



USA TODAY WEEKEND



GARRY SHANDLING 1949-2016
COMEDIAN
MOCKED OWN
ALTER EGO
He was so much more than Larry Sanders
APPRECIATION
IN LIFE

JEFF KRAVITZ, FILMMAGIC

NEWSLINE

IN NEWS

China wants to drop ‘foreign, strange’ names
Government pushes to “clean up” the imported monikers for cities and developments.

IN MONEY

Merger activity falls 40% in Q1
Wall Street faces numerous issues.

IN SPORTS

NCAA TOURNEY
Check out which teams advance to the Elite Eight

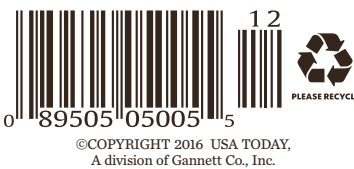
IN LIFE



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Cape wars unfold in long-awaited ‘Dawn of Justice’
Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman hit the big screen Friday.

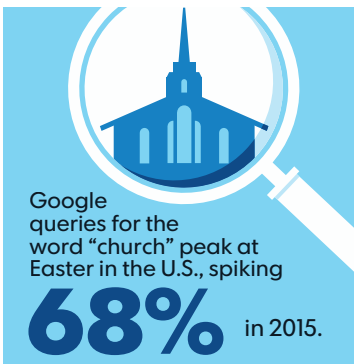
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USA SNAPSHOTS®

‘Church’ search



Source Google Trends, tracking searches since 2004
TERRY BYRNE AND PAUL TRAP, USA TODAY



EITAN ABRAMOVICH, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Remembering the disappeared

Protesters carry a banner of those who disappeared during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship in Argentina in Buenos Aires on Thursday. The march commemorated the 40th anniversary of the coup that started the “dirty war.” President Obama apologized for U.S. support of the coup.



NICHOLAS KAMM, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Obama and Argentinian President Mauricio Macri pay homage to “dirty war” victims at the River Plate on Thursday.

Presidential race surges past \$1 billion

Super PACs have almost doubled their contributions to race

Fredreka Schouten
USA TODAY

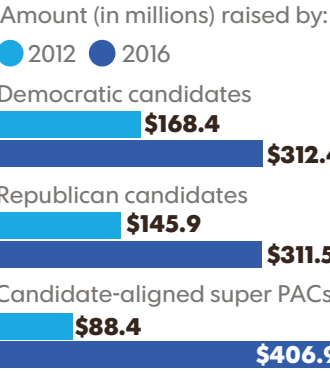
WASHINGTON Fundraising in the presidential contest has zoomed past the \$1 billion mark, fueled by dozens of super-wealthy Americans bankrolling super PACs that have acted as shadow campaigns for White House contenders. Candidates and the super PACs closely aligned with them raised a little more than \$1 billion through the end of February, newly released campaign reports show. By comparison, the presidential fundraising by candidates and their super PACs hit \$402.7 million at this point in the 2012 election, according to data compiled by the non-partisan

Campaign Finance Institute. The price tag of the White House contest puts it roughly on par with the value of Major League Baseball’s Chicago White Sox, which *Forbes* pegged this week as worth \$1.05 billion, but it’s far less than the nearly \$7 billion American consumers spent last year to celebrate Halloween. New figures show super PACs and their patrons foot more of the cost of running for the presidency. Super PACs account for nearly 40% of all presidential fundraising, up from about 22% at this point four years ago. Money flowing directly to candidates has dropped. In 2008, the last election in which neither a sitting president nor vice president sought the White House, candidates had raised \$812 million at this point in the campaign, the institute’s

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 2A**

POLITICAL MONEY CHASE

The 2016 presidential campaign has surged past \$1 billion¹. How that compares with 2012:



1 — As of Feb. 29
Sources: Campaign Finance Institute, Federal Election Commission records
GEORGE PETRAS, USA TODAY

U.S. OPEN TO LONE WOLF ATTACKS

System is better prepared but still has weaknesses

Oren Dorell
USA TODAY

The U.S. intelligence system is well-prepared to thwart terror attacks like this week’s deadly bombings in Brussels but is vulnerable to homegrown assaults by self-radicalized Americans who blend into everyday life. Lone wolf attacks such as the Boston Marathon bombings and the San Bernardino, Calif., shootings show the USA is prone to less sophisticated efforts by peo-

Report: French nab terror suspect
Person was in “advanced stage” of planning an attack
IN NEWS

ple who self-radicalized here. Changes to U.S. counterterrorism methods implemented after the Sept. 11 terror attacks have led to better information sharing and intelligence collection in this country, said Carrie Cordero, a former national security lawyer at the U.S. Justice Department. Tuesday’s coordinated bombings at the Brussels Airport and a metro station killed at least 31 people and wounded many others. “I don’t think the fact that there has not been an attack of this type in the United States is an accident,” Cordero said. “These types of attacks are precisely the type of attack that all of our counterterrorism efforts are designed to prevent.” The two brothers who carried out the suicide bombings were named on U.S. watch lists before the Belgian assaults, two U.S. officials said Thursday. Khalid and Ibrahim El Bakraoui were added to the lists, which aid counterterrorism officials’ efforts to thwart suspects’ entry to the USA, after the attacks Nov. 13 in Paris that killed 130 people, said one of the officials, who are not authorized to comment publicly. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks in Paris and Brussels. The contrast between U.S. and European counterterrorism methods begins with different attitudes toward immigrants and information sharing by law enforcement, analysts say. “The entire identity of the (USA) is one that embraces immi-

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 2A**

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VOICES

Two games show differences in Cuba

Rick Jervis
USA TODAY



The images arising from Estadio Latinoamericano in Havana on Tuesday are destined for history books: President Obama watching a baseball game next to Cuban President Raúl Castro. The Tampa Bay Rays playing against the Cuban national team. Cuban fans cheering wildly over each pitch and at-bat.

For me, in the words of a famed former ball player, it was déjà vu all over again.

My first trip to Cuba was in 1999 to cover an exhibition game between the Baltimore Orioles and the Cuban national team — the first such game since Fidel Castro seized control of the island in 1959. Almost 17 years ago this week, I was in the same stadium, mingling with fans behind right-center field and watching with awe and stomach-churning unease as Fidel Castro took his box seat between Orioles' owner Peter Angelos and then-MLB commissioner Bud Selig.

I was a reporter with the *Miami Herald* at the time, and the story was monumental, both to Miami's Cuban exile community and to the nation as a whole. The story was huge to me, as well. My parents left Cuba in the 1960s, and I would be the first of my extended family to ever return to the island.

What I found was stunning. I encountered a Havana gorgeous in its physical beauty and culture,



ROBERTO BOREA, AP

From left, Orioles owner Peter Angelos, Fidel Castro and Bud Selig watch a game in Havana on March 28, 1999.

as well as oppressed and broken, the way former Soviet bloc cities such as Warsaw and Budapest were. I was followed, questioned and harassed by state security agents. I interviewed the person picked to throw out the first pitch at the historic game, legendary Cuban pitcher Conrado Marrero, who threatened to boycott the contest because tickets were invite-only. There were policemen on every corner and at the door of every hotel, making sure locals didn't mingle with foreigners.

One local, a military veteran of Cuba's involvement in the wars in Angola, told me scalpers were selling tickets for \$5 a pop — the equivalent of what he earned in one month at the time as a construction worker. He opted instead to watch the game on a black-and-white TV in a small bar in central Havana.

"What am I supposed to do: Go to the game and not eat?" he asked.

This time around, I saw the game live-streamed on my laptop from my office in Austin. I had visited Cuba twice last year on reporting assignments but sat out this trip.

Obama and the hordes of journalists who followed him encountered a much different Cuba this week than the one I saw in 1999. Security is much less prominent (though just as prevalent, as demonstrated by the 50-plus activists rounded up and jailed for protesting the day before Obama's arrival). The inane laws barring Cubans from hotels and restaurants frequented by foreigners were discarded years ago.

Overall, Havana today feels more open to the changes sweeping over it.

The Cuban government, of course, still has a long way to go. The Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation, a major dissident group, counted 2,555 political deten-



JOE RAEDLE, GETTY IMAGES

The Obamas attend a baseball game in Havana with Cuban President Raúl Castro on Tuesday.

tions in the first two months of 2016. The communist island's human rights record is a key issue that reportedly has been brought up in meetings between Obama and Raúl Castro, and Obama and Cuban activists.

Shortly after meeting with the activists, Obama took his seat next to Castro at Estadio Latinoamericano — an image that sparked that familiar mixture of awe and unease in the pit of my stomach.

Those images understandably stirred a lot of unease and anger within the Cuban-American exile community — the Cuban president heads a regime that has brought generations of pain to Cuban families, both on and off the island.

One of the more interesting moments of the baseball game came off the field, when the ESPN broadcast crew came down to the front-row seats to interview Obama. The president talked of the

broader context of the game and his meeting with the dissidents, some of whom had been recently jailed.

He recalled one activist who had raw scars from where state police handcuffs had cut into his wrists.

Obama talked about baseball legend Jackie Robinson, who participated in spring training in Havana in 1947 before breaking the color barrier that year as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

"That's the power of baseball," Obama said. "It could change attitudes in a way politics can't."

No one expects this game between the Rays and the Cubans to lead to significant changes. But for my family, Cubans on both sides of the Florida Straits and the hundreds of political prisoners still sitting in Cuban jails, I hope he's even a little bit right.

Jervis is an Austin-based correspondent for USA TODAY.

Counterterrorism more fractured in Europe

► CONTINUED FROM 1A

grants and has an ideology about religious freedom, diversity and acceptance," said Zuhdi Jasser, founder of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy, which promotes the separation of mosque and state. "I've talked to many (European) Muslims who are reformists like myself and reject any Islamic State ideology and lived in France and Germany all their lives and still don't feel French or German."

Jasser said some Muslim Americans become radicalized through radical books and media, but their isolation is not as extreme as in Europe "because the physical enclaves are much less here in America."

Sharing intelligence information among agencies in Europe, and Belgium in particular, is not as extensive as in the USA.

Every country in Europe has its own counterterrorism police and laws concerning privacy and how those agencies can do their jobs, said Clint Watts, a former FBI counterterrorism agent at the Philadelphia-based Foreign Policy Research Institute.

"These guys (radicals) are running wild on social media and electronic communications in a way that I think in the USA we have a better handle on it," Watts said.

In the U.S. encryption debate, law enforcement pushes for more access to communication channels, while European officials concede to data privacy, he said.

Unlike U.S. law enforcement,



SPENCER PLATT, GETTY IMAGES

U.S. soldiers stand guard Thursday at LaGuardia Airport in New York City. Airports and train stations added security.

many European police agencies lack access to metadata — the list of phone numbers and names that a suspect's phone has called, which can expose acquaintances and accomplices, Watts said.

"They don't do data storage," Watts said. "They don't have access to it in the way we have access to it in the United States. They have much stricter laws about what data can be stored about their citizens."

Such data can be compartmentalized in each country, though Watts said he's not sure how they're treated in Belgium.

The FBI has national jurisdiction in terrorism cases. In Europe, setting up surveillance means consulting the laws of each country when an investiga-

tion moves across national borders, Watts said.

Other advantages in the USA: The number of foreign fighters per capita is much smaller than in Belgium, and there is an ocean separating the USA from the battlefield. Fewer than 300 Americans have fought or tried to go fight for the Islamic State, said Matthew Levitt, a former counterterrorism expert at the Treasury Department and FBI, who directs the counterterrorism program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The European Union counterterrorism coordinator reported that about 5,000 EU citizens have traveled to Syria or Iraq to join the Islamic State and other radical groups, though member state

Reports: French police arrest terror suspect

Melanie Eversley
USA TODAY

Authorities have detained a "high level suspect" north of Paris who was "at an advanced stage" of planning a terror attack on French soil, news organizations are reporting that French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Thursday.

Cazeneuve said the arrest did not appear tied to the recent attack in Brussels, where various news agencies were reporting six arrests were made Thursday following the airport and subway massacre earlier this week. The arrests were made in raids in central Brussels and two other neighborhoods, the *Boston Globe* reported that prosecutors said.

In France, security forces locked down the area in the Parisian suburb of Argenteuil to

conduct a major search, *The Guardian* reported Cazeneuve said. A building was evacuated and sniffer dogs and mine experts were inspecting, according to *The Guardian*.

"These searches follow an arrest by the DGSI (intelligence services) on Thursday morning that allowed us to stop a planned bombing in France that was at an advanced stage," *The Guardian* quoted Cazeneuve as saying.

DGSI stands for Direction Générale de la Sécurité Intérieure which, translated into English, means General Directorate for Internal Security.

The suspect was French and belongs to a terrorist network, Cazeneuve told *The Guardian*.

Cazeneuve said there were no apparent links between this alleged plot and recent attacks in Brussels or in Paris, *Sky News* reported.

databases to make sure they're not on any terrorist watch lists, Levitt said. "Our system is 180 degrees better than in Europe," Levitt said. Yet, he predicted, "we will not catch everything."

Contributing: Brad Heath and Kevin Johnson

Clinton raises most money

► CONTINUED FROM 1A

data show. Super PACs, authorized by a pair of federal court rulings in 2010, did not exist during the 2008 campaign.

Eight years later, the nearly two dozen men and women who have run for the presidency in 2016 collected far less: \$623.8 million. That reflects, in part, the difference in the kinds of candidates running this year, said Michael Malbin, executive director of the Campaign Finance Institute.

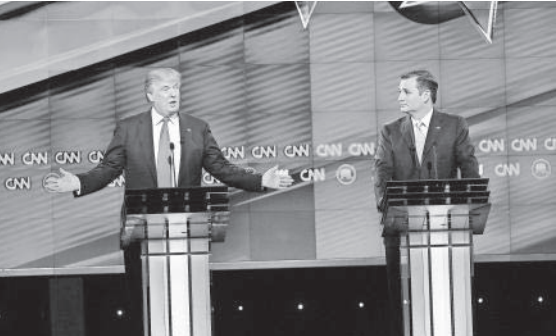
"When you have so many candidates running on disaffection with the establishment, it doesn't make it easy to go to the establishment and raise money," he said.

In 2016, the GOP race is led by

a billionaire political novice, Donald Trump, and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a first-term senator who rails often against the "Washington cartel." Sen. Bernie Sanders, a billionaire-bashing Vermonteer seeking the Democratic nomination, outraised the entire presidential field last month, fueled by small online donations.

A USA TODAY analysis shows 108 people, companies and groups have contributed at least \$1 million to super PACs helping individual presidential candidates.

They have given more than \$232 million — more than half the money flowing to those super PACs — with mixed results. Three-quarters of the money went to help candidates in the once-crowded Republican field.



JOE RAEDLE, GETTY IMAGES

Donald Trump and Ted Cruz take part in the Republican presidential debate March 10 in Coral Gables, Fla.

Hank "Maurice" Greenberg, the former CEO of insurance giant AIG, emerged as the biggest contributor to presidential-aligned super PACs, campaign-finance reports filed this week show.

Companies tied to Greenberg donated \$15 million to presidential super PACs, but the two candidates he backed, establishment-favored Republicans Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio, tanked in early contests and dropped out.

Although Sanders surged ahead of his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in January and February contributions, Clinton has raised more money than any other presidential contender in the entire election cycle. The former secretary of State raised \$162.8 million for the primary battle through the end of last month, exceeding the \$151.7 million she had collected at this stage of the 2008 nomination fight she lost to President Obama, according to the institute's tally.



STEPHEN BRASHEAR, GETTY IMAGES

Democrat Hillary Clinton greets people Tuesday during a rally at Rainier Beach High School in Seattle.

Her main super PAC sat on the bulk of its money through much of the primary fight, spending about \$5.6 million. It's mobilizing for a major campaign to boost Clinton in the general election. The super PAC Priorities USA Action announced this week that it plans to reserve about \$70 million in television ads that will start airing after the Democratic National Convention in late July and through the fall.

Contributing: Christopher Schnaars

China wants cities, developments to drop ‘foreign, strange’ names

Hannah Gardner
Special for USA TODAY

BEIJING San Marino Bridge, Sangiovese Di Romagna, Interlaken Town. These places are all in Europe, right?

Wrong. They are luxury residential complexes in China.

There is also a Merlin Champagne Town, a Rancho Santa Fe Villas, an Elite Community Apartments and a Remmy Terrace.

The Chinese government has had enough of these confusing — and sometimes obnoxious — names, saying this week it wants “clean up” the imported monikers. “Exaggerated, foreign, strange” names damage “national dignity” and conflict with “socialist core values,” Civil Affairs Minister Li Ligu said. “To carry traditional Chinese culture forward, we must strengthen the protection of long-standing geographical names,” he said.

The announcement comes a month after the Chinese government said it was banning the construction of “West-worshipping, weird architecture” and gated communities. In a move that provokes the ire of China’s wealthy residents, the government also said it would force existing gated communities to open up.

China is undergoing an urbanization boom as part of the government’s plan to modernize. But development has been haphazard and unregulated at times, spawning huge, congested metropolises that lack water and are often enveloped in smog.

Li said that over the past 30 years, around a half-million towns and villages have been abandoned, incorporated into larger cities or rebranded to attract investment or tourists.

Chinese names for places are often quite perfunctory. Beijing means “north capital.” Shanghai translates as “place to set out to sea.” The names are tightly connected to location or role.

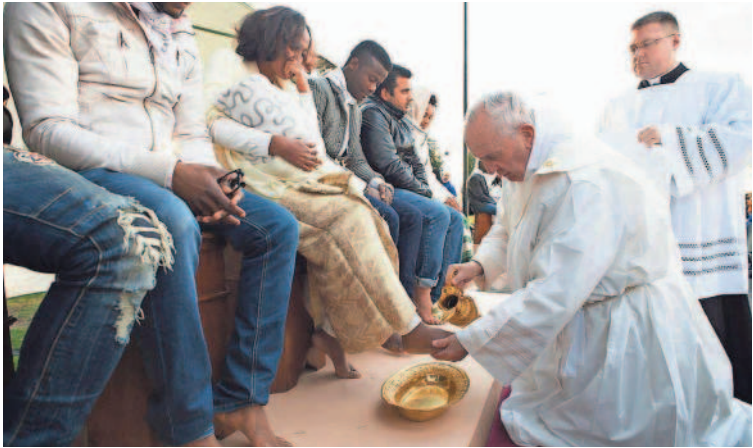
One well-known example of a Chinese village trying to make itself a bit more sexy is Zhongdian in northern Yunnan province. In 2001 the town, whose original name meant meaning “mid-settlement” decided to rename itself Xianggelila, or Shangrila, after the fictional paradise in James Hilton’s 1933 novel *Lost Horizon*.

Other villages renamed themselves to claim links to historical characters. Li said all such name changes should be reversed, with Western ones the first to go.

Zhu Lijia, a professor at the National School of Administration, said adopting names of Western places caused confusion and “cut Chinese people off from their history and culture.”

IN BRIEF

POPE VISITS WITH REFUGEES



AFF/GETTY IMAGES

Pope Francis performs the foot-washing ritual Thursday at a refugee center near Rome. The pope washed the feet of 11 young asylum seekers and a worker to highlight the need for the international community to provide shelter to refugees.

IRAQ STARTS OPERATIONS TO RETAKE MOSUL

Iraq’s U.S.-backed military launched operations south of Mosul on Thursday in preparation for an eventual assault to drive Islamic State militants from the country’s second largest city.

Iraqi officials said the operations to isolate Mosul mark the start of a broad offensive to recapture the city, a key Islamic State stronghold in the heart of northern Iraq. Any offensive to seize the city is still

months away.

Recapturing the city would represent a huge victory for the Iraqi forces, which have been making slow gains against the extremist group’s fighters. It took months last year to retake the much smaller city of Ramadi from the militants.

— Jane Onyanga-Omara

SESAME STREET’S ELMO WILL EDUCATE KIDS ABOUT ZIKA

Sesame Street’s Elmo has long taught kids the alphabet. Now, the much-beloved character will educate children in Latin America and the Caribbean about avoiding mosquito bites and stopping the spread of Zika.

The famous red Muppet will appear in two 30-second public service announcements created in English, Spanish and Portuguese. There are no plans yet to show them in the USA.

One video shows how to prevent mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants and using insect repellent and door and window screens.

— Liz Szabo

RADIO HOST ACQUITTED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Popular Canadian radio host Jian Ghomeshi was acquitted of sexual assault charges Thursday, following a two-year legal battle that captivated Canadians and cast into the national spotlight a debate about what constitutes workplace sexual misbehavior.

Ghomeshi faced four counts of sexual assault and one count of overcoming resistance by choking, based on alleged incidents with three women. He is the former host of *Q*, a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. radio show on culture.

The verdict by a judge in Toronto concluded the controversial case that began in October 2014, when Ghomeshi said in a lengthy Facebook post that he was fired by the CBC because of his fondness for bondage and other sexual activities that he stressed were always consensual.

He filed a \$50 million wrongful termination lawsuit against his former employer, but later withdrew it.

— Amy Kovac



SPENCER PLATT, GETTY IMAGES

Online services for financial institutions including the New York Stock Exchange were disabled, sometimes for hours at a time.

Cyberattacks on financial institutions traced to Iran

Security pros at banks mounted coordinated global counterattack

Kevin McCoy
USA TODAY

New criminal charges linking Iran to 2011-2013 cyberattacks on the U.S. put suspects’ names and faces on an episode that plagued 46 banks and financial institutions nationwide — and hundreds of thousands of their customers.

Account holders who logged in online encountered blank screens, dropped connections or extremely slow responses, security experts said in interviews Thursday, hours after authorities announced indictments of seven suspects with ties to the Middle East nation’s government and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The attackers also unsuccessfully targeted control of the Bowman Dam in Rye, N.Y., which is a suburb of New York City.

At the banks, a coordinated global counterattack geared up.

“The victims knew very well what was going on,” said Rod Rasmussen, vice president of cybersecurity at Infoblox (BLOX), a California-based company that delivers critical network protective services. “Their services were being totally disrupted.”

The incident involved an as-

“The victims knew very well what was going on. Their services were being totally disrupted.”

Rod Rasmussen, vice president of cybersecurity at Infoblox, a California-based company that delivers critical network protective services

sault known as a distributed denial of service attack. That means attackers gain remote control of hundreds or thousands of computers by infecting them with malware. The attackers then execute commands that use the infected computers to flood targeted systems with vast quantities of data, blocking normal exchanges.

“At the time, we had a high confidence that it was state sponsored,” said Roger Barranco, senior director of security operations for Akamai Technologies (AKAM), a Massachusetts-based specialist in content delivery network services. “The main thing was the intensity level ... lasting 12 hours sometimes.”

Mounting such lengthy assaults typically would run up expensive computer costs beyond the reach of more mundane attackers, the experts said.

The early attacks succeeded, said Rasmussen.

Online service for customers of Bank of America, American Express, Nasdaq, the New York Stock Exchange, Citibank,

JPMorgan Chase and other well-known financial institutions were disabled for hours at a time.

“We experienced intermittent slowing on our website that would have disrupted customers’ ability to access their account information,” American Express spokeswoman Amelia Woltering said in a 2013 USA TODAY interview.

But the hackers left telltale electronic clues.

Cyber security experts who checked Internet protocol identifications linked to the attacks found that much of the disabling traffic originated from a few hundred computer servers. Coordinating with firms that hosted the servers, response teams removed the infecting malware and “shut down the traffic,” said Rasmussen.

Although cyberattacks have increased dramatically in size and quantity since the Iran-linked episode, Barranco said there have been fewer signs of state-sponsored assaults in recent years.

Nonetheless, what should customers of a bank or financial firm do if their log in efforts are slow, or reach a blank screen?

“If they’re concerned, they should call that particular bank or business,” said Barranco. “They’ll get back to you with an answer about what’s happening, and what’s being done.”

“You don’t want your end users to think their records are at risk,” he added.

U.N. tribunal convicts Karadzic of ’90s genocide

Former Bosnian Serb leader gets 40 years

Gregg Zoroya
USA TODAY

Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was found guilty Thursday of genocide in the 44-month siege of Sarajevo during the 1990s, and nine other war crimes.

About 8,000 Muslim men and boys died during the siege in Srebrenica in 1995, making it the worst war crime in Europe since World War II. Karadzic, 70, was sentenced to 40 years in prison. He was tried before a United Nations war crimes tribunal in Europe and faced 11 charges.

Presiding Judge O-Gon Kwon said Karadzic is criminally respon-

sible for murder, attacking civilians and terror for overseeing the deadly siege of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, during the country’s war. Earlier in the day, the U.N. court acquitted him of another charge of genocide in Bosnian towns.

Karadzic “was the sole person ... with the power to intervene to prevent” the slaughter of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys who were rounded up after his forces captured Srebrenica, the judge said Thursday. Karadzic’s intention was that “every able-bodied Bosnian Muslim man from Srebrenica be killed,” according to a statement from the court.

The list of crimes for which Karadzic was guilty included persecution, extermination, murder, deportation, terror and hostage-taking. The court found that Karadzic was the chief architect of



AFF/GETTY IMAGES

Radovan Karadzic acquitted of separate genocide charge.

what became known as ethnic cleansing. He took part in establishing and carrying out a campaign of sniping and shelling civilian populations to spread terror, the court found.

The former leader was also responsible for a scheme to detain U.N. personnel in the spring of 1995 to coerce NATO forces not to engage in airstrikes.

Karadzic was the most senior Bosnian Serb leader to face trial for atrocities that occurred during the 1992-95 war.



ELVIS BARUKCIC, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Bida Smajlovic, 64, a survivor of the July 1995 massacre in Srebrenica prays by her husband’s grave at a memorial center in Potocari on Thursday.

Corrections & Clarifications



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STATE-BY-STATE

News from across the USA

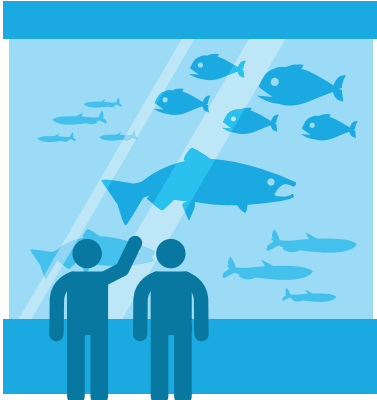
ALABAMA Birmingham: A Tuscaloosa County judge considered a request by the attorney for a former Brookwood High School teacher to declare unconstitutional a law that prohibits a school employee from having sex with a student under age 19, AL.com reported. Joe Bradley Petrey, 28, was charged under the law with having sex with an 18-year-old female student.

ALASKA Juneau: A 2015 Buick LaCrosse crashed into a 2009 Hummer H3 at the “McNugget” intersection near McDonald’s and the Nugget Mall, the *Juneau Empire* reported.

ARIZONA Phoenix: Firefighters worked into the night after responding to an explosive, multiple-alarm blaze that erupted at a recycling plant, *The Arizona Republic* reported.

ARKANSAS Rogers: Belgium-based manufacturing company Bekaert plans to add 50% production capacity and hire more than 100 additional workers at its plant, *ArkansasOnline* reported.

CALIFORNIA Long Beach: The Aquarium of the Pacific plans a \$53 million expansion, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. The aquarium will add a wing that includes a 300-seat “immersive theater” with a 130-foot-long curved screen intended to simulate ocean and coastal environments. The Aquarium of the Pacific opened in 1998.



COLORADO Colorado Springs: People who fail to pay their fines in Colorado Springs will no longer be sent to prison. The City Council has eliminated debtor prison sentences, making a temporary ban permanent, the *Colorado Springs Gazette* reported.

CONNECTICUT Meriden: Police are seeking the public’s help in finding the suspects in the theft of an ATM containing \$29,000 from Meriden’s Caribbean Restaurant. Two men pried open a side door and wheeled out the ATM and another cash box, the *Meriden Record-Journal* reported.

DELAWARE Dover: A bill to raise the minimum wage to \$10.25 an hour by 2020 stalled in the General Assembly, *The News Journal* reported.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Nicholas Cunningham, who dubbed himself a “Kush god,” pleaded guilty to selling the drug to an undercover officer, *The Washington Post* reported. Cunningham operated a fleet of luxury vehicles allegedly used to sell pot.

FLORIDA Melbourne: Two trucks hauling a couch potato’s dream of beer and chips collided in an accident that shut down southbound lanes on Interstate 95 for nearly four hours, *Florida Today* reported.

GEORGIA Henry County: A judge dismissed a defense motion to disqualify the district attorney from the murder case against Jennifer Rosenbaum, who is accused of beating to death Laila Marie Daniel, 2, a foster child in her care. Rosenbaum’s attorney, Corinne Mull, argued that DA James Wright had a contentious relationship with Rosenbaum when she was a legal intern in his office last year, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported.

HAWAII Hilo: After months of investigation, a grand jury indicted Hawaii County Mayor Billy Kenoi on theft charges in connection with his alleged misuse of a government credit card, *Hawaii News Now* reports.

IDAHO Nampa: The Nampa Police Department will send about 90 sexual assault evidence kits to an FBI lab for testing. Through a public records request

HIGHLIGHT: COLORADO

Clinic shooter’s lawyer wants him committed

Trevor Hughes
USA TODAY

COLORADO SPRINGS A man who admits to killing three people at a Planned Parenthood clinic may be sent to a mental hospital, his attorney said Thursday.

Defendant Robert Dear has been trying to fire his attorney, public defender Dan King. The judge hearing the case had previously ordered a state doctor to determine whether Dear is competent to make that decision.

The doctor’s decision remains secret, but during a short hearing Thursday, King alluded to the report’s conclusion: namely, that the judge should “commit Mr. Dear to the state hospital in Pueblo.”

Judge Gilbert Martinez set an April 28 hearing for testimony on the doctor’s report.

Killed in the attack were police officer Garrett Swasey, a father of two; Army veteran Ke’Arre Stewart, a father of two; and Jennifer Markovsky, a mother of two. None of the three worked for Planned Parenthood. Nine other people were injured in the attack.

Dear previously told a local TV station that the doctor found him incompetent. He had previously promised to refuse to participate in the evaluation,



TREVOR HUGHES, USA TODAY

El Paso County District Attorney Dan May declined Thursday to discuss the results of a mental-health competency exam for Planned Parenthood shooter Robert Dear.

and said he’s competent. He entered the courtroom Thursday reciting a portion of what appeared to be a Bible verse, referenced Luke 10:18 and then said the Hebrew word for lightning is barawk, “like Barack Obama.”

“I’m for a speedy trial, this will help the victims’ families,” Dear told KKTU earlier this month.

Dear has previously confessed in open court, and claimed he was a “warrior for the babies.” In court Thursday he wore a lime-green jail jumpsuit and orange plastic slippers.

He still has a full beard but appears to have lost weight since his arrest.

Prosecutors charged Dear with 179 counts, including first-degree murder, following the Nov. 27 gun attack. Police ended the assault when they crashed armored SWAT vehicles into the lobby of the clinic where Dear had holed up.

Prosecutors on Thursday declined to discuss the results of the competency exam. If found competent and convicted, Dear could face the death penalty.

the *Idaho Press-Tribune* reported last year that the department had 105 sexual assault evidence kits it never sent for the testing that could link DNA evidence to suspects.

ILLINOIS Chicago: The police oversight agency tapped an outside law firm to perform an audit on whether police shooting investigations by the agency have been conducted properly, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

INDIANA West Lafayette: The Purdue University chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon is suspended until fall 2020 for violations of alcohol, hazing and unregistered functions, *The Journal & Courier* reported.

IOWA Norwalk: Police say they have captured an escaped kangaroo. *The Des Moines Register* reported that police received a call about a kangaroo that was wandering around the city. Police say the 3-foot-tall animal is owned by a man in Norwalk.

KANSAS Topeka: The Kansas Senate declined to debate a proposed constitutional amendment that would phase out the state sales tax on food over the next three years, the *Lawrence Journal-World* reported.

KENTUCKY Lexington: A former Eastern Kentucky University student has pleaded guilty to kidnapping and murdering a Richmond, Ky., couple in 2010, the *Lexington Herald-Leader* reported.

LOUISIANA Grand Isle: The town’s volunteer fire company receives more tax revenue per response than any of Jefferson Parish’s other eight volunteer fire departments, *The Times-Picayune* reported.

MAINE Portland: Maine’s baby eel fishing season is underway. The baby eels sometimes sell for \$2,000 a pound at the dock.

MARYLAND Princess Anne: It’s been six months since the closure of the Princess Anne Post Office building because of mold and a failing sewer line, but pending approval by the Postal Service, the repaired facility will reopen soon, *The Daily Times* reported.

MASSACHUSETTS Pittsfield: James Morrison, 24, pleaded guilty to robbing his own grandmother during a series of home burglaries in the Berkshires last summer and was sentenced to up to four years in prison, *The Berkshire Eagle* reported.

MICHIGAN Baldwin: State Department of Natural Resources officials are asking people who fish in the Pere Marquette River to help prevent spread of the invasive New Zealand mudsnail.

MINNESOTA Lake Elmo: Developer Hollis Cagner bought Lake Elmo’s Tartan Park golf course for \$5 million, the *Pioneer Press* reported. Cagner plans to develop the property into an 18-hole course surrounded by 357 homes.



MISSISSIPPI Tupelo: Contour Airlines flew one of its nine-passenger planes into Tupelo Regional Airport for the public to tour. It’s one of two that will be used when flights start April 5 to and from Nashville.

MISSOURI Columbia: Three people were charged with vandalizing a state champion bur oak on private property south of here, *The Columbia Missourian* reported. Spray paint was found on the tree in December.

MONTANA Lakeside: Authorities are investigating after a woman’s body was found on a barge in Flathead Lake near here.

NEBRASKA Lincoln: Former TierOne Bank CEO Gilbert Lundstrom, 74, was sentenced to 11 years in prison for fraud, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported. He was convicted of 12 counts related to the 2010 failure of the bank, fined \$1.2 million and will be required to pay restitution.

NEVADA Reno: Twenty candidates are running for the Washoe County School District board, where four of seven seats will be up for election in November, the *Reno Gazette-Journal* reported. The district has 64,000 students at 76 campuses, with a \$450 million annual operating budget.

NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord: Senators listened to arguments supporting and opposing Medicaid expansion this week, which would care for 49,000 low-income adults in the state. The bill is expected to go to a vote next month, the *New Hampshire Union Leader* reported.

NEW JERSEY North Plainfield: A woman made up a story about an alleged child abduction, according to police. Lourdes Portillo-

lo-Medina, 21, claimed a stranger grabbed her 1-year-old child and ran but that she struggled with the suspect until he released the child, *The Courier News* reported.

NEW MEXICO Albuquerque: The Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge will receive an extra \$1 million in funding, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced.

NEW YORK Rochester: The “wings of progress” atop the downtown Times Square Building are illuminated again. The wings were lit when the original Genesee Valley Trust building opened 80-some years ago, *The Democrat & Chronicle* reported.

NORTH CAROLINA Chapel Hill: “From Frock Coats to Flip-flops: 100 Years of Fashion at Carolina,” a new exhibit at the

University of North Carolina’s Wilson Library, looks at campus history through the clothing worn by students over the past century, *The News & Observer* reported.

NORTH DAKOTA Hazleton: A cow owned by Michael Kertzman recently gave birth to triplets, KFYY-TV reported. Twin calves are fairly common, but triplets aren’t. The Iowa Beef Center at Iowa State University estimates the odds at 1 in 105,000.

OHIO Cleveland: Officials at the Cleveland History Center of the Western Reserve Historical Society apologized after learning that Emily Locke was told that she could not breastfeed her 9-month-old at the museum, *The Plain Dealer* reported.

OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City: As many as 208 Oklahoma City Public Schools teachers could lose their jobs under a move that will save the district \$8 million. The district, officials said in a news release, is facing a “catastrophic budget crisis due to a statewide revenue shortfall,” *The Oklahoman* reported.

OREGON Portland: Opponents of a proposed Nestlé water bottling plant in the Columbia River Gorge are now facing an organized group of project supporters. *The Oregonian* reported that the Coalition for a Strong Gorge Economy registered with the Oregon secretary of State as the group in favor of the plant while the Local Water Alliance continues to oppose the project.

PENNSYLVANIA Ridley Park: Authorities say a 28-year-old trash collector died after he was run over by his truck.

RHODE ISLAND Burrillville: The Rhode Island Department of Transportation is planning to begin the replacement of the Shippee Bridge next month, WPRI-TV reported. It will be shut down to all traffic for about four months.

SOUTH CAROLINA Holly Hill: Eight cannonballs found in the crawl space of a home last week are from the Civil War, *The Times & Democrat* reported. SLED agents used X-rays to scan the cannonballs and found they did not contain any explosives and were no threat to the public.

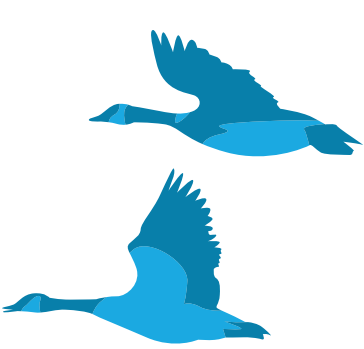
SOUTH DAKOTA Garretson: Residents have voted to opt out of the state property tax freeze to better fund schools. The measure will generate an additional \$500,000 for Garretson schools.

TENNESSEE Jasper: Boaters found the badly decomposed body of a woman in the Tennessee River, WTVN-TV reported.

TEXAS Laredo: Between October 2015 and February 2016 there were more than 18,500 Cubans seeking refuge at the U.S Customs and Border Protection Laredo office. There were more than 43,150 Cuban refugees that entered the U.S. in 2015, *The Texas Tribune* reported.

UTAH Morgan: The family of a teenage girl injured in a December 2013 crash with a deputy is suing Morgan County, the sheriff’s office and the law enforcement official, the *Standard-Examiner* reported. Deputy Ryan Dearden pleaded no contest in May 2014 to failure to stop or yield the right of way. He was disciplined following an internal investigation and fined \$90.

VERMONT Jericho: A husband and wife found dead at their home are believed to have died of carbon monoxide poisoning, *Burlington Free Press* reported.



VIRGINIA Chesterfield: A Canada goose found with an arrow piercing its body was released back into the wild. The bird’s recovery included a regimen of antibiotics and physical therapy, Richmond Wildlife Center founder Melissa Stanley told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

WASHINGTON Seattle: Ride-hailing services, such as Uber and Lyft, will soon be allowed to pick up riders at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Seattlepi.com reported that the Port of Seattle announced it would allow the companies to operate at the airport as part of a one-year pilot program starting March 31.

WEST VIRGINIA Winfield: Federal prosecutors filed arson and witness tampering charges against insurance agent Jimmie Harper, 36, who is accused of setting fire to his home last year, the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* reported.

WISCONSIN Oshkosh: The U.S. Army granted Oshkosh Corp. three contracts totaling \$433 million to rebuild and renew a host of used military vehicles. The contracts represent the first wave of an award that could net Oshkosh Corp., the state’s largest federal contractor, \$30 billion over the next 25 years, *Oshkosh Northwestern* reported.

WYOMING Cheyenne: Community college students will pay \$6 more per credit hour for in-state tuition starting in the fall 2016 semester, the *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* reported. Wyoming Community College Commission members voted to increase rates, with several academic officials voicing support.

Compiled by Tim Wendel, Nicole Gill and Jonathan Briggs, with Carolyn Cerbin, Linda Dono, Mike Gottschamer, Ben Sheffler, Mike B. Smith, Nichelle Smith and Matt Young. Design by Mallory Redinger. Graphics by Alejandro Gonzalez.

YOUR SAY

TERRORISM

Brussels attacks reignite debate about refugees

TWITTER
@USATOPINION

In the wake of the Brussels attacks, we asked followers about calls to limit refugees coming into the U.S.

Refugee screening is thorough — can take years. Turning them away is wrong, fear-driven, un-American.
@kheath_12

Limit? It needs to be halted until full vetting system is in place.
@akheathen69

Refugees are fleeing from violence. Terrorists are creating it. Americans need to learn the difference.
@braelynparkman

Terrorism will always be a problem. Homegrown terrorists exist. We should not let fear dictate our actions.
@misslissy

Shortsighted, unhelpful and reactionary. Not addressing the causes of refugee crises and why so many turn to terrorism and violence.
@cucumberjuice

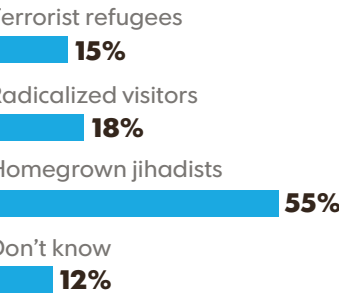
It's been reported the attackers in Europe arrived in the refugee stream. Why should we accept them? It'd be suicidal.
@BittmanSkip

I'd rather be safe and called racist than dead and called compassionate.
@ByWayOfAlaska

Follow @USATOpinion or #tellsusatoday for more.

THREAT LEVEL

Which of the following do you think poses a greater terrorist threat to the United States?



Source Quinnipiac University Poll conducted Dec. 16-20 of 1,140 registered voters; margin of error is ±2.9 percentage points

FACEBOOK
FACEBOOK.COM/
USATODAYOPINION

We don't need to alienate allies, but we also don't need to allow in just any Muslim who wants to come into our country. Stupidity is allowing political correctness to get in the way of vetting properly. Don't allow terrorists to come into the country! How hard is it to embrace that policy? If we break a few eggs in making that omelet, I believe it is fully warranted.
Rob Menor

I am a Muslim and a human being. I feel just as sad as anyone else. Just because you are a non-Muslim does not give you any right to be more upset or to be angry at me. When a person claiming to be a Christian murders one of you, are you upset at the entire Christian population? Muslims are the No. 1 victims of ISIS.
Syed Nadeem Shah

LETTERS
LETTERS@USATODAY.COM

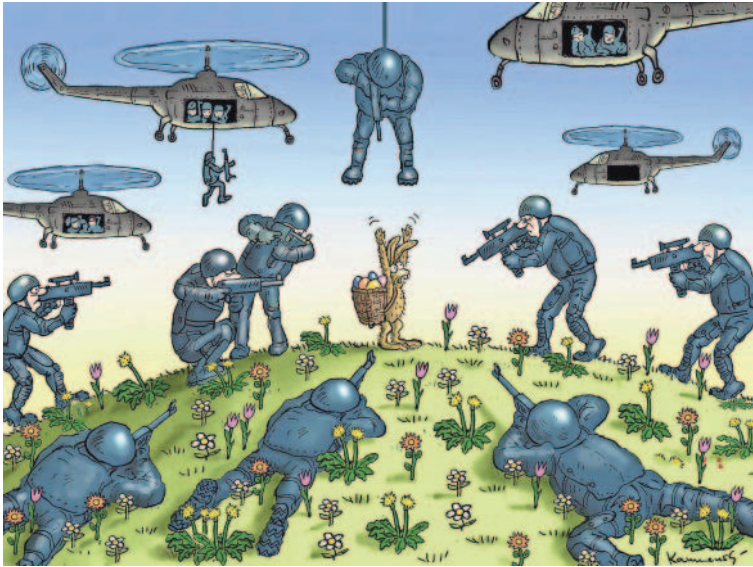
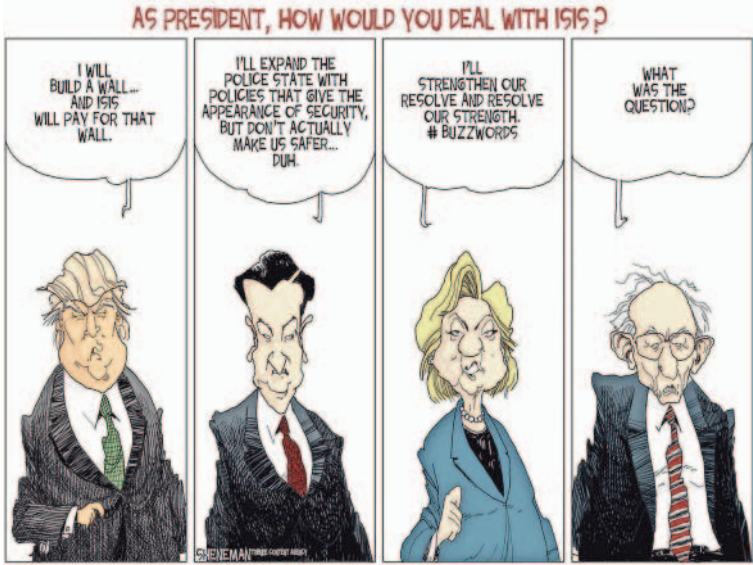
In his column "The Quran's deadly role in inspiring Belgian slaughter," commentary writer Nabeel Qureshi argues that the Islamic State radicalizes Muslims "primarily by urging them to follow the literal teachings" of Islam's scriptures, "interpreted consistently and in light of the violent trajectory of early Islam."

So, if Muslims read their own scriptures, interpret them consistently and against the background of the career of their prophet Mohammed, then they will come away with a message of violent extremism? Isn't that the same thing as saying that "true Islam" is violent?

If the core of Islam is so rotten, then why does such a tiny, insignificant minority of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims choose to carry out acts of violence in the name of their religion? Have the vast majority of Muslims worldwide and over 14 centuries simply not understood their scriptures "consistently"?

As anti-terrorism experts like David Kilcullen, President Obama and no less than Iraq War stalwart Tony Blair have all acknowledged, ISIS is a result of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. It is not a result of the Quran.

Jonathan Brown, director Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding Georgetown University Washington, D.C.



CARTOONS
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WEATHER

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FRONT & CENTER



El Niño-fueled winter storms have brought snowpack in California back to normal levels.

On this date in **1884**, a **tornado** destroyed nearly the entire town of **Scipio, Ind.**

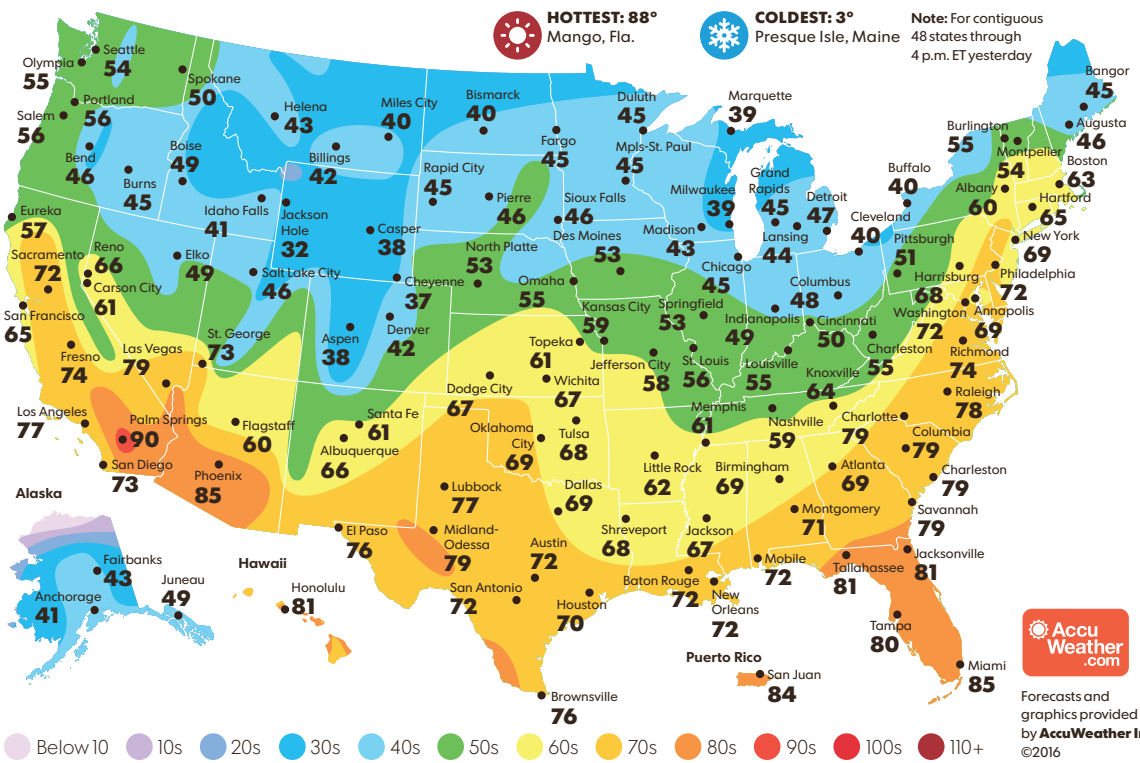
IN WHAT TWO MONTHS DOES THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE WARM MOST QUICKLY?



Sources U.S. Drought Monitor; AccuWeather

Doyle Rice and Karl Gelles
@USATODAYWeather

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



YESTERDAY'S EXTREMES

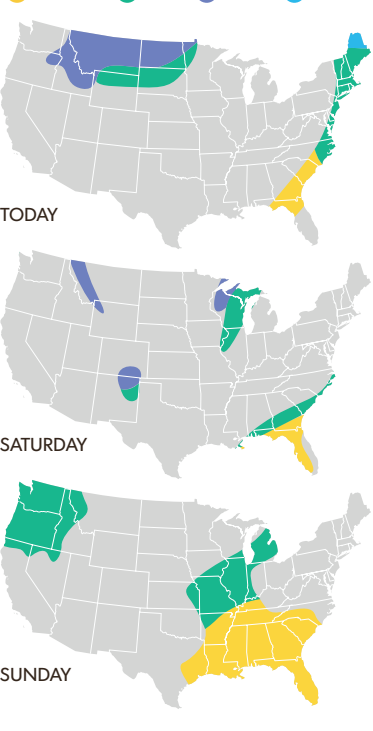
HOTTEST: 88°
Mango, Fla.

COLDEST: 3°
Presque Isle, Maine

Note: For contiguous 48 states through 4 p.m. ET yesterday

PRECIPITATION FORECAST

● T-storms ● Rain ● Snow ● Ice/mix



TOP TRAVEL CITIES

Air quality index (AQI)

ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	BOSTON	CHARLOTTE	CHICAGO	DALLAS	DENVER	DETROIT	HONOLULU	HOUSTON	LAS VEGAS	LOS ANGELES
FRI ☀️ Mostly sunny 69/51	FRI ☁️ Showers 72/41	FRI ☁️ Morning rain 63/36	FRI ☁️ Partly sunny 79/51	FRI ☀️ Not as cold 45/32	FRI ☀️ Mostly sunny 69/50	FRI ☁️ Partly sunny 42/21	FRI ☁️ Cooler 47/29	FRI ☁️ Showers 81/68	FRI ☀️ Plenty of sun 70/48	FRI ☀️ Mostly sunny 79/55	FRI ☀️ Sunny 77/56
SAT ☀️ Mostly sunny 76/59	SAT ☀️ Sunny 60/41	SAT ☀️ Cooler 47/35	SAT ☁️ Spotty showers 76/59	SAT ☁️ Incr. clouds 57/41	SAT ☀️ Sunny 76/51	SAT ☁️ Snow, 1-3" 38/19	SAT ☀️ Mostly sunny 52/38	SAT ☁️ Brief showers 82/68	SAT ☀️ Sun, clouds 77/61	SAT ☀️ Not as warm 70/50	SAT ☀️ Sunny, nice 79/57
SUN ☁️ T-storms 74/57	SUN ☁️ Partly sunny 63/48	SUN ☁️ Clouds, sun 50/39	SUN ☁️ Showers 76/59	SUN ☁️ Showers 52/35	SUN ☁️ Cooler 65/40	SUN ☀️ Warmer 46/27	SUN ☁️ Mostly cloudy 61/36	SUN ☁️ Showers 82/69	SUN ☁️ T-storm 77/51	SUN ☀️ Mostly sunny 78/58	SUN ☀️ Mostly sunny 78/57
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Good
MIAMI	MPLS-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON
FRI ☁️ T-storm 85/74	FRI ☁️ Incr. clouds 45/37	FRI ☀️ Mostly sunny 72/55	FRI ☁️ Showers around 69/41	FRI ☁️ T-storm 83/68	FRI ☁️ Showers 72/43	FRI ☀️ Sunny 85/57	FRI ☁️ A little rain 46/32	FRI ☀️ Mostly sunny 73/58	FRI ☀️ Mostly sunny 65/52	FRI ☁️ Shower 54/40	FRI ☁️ Turning sunny 72/45
SAT ☁️ A.P.M. t-storm 86/76	SAT ☁️ Rain, snow 46/31	SAT ☁️ Mostly cloudy 77/65	SAT ☀️ Sunny 55/41	SAT ☁️ T-storm 82/67	SAT ☀️ Sunny, cooler 61/42	SAT ☀️ Sunny, warm 85/58	SAT ☁️ Partly sunny 50/36	SAT ☀️ Mostly sunny 72/58	SAT ☀️ Mostly sunny 68/55	SAT ☁️ Clouding up 57/44	SAT ☀️ Sunny 62/45
SUN ☁️ A.P.M. t-storm 85/74	SUN ☁️ Partly sunny 47/30	SUN ☁️ Rain 77/59	SUN ☀️ Sun, clouds 55/46	SUN ☁️ A.P.M. t-storm 85/68	SUN ☁️ Partly sunny 62/48	SUN ☀️ Plenty of sun 86/60	SUN ☁️ Warmer 62/44	SUN ☀️ Mostly sunny 70/59	SUN ☁️ Partly sunny 64/50	SUN ☁️ Spotty showers 51/39	SUN ☁️ Partly sunny 68/53
AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good

☁️ Cloudy ☁️ Fog ❄️ Ice ☔️ Rain ❄️ Snowflurries ☁️ Snow 🌀 Windy 🌧️ Drizzle 🌫️ Haze ☁️ Partly cloudy ☀️ Sunny ☁️ Showers ⚡️ Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES

	TODAY	SAT
Akron, Ohio	44/29pc	56/39s
Albany, N.Y.	60/32sh	56/35s
Albuquerque	66/34s	61/29pc
Allentown, Pa.	69/34sh	59/35s
Amarillo, Texas	74/35pc	62/29s
Anaheim, Calif.	78/52s	79/51s
Anchorage, Alaska	41/34r	43/32c
Aspen, Colo.	38/20sn	36/10sn
Atlantic City, N.J.	65/43sh	53/41s
Augusta, Ga.	78/54pc	74/58pc
Austin, Texas	72/46s	78/59pc
Bakersfield, Calif.	75/49s	77/50s
Baton Rouge, La.	72/49s	80/62pc
Billings, Mont.	42/24sn	51/30pc
Birmingham, Ala.	69/45s	76/55s
Bismarck, N.D.	40/15sn	40/23pc
Boise, Idaho	49/30sn	54/41s
Buffalo, N.Y.	40/26pc	52/35s
Burlington, Vt.	55/27r	48/33s
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	49/35pc	49/35r
Charleston, S.C.	79/63t	76/63t
Charleston, W.Va.	55/37c	70/45s
Cheyenne, Wyo.	37/17sn	36/17c

TODAY SAT

Cincinnati	50/35pc	63/43s
Cleveland	40/30pc	51/40s
Colorado Springs	47/22pc	33/14sn
Columbia, S.C.	79/56pc	74/59pc
Columbus, Ohio	48/32pc	60/43s
Corpus Christi, Texas	73/60s	78/68pc
Dayton, Ohio	47/33pc	60/43s
Daytona Beach, Fla.	83/67t	80/66t
Des Moines, Iowa	53/41pc	52/35r
Duluth, Minn.	45/31c	37/22sn
Durham, N.C.	75/51t	66/52pc
El Paso, Texas	76/49s	79/46s
Fairbanks, Alaska	43/25pc	39/24c
Flagstaff, Ariz.	60/30s	54/20s
Fargo, N.D.	45/26sn	38/24pc
Fort Myers, Fla.	84/70t	87/71t
Fort Smith, Ark.	66/42s	73/41s
Fort Wayne, Ind.	48/30s	57/41s
Fresno, Calif.	74/50s	74/51s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	45/27s	55/40pc
Green Bay, Wis.	35/24s	43/35r
Greensboro, N.C.	77/48pc	66/49pc
Greenville, S.C.	77/49pc	72/52pc
Harrisburg, Pa.	68/38pc	61/42s

TODAY SAT

Hartford, Conn.	65/34sh	57/32s
Indianapolis	49/35s	61/44s
Islip, N.Y.	65/38sh	53/37s
Jackson, Miss.	67/45s	77/54s
Jacksonville, Fla.	81/64t	76/62t
Jefferson City, Mo.	58/39s	63/40c
Kansas City, Mo.	59/42pc	56/30c
Key West, Fla.	83/76pc	83/76pc
Knoxville, Tenn.	64/40pc	72/45s
Laredo, Texas	79/58s	85/68pc
Lexington, Ky.	53/35pc	66/44s
Louisville, Ky.	58/34pc	47/26c
Little Rock, Ark.	62/40s	71/50s
Long Beach, Calif.	75/55s	77/55s
Louisville, Ky.	55/38s	67/43s
Lubbock, Texas	77/38s	73/36s
Madison, Wis.	43/31s	49/38r
Manchester, N.H.	63/35r	54/32s
Memphis, Tenn.	61/42s	72/53s
Milwaukee	39/30s	46/38pc
Mobile, Ala.	72/51s	77/63c
Modesto, Calif.	74/49s	74/50s
Montgomery, Ala.	71/50s	81/60pc
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	76/62sh	70/61c

TODAY SAT

Nags Head, N.C.	72/53c	61/54c
Nashville, Tenn.	59/37s	72/47s
Newark, N.J.	72/40sh	56/40s
New Haven, Conn.	61/37sn	51/35s
Norfolk, Va.	78/50sh	58/48pc
Oakland, Calif.	67/50s	69/55s
Oklahoma City, Okla.	69/47s	72/37pc
Omaha, Neb.	55/37pc	47/28c
Palm Springs, Calif.	90/63s	85/58s
Pensacola, Fla.	72/57pc	75/65t
Pierre, S.D.	46/21c	38/18pc
Pittsburgh	51/31c	61/42s
Portland, Maine	53/32r	47/32s
Portland, Ore.	56/41sh	55/45s
Providence, R.I.	64/37r	53/35s
Raleigh, N.C.	78/51t	67/50pc
Rapid City, S.D.	45/16sh	41/21pc
Reno, Nev.	66/33pc	63/39s
Richmond, Va.	74/44pc	65/43s
Rochester, N.Y.	46/28pc	49/35s
Sacramento, Calif.	72/48s	73/50s
San Antonio	72/50s	78/62pc
San Jose, Calif.	70/49s	73/53s
Santa Fe, N.M.	61/27pc	54/20c

TODAY SAT

Sarasota, Fla.	80/70t	83/70t
Savannah, Ga.	79/64t	78/64t
Scottsdale, Ariz.	83/54s	83/53s
Shreveport, La.	68/44s	77/54s
Sioux Falls, S.D.	46/31pc	38/19c
South Bend, Ind.	46/29s	57/40pc
Spokane, Wash.	50/32c	52/37pc
Springfield, Mo.	61/41pc	66/42c
Springfield, Ill.	53/36s	61/41pc
St. Louis	56/39s	65/43pc
St. Petersburg, Fla.	82/70t	82/71t
Syracuse, N.Y.	52/26sh	53/35s
Tallahassee, Fla.	81/66c	78/66t
Tampa, Fla.	80/71t	81/72t
Toledo, Ohio	46/29pc	53/37s
Topeka, Kan.	61/43pc	58/30c
Tucson, Ariz.	82/49s	84/51s
Tupelo, Miss.	64/39s	73/50s
Tulsa, Okla.	68/47s	71/43pc
Virginia Beach, Va.	74/52sh	59/50pc
Wichita, Kan.	67/43pc	62/31pc
Wilmington, Del.	71/41sh	60/40s
Winston-Salem, N.C.	75/48pc	67/49pc
Worcester, Mass.	60/31r	50/31s

WORLD CITIES

	TODAY	SAT
Beijing	58/34s	66/36s
Buenos Aires	72/58pc	74/59pc
Cancun, Mexico	86/76pc	87/77s
Dubai, UAE	84/69s	86/70s
Frankfurt	47/39s	56/40pc
Hong Kong	63/55r	67/58s
Istanbul	51/44r	53/42pc
Jerusalem	74/60pc	64/53t
Johannesburg	78/55pc	76/56pc
London	56/45pc	57/44r
Mexico City	79/52pc	79/51pc
Montreal	43/22r	41/29pc
Moscow	32/24c	33/26sf
Mumbai, India	92/28h	92/80h
Paris	53/40r	58/46pc
Rio de Janeiro	91/80pc	92/79c
Rome	60/45s	61/43sh
Seoul	52/33s	53/34s
Singapore	91/80pc	91/80pc
Sydney	77/65pc	76/65s
Toronto	42/24c	44/32s
Tokyo	51/42pc	51/45pc

OPINION

TODAY'S DEBATE AIR TRAVEL

Our view

Fliers’ rights and legroom shortchanged in Congress

The list of flying indignities is by now as annoying as it is familiar. Shrinking seats. Bloated fees. Battles for overhead bin space. Peanuts in place of meals. The airlines’ business model increasingly centers on getting customers to pay their way out of misery.

If airlines wanted to act like they were in a service business, there’s plenty they could do to make the flying experience better, mostly by being fair with their fees and upfront with information. Among the easiest changes they could make:

► Refund fees — now typically \$25 for a first bag and \$35 for a second — when the bag is delayed for long hours. What other industry charges customers *extra* for a service even when it fails?

► Stop shrinking seats and cutting legroom. Failing that, prominently disclose seat width and legroom on airline websites so customers could easily compare them, instead of being forced to search separately on sites such as SeatGuru. The airlines say they favor market solutions as opposed to regulation. Here’s a way for them to show they mean it.

► Charge customers realistic fees tied to the actual cost of a service rather than, for example, \$200 to cancel or change a flight on several major carriers even though the ticket may well be resold. From 2009 to 2014, major airlines raised cancellation fees at



HYOSUB SHIN VIA AP

least 33%, with one airline raising them 66%, according to a study done by the Democratic staff of the Senate commerce committee.

► Divulge important rights to customers, such as the entitlement in some cases to 200% of their ticket price when bumped from a flight. To figure out their rights, customers now have to search the Web for lengthy explanations, written by lawyers to confuse non-lawyers. Short, plain-English information should be on tickets to stop airlines from palming off underpayments.

If airlines won’t take such steps, Congress could provide relief. Instead, the government is often more sympathetic to the airlines’ needs than passengers’. The Bush and Obama administra-

tions approved a string of airline mergers that saved major carriers but decreased competition. Congress, where airlines focused a good part of their \$52 million in lobbying over the past two years, has with rare exceptions acceded to the industry’s wishes.

Last week, for example, the Senate commerce committee rejected a measure to require airlines to rein in outrageous baggage and ticket cancellation charges. And last month, a House committee voted to make airline fares even less transparent by undoing federal rules that require airlines and travel websites to list your total fare upfront, including government fees and taxes. Such a reversal would be a slap at fliers who have been able to shop and compare prices, at least before they run into the add-ons.

Thankfully, some senators oppose the reversal, and Congress seems prepared to throw fliers a few scraps, including relief on fees when bags are delayed and an extension for a federal advisory committee that gives consumers a voice on these issues.

Airlines are once again profitable. Fuel prices are low, and fees that airlines slap on everything have become huge profit centers. If airlines are unwilling to sink more of these earnings into better service and comfort, they shouldn’t be surprised by a clamor to re-regulate the industry.

Opposing view

Don’t make travel more expensive

Nicholas Calio

The managing editor of USA TODAY’s Road Warrior Voices recently wrote that now is the golden age of flying. We are in the safest period of aviation. Flying is widely accessible, and about as affordable as it has ever been, based on the record number of people who flew last year — 2.2 million people every day.

Airlines are reinvesting in the travel experience in ways previously impossible. New planes. More WiFi. New apps. New routes. Airlines hired 10,000 people last year alone. They are improving the services that drive customer satisfaction. In short, this industry is working in a way it never has.

So why is Congress intent on re-regulating the industry and undoing some 30 years of consumer benefit?

Disguised as consumer protection, these proposals are a regulatory overreach that will make travel more expensive.

A Senate proposal, which failed in a committee vote, would have dictated pricing on certain optional services. For example, change fees exist because an empty seat ceases to have any monetary value to an airline once the aircraft door is

closed. When a reservation is booked, the airline removes that seat from inventory; when a passenger changes that reservation, the airline has to consider whether it can resell the seat or face lost revenue.

Customers have choices. They can purchase non-refundable fares that are highly affordable or pay for the flexibility to change their tickets at the last minute.

Airlines support transparency and believe the government should also be transparent in the amount it charges passengers in federal taxes. Today, for example, the government is effectively able to hide the 21% in taxes on a typical domestic round-trip ticket by including them in the base price — counter to the way nearly all other consumer products are advertised.

With significant investment in baggage systems, airlines are properly handling 99.68% of all bags. On the rare occasion when they do not, airlines have policies to address the delay.

The marketplace is working today. And the government would do well for passengers by letting it continue to do so.

Nicholas Calio is president and CEO of Airlines for America.

ISIL’S NEXT TARGET COULD BE NUCLEAR

Terrorist attacks on Brussels revive fears of dirty bomb

Debra Decker

Belgian security services completed their background check in 2009 for a new inspector at the Doel nuclear power plant, about an hour’s drive from Brussels. Like other inspectors, Ilyass Boughalab had access to secure areas of the plant. He worked for three years as a nuclear technician before leaving for Syria in 2012. He was killed there two years later fighting on the side of the Islamic State terrorist group.

As details continue to emerge about the recent terrorist attack in Belgium, one concern long on the minds of international leaders is the risk posed by weapons-usable material that could be fashioned into a dirty bomb or crude nuclear device — and the safety and security of the 440 nuclear power plants in 31 countries.

SURVEILLANCE

Next week, President Obama and more than 50 world leaders — as well as business luminaries — will gather in Washington for a push to reduce the risk of the most dangerous materials falling into the wrong hands. It could not come at a better time.

Fears of nuclear terrorism are not new. Since 1993, there have been more than 2,700 confirmed incidents of illicit trafficking, unauthorized possession or loss of nuclear and radioactive material reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Al-Qaeda originally wanted to target nuclear plants in its 9/11 plot.

As former Defense secretary Robert Gates said, “Every senior leader, when you’re asked what keeps you awake at night, it’s the thought of a terrorist ending up with a weapon of mass destruction, especially nuclear.”

In Belgium, worries over the security of nuclear plants are not new, either. In the wake of Boughalab’s death, several people have been refused access or removed from nuclear sites after displaying signs of extremism, ac-



JULIEN WARNAND, EPA

The Doel nuclear power plant, about an hour’s drive from Brussels, has experienced security threats.

cording to Belgium’s Federal Agency for Nuclear Control. The Doel nuclear plant was hobbled by sabotage in 2014. Evidence of recent ISIL surveillance of a senior Belgian nuclear worker added to the known threat.

Despite an appreciation of the danger of materials falling into the wrong hands, fully binding international nuclear security standards do not exist. The IAEA, the world’s nuclear watchdog, has security recommendations, but it is up to each country to develop regulations and enforce them.

ON GUARD

For example, not all nuclear facilities have armed guards. Some, such as those in Belgium, rely on local police and defense forces to protect plants against external assaults. Cyber security, too, poses a major vulnerability: A comprehensive recent report by the Nuclear Threat Initiative found that 20 countries do not have even the basic requirements to guard facilities from cyberattacks.

It’s clear that better standards can be developed to reduce the risk to nuclear facilities in the U.S. and around the globe. In this, the nuclear industry itself has the opportunity to play a leading role.

The industry would do well to work with multiple stakeholders to develop an agreed list of “gold

standard” practices that would improve security. Such standards could be used to demonstrate compliance with internationally agreed-upon principles. Financial and non-financial incentives could be structured to motivate voluntary compliance with these standards so that security can become a valuable commodity instead of an add-on cost. This private sector leadership would serve as a shot of adrenaline in global nuclear security efforts.

There is, of course, no simple answer to effectively and comprehensively reducing the threat of a nuclear terror attack — but sensible steps can be taken.

The world can look to leadership in international organizations such as the IAEA, fast-developing countries such as China and new industry efforts to bring about needed change.

Next week’s Nuclear Security Summit is an opportunity to quickly improve defenses. Recent events in Belgium make it an opportunity we can’t afford to miss.

Debra Decker is a senior adviser at the Stimson Center think tank and the co-author of two recent reports, “Nuclear Energy: Securing the Future — A Case for Voluntary Consensus Standards” and “The Quest for Nuclear Security Standards.”

Will we heed Paul Ryan?

Trump isn’t the root of our incivility

John Feehery

Of course, House Speaker Paul Ryan is correct. Incivility is making it difficult for America to resolve its problems through a peaceful political process.

This has been the case since well before Donald Trump even thought about entering the race for president. Indeed, Trump is just the most notable symptom of a much more pernicious disease.

Tune in to talk radio and hear about how our political leaders are liars, idiots, crooks or worse, and then turn on the television and watch commercials where those crooked politicians say the exact same thing about each other in attack ads.

This disease is not confined to the right. Democrats routinely attack Republicans for being racist, sexist, fascist and worse. In fact, their campaign strategies are often based on those memes.

I worked for House Republican leader Bob Michel, who lived politics by the mantra of being able to disagree without being disagreeable. Bob was a master legislative strategist who pushed through the Reagan agenda from his position as minority leader. He was able to do that because he had a good working relationship with House Speaker Tip O’Neill and House Ways and Means Chairman Dan Rostenkowski.

Radio talkers such as Rush Limbaugh criticized Michel for not being a strong enough conservative. But Michel understood the importance of the political process, the importance of political civility, the importance of coming to hard-fought agree-

ments better than provocateurs like Limbaugh ever could.

We have reached a nadir in our national political discussion. When the Democrats aren’t comparing the Republicans to Nazis, the Republicans are calling each other liars. Trump likes to call Sen. Ted Cruz “Lyin’ Ted”, and there was one debate where Cruz, Trump and Sen. Marco Rubio called one another liars.

If those gentlemen were politicians in the early 1800s, they’d have been forced to fight a duel to defend their honor. These days, there is damn little honor among the political class.

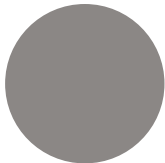
And politicians face little backlash if they choose to be uncivil to one another. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., raised \$1 million in less than 48 hours after he called President Obama a liar from the House floor. Cruz called Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell a liar from the Senate floor, and now he is in strong position to win the GOP nomination.

Trump has figured out that having no class is a political plus. His fans love that he has no filter.

But guess what? The American people need a filter. They also need to have a greater appreciation of how their words — and those of their leaders — affect their colleagues, their neighbors and their kids. Our political discourse needs to shape up.

As Ryan said, “We shouldn’t accept ugliness as the norm.” Whether anyone heeds him, I am glad he said what he said.

John Feehery, president of QGA Public Affairs, was a spokesman for former House speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.; communications director for former representative Tom DeLay, R-Texas; and speechwriter for former minority leader Bob Michel, R-Ill.



USA
TODAY

"USA TODAY hopes to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation."

Allen H. Neuharth,
Founder, Sept. 15, 1982

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TERRORISM IN BRUSSELS

MYSTERIES REMAIN AFTER ATTACK



A man wrapped in a Belgian flag holds a candle as people gather at a memorial in front of Brussels’ stock exchange Thursday.

PHILIPPE HUGUEN, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Number of terrorists, identity of victims are still uncertain

Doug Stanglin
USA TODAY

Investigators grappled with key aspects of the bombings in Brussels, including how many terrorists were involved, how many were at large and the identity of the victims and the missing.

Also unclear was how many people were killed in the attacks. At least 31 people, perhaps as many as 34, were killed, and as many as 300 people were injured.

An urgent question for investigators was the identity of a man wearing a hat and light-colored clothing on surveillance video inside the Brussels Airport on the morning of the attack.

He was walking with two of the terrorists who died in the operation, Ibrahim El Bakraoui and bombmaker Najim Laachraoui. The unknown man pushed a cart carrying luggage that contained a 35-pound bomb that did not detonate. He fled the scene before the attacks occurred.

There may be another terrorist on the run.

French newspaper *Le Monde* and the Belgian public broadcaster RTBF reported that a man carrying a large bag was seen on CCTV at the Maelbeek metro station with Khalid El Bakraoui, who police identified as the suicide bomber on a subway car.

Family and friends of people missing since the attacks frantically searched for information.

The search was complicated by the fact that 61 people among the hundreds of injured remained in intensive care.

A website called “Brussels Missing” was established as a clearinghouse for people looking for missing friends and relatives. The site contains pleas for information and photos of people from their Facebook pages or vacation trips.

The people are broken down into four categories: Missing, Safe, Injured and Deceased.

One message, written in three languages, says, “My friend has no news of her mother, Fabienne Vansteenkiste. She was in the airport at the time of the attacks. If you have any information, please contact Thomas S. ... Thank you.”

According to media reports, Vansteenkiste, 51, had just finished her shift as a baggage handler when the bombs exploded at the airport.

One of her friends, Ikke Egeltje, expressed anger that some media reported Vansteenkiste’s death when nothing had been officially established.

“We are very angry with these newspapers and media, which confirm things so that we ourselves have not had information for two days,” Egeltje wrote on the Brussels Missing website. “Not only for us but for all the families that remain without news and who learn these speculations. ... To protect us, we don’t read the media for the moment.”

North African enclave Schaerbeek in the spotlight

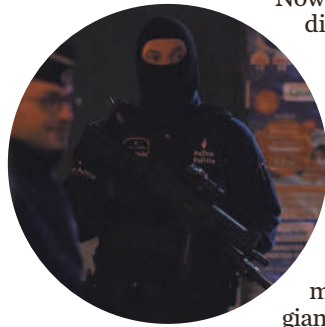
Linda A. Thompson and Daan Ballegeer
Special for USA TODAY

BRUSSELS Authorities had been scouring Molenbeek, a North African enclave here, since the Islamic State staged terrorist attacks in Paris last November. Now another immigrant district — Schaerbeek — is in the spotlight.

On Wednesday, police discovered explosives, other chemicals used to make bombs, and the black flag of the Islamic State in a Schaerbeek apartment, according to Belgian media reports.

“Everyone was nervous,” said Emma Raulin, 24, a Brussels resident on her way to work. “There were a lot of soldiers. No one was talking, just sitting in the metro playing on their mobile phones. The atmosphere was very tense.”

Police later said Najim Laachraoui, 24, an alleged Islamic



PATRIK STOLLARZ, AFP/GETTY IMAGES
Police carry out searches in Schaerbeek district.

State bombmaker and Schaerbeek native, was among the suicide bombers in the attacks Tuesday.

Home to 130,000 people, Schaerbeek is a mix of Turkish, Moroccan and other immigrants who often settle first in Molenbeek, home to some of the Paris bombers, and then move to Schaerbeek after getting better paying jobs. Despite the gentrification that sections of Schaerbeek have experienced in the past decade, there remain pockets of poor North African Muslims who might sympathize with Islamic State’s violent, anti-Western ideology.

Schaerbeek has densely packed neighborhoods, a red light district and a major railway station. “You have beautiful tree-lined lanes leading directly into ghastly slum quarters,” said Alan Hope, 59, a contributing editor for the English-language news publication *Flanders Today* and a 23-year-long resident of Schaerbeek. “All of those characteristics help to make it a place where criminals are concentrated.”

Thompson reported from Berlin.



PHILIPPE HUGUEN, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Soldiers stand guard at the entrance of the closed De Brouckere metro station in Brussels on Thursday.

Belgian authorities face bureaucratic barriers

Information doesn’t get shared freely

John Bacon
USA TODAY

Belgium and Europe came under harsh criticism for weaknesses in their counterterrorism efforts that experts in international security said come as no surprise.

Suicide bombings in Brussels on Tuesday killed more than 30 people, left hundreds wounded and prompted a massive manhunt for suspects. Then came news that a European Council report recently called out Belgium for lax security protocols and that Turkey captured one of the bombers months ago, suspecting him of attempting to enter Syria to join extremists, but Belgium didn’t take the case seriously.

Matthew Levitt, a former Treasury Department official specializing in counterterrorism, said Belgian officials are beset by a mammoth task.

“There are all kinds of cultural and bureaucratic obstacles to overcome,” said Levitt, who recently spent time with intelligence agencies and police in Brussels as a guest of a military think-tank. “They are cognizant of the threat, but they are very late to the game. Remember, 9/11 wasn’t smooth here at home.”

About 17,000 Belgian police officers have been trained to identify and combat radicalization in immigrant communities, Levitt said. Teachers and social workers are being integrated into the effort. But the lure of the Islamic State can be strong “if you are disenfranchised, from a broken home, maybe have a criminal record,” he said.

Retired general Michael Hayden, a former chief of the National Security Agency and the CIA, said communication breakdowns are predictable among European partners, who often share information better with U.S. intelligence agencies than directly.

“Everyone sees the merits in sharing information with the Yanks,” Hayden said, “because if you want something spread around in Europe real quick, tell the Americans.” A key principal for U.S. intelligence agencies is to create indebtedness, he said. When the United States needs help later, it gets it.

Hayden agreed with Levitt that Europe faces daunting cultural obstacles. The U.S. culture of assimilation, though far from perfect, is much stronger than in Western Europe, they said.

Björn Fägersten, a research fellow at the Swedish Institute for International Affairs, said November’s terrorist rampage in Paris and the immigration crisis prompted cries for more information sharing in Europe.

“They are cognizant of the threat, but they are very late to the game. Remember, 9/11 wasn’t smooth here at home.”

Matthew Levitt, specialist in counterterrorism

Fägersten said countries have their own interests at heart, and sometimes economic interests prevail. A country negotiating deals with Iran, for instance, may not want to share information about the Persian nation with other European countries that could be bidding for the same deals.

Michelle Benson, a political science professor at the University at Buffalo, said different nations have different laws, which the European Union can’t contradict. The EU requests, but doesn’t require, information sharing. The EU tried to address the issue after the bombings in Paris, but little progress was made, she said.

“No one does bureaucracy like the Europeans,” Levitt said. “But the bottom line is that the level of cooperation just doesn’t meet the threat.”

Contributing: Kevin Johnson



USA TODAY MONE



APPLE

iPhone SE will give you the warm fuzzies, 5B



BRYAN THOMAS, GETTY IMAGES

NISSAN TITAN TAKES ON THE DETROIT THREE, 3B

Markets could feel terror’s tremors

Some concerned about implications for global economy

Adam Shell @adamshell USA TODAY

While terror attacks tend to have a short-term negative impact on stocks, there are potential “second-order effects” of terrorism that could spook investors and hurt stocks longer term.

Some possibilities: the rise of populist politicians with a nationalist streak, new laws in the name of security that lean isolationist and hurt trade and reactionary

policies that undo globalization.

The latest terror attack in Brussels, which comes on the heels of the Paris massacre in November, for example, could boost the odds of Great Britain voting to exit the European Union.

It could also prompt governments around the globe to turn inward, to build walls, close borders that were once open, push laws that halt immigration or slap tariffs on imports to protect domestic businesses, to name just a few.

In a modern world defined by global commerce, any shift in the other direction is likely to be viewed as a negative by investors. “It is the second-order effect of



CHRISTOPHER FURLONG, GETTY IMAGES

Some experts say recent terror attacks could encourage isolationism, hurt trade.

terror that could be the more important impact, namely if it affects government policy on business,” says Jim McDonald, chief investment strategist at

Northern Trust, who wrote a report that added “populist politics” to the list of risks facing stocks.

“If we have more terror attacks it could lead to a greater isolationist approach, not only in the U.S. but more importantly in Europe. The possibility of populist policies gaining power and leading to a disruption of trade would not be well received by financial markets,” he said.

The biggest short-term risk related to the recent attacks is it could give British voters another reason to cut ties with the 28-nation European Union when the referendum vote comes up in late June, says Axel Merk, chief in-

vestment officer at Merk Investments.

The same trap could hurt the U.S. “Both parties have candidates looking for the U.S. to disengage from the world, and to slow or stop free-trade agreements,” says Brad McMillan, chief investment officer at Commonwealth Financial Network.

“While there have certainly been costs, free trade has been on the whole a net benefit to the U.S. economy. Should the terrorist attacks push the U.S. to disengage from trade, or even worse enact policies such as tariffs which could ignite a trade war, it will not be only the U.S. economy that suffers,” he says.

MONEYLINE

MARKETS TAKE A BREATH FOR GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY

Financial markets have a long weekend for the observance of Good Friday. U.S. trading resumes Monday. In Europe, major markets such as the London Stock Exchange, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange and Euronext are closed Friday and Monday.



FILE PHOTO BY AKIO KON, BLOOMBERG

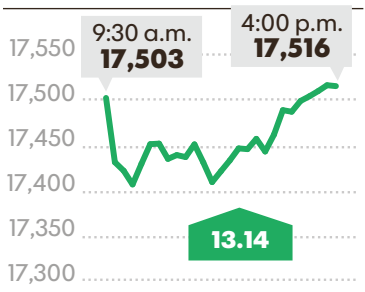
SONY LAUNCHING COMPANY FOR SMARTPHONE GAMES

Sony announced Thursday it will launch a new company focused on creating games based on characters from its lineup of PlayStation properties for mobile devices. The company, named ForwardWorks, will begin operations April 1.

DURABLE GOODS ORDERS DROP 2.8% IN FEBRUARY

Orders for durable goods fell 2.8% in February following a 4.2% increase in January, the Commerce Department said Thursday. Commercial aircraft, a volatile category, fell 27.1% after surging 48.6% in January. Orders in a category that serves as a proxy for business investment spending fell 1.8% after a 3.1% rise in January.

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVG.



THURSDAY MARKETS

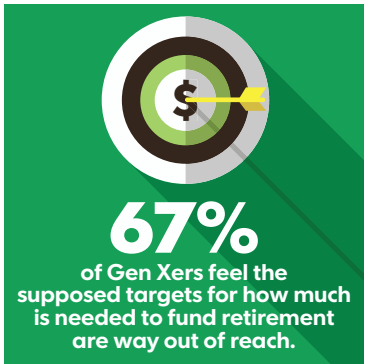
INDEX	CLOSE	CHG
Nasdaq composite	4773.51	▲ 4.65
S&P 500	2035.94	▼ 0.77
T-note, 10-year yield	1.90%	▲ 0.03
Oil, light sweet crude	\$39.46	▼ 0.33
Euro (dollars per euro)	\$1.1177	▼ 0.0006
Yen per dollar	112.81	▲ 0.42

SOURCES: USA TODAY RESEARCH, MARKETWATCH.COM

► USA MARKETS, 4B

USA SNAPSHOTS®

No romantic retirement



Source: Allianz Generations Apart Study of 1,000 adults ages 35-48

JAE YANG AND JANET LOEHRKE, USA TODAY

M&A DOWN 40% SORRY, WALL STREET

Kaja Whitehouse | USA TODAY

NEW YORK

It just keeps getting worse for Wall Street. After a record-breaking year for corporate hookups last year, U.S. merger activity has fallen 40% this year, while global IPOs have dropped to their lowest levels since 2009. Globally, merger and acquisition activity totaled \$701.5 billion in the first three months of the year, down 25% from the previous year’s first quarter, according to data from M&A tracker Dealogic. Last year, a record \$4.86 trillion in corporate wedding vows were exchanged around the world — the highest in history.

In the U.S., the decline has been worse. M&A volume here totaled \$248.2 billion, down 40% from a year earlier, Dealogic data show. The U.S. share of global M&A was 36%, its lowest since 2012, Dealogic said.

Earlier this month, Citigroup CFO John Gerspach warned that the bank’s investment banking revenue would be down 25% from last year when the bank reports earnings next month. JPMorgan Chase has also warned of a 25% drop in investment banking revenue over last year, citing declines in stock and debt underwriting.

Indeed, it’s not just merger activity that is showing signs of a slowdown. Initial public stock offerings globally came in at \$12.7 billion in the first quarter, down 69% over last year — the lowest first-quarter results since 2009, Dealogic said.

Bonds deals, including bonds underwriting to raise money for acquisitions, are also suffering. Debt activity fell 32% globally in the first quarter of 2016 — its lowest first-quarter levels since 2009, Dealogic said.

In the U.S., bond deals, including restructuring of existing debt, came in at \$632.6 billion in the first quarter — the lowest start to a year since 2008, during the financial crisis.

rect competitor. And that loss, while by no means a template for Yahoo’s success, suggests there may still be time for Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer to turn the tide in her favor, especially if she can quickly return cash to shareholders.

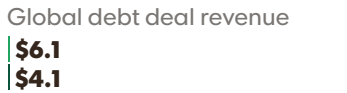
The year was 2012 and Starboard CEO Jeff Smith was criticizing AOL CEO Tim Armstrong’s plan to develop the Internet company into an online media giant by plowing money into websites such as the Huffington Post, which AOL bought for \$315 million the year before. Smith also wanted AOL to sell assets such as Moviefone and MapQuest.

If that sounds familiar, it’s be-

CORPORATE DEALS DECLINE

Global mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings have declined:

Activity (in billions):
● Q1 2015 ● Q1 2016'



1 — As of March 23
Source: Dealogic
GEORGE PETRAS, USA TODAY

Wall Street is facing numerous headwinds this year, including a slowdown in deal-making, persistently low interest rates and rising defaults in oil and gas loans.

The industry’s troubles, which started trickling out late last year amid signs of an economic slowdown in China, have already cut into bonuses and have resulted in job cuts at numerous banks, including Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse.



GETTY IMAGES

Starboard knows something about ousters

Hedge fund targeting Yahoo board has done it before

Kaja Whitehouse and Mike Snider USA TODAY

NEW YORK Starboard Value’s announcement Thursday that it wants to overthrow the entire board at Yahoo Inc. may seem ambitious, but the hedge fund has done it before, including at Darden Restaurants, the owner of the Olive Garden chain.

The activist hedge fund firm has also lost some board battles, most notably at AOL, Yahoo’s di-



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ, AP

cause Smith has been pushing Mayer to give up on her ambitious plans to compete with the likes of Facebook and Google and instead focus on cutting costs and selling or spinning off assets, which would result in more cash for shareholders.

While Mayer and Yahoo’s board have recently come around to some of those ideas, including plans for \$400 million in cost cut-

ting, the stock (YHOO) has only risen 4.6% this year. Meanwhile, it’s down 21% over the last 12 months, suggesting shareholders are still worried about the company’s future.

One reason could be fears that Yahoo is dragging its feet on a sale. In its letter Thursday announcing its opposing slate of board candidates, Smith raised questions about Yahoo’s commitment to the sales process, saying it was a driving force in his decision to wage a proxy fight.

“There are good reasons for shareholders to be highly concerned about the current strategic review process,” Smith said.

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

9 companies feel the sting of 4 years of falling profits

Shows how tough it's been for firms to keep bottom line moving up amid recovery

Matt Krantz
@mattkrantz
USA TODAY

It's been rough for investors looking for profit growth with half of large U.S. companies reporting net income drops last year. But for some companies, it hasn't been just one down year but four in a row.

Nine companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index, including software company Autodesk, retailer Kohl's and food distributor Sysco, reported lower net income not just in 2014 but in the previous three calendar years, according to a USA TODAY analysis of data from S&P Global Market

Intelligence. Net income is the measure of profitability, measured by accountants, that includes all costs.

These companies with four straight years of falling earnings highlight just how difficult it has been to keep the bottom line moving higher as the economic recovery ages. All told, 253 of the companies in the S&P 500 reported lower net income in 2014 than they did in 2013, according to S&P Global data. Even adjusted earnings for the S&P 500, which strips out companies' one-time costs, fell 0.7% in 2015.

But a few companies have the unenviable record of stringing together four bad years. Autodesk, which makes software that helps designers build prototypes, suffered a loss last year after seeing its net income drop 64.3%, 7.5%

LOWER NET INCOME

S&P 500 companies reporting lower net income the past four years (based on calendar years):

Net income (in millions)		
Company	2011	2015
Autodesk	\$285.3	-\$326
Diamond Offshore	\$962.5	-\$274.3
I-3 Communications	\$958	-\$240
Chevron	\$26,895	\$4,587
Xerox	\$1,295	\$474
Kohl's	\$1,167	\$673
Sysco	\$1,147.6	\$766.8
Coca-Cola Enterprises	\$749	\$596
Freeport-McMoRan	\$4,560	-\$12,236

SOURCES: S&P GLOBAL MARKET INTELLIGENCE, USA TODAY

and 13.3% the previous three years. The bad track record reflects the company's reinvention of its business model to compete as more business shifts to the cloud, says Joe Bonner, research analyst at Argus Research. Instead of charging customers large up-front fees for its software, Autodesk is moving to a model where customers pay a subscription fee. That amounts to a busi-

ness model that generates "smaller payments over time, but, they hope, is more profitable in the end," Bonner says. Other software companies, notably Adobe, moved to similar models, and the adjustment can take time. "It will take a while for the new business model to build up, so in the interim, revenue and profit are declining," Bonner says.

Department store Kohl's, on the other hand, is seeing its bottom line attacked by competitors with new business models. Online merchants, not to mention discounters such as TJX, are capturing market share from department stores even as consumers shift spending to non-apparel items, says Mark Altschwager, analyst at Robert W. Baird. Despite these threats, Kohl's has been holding revenue steady. But costs like free shipping offers on online orders and more discounting continue to squeeze the bottom line. Kohl's net income fell 22% last year to \$673 million, even after falling 2.5%, 10% and 16% in the previous three years.

Investors are hopeful these companies, not to mention the rest of Corporate America, can get their net income moving in the right direction again. Analysts forecast adjusted profit to rise 1.5% for the S&P 500 this year. That might not be much. But it's better than going down, down, down.

Playboy Enterprises takes step toward sale

Marco della Cava
@marcodellacava
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO *Playboy*, the magazine and business enterprise long synonymous with founder Hugh Hefner, may soon begin a new chapter under new management.

Chicago-based Playboy Enterprises has retained boutique investment bank Moelis & Co. to advise it on a potential sale that could fetch more than \$500 million for the magazine and its bunny-branded licensing assets, according to a person close to the situation who did not want to be named because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

Moelis & Co. declined to comment on the news, which was earlier reported by *The Wall Street Journal* on Thursday.

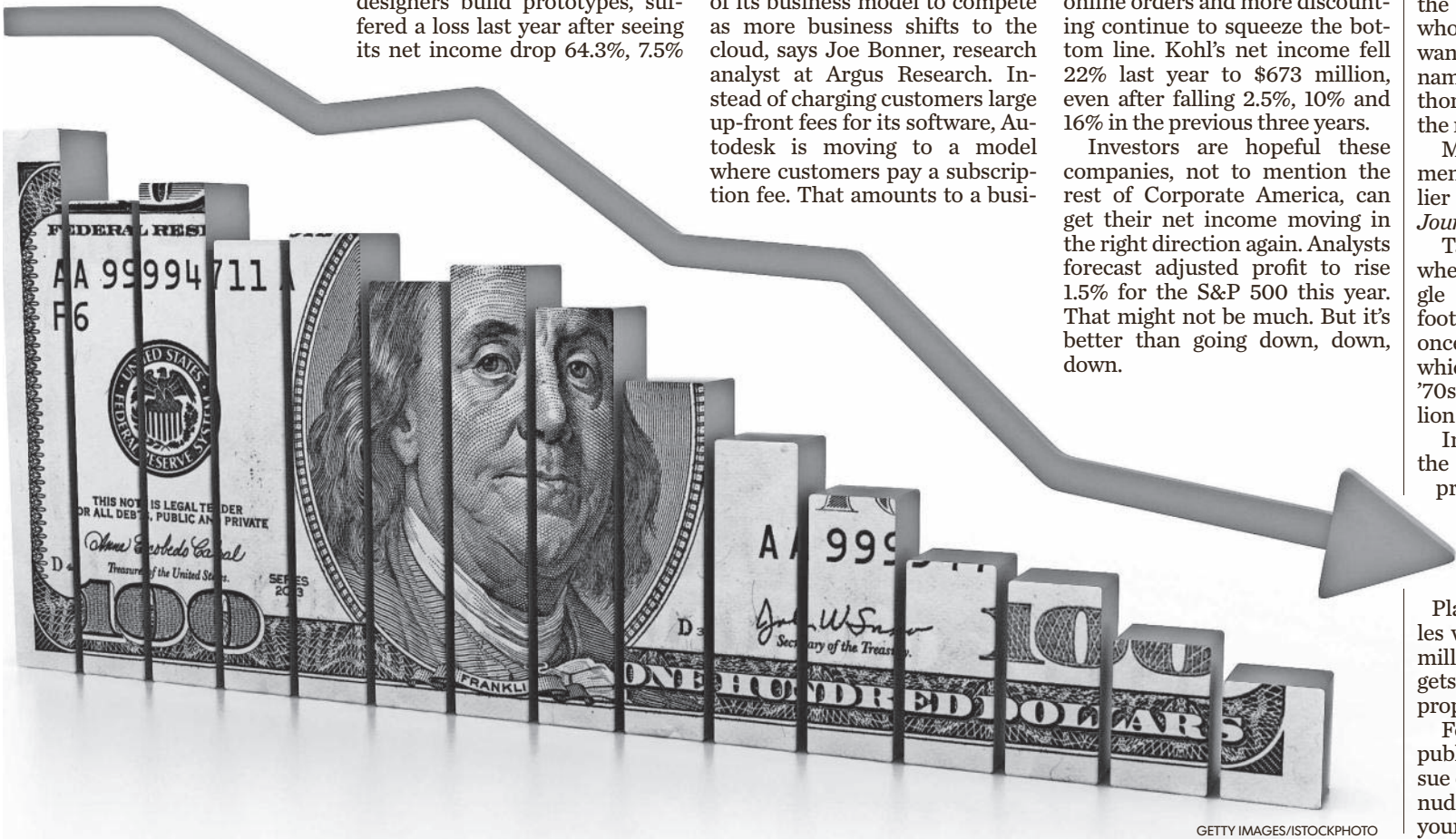
Talk of deals comes at a time when *Playboy* continues to struggle for a financial and cultural footing. The Internet cut into the once-dominant magazine format, which led to a drop from a mid-'70s circulation high of 5.6 million to less than a million today.

In 2011, Hefner, now 89, took the company private along with private equity firm Rizvi Traverse Management in a deal that valued the company at around \$200 million. And in January, the famous Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles went on the market for \$200 million with one catch: Hefner gets to live out his life on the property.

For the first time in its 63-year publishing history, the March issue of *Playboy* did away with fully nude models in a bid to reach a younger demographic.



2006 AP PHOTO
Founder Hugh Hefner



Fed president: Interest rate increase 'may not be far off'

Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

Federal Reserve President James Bullard said Thursday that the central bank's next interest rate hike "may not be far off" if "the economy evolves as expected," opening the door to an increase in April or June.

His remarks appeared more bullish on a near-term rate increase than both the Fed's official statement and Fed Chair Janet Yellen's comments at a news conference following policymakers' two-day meeting last week. The Fed raised its benchmark rate from near zero in December for the first time in nearly a decade but has stood pat at the two meetings since then.

In a speech to the New York Association of Business Economists, Bullard raised the question of whether the Fed harmed its credibility by not lifting rates in March. He noted that between December and March, the economy largely progressed as the Fed anticipated in its December



CNBC VIA GETTY IMAGES
James Bullard

The Fed raised its benchmark rate from near zero in December for the first time in nearly a decade but has stood pat at the two meetings since then.

meeting forecasts.

He said economic data showed that the U.S. and global growth outlook "was downgraded somewhat," the U.S. labor market outlook "was upgraded somewhat," and other economic measures were "about the same." For example, financial markets — including stock prices, the dollar and corporate borrowing costs — were unfavorable early in the year but settled down by last week's meeting.

Bullard concluded that the Fed did not have to raise its benchmark rate in March, noting policymakers put more weight on the global and U.S. growth downgrade than the brighter labor market forecast.

Yet, he added, "the relatively minor downgrades contained in "the Fed's March forecasts" suggest the next rate increase "may not be far off provided that the economy evolves as expected."

Bullard is considered among the Fed's more "hawkish" policymakers, meaning he's more concerned about staving off higher inflation than stimulating growth.

Starboard has lost battles, too

► CONTINUED FROM 1B

Yahoo had no comment Thursday beyond a statement that its board will review Starboard's proposed nominees "and respond in due course."

At AOL, Armstrong turned the tide in his favor by returning a boat-load of cash to shareholders in a last-minute maneuver.

After Starboard announced its proxy battle at AOL, the search and email provider announced it had sold its prized patent assets to Microsoft for a whopping \$1.1 billion, a play Starboard had previously suggested. As if that weren't enough, Armstrong then announced — one month before the crucial shareholder vote — that AOL would give the entire \$1.1 billion to shareholders, rather than spend it on the company.

AOL's stock (AOL), which was already higher on news of the patent sale, jumped 3.5% on the



STARBOARD
Jeff Smith, CEO at Starboard Value, which wants to overthrow Yahoo's board.

news. One month later, in June, Starboard lost its bid for board seats but made a pretty penny on its stake in AOL's stock.

Mayer's options to return cash to shareholders may be more limited, however. Mayer has already agreed to a cost-cutting plan. The company has also been hard at work on another strategy to unlock value by spinning off its core assets, including Yahoo Mail and Yahoo Sports, from its \$29 billion stake in Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba.

"They rarely lose," Ken Squire, an activist tracker, said of Starboard's reputation.

"They only go for a majority of the board when absolutely necessary and have had more success than any other activist at winning majority board proxy fights," he said, citing both Darden and tech company Tessera Technologies, where Starboard ousted the board in 2013.

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Powerful pickup makes a statement for Nissan

Brent Snavely
@BrentSnavely
Detroit Free Press

NEW YORK Nissan revealed its long-awaited, all-new Titan pickup at the New York International Auto Show on Thursday, signaling that the Japanese automaker is serious about its desire to compete in a pickup segment dominated by the Detroit Three automakers.

Nissan has designed its new Titan to go head-to-head with top-selling competitors including the Chevrolet Silverado, Ford F-150, GMC Sierra and Ram 1500.

“We have a truck that can compete now, it looks good, and has the capability that we need, and the durability will be there as well,” said Fred Diaz, Nissan’s vice president and general manager of trucks.

The 2017 Nissan Titan will be powered by Nissan’s 5.6-liter Endurance V8 gasoline engine that produces 390 horsepower. It will be mated to a seven-speed automatic transmission. Nissan said a V6 gasoline will also eventually be available.

Nissan had high hopes for the original Titan 12 years ago when truck sales were soaring in the U.S. But critics say Nissan didn’t develop enough variations of the Titan or update it often enough to compete with the full lineups offered by its Detroit Three competitors.

In fact, Nissan also hasn’t completely updated the Titan since it was first launched in 2004. Last year, Nissan sold just 12,140 full-size Titan pickups, or less than 1% of the 2.1 million sold by the total industry in the U.S.

Now, Nissan is taking a second crack at the pickup market, which has been growing rapidly in recent years. However, with overall industry sales at historically high levels and little additional growth



JIM FETS, NISSAN

Nissan unveiled its 2017 Titan full-size pickup at the New York International Auto Show on Thursday. The update was 12 years in the making.

Updated Titan unveiled as company ready to take on Big 3 in truck market

expected this year, some are asking if Nissan is launching its Titan too late.

“It’s never too late to have a truck come into this segment,” Diaz said. “Gas prices right now are optimum for going into the truck segment. And you know what? We were long overdue for the (new) truck coming into the market.”

The 2017 Nissan Titan will be offered in three configurations – crew cab, king cab and single cab – and five different trim levels.

“We know that if you are going to go into this segment, you better invest in your product,” Diaz said.

“The company is really committed and invested in this truck and the success of the Titan,” he said.

The full-size Titan will join the Titan XD, a larger pickup that went on sale in December.

“The Titan XD provides a

“We have a truck that can compete now, it looks good, and has the capability that we need, and the durability will be there as well.”

Fred Diaz, Nissan’s vice president and general manager of trucks

unique solution for customers by bridging the cost and capability gap between traditional half-ton and full heavy-duty pickups,” Diaz said. “Between Titan and Titan XD, we will cover about 85% of the full-size truck market.”

Nissan said the new Titan will go on sale by this summer. The Titan will be assembled in Canton, Miss., and the engine will be built in Decherd, Tenn.

Happy 50th, Corolla: Toyota celebrates with special edition

Brent Snavely and Chris Woodyard
Detroit Free Press and USA TODAY

NEW YORK Toyota threw a party Wednesday night to unveil a special-edition Corolla to commemorate the car’s 50th anniversary.

More Corollas have been built since 1966 than any other model, surpassing the Volkswagen Beetle in 1997. There have been 43 million Corollas sold.

Jack Hollis, marketing chief for the Toyota brand, says Corollas continue to attract drivers of all ages.

Toyota also says it plans to offer an updated version of its standard Corolla with a redesigned front end and a package of safety features that includes automatic emergency braking.

Launched in 1966, the Corolla quickly became a hit. Global sales reached 1 million just four years after it was launched, and by 1970 the Corolla was already the second best-selling imported car in the U.S. Today, Toyota’s global sales exceed 1.5 million Corollas annually.

The updated Corolla, which will go on sale by the end of this year, will be the first model to include “Toyota Safety Sense” — a package of technology that includes automatic braking, pre-collision warning, radar cruise control and lane-departure alert.

“This is a mid-cycle change for the Corolla, but it is bigger than just a mid-cycle change,” said Bob Carter, senior vice president of automotive operations for Toyota Motor Sales.

“It will be standard equipment on the Corolla ... by the end of this year.”



CHRIS WOODYARD, USA TODAY

Toyota paid tribute to the history of the Corolla as it rolled out the new 50th anniversary edition, foreground.



BRYAN THOMAS, GETTY IMAGES

Mazda’s MX-5 Miata sports car goes topless in a new way

Chris Woodyard
USA TODAY

NEW YORK Mazda is going topless at the New York Auto Show.

The Japanese automaker introduced a cool, unconventional convertible version of the MX-5 Miata. It’s called the RF for “retractable fastback.”

With the touch of a button, the top retracts in a flurry of movement by metal panels. But what

The convertible top of the MX-5 retracts in a flurry of metal panels, resulting in a sleek fastback.

makes it cool is that the car ends up with a sleek fastback, not just the usual squared-off convertible shape. The Miata has had a convertible hardtop in the past, but not one like this.

The top stows in the same amount of space as the soft-top version. And Mazda says it allows for more insulation and a quieter cabin in its fun little sports car.

Like other Mazdas, the MX-5 Miata has a gas-saving Skyactiv-G 2-liter gasoline engine in the U.S.

Mitsubishi hopes plug-in juices the hybrid market

Chris Woodyard
USA TODAY

NEW YORK Mitsubishi thinks it can change minds about plug-in hybrids with its new Outlander PHEV.

With hopes that it can become a family vehicle for smart, socially conscious people, Mitsubishi unveiled the Outlander PHEV on Thursday at the New York Auto Show. PHEV stands for plug-in hybrid electric vehicle.

It should get impressive gas mileage, although Mitsubishi says it doesn’t know the electric range yet. It will have a 2-liter gas engine, combined with two electric motors.

It’s also being loaded up with extra safety equipment for the U.S. market and arrives next fall.

“It has everything you would



JEWEL SAMAD, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The 2017 Mitsubishi Outlander plug-in hybrid should get impressive gas mileage.

want to have in a PHEV,” says Don Swearingen, Mitsubishi’s executive vice president in the U.S., “without range anxiety.”

That’s because the Outlander PHEV can be plugged in to charge its main battery, then the gas engine takes over when it’s out of juice.

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What to watch

Wall Street's win streak screeches to a halt

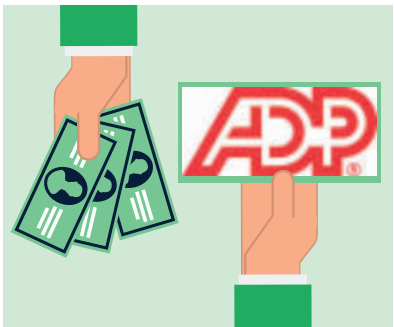
Adam Shell
@adamshell
USA TODAY

Winning streaks, like records, are meant to be broken. That was clear Thursday when a flat day for stocks meant the market suffered a loss for the holiday-shortened week, ending Wall Street's streak of consecutive weekly gains at five. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.1% to 17,516 Thursday, leaving it down 0.5% for the week. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index was unchanged for a weekly loss of 0.7%. Stocks stalled amid renewed talk of a coming interest rate hike from the Federal Reserve, a resurgent dollar and falling oil prices. So-called risk assets like stocks have come under fresh pressure this week. Investor sen-

timent has cooled following the terror attacks in Brussels as well as comments from St. Louis Fed President James Bullard, who hinted that the next interest rate hike could come sooner than investors have anticipated. Fresh talk of a rate hike, perhaps as early as April, has pushed the dollar higher and commodities prices lower, both of which are negatives for stocks. The Fed last week buoyed markets when it slashed the number of rate hikes it expects in 2016 from four to two, citing a slight downgrade to its economic outlook and inflation expectations. Markets had been pricing in the next rate hike no earlier than June. A rally of 12% off of the Feb. 11 lows was driven by reduced recession fears, a weaker dollar and stable oil prices. But the dollar and crude reversed course in recent days, giving investors pause.

DID YOU KNOW?

Facts about America's investors who use SigFig tracking services:



ADP was the **most-sold stock** among SigFig millionaires in mid-March.

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How we're performing

USA's portfolio allocation by foreign investment

Here's how America's individual investors are performing based on data from SigFig online investment tracking service:

LESS THAN 20% U.S. INVESTMENTS

5-day avg.:	-1.07
6-month avg.:	-3.38
Largest holding:	NOK
Most bought:	FB
Most sold:	AAPL

51% TO 80% U.S. INVESTMENTS

5-day avg.:	-1.19
6-month avg.:	-9.72
Largest holding:	AAPL
Most bought:	AAPL
Most sold:	AAPL

NOTE: INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SIGFIG IS STATISTICAL IN NATURE AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A RECOMMENDATION OF ANY STRATEGY OR SECURITY. VISIT SIGFIG.USATODAY.COM/DISCLOSE FOR ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES AND INFORMATION.

21% TO 50% U.S. INVESTMENTS

5-day avg.:	-2.03
6-month avg.:	-11.15
Largest holding:	AAPL
Most bought:	RICE
Most sold:	AAPL

MORE THAN 80% U.S. INVESTMENTS

5-day avg.:	-2.02
6-month avg.:	-10.39
Largest holding:	AAPL
Most bought:	ABX
Most sold:	AAPL

POWERED BY SIGFIG

More than half a million investors nationwide with total assets of \$200 billion manage their investment portfolios online with SigFig investment tracking service. Data on this page are based on SigFig analysis.

MAJOR INDEXES

DJIA +13.14 CHANGE: +1.1% YTD: +90.70 YTD % CHG: +5.5%	DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE CLOSE: 17,515.73 PREV. CLOSE: 17,502.59 RANGE: 17,399.01-17,517.14	SPX -.77 CHANGE: unch. YTD: -8.00 YTD % CHG: -.4%	S&P 500 STANDARD & POOR'S CLOSE: 2,035.94 PREV. CLOSE: 2,036.71 RANGE: 2,022.49-2,036.04
COMP +4.65 CHANGE: +1.1% YTD: -233.91 YTD % CHG: -4.7%	NASDAQ COMPOSITE CLOSE: 4,773.51 PREV. CLOSE: 4,768.86 RANGE: 4,734.77-4,773.51	RUT +3.84 CHANGE: +4.4% YTD: -56.35 YTD % CHG: -5.0%	RUSSELL RUSSELL 2000 INDEX CLOSE: 1,079.54 PREV. CLOSE: 1,075.70 RANGE: 1,065.62-1,079.53

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS/LOSERS

GAINERS	Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD
	PVH (PVH) Fourth-quarter earnings top estimates.	94.29	+6.66	+7.6	+28.0
	Staples (SPLS) Judge slams FTC on Office Depot deal.	10.76	+.71	+7.0	+13.6
	Accenture (ACN) Boosts earnings and revenue forecasts.	114.30	+6.64	+6.2	+9.4
	Freeport-McMoRan (FCX) Makes up early drop despite negative note.	10.11	+.36	+3.7	+49.3
	Signet Jewelers (SIG) Reports strong fourth quarter.	121.42	+3.41	+2.9	-1.8
	Chesapeake Energy (CHK) Ends losing streak in solid sector.	4.25	+.12	+2.9	-5.6
	Devon Energy (DVN) Shares higher as oil prices reverse losses.	26.47	+.71	+2.8	-17.3
	Alcoa (AA) Has strong day despite China oversupply pressure.	9.57	+.25	+2.7	-3.0
	EQT (EQT) Makes up pre-market loss as oil makes up early loss.	64.56	+1.51	+2.4	+23.8
	AES (AES) Nears 2016 high as fund managers take a stake.	11.57	+.27	+2.4	+20.9
LOSERS	Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD
	Williams Companies (WMB) Dips on lowered Energy Transfer deal expectations.	15.35	-.91	-5.6	-40.3
	Seagate Technology (STX) Analysts recommend rival and cut estimates.	33.23	-1.57	-4.5	-9.4
	General Dynamics (GD) Stock rating cut to hold.	129.08	-5.24	-3.9	-6.0
	PayPal Holdings (PYPL) Drops on Apple Pay concerns.	38.92	-1.60	-3.9	+7.5
	Tenet Healthcare (THC) Price target raised, loses momentum.	27.98	-1.03	-3.6	-7.7
	American Airlines Group (AAL) Dips after announcing 6% flight attendant pay raise.	40.50	-1.42	-3.4	-4.4
	United Continental Holdings (UAL) Dips as attempts to settle with fund managers.	57.84	-1.90	-3.2	+9
	CF Industries (CF) Position lowered by fund manager.	31.94	-1.03	-3.1	-21.7
	Prudential Financial (PRU) Dips pre-market in trailing sector.	70.76	-2.07	-2.8	-13.1
	Patterson Companies (PDCO) Retreat from year's high and outpaces sector loss.	44.66	-1.24	-2.7	-1.2

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STORY STOCKS

STAPLES
Price: \$10.76
Chg: \$0.71
% chg: 7.0%
Day's high/low: \$11.06/\$10.52

PVH
Price: \$94.29
Chg: \$6.66
% chg: 7.6%
Day's high/low: \$95.25/\$90.69

TiVo
Price: \$9.45
Chg: \$1.79
% chg: 23.4%
Day's high/low: \$9.57/\$8.67

Staples

A U.S. district judge criticized the Federal Trade Commission for its attempt to elicit false testimony as the agency tries to block a merger between Staples and rival office-supply chain Office Depot.

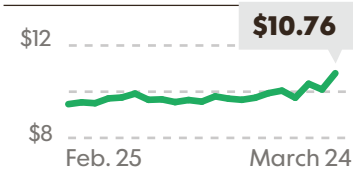
PVH

The company behind apparel brands Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and Heritage reported fiscal fourth-quarter earnings that exceeded both analysts' estimates as well as PVH's own projection.

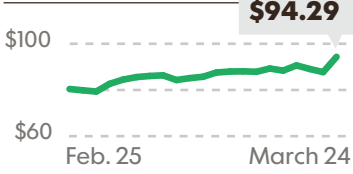
TiVo

The provider of television software services is reportedly in negotiations about being bought by Rovi, which is a provider of digital entertainment technology, in a cash-and-stock deal.

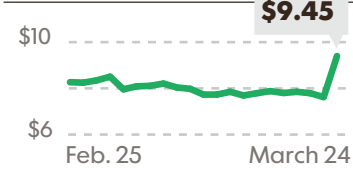
4-WEEK TREND



4-WEEK TREND



4-WEEK TREND



TOP 10 MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund, ranked by size	NAV	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Vanguard 500Adml	187.73	-0.07	+5.7%	+0.1%
Vanguard TotStAdm	50.30	+0.01	+5.9%	-0.5%
Vanguard Instldxl	185.88	-0.07	+5.7%	+0.1%
Vanguard TotStldx	50.28	unch.	+5.9%	-0.5%
Vanguard InstPlus	185.89	-0.07	+5.7%	+0.1%
Vanguard TotIntl	14.15	-0.10	+6.9%	-2.0%
Fidelity Contra	95.25	-0.16	+4.6%	-3.0%
American Funds IncAmerA m	20.43	-0.03	+4.8%	+1.8%
American Funds GrthAmA m	39.68	+0.04	+5.3%	-3.9%
American Funds CapIncBuA m	56.69	-0.06	+4.5%	+2.4%

1 - CAPITAL GAINS AND DIVIDENDS REINVESTED

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg	% YTD
Barr iPath Vix ST	VXX	19.30	-0.11	-0.6%	-4.0%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	203.12	-0.09	unch.	-0.4%
iShs Emerg Mkts	EEM	33.36	-0.08	-0.2%	+3.6%
Mkt Vect Gold Miners	GDX	19.46	+0.43	+2.3%	+41.8%
US Oil Fund LP	USO	10.06	-0.05	-0.5%	-8.5%
Dir Div Gold Bear3x	DUST	3.59	-0.25	-6.5%	-78.3%
SPDR Financial	XLF	22.31	-0.14	-0.6%	-6.4%
CS VS 2x Vix ShTm	TVIX	5.21	-0.03	-0.6%	-16.8%
ProShs Ultra VIX ST	UVXY	23.33	-0.25	-1.1%	-17.7%
iShares Rus 2000	IWM	107.20	+0.32	+0.3%	-4.8%

MORTGAGE RATES

Type	Close	6 mo ago
Prime lending	3.50%	3.25%
Federal funds	0.37%	0.14%
3 mo. T-bill	0.28%	0.01%
5yr. T-note	1.39%	1.45%
10yr. T-note	1.91%	2.13%

SOURCE: BANKRATE.COM

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.36	1.35	+0.01	+0.3%	unch.
Corn (bushel)	3.70	3.69	+0.01	+0.4%	+3.1%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,221.40	1,223.70	-2.30	-0.2%	+15.2%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.70	.70	unch.	unch.	+16.4%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	1.81	1.79	+0.02	+0.7%	-22.7%
Oil, heating (gal.)	1.20	1.20	unch.	unch.	+8.8%
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	39.46	39.79	-0.33	-0.8%	+6.5%
Silver (troy oz.)	15.19	15.26	-0.07	-0.5%	+10.3%
Soybeans (bushel)	9.11	9.05	+0.06	+0.6%	+4.5%
Wheat (bushel)	4.63	4.63	unch.	unch.	-1.5%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	7061	7084	.6563	.6736
Canadian dollar	1.3248	1.3210	1.3319	1.2497
Chinese yuan	6.5133	6.5060	6.3874	6.2028
Euro	.8947	.8942	.8914	.9154
Japanese yen	112.81	112.39	120.05	119.66
Mexican peso	17.6308	17.5773	16.8822	14.9014

FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	%Chg.	YTD %
Frankfurt	9,851.35	10,022.93	-171.58	-1.7%	-8.3%
Hong Kong	20,345.61	20,615.23	-269.62	-1.3%	-7.2%
Japan (Nikkei)	16,892.33	17,000.98	-108.65	-0.6%	-11.3%
London	6,106.48	6,199.11	-92.63	-1.5%	-2.2%
Mexico City	45,647.57	45,647.57	unch.	unch.	+6.2%

SOURCES: MORNINGSTAR, DOW JONES INDEXES, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN-DEPTH MARKETS COVERAGE
USATODAY.COM/MONEY

INVESTING ASK MATT

Energy stocks paying off nicely since January

Q: Who predicted the energy rally?

Matt Krantz

mkrantz@usatoday.com
USA TODAY



A: Investors with the guts — or who were crazy enough — to buy energy stocks in mid-January have been paid handsomely. The 40 energy stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 have added roughly \$200 billion into the pockets of investors since oil prices bottomed Jan. 20.

The fact so much money was made from the bottom is impressive, but not all that surprising. With the price of oil tanking below \$40 a share, many analysts figured a bump was overdue. Shares of energy stocks exposed to oil prices were primed for big gains.

Many analysts have been trying to call the bottom in oil prices and energy stocks. The problem was that many of these analysts were wrong for months, and the stocks kept tanking along with the price of oil.

Extreme volatility is the nature of stocks in the energy and materials sectors. These stocks can rapidly fall apart when prices of the underlying commodities sink. But big money can be made from these sectors — sometimes epic gains — when commodity prices inevitably recover.

The key, though, isn't trying to call bottoms, which is difficult and perilous. The key is being diversified. If you own the S&P 500, you enjoyed the rally because of your 7% exposure to energy.

