters' main occupation zone.

Tensions between the two sides

have escalated in the past few days as riot police armed with pepper spray and batons moved to retake some occupied streets.

"As long as students or other sectors in Hong Kong are prepared to focus on this issue, yes, we are ready, we are prepared to start the dialogue," Leung told reporters, adding that middlemen, whom he did not identify, had been in touch with student protest leaders to convey the government's wishes.

The protesters have taken over major roads and streets in business and shopping districts across the city since Sept. 28 to

press for a greater say in choosing the semiautonomous Chinese city's leader in an inaugural direct election, promised for 2017.

Leung did not directly respond to questions about when police will move in to clear the sites, though he said that while authorities have tolerated the civil disobedience movement until now, it "cannot go on indefinitely."

"Going forward, we cannot allow the occupying of streets to have a negative impact on Hong Kong society. Police will use appropriate methods to deal with this problem," he said.

Authorities angered protesters

when they abruptly called off a scheduled meeting with student leaders last week, saying talks were unlikely to produce constructive results.

Protesters oppose the Chinese central government's ruling that a committee stacked with pro-Beijing elites should screen candidates in the territory's first direct election. That effectively means that Beijing can vet candidates before they go to a public vote.

Leung stressed that Beijing's position will not change but said there is scope for negotiations on how the committee that nominates candidates is formed.

## Serb police nab drone that triggered ruckus

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC  
*The Associated Press*

BELGRADE, Serbia — Serb police have found a drone that flew an Albanian nationalist banner over a soccer stadium in Belgrade, igniting a brawl on the field and fueling political tensions between Balkan rivals Serbia and Albania.

The small drone with four rotors — last seen being carried off by a Serb fan during the stadium brawl Tuesday night — will be checked to see where it was manufactured and purchased and who could have flown it, police chief Nebojsa Stefanovic said Thursday.

He accused Albanians of being "exclusively" to blame for the clashes.

The violence broke out after the drone, dangling a map of Albania enlarged to include chunks of several neighbors, circled over the field during the first half of Tuesday night's game.

The match was later abandoned.

Serbia and Albania have been

at odds for decades, mainly over Kosovo, a former ethnic Albanian-dominated Serbian province that declared independence in 2008. Serbia has never accepted Kosovo's independence.

UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, opened disciplinary cases against both countries over the game.

Besides the brawls on the field, the Albanian anthem was loudly jeered by Serbian fans before the game in Belgrade and derogatory chants were heard throughout.

Serbian supporters also threw flares and other objects at Albanian players, as well as attacking them on the field.

The Albanian Football Federation said Thursday that its players were repeatedly hit by fans and police and had to endure offensive chants like "Kill the Albanians!" It defended the Albanian players' decision not to continue the match.

"The AFA is of the opinion that the ... mentioned actions negatively impacted the normal conduct of the match, which was ultimately abandoned," the federation said.

## Category 4 Hurricane Gonzalo aims for Bermuda

*The Associated Press*

HAMILTON, Bermuda — People on the small, British territory of Bermuda rushed to hatten down for Hurricane Gonzalo, which was roaring toward them as a major Category 4 storm just days after a tropical storm damaged homes and knocked down trees and power lines.

Dennis Felgen, a meteorologist at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, said it was too early to tell whether the hurricane would hit Bermuda on Friday, but he warned residents to be prepared for severe weather.

"The eye of the hurricane does

not have to go over Bermuda for them not to experience severe conditions," he said in a phone interview Wednesday.

Gonzalo had top sustained winds of 140 mph early Thursday and it was centered about 540 miles south-southwest of Bermuda. It was moving north at 9 mph, the hurricane center said.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Bermuda, and forecasters said a dangerous storm surge accompanied by destructive waves could cause significant flooding on the island, which is about one-third the size of Washington. Some 3 to 6 inches of rain was predicted.



PROVIDED BY THE NEPALESE ARMY/AP

Soldiers prepare to airlift an avalanche victim Wednesday in Thorong La pass area, Nepal.

## Death toll in Nepal blizzard, avalanche increases to 27

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA  
*The Associated Press*

KATMANDU, Nepal — Search teams in army helicopters rescued dozens of stranded foreign trekkers and recovered more bodies of victims of a blizzard and avalanches in Nepal's northern mountains Thursday, raising the death toll to 27.

About 70 people were still missing along or near the popular Annapurna trail, said Ganga Sagar Pant, of the Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal, and the death toll there was expected to rise.

The route, 100 miles northwest of the capital, Katmandu, was filled with international hikers during the peak October trekking season, when the air is generally clear and cool. There were also many Nepalese on the trails because of local festivals.

Government administrator Yama Bahadur Chokhyal said

rescuers recovered 10 more bodies in the Thorong La pass area, where they had been caught in a sudden blizzard Tuesday.

The bodies were not yet identified. The bodies of two Poles, an Israeli and a Nepalese were recovered from the area on Wednesday.

Chokhyal said 64 more foreign trekkers were rescued from the area on Thursday. Two trekkers from Hong Kong and 12 Israelis were airlifted Wednesday to Katmandu, where they were being treated at a hospital.

They said they survived by

taking refuge in a small tea shop along the path.

"I was sure I was going to die on the way to the pass because I lost my group, I lost all the people I was with and I could not see anything," said Linor Kajan, an injured Israeli who said she was stuck in waist-deep snow.

"One Nepalese guide who knows

the way saw me and asked me to stay with him. And he dragged me, really dragged me to the tea shop. And everybody there was really frightened," she said.

Another Israeli survivor, Yakov Megreli, said they tried to stay awake in the tea shop to stay warm.

"We tried not to sleep," Megreli said. "We tried not to get hypothermia. It was a very frightening and awful situation."

The blizzard, the tail end of a cyclone that hit the Indian coast a few days earlier, appeared to contribute to an avalanche that killed at least eight people in Phu village in neighboring Manang district. The dead included one Indian and four Canadian trekkers as well as three villagers, said government official Devendra Lamichane.

The foreigners' bodies were buried in up to 6½ feet of snow, and digging them out will take days, he said.



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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police: Golf cart plows into students, injuring 2

**CA** FRESNO — Police in California said two students suffered serious injuries when a special-needs student got into a golf cart at a local middle school and took off, plowing into a group of teenagers.

The 13-year-old student ran into the youths Monday at Granite Ridge Intermediate in Fresno before hitting a tree.

He and nine other students were taken to the hospital, but only two of the injuries were considered serious.

Police said the golf cart didn't require a key to work.

## Dream beach house built on wrong lot

**FL** HAMMOCK DUNES — A dream beach house in Florida has turned into a nightmare for a Missouri couple.

Six months after the custom house was built along the Atlantic Ocean near Palm Coast, Mark and Brenda Voss learned it's on the wrong lot in the gated Ocean Hammock community.

Mark Voss told the Daytona Beach News Journal they're in "total disbelief." The couple own 18 other residential lots in the community. They bought the lot in question in 2012 and hired Keystone Homes to build a three-story, 5,000-square-foot vacation rental. But it was instead built on the lot next door, which is owned by a North Carolina couple.

## Changing city official's seat to cost nearly \$7K

**TX** EL PASO — It will cost El Paso nearly \$7,000 to change the seats for a city council member.

City Councilwoman Ann Morgan Lilly said she no longer wants to sit next to council member Lily Limon, because Limon's under-the-breath comments during the meetings distract her. Lilly said another councilwoman, Courtney Niland, also requested to change seats because of Limon.

City spokeswoman Juli Lozano told the El Paso Times the money for a new computer and desk re-configuration for Lilly will come from the Public Educational and Governmental budget.

## Wheelchair marking traffic death stolen

**RI** NEWPORT — An empty wheelchair near a Newport intersection as a memorial to a man killed at the site in January has been stolen.

The Newport Daily News reported that Annette Bourbonnais, an advocate for disabled people, said the intersection is dangerous and the wheelchair reminds passers-by of the death of Robert Silvia, 57, who was in his wheelchair when he was struck by a pickup truck in the crosswalk.

## Teacher cleared of exposure charge

**MI** HASTINGS — A jury has acquitted a Hastings elementary school teacher



CHRIS PEDOTA, THE (WOODLAND PARK, N.J.) RECORD/AP

## When work makes you scream

Da' Von Willis, of Paterson, N.J., loads trash while wearing a "Scream" mask he found on a garbage can in Wayne, N.J., on Tuesday.

### THE CENSUS

# 6'4"

The height of Blossom, the world's tallest cow, according to a recent Guinness World Records designation. Patty Hanson, right, of Orangeville, Ill., sought the record after veterinarians and the cow's foot trimmer constantly noted the 2,000-pound animal's large size. Hanson got Blossom when she was a calf and eventually decided to keep her as a pet. She turned 13 in July. "Blossom is a bit like an overgrown dog," Hanson said. "To people who have cows, they will get what I am saying, but I want other people to know she is special. I told my dad years ago that Blossom was destined for stardom, and with this record she has achieved that."



of an indecent exposure charge after he testified that he urinated in his backyard but didn't expose himself to a neighbor.

The Grand Rapids Press reported Stephen Merring, 55, was cleared of the charge Monday after a trial that lasted a few hours. The Southeastern Elementary physical education teacher has been on paid leave since his arrest in April.

Merring testified that he didn't think anyone could see him when he stepped out of his basement to urinate.

Attorney Fil Iorio said his client is "extremely relieved" to be cleared and wants to return to work.

## Grapes, juice close highway after crash

**PA** SMITHTON — An eastbound lane of Interstate 70 reopened about six hours after a tractor-trailer crashed, spilling grapes and sticky juice onto the highway in southwestern Pennsylvania.

State police said the incident happened about 2:40 a.m. Tuesday and the lane reopened about 8:30 a.m.

Police said the tractor trailer driven by Chad Mippers, 48, of Jefferson City, Mo., clipped another truck whose driver was sleeping and had parked his car hauler off the side of the road. The fruit-hauling truck then headed up a small embankment and tipped over, spilling its load.

Police said Mathers will be cited for not staying in his lane.

## Infant trapped under dead dog recovering

**LA** PLEASANT HILL — A 10-month-old girl trapped underneath the decomposing body of her father for as many as three days has been released from a Shreveport hospital, a deputy coroner said.

The baby was dehydrated and suffering from blistering skin when she was found last week wedged against the wall and

under the body of her father, Jason Fields, 43, said Sabine Parish Deputy Coroner Ron Rivers.

"It looked like he was sitting on the side of the bed on his computer, fell backward and died," Rivers said. "The fact that he fell on her and made no attempt to get up tells me he died instantly when he fell on top of her."

## Officer placed on leave over popcorn theft

**OH** TOLEDO — A police officer in Toledo has been placed on unpaid suspension after he pleaded no contest to making off with caramel popcorn from a convenience store.

Authorities said the officer was on duty and in uniform on two occasions when he took caramel popcorn from the Oregon Circle K.

Sgt. Richard Whitman, 52, pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor theft charge Thursday. He was fined and placed on probation. He also paid back \$3 for the popcorn.

## Report shows jump in pest complaints

**NY** NEW YORK — An audit by the city comptroller's office shows the number of pest complaints including rat problems jumped by more than 2,000.

The report said the number of complaints to the city's 311 hotline and online went from 22,300 in fiscal year 2012 to 24,586 the next year.

According to the Daily News of New York, Comptroller Scott Stringer said health inspectors didn't follow through on protocols to combat the problem. In 160 cases, no field inspection was conducted.

Stringer says the health department isn't managing the problem effectively.

A health department spokesman said the agency "strongly disagrees" with the audit, and that the agency takes a proactive response to exterminating rats in the city.

From wire reports

## FAITH



# Faith in architecture

## No stained glass or gargoyles, just Mies' minimalist 'God Box' chapel restored

By BLAIR KAMIN  
*Chicago Tribune*

CHICAGO — If you like your chapels with stained glass and gargoyles, then stay away from the “God Box.”

That's the nickname of master modernist Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's only religious building. Its official name: the Robert F. Carr Memorial Chapel of St. Saviour at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The early 1950s chapel is classic Mies: a simple box of brick, steel, concrete and glass, stripped of decoration and seemingly disconnected from history. Which is why postmodernists, enamored of ornament and historical references, hated it. In the 1980s, which was postmodernism's high tide and Mies' low ebb, the oft-heard crack was that, at IIT, the chapel looked like a factory.

Sitting in the chapel, one realizes how misguided that critique is. The chapel's high-ceilinged interior skillfully nestles the visitor between the spiritual and natural — one represented by a stainless steel cross, the other by a lovely tree visible through enormous windows. The absence

of decoration all but forces you to contemplate and turn inward. You can lose yourself in a Gothic cathedral's soaring grandeur. But this modestly scaled room, as Mies so precisely put it, gives the visitor “the hope of finding oneself.”

Kudos, then, to the Mies van der Rohe Society for raising more than \$1 million to restore the God Box. The society, which seeks to preserve Mies' buildings on the IIT campus he did so much to shape, joined with university leaders recently to rededicate the 62-year-old chapel after a meticulous restoration. The project restored not just brick and mortar, but a piece of living architectural history.

Religious groups use the chapel near 32nd Street and Michigan Avenue for services, meetings and social gatherings. It hosts weddings too. There are no fixed pews. Chairs can be arranged every which way. Drapes behind the altar can part in the middle, allowing them to be moved slightly forward and cover the prominently displayed cross. Such flexibility is as much a part of the Miesian method as the honest expression of structure.

Mies, who died in 1969, designed great buildings, among them New York's

**‘It's so typical Mies — stripped of all the religious decoration. [That] allows you to concentrate, meditate and focus.’**

**Dirk Lohan**  
Chicago architect and grandson of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

Seagram Building and the Farnsworth House in far southwest suburban Plano. At the chapel, he made more with less — a tight budget from the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, which sponsored the nondenominational chapel. The chapel's namesake, Robert F. Carr, president of Dearborn Chemical and a leader in Episcopal church fundraising, died in 1945.

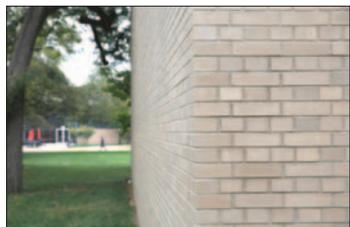
Led by T. Gunny Harboe, of Chicago's Harboe Architects, the restoration replaced a leaking roof and hundreds of cracked exterior bricks, redid mortar joints, repaired corroded steel frames, refinished the terrazzo floor, cleaned and

repaired interior brick, and refinished wood doors and benches. Graffiti and cluttering shrubs were removed, as were almost all of the water stains. The key is that the project simultaneously attended to form and function.

The successful restoration raises the question: Is the God Box a model for other religious buildings or a piece of the Mies canon that architects should admire but not emulate? It really all depends on the designer.

Some react against the chapel's minimalism, as did Chicago architect Laurence Booth in the renovated Old St. Patrick's Church, a Celtic wonderland of stenciling and stained glass. Others draw inspiration from Mies' reductive spirit, as did architect Tadao Ando in his Church of the Light near Osaka, Japan. Its signature element is a cross-shaped void cut into its concrete wall. For Ando and Mies, religious architecture is not defined by ornament's presence but by its absence.

“It's so typical Mies — stripped of all the religious decoration,” his grandson, Chicago architect Dirk Lohan, said before the rededication. That “allows you to concentrate, meditate and focus.”



PHOTOS BY JOSE M. OSORIO, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

The Mies van der Rohe Society raised more than \$1 million to restore the Robert F. Carr Memorial Chapel of St. Saviour at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

FACES

# It's super (heroes)!

## WB/DC announces 10-picture slate

By MICHAEL CAVNA  
The Washington Post

Warner Bros. has just publicly pulled the trigger. As part of what it calls a “massive expansion” of its superhero film slate, the studio announced that 2016’s “Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice” will kick off a 10-film slate to be released over four years — a ramping-up that puts Warner Bros./DC Entertainment more in lockstep with the pace of Disney’s Marvel Studios.

Among those 10 films, “Wonder Woman” will finally get a stand-alone movie, in 2017 — with “Batman v. Superman’s” Amazon, Gal Gadot, assuming the suit for the longer haul. And getting their own

films the following year will be The Flash (starring Ezra Miller, as opposed to the TV series’ Grant Gustin) and Aquaman (with the long-rumored Jason Momoa patrolling the seas).

In an “Avengers”-like film strategy, Warner Bros. also plans to release “Justice League, Part One” in 2017 and the series’ “Part Two” two years later, with Zack Snyder at the helm for both.

The expanded-universe slate is part of numerous “investor day” announcements from Warner Bros., including news of three forthcoming LEGO sequels — including a Batman film — as WB hits the bricks hard because of the first film’s massive success.

### What’s ahead

Here is the full slate of its superhero films, with the provision that standalone Batman or Superman films could still be in the offing before 2021:

- “Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice,” directed by Zack Snyder (2016)
- “Suicide Squad,” directed by David Ayer (2016)
- “Wonder Woman” (2017)
- “Justice League Part One,” directed by Zack Snyder, with Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill and Amy Adams reprising their roles (2018)
- “The Flash” (2018)
- “Aquaman” (2018)
- “Shazam” (2019)
- “Justice League Part Two” (2019)
- “Cyborg,” starring Ray Fisher (2020)
- “Green Lantern” (2020)

### Potter spinoff ‘at least’ a trilogy

The upcoming “Harry Potter” spinoff film “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” is going to be the first in a film trilogy, and more movies might be on the way. The “Fantastic Beasts” movies are based on a story by Potter author J.K. Rowling and will be her screenwriting debut. Release dates are slated for 2016, 2018, 2020 and perhaps beyond.

From the Los Angeles Times

## Pitt OK with oldest son seeing ‘Fury’

While the World War II drama “Fury” depicts a gruesome look at war through the exploits of a tank crew in Nazi Germany, Brad Pitt feels his 13-year-old son, Maddox, can handle the content.

“He’s a World War II buff,” Pitt told The Associated Press on Wednesday night on the red carpet for the film’s world premiere in Washington, D.C.

Some have criticized the film’s stark brutality. Scenes of a soldier’s body getting torn up during rapid machine-gun fire or a tank commander decapitated has made the film a little too real.

The newly married father of six contends that when it comes to what’s appropriate for his children, he comes from “another generation.”

“My father would take us to the drive-in as very young kids and we’d see Clint Eastwood movies and kung fu movies,” the 50-year-old actor said.

He added: “The world is a beautiful place, but it’s also a very violent place. We talk about it afterward, so I’m not so opposed.”



OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

**Brad Pitt arrived for the premiere of “Fury” in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday.**

On the subject of family, Pitt was amused at the notion that he and George Clooney had a pact that they would both get married. Pitt married longtime love Angelina Jolie earlier this year, and Clooney tied the knot in September.

Pitt laughed at the theory before responding: “We did it for the right reasons.”

From The Associated Press



INVISION FOR BANFIELD PET HOSPITAL/AP

**Quvenzhané Wallis, star of the musical film “Annie,” read aloud from the children’s book, “My Very, Very Busy Day,” at the Children’s Museum of Manhattan on Wednesday in New York.**

## ‘Annie’ star Quvenzhané Wallis hopes to become a veterinarian

By ALICIA RANCILLO  
The Associated Press

Quvenzhané Wallis says she took singing lessons to prepare for the lead role in a new version of “Annie,” opening in theaters in December.

Quvenzhané, who was nominated for a best-actress Oscar when she was 9 for her role in “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” said she’s always listened to music, especially while on her way to her brothers’ basketball games. “My vocal cords got better as I sang in the car, and when I (took) singing lessons, they got even better,” the 11-year-old Quvenzhané said in a recent interview.

In this contemporized adaptation of the Broadway musical and the “Little Orphan Annie” comic strip, Annie lives in a foster home instead of an orphanage, “and there are cell phones,” Quvenzhané said.

One thing hasn’t changed: the presence of Annie’s loyal companion, a mutt named Sandy. “Of course we have a Sandy. There’s no ‘Annie’ without a Sandy. We have a little doggie named Marti who is a rescue dog. She’s really cute,” Quvenzhané said.

She hopes to become a veterinarian. Quvenzhané wrote the forward to a new book “My Very, Very Busy Day,” the story of a dog and a cat, designed to teach kids about the responsibilities that come with having a pet.

## Neil Patrick Harris to host upcoming Oscars ceremony

From wire reports

Neil Patrick Harris, the awards-show veteran who previously hosted the Tonys and the Emmys, is set to take on the Oscars next.

Harris will emcee the Academy Awards on Feb. 22, the Los Angeles Times confirmed after Variety first reported the news. The Academy sent out a statement later Wednesday afternoon with the official announcement.

Fans have long called for Harris to get the gig, but producers had previously shied away from hiring him, generally choosing a different host for each ceremony in recent years. Ellen DeGeneres emceed the 2014 Oscars, helping the show to a 14-year ratings high.

Craig Zadan and Neil Meron will produce this year’s show for the third year in a row. “We are thrilled to have Neil host the Oscars,” the pair said in the statement. “We have known him his entire adult life, and we have watched him explode as a great performer in feature films, television and stage. To work with

him on the Oscars is the perfect storm, all of his resources and talent coming together on a global stage.”

### ‘Modern Family’ actress dies at 55

Actress Elizabeth Peña who had roles in “Down and Out in Beverly Hills,” “La Bamba,” “Lone Star,” “Rush Hour” and “The Incredibles,” died Tuesday in Los Angeles after a brief illness, according to her manager, Gina Rugolo. She was 55.

In addition to her film work, Peña had multiple television roles, including a starring role as a Latin American housekeeper in the 1987-88 sitcom “I Married Dora.” She had a recurring guest role on “Modern Family,” playing the mother of Sofia Vergara’s character, and appears regularly on the current crime drama “Matador.” She also directed a

few episodes of television shows and was a founding member of the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors.

### Other news

■ **Stephen Collins** is being investigated by Los Angeles sheriff’s detectives after a woman reported the actor exposed himself to her in the early 1980s. The department on Wednesday confirmed it opened an investigation Oct. 9 after the woman reported the incident to authorities. The alleged victim was 13 years old when she claims Collins exposed himself to her in West Hollywood, Calif., in 1983.

■ **Model Heidi Klum** and Grammy-winning singer Seal are officially divorced. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mark Juhas finalized the pair’s divorce judgment Tuesday.

■ **A “Real Housewives of New Jersey” star** already headed for federal prison on fraud charges has pleaded guilty in an unrelated state case. Giuseppe “Joe” Giudice accepted the plea deal Wednesday in Paterson, N.J.



Peña

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# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## HBO aims to cut cord, stand on its own

By **MAE ANDERSON**  
AND **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK**—Next year HBO is cutting the cord and selling its popular streaming video service HBO Go as a stand-alone product to more Americans choose to watch the Web, not the TV. Viewers looking to see "Game of Thrones," "True Detective" and "Veep" will no longer have to pay big bucks for cable and satellite contracts. So, is this the end of

pay-TV as we know it? "HBO and ESPN are the two main reasons why people have cable and satellite TV," said Forrester analyst James McQuivry. "The whole industry has eyed them for years, nervous that one day they would decide to do exactly what (HBO) said they'll do in 2015. We don't know until we see pricing and packaging how rapidly this will force a change in the way pay TV operators work, but it will definitely force a change."

Millions already have canceled pay-TV subscriptions — up to 10 million U.S. households are currently broadband-only. And about 45 percent of Americans stream television shows at least once per month, according to research firm eMarketer. That number is expected to increase to 53 percent, or 175 million people, by 2018, it says. Video streamers aren't falling behind on entertainment — so-called "cord-cutters" watched about 100 hours of video per

month during the first half of this year, estimates the Internet research firm Sandvine. The trend accelerated as Netflix Inc.'s Internet video service expanded into original programming and bought the rights to show popular cable network shows such as "Breaking Bad" and "American Horror Story." Amazon.com Inc., Yahoo Inc. and Google's YouTube also offer Internet-only services as alternatives to pay TV.

### EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.50	\$3.709	\$3.884	\$4.001
Change in price	-8.3 cents	-8.6 cents	-8.6 cents	-3.5 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.522	\$4.797	\$4.563
Change in price	--	-3.7 cents	-2.9 cents	-7.5 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.679	\$4.072	\$3.971
Change in price	--	-8.8 cents	-0.3 cents	-3.5 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.830	--
Change in price	--	--	-8.6 cents	--
Turkey	--	\$3.753	\$3.952	\$3.976
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey (New Lira)	--	--	\$4.097	\$4.718*
Change in price	--	--	no change	no change
U.K.	\$4.201	--	\$4.271	--
Change in price	no change	--	no change	no change

### PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.666	--	\$3.789
Change in price	--	-8.0 cents	--	-3.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.359	--	--	\$3.789
Change in price	-3.0 cents	--	--	-3.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.329	--	\$3.709	\$3.839
Change in price	-10.0 cents	--	-8.0 cents	-3.0 cents
Guam	\$3.319**	\$3.519	\$3.699	--
Change in price	-10.0 cents	-9.0 cents	-8.0 cents	--

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Oct. 18-24

### MARKET WATCH

	Oct. 15, 2014
<b>Dow Jones Industrials</b>	<b>-173.45</b>
	16,141.74
<b>Nasdaq composite</b>	<b>-11.85</b>
	4,215.32
<b>Standard &amp; Poor's 500</b>	<b>-15.21</b>
	1,862.49
<b>Russell 2000</b>	<b>10.95</b>
	1,072.45

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



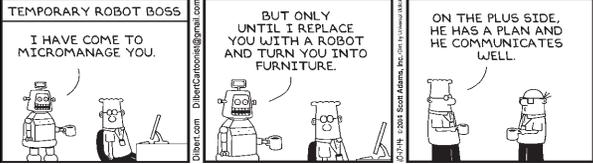
### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



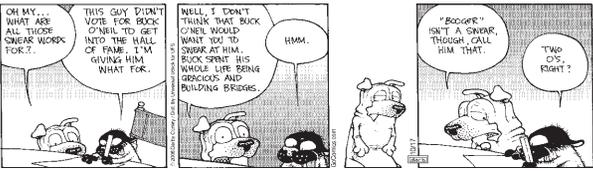
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Burst
- 4 Put an end to
- 8 In pre-swam mode
- 12 Listener
- 13 Zilch
- 14 Entreaty
- 15 Rapacious one
- 17 Blue hue
- 18 Filly's mom
- 19 Shampoo label verb
- 20 Marble cake pattern
- 22 Pull an all-nighter
- 24 Semi-fortnight
- 25 Laws
- 29 Melody
- 30 Layered rock
- 31 Knock
- 32 Gild the lily, maybe
- 34 Bigfoot's cousin
- 35 Sword handle
- 36 Made on a loom
- 37 Bottom
- 40 Creche trio
- 41 Eternally
- 42 Dear
- 46 Corduroy ridge
- 47 Agenda entry
- 48 "Born in the ..."
- 49 Decue defater
- 50 Not at one's desk
- 51 Driver's license datum

DOWN

- 1 Vim and vigor
- 2 Scull tool
- 3 Opening night
- 4 Entangle
- 5 Carry
- 6 Lennon's lady
- 7 Part of MPH
- 8 Productive period
- 9 Singer Campbell
- 10 Meadows
- 11 Harvard rival
- 16 Unlil
- 19 Fight the clock
- 20 Trade
- 21 "Dead Poets Society" director
- Peter
- 22 Macrame, for one
- 23 Hinge (on) instrument
- 25 Dr. McGraw
- 26 Prior
- 27 London gallery
- 28 "Wheel of Fortune" option
- 30 Wield a swizzle stick
- 33 Number of days in June
- 34 Boo-Boo's mentor
- 36 Eccentric
- 37 Salamander
- 38 State with certainty
- 39 Strike out
- 40 Arizona city
- 42 Sch. group
- 43 Uncooked
- 44 Work with one
- 45 Stan Getz's instrument

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

10-17

CRYPTOQUIP

PVC CQPCLPXZQUCQP-NXYCO  
 KXNNTC KVVXQQCT YVEDCO  
 YQZIIICPY XTT OXW PEOXW.

PVCYD DCLC PEPTX C! KTZYI.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE'S WRIST BONES GET BADLY DAMAGED, PHYSICIANS MAY WANT THEM TO TRY CARPALS THERAPY.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Americans embrace fair regulations

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Richard Braun, General Manager  
 Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander  
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

By ROSS EISENBREY

It's conventional wisdom in Washington that three decades or more of corporate-sponsored anti-regulatory studies, conferences, advertising and political speeches have convinced the American public that agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have gone too far and should back off in enforcing environmental and safety rules. That so-called wisdom is wrong.

In a new survey of likely voters conducted by Lake Research Partners, 87 percent — with big majorities regardless of political party, gender or geography — said increased enforcement of our national laws and regulations is needed. Despite all of the Big Business rhetoric against regulation ... Americans want rules to protect them against polluted air and water, hazards in the workplace, and consumer products or drugs that might harm them or their families. But they don't just want rules, they want them enforced. And they want that enforcement to be both tough and fair. ...

Too-friendly relationships between big business and the regulators can be disastrous: the failure to control the big banks was largely responsible for the 2008 financial crash and the Great Recession, which threw tens of millions out of work, and millions out of their homes. Have things changed? An investigator for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York secretly recorded audio tapes that reveal the same cozy relationship between regulators and the banks they oversee. A Federal Reserve official is heard describing a financial transaction involving Goldman Sachs as "legal but shady," yet the regulator is deferential to the bank throughout the discussion.

What's worse than soft cops on the beat is no cops at all. There was no fire code in force in West, Texas, at the fertilizer plant that blew up last year, killing 15 people, and OSHA had not inspected the plant in 28 years. EPA last inspected the plant in 2006 and assessed a meager fine of \$2,300 for failing to update a risk management plan. The company responded in 2011 with



WILFREDO LEE/AP

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, center, listens as students explain how they are checking the salinity levels in water samples, on Oct. 9, in Miami Beach, Fla. The city expects to spend up to \$400 million to improve drainage and reduce flooding.

an updated but misleading plan, stating that its chemicals did not pose a risk of fire or explosion, and falsely claiming that the "worse-case scenario" was a 10-minute release of gas or a leak from a broken hose, neither of them harmful to humans.

Cozy relationships between regulators and the regulated, minimal inspections, and weak penalties that fail as deterrents — these are real problems in our enforcement system. Voters across the country are unhappy and want a better approach. ... Surprisingly perhaps, majorities have a favorable view of OSHA, EPA, the Food and Drug Administration and the other key agencies, and no more than one-third have an unfavorable view of any of them. Congress, of course, is far less popular.

When enforcement is done right, the public benefits. Recently, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau cracked down on some of the big banks: Bank of America was hit with \$727 million in fines because of deceptive practices, including charging customers for products they never agreed to, JPMorgan Chase with \$309 million for

illegal credit card practices; and American Express with \$59.5 million in refunds and \$9.6 million in penalties for deceptive and unauthorized billing. Overall, in less than three years since the agency opened its doors, it has saved consumers more than \$3.5 billion in excessive fees and interest.

We need to strengthen, not weaken, enforcement of these laws. That means no more revolving door relationships, and no more culture of deference. It means bigger enforcement budgets for regulatory agencies. ... And it means tougher penalties for corporate wrongdoers, as proposed in the Hide No Harm Act introduced by Sen. Richard Blumenthal. It would make it a crime for corporations to conceal evidence of hazards — and Rep. George Miller's Protect America's Workers Act — which would make it a felony to willfully violate standards and cause a worker's death.

The public wants this accountability and it should shove every member of Congress.

Ross Eisenbrey is the vice president of the Economic Policy Institute. He wrote this column for McClatchy-Tribune News Service.

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Ernie Gates

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'Yes means yes' should be military standard

By RACHEL E. VANLANDINGHAM

LOS ANGELES  
 The U.S. military are among the most respected members of society. Yet in the bedroom, we expect much less of them than we do of the 18-year-old grace California's university campuses.

According to a law signed last month, college students in California must secure "affirmative, conscious, and voluntary" consent from their partner before sex. This measure acknowledges that American universities have a rampant sexual assault problem; almost 20 percent of undergraduate women experience an attempted or actual sexual assault in college.

With almost half of its active-duty ranks under age 25, the U.S. military has been grappling with similarly unacceptable rates of what it calls "unwanted sexual contact," primarily among its college-age members.

Part of the problem is written into the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Right now, in the military, silence may in fact equal consent. According to Article 120, the "totality of the circumstances" must be considered when sexual assault is reported. Silence and lack of resistance count as consent, unless a victim's silence or pas-

sivity can be attributed to intentional acts by the defendant.

That is, a young servicemember who freezes because of shock at being groped or penetrated, or goes limp because of fear that their drill instructor will flunk the servicemember out of basic training (though he hasn't said so), can be construed as consenting to such unwanted contact.

Furthermore, even if a jury doesn't buy that this passivity actually equals consent, the statute allows the defense to argue that the attacker reasonably mistook the victim's silence as consent.

California ensures that such a mistake can never be construed as reasonable: "[I]ack of protest or resistance does not mean consent, nor does silence mean consent." Period.

The military needs to jettison its "silence may sometimes represent consent" definition in favor of a clear affirmative consent standard like California's. It also needs the California law's reminder that "it is the responsibility of each person involved in the sexual activity to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of the other or others to engage in the sexual activity."

Such clarifications are critically needed in the military environment to counteract the often-power dynamics of rank, loyalty and teamwork that contribute to an

inherently coercive atmosphere; an atmosphere in which silence should never be a default for consent to sex.

These changes (which need to be approved by Congress) will reverberate well beyond the courtroom. They will help change attitudes via education. The military actually uses the UCMJ's statutory definition of consent — typically word for awkward word — to train and educate today's young servicemembers as to what is acceptable behavior regarding sex. The deeply disturbing prevalence of sexual assault on our military bases and college campuses demands that expectations regarding sexual behavior shouldn't be left to popular music and the media.

We owe our young men and women in uniform at least as much clarity as college students in California, and to hold them to at least the same reasonable and modern standard. Accountability of offenders is one method of deterrence; prevention through education is even better.

Rachel E. VanLandingham teaches criminal law at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. She is a retired Air Force judge advocate — who served as a military prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, appellate defense attorney, nuclear surety inspector and professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy — and vice president of the National Institute of Military Justice. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## 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.

### Help first where Ebola's worse

**(The Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald**

The United States seems to be suffering from extreme exposure to Ebola — not to the virus itself but to the viral speculation about the danger it poses to Americans. It's time to calm down.

Ebola is an intrinsically frightening disease. It's a terrible way to die, and that naturally heightens fears about contracting the disease. But so far, only one person has died of the disease in the U.S., a man who traveled here from Liberia after contracting Ebola in his home country.

The number of people who've been exposed to the disease and are under close watch by health authorities.

But all indications are that the United States is fully equipped to treat those who get Ebola and stop the spread of the disease before it becomes anything close to an epidemic. We have the doctors, the health facilities, the isolation rooms, the protocols to limit contact with patients by health workers and the basic equipment needed to keep them safe.

The real crisis is in Africa, particularly the three West African countries where the number of cases is spreading — Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. ...

We need to be concerned about Ebola but not simply about the possibility that it might immigrate to the United States. It is both a humanitarian and strategic priority to help Africa contain and halt this epidemic. It is better to have tens of thousands of vulnerable people there.

### Pope, justices truly pro-family

**(Pensacola, Fla.) News Journal**

Pay attention to this moment. This week alone stands as proof evidence of Western Civilization's inevitable march toward freedom and equality. Collectively, we have resisted, fought, even slipped backward at times. But eventually, we are always shown that our faith in the rights of all men is not unfounded.

The New York Times reported Monday that "an assembly of Roman Catholic bishops convened by Pope Francis at the Vatican released a preliminary document on Monday calling for the church to welcome and accept gay."

In addition to urging acceptance of unmarried couples and those who have been divorced, the document says that gay people have "gifts and qualities to offer to the Christian community," and acknowledges that gay couples can give each other "mutual support, affection and care" and "precious support in the life of the partners."

This is a monumental indication that one of the most ancient, important and stalwart institutions in the world is moving in the philosophical course set forth by Pope Francis, which is ultimately, the foundation of the message of Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile, this same slide toward greater freedom is playing out in the secular realm here in the United States. Following the Supreme Court's decision last week that effectively made same-sex marriage legal in 30 states, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi related Monday night and asked the state Supreme Court to decide the issue here in the Sunshine State. After a summer of appealing judicial defeats, Bondi asked the state's highest court to withhold action until the U.S. Supreme Court could decide the issue. ...

It is the result of the people's inability to realize that secular government has no



Indian border migrants rest inside Chichi Mata, a Hindu temple turned into a relief camp, 25 miles from Jammu, India, on Oct. 10. Recent fighting displaced Hindu-majority region of Kashmir between India and Pakistan has killed at least 21 civilians.

business dictating the lives of individuals by oppressing such a basic liberty. Besides, states and churches alike are wise to see that committed couples in any form strengthen society. We need more families, not fewer; more freedom, not less.

### Repudiate radical Buddhists

**The New York Times**

On his 79th birthday in July, the Dalai Lama appealed to Buddhist extremist groups in Myanmar and Sri Lanka to stop instigating attacks against Muslim minorities that have killed scores. Instead, in an affront to Buddhism's core message of compassion, leaders of those groups announced an alliance to make common cause against Muslims.

"The time has come to ally internationally," Galagadtha the Ganasara, the leader of the radical Sri Lankan Buddhist group Bodu Bala Sena, announced at a convention held in Colombo last month. The guest of honor was Ashin Wirathu, a Buddhist radical whose picture Time magazine put on its July 1 cover as "The Face of Buddhist Terror." The government of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa ignored pleas by Sri Lankan Muslim and Christian civil groups, fearful of more anti-Muslim violence in their country, to deny Wirathu a visa. Granting Wirathu a visa can only reinforce the fears of many Muslims that the government backs Bodu Bala Sena.

Last week, Ganasara claimed he was in discussions "at a high level" with the right-wing Indian Hindu group Rashtriya Swayam Sevak to form what he called a "Hindu-Buddhist peace zone" in South Asia. A Rashtriya Swayam Sevak spokesman, Ram Madhav, promptly denied that there were any such discussions. But Madhav, now general secretary of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party, has written comments sympathetic to Bodu Bala Sena and Wirathu's group 969 in Myanmar on his Facebook and Twitter accounts.

It is folly for the governments of Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka, President Thein Sein, of Myanmar, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in India, or their political allies, to give even the appearance of tolerating these Islamophobic groups. ... They should condemn this mad alliance before it can spread further.

### Nobels can aid Kashmir peace

**The Kansas City (Mo.) Star**

The Nobel Peace Prizes recently awarded to a 17-year-old Pakistani girl and an Indian man should inspire the leaders of their countries to end their decades-long, dangerous struggle over Kashmir.

The time to find a peaceful future for Kashmir is now.

Violence between Pakistan and India along the disputed Kashmir border has escalated lately into the worst fighting between the nuclear-armed countries in more than a decade, causing U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to say he "deplores the loss of lives and the displacement of civilians on both sides."

Such statements are fine, but action is more important.

One Nobel recipient is Malala Yousafzai, of Pakistan, a fearless advocate of girls' education who was shot by a Taliban gunman. The other is Kailash Satyarthi, of India, who works to end child labor and to free children from trafficking. Both have provided better models than their countries' leaders, who can't seem to end their battle over beautiful Kashmir. Since their birth in the separate nation in 1947, the year India achieved independence, the countries have fought several wars, at least two of them over Kashmir. In 1999, India and Pakistan came to the edge of a nuclear conflict over this dispute.

The future of Kashmir ... has tended to get shoved off the radar screen. The result has been a simmering conflict, disrupting the lives of Kashmiris and providing opportunities for extremists to make trouble.

The latest violence has struck heavily populated civilian areas. Indian and Pakistani officials have been blustering about who is to blame and who won't talk to whom until this or that happens. ... But neither side is innocent, and both need outside help to extinguish the violence.

The latest fighting comes after terrible summer flooding in the region. The government of Jammu and Kashmir is now responding to that dire situation by ordering construction of prefabricated houses for families left homeless. Humanitarian concerns alone should drive officials to follow the examples of the newest Nobel laureates and work for peace.

Instead, the people of Kashmir get wars and rumors of wars but little assistance from the world community, which would pay an atrocious price if the latest outbreak escalated into a nuclear conflict.

### Obama fails 'better off' test

**The Oklahoman**

President Barack Obama has always seen himself as an agent of change, a la Ronald Reagan. His goal was to do for progressive policies what Reagan had done for conservatism.

Thus it was no surprise that he parroted a Reagan trope in recently asking the question of whether Americans are better off today than when he took office — and then answering his own question by concluding that "the country is definitely better off than we were when I came into office."

For Reagan, it was a campaign strategy drawn as a weapon against Jimmy Carter in 1980. Are you better off, he asked voters, than you were four years ago? ...

"By every economic measure," Obama told college students the other day, "we are better off than when I took office." So not only has this president adopted the Reagan line (even crediting Reagan), he's turned it into yet another example of repeated, robotic rhetoric in the endless campaign speeches made by a man "who is not running for anything except the exit," in the words of Caroline Baum, a former Bloomberg News columnist.

Baum correctly notes that Obama has set a low bar for economic measurements, as did Reagan in a sense. When the former took office in 2009, the longest recession since World War II was at its nadir. Reagan, inaugurated in 1981, took the reins at a time when Carter's legacy had produced a terrible economy. Both Reagan and Obama inherited bad economies. How could people not be better off?

The problem is that Obama's stewardship set in motion a sluggish recovery. Unemployment has fallen, but the labor participation rate has dropped to a low not seen since 1975. Yes, that was during the Carter administration. Obama's Department of Labor says nearly 100,000 jobless workers have given up. ...

Obama doesn't mention this when he's in his "Are you better off?" mode. To bolster a weak argument, the president repeatedly compares today's numbers with those of January 2009. Therefore, writes Baum, "Almost anything appears better compared to the worst recession since the Great Depression." ...

The man's got skills. We'll hand him that. But who's really better off today?

### AIG shareholders' suit myopic

**Los Angeles Times**

Imagine you were a swimmer who'd recklessly gotten caught in a ripide, only to be saved by a boater who was busily helping other struggling swimmers to shore. Would you complain if the boater charged you a big fee? Maybe. But you almost certainly wouldn't sue the boater for not offering help sooner.

Some shareholders in American International Group have no such compunction. In a federal lawsuit now being heard in Washington, they accuse the U.S. government of withholding the low-cost financing AIG needed to overcome its cash-flow problems, even though the government was providing that help to other troubled Wall Street firms. They also claim that the bailout eventually extended to the company was so punitive to them and AIG that it violated the Constitution.

Although a federal judge told the shareholders' claims "deserve a full trial," it's hard to ignore the overpowering aroma of hubris. As costly as the bailout was to shareholders, they almost certainly would have been left with nothing had AIG not been rescued. Banking analysts say AIG was doomed by the housing-backed securities derivatives it held after the subprime mortgage meltdown, and it couldn't have avoided bankruptcy had the government not lent it \$85 billion the day after Lehman Brothers' catastrophic collapse in September 2008.

The bigger issue highlighted by the lawsuit, though, is the fact that federal officials and bank regulators were acting without a script as they scrambled to prevent financial companies from tumbling like dominoes and deepening the recession. In the heat of the crisis, they had to make judgment calls about which institutions were so big that their failure would be dire, which weren't. That discretion is at the heart of the shareholders' lawsuit.

Ultimately, the better solution is to let failing financial companies fail. That means having mechanisms in place that discourage these companies from becoming so big that the economy depends on their survival.

# SCOREBOARD

## SPORTS ON AIR

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

## Pro soccer

### MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA	
x-D.C.	16	9	7	55	49
x-New England	15	13	4	49	45
x-Real Salt Lake	14	11	10	42	41
x-New York	12	11	4	47	47
x-Montreal	12	9	11	40	52
Toronto FC	11	14	7	40	43
Houston	11	5	6	39	54
Philadelphia	9	12	39	48	48
Chicago	5	19	33	38	48
Seattle	8	26	36	36	36

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pts	GF	GA			
x-San Jose	19	10	3	60	41
x-Los Angeles	17	6	9	60	33
x-Portland	17	6	9	60	33
x-F.C. Dallas	15	11	6	51	43
x-Chicago	11	8	12	46	41
Portland	11	9	12	45	52
Colorado	8	16	8	32	60
San Jose	8	16	11	39	49
San Jose	6	15	11	29	35

x = clinched playoff berth

T = tied for playoff berth

Monday, Oct. 13

Montreal 2, New England 2, tie

New York 1, Toronto FC 1

Columbus 3, Philadelphia 2

Real Salt Lake 2, San Jose 0

Chivas USA 2, Colorado 1

Monday, Oct. 12

D.C. United 3, Houston 0

F.C. Dallas 2, Los Angeles 1

Thursday, Oct. 9

New England at Houston

Friday's game

Real Salt Lake at Portland

Saturday's games

Montreal at Toronto

F.C. Dallas at Colorado

Montreal at Philadelphia

Chicago at D.C. United

Vancouver at San Jose

Monday, Oct. 13

Montreal 2, Toronto 1

F.C. Dallas 2, Colorado 1

Chicago 2, D.C. United 1

Vancouver 1, San Jose 0

Monday, Oct. 13

Montreal 2, Toronto 1

## College football

### Schedule

Friday, Oct. 17

SOUTHWEST

Tempe (4-1) at Houston (3-3)

CCSU (2-4) at Robert Morris (4-2)

Friday, Oct. 18

EAST

Sacred Heart (5-1) at Duquesne (4-2)

CCSU (2-4) at Robert Morris (4-2)

Bryant (4-1) at St. Francis (Pa.) (2-4)

Albany (NY) (4-2) at Maine (4-2)

Lafayette (3-3) at Harvard (4-0)

Columbia (0-4) at Penn (4-0)

Colgate (4-2) at Yale (1)

Holy Cross (2-5) at Dartmouth (3-1)

Lynch (5-2) at Cornell (4-0)

E. Michigan (2-4) vs. UMass (1-6) at

Foxboro, Mass.

Clemson (4-2) at Boston College (4-2)

Brno (2-2) at Princeton (2-2)

SOUTH

W. Kentucky (2-3) at FAU (2-4)

UTSA (2-4) at Louisiana Tech (3-3)

Illawarra (1-5) at Maryland (4-2)

South Carolina (3-4) at Southern Miss (3-3)

Chattanooga (3-3) at The Citadel (2-4)

Virginia (2-4) at UCF (3-3)

Syracuse (2-4) at Wake Forest (2-4)

Tulane (2-4) at Duke (1-5)

North Carolina (1-5) at Miami (1-5)

Florida A&M (1-5) at Howard (1-6)

NC Central (3-3) at Morgan St. (3-3)

Sam Houston (5-1) at Alcorn St. (5-2)

Gardner-Webb (3-3) at VMI (1-6)

NC State (4-2) at Middle Tennessee (4-3)

Rhode Island (0-6) at Richmond (4-2)

North Carolina A&T (1-5) at North Carolina State (4-3)

UAB (4-2) at Middle Tennessee (4-3)

Rhode Island (0-6) at Richmond (4-2)

Villanova (5-1) at William & Mary (4-2)

Davidson (1-6) at Campbell (3-3)

W. Carolina (4-2) at Mercer (5-2)

Marshall (4-3) at Nicholls St. (3-3)

Sam Houston St. (3-3) at Northwest St. (3-3)

Bethune-Cookman (5-1) at Savannah St. (3-3)

## Pro football

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	4	2	0	.667	160	129
Buffalo	4	2	0	.500	118	126
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	127	124
N.Y. Jets	1	0	1	.167	95	158

#### NORTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	2	4	0	.333	189	136
Baltimore	2	4	0	.333	164	197
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	103	153
Jacksonville	2	4	0	.333	101	185

#### WEST

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Diego	5	1	0	.833	164	91
Denver	4	1	0	.800	147	104
Kansas City	2	3	0	.400	119	101
Minnesota	2	3	0	.400	119	134

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	5	1	0	.833	165	126
Dallas	5	1	0	.833	165	126
N.Y. Giants	3	3	0	.500	138	136
Washington	3	3	0	.500	138	136

#### SOUTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	3	3	0	.500	147	157
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	122	141
Atlanta	2	3	0	.400	122	141
Tampa Bay	1	5	0	.167	204	170

#### DETROIT

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	4	2	0	.667	116	82
Chicago	4	2	0	.667	116	82
Minnesota	2	2	0	.333	104	143

#### ARIZONA

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	4	2	0	.667	116	82
San Francisco	4	2	0	.667	116	82
Seattle	2	2	0	.333	104	143
St. Louis	2	2	0	.333	104	143

### Monday's game

San Francisco 31, St. Louis 17

Thursday, Oct. 16

N.Y. Jets at New England

Seattle at St. Louis

Chicago at Dallas

Atlanta at Baltimore

Atlanta at Jacksonville

### DEATHS

DE Ahtya Rubin (ankle), FULL: DE Desmond Bryant (wrist), LB Barkevornie Myles (shoulder), RB Ben Totten (knee), JAGUARS: DNP: DE Andrew Branch (groin), RB Tony Gerhart, RB LINDSEY Arian Ball (knee).

CINCINNATI BENGALS at INDIANAPOLIS COLTS - BENGALS: RB Mike Gillberry (eye), WR AJ Green (toe), RB Terrence Westbrook (knee), RB Maualuga (hamstring), G Mike Pollak (ankle), RB Andrew Luck (groin), RB Andrew Whitworth (not injury related), LIMITED: S George Iloka (groin), T Andre Simon (groin), T G. J. Van Dyke (groin), (Gaff), COLTS: DNP: CB Darrius Butler (ankle), WR T. Y. Gray (groin), WR Reggie Wayne (not injury related), LIMITED: DE Arthur Jones (ankle), G Hugh Thornton (back), FULL: T Jack Mewhort (ankle), CB Jabari Price (hamstring).

MINNESOTA VIKINGS at BUFFALO BILLS - VIKINGS: DNP: LB Gerald Hodges (hamstring), CB Jabari Price (hamstring), TE Kyle Rudolph (abdomen, groin), DE Corey Wootton (low back), LIMITED: DE Sharif Floyd (elbow, ankle), DT Linval Joseph (ankle), FULL: TE Chase Ford (foot), LB Chad Greenway (knee), RB WR Corendre Patterson (hip), S Harrison Smith (ankle), BILLS: DNP: DT Marcel Darnold (not injury related), WR Maurice Carter (knee), WR Garrison Swannick (knee), S Da'Norris Searcy (groin), RB Adam Thielen (groin), S Aaron Williams (wrist, neck), DT Kyle Williams (knee).

MINNESOTA VIKINGS at CHICAGO BEARS - DOLPHINS: DNP: S Jimmy Wilson (groin), RB Brandon Brinkley (groin), RB (elbow), TE Charles Clay (knee), DE John Deery (ankle), RB Phillip Hunt (groin), RB Stephen Paea (not injury related), LB DJ Moore (groin), RB Brandon Marshall (knee), RB Lamar Miller (knee), LB Roa Miller (ankle), RB Phillip Hunt (groin), RB Shelley Smith (knee), QB Ryan Tannehill (ankle), PHILLY EAGLES: RB Ryan Minkiewicz (toe), FULL: S Louis Delmas (elbow), WR DeSean Jackson (ankle), WR Damarious DNP: LB Lance Briggs (rib), S Chris Conte (shoulder), RB Matt Forte (toe), RB Matt Ryan (groin), T Jordan Miller (knee), Stephen Paea (not injury related), LB DJ Moore (groin), RB Brandon Marshall (knee), RB Lamar Miller (knee), LB Roa Miller (ankle), RB Phillip Hunt (groin), RB Shelley Smith (knee), QB Ryan Tannehill (ankle), PHILLY EAGLES: RB Ryan Minkiewicz (toe), FULL: S Louis Delmas (elbow), WR DeSean Jackson (ankle), WR Damarious DNP: LB Lance Briggs (rib), S Chris Conte 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NHL



NAM Y. HUN/AP

The Blackhawks' Andrew Shaw, right, celebrates after scoring a goal as Flames goalie Jonas Hiller reacts. Calgary, though, won 2-1 in OT.

Roundup

# Krejci, Smith lead Bruins past Red Wings in shootout

The Associated Press

DETROIT — After a night of struggling against Detroit's Jimmy Howard, Boston Bruins coach Claude Julien went with the only thing that was working.

David Krejci and Reilly Smith, the only two players to beat Howard in 65 minutes dominated by Boston, both scored again in the shootout to give the Bruins a 3-2 victory Wednesday night.

"That was a real tough win, but a win we deserved," Julien said. "It's probably the best game we've played to this point, but Howard played very well."

The Bruins outshot Detroit 35-18 in regulation, and Howard made three key saves in overtime — the last to stop Torey Krug at point-blank range.

"Howie stole a point for us tonight," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said. "Boston competed harder than we did and they played better than we did, so we're happy to get a point out of this."

Howard, though, was beaten on both shootout attempts while neither Gustav Nyquist or Andrej Nestrasil could get their shots on net. Nyquist, who tied the game with a power-play goal at 2:59 of the third, fired over the crossbar, while Tuukka Rask poke-checked the puck away from Nestrasil.

The Bruins, who have only scored six goals in a 2-3-0 start, snapped a three-game losing streak.

"That was a pretty solid 65 minutes to snap the streak," Rask said. "We skated really hard and made some sweet passes, but Jimmy played a great game and kept them in it."

Boston had two great chances in the final minute of regulation, but Howard made a pad save on Dougie Hamilton, then knocked away Simon Gagne's attempt to put in the rebound.

Smith gave the Bruins a 2-1 lead with 6:29 left in the period, one-timing a pass from Patrice Bergeron for his second goal.

"That's exactly what we've been trying to do in practice," said Smith, who was playing against his brother Brendan for the second time in six days. "Get the puck down low and try to get



PAUL SANCTA/AP

Bruins right wing Reilly Smith celebrates his shootout goal against Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard in Detroit on Wednesday. Boston won 3-2 in the shootout.

a dirty goal." Nyquist's tying score was his third goal in three games, including the Red Wings' only two power-play goals.

**Flames 2, Blackhawks 1 (OT):** Jonas Hiller made 49 saves and Mikkel Backlund scored at 4:35 of overtime, lifting visiting Calgary to a victory over Chicago.

Dennis Wideman also scored for the Flames, who were coming off a 3-2 win at Nashville on Tuesday.

The Blackhawks controlled the action for much of the night, enjoying a whopping 50-18 advantage in shots on goal. But Hiller was outstanding and Backlund used a wrist shot to beat Corey Crawford on his glove side for his first goal of the season.

Andrew Shaw scored in the third period for Chicago, and Crawford had 16 saves.

**Coyotes 7, Oilers 4:** Mikkel Boedker scored two of his three goals in the third period and added an assist, helping host Arizona outlast Edmonton.

Boedker scored in the first period and gave Arizona a two-goal lead midway through the third. He added an empty-net goal for his first career hat trick, giving him five goals in three games.

Connor Murphy, Kyle Chipchura, Rob Klunkhammer and Martin Erat also scored for the Coyotes, who had 13 players with at least one point.

Edmonton had another shaky defensive effort, dropping to 0-3-1 on the season.

Taylor Hall had two goals, and Marc Arcobello and Mark Fayne each scored for the Oilers, who have allowed 23 goals in four games.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	4	3	1	0	6	11
Tampa Bay	3	2	1	0	5	13
Ottawa	3	2	1	0	4	6
Toronto	3	2	1	0	4	14
Boston	5	2	2	1	7	11
Detroit	5	2	1	2	4	6
Buffalo	3	0	2	1	3	6
Florida	3	0	3	0	1	3

Metropolitan Division

New Jersey	3	3	0	0	6	13
N.Y. Islanders	3	2	0	0	6	15
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	0	4	11
Columbus	3	2	0	0	4	10
Washington	4	1	2	1	4	7
N.Y. Rangers	4	1	3	0	2	11
Philadelphia	4	0	2	2	1	16
Carolina	3	0	2	1	1	9

Western Conference

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	3	3	0	0	6	6
Chicago	3	2	0	1	5	6
Minnesota	3	2	0	1	3	4
Dallas	3	2	0	1	3	4
Colorado	3	1	2	1	3	4
St. Louis	3	1	2	0	2	4
Winnipeg	3	1	2	0	2	4

Pacific Division

San Jose	3	3	0	0	6	13
Anaheim	3	3	0	0	6	12
Calgary	3	3	0	0	6	12
Los Angeles	4	2	1	1	5	12
Vancouver	4	2	1	1	4	9
Arizona	3	2	1	0	4	12
Edmonton	4	0	3	1	1	11

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

Tuesday's games

Anaheim 4, Philadelphia 3, 50  
San Jose 6, Washington 5, 50  
Buffalo 4, Carolina 3, 50  
Calgary 3, Nashville 2, 50  
N.Y. Islanders 6, N.Y. Rangers 3  
Dallas 4, Columbus 2

Wednesday's games

St. Louis at Los Angeles  
Boston 2, Chicago 1, OT  
Arizona 2, Edmonton 1  
Toronto 3, Colorado 2, OT  
New Jersey 2, Tampa Bay 1  
Los Angeles 6, Edmonton 1

Thursday's games

San Jose at N.Y. Islanders  
Detroit at Pittsburgh  
New Jersey at Washington  
Calina at N.Y. Rangers  
Boston at Montreal  
Colorado at Ottawa  
St. Louis at Los Angeles

Friday's games

Florida at Buffalo  
Calgary at Columbus  
Detroit at Toronto  
Nashville at Winnipeg  
Vancouver at Edmonton  
Minnesota at Anaheim

Wednesday

Bruins 3, Red Wings 2 (SO)

Boston	1	1	0	0-3
Detroit	1	0	1	0-2

Boston won shootout 2-0

**First Period**—1, Boston, Krejci (1 Kelly), 5:12; 2, Detroit, Tatar (Jurco, Sheahan), 8:40.

**Third Period**—4, Boston, R.Smith (2 Bergeron, Marchand), 13:31.

**Shootout**—Boston 2 (Krejci, G. R.Smith G), Detroit 0 (Nestrasil NG, Nyquist NG).

**Shots on Goal**—Boston 14-10-11-4—39.

**Power-play opportunities**—Boston 0 of 2; Detroit 1 of 5.

**Goals**—Boston, Rask 2-2-0 (20 shots-18 saves), Detroit, Hiller 1-1-1 (39-37).

A=20,027 (20,066), T=243.

Flames 2, Blackhawks 1 (OT)

Calgary	0	1	0	0-2
Chicago	0	1	0	0-1

**Second Period**—1, Calgary, Wideman

1 (Colborne), 11:55.

**Third Period**—2, Calgary, Backlund 1 (Brodie, Russell), 4:35.

**Over-time**—2, Calgary, Backlund 1 of 1; Chicago 0 of 7.

**Power-play opportunities**—Calgary 0 of 1; Chicago 16-13-3—50.

**Goals**—Calgary, Hiller 1-2-0 (50 shots-49 saves), Chicago, Crawford 2-0-1 (18-16).

A=21,112 (19,171), T=237.

Coyotes 7, Oilers 4

Edmonton	2	0	2	0-4
Arizona	2	2	2	2-4

**First Period**—1, Edmonton, Hall 2-2 (Eberle, Nikitin), 1:25; 2, Arizona, Boedker 3 (Hendry, Smith), 8:22 (pp), 3, Arizona, Chipchura 1 (Vitale, McMillan), 13:53; 4, Edmonton, Fayne 1 (Draisaitl, Pouliot), 17:50.

**Second Period**—5, Arizona, Murphy 1 (Doan, Boedker), 5:08; 5, Arizona, Klunkhammer 1 (Erat, Hanzal), 6:15.

**Third Period**—5, Edmonton, Arcobello 2 (Hall), 3:59; 5, Arizona, Boedker (Vermette, Doan), 9:07; 5, Arizona, Erat 1 (Hanzal, Schlemko), 12:59; 10, Edmonton, Hall 3 (Eberle), 14:30; 11, Arizona, Boedker 5, 19:53 (pp).

**Shots on Goal**—Edmonton 12-6-9=27, Arizona 12-8-10=30.

**Power-play opportunities**—Edmonton 0 of 2; Arizona 1 of 4.

**Goals**—Edmonton, Scrivens 0-2-0 (29 shots-23 saves), Arizona, Smith 1-1-0 (27-21).

A=11,648 (11,125), T=233.

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ROCELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott talks about his team's progress this season while standing outside the Leo W. Seal Jr. Football Complex on the campus in Starkville, Miss., on Tuesday. As the team's national ranking has improved to No. 3, so have Prescott's odds in the race for the Heisman Trophy, bringing new national attention to the player.

## Special: QB Prescott has Bulldogs atop national rankings for first time

### FROM BACK PAGE

No. 1 Mississippi State (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) is off this weekend, but when the Bulldogs return to action in a road game against Kentucky on Oct. 25, all eyes will be on Dak. He's ready.

"For other people, things might have changed a little bit," Prescott said. "But for this team and me personally, nothing's changed. We've just got some momentum going and we're trying to ride it."

It's been a stunning rise for Prescott, who was relatively unknown coming out of Haughton High School in 2010. His recruitment consisted of mostly smaller schools before the Bulldogs offered him a scholarship early in his senior season.

Even Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen acknowledges Prescott's game was an acquired taste.

The first time he watched Prescott at a summer camp on campus, he saw a guy who had a decent arm and good speed and came up with a four-word scouting report.

"He was just OK," Mullen said with a grin.

But at a second camp, Mullen said Prescott's leadership ability became more apparent when he led his team on a few impressive drives against good competition.

Suddenly, Mullen was hooked.

Prescott's former high school coach Rodney Guin said Mullen had a good eye.

"Mississippi State saw the real him, not just athletically," Guin said. "They saw every bit of the leadership. Mullen and offensive line coach [John Hevesy] picked up on it when others didn't. They saw something in him."

Prescott's ever-present smile is a constant around the Mississippi State football facilities, but he also has a fierce competitive streak that teammates say is evident in everything from the football field to the weight room to video games. He played through a painful nerve injury during last year's Egg Bowl, leading the team to an overtime victory over Ole Miss, and even when he's delivering a harsh message in the huddle teammates know he has their back.

"Dak's awesome," Mississippi State offensive lineman Ben Beckwith said. "He's a great leader. He's always been like that. What you see on Saturday — that's him all the time. He leads all the time. He's a guy you want your son to be like."

Prescott's game and attitude have drawn compar-

isons to a pretty good quarterback Mullen coached in the past — 2007 Heisman winner Tim Tebow.

NFL Media analyst Bucky Brooks says the Prescott/Tebow comparison does have some merit — including a cloudy future as far as pro potential.

"[Prescott is] probably more natural with his mechanics and stuff like that, but I don't think you would say he's an elite passer by any stretch," Brooks said. "I don't know if the way he plays is all the way conducive to the way the position is played at the pro level."

Prescott didn't immediately become a star at Mississippi State. He redshirted during the 2011 season and then played sparingly in 2012 in mostly short-yardage situations.

Last season starting quarterback Tyler Russell battled injury problems and Prescott was thrust into a much bigger role. He accounted for 2,769 total yards and 23 touchdowns, almost immediately igniting the Bulldogs' offense.

But just as Prescott's career was taking off, he received the toughest news of his life in early November: His mom had died after a yearlong battle with colon cancer. She was 52.

Prescott said she was "everything you would want in a mom."

"She was strict but loving," Prescott said. "She didn't know all that much about football when I was younger, but she learned and then after awhile me and my brothers used to joke and call her John Madden because after the game she'd just break me down."

Guin said in the emotional hours following Peggy Prescott's funeral, the two had a short talk.

"I just told him 'Your mom raised you the way she did for moments like this — to get through stuff like this,'" Guin said. "She raised those boys to be tough. To be strong young men."

Prescott agreed. He was back on the field a few days later against Texas A&M, accounting for 303 total yards and two touchdowns in a 51-41 loss to the Aggies.

Now he's led the Bulldogs to nine straight victories dating back last season and Mississippi State has its No. 1 in the national rankings for the first time in program history.

Peggy Prescott saw it coming before anyone else. "My mom would be very proud," Dak Prescott said. "But she wouldn't be surprised at all."

# Persistence pays off for Ole Miss

## No. 3 Rebels recruiting well under Freeze

By DAVID BRANDT  
The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Hugh Freeze's rapid renovation of Mississippi football has been fueled by a persistent recruiting philosophy that is grounded in grass-roots relationships, a down-home personality and even a little bit of luck.

The formula has helped the coach transform the Rebels from Southern Conference cellar-dwellers to the No. 3 team in the country in just three short years.

It's not hard to find where things started to turn around — Freeze's star-studded 2013 class. The recruits looked good on paper and now they look even better on the field.

"There's no doubt that class was the big cornerstone," said Mike Farrell, the national recruiting director for Rivals.com. "It was the seventh-ranked class in the country according to our rankings, had several star players and even more than that, it sent a message that Ole Miss would be a force in recruiting."

The class included defensive tackle Robert Nkemdiche, receiver Laquon Treadwell, left tackle Laremy Tunsil and safety Tony Connor, and all four sophomores are playing major roles in the team's success.

The Rebels (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) will be trying to win their eighth straight game, dating back to last season, when they host Tennessee (3-3, 0-2) on Saturday.

Not bad for the 45-year-old Freeze, who spent more than a decade as a high school coach in Memphis, Tenn., before being hired by coach Ed Orgeron to become part of his staff at Ole Miss.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Mississippi defensive tackle Robert Nkemdiche pressures Ole Miss quarterback Grant Hendrick (9). The Rebels have built themselves into the No. 3 team in the country by bringing in better talent, starting with a sophomore class that includes Nkemdiche, Laquon Treadwell and Laremy Tunsil.



ROCELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Mississippi football coach Hugh Freeze's three-year tenure at Mississippi has proven at least one thing — recruiting matters.

in 2005.

Orgeron had arrived at Ole Miss with a reputation of being a brilliant recruiter during his years as an assistant at Southern California under Pete Carroll. He didn't have much on-field success with the Rebels — they were 10-25 during his tenure from 2005-07 — but the program's recruiting noticeably improved.

Freeze took notes. He observed Orgeron's constant energy and meticulous planning and still uses the same approach nearly a decade later.

"If you're not recruiting every day you're getting behind," Freeze said. "You've got to win (Mississippi) — the key battles in this state. You won't win them all, but you've got to win your share. And then you just stick to the 12-month plan — never vary from it. It takes everyone in this building."

Freeze has always said that once he gets a recruit on campus, he feels like he has a good chance.

"It's because I believe in what we have here," Freeze said. "I believe in this place. I believe what it can do for a young man and I believe you go after the ones who are the right fit for your philosophy."

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SOCCER



ANN HEISENLETT/AP

Minnesota quarterback Mitch Leidner, center, celebrates with Tommy Olson, left, and Lincoln Pisek after Leidner's 1-yard touchdown run on Saturday against Northwestern.

## Gophers following winning formula

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Most of what Minnesota does well is not the glamorous part of football.

Sure, there are the occasional touchdown returns, long runs by David Cobb and crisp play-action completions by quarterback Mitch Leidner, but the Gophers have a decidedly old-style formula in an age of no-huddle, spread-out, high-scoring offenses.

Minnesota plays sound defense and tries to grind the game out by keeping the ball on the ground as much as possible. And halfway through coach Jerry Kill's fourth season, signs abound that it can be a recipe for Big Ten success, perhaps good enough to keep the Gophers (5-1, 2-0) in the West Division race all the way to the end of the season.

They host Purdue this weekend and then go to Illinois, so they're in good position to remain in first place until at least mid-November.

Granted, the book can't be close to being written until after the daunting final run of Iowa, Ohio State, Nebraska and Wisconsin, three of the five highest-scoring teams in the conference.

The Gophers, though, have become a consistent, aggressive and reliable group under defensive coordinator Tracy Claeys. They allow an average of 18.7 points per game, tied for the 15th among the 125 FBS teams.

"You're seeing more explosive offenses," defensive tackle Cameron Botticelli said, "and the most important thing is to not use that as a crutch because at the end of the day if you say, 'Well, they run a hurry-up' or 'They have these great receivers,' you're making an excuse to not perform and we won't do that here."

The Gophers are right in line with one of the major goals Claeys has for them: Limit opponents to 17 points or fewer each game.



Purdue (3-4)  
at Minnesota (5-1)  
AFN-Xtra  
6 p.m. Saturday CET  
1 a.m. Sunday JKT

Never mind that fewer than 6 percent of teams in the country average lower than that.

"I still believe in the whole idea it's better to over-demand than under-demand," Claeys said. "You get better results."

The Gophers are tied for first in the conference with nine interceptions, a hallmark of the deep, speedy secondary that has become one of the team's true strengths.

"This is not something that just happened out of nowhere," cornerback Brien Boddy-Calhoun said.

Generally, programs in the northern states are having an increasingly tougher time attracting the elite-level athletes as population shifts continue southward. Given the raw weather Big Ten teams often play in down the stretch, a ball-control offense and a stingy defense can still be a viable combination in this conference.

This, remember, is a team that beat San Jose State last month despite completing only one pass and playing without Leidner because of knee and toe injuries. The sophomore has shown significant strides since returning, including last week's 24-17 win over Northwestern.

"I think he's feeling good, feeling better," Kill said. "I always say, if you feel good, you play good."

# MLS commissioner blasts Kinsmann for comments

By RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber took the extraordinary step Wednesday of criticizing U.S. men's national team coach Jurgen Klinsmann for not taking Landon Donovan to the World Cup and for saying Clint Dempsey and Michael Bradley damaged their careers by returning to MLS from European clubs.

Garber, the league's commissioner since 1999, questioned whether Klinsmann could be an effective coach while publicly criticizing MLS.

A U.S. Soccer Federation official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized, said later that Klinsmann wasn't in danger of losing his job.

The 32-year-old Donovan, the career scoring leader for the national team and MLS, was denied a trip to a fourth World Cup.

"I believe that Landon should have been in Brazil, not because he earned it or deserved it, but because his performance dictated it," Garber said during a conference call with reporters. "And if anybody disagrees with that, and some of you might — clearly Jurgen does — then I believe that his treatment was inexcusable."

Klinsmann, a World Cup winner with West Germany in 1990 and coach of the German team that reached the 2006 semifinals, was hired by the U.S. Soccer Federation in July 2011 to replace Bob Bradley. Klinsmann coached the Americans to the title at the 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cup and the second round of this year's World Cup, where the U.S. lost 2-1 to Belgium in extra time.

USF President Sunil Gulati announced in December that Klinsmann signed a contract extension through to the 2018 World Cup in Russia and was

given the added title of USSF technical director.

"For him to publicly state issues that he has with Major League Soccer in my view is not something that is going to allow him to effectively serve the role as not just coach but as technical director," Garber said. "I am in no way saying what Sunil should be doing with Jurgen as it relates with his employment. That is between Sunil and Jurgen. I think he's done a great job with the national team. I think he needs to think very, very hard about how he manages himself publicly and how he deals with his view as to how he should motivate players that are playing in our league."

Asked what should happen next, Garber said: "I want Jurgen to embrace the vision, and I believe we all need to sit down and talk about his alignment with that vision."

Klinsmann sparked the controversy Monday in Boca Raton, Fla. in his comments before a friendly against Honduras the following day. He said the national team was hurt by Dempsey's August 2013 decision to leave Tottenham and the choice of Michael Bradley — Bob's son — to leave Roma for Toronto this January.

"It's going to be very difficult for them to keep the same level that they experienced at the places where they were. It's just reality. It's just being honest," he said. "I totally get it. It's a huge financial opportunity... [but] making that step means you're not in the same competitive environment as you were before."

Garber, a member of the USSF board of directors, called the remarks "personally infuriating."

"Jurgen's comments are very, very detrimental to the league. They're detrimental to the sport of soccer in America and everything that we're trying to do north of the border. And not only are they detrimental, I think that they are wrong," Garber said.

## Wambach scores in qualifying win

By KELLY MCHUGH  
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Abby Wambach scored in the 54th minute to help the United States beat Trinidad and Tobago 1-0 on Wednesday night in their opening Women's World Cup qualifying game.

Wambach scored on a header off Alex Morgan's cross for her record-extending 171st international goal. Hope Solo made one save to push her U.S. record for shutouts to 74.

"It was frustrating," Wambach said. "We created a lot of chances but their goalie basically stood on her head this game until the end. We just couldn't break them down. In this tournament, we knew that we were going to be up against teams bunkering back and making things difficult for us in the 18, and we just weren't on our last bits. We were just a little bit off."

Trinidad goalkeeper Kimika Forbes made 11 saves and the United States had 29 and 73 shots advantage.

"She was big time tonight," Trinidad coach Randy Waldrym said. "She was the player of the game for us. She kept it close and kept us in it. She's special. She was fantastic tonight."

The game was the United States' first competitive match since Jill Ellis took over as coach.



COLIN E. BRALEY/AP

Trinidad and Tobago's Rhea Belgrave keeps Abby Wambach from getting to the ball during Wednesday's match in Kansas City, Kan.

"I was happy, relieved, thankful that Abby put one away because, at the end of the day, with all those opportunities you need to put one in the net," Ellis said. "Credit to Trinidad. We don't see teams that often that sit as organized and put so many numbers behind the ball. I thought it was an excellent challenge for us. We created a lot of opportunities, but

defensively gave up some big mistakes. We should have done a better job finishing."

The United States and Trinidad and Tobago are in Group A along with Haiti and Guatemala. In the opener at Sporting Park, Haiti beat Guatemala 1-0.

On Friday, the United States will play Guatemala, and Haiti will face Trinidad and Tobago.

NFL



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Despite guiding Arizona to a win over the Washington Redskins last Sunday, Cardinals quarterback Carson Palmer says he still isn't quite back to his old self after injuring a nerve in his throwing shoulder in their season-opening win over San Diego.

# Palmer eager to practice

## Arizona QB says he still isn't back to normal self

By BOB BAUM  
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Three days after his triumphant return against the Washington Redskins, Carson Palmer was looking forward to practice.

"That's something a football player rarely says. "I'm probably the most excited a guy as there is in the league for a Wednesday practice," Palmer said before the workout.

It was his first full practice since he injured a nerve in his throwing shoulder in the season-opening win over San Diego. He participated in only a portion of last Friday's practice before throwing two touchdown passes in the Cardinals' 30-20 win over Washington on Sunday.

Palmer said he is getting better every day but he is not back to his normal self.

"There's not an exact day where I'm going to say, 'OK, X is when everything's great and hunky-dory and 100 percent,'" he said.

The main thing he needs to do is strengthen his arm in preparation for Sunday's game at Oakland.

"I have to just throw," Palmer said. "That's the only way. I said before, you don't get your arm stronger by lifting in the weight room, you get your arm stronger by throwing and throwing and throwing, and that's what I need to do."

Palmer spent Monday and Tuesday at the practice facility.

"He threw a bunch yesterday," coach Bruce Arians said. "It's still got a ways to go but it's more than serviceable."

A big reason Arizona is 4-1 and atop the NFC West is its turnover ratio. The Cardinals have 11 takeaways and have committed three turnovers. That plus-eight ratio ranks third in the NFL.

The team's three quarterbacks have not thrown an interception all year — in a total of 178 passes. Dating to the final game of last season, the Cardinals have not thrown an interception in 223 passes.

"A little bit of luck," Palmer said. "We're just getting the ball out quick and not holding onto it for



MATT YORK/AP

**Palmer credits an increased familiarity with the offensive system implemented by head coach Bruce Arians, above, for the Cardinals plus-eight turnover ratio, third-best in the NFL.**

too long."

"The longer he holds onto the ball, the greater the chance you get a tipped interception or sack fumbles or one of those ones that kind of just pops up in the D-lineman's hands," he said.

Palmer said that "being decisive" with his reads, a product of being familiar now with Arians' system, also factored in the lack of picks.

"I've been very confident and comfortable in the system in the two games I've played," he said. "And that's a different feeling than I've had in the past."

"And we're just getting started," he added.

Briefly

# Assault lawsuit against Cowboys owner dismissed

The Associated Press

DALLAS — A judge threw out a sexual assault lawsuit filed against Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones on Thursday, saying the claims were barred by Texas law limiting the time in which a case can be filed.

Jana Weckerly had accused Jones of grabbing her genitals and forcibly kissing her in 2009. Weckerly also alleged an attorney for Jones took a memory card with photos and destroyed it, and that she was paid hush money for several years after the incident. Jones denied the allegations.

State District Judge Dale Tillery ruled that the allegations, even if true, fell outside the five-year statute of limitations for civil sexual assault cases.

Tillery's order also redacted certain allegations made by Weckerly in court filings, and it banned attorneys on both sides from discussing the case with the media even after its dismissal.

Weckerly's attorney, Thomas Bowers, said his client did not receive any money from Jones or the Cowboys as part of the case ending. He declined to comment further.

In other Cowboys' news: ■ NFL running back Joseph Randle won't be suspended by the Dallas Cowboys after his arrest on a shoplifting charge.

Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said Wednesday the Randle would be fined "significantly" but would play Sunday against the New York Giants.

Randle was charged with a Class B misdemeanor of theft between \$50 and \$500 after he was accused of taking \$123 worth of cologne and underwear from a department store at a suburban Dallas mall on Monday.

## Baldwin says comments needed to be made

RENTON, Wash. — Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin says his heated postgame comments following the Seahawks' loss to Dallas were understood by his teammates and he "felt like it needed to be said."

Baldwin spoke before Seattle's practice Wednesday, his first comments since the postgame rant following the 30-23 loss to the Cowboys.

Baldwin said he had no regrets regarding his comments, but remained blunt in his assessment of how Seattle played offensively.

Baldwin said the Seahawks "played like crap," in their win over Washington and were bailed out by Russell Wilson's performance. Baldwin said he was frustrated there was no improvement from the win over Washington to the loss against Dallas.



SCOTT EKUNDA/AP

**A judge threw out a sexual assault lawsuit filed against Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, pictured, on Thursday, saying the claims were barred by Texas law limiting the time in which a case can be filed.**

In other Seahawks' news: ■ Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said any player trying to make the transition from rugby to the NFL is in for a difficult change.

Carroll was peppered with questions about Australian National Rugby League star Jarryd Hayne on Wednesday after Hayne announced his plans to seek a chance in the NFL. Seattle has been linked to Hayne because of a recent visit to the Pacific Northwest during which Hayne took in the University of Washington and took a tour of the Seahawks facility.

Carroll said he did not meet Hayne during his visit to Seattle. During a news conference in Sydney earlier Wednesday, Hayne did not identify which NFL clubs — if any — were interested in offering him a tryout.

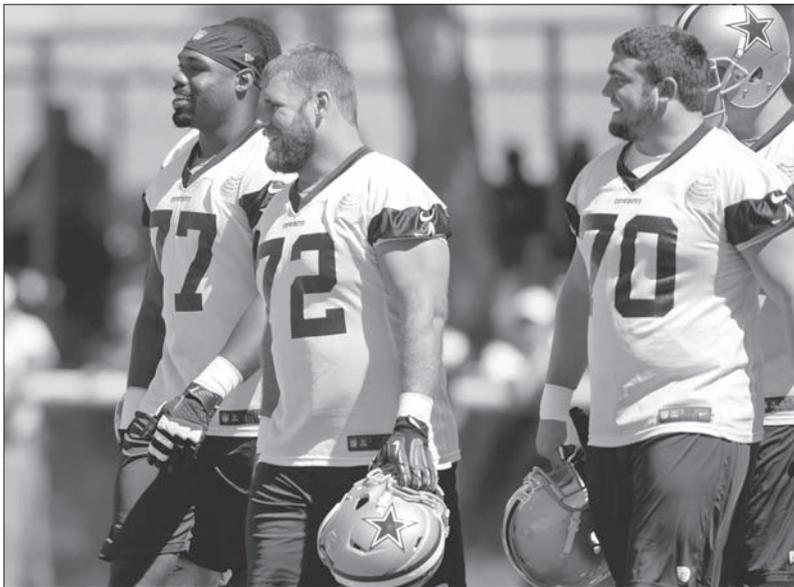
## Bills' Williams informs agent to end trade talks

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills receiver Mike Williams is still not happy about being benched last weekend. That doesn't mean he wants out of Buffalo.

Williams took matters into his own hands by saying, "I'm the boss and I want to be here," in ordering his agent Hadley Engelhard to stop seeking trade offers. At the same time, Williams defended Engelhard for opening discussions by saying the agent was merely doing his job.

The comments were Williams' first since general manager Doug Whitely revealed on Monday the Bills granted Engelhard permission to seek a trade. It happened a day after the fifth-year player was inactive for the first time this season in a 37-22 loss to New England.

## NFL



GUS RUELAS/AP

Offensive tackle Tyron Smith, left, center Travis Frederick, center, and guard Zack Martin are 23-year-old, first-round draft picks anchoring the Dallas offensive line for league rushing leader DeMarco Murray.

# No name over nickname

## Cowboys' young offensive linemen would prefer to remain anonymous

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Tyron Smith, Travis Frederick and Zack Martin are 23-year-old first-round draft picks anchoring the Dallas offensive line for NFL rushing leader DeMarco Murray.

That has to mean there's a nickname coming, right?

"I hope not," says Frederick. "I hate nicknames."

And there's the essence of a young group that could form the core of the Cowboys' offense for years. The closest thing to Hollywood in this bunch is that Smith looks the part of a comic book hero at 6-foot-5, 320 pounds and he grew up in the Los Angeles area.

Otherwise, these are men of few words — unless you get Frederick talking about math or engineering — who live by the mantra that you're doing your job when nobody says your name.

"They are old-school offensive linemen," coach Jason Garrett said. "They don't say a whole lot. They go out and do their job. They do it the right way."

Smith was Garrett's first draft pick as coach in 2011, a 20-year-old from Southern California at No. 9 overall. The Cowboys gave him a year at right tackle but believed all along he was the future at the marquee spot, left tackle, and just proved it by lock-

ing him up with the franchise's second \$100 million contract after Tony Romo.

Frederick, the center, followed two years later near the end of the first round when the Cowboys traded down. Martin was the last of the three first-round picks this year after Dallas decided to keep the selection as everyone wondered whether owner Jerry Jones would grab the free-falling Johnny Manziel.

All three have started from the moment they walked into team headquarters, with the assumption always being the Cowboys were trying to make life easier on Romo. Jones said following the Frederick pick that the team was trying to buy their often-banged up quarterback an "extra half a second."

Turns out Murray is reaping the most benefits, with a chance Sunday against the New York Giants (3-3) to become the first back with seven straight 100-yard games to start the season and a nearly 250-yard lead in the rushing race with 785 yards. He also leads all running backs with six touchdowns, a big reason for Dallas' 5-1 start.

"Those are good guys," said Murray, who says he takes care of his linemen but hasn't added the downfield-blocking receivers and tight ends to his payroll yet.

"[I] was making Romo's money I would," Murray said. "But I'm concentrating on the five guys right now. I appreciate the other guys, but I'm concentrating on the big fel-



TIM SHARP/AP

Dallas running back DeMarco Murray, center, leads the league in rushing with Zack Martin, left, and Doug Free opening some of the holes that have allowed him to gain 785 yards so far.

las right now."

He hangs out with them — a bit. "I wouldn't say all the time because fat guys like to hang out with other fat guys," Frederick said. "Skinny guys don't like hanging out with us too much. We eat too much. But he does a good job of making a point of being friendly and hanging out with us and making sure we know he cares."

# Ebola facts distributed to all teams

By TOM CANAVAN  
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The NFL has sent a newsletter outlining the basic facts about the Ebola virus to all team doctors and trainers for distribution to players and staff.

The league said Wednesday the newsletter was written by the Duke Infection Control Outreach Network, the league's infectious disease consultants, and sent to the league's 32 teams on Monday.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday in an email the newsletter was informational.

The two doctors who signed the newsletter advised teams that they did not need to screen players or staff to make sure they have not had close contact with anyone who traveled to or from areas where Ebola is now endemic.

"We do recommend that medical personnel educate their players and staff about the need to inform club medical personnel in the unlikely event that they actually have such contact," the doctors wrote.

The doctors wrote that the public and medical community have been bombarded with news stories about the emergence of Ebola virus disease in West Africa and its subsequent importation into the United States. The stories emphasized the high mortality of the disease in several African countries; that health care workers have died in those areas caring for infected patients; and that the virus has been transferred to medical personnel in Dallas by a man from Liberia being treated at his hospital. That man died on Oct. 8.

"Our goal in writing this newsletter is to provide basic facts and answers to common questions that may arise in players, their families, or your staff — particularly if imported cases of Ebola have occurred in your local community," Drs. Daniel J. Sexton and Devarick J. Anderson wrote in the newsletter they signed.

Fears of the Ebola virus deepened Wednesday with word a second Dallas nurse caught the disease from a patient. The New York Giants provided the information to their players and staff electronically on Wednesday morning, team spokesman Pat Hanlon said.

The Giants (3-3) play the Cowboys (5-1) in Dallas on Sunday.

"Our athletic trainers and team physicians have been briefed on the scope of the Ebola virus disease," Hanlon said in an email.

Giants quarterback Eli Manning was not concerned heading to Dallas.

"No, I don't worry about myself or the team," Manning said. "I think what we're doing, where we're staying, I think we'll be OK."

Dallas coach Jason Garrett seemed caught off-guard when asked if he had to address his team about Ebola.

"Really haven't, to be honest with you," Garrett said. "I don't think it has directly affected us. So it hasn't been something we have addressed directly with our players."

**‘Our athletic trainers and team physicians have been briefed on the scope of the Ebola virus disease.’**

Pat Hanlon

Giants spokesman

# MLB PLAYOFFS



ERIC RISBERG/AP

The Giants' Juan Perez, left, scores past Cardinals catcher A.J. Pierzynski on a hit by Gregor Blanco during the sixth inning of Game 4 of the NLCS Wednesday in San Francisco. A bad throw from first by Matt Adams allowed the tying run, and the Giants went on to win 6-4.

# Giants capitalize on Cards' defense

## San Francisco digs out of hole after 2 bad throws from 1B Adams

By JANIE MCCAULEY  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Buster Posey and the Giants already knew how to win in October — even without all this help from the St. Louis Cardinals.

Strange as it might look sometimes, San Francisco finds a way to score just enough.

Posey drove in three runs and capped another unusual rally as the Giants took advantage of some clunky defense by first baseman Matt Adams in beating the Cardinals 6-4 on Wednesday night to move within one victory of the World Series.

"We might find some weird ways to score runs, but we're getting people on base first. That's the main thing," Brandon Belt said.

Chasing their third title in five years, the Giants lead the best-of-seven NL Championship Series 3-1 after poor throws cost the Cardinals yet again.

October ace Madison Bumgarner can pitch San Francisco to another pennant Thursday at home in Game 5. Struggling All-Star Adam Wainwright starts for St. Louis, now facing the same daunting deficit the Giants overcame to beat the Cardinals in the 2012 NLCS.

Kansas City awaits the winner after completing its ALCS sweep of Baltimore earlier in the day. The wild-card Royals will host Game 1 of the World Series on Tuesday night.

San Francisco climbed out of an early three-run hole, and back-to-back bad throws by Adams in the sixth inning helped the Giants rally — one night after a wild toss by St. Louis reliever Randy Choate allowed the winning run to score in the 10th inning.

"I think any time you can put pressure on the defense, you've got the opportunity for good things to happen," Posey said. "We're able to come up with some big two-out RBIs to get back in the game."

Minus injured catcher Yadier Molina again, the Cardinals were clinging to a 4-3 lead when San Francisco put runners at second and third in the sixth. Playing in with one out, the lumbering Adams backhanded Gregor Blanco's bouncer and stumbled as he tried to set himself to throw home.

Adams had trouble with the transfer, and his toss short-hopped catcher Tony Cruz as Juan Perez slid across with the tying run.

Joe Panik then hit a grounder right to Adams, who stepped on first base before firing wildly to second in trying for a double play. Brandon Crawford stopped between third and home, yet was able to score easily when Adams threw wide of the bag.

"That's kind of fitting of how our postseason's been," Panik said. "It might not be the prettiest way of scoring runs."

Cardinals shortstop Johnny Peralta came way off the base to catch the ball, but had no play at the plate.

"The play at home, there's a fast runner at third and I was going in on the ball and threw on the run," Adams said. "Just should've made the throw, though. The second one, I should've just touched first and checked home."

Posey added an RBI single off Seth Maness to make it 6-4. The star catcher also had a sacrifice fly in the first and a run-scoring single in the third.

These wild-card Giants joke about not needing hits and home runs to win, and they're showing that with timely bunts, small ball and a few miscues from the opponent. The tying and go-ahead runs came home on balls that didn't leave the infield.

The Giants have scored 12 of their 22 runs over their past six postseason games without the batter getting a hit.

"If you're not hitting the long ball, you have to find ways to manufacture runs," manager Bruce Bochy said.

Yusmeiro Petit pitched three scoreless innings to win in relief of an ineffective Ryan Vogelsong. Petit has been a valuable long man — he delivered six shutout innings in an 18-inning NLDS victory at Washington.

"He's been really good for us for a long time and he's finally getting some recognition. What a weapon to have," Posey said.

Sergio Romo worked the eighth and Santiago Casilla finished for his second save of the series. A total of six Giants relievers



JEFF ROSENBERG/AP

Giants relief pitcher Santiago Casilla celebrates the Giants' victory Wednesday to take a 3-1 lead in the NLCS.

held St. Louis scoreless over the final six innings.

Marco Gonzales took the loss after issuing a leadoff walk to pinch-hitter Perez in the sixth and giving up a single to Crawford.

The Giants haven't homered in six games since Belt connected in the 18th inning at Washington, but it hasn't mattered much.

"A lot of these innings are set up with good at-bats early in innings," said Hunter Pence, who had an RBI single in the third.

Cardinals rookie Kolten Wong showed off more postseason power, but his solo homer was wretched.

Vogelsong was the only pitcher in major league history to yield no more than one run in his first five postseason starts, but his streak ended when he gave up four in three innings.

## Schedule

### League championship series

(Best-of-seven)  
American League  
Kansas City 4, Baltimore 0  
Kansas City 8, Baltimore 6, 10 innings  
Kansas City 6, Baltimore 4  
Baltimore at Kansas City, ppd., rain  
Kansas City 2, Baltimore 1  
Wednesday: Kansas City 2, Baltimore 1

National League  
San Francisco 3, St. Louis 1  
San Francisco 3, St. Louis 0  
St. Louis 5, San Francisco 4  
San Francisco 5, St. Louis 4, 10 innings  
Wednesday: San Francisco 6, St. Louis 4

Thursday: St. Louis at San Francisco  
Saturday: San Francisco at St. Louis  
Sunday: San Francisco at St. Louis

### World Series

(Best-of-seven)  
Tuesday, Oct. 21: St. Louis-San Francisco winner at Kansas City  
Wednesday, Oct. 22: St. Louis-San Francisco winner at Kansas City  
Friday, Oct. 24: Kansas City at St. Louis-San Francisco winner  
Saturday, Oct. 25: Kansas City at St. Louis-San Francisco winner  
Sunday, Oct. 26: Kansas City at St. Louis-San Francisco winner  
Tuesday, Oct. 28: St. Louis-San Francisco winner at Kansas City  
Wednesday, Oct. 29: St. Louis-San Francisco winner at Kansas City

### Wednesday

#### ALCS

#### Royals 2, Orioles 1

Baltimore		Kansas City					
ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Markoffs	4	0	0	Asesor	5	1	2
Pearce	4	0	0	Aoki	4	0	0
L.Jones	2	0	0	D'Saia	4	0	0
N.Cruz	3	0	0	L.Cain	4	0	0
De Aza	3	0	0	Hosmer	3	0	1
J.Hardy	5	0	0	Wright	4	0	0
J.Hardy	4	0	0	Gore	4	0	0
Clopp	3	1	0	Alfonso	4	0	0
Flaherty	3	0	1	S.Perez	4	0	0
Schopp	2	1	0	Infante	2	0	0
Khrishan	3	0	0	Moskos	3	0	0
Totals	29	1	4	Totals	28	5	1

San Francisco 200 000-002-2  
E-C-Joseph (1), dp -- Baltimore 1, Kansas City 2, LOB -- Baltimore: Kansas City 10, 2B -- Butler (2), HR -- Flaherty (1), S -- L.Cain.

IP		H	R	ER	BB	SO
M.Gonzalez	L0-1	5%	4	2	1	4
C.Roy		1%	0	0	0	0
A.Miller		1	0	0	0	1
Z.Britton		1	1	0	0	1

IP		H	R	ER	BB	SO
J.Vargas	W1-0	5%	2	1	1	3
K.Khoreh	H2	1%	1	0	0	0
W.Davis	H2	1	1	0	0	0
G.Holland	S4-4	1	0	0	0	0

WP -- M.Gonzalez (Aoki, A.Gordon), WP -- M.Gonzalez, T -- 2:56, A -- 40:468 (37:303).

IP		H	R	ER	BB	SO
M.Gonzalez	L0-1	5%	4	2	1	4
C.Roy		1%	0	0	0	0
A.Miller		1	0	0	0	1
Z.Britton		1	1	0	0	1

IP		H	R	ER	BB	SO
J.Vargas	W1-0	5%	2	1	1	3
K.Khoreh	H2	1%	1	0	0	0
W.Davis	H2	1	1	0	0	0
G.Holland	S4-4	1	0	0	0	0

WP -- M.Gonzalez (Aoki, A.Gordon), WP -- M.Gonzalez, T -- 2:56, A -- 40:468 (37:303).

IP		H	R	ER	BB	SO
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A.Miller		1	0	0	0	1
Z.Britton		1	1	0	0	1

IP		H	R	ER	BB	SO
J.Vargas	W1-0	5%	2	1	1	3
K.Khoreh	H2	1%	1	0	0	0
W.Davis	H2	1	1	0	0	0
G.Holland	S4-4	1	0	0	0	0

WP -- M.Gonzalez (Aoki, A.Gordon), WP -- M.Gonzalez, T -- 2:56, A -- 40:468 (37:303).

## MLB PLAYOFFS



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Kansas City relief pitcher Greg Holland and catcher Salvador Perez celebrate Wednesday after the final out of Game 4 of the American League Championship Series in Kansas City, Mo. The Royals beat Baltimore 2-1 to close out the series and advance to the World Series.

## 29 years after their last trip, Royals return to World Series

By DAVE SKRETTA  
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — James Shields led thousands of fans in a celebratory chant. Lorenzo Cain pranced along the warming track, cradling his newborn son. Ned Yost finally allowed himself to smile.

After nearly three decades spent as one of the game's biggest laughingstocks, the Kansas City Royals are once again baseball royalty. They are headed to their first World Series since 1985, finishing a four-game sweep in the AL Championship Series with a 2-1 victory Wednesday over the Baltimore Orioles.

"It's hard to explain," said Cain, whose clutch hits and dramatic catches earned him the series MVP award. "We're clicking at the right moment right now."

Now, the Royals will carry an 11-game playoff winning streak into the World Series, one shy of the major league record. That includes their first eight this season, something that had never been done in postseason history. Kansas City beat Oakland in a 12-inning wild-card thriller to start things off, then swept the Los

### Royals' playoff history

**World Series (Won 1, Lost 1)**  
**1985** — Beat St. Louis Cardinals, 4-3  
**1990** — Lost to Philadelphia Phillies, 4-2  
**Record** — Won 6, Lost 7  
**League Championship Series (Won 3, Lost 4)**  
**2014** — Beat Baltimore Orioles, 4-0  
**1985** — Beat Toronto Blue Jays, 4-0  
**1984** — Lost to Detroit Tigers, 3-0  
**1980** — Beat New York Yankees, 3-0  
**1979** — Lost to New York Yankees, 3-1  
**1977** — Lost to New York Yankees, 3-2  
**1976** — Lost to New York Yankees, 3-2  
**Record** — Won 16, Lost 15  
**Division Championship Series (Won 1, Lost 1)**  
**2014** — Beat Los Angeles Angels, 3-0  
**1981** — Lost to Oakland A's, 3-0  
**Record** — Won 3, Lost 3  
**Wild Card (Won 1, Lost 0)**  
**2014** — Beat Oakland Athletics, 9-8, 12 innings  
 — The Associated Press

Angeles Angels in the Divisional Series.

Coincidentally, it was the Cardinals who the Royals beat for their only World Series title.

After holding the Orioles to three hits in Game 3, Jason Var-

gas and the Royals bullpen held them to four hits Wednesday night. Kelvin Herrera and Wade Davis got the game to Greg Holland, who matched Dennis Eckersley's record with his fourth save of the best-of-seven series.

Making his first start in nearly two weeks, Vargas shut down the vaunted Orioles lineup in Game 4. The only damage he allowed came in the third inning, when Flaherty went deep.

By that point, the Royals had already manufactured a pair of runs.

Alcides Escobar singled off Orioles starter Miguel Gonzalez to open the game, and Nori Aoki was drilled on the right knee a couple pitches later. Yost then opted to bunt with Cain, one of his hottest hitters, to advance both of the runners.

Eric Hosmer followed with a chopping groundball, and first baseman Steve Pearce went home with it. Escobar slid safely and the ball bounded away from catcher Caleb Joseph, allowing Aoki to follow his teammate home and giving the scrappy, small-ball Royals a 2-0 lead.

After that, it was up to their defense and bullpen.

## Great catch: Cain snags MVP award

By DAVE SKRETTA  
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Lorenzo Cain capped the AL Championship Series with his best catch yet: an MVP trophy.

The smooth center fielder snagged MVP honors after helping the Kansas City Royals to a four-game sweep of the Baltimore Orioles with a 2-1 victory Wednesday.

Along with making a series of splendid defensive plays, Cain batted .533 in the series and scored five runs. He had eight hits, matching the franchise record for an ALCS set by Willie Wilson — who also was No. 6 and roamed center field — in 1985 against Toronto.

"Unbelievable feeling," Cain said. "I've enjoyed every moment of it."

Indeed, what a month it's been for Cain, who went home to Oklahoma between playoff series to be with his wife, Jenny, for the birth of their first child, Cameron Loe. Cain rejoined the team in plenty of time to torment the Orioles all week, and held his newborn son, dressed warmly in a baseball-styled stocking cap, on the Kauffman Stadium warning track during the victory celebration that followed Game 4.

Cain matched a Royals record with four hits in Game 2 on Saturday, and scored their first run in Game 3 on Tuesday night. He also laid down a key sacrifice bunt — the first of his career — that helped Kansas City take a 2-0 lead in the first inning Wednesday.

He had two doubles, two walks and the team's only stolen base in the series. After hitting only five homers during the regular season, he slugged .667 with a .588 on-base percentage.

### ALCS MVPs

**2014**—Lorenzo Cain, Kansas City Royals  
**2013**—Koji Uehara, Boston Red Sox  
**2012**—Delmon Young, Detroit Tigers  
**2011**—Nelson Cruz, Texas Rangers  
**2010**—Josh Hamilton, Texas Rangers  
**2009**—CC Sabathia, New York Yankees  
**2008**—Matt Garza, Tampa Bay Rays  
**2007**—Josh Beckett, Boston Red Sox  
**2006**—Placido Polanco, Detroit Tigers  
**2005**—Paul Konerko, Chicago White Sox  
**2004**—David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox  
**2003**—Mariano Rivera, New York Yankees  
**2002**—Adam Kennedy, Anaheim Angels  
**2001**—Andy Pettitte, New York Yankees  
**2000**—David Justice, New York Yankees  
**1999**—Orlando Hernandez, New York Yankees  
**1998**—David Wells, New York Yankees  
**1997**—Marquis Grissom, Cleveland Indians  
**1996**—Bernie Williams, New York Yankees  
**1995**—Orel Hershiser, Cleveland Indians  
**1994**—Strike  
**1993**—Dave Stewart, Toronto Blue Jays  
**1992**—Roberto Alomar, Toronto Blue Jays  
**1991**—Kirby Puckett, Minnesota Twins  
**1990**—Dave Stewart, Oakland Athletics  
**1989**—Rickey Henderson, Oakland Athletics  
**1988**—Dennis Eckersley, Oakland Athletics  
**1987**—Gary Gaetti, Minnesota Twins  
**1986**—Marty Barrett, Boston Red Sox  
**1985**—George Brett, Kansas City Royals  
**1984**—Kirk Gibson, Detroit Tigers  
**1983**—Mike Boddicker, Baltimore Orioles  
**1982**—Fred Lynn, California Angels  
**1981**—Graig Nettles, New York Yankees  
**1980**—Frank White, Kansas City Royals  
 — The Associated Press



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Kansas City's Lorenzo Cain holds up the MVP trophy Wednesday after the Royals completed a four-game sweep of Baltimore to win the American League Championship Series.

## SPORTS



## Broom town

Royals sweep Orioles 4-0 in ALCS  
to earn spot in World Series | Page 31

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Dak Attack

MSU has something special at QB in Prescott

By DAVID BRANDT  
The Associated Press

STARKVILLE, Miss.

A smile slowly crept across Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott's face as he remembered the way his mother would introduce her three sons around town during their childhood in Haughton, La.

First, she would gush for a minute about her two oldest, Tad and Jace. Then she would turn to Dak.

"And this," she would say proudly, "is my Heisman Trophy winner."

Turns out the late Peggy Prescott might have been onto something.

Dak Prescott is suddenly right in the middle of the Heisman race after winning three straight games against

top-10 opponents. The 6-foot-2, 230-pound junior said it's impossible to dodge the hype that has surrounded Mississippi State's rapid rise to the top of the college football world. But the quarterback insists all the attention is easy to deflect.

"I read [the stories] like it's not even really my name," Prescott said. "I just continue to focus. People are always going to talk — good or bad — so we're just trying to give them something good to talk about."

SEE SPECIAL ON PAGE 26



## Inside:

■ Behind stellar 2013 recruiting class, head coach Freeze has taken Ole Miss from SEC cellar to No. 3 in the nation, Page 26



Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott has led his team to its first-ever national No. 1 ranking with three consecutive wins over top-10 opponents, and thrust himself into the middle of this season's Heisman Trophy conversation.

JIM LYTTLE/AP

Bruins get past Red Wings in shootout  
NHL roundup, Page 25

MLS commissioner takes issue with Klinsmann  
Soccer, Page 27