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APPRECIATION  
**IN LIFE**

# Pentagon pulling families out of Turkey

Turkish base vital in fight against Islamic State

**Andrew Tilghman**  
Military Times  
**and John Bacon**  
USA TODAY

The Pentagon ordered families of hundreds of U.S. military members to evacuate southern Turkey amid violence in the country and on the eve of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's arrival in the USA for security meetings.

The “ordered departure” Tuesday came two days before Erdoğan is to meet with Vice President Biden during a nuclear security summit in Washington. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Erdoğan and President Obama will meet informally. The decision affects almost 700 family members and other U.S. civilians assigned to Incirlik Air Base, a consulate in Adana and smaller facilities in the cities of Izmir and Mugla. Incirlik Air Base, home to the U.S. 39th Air Base Wing, is a crucial player in the war against the Islamic State. Last year, Turkey agreed to al-

**Analysts detect a snub from Obama**  
He won't formally meet Turkish president. **IN NEWS**

low use of the base for U.S.-coalition jets conducting airstrikes in Syria and Iraq. NATO's Allied Land Command is based in Izmir. The mandatory evacuation does not include more than 100 family members based in Ankara and Istanbul despite recent bombings in both cities. A car bomb in the capital, Ankara, killed at least 30 people on Feb. 17, and a suicide bombing on

a popular shopping street in Istanbul killed five people, including two Americans, on March 19. On March 9, the Defense Department-run school at Incirlik, less than 100 miles from the Syrian border, was closed because of security concerns, and the base imposed additional protective measures. The total U.S. military force deployed at Incirlik has grown to nearly 2,500, from about 1,300 last year, after the Turkish government agreed to let U.S. combat aircraft use the base. State Department spokesman John Kirby said Secretary of State John Kerry was involved in

the decision and notified Turkish leaders Monday. “This was a decision made out of an abundance of caution to keep people as safe as possible,” Kirby said. Michael Desch, co-director of the University of Notre Dame's International Security Program, said the decision to evacuate families is unsurprising given the region's perilous terror climate. “I think the final straw was Brussels,” Desch said of the terror attacks in Belgium last week that killed more than 30 people. “The risk-management people must have determined that Turkey was low-hanging fruit in terms of vulnerabilities.”

## NEWSLINE

### IN NEWS

**Iraq's Mosul offensive stalls**

Operation to oust ISIL slowed by fierce fighting, desertions.

### IN MONEY

**Yellen puts investors at ease**

Fed to move “cautiously” on rate hikes.

### IN SPORTS

**Intrigue, drama, curse: A National League preview**



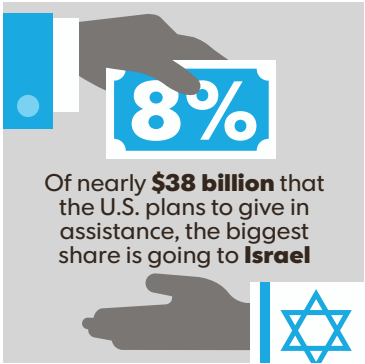
USA TODAY SPORTS  
**Cubs pitcher Hector Rondon**

We look at the pivotal players, the likeliest scenarios and we predict how the teams will finish.



## USA SNAPSHOTS®

**Foreign-aid favorite**



**Note** For fiscal year 2016  
**Source** foreignassistance.gov  
TERRY BYRNE AND KARL GELLES, USA TODAY



PHOTOS BY MARK WILSON, GETTY IMAGES  
People rally in January as justices considered a challenge to the California Teachers Association.

# MAJOR VICTORY FOR UNIONS AS SUPREME COURT DEADLOCKS

Scalia's death siphons conservative bloc's strength to crack rule

**Richard Wolf**  
USA TODAY

Conservatives bent on crippling the power of public employee unions lost their best opportunity in years Tuesday when the Supreme Court deadlocked over a challenge to the fees those unions collect from non-members. Rather than seeking to reschedule the case for their next term, the justices simply announced they were tied 4-4 — a verdict that leaves intact the decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit upholding the fee collections.



**Rebecca Friedrichs, who challenged the California Teachers Association's collection of fees from non-members, speaks to reporters after oral arguments at the Supreme Court in January.**

That was a major victory for the unions and the court's four liberal justices after Justice Antonin Scalia's death last month. During oral argument in January, it had appeared almost certain that the court would strike down the requirement in 23 states that teachers and government workers contribute to the cost of collective bargaining, even if they disagree with their unions' demands. The result would have been the demise of a nearly 40-year-old Supreme Court precedent that allows unions to impose such requirements on non-members. It would have made it harder for unions representing teachers, police and firefighters and other government workers to maintain their power by affecting their pocketbooks.

▶ **STORY CONTINUES ON 2A**

# Feds seek \$15B for VW diesel claims

**Nathan Bomey**  
USA TODAY

The Federal Trade Commission on Tuesday accused Volkswagen Group of deceiving U.S. consumers into buying emission-spewing diesel vehicles, seeking more than \$15 billion in damages in what could be one of the largest false-advertising cases in U.S. history. The FTC filed a four-count civil complaint against Volkswagen Group in U.S. District Court in California, alleging the company falsely advertised that it was selling “clean diesel” vehicles purchased by about 550,000 buyers. The lawsuit compounds the German automaker's legal troubles in the U.S., where it is already facing a criminal probe and numerous lawsuits after it admitted that it rigged more than half a million vehicles with software to cheat emissions regulations. “This was an FTC case waiting to happen because they based their entire advertising campaign on this benefit,” said Linda Goldstein of law firm Manatt Phelps & Phillips' advertising, marketing and media practice. The FTC is pursuing “permanent injunctive relief, rescission, restitution, the refund of monies paid, disgorgement of ill-gotten monies, and other equitable relief,” according to the lawsuit. FTC attorneys did not specify an amount but a person familiar with the case said the government is seeking more than \$15 billion in damages. “Our lawsuit seeks compensation for the consumers who bought affected cars based on Volkswagen's deceptive ... practices,” FTC Chairwoman Edith Ramirez said in a statement. The company has already set aside \$7 billion to pay for repair costs on the approximately 11 million vehicles globally that are affected by the emissions scandal.

# 1,000 devices in limbo after FBI drops iPhone case

**Kevin Johnson and Elizabeth Weise**  
USA TODAY

**SAN FRANCISCO** The government's surprise decision to withdraw its case against Apple over the San Bernardino, Calif., killer's iPhone adds uncertainty to criminal cases in which state and local authorities are confronted with more than 1,000 locked smartphones and other devices, blocking access to potential evidence,

according to a survey of more than a dozen jurisdictions. These locked devices are separate from the most high-profile one: the iPhone used by Syed Farook, who with his wife, Tashfeen Malik, carried out the shooting in San Bernardino that left 14 dead in December. In mid-February, a California court ordered Apple to aid the FBI in unlocking that iPhone. On Monday, the FBI said it had been able to unlock the phone without Apple's aid. Left unan-

**Apple wins battle, but war goes on**  
**IN MONEY**

swered is what the Justice Department's abandoned legal action means for other law enforcement agencies seeking help from manufacturers in unlocking devices. “We were hoping this decision, which could have gone to the Supreme Court, would have been a road map, and now it's not,” said Stewart Baker of Steptoe & John-

son. State and local investigators have been blocked from accessing contents of more than 1,000 devices because of their inability to bypass security functions similar to those encountered by the FBI in the San Bernardino case. “The overwhelming majority of criminal investigations stalled by default device encryption will remain so until Congress intervenes,” Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance said in a statement Tuesday. According to some attorneys,

the government's actions have weakened its credibility if it tries to argue for compelling companies to help it in future cases. Justice spent a month saying Apple's assistance was the only way it could get into the phone, then suddenly said it wasn't, said Scott Vernick, head of data security at Fox Rothschild in Philadelphia. “Now any other court is going to ask, ‘Really? Are you sure you need their help? That's what you asked for last time, and apparently you didn't,’” Vernick said.



VOICES

Prospective graduate embraces rapid change

Madison Mills  
USA TODAY



LOS ANGELES A couple of months from now, thousands of college graduates will enter a job market they never could have visualized four years ago when they arrived on campus. Many aim to enter tech-driven professions that are changing so quickly that universities are struggling to keep up. It's left to this year's crop of grads to embrace these changes and to adapt to emerging tools and technologies within industries undergoing rapid transition.

As a college senior myself, I figured out quickly that my classes couldn't always keep pace with reality. I entered the University of Southern California as a freshman journalism major with a traditional goal: to become a reporter for a local TV station. But because of the digital revolution, my goals shifted. Now I am focused on creating digital video content for the Web, because that's where there is opportunity.

Student broadcast journalists

like myself used to dream of anchoring our school's nightly newscast. Now, we create content for Facebook's News Feed — the new front page for Millennials. We don't measure success in Nielsen ratings. We obsess about the number of seconds people spend watching our videos online.

"Because of the way our generation is getting our news, people are coming in now with a digital-first mind-set," says Kevin McAllister, a junior studying broadcast and digital journalism at USC. He produced an election-related video for Facebook on the differences between caucuses and primaries that received about 70,000 views. That underscored for him the importance of using social media to reach news consumers.

Judd Slivka, an assistant professor of convergence journalism at the University of Missouri, says regardless of platform, the appetite for storytelling that inspires student journalists hasn't changed. "It's about telling the story," he says. "It's just that the tools have changed, and with the tools that have changed, so have the professions."

"The journalists of tomorrow are doing things you never envisioned. ... You have a lot of people



ROBERT CHURCHILL, ISTOCKPHOTO

who want to involve technology in telling stories and communicating, and that's always been the case. But the adoption of those tools is so much more rapid than it used to be."

Journalism professors across the U.S. see the adaptability of students as their main selling point to employers.

"Students want to do good, substantive journalism, so that

remains constant," says Gabriel Kahn, co-director of the Media, Economics and Entrepreneurship program at USC. "What has changed is where they think they can achieve that goal."

Kahn believes some traditional big names in the news business are having trouble not only attracting audiences in the digital age but attracting young talent, unless they show they can fully

embrace the digital transition.

"I've seen some students make some tough choices, basically saying no to a *New York Times* for a start-up ... and that shows they're kind of sniffing out what the future is going to look like and who is best positioned to deliver an experience and audience that's going to be most meaningful for them," Kahn says.

Some college newsrooms even have Snapchat editors. One of them, Ryan Thompson at USC, says he's drawn to the app because "it's such a great way of interacting with users who aren't going to tune in to a broadcast anymore."

"I like the freedom with it and the realm of stories you get to tell. You literally get to click through stories," he says. "With our short attention spans, how are you not taking advantage of this new platform?"

As graduation day nears, I'm confident that I — and my fellow seniors — will enter the real world with a solid understanding of the digital media landscape. I look back on videos of myself hosting the nightly newscast my freshman year and I'm shocked by how much both the industry and my interests have changed.

The job I'll have in 10 years may not even exist yet — and that's fine by me.

Mills is a USA TODAY reporting intern and a senior at the University of Southern California.

Teen girl pepper-sprayed in scuffle outside Wisconsin Trump rally

Aamer Madhani  
USA TODAY

JANESVILLE, WIS. As GOP front-runner Donald Trump prepared to speak to supporters in Wisconsin on Tuesday, a 15-year-old girl outside the venue was pepper-sprayed by another bystander, police said.

Police said the girl was peppered-sprayed in the crowd by a non-law enforcement person. Hundreds of anti-Trump protesters and supporters had gathered outside the Holiday Inn Express in southern Wisconsin, where Trump was holding his maiden rally in the state ahead of next Tuesday's primary in the state. In video posted on social media of the scene, the young woman appears to be arguing with someone and appears to shove or punch at the person before the pepper spray was deployed.

A day earlier, six protesters were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, obstructing an officer and trespass after refusing to leave the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express as part of another anti-Trump protest at the venue, police said.

Police said the protesters identified themselves as belonging to the group Showing Up for Racial Injustice. Members of the group had locked themselves together inside of PVC piping before occupying the lobby area. About 60 other protesters who had entered the lobby left the hotel at the request of police.



SCOTT OLSON, GETTY IMAGES

Supporters of Donald Trump wait in line to enter a campaign rally at the Holiday Inn Express hotel Tuesday in Janesville, Wis.

Trump has faced criticism from rivals that the tenor of his campaign has created an unsafe environment at his rallies.

Earlier this month, Trump abruptly canceled an event in Chicago out of safety concerns after hundreds of protesters filled the arena where he was scheduled to speak. In another incident this month, a 78-year-old man was charged with assault and disorderly conduct after he sucker-punched a protester during a rally in Fayetteville, N.C.

Inside the hotel conference center, Trump on Tuesday dismissed Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker as an ineffective leader, arguing that the Badger State governor has been a poor steward of the state's economy.

Trump went after Walker hours after the Wisconsin governor threw his support behind Sen. Ted Cruz for the GOP presidential nomination.

"By the summer of 2015, Wisconsin was facing a \$2.2 billion, two-year budget deficit," Trump said. "That's terrible. ... Twenty thousand fewer people in Wisconsin's labor force than seven years ago even though the population has grown by 100,000."

Polls show that the race for Wisconsin is tight, and a win for Cruz would go a long way in complicating Trump's hopes to win the nomination outright before the party's national convention in Cleveland this summer.

Gov. John Kasich is polling a distant third.

POLICE CHARGE TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER WITH SIMPLE BATTERY

David Jackson  
USA TODAY

Florida police charged Donald Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski with simple battery Tuesday in connection with an incident involving a reporter this month.

Lewandowski, 42, grabbed the left arm of Breitbart reporter Michelle Fields and pulled her back as she tried to ask Trump a question, according to the report filed by the Jupiter Police Department, which released a video of the confrontation.

The motion "cleared a path for Lewandowski to walk past Fields, allowing him to 'catch up' and get closer to Trump, who was walking during this entire incident," the police report said.

Trump defended Lewandowski on Twitter, calling him "a very decent man." He challenged the claims, saying, "Look at tapes — nothing there!"

In another Twitter post, he asked, "Why aren't people looking at this reporter's earliest statement as to what happened, that is before she found out the episode was on tape?"

Fields responded to Trump, also on Twitter: "Because my story never changed. Seriously, just stop lying."



GETTY IMAGES

Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski.

The video released by Jupiter police showed an apparent confrontation between Lewandowski and Fields. The department cited an interview with another reporter who saw what happened.

The police report said "probable cause" existed to charge Lewandowski "in that he did intentionally touch" Fields against her will.

The Trump campaign said in a statement that Lewandowski is "absolutely innocent of this charge" and is "completely confident that he will be exonerated."

Lewandowski had denied the accusation by Fields, saying he did not touch her and describing the reporter as "delusional."

He faces a court date of May 4 in connection with the battery charge, according to the police report.

Fields filed a complaint with Jupiter police a few days after the incident at Trump National Golf Club on March 8, the night Trump scored primary victories in Michigan and other states.

Unions can impose fees on non-members

► CONTINUED FROM 1A

The judicial deadlock allows the California Teachers Association to keep collecting the fees, but it does not have nationwide impact. The 9th Circuit standard applies only to states within its jurisdiction, including Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, as well as California.

The challengers immediately promised to file a petition asking for a rehearing when the court returns to full strength. Five votes are required to win that effort. The court could accept a similar case; the National Right to Work Foundation has five cases in lower courts that seek to strike down mandatory union dues and fees.

"With the death of Justice Scalia, this outcome was not unexpected," Terry Pell, president of the Center for Individual Rights, said. "We believe this case is too significant to let a split decision stand."

It was the second time in two weeks that the justices deadlocked in the wake of Scalia's death but the first major case to emerge in a tie.

Although the court's one-sentence opinion did not break down the vote, oral arguments on the



MARK WILSON, GETTY IMAGES

Pro-union protesters rally in January in front of the Supreme Court, which considered public employees' union fees.

hotly contested labor case made clear that the court's four liberal and four conservative justices were on opposite sides.

The justices could have rescheduled the case for when the court is back to full strength. But that could take a year or more, because Senate Republicans have refused to consider President Obama's nomination of federal appeals court Judge Merrick Garland to replace Scalia.

*Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* signified a major threat to public employee unions

that represent nearly 36% of government workers — far more than the plummeting average for unions overall. Only 11% of Americans belonged to unions in 2014.

If the justices had ruled that the free speech rights of non-members entitled them to contribute nothing to the costs of representation — they already can opt out of financing unions' political activities — more workers probably would have become "free riders." That would have led to a drop in membership and revenue.

"The court saw through the political attacks on the workplace rights of teachers, educators and other public employees. This decision recognizes that stripping public employees of their voices in the workplace is not what our country needs," said Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association.

The lawsuit was brought by the conservative Center for Individual Rights, which, along with the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, has sought to overturn a 1977 Supreme Court decision that allowed public employee unions to collect "fair share" fees from non-members for the costs of collective bargaining.

Rebecca Friedrichs, an elementary school teacher who was the lead plaintiff, spent several years as a union officer and found leaders unwilling to consider her suggestions. She opposed tenure laws that make it harder to fire teachers, seniority rules that ignore merit — even pay increases that lead to larger class sizes.

The high court's 1977 ruling in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* upholding union payments by non-members was unanimous, but the current court had moved away from it in two recent cases.

In 2012, the justices ruled 7-2 that a California public employees union could not impose an additional fee on workers without their assent. In 2014, they ruled 5-4 that Medicaid-funded home-care workers in Illinois did not have to pay dues to public employees unions because they were not typical state workers.

Though neither case overruled *Abood*, the trend appeared clear. Justice Samuel Alito wrote in 2014 for the court's conservative majority that except in rare circumstances, "no person in this country may be compelled to subsidize speech by a third party that he or she does not wish to support."

In the end, Alito needed Scalia's fifth vote, and the leader of the court's conservative bloc died before he could provide it.

Corrections & Clarifications



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# IRAQI ARMY’S MOSUL OFFENSIVE STALLS IN FACE OF FIERCE FIGHTING, DESERTIONS



SAFIN HAMED, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**Iraqi soldiers fire mortar shells as they hold a position on the outskirts of Makhmur, Iraq, on Saturday. The army’s effort to clear Islamic State villages has run into unexpected obstacles.**

## Operation turns into a slog, setting back long-term goals

**Campbell MacDiarmid**  
Special for USA TODAY

**MAKHMOUR, IRAQ** The Iraqi army soldiers smoked nervously as they described their ordeal. Sent to clear a village of Islamic State fighters, they found themselves pinned down by sniper fire. A few hours later, after 10 comrades were wounded, they withdrew.

“We need to get new uniforms,” soldier Ali Basra, 22, said, pointing to torn and blood-spattered fatigues. “But we’ll return to take the village.”

Last Thursday’s mission was supposed to be a simple operation to harden untested Iraqi army soldiers: clear villages held by Islamic State fighters before crossing the Tigris River to retake Qayyara, home to an airfield and oil fields. Their longer-term goal is to clear the way for a push to reclaim the extremist group’s stronghold of Mosul.

Instead, it proved to be a slog because of heavy rains, tougher-than-expected resistance and reports of the low morale that has dogged the Iraqi military ever since the Islamic State swept into Iraq in 2014. The stalled operation underscores just how difficult it will be to dislodge militants from Mosul.

While the U.S.-led coalition supporting the Iraqi forces says the operation is unfolding according to plan, Kurdish fighters question the ability of their Iraqi

army partners to free Mosul.

“After the first day, the Iraqi army was unable to take a single meter of (Islamic State) territory successfully,” Kurdish Col. Mahdi Younis said at an outpost here, 70 miles south of Mosul. “No one should expect the least success from the Iraqi army. They have no will to fight.”

On the desk in Younis’ office lay a pile of cellphones taken from Iraqi soldiers stopped at a checkpoint. “Deserters,” he said.

**“We believe that the Iraqis have performed according to the plan. ... The Iraqi army, we believe, is improving every day.”**

**Col. Steve Warren**, coalition spokesman

Outside in the hallway, 10 men in civilian clothes crouched against a wall. “These are the lions which escaped,” joked Kurdish fighter Mohamed Jasem as he watched over them.

Coalition officials said such criticism is premature. “We believe that the Iraqis have performed according to the plan that they’ve set,” said coalition spokesman Col. Steve Warren. “The Iraqi army, we believe, is improving every day.”

Michael Knights, an authority on the Iraqi military at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, agreed, calling the Iraqi

army’s inauspicious start nothing more than a “wobble.”

“It is worth remembering that the Peshmerga (Kurdish fighters) were completely driven out of this area in the late winter of last year,” Knights said. “Now the Iraqi army is facing the same challenges trying to push forward into the same terrain.”

The Iraqi army “had some tough fighting,” said Knights. “Give it some time for these units to gain their balance.”

When the operation began Thursday, soldiers from the Iraqi army and Sunni tribal fighters advanced to retake three villages held by the Islamic State with air support from the coalition, artillery fire by U.S. Marines and logistical support from the Kurds.

By Saturday, the Iraqi soldiers were bogged down outside the strategic hilltop village of Nass-rash, where suicide bombers killed at least seven soldiers. The next day, rain turned dirt roads into quagmires and cloud cover prevented coalition jets from providing effective support.

Iraqi commanders declined to comment or allow reporters near the front lines, but many Sunni Arab villagers displaced by the fighting were critical of the mostly Shiite Iraqi army.

“The Iraqi army came to take their revenge on us because of our ethnicity,” Sheikh Ahmed Khalaf Hamid said.

“The way they treated us was no better than the way ISIS did,” he said.

# Improved security has made airline hijackings rare

Air travel and political tactics have changed since 9/11

**Bart Jansen**  
USA TODAY

After a rash of politically motivated seizures in the 1960s and 1970s, airline hijacking today is much rarer after security enhancements in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The use of passenger jets as bombs at the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon spurred measures to harden and lock cockpit doors to protect pilots from terrorists.

The 9/11 hijackers who took control of the planes were armed with box cutters, allowed in carry-on bags at the time. Today, such items are no longer permissible in the cabin. Passengers and luggage are now scrutinized more thoroughly for guns and bombs.

The crash of United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania that day demonstrated that passengers would resist hijackers once they realized the terrorists intended to send the jets into buildings. Previously, most hijackers demanded trips to destinations such as Cuba or the Middle East.

The Aviation Safety Network, part of the Flight Safety Foundation that tracks aviation issues, tallied 1,066 hijackings since 1931. Some involved diversions for violent passengers rather than using the planes as weapons.

The latest hijacking involved an Egyptian man who claimed to have a bomb and ordered an EgyptAir flight from Alexandria to Cairo to land in Cyprus on Tuesday. He surrendered after freeing passengers and crew.

The number of hijackings has dwindled recently. About 50 have been reported since Sept. 11, 2001, none in the U.S., according to the Aviation Safety Network.

Perhaps the longest-lasting hijacking occurred in 1968. An El Al flight from Rome to Tel Aviv was commandeered on July 23 by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and ordered to Algeria. The final 12 hostages were freed Aug. 31.

And in November 1971, a man using the name D.B. Cooper hijacked a Northwest Orient flight from Portland to Seattle.

In exchange for \$200,000 and four parachutes, he released passengers in Seattle. Then, flying toward Reno, he jumped out and disappeared forever.

## EgyptAir hijacker arrested in Cyprus

Hostages freed on Cairo-bound flight

**Jacob Wirschafter**  
Special for USA TODAY

**CAIRO** An Egyptian man hijacked a passenger plane and forced it to land at Larnaca airport in Cyprus on Tuesday in an incident that Cyprus’ president said was related to a woman, not terrorism.

Egyptian and Cypriot authorities said the hijacker was arrested, and all the hostages were freed.

The domestic EgyptAir Airbus 320 Flight 181 was hijacked while flying from the coastal city of Alexandria to Cairo. Egypt’s Ministry of Civil Aviation said there were 81 passengers aboard the plane, which took off at about 6:30 a.m. local time.

Most of the passengers were released apparently unharmed while a handful of crew and passengers remained aboard as negotiations continued.

The Cypriot Foreign Ministry said the hijacker didn’t have explosives on him, but was in possession of empty telephone cases.

Egyptian authorities told a news conference that little more than a half hour after takeoff, a passenger confronted the pilot with a bomb threat. The man originally wanted to land in either Turkey or Cyprus, and after some negotiation, they agreed on Larnaca.

Cypriot state media reported that the hijacker’s ex-wife was taken from Larnaca to the airport to talk with the man, who was asking authorities to deliver a four-page letter to her or he would detonate explosives strapped to his body.

**Contributing: Jabeen Bhatti and Janon Fisher in Berlin, Jane Onyanga-Omara in London**



KATIA CHRISTODOULOU, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

**A person believed to be a crewmember climbs from the cockpit of the hijacked EgyptAir jet at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus.**

## IN BRIEF

**N. KOREA FIRES ANOTHER ‘PROJECTILE’ AMID THREATS**

North Korea fired a projectile believed to be a short-range missile Tuesday, the nation’s latest rebuke of sanctions and military exercises being conducted by the United States and South Korea.

The launch comes amid increasing tensions with Pyongyang over repeated missile tests, a nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch this year. The moves prompted new sanctions by the U.S., the United Nations and South Korea.

— John Bacon

**CENSUS: MORE AMERICANS MOVING TO SUN BELT**

The USA’s recession-hit Sun Belt continues to thaw out, new data from the U.S. Census Bureau show, with Americans moving once more to such places as Tampa, Dallas, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Atlanta.

At the same time, big cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Washington and Chicago are watching their overall population

**REMEMBERING VIETNAM 50 YEARS LATER**



MIKE MORONES, MILITARY TIMES

**Color guards prepare for a wreath-laying ceremony Tuesday at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington. The Veteran Affairs and Defense departments had designated the day to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.**

growth slow, even as they attract more immigrants than smaller towns and cities. A few cities, such as Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio, have seen mostly losses for the past 15 years.

“I think the employment opportunities in the Sun Belt are coming around again,” said Brookings Institution demographer William Frey, who closely follows the phenomenon.

Frey analyzed three years of

Census data and found that Sun Belt cities, which took a serious hit from the mortgage crisis and recession, were among the fastest growing in the nation in 2015.

As Millennials get older and start families, they’re giving another area a demographic boost: suburbs.

— Greg Toppo

**PROMINENT QUEBEC FIGURE DIES IN PLANE CRASH**

A prominent figure in Quebec politics for several decades who was en route to his father’s funeral died Tuesday in a plane crash in the Magdalen Islands.

Jean Lapierre, 59, a former member of Parliament, was among seven people killed in the crash, CTV News Channel reported.

The crash occurred in the Illes-de-la-Madeleine off eastern Quebec amid wind and heavy snow, the station said.

Lapierre, who had served as Liberal transport minister, had been working for the TVA network as a political analyst whose commentary filled the airwaves.

— Susan Miller



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703-854-3400  
Published by Gannett, Volume 34, No. 140  
(ISSN 0734-7456)

**Regular U.S. subscription rates:** \$25 per month; \$300 per year. For customer service-related inquiries, please contact Barb Smith, VP/Customer Service, PO BOX 650301, DALLAS TX 75265-0301, or fax 1-800-732-3631.

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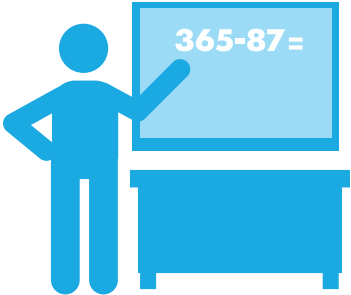
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News from across the USA

**ALABAMA Goodman:** Investigators are trying to determine what caused a medical helicopter to crash near here. The chopper crashed after picking up a patient from the scene of a highway crash.

**ALASKA Anchorage:** The Matanuska-Susitna Borough became the second-most-populated area in the state, attracting about 12,000 new residents in the past five years, KTUU-TV reported. Figures from the U.S. Census Bureau show that the Mat-Su Borough surpassed the number of residents living in the Fairbanks North Star Borough for the first time. The Anchorage municipality remains the most populated region in the state.



**ARIZONA Tuscon:** Officials simplified the test for prospective math teachers to help address a teacher shortage in the state. *The Arizona Daily Star* reported that the State Board of Education will test only applicants' ability to teach foundational-level math courses, not subjects such as trigonometry and calculus.

**ARKANSAS Little Rock:** Officials at Rich Mountain Community College and Pulaski Technical College are considering merging with the University of Arkansas System.

**CALIFORNIA Fontana:** A vendor at the Bel Air Swap Meet was arrested on suspicion of selling digital drives containing pirated music with a retail value of more than \$860,000.

**COLORADO Steamboat Springs:** Family members have identified a 78-year-old man who died after collapsing at Steamboat Ski Area, *Steamboat Today* reported. Nicole Holmes said her father, Gustav "Gus" Herstik, was participating in the NASTAR National Championships when he fell.

**CONNECTICUT Bristol:** Facing child endangerment charges for allegedly bathing naked with a 5-year-old boy, the longtime treasurer of the Connecticut Republicans has resigned. Gary Schaffrick, 52, relinquished his post after a warrant containing the lurid details of his arrest was unsealed, the *Connecticut Post* reported.

**DELAWARE Rehoboth Beach:** Two Virginia men were arrested after they fled police following a bar fight, *The Cape Gazette* reported.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Another baby bald eagle hatched in town, *The Washington Post* reported. This one was at the D.C. police academy. Two eaglets were born to another pair of parents last week at the U.S. National Arboretum.

**FLORIDA Milton:** The *Pensacola News Journal* reported that Godfrey Fagot, 45, is in jail after allegedly going on an alcohol-fueled rampage in which he assaulted two people, stole a vehicle at knifepoint and ran a deputy into a tree during the ensuing pursuit.

**GEORGIA Atlanta:** Martin Luther King Drive soon will get a series of upgrades aimed at transforming the iconic corridor into a source of pride for the city, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported.

**HAWAII Hilo:** Conservationists are celebrating the arrival of the first Hawaiian crow to be hatched at a Big Island breeding facility this season, *Hawaii News Now* reported. Hawaiian crow, or alala, have been extinct in the wild since 2002.

**IDAHO Idaho Falls:** Railway-crossing accidents in Idaho were reduced by nearly half last year, while the number of fatalities went, the *Post Register* reported.

HIGHLIGHT: MICHIGAN

Principals charged in bribery scheme

Tresa Baldas,  
Katrease Stafford  
and Kathleen Gray  
Detroit Free Press

**DETROIT** In its latest crack-down on school corruption in Detroit, the federal government launched a legal bomb Tuesday, targeting 12 current and former Detroit Public School principals, one administrator and a vendor — all charged with running a nearly \$1 million bribery and kickback scheme involving school supplies.

The vendor at the heart of the alleged scheme is Norman Shy, owner of Allstate Sales — which sells school supplies and items including auditorium chairs and raised-line paper. He is charged with paying \$908,500 in kickbacks to at least 12 DPS principals who used him as a school supply vendor in exchange for money.

According to court records, principals steered millions of dollars worth of business to Shy, who in turn would give them money for helping make the deals possible.

The principals would certify and submit phony invoices to DPS for the supplies. Shy got paid, but the goods were rarely delivered, only sometimes “for the purpose of making the transaction paper legitimate.” Federal prosecutors allege



TRESA BALDAS, DETROIT FREE PRESS

**U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade discusses corruption in Detroit Public Schools on Tuesday.**

that Shy ran this 5-year scheme with the help of Clara Flowers, an assistant superintendent of DPS's Office of Specialized Student Services. It was Flowers who introduced Shy to DPS sometime before 2009, when as principal of Henderson Academy she chose Shy as that school's school supply vendor.

According to court documents, Shy maintained a ledger to keep track of how much money he owed Flowers in kickbacks, which came in the form of cash and gift cards. The two regularly met to discuss

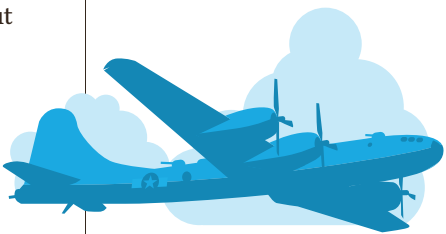
how much Flowers was owed for her favors, and Shy would disguise his payments in a variety of methods such as checks payable to contractors who worked on Flowers' home.

The charges come at a critical time for the Detroit Public School district as the Michigan Legislature is trying to craft a solution for the financially struggling district, which has been under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager since 2009 and has accumulated an operating deficit of \$515 million.

**ILLINOIS Chicago:** The city had its credit rating cut to the lowest investment grade by Fitch Ratings after the state Supreme Court tossed out Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan for dealing with the mounting debt to workers' pension plans, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

**INDIANA Indianapolis:** A discarded cigarette set a fire that destroyed the home an elderly couple have shared for 40 years, *The Indianapolis Star* reported. The man told investigators he tried to put the fire out himself before he and his wife, both in their 70s, escaped and called 911.

**IOWA Des Moines:** A flock of wild turkeys is making life hard for some residents — and their cars. Television station KCCI reported that the turkeys are damaging cars in the neighborhood near East 38th Street and Douglas Avenue.



**KANSAS Wichita:** The Federal Aviation Administration is preparing to begin its airworthiness certification inspection of a World War II bomber. *The Wichita Eagle* reported that volunteers have been putting the finishing touches on the B-29 Superfortress known as “Doc.”

**KENTUCKY Morgantown:** The Butler County sheriff has been cleared of any criminal wrongdoing related to a work stoppage in his office, *The Daily News* reported.

**LOUISIANA New Orleans:** Four more parishes — Jackson, Rapides, Red River and Sabine — were added to a presidential disaster declaration that followed recent historic flooding.

**MAINE Portland:** Entrepreneurs in New England's booming craft beer industry gathered here this week, the *Portland Press Herald* reported.

**MARYLAND Frostburg:** At least four people were injured and taken to a hospital after a porch collapsed at a house party, *WUSA-TV* reported. Police were on the scene immediately because they had been called about a separate loud party across the street from the house where the porch collapsed.

**MASSACHUSETTS Boston:** The MBTA is launching a new performance website this week to make it easier for riders to gauge agen-

cy performance, *The Boston Globe* reported.

**MICHIGAN Saugatuck:** The city decided to invest in a beach cleaning machine in an effort to improve visitors' experience at Oval Beach, *The Holland Sentinel* reported. The city will spend almost \$54,000 on a beach cleaner and an additional \$55,000 on a tractor to pull it.

**MINNESOTA Winona:** The cost to reconstruct and refurbish the bridge that carries traffic across the Mississippi River will likely jump about \$30 million, according to a new estimate by the state DOT. The original bid on the project was \$142 million, the *Post-Bulletin* reported.

**MISSISSIPPI Meadville:** Amite County Northern District Judge Roger Arnold dismissed election fraud charges filed against five Franklin County poll workers in a case that lead to the contesting of the Senate District 37 race, the *Enterprise-Journal* reported.

**MISSOURI Hannibal:** A 19-year-old man was in custody after three people were shot inside a home here, *WGEM-TV* reported.

**MONTANA Great Falls:** A settlement of a lawsuit involving a local wind farm and protections for hawks and eagles was reached, the *Great Falls Tribune* reported. Windfarm owner NaturEner USA and San Diego Gas & Electric reached the agreement.

**NEBRASKA Lincoln:** Jeremiah Picard has opened a commercial worm farm that takes discarded food waste and turns it into a compost. Picard's company, Big Red Worms, has partnered with Culler Middle and Dawes Middle to reduce waste in the city landfill, the *Lincoln Journal Star* reported.

**NEVADA Carson City:** The historic Nevada State Prison here will open for tours starting April 16. The tours will be fundraisers for the Carson City Chamber of Commerce, *The Nevada Appeal* reported.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE Concord:** The city wants its concerns about the Northern Pass project to be treated separately from other communities, the *Concord Monitor* reported.

**NEW JERSEY Collingswood:** This dry town is welcoming its first brewery, *The Courier-Post* reported. Devil's Creek Brewery can operate under a state law allowing microbreweries to operate a small tasting room while enabling Collingswood to remain technically dry.

**NEW MEXICO Santa Fe:** Health officials say flu activity is wide-



spread around the state and is expected to continue for several more weeks. New Mexico has identified 115 influenza and pneumonia-related deaths this flu season. Of those 115 deaths, 13 were flu-related deaths among adults.

**NEW YORK Ithica:** Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit is considering cutting 19 bus routes this summer because of a lack of drivers, *The Ithica Journal* reported. Despite recruitment efforts, TCAT has been unsuccessful bringing up staffing.

**NORTH CAROLINA Louisburg:** Gov. McCrory said the state is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in the deaths of three people in Franklin County.

**NORTH DAKOTA New Town:** The Three Affiliated Tribes is building a multimillion-dollar law enforcement center and tribal court building here that will contain cultural artworks and artifacts, the *Minot Daily News* reported.

**OHIO Cleveland:** Residents can participate in a phone survey about the city's police force as part of a settlement reached with federal officials. The survey is part of a settlement reached between the city and the U.S. Department of Justice in May of last year following an 18-month investigation into Cleveland officers' use of excessive force, Cleveland.com reported.

**OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City:** North-central and northwestern Oklahoma are among the highest risk areas in the country for damage from earthquakes, according to an updated earthquake hazard report released by the U.S. Geological Survey. The report marks the first time the USGS hazard map has included risk from both natural and human-induced earthquakes, *The Oklahoman* reported.

**OREGON Grants Pass:** Police believe they have located a car that drove into the Rogue River, but it would be too dangerous to

remove the vehicle right now, *The Daily Courier* reported.

**PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia:** The SEPTA Wilmington/Newark Line is adding two express trains in the evenings between the four stations in Delaware and Center City starting April 11.

**RHODE ISLAND Bristol:** Roger Williams University launched a student-led Conservation Corps aimed at affecting climate change policy, the *Providence Journal* reported.

**SOUTH CAROLINA Hilton Head Island:** An alligator blamed for killing a family's dog on a golf course has been captured. *The Island Packet* reports that the alligator was caught by Critter Management and would be killed.

**SOUTH DAKOTA Mitchell:** The Prehistoric Indian Village will open its remodeled Boeppen Memorial Museum on Friday. The renovation began in the fall of 2014. It includes a new audiovisual technology wing, exhibits and gift shop.

**TENNESSEE Nashville:** The state House passed a bill to increase penalties for texting while driving in Tennessee. The bill sponsored by Republican Rep. Ron Lollar would make it a moving violation that could require driver education course and four points issued against the driver's license.

**TEXAS Galveston:** A Galveston County jail inmate was recaptured after switching identification wristbands with another prisoner and then being freed on bond.

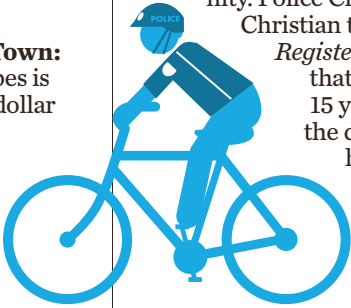
**UTAH Salt Lake City:** State air quality regulators are taking public comments through April 23 on a medical waste burning plant's proposal to relocate to Tooele County.

**VERMONT Burlington:** According to Dos Equis beer commercials featuring Vermonter Jonathan Goldsmith, The Most Interesting Man in the World is so compelling that “people hang on his every word — even the prepositions.” That description should suit Goldsmith well in his new job as spokesman for Make-A-Wish Vermont, *Burlington Free Press* reported.

**VIRGINIA Fredericksburg:** The University of Mary Washington honored Gladys White Jordan, 78, a civil rights activist it once rejected. Jordan, who is African-American, said she wanted to attend the university after graduating high school, but the school did not accept her because of the color of her skin.

**WASHINGTON Seattle:** FBI records indicate that Washington's new background check law blocked 50 gun purchases by felons during its first 14 months in effect, KING-TV reported.

**WEST VIRGINIA Beckley:** Police are turning to bike patrols to improve relations between the department and the community. Police Chief Lonnie Christian told the *Register-Herald* that it had been 15 years since the department had bike patrols.



**WISCONSIN Appleton:** Now known as Rockonsin, the annual statewide competition that gives young garage bands a shot at playing Summerfest has undergone a rebranding. *The Post-Crescent* reported. The competition no longer has a registration fee and groups can be any combination of seventh- through 12th-grade students.

**WYOMING Cheyenne:** The Cheyenne Regional Airport dropped in the rankings for Wyoming commercial passenger traffic, beating only Sheridan and Worland airports in 2015. The Cheyenne airport dropped 79% from 2013 to 2015, to about 4,600 arrivals and departures, the *Wyoming Tribune Eagle* reported. The Jackson Hole Airport topped the list.

Compiled by Tim Wendel 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.





AURORE BELOT, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**Belgian police stand guard during a police action in the Molenbeek-Saint-Jean district of Brussels on March 18, when police arrested five people in counterterrorism raids.**

# ISIL RECRUITING YOUNG BELGIAN MUSLIMS VIA TEXTS

Propaganda messages sent to Twitter as manhunt continues a week after attacks

Paul Ames and Maya Vidon  
Special for USA TODAY

**T**he city struggled to return to normal one week after suicide bombings, amid concerns that suspects remain at large and the Islamic State is recruiting young Belgian Muslims with text messages.

“My brothers, why not join us in the fight against the Westerners, make good choices in your life,” says a French-language message posted on Twitter reportedly sent to young peoples’ phones after the terror attacks at the Brussels airport and a busy subway station.

Jamal Ikazban, a regional lawmaker from the troubled Molenbeek neighborhood, alerted police to the phone messages Monday and posted it to Twitter.

“Our young people are victims of propaganda texts, we have to act to put these recruiters out of action,” he tweeted.

In another example of recruit-

ing young Muslims in largely immigrant neighborhoods such as Molenbeek, French radio ran an interview with a 15-year-old boy who said he’d been tempted to join the Islamic State by a man who approached him in a Brussels mosque.

“He showed me a video with people who said they died as martyrs, actually they went to their deaths laughing, smiling,” the boy told Europe 1 radio. “He told me, ‘if you die, you’ll have paradise.’ ”

The boy, whom the station did not name, said his mother eventually persuaded him not to follow the recruiter to Syria.

Some analysts are not surprised

by these recruitment efforts.

“We have an issue with radicalization here,” said John Duhig, a Brussels-based expert on extremist recruitment at the European Foundation for Democracy. “This is about young people who are preyed upon by radicals, but it’s not just an issue within Belgium, it’s an issue in cities right across Europe.”

He said Belgian efforts to counter radicalization were hindered by the country’s “complicated and bureaucratic system.”

Examples of continued Islamic State recruitment added to the unease in the Belgian capital as police pressed ahead to track

**“My brothers, why not join us in the fight against the Westerners, make good choices in your life.”**

Message posted on Twitter in French

down suspects linked to last week’s bombings.

Belgian authorities are coming under increasing criticism after revelations of apparent blunders before, during and after the attacks.

Turkey had warned about one of the airport bombers. And a prime suspect was set free Monday because of a lack of evidence, despite being charged last week with terrorist killings.

Local media named the man as Fayçal Cheffou and said he was believed to be the “man in the hat” caught on video accompanying two suicide bombers minutes before they blew themselves up at the Brussels Airport. After the man was released, authorities said they were still looking for the man in the video wearing the hat.

Ames reported from Lisbon, Portugal

## Japan passes record-high \$44B budget for defense

U.S. welcomes move, which could help counter Chinese, North Korean aggression

Kirk Spitzer  
USA TODAY

**TOKYO** The Japanese government approved a record defense budget Tuesday as new laws went into effect, easing restraints on Japan’s military and permitting Japanese troops to defend the USA for the first time since World War II.

The \$44 billion defense budget is Japan’s largest and is the fourth straight annual increase under conservative Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

“The security environment surrounding our country is increasingly severe. ... In a world where no one nation can protect themselves by themselves alone, this legislation will help prevent wars,” Abe said after Japan’s parliament passed a record \$853 billion spending plan for the 2016 fiscal year, which begins Friday.

The security law allows Japan’s military to fight alongside U.S. and other allies under foreign attacks under an arrangement called “collective defense.”

Abe is scheduled to meet in Washington this week with President Obama and South Korean President Park Geun Hye to discuss North Korea’s nuclear weapons and long-range missile programs and China’s increasingly assertive territorial claims in the region.

Abe and Park will take part in the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit that will include Obama and leaders from 50 other countries.

The new defense budget will continue a restructuring of Japan’s armed forces — still officially called “self-defense forces” in deference to Japan’s pacifist constitution — that will include increased surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities and an amphibious warfare unit modeled on the U.S. Marine Corps. Abe’s defense agenda has drawn domestic opposition but has been welcomed by the Obama ad-



KIMIMASA MAYAMA, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

**Japan’s Shinzo Abe will be in U.S. this week for the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit.**

**“In a world where no one nation can protect themselves by themselves alone, this legislation will help prevent wars.”**

Prime Minister  
Shinzo Abe

ministration, which looks to Japan for help in countering a resurgent China.

Sunday, Japan opened a radar surveillance base close to a group of disputed islands in the East China Sea, drawing a sharp rebuke from Chinese authorities. The uninhabited islands, called Senkakus in Japan and Diaoyu in China, are administered by Japan but claimed by China.

Abe devoted most of his news conference Tuesday to new or expanded social and welfare programs included in the budget that are designed to help Japan’s rapidly aging population and allow more women into the workforce.

“We will put a brake on the declining birthrate amid an aging population and create a society where everyone can live a meaningful life,” Abe said.

Abe reiterated his goal of ending two decades of economic stagnation and boosting Japan’s annual gross domestic product to \$5.2 trillion by 2020, an increase of about 20%.

“The Japanese economy is on a recovery track, and that should become clearer after the second quarter (of 2016),” said Tomo Kinoshita, chief Japan economist for Nomura Securities, at a news briefing in Tokyo last week.

## Analysts say no formal meeting reflects U.S. unease with Turkey

Oren Dorell  
USA TODAY

When Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan comes to Washington this week, he’ll open an Islamic cultural center in Lanham, Md., attend the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit and meet with Vice President Biden.

One thing he likely won’t do is have a formal meeting with President Obama. White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters Tuesday that Erdogan and Obama are expected to meet informally and “at least have a conversation.” They won’t meet because more than 50 world leaders are in town and Obama’s time is limited, Earnest said.

But analysts detect a snub reflecting U.S. discomfort with Erdogan’s crackdown on free expression in Turkish news media and political opponents.

On security matters, however, Erdogan and Obama are closer. Turkey supports a U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State and backs Obama’s call for new leadership in Syria to end the five-year civil war.

Erdogan was to arrive Tuesday and hopes to meet with Obama during his visit, said Fatih Oke, spokesman for the Turkish Embassy in Washington. Earnest said Monday that Obama and Erdogan met several times in recent months, including at the Paris climate summit in November, and both leaders will attend the nuclear security summit Thursday and Friday.

Erdogan, who has pushed his majority Muslim nation away from its traditionally secular



AP

**Turkish President Erdogan**

**“He believes the Western world is decadent and immoral.”**

Aykan Erdemir, senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies

Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Erdogan’s visit comes weeks after Turkish officials seized the country’s largest newspaper, *Zaman*, which authorities accused of being a mouthpiece for Fethullah Gullen, a former political ally who it now accuses of trying to overthrow the government. The newspaper’s staff was replaced and its content turned overnight from critical of the Erdogan government to complimentary.

State Department spokesman John Kirby described the seizure as “troubling,” and said it was just the latest in a string of seizures of media companies and charges filed against journalists accused of insulting the Turkish leader.



# YOUR SAY

## TECHNOLOGY

# FBI cracks terrorist's iPhone, and Apple loses

FACEBOOK  
FACEBOOK.COM/  
USATODAYOPINION

Just as I suspected it would, the FBI found a way in. The loser is Apple. It is now potentially in the dark about how the FBI got into the phone of terrorist Syed Farook. It lost total control of how its operating system can be compromised.

Gerald Sarroca

The fact that the FBI managed to crack the phone shows that there was no need for the high-handed tactics with Apple in the first place.

Jim Antista

I guess it's true. Anything someone can lock, someone else can figure out how to unlock, whether it's digital or analog. The best that companies can do is try to stay far enough ahead to give us some level of privacy. It doesn't surprise me at all that someone other than Apple figured this out. Seems to me that it would have been in Apple's best interest to keep this in house.

Douglass D Watts

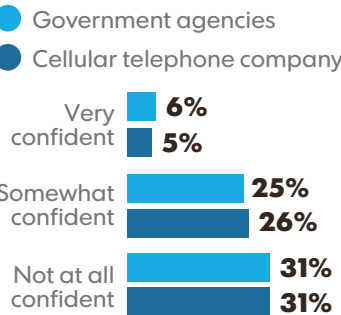
Apple CEO Tim Cook said that this case was not about one phone. He was correct. It is about the continual slaughter of innocent victims. He should sit down with Interpol, the international police organization, and figure out a global solution to terrorists using technology to plot to kill folks without fear of discovery.

Steve Wilburn

Apple should have quietly, secretly complied. It was pretty

### FEW CONFIDENT RECORDS TO REMAIN PRIVATE

Percentage of adults confident in security of records kept by the following:



Source: Pew Research Center survey conducted Aug. 5-Sept. 2, 2014, of 498 adults; margin of error ±5.6 percentage points.  
KARL GELLES, USA TODAY

predictable that the FBI would find some way to crack the code.

John Dyce

LETTERS  
LETTERS@USATODAY.COM

**Now that someone has figured out how to open up that iPhone, will it be like Apple CEO Tim Cook and his legion of supporters made it seem? Will society as we know it end? Will millions of iPhones now be at risk?**

The risk was supposedly so great that Apple refused a government order to open up a terrorist's phone.

Edward Creamean Sr.

Pewaukee, Wis.

TWITTER  
@USATOPINION

We asked followers what they thought of the FBI hacking into the terrorist's iPhone.

I think the market has spoken. The vendor refused to meet the demand, so the FBI found another source. Win, win.

@Wildomar9991

It's not privacy vs. security. It is encryption vs. insecurity. If good guys can hack it, so can bad guys. And they will.

@BorxDMercurial

It's the FBI. If they couldn't hack into a regular iPhone I'd be afraid. It is not a super computer.

@MayorOfOctober

Security is above all. Terrorists have no rights once they take innocent lives.

@cvbalaji3

New non-cloud encryption coming.

@Saraannestes3

No question hacking a terrorist's phone is a reasonable "search and seizure." No privacy right to plot terror.

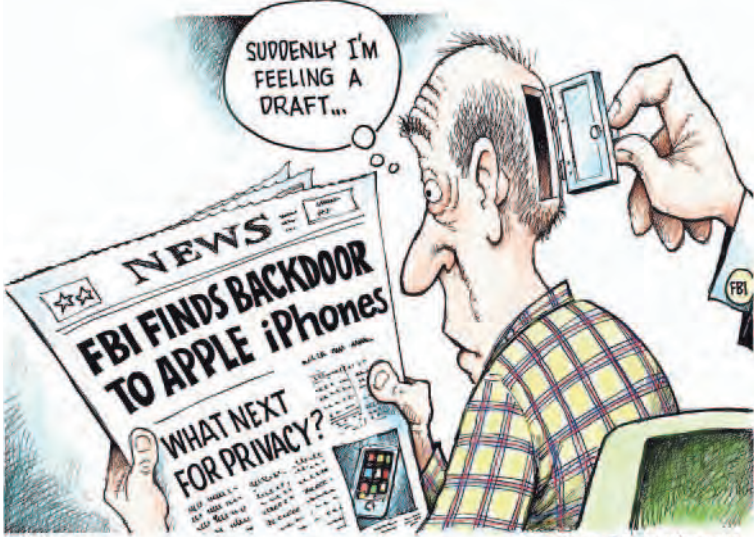
@Moonlitechirp

Do what's needed to capture terrorists undercover.

@ChristineSebek

For more, follow @USATO-  
pinion or #tellusatoday.

## TOON TALK



# Students must learn to toughen up

FACEBOOK  
FACEBOOK.COM/  
USATODAYOPINION

Students at Atlanta's Emory University complained to the administration after "Trump 2016" was written in chalk on sidewalks, stating that they felt "pain." President James Wagner promised to discipline those responsible.

Students have been using chalk on campuses for years. What makes this one so bad? These are spoiled students. Free speech is only free speech if they agree with it. What will these children do if Donald Trump is nominated, object to every car on campus with a Trump sticker? I intensely dislike Trump, but these students need to learn a lot more than math or engineering.

Hugh Marshall

This world seems to encourage bullies and whiners. Trump is a bully and has made millions. Kanye West is as well, and yet people glorify them because

they have money. I agree, the president should have ended the childishness of these "traumatized students." Everyone can support whatever politician they choose. The school president should also hold true to the punishment in place for vandalism. There is video of someone defacing property, and that should not go unchecked.

Melinda McElvaine

When students organize enough to fill a conference room, it's a good idea for the president to listen to grievances and show empathy.

Kate Song

POLICING THE USA  
USATODAY.COM/POLICING

What has your experience with law enforcement been? Share stories of police making a difference in communities. Submit photos and letters to letters@usatoday.com. Send your comments on Twitter using #policingtheusa or call 540-739-2928.

## TO COMMENT

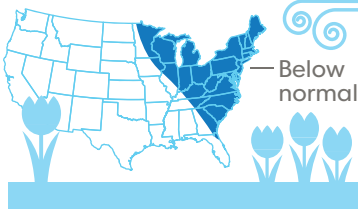
Have Your Say at letters@usatoday.com, facebook.com/usatodayopinion and @USATOpinion on Twitter. All comments are edited for length and clarity. Content submitted to USA TODAY may appear in print, digital or other forms. For letters, include name, address and phone number. Letters may be mailed to 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA, 22108.

# WEATHER

WEATHER ONLINE  
USATODAY.COM

## FRONT & CENTER

Early April looks to be much colder than average in the Midwest and Northeast.



On this date in 1899, in Ruby, Colo., a snowstorm that left a state record of 141 inches ended.

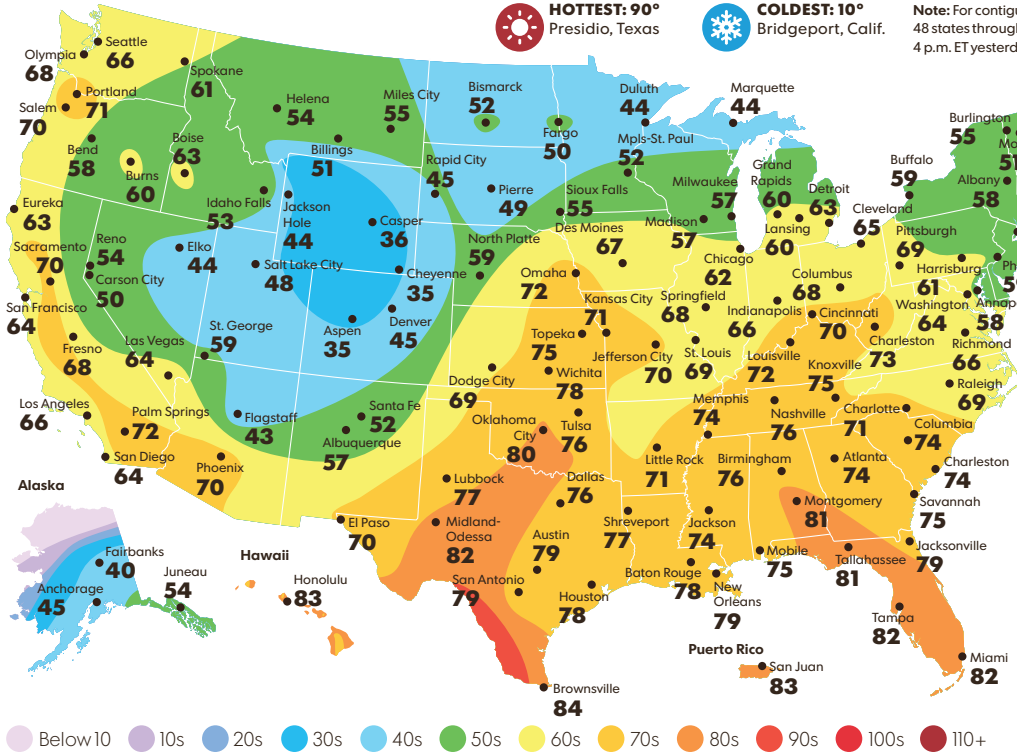
## WHAT STATE HAS THE GREATEST FREQUENCY OF TORNADOES PER SQUARE MILE?

Oklahoma.

Sources: National Weather Service, AccuWeather

Doyle Rice and Karl Gelles  
@USATODAYWeather

## TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



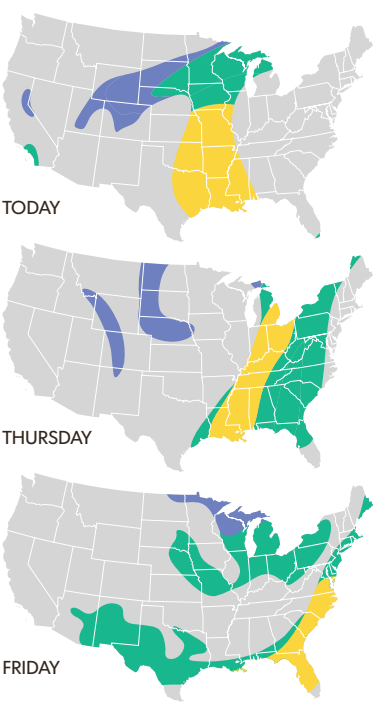
## YESTERDAY'S EXTREMES

HOTTEST: 90°  
Presidio, Texas  
COLDEST: 10°  
Bridgeport, Calif.

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
WED ☀️ Some sun, nice 74/62	WED ☀️ Sunny 60/47	WED ☀️ Sunny 63/42	WED ☀️ Sunlit, nice 71/54	WED ☁️ Showers 62/56	WED ☁️ T-storms 76/55	WED ☁️ Rain, snow 45/25	WED ☁️ Warmer 63/55	WED ☀️ Mostly sunny 83/67	WED ☁️ T-storms 78/66	WED ☁️ Partly sunny 64/49	WED ☁️ Partly sunny 66/49
THU ☁️ T-storms 71/63	THU ☁️ Shower, t-storm 71/61	THU ☁️ Warmer 64/54	THU ☁️ P.M. t-storms 70/63	THU ☁️ Rain 62/34	THU ☁️ Mostly sunny 71/47	THU ☁️ Shower 42/21	THU ☁️ Rain, windy 66/41	THU ☁️ Partly sunny 82/69	THU ☁️ T-storm 79/56	THU ☀️ Sunny 72/54	THU ☀️ Mostly sunny 70/52
FRI ☁️ Spotty showers 76/53	FRI ☁️ A little rain 71/47	FRI ☁️ Rain, breezy 61/43	FRI ☁️ A little rain 78/54	FRI ☁️ Showers 49/32	FRI ☁️ Partly sunny 65/43	FRI ☁️ Partly sunny 48/28	FRI ☁️ Cooler 52/34	FRI ☁️ Partly sunny 84/71	FRI ☁️ Shower 77/51	FRI ☀️ Sunny, nice 75/57	FRI ☀️ Sunny, nice 75/54
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good
MIAMI	MPLS-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON
WED ☁️ T-storm 82/73	WED ☁️ Rain, cooler 52/38	WED ☁️ Heavy t-storms 79/70	WED ☁️ Plenty of sun 53/46	WED ☁️ A.P.M. t-storm 82/66	WED ☁️ Sunny 59/45	WED ☁️ Some sun, cool 70/52	WED ☁️ Rain, snow 48/35	WED ☁️ Mostly cloudy 64/54	WED ☁️ Clouds to sun 64/50	WED ☁️ Sunny, nice 66/46	WED ☁️ Plenty of sun 64/51
THU ☁️ Shower 84/76	THU ☁️ Shower 47/33	THU ☁️ Rain 80/67	THU ☁️ A.P.M. shower 69/57	THU ☁️ A.P.M. t-storm 86/69	THU ☁️ A little rain 71/60	THU ☁️ Sunny, cool 76/54	THU ☁️ Partly sunny 53/36	THU ☁️ Partly sunny 66/57	THU ☁️ Sunny 65/50	THU ☁️ Sunny, mild 68/49	THU ☁️ A.P.M. t-storm 72/63
FRI ☁️ Partly sunny 88/77	FRI ☁️ Some sun, cold 43/29	FRI ☁️ Rain 77/59	FRI ☁️ Mild with rain 68/45	FRI ☁️ A.P.M. t-storm 89/69	FRI ☁️ Rain, breezy 72/48	FRI ☁️ Plenty of sun 80/58	FRI ☁️ Mostly sunny 58/37	FRI ☁️ Sunny 67/58	FRI ☁️ Mostly sunny 65/50	FRI ☁️ Sunny, mild 69/49	FRI ☁️ A little rain 72/50
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	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	THU
Akron, Ohio	65/53s	67/44r
Albany, N.Y.	58/42s	68/59r
Albuquerque	57/30s	60/34pc
Allentown, Pa.	59/40s	70/58r
Amarillo, Texas	70/33s	63/33s
Anaheim, Calif.	64/46c	70/50s
Anchorage, Alaska	45/33r	53/38pc
Aspen, Colo.	35/16sh	39/17sf
Atlantic City, N.J.	53/46s	64/56pc
Augusta, Ga.	75/56s	78/65f
Austin, Texas	79/61t	78/51pc
Bakersfield, Calif.	69/46pc	75/50s
Baton Rouge, La.	78/67r	78/63f
Billings, Mont.	51/35pc	48/32c
Birmingham, Ala.	76/65t	76/60r
Bismarck, N.D.	52/32c	47/21sf
Boise, Idaho	63/39pc	65/42s
Buffalo, N.Y.	59/50pc	63/44r
Burlington, Vt.	55/44pc	66/57r
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	61/46t	52/34c
Charleston, S.C.	74/61s	80/68t
Charleston, W.Va.	73/55s	71/54r
Cheyenne, Wyo.	35/25sn	34/17sf

	TODAY	THU
Cincinnati	70/57pc	70/47r
Cleveland	65/54pc	67/42r
Colorado Springs	47/24w	45/19sf
Columbia, S.C.	74/57r	79/67r
Columbus, Ohio	68/55pc	69/47r
Corpus Christi, Texas	81/72pc	89/67pc
Dayton, Ohio	68/56pc	68/44r
Daytona Beach, Fla.	79/66t	84/68t
Des Moines, Iowa	67/46t	55/38c
Duluth, Minn.	44/32r	41/28c
Durham, N.C.	69/51s	74/62t
El Paso, Texas	70/45w	69/43pc
Fairbanks, Alaska	40/30sn	45/25r
Flagstaff, Ariz.	43/17pc	51/24pc
Fargo, N.D.	50/32r	49/26c
Fort Myers, Fla.	82/68t	86/71pc
Fort Smith, Ark.	73/54t	68/41s
Fort Wayne, Ind.	64/55pc	66/38r
Fresno, Calif.	68/46pc	74/49s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	60/56c	61/34r
Green Bay, Wis.	50/38r	44/29sh
Greensboro, N.C.	69/52s	70/62t
Greenville, S.C.	70/55s	68/62r
Harrisburg, Pa.	61/46s	70/58r

	TODAY	THU
Hartford, Conn.	57/39s	67/54pc
Indianapolis	66/58pc	70/42r
Islip, N.Y.	50/41s	61/53pc
Jackson, Miss.	74/65t	78/56t
Jacksonville, Fla.	79/62pc	85/66t
Jefferson City, Mo.	70/54t	62/40pc
Kansas City	71/45t	60/38pc
Key West, Fla.	81/75pc	83/76pc
Knoxville, Tenn.	75/56pc	72/57r
Laredo, Texas	90/67pc	94/64s
Lexington, Ky.	73/58pc	73/50r
Lincoln, Neb.	72/40t	57/33c
Little Rock, Ark.	71/62t	77/47r
Long Beach, Calif.	64/49pc	68/53s
Louisville, Ky.	72/60pc	76/50r
Lubbock, Texas	77/38s	70/38s
Madison, Wis.	57/50sh	54/32sh
Manchester, N.H.	57/43s	69/59pc
Memphis, Tenn.	74/65t	78/50r
Milwaukee	55/35sh	56/33sh
Mobile, Ala.	75/67t	71/66r
Modesto, Calif.	71/46pc	75/49s
Montgomery, Ala.	81/66t	77/65r
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	70/59s	76/67t

	TODAY	THU
Nags Head, N.C.	60/51s	71/64t
Nashville, Tenn.	76/61c	74/52r
Newark, N.J.	57/44s	71/59pc
New Haven, Conn.	51/41s	61/53pc
Norfolk, Va.	61/51s	75/63t
Oakland, Calif.	65/49pc	66/50s
Oklahoma City	80/45t	69/41s
Omaha, Neb.	72/42t	56/34c
Palm Springs, Calif.	72/51pc	80/56s
Pensacola, Fla.	73/67t	77/68r
Pierre, S.D.	49/29r	44/24sf
Pittsburgh	69/54s	69/52r
Portland, Maine	51/40s	61/53pc
Portland, Ore.	71/45t	72/49s
Providence, R.I.	55/39s	65/54pc
Raleigh, N.C.	69/51s	76/63t
Rapid City, S.D.	45/30sn	43/37s
Reno, Nev.	54/33sf	63/37s
Richmond, Va.	66/48s	75/61t
Rochester, N.Y.	62/49pc	64/48r
Sacramento, Calif.	70/45pc	73/58pc
San Antonio	79/64t	83/55s
San Jose, Calif.	69/47s	70/48s
Santa Fe, N.M.	52/22s	56/27pc

	TODAY	THU
Sarasota, Fla.	82/68t	84/71pc
Savannah, Ga.	75/62pc	82/67r
Scottsdale, Ariz.	67/48pc	73/51s
Shreveport, La.	77/66t	77/50t
Sioux Falls, S.D.	55/33s	45/28c
South Bend, Ind.	62/56pc	64/34r
Spokane, Wash.	61/40s	63/43s
Springfield, Mo.	69/51t	62/38pc
Springfield, Ill.	68/59sh	66/40w
St. Louis	69/61t	69/44pc
St. Petersburg, Fla.	84/69t	84/71t
Syracuse, N.Y.	58/46pc	65/52r
Tallahassee, Fla.	81/64s	80/70t
Tampa, Fla.	82/69t	84/72t
Toledo, Ohio	63/55pc	66/41r
Topeka, Kan.	75/46t	64/38pc
Tucson, Ariz.	76/43pc	69/45s
Tupelo, Miss.	67/63t	76/52r
Tulsa, Okla.	76/49r	68/42s
Virginia Beach, Va.	59/53s	74/66t
Wichita, Kan.	78/43t	66/38pc
Wilmington, Del.	58/43s	69/59r
Winston-Salem, N.C.	69/53s	70/63t
Worcester, Mass.	54/39s	63/52pc

## WORLD CITIES

	TODAY	THU
Beijing	71/35s	78/56pc
Buenos Aires	83/63s	83/64pc
Cancun, Mexico	87/76pc	87/77s
Dubai, UAE	93/75c	86/70c
Frankfurt	52/44c	59/42r
Hong Kong	74/66c	75/66pc
Istanbul	60/51pc	63/52s
Jerusalem	60/43s	65/50s
Johannesburg	82/56s	83/57s
London	54/40pc	54/36pc
Mexico City	83/51s	84/51s
Montreal	51/40pc	59/53r
Moscow	45/35pc	44/36sh
Mumbai, India	92/78h	94/81h
Paris	51/44r	47/39r
Rio de Janeiro	88/76t	88/76c
Rome	65/53s	70/57pc
Seoul	60/37s	66/39h
Singapore	91/81pc	92/80pc
Sydney	76/63t	75/65s
Toronto	53/46pc	59/41r
Tokyo	66/52pc	63/51pc



OPINION

TODAY'S DEBATE 'RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN'

Our view

French fine on Google attacks principles of free speech

Thanks to the First Amendment, Congress can pass no law abridging Americans' rights of free speech.

Apparently, France can, or at least it thinks it can.

The French government has long been at war with Google over "right to be forgotten" laws that allow individuals to demand that certain information — embarrassing photos or past criminal convictions, for example — be rendered impossible to find through Internet searches. Last week, a French regulatory commission went one step further by fining Google for not adequately enforcing these laws.

What, precisely, had Google done wrong? It had started by hiring hundreds of lawyers and technicians to devise a costly but effective process for dealing with a complex legal situation. In just 22 months, it has processed 409,591 right-to-be-forgotten requests pertaining to more than 1.4 million websites. In just under 43% of the cases, it found the request had merit, according to European law, and severed searchable links to the websites in question.

That was not enough in the eyes of the French commission, because Google's actions applied only on a country-by-country basis. A search conducted from a French IP address on a person who had successfully petitioned



MARK LENNIHAN, AP

Google in France would come up dry. But the same search conducted from the USA, New Zealand, Botswana or just about anywhere else could still produce a link to the material in question.

According to Google, 26 European Internet regulatory bodies have found the company's actions sufficient. France's National Commission for Computing and Liberties, however, is of the opinion that the entire world should be denied access to information about someone based on a decision in one country.

It's hard to imagine a more direct assault on American principles of free speech. Google is by far the world's most widely used news and reference tool. It pro-

vides the conduits through which billions of people gain access to information every day.

One way to think of Google is as an enormous global newspaper with an exceptionally good index. Now consider France's demand: Not only must Google create a special edition for France with limited content, but that French edition must be all that readers worldwide can be allowed to read. This is breathtaking in its overreach.

The concept of a right to be forgotten is not without merit. It is designed to allow people to expunge embarrassing or harmful information, in some cases for good reason, such as when a former spouse or lover posts nude pictures as an act of malice. It also has roots in the pre-Internet era. In many European countries, criminal convictions have a kind of expiration date after which government records are sealed and the transgression is forgotten. In England, for instance, convictions are said to be "spent" after a certain number of years.

But the right to be forgotten can quickly run afoul of free speech. And when nations have divergent views on how to reconcile the two, the only solutions are on a country-by-country basis. Google can be made to comply with laws where they exist. It should not be forced to obey them where they do not.

Opposing view

Privacy piñata not a serious analysis

Joe McNamee

Last year, the European Union's highest court ruled that Google must modify its search results when a search on a person's name produces results that are out of date, excessive or no longer relevant. The information remains online, but the person can ask that the results no longer be linked to their name.

Since then, Google has accepted about 40% of complaints and rejected about 60%. A person can appeal Google's rejection to his national authority, but fewer than 2% of people complain and a minority of those appeals are upheld.

So what should Google do when it agrees with a complainant? Google argues that such results should be delinked from the complainant's name on all its European domains (google.fr, etc.), but not on the global Google.com.

Except that's not quite what Google does in practice. If the complaint is about revenge porn, for example, Google removes that entirely from its global index. If the complaint is about a mugshot website, Google pushes the site down the search results in all Google searches. Similarly, when it

gets allegations of U.S. copyright infringements, it drops the Web address from its search globally. France has asked Google to follow this approach for the European complaints it has upheld, removing search results globally.

In reality, Google doesn't want bad results showing up on Google.com, either (as proven by its approach to revenge porn). But Google sees this issue as a stick with which to beat Europe's data protection laws. The whole "debate" is more of a privacy piñata than a serious analysis of privacy and online regulation.

Google is not completely wrong, and demands for global delisting are not completely right. But Google should not be the arbiter, with no checks and balances. In some cases, it may be reasonable to restrict the correction to Google's EU searches. Google correctly questions global application of EU law, but it does so while exporting U.S. copyright law.

Google has been so incoherent and inconsistent on the subject that meaningful debate is almost impossible.

*Joe McNamee is executive director of EDRI, a digital rights and privacy organization based in Brussels.*

Mira Rapp-Hooper

The contours of Donald Trump's foreign policy are becoming disturbingly clear. Newspapers have labeled his thinking on international affairs "isolationist" and "unabashedly non-interventionist," yet those terms fail to capture the more alarming elements of his philosophy.

Trump apparently is prepared to abandon the United States' most important alliances, even at the risk of those countries acquiring nuclear weapons. In other words, he is prepared to end the decades-long U.S. policy of extended deterrence — protecting close partners against nuclear attack and thereby limiting the spread of nuclear weapons. Moreover, the presidential candidate gives little indication that he understands the implications of these radical policies for global security and stability.

One theme running through Trump's foreign policy is his disdain for U.S. alliances and allies. He has called U.S. treaties "one-sided," labeled NATO "obsolete" and repeatedly called on South Korea and Japan to contribute more to U.S. basing costs overseas. Trump appeared surprised in a *Washington Post* interview to learn that allies pay a substantial portion of U.S. overseas basing costs, with none more supportive than Japan. Yet he also seemed unmoved by this information, insisting that allies should pay no less than a full 100% of U.S. overseas costs.

ARMS RACE

A refusal to do so would force a President Trump to begin withdrawing troops, he told *The New York Times*. When informed this might cause South Korea and Japan to acquire nuclear weapons, Trump demonstrated a flippant comfort, stating that the U.S. "may very well be better off."

It hardly bears noting that abandoning U.S. treaty commitments and acquiescing to nuclear proliferation are completely at odds with decades of U.S. foreign policy. In the darkest days of World War II, American civilian and military leaders identified the merits of establishing a network of overseas bases to allow the United States to address foreign military threats before they could reach the homeland.

Furthermore, since after its own use of nuclear weapons against Japan, the U.S. opposes any countries developing nuclear weapons, on the theory that more arsenals would lead to a more dangerous world, no matter who owned the weapons.

TRUMP'S VIEWS GO NUCLEAR

He'd ditch U.S. policies that have kept arms races in check for decades



AHN YOUNG-JOON, AP

South Korean television in Seoul shows footage on March 18 of a missile launch by North Korea.

Political science studies show that countries under a major power's "nuclear umbrella" are far less likely to seek their own weapons. The converse holds true: When allies grow concerned about whether their security patron will make good on treaty promises, they are more likely to seek an independent arsenal. When the U.S. began a major troop withdrawal from Asia during the Nixon administration, Japan and South Korea considered going nuclear.

'UNPREDICTABLE' POLICY

To understand why Trump's views on extended deterrence are terrifying, one must examine his other positions on nuclear policy and strategy. In a December debate, he appeared to be unfamiliar with the nuclear triad, made up of intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and bombers that can deliver nuclear weapons to their targets. Just days ago, he refused to rule out using nuclear weapons against the Islamic State terrorist group.

In one of the many national security non sequiturs in his *Times* interview, Trump commented that no one could be sure whether the U.S. nuclear arsenal even worked. This was presumably an

allusion to the fact that America observes a de facto moratorium on nuclear testing, but it is contrary to all scientific and technical evidence and a wildly misleading comment at best.

Perhaps most unsettling, Trump repeatedly insists that the United States must be more "unpredictable" in its national security policy. His naiveté about the world's most dangerous weapons leads one to infer that he might not have considered the fact that a nuclear Japan and South Korea could lead to dangerous arms races with China and North Korea, proliferation by other states in East Asia and regional instability that invites major crises.

Trump's foreign policy interviews might appear to be itinerant ramblings, but on at least one issue, he is crystal clear: He is absolutely not sold on the role that alliances and extended deterrence have played in U.S. global security policy since 1945. Coupled with his erratic nuclear policy positions, this prospective commander in chief's views are not just irresponsible: They are cataclysmically dangerous.

*Mira Rapp-Hooper is a senior fellow with the Asia-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security.*

GOP blame game won't win back voters

Kirsten Powers

Who is to blame for the unraveling of the Republican Party?

If you listen to establishment gurus, you'd be led to believe that the primary voter revolt was birthed by the governance of President Obama, creating fertile ground for the emergence of one Donald Trump. This fairy tale casts Trump as the villain who has swept in to capitalize on voter frustration. The villain must be stopped or the GOP will be destroyed. So we are told.

The old saw that you have to acknowledge you have a problem to solve the problem applies here. What the GOP "leaders" refuse to accept is that Trump is not the problem. They are.

In exit polls, high percentages of GOP voters registered displeasure with their leadership. In Tennessee, 58% said they felt "betrayed" by their leaders, as did 47% in New Hampshire, 52% in South Carolina and 54% in Ohio.

Republican voters who feel betrayed have been most likely to vote for Trump. Trump has been a particular draw to white working-class voters who feel left behind economically.

The fact that so many establishment types continue to blame a Democratic president for GOP primary voters disliking their own party leadership demonstrates how disconnected from reality they are, how incapable of self-examination they seem to be.

This is the same detachment from reality that led them to believe wholeheartedly in 2012 that Obama would never win re-election. That led many to expect a Mitt Romney victory up to the last minute, despite all evidence

pointing to the contrary.

Or more recently, that led them to insist long after it was reasonable that Trump would be slain by Marco Rubio even as Rubio lost state after state.

We know that the GOP establishment is a long way from accurately diagnosing its problem because the ostensible solution it has devised is so patently self-destructive. These people are going to save the Republican Party by destroying the Republican Party. The plan is simple: Stop the person with the most votes from getting the GOP nomination through a contested convention.

What could go wrong? Whatever damage the Republican mandarins believe Trump will cause the GOP brand, it pales in comparison with party bigwigs overruling the will of the people to install their choice for nominee. They would be engaging in exactly the kind of behavior that led voters to be drawn to an anti-establishment candidate like Trump in the first place.

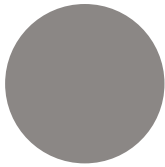
Trump voters would be understandably enraged, and it's hard to imagine they would turn out for whoever was installed as the Republican standard-bearer for the general election.

Moreover, some portion of non-Trump voters would likely recoil at the Republican Party's heavy-handedness.

A more useful response would be for the GOP to take a look in the mirror, stop blaming others and own up to the facts.

Sorry, Republican Party: You built this.

*Kirsten Powers writes often for USA TODAY and is author of The Silencing: How the Left is Killing Free Speech.*



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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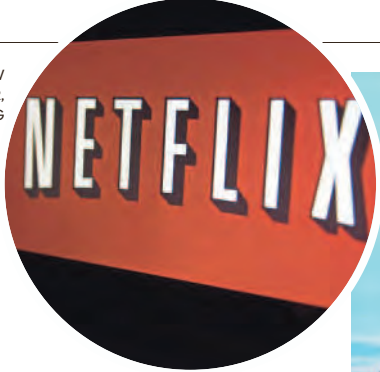
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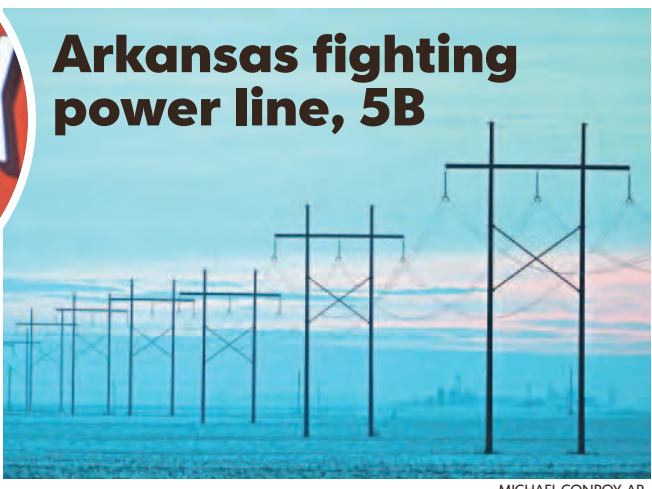


# USA TODAY MONEY™

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MICHAEL CONROY, AP

# Yellen rides to the rescue of markets

## Fed chair puts to rest loose talk of negative interest rates

Paul Davidson  
USA TODAY

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen signaled in no uncertain terms Tuesday that she's in control of U.S. interest rate policy, adopting a decidedly pro-growth stance that pushed stocks to their high-water mark for the year. The Dow Jones industrial average, which had been down 100 points early, bounced back to end the day up 98 points — and nearly 13% from its 2016 low — as investors took comfort from Yellen's assurance that the Fed will “pro-

ceed cautiously” as it considers rate hikes in coming months. Markets had been jittery since two key Fed officials said last week the central bank could raise its benchmark interest rate as early as April after financial markets settled down recently following a sell-off early in the year. But Yellen returned to the message she and the Fed expressed after its March meeting: Policymakers are still worried about weakness overseas and its effect on markets, as well as persistently low inflation. That almost certainly means no April hike, and June is a question mark. “Given the risks to the outlook, I consider it appropriate for the (Fed’s policymaking committee) to proceed cautiously in adjusting policy,” Yellen said in a speech to



SHAWN THEW, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY  
**Janet Yellen cast the Fed as the hero of a defiant economy.**

the Economic Club of New York. “We see the chair’s comments today as an effort to exert control over the message, and in doing so, filled expectations for policy rate hikes in a decidedly dovish direction,” Barclays economist Michael Gapen wrote to clients. Yellen acknowledged that stocks and oil prices have re-

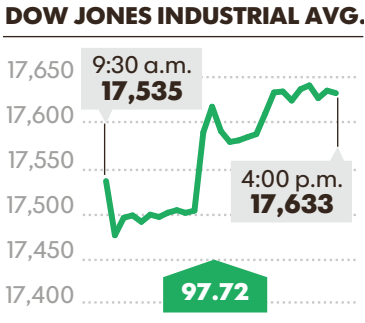
bounded, the dollar has fallen, and corporate borrowing costs have stabilized, all positives for the economy. But she said she’s still worried about a rocky global economy, particularly the risks posed by China’s slowdown, noting that could further disrupt markets. And she said an oil industry slump that has been eased by rising prices could intensify again while the dollar and corporate credit costs rise anew. In other words, Yellen doesn’t want to react to such a scenario but cushion the potential blow. “Ideally, we want to get ahead of that development,” she said. She added that risks of raising rates too soon and derailing growth outweigh the hazards of the Fed needing to catch up to a sizzling economy, largely because

policymakers have fewer weapons to jolt growth with its benchmark rate still near zero. The Fed raised the rate in December for the first time in nine years. It was noteworthy that Yellen said the Fed has tools if the economy falters, such as buying bonds to push down long-term rates. But she failed to cite negative rates, which are being used by several countries to jolt growth. Yellen even cast the Fed as the hero of an economy that has defied the overseas troubles. She said they’ve been offset by investors’ belief the Fed will raise rates more gradually, pushing down long-term rates. The Fed’s March forecasts showed policymakers expect two rate hikes this year, down from an estimate in December of four.

### MONEYLINE

**WE’RE HAPPIER! CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REBOUNDS**  
Consumer confidence bounced back in March as stocks rallied and job growth surged. A closely watched index of Americans’ perceptions of the economy and labor market rose to 96.2 from an upwardly revised 94 in February, the Conference Board said Tuesday. The March report was the first to gauge consumer sentiment since the market rally that began in early February has driven up the Dow Jones industrial average about 11%. Also, payroll growth rebounded in February as employers added 242,000 jobs, up from a disappointing 172,000 in January.

**BURGER KING DEBUTS WHOPPER WITH A RED BUN**  
Burger King is taking another foray into colored buns with the launch of its “angriest Whopper sandwich,” which comes on a red bun. The fast-food giant will offer the burger, which has hot sauce baked into its “fiery red bun,” for a limited time at some restaurants. The sandwich is a “new take” on the chain’s “angry Whopper sandwich, Burger King said in a statement. The company decided to launch the red bun Whopper following the “successful launch” of the A.I. Halloween Whopper on a black bun, Axel Schwan, Burger King’s global chief marketing officer, said in a statement.



TUESDAY MARKETS		
INDEX	CLOSE	CHG
Nasdaq composite	4846.62	▲ 4.65
S&P 500	2055.01	▲ 17.96
T-note, 10-year yield	1.80%	▼ 0.09
Oil, light sweet crude	\$38.29	▼ 1.08
Euro (dollars per euro)	\$1.1295	▲ 0.0095
Yen per dollar	112.75	▼ 0.53

SOURCES: USA TODAY RESEARCH, MARKETWATCH.COM  
► USA MARKETS, 4B

### USA SNAPSHOTS®

## Unprotected tax filing

Nearly **1 in 5** have not ensured that their Wi-Fi network is password-protected when filing online.

Source: IDT911 survey of 1,500 adults  
JAE YANG AND JANET LOEHRKE, USA TODAY

# APPLE WINS FBI BATTLE, BUT WAR NOT OVER YET



**“It heightens the awareness of consumers who have believed for years that iPhones are completely secure.”**

Norman Guadagno  
of Carbonite

FBI’s ability to break into iPhone raises doubts about Apple’s security

Jon Swartz  
USA TODAY

**SAN FRANCISCO** The good news: Apple vanquished the FBI in its bid to crack the iPhone of a terrorist. The bad news: The FBI cracked that phone without the company’s cooperation, raising questions about the security of its most important product. “There will be fallout,” says Norman Guadagno, chief evangelist at cloud data-protection company Carbonite. “It heightens the awareness of consumers who have believed for years that iPhones are completely secure. Nothing is completely secure.” On Monday, the FBI dropped its legal effort requiring Apple to bypass a security feature on its smartphones to unlock a device used by one of the killers in the shootings in San Bernardino, Calif., saying it was able to access the phone’s data without Apple’s help. “This case should never have been brought,” said Apple in a statement. Apple may have won its sharp-elbowed skirmish with the FBI,

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

## SunEdison shares collapse for 2nd day

Nathan Bomey  
@NathanBomey  
USA TODAY

Shares of renewable power firm SunEdison plummeted 55% Tuesday as it teetered on the edge of bankruptcy amid swirling questions over its accounting practices and slumping oil prices. SunEdison faces a “substantial risk” of bankruptcy, according to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing by a subsidiary, TerraForm Global. SunEdison develops, installs and runs alternative energy projects. The warning comes about two weeks after SunEdison delayed its annual report following concerns that the company had misreported certain aspects of its financial performance. Additional signs of trouble emerged in early March when the ailing company’s proposed acquisition of rooftop solar company Vivint collapsed when SunEdison

**SunEdison faces an SEC investigation over the possibility that it exaggerated its cash position.**

couldn’t line up the necessary financing. SunEdison shares (SUNE) plummeted 69 cents, or 55%, to close at 57 cents a share. A spokesman declined to comment. Analysts say the Maryland Heights, Mo.-based company’s biggest issue is having enough cash. “The primary reason that (SunEdison) is facing a precarious situation is due to a lack of liquidity,” burdened by poor cash flow and high debt levels, Reorg Research distressed debt analyst Graham Meharg said in an email. The *Wall Street Journal* also reported Tuesday that SunEdison faces an SEC investigation over the possibility that it had exaggerated its cash position.

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# No, thanks: 10 of the worst new vehicles

‘Consumer Reports’ picks losers based on scores, satisfaction

Chris Woodyard  
USA TODAY

There’s no shortage of worthy new cars for buyers’ consideration, but figuring out the worst of the lot is another matter. *Consumer Reports* tackled the challenge, looking for the lowest-rated car in 10 vehicle categories. In this case, the low score wasn’t just about the car’s projected propensity to break down. Rather, the magazine says it chose its losers based on a variety of factors — road-test score, projected reliability, owner satisfaction and safety. While there is no shortage of

publications rating cars, *Consumer Reports* commands special attention in the auto industry because it buys all the cars it tests from dealerships just like a typical customer, rather than borrowing them from automakers, as a way of preserving its independence. Of course, some of the underperforming models make up for their unimpressiveness with a lower price tag. *Consumer Reports* notes some of them are due to be replaced soon with newer models that could perform better. For now, though, here’s the list and a synopsis of what the magazine had to say about the models it chose: **► Lowest-rated subcompact: Mitsubishi Mirage.** Cheap to buy and good gas mileage, but it’s “tiny, tinny” and the three-cylinder engine vibrates.



CHRIS WOODYARD, USA TODAY

The new Mercedes-Benz CLA is presented to the world, but *Consumer Reports* isn’t a fan. It called it cramped and noisy.

**► Lowest-rated compact: Fiat 500L.** Worst reliability of any new car and a “dismal” road-test score. **► Lowest-rated midsize sedan: Chrysler 200.** “Mediocre,”

with clumsy handling and poor on the road. **► Lowest-rated compact luxury car: Mercedes-Benz CLA250.** Stiff ride, noisy, cramped.

**► Lowest-rated midsize luxury car: Lincoln MKS.** Outdated and outclassed. **► Lowest-rated family SUV: Dodge Journey.** V-6 engine had poor gas mileage. **► Lowest-rated luxury compact SUV: Land Rover Discovery Sport.** Too little or too much acceleration, and a balky transmission. **► Lowest-rated large luxury SUV: Cadillac Escalade.** Stiff ride, not that roomy. Cue infotainment is “confounding.” **► Lowest-rated minivan: Chrysler Town & Country.** Poor gas mileage and didn’t fare well in the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety’s small overlap crash tests. **► Lowest-rated green car: Mitsubishi i-MiEV.** A “half-step up from a golf cart,” slow and clumsy.

# WHY INVESTORS LOVE CEOs WHO ARE ALSO FOUNDERS

Companies post vigorous returns with such invested leaders

Matt Krantz  
USA TODAY

Online music service Pandora is looking to tap the power of its founder CEO — for good reason. Pandora, a company that allows consumers to stream music over the Internet, Monday named its founder Tim Westergren as CEO. The company, whether intentionally or not, seems to be tapping into a successful corporate trend: Companies managed by their founders have had the edge. The 19 companies in the Standard & Poor’s 500 index with CEOs who also are listed as founders or co-founders, including social media giant Facebook, online video service Netflix and sports apparel maker Under Armour, on average have gained 97.5% the past three years, according to a USA TODAY analysis of data from S&P Global Market Intelligence. That performance absolutely blows away the 31% gain by the S&P 500.

“There’s a connection between a company (with a founder as CEO) and the motivation to build a name and a reputation, and also make money.”

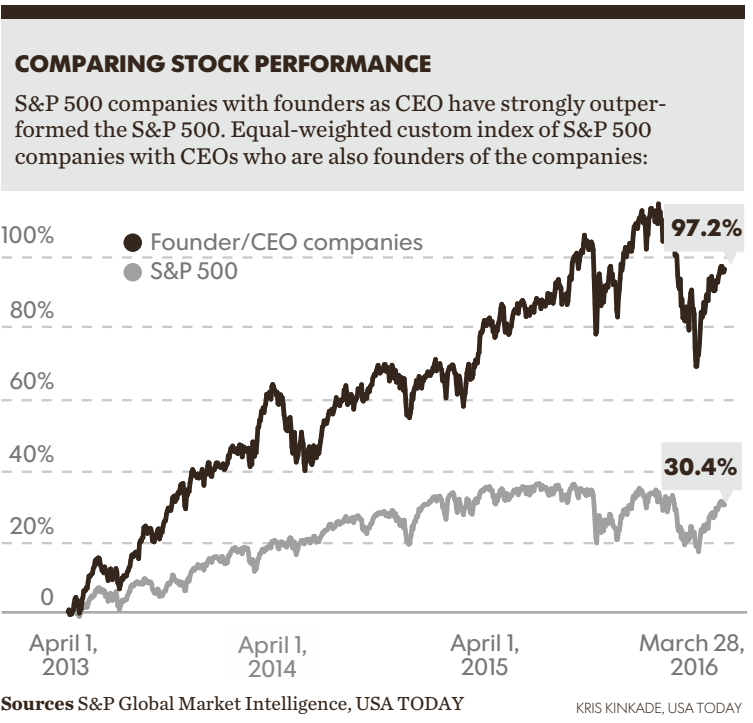
Shaker Zahra, University of Minnesota professor of entrepreneurship

Pandora is the latest company turning to the leadership of a founder to try and get its mojo back. Westergren, a composer and record producer, founded the company in 2000. He takes the helm back from Brian McAndrews, who was CEO starting in September 2013. Before joining Pandora, McAndrews was a top executive at a variety of companies such as Disney’s ABC, General Mills and online advertising company aQuantive. But he wasn’t a founder. Shares of Pandora lost a third of their value in the past year. The company continues to lose money on an unadjusted basis and missed earnings estimates in the December quarter by a stunning 43%. It’s unclear whether Westergren can get the company moving again, but founders have a great track record. Facebook lately has been the best example. Led by its visionary CEO Mark Zuckerberg, it has continually been at least one step ahead of its competition with one of the most hotly competitive areas of technology: social media. Zuckerberg first navigated the company as it shifted from desktop computing to mobile. Also Monday, Facebook’s Oculus kicked off the virtual reality trend by releasing its Oculus Rift headset to consumers. Facebook had the foresight to buy online messaging service Instagram, which has proved a master stroke as that service is catching on with the generation younger than Millennials. The situation at Starbucks was also a strong one that shows the



POOL PHOTO

European Parliament President Martin Schulz, from left, Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg and Axel Springer CEO Mathias Doepfner test out Oculus on Feb. 25 in Berlin.



KRIS KINKADE, USA TODAY

FOUNDER-LED COMPANIES		
S&P 500 companies with founders as CEO:		
CEO/Founder	Company	3-year % change
Zuckerberg, Mark	Facebook	345.2%
Hastings, Reed	Netflix	274.3%
Plank, Kevin A.	Under Armour	225.0%
Huang, Jen-Hsun	NVIDIA	172.3%
Bezos, Jeffrey P.	Amazon.com	118.6%
Schultz, Howard D.	Starbucks	108.6%
Schleifer, Leonard S.	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	108.3%
Wexner, Leslie H.	L Brands	94.6%
Bidzos, D. James	VeriSign	87.1%
Smith, Frederick W.	FedEx	64.3%
Benioff, Marc R.	salesforce.com	61.3%
Leighton, F. Thomson	Akamai Technologies	55.4%
Sprecher, Jeffrey C.	Intercontinental Exchange	44.9%
Mehrrota, Sanjay	SanDisk	37.9%
Fairbank, Richard D.	Capital One Financial	26.2%
Kaufer, Stephen	TripAdvisor	18.9%
Patterson, Neal L.	Cerner	9.2%
Hayne, Richard A.	Urban Outfitters	-16.2%
Wynn, Stephen A.	Wynn Resorts	-25.9%

SOURCES: S&P GLOBAL MARKET INTELLIGENCE, USA TODAY

power of a founder. The coffee chain’s growth and stock price were given a jolt when founder Howard Schultz returned as CEO in early 2008. The stock is up 223% the past five years, trouncing the S&P 500.

Founders returning as CEOs tend to reinvigorate companies, but founders are also effective as CEOs at young companies, says Shaker Zahra, professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Minnesota.

# Despite fallout, Apple wins

► CONTINUED FROM 1B

but the broader business and legal implications of that victory are murky. The FBI’s ability to gain access to the phone’s content raises questions about Apple’s encryption and underscores the company’s efforts to tighten the security of its devices, say cybersecurity experts. For years, Apple and its customers have extolled the security of its products. The case’s outcome “gets Apple out of the problem of being compelled to assist the government, but it creates a new problem of widespread knowledge that there’s a way for both the government and at least one third party to access an iPhone running the most recent version of the operating system,” said Kristen Eichensehr, a professor of cyber law at UCLA’s School of Law. Apple had no comment when asked about whether the FBI’s hack makes its products appear less secure. But in its Monday statement, it noted, “We will continue to increase the security of our products as the threats and attacks on our data become more frequent and more sophisticated.”

Apple shares rose 2%, to \$107.68 Tuesday, continuing an upswing since early February while the government has pressed its case and alongside a broad market rebound. Because the FBI has not shared what methods it used to get into the phone or the name of the “outside party” it worked with to get in, it’s hard to gauge the ramifications of the FBI’s hack on iPhone security in general. The agency disclosed only that it didn’t try making a digital copy of the iPhone’s chips, FBI Director James Comey said last week. And even if the case causes a temporary blip in consumer confidence, that may pale beside Apple’s prowess in winning the hearts and minds of consumers, an ability that was vividly on display as CEO Tim Cook and other senior Apple executives made their case against the U.S. government.

Larry Downes, project director at the Georgetown Center for Business and Public Policy, says the “shadow play” of the government’s storyline won’t have any effect on Apple. “They simply lost to the world’s greatest marketing company,” he says. With this court battle behind it, Apple has more room to focus on its core business: designing and selling consumer electronics. Sales of the main revenue driver, the iPhone, have slowed in recent months following the launch of the iPhone 6S and 6S Plus last fall.

Contributing: Brett Molina in McLean, Va., and Elizabeth Weise in San Francisco

**Corrections & Clarifications**

USA TODAY is committed to accuracy. To reach us, contact Standards Editor Brent Jones at 800-872-7073 or e-mail accuracy@usatoday.com. Please indicate whether you’re responding to content online or in the newspaper.

A story Tuesday about the Amazon Echo incorrectly identified an Echo device that fared poorly in the marketplace. The device was the Amazon Fire Phone.



**Robert Powell**  
Special for USA TODAY



**Q:** My husband and I are thinking about converting our traditional IRA to a Roth. We are both retired (he will be 65 and I'll be 67) and get pensions. We haven't applied for Social Security yet. I'm leaning toward starting collecting soon to rebuild our savings. We have about \$300,000 in traditional IRAs and \$10,000 in a Roth. We also have several thousand in stocks and bonds in a taxable account. We've just relocated and spent a lot of our savings on renovations. What do you think? My husband would like a reverse mortgage; we have no mortgage. — Brigitte Kelley, Milledgeville, Ga.

**A:** Most of the standard answers to the question — to convert or not — tend to focus on your future tax rate. If it's higher, convert. And if it's the same or lower, don't.

But there's much more that must go into the decision than your future tax rate, according to Joseph Clark, a managing partner with The Financial Enhancement Group. "The conversation is much deeper than a simple yes or no," he says.

Whether a Roth IRA conversion is right for you is based on several factors. The first is maximizing your marginal tax bracket. "You must think about every line on your 1040 as a symphony where you may not be able to hear the individual instruments, but you can surely hear the music," says Clark. "When one instrument makes a mistake, they are quickly identifiable. The same is true on your 1040. Each line works in concert with the rest, so no decision — including a Roth conversion — should take place without understanding the implications."

That said, if you find yourself in the 10% or 15% marginal bracket with room to do a conversion of \$10,000 or more at that marginal rate, Clark says it's usually worth it.

A second type of conversion is

RETIREMENT

# TAXES AREN'T ONLY FACTOR IN ROTH EQUATION

## LOOK AT THE WHOLE PICTURE BEFORE YOU ACT

more opportunistic and is based on two underlying factors.

► Do you have the cash flow to pay the taxes on the conversion? "It almost never makes sense to use IRA money to pay the taxes to do the conversion," Clark says.

► How much are you willing to convert based on your anticipated marginal tax rate, including the conversion?

Once these questions are answered, Clark suggests creating multiple conversions at that amount, knowing that the IRS

**An IRA conversion can "put the burden of taxation on the back of the IRS. I like that trade."**

Joseph Clark, managing partner at The Financial Enhancement Group

will let you keep the best performer and send the others back using recharacterization. A recharacterization allows you to "undo" or "reverse" a rollover or conversion to a Roth IRA.

"So if you could convert \$20,000, we would consider several at that amount with vastly



GETTY IMAGES

different investments held in each account," says Clark, who notes that the IRS will let you "cherry-pick the best performer out of multiple conversions but not out of a single account."

Your job then is to focus on risk and volatility, fees and expenses and taxes both today and tomorrow, says Clark. "The Roth conversion strategy allows us to keep risk the same, not change the fees and put the burden of taxation on the back of the IRS," he says. "I like that trade. If none of the Roth conversions go up enough to warrant keeping them, the IRS lets you send them all back. What a sweetheart deal."

All that said, Clark recommends — knowing your cash flow is tight — thinking twice before doing the conversion right now. "Assuming your health is in reasonable shape, I would also delay taking the money from Social Security to allow for the compounding of future payments," he says.

His advice: Start with using your IRA funds first, as you will be the first forced into required minimum distributions. You can then switch to using your husband's IRA later as yours depletes. "The key here is to have as much income as possible in the lowest tax bracket," he says.

As for the reverse mortgage, some experts suggest applying for a reverse mortgage with a line of credit ASAP. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: The line of credit allows you to draw on your loan when you choose. You will only be charged interest on the amount you take out. You will not be charged interest on the money remaining in your credit line, which you can take out later.

Why might you do this? It gives you the option of taking money out of your house instead of your IRAs when markets are down.

According to a study by Wade Pfau of the American College of Financial Services, strategic use of a reverse mortgage can improve retirement outcomes. Pfau explored six different reverse mortgage strategies, with one conclusion: "There is great value for (people) to open a reverse mortgage line of credit at the earliest possible age," he says.

Powell is editor of Retirement Weekly; [rpowell@allthingsretirement.com](mailto:rpowell@allthingsretirement.com).

# Netflix throttling shows Net neutrality is on life support

**John Shinal**  
@johnshinal  
USA TODAY



THE NEW  
TECH  
ECONOMY

Netflix, with its admission late last week that it throttles video download speeds for Verizon and AT&T subscribers, has handed those same U.S. telecommunication giants a potent weapon in their legal fight against Net neutrality.

Whether the decision helps or hurts Netflix in the market for online media ultimately will depend on how much value mobile-video consumers place on the quality of their content in relation to its download speed.

And Netflix is not alone in testing the market value of lower-quality video.

Late last year, No. 3 U.S. wireless carrier T-Mobile began offering subscribers of Netflix and HBO free mobile video viewing — as long as they don't mind it's of lower resolution.

Both moves suggest the marketplace for mobile video entertainment may pass judgment on the concept of Net neutrality before any more court rulings on the concept. In fact, Netflix shares have risen nearly 6% since March 24, the day it admitted to throttling, vs. 1.5% for the Nasdaq composite.

Netflix said last week it's been sending lower-resolution video to some users who have wireless plans with monthly data caps for five years.

The company says it's doing so to protect users — at least those who are also Verizon and AT&T subscribers — from charges that come from exceeding monthly data limits.

Given the time frame, however, that means Netflix was throttling video, or slowing its speed, even while it was arguing publicly for new rules that prohibit big Internet providers from doing so.

In February 2015, the FCC indeed adopted such rules, which



ANDREW HARRER, BLOOMBERG

**Netflix was throttling video, or slowing its speed, even while it was arguing publicly for new rules that prohibit big Internet providers from doing so.**

**The company says it's doing so to protect users from charges that come from exceeding monthly data limits.**

treat broadband service as a utility whether it's delivered via copper wires or wireless signals.

But that doesn't mean the online video market is operating under the new regulations, especially since the largest wireless companies (along with No. 1 cable provider Comcast) sued to overturn them last March.

The telecom and cable giants are looking for a repeat victory over Net neutrality proponents, given that a federal appeals court ruled in early 2014 against so-called Open Internet rules. It was that ruling that forced the FCC into a new process of rule-making.

Despite its public support of an open Internet, Netflix two years ago said it would pay Verizon in exchange for a guarantee of download speeds.

So Netflix has been running its business as if Net neutrality were already a dead concept, even while backing the FCC rules that prohibit it.

That doesn't look to change, as the company last week revealed plans to test tiered levels of service in May. The trial will give Netflix customers the option of choosing their video download speeds and quality.

All this comes at a time when competition in the market for online content is intensifying.

Amazon now offers video downloads via its Prime subscription product, while Apple has just said it will fund its first piece of original content.

If Netflix's new "self-throttling" options find a market, the company may help prove that Net neutrality, something it has long backed in principle, is a dying concept in the U.S.

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# AMERICA'S MARKETS

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## What to watch

Fresh data now all about the economy

**Adam Shell**  
@adamshell  
USA TODAY

Now that Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen has reiterated yet again that the U.S. central bank plans to “proceed cautiously” as it moves to inch interest rates higher and toward more normal levels, incoming data will be less about how it will impact the Fed’s rate-hike timetable and more about what it says about the health of the U.S. economy.

And a spate of key data set for release the rest of the week will give Wall Street fresh color on whether the economy’s slowdown in the first quarter is just a blip or something more serious. Following signs that consumer spending has been weak so far in 2016, the Atlanta Federal Reserve has downgraded its estimate for first-

quarter growth to 0.6% from 1.4%. But other data, such as consumer confidence, job growth and housing, tell a more upbeat story.

Next up for Wall Street is a key report from payroll processor ADP on Wednesday that will show how many jobs were created in March by private employers. Fresh March manufacturing data in the Chicago region is also set for release.

But a slew of reports out Friday will provide a much better picture of how the U.S. economy is doing. The biggie is the government’s March jobs report. March manufacturing data is also on tap, as are readings on February construction and March vehicle sales.

Talk of a U.S. recession died down last month. Now Wall Street wants to know if the economy can break out above its tepid annual growth rate of 2% to 2.5%.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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

SigFig investors in New Jersey are **even more likely** than New York SigFig investors to own finance stocks (1.3 times vs. 1.2 times).



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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.

## How we’re performing

USA’s portfolio allocation by trade activity

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

BUY AND HOLD	
Less than 10% turnover	
5 day avg:	-0.98
6 month avg:	-5.33
Largest holding:	GE
Most bought:	CFX
Most sold:	AEP

VERY ACTIVE	
51%-100% turnover	
5 day avg:	-4.02
6 month avg:	-17.5
Largest holding:	AAPL
Most bought:	AA
Most sold:	CBK



ACTIVE	
11%-50% turnover	
5 day avg:	-3.34
6 month avg:	-14.4
Largest holding:	AAPL
Most bought:	VRX
Most sold:	AAPL

AGGRESSIVE	
100%-plus turnover	
5 day avg:	-4.08
6 month avg:	-17.37
Largest holding:	AAPL
Most bought:	AA
Most sold:	CLNY

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## MAJOR INDEXES

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**+97.72**

CHANGE: +.6%  
YTD: +208.08  
YTD % CHG: +1.2%

**DOW JONES**  
**INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE**

CLOSE: 17,633.11  
PREV. CLOSE: 17,535.39  
RANGE: 17,434.27-17,642.81

**SPX**  
**+17.96**

CHANGE: +.9%  
YTD: +11.07  
YTD % CHG: +.5%

**S&P 500**  
**STANDARD & POOR'S**

CLOSE: 2,055.01  
PREV. CLOSE: 2,037.05  
RANGE: 2,028.32-2,055.91

**COMP**  
**+79.83**

CHANGE: +1.7%  
YTD: -160.79  
YTD % CHG: -3.2%

**NASDAQ**  
**COMPOSITE**

CLOSE: 4,846.62  
PREV. CLOSE: 4,766.79  
RANGE: 4,749.78-4,849.31

**RUT**  
**+28.85**

CHANGE: +2.7%  
YTD: -26.80  
YTD % CHG: -2.4%

**RUSSELL**  
**RUSSELL 2000 INDEX**

CLOSE: 1,109.08  
PREV. CLOSE: 1,080.23  
RANGE: 1,075.43-1,109.21

## S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS/LOSERS

GAINERS		Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
	<b>SWN</b>	<b>Southwestern Energy (SWN)</b> Trading on ex-dividend to begin March 30.	8.00	+.50	<b>+6.7</b>	+12.5
	<b>TRIP</b>	<b>TripAdvisor (TRIP)</b> Stock jumps on upgrade, upcoming quarterly report.	65.58	+3.07	<b>+4.9</b>	-23.1
	<b>NEM</b>	<b>Newmont Mining (NEM)</b> Shares increase with market rally in gold prices.	26.95	+1.25	<b>+4.9</b>	+49.8
	<b>GME</b>	<b>GameStop (GME)</b> Gamemaker shares rise after morning slide.	31.51	+1.42	<b>+4.7</b>	+12.4
	<b>THC</b>	<b>Tenet Healthcare (THC)</b> Shares rise over Medicaid expansion proposal.	29.27	+1.26	<b>+4.5</b>	-3.4
	<b>RRC</b>	<b>Range Resources (RRC)</b> Energy producer sells off part of Marcellus assets.	33.15	+1.31	<b>+4.1</b>	+34.7
	<b>UHS</b>	<b>Universal Health Service (UHS)</b> Wells Fargo upgrades hospital firm to “outperform.”	123.91	+4.76	<b>+4.0</b>	+3.7
	<b>MNK</b>	<b>Mallinckrodt (MNK)</b> Quarterly earnings anticipation boosts shares.	61.36	+2.38	<b>+4.0</b>	-17.8
	<b>MYL</b>	<b>Mylan (MYL)</b> Shares rise despite lawsuit over patent infringement.	47.01	+1.81	<b>+4.0</b>	-13.1
	<b>WMB</b>	<b>Williams (WMB)</b> Energy producer announces Tulsa layoffs.	15.70	+.56	<b>+3.7</b>	-38.9
LOSERS		Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
	<b>DO</b>	<b>Diamond Offshore (DO)</b> Driller's shares fall on price target trim.	21.46	-1.14	<b>-5.0</b>	+1.7
	<b>RIG</b>	<b>Transocean (RIG)</b> Shares down nearly 4% on falling oil prices.	8.88	-.43	<b>-4.6</b>	-28.3
	<b>ESV</b>	<b>ENSCO (ESV)</b> Oil driller shares retreat on exploration cuts.	10.30	-.42	<b>-3.9</b>	-33.1
	<b>CMG</b>	<b>Chipotle Mexican Grill (CMG)</b> Analysts say restaurant sales won't recover until 2018.	460.00	-15.31	<b>-3.2</b>	-4.1
	<b>CHK</b>	<b>Chesapeake Energy (CHK)</b> Oil producer continues its debt reduction.	4.04	-.11	<b>-2.7</b>	-10.2
	<b>BHI</b>	<b>Baker Hughes (BHI)</b> Shares slip as oil rig count nears bottom in Q2.	42.72	-1.15	<b>-2.6</b>	-7.4
	<b>RF</b>	<b>Regions Financial (RF)</b> Bank shares slip despite cost-cutting plans.	7.90	-.15	<b>-1.9</b>	-17.7
	<b>CMA</b>	<b>Comerica (CMA)</b> Bank increased share in Toronto-Dominion by 5.5%.	38.01	-.68	<b>-1.8</b>	-9.1
	<b>ZION</b>	<b>Zions Bancorp (ZION)</b> Value falls with target price cut by Deutsche Bank.	24.33	-.42	<b>-1.7</b>	-10.9
	<b>FITB</b>	<b>Fifth Third (FITB)</b> Stock declines as bank's transitional year continues.	16.70	-.26	<b>-1.5</b>	-16.9

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## STORY STOCKS

**LENNAR**  
Price: \$48.18  
Chg: \$1.48  
% chg: 3.2  
Day's high/low: \$48.59/\$46.91



Price: \$460.00  
Chg: -\$15.31  
% chg: -3.2  
Day's high/low: \$468.12/\$453.87



Price: \$48.05  
Chg: -\$0.65  
% chg: -1.3  
Day's high/low: \$48.65/\$47.84

### Lennar

The homebuilder reported higher earnings for its fiscal first quarter, beating expectations as homes sold increased and sales prices rose. Lennar reported a 25% boost in profit to \$144.1 million.

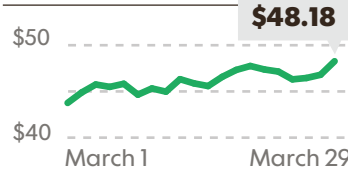
### Chipotle Mexican Grill

The Mexican food chain got another dose of bad news when Wedbush Securities cut its price target on the stock to \$400 from \$450.

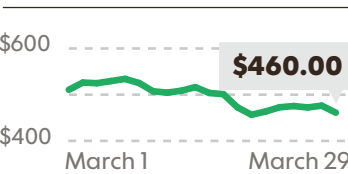
### Wells Fargo

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway raised its stake in the bank to 506.3 million shares worth almost \$25 billion. The billionaire's company now owns more than 10% of Wells Fargo's outstanding stock.

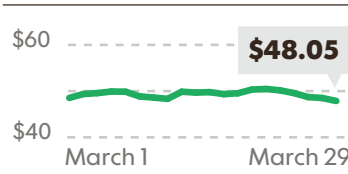
### 4-WEEK TREND



### 4-WEEK TREND



### 4-WEEK TREND



## TOP 10 MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund, ranked by size	NAV	Chg.	4wk <sup>1</sup>	YTD <sup>1</sup>
Vanguard 500Adml	189.53	+1.70	+6.5%	+1.1%
Vanguard TotStAdm	50.88	+0.55	+6.7%	+0.6%
Vanguard Instltdl	187.66	+1.68	+6.5%	+1.1%
Vanguard TotStldx	50.86	+0.55	+6.7%	+0.6%
Vanguard InstPlus	187.67	+1.68	+6.5%	+1.1%
Vanguard TotIntl	14.37	+0.16	+7.8%	-0.5%
Fidelity Contra	96.45	+1.06	+5.4%	-1.8%
American Funds IncAmerA m	20.61	+0.15	+5.1%	+2.7%
American Funds GrthAmA m	40.09	+0.42	+6.1%	-2.9%
American Funds CapIncBuA m	57.35	+0.52	+5.3%	+3.6%

1 - CAPITAL GAINS AND DIVIDENDS REINVESTED

## TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg	% YTD
Mkt Vect Gold Miners	GDX	20.54	+1.12	+5.8%	+49.7%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	205.12	+1.88	+0.9%	+0.6%
iShs Emerg Mkts	EEM	33.93	+0.46	+1.4%	+5.4%
Dir Div Gold Bear3x	DUST	3.01	-0.59	-16.4%	-81.8%
Barc iPath Vix ST	VXX	17.95	-1.10	-5.8%	-10.7%
iShares Rus 2000	IWM	110.31	+2.98	+2.8%	-2.1%
CS VS 2x Vix ShTm	TVIX	4.60	-0.48	-9.4%	-26.5%
SPDR Financial	XLF	22.42	+0.04	+0.2%	-5.9%
US Oil Fund LP	USO	9.80	-0.21	-2.1%	-10.9%
ProShs Ultra VIX ST	UVXY	20.11	-2.62	-11.5%	-29.1%

## INTEREST RATES

Type	Close	6 mo ago
Prime lending	3.50%	3.25%
Federal funds	0.37%	0.13%
3 mo. T-bill	0.22%	%
5yr. T-note	1.29%	1.38%
10yr. T-note	1.80%	2.05%

## MORTGAGE RATES

Type	Close	6 mo ago
30yr. fixed	3.69%	3.85%
15yr. fixed	2.80%	2.92%
1yr. ARM	2.76%	2.59%
5/1 ARM	3.20%	3.02%

SOURCE: BANKRATE.COM

## COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.35	1.35	unch.	-0.2%	-0.7%
Corn (bushel)	3.73	3.71	+0.02	+0.7%	+4.0%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,235.60	1,219.90	+15.70	+1.3%	+16.5%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.70	.70	unch.	+0.5%	+17.5%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	1.90	1.85	+0.05	+3.0%	-18.6%
Oil, heating (gal.)	1.16	1.18	-0.02	-2.1%	+5.0%
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	38.28	39.39	-1.11	-2.8%	+3.4%
Silver (troy oz.)	15.24	15.19	+0.05	+0.3%	+10.6%
Soybeans (bushel)	9.16	9.09	+0.07	+0.8%	+5.1%
Wheat (bushel)	4.77	4.71	+0.06	+1.2%	+1.4%

## FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.6957	.7016	.6597	.6724
Canadian dollar	1.3063	1.3183	1.3431	1.2600
Chinese yuan	6.5056	6.4862	6.3605	6.2182
Euro	.8853	.8929	.8881	.9175
Japanese yen	112.75	113.28	119.67	119.10
Mexican peso	17.3114	17.4230	17.0732	15.1923

## FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	%Chg.	YTD %
Frankfurt	9,887.94	9,851.35	+36.59	+0.4%	-8.0%
Hong Kong	20,366.30	20,345.61	+20.69	+0.1%	-7.1%
Japan (Nikkei)	17,103.53	17,134.37	-30.84	-0.2%	-10.1%
London	6,105.90	6,106.48	-0.58	-0.0%	-2.2%
Mexico City	45,897.65	45,623.48	+274.17	+0.6%	+6.8%

SOURCES: MORNINGSTAR, DOW JONES INDEXES, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Power brokers test the way wind blows

## Arkansas fights U.S. decision to support electric utility project

Bill Loveless

@bill\_loveless  
Special for USA TODAY



**ENERGY** Building electric power lines across long distances and state boundaries can be a daunting task for developers, as the best-laid plans can go awry over local opposition.

That was the case for an independent transmission company called Clean Line Energy and its proposal to ship wind power from Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle across Arkansas to the south-eastern U.S.

Five years ago, regulators in Arkansas turned down the Plains & Eastern project, saying Clean Line Energy didn't qualify as a public utility serving the state's electricity consumers.

Moreover, the project triggered public protests, including complaints that the power line and its towers would mar landscapes and that landowners would not be adequately compensated for property taken for the development's corridors.

But Clean Line Energy found a sympathetic ear in Washington, where the U.S. Department of Energy last week agreed to participate in the development of the 700-mile high-voltage line despite Arkansas' objections.

The DOE decision marks the first time that the department has exercised a provision in a 2005 energy law giving it the option to enable new transmission lines in Western and Central states if certain criteria are met, including easing congestion and accommodating growing demand for electricity, and if developers pay fully for the costs.

"We need to get to a place where the big infrastructure gets built," Jimmy Glotfelty, a founder of Clean Line Energy and its executive vice president, said of projects like the Plains & Eastern transmission line. "If we don't get it built in a timely fashion, the capital will go somewhere else, and that will have an impact on energy prices. This is a challenge that folks are going to have to continue to wrestle with for some time."

Congress sought to facilitate modernization of the U.S. electric grid by including the DOE provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, a law passed with biparti-

san support and signed by a Republican president, George W. Bush. Section 1222 of the law allows DOE to assist the development of transmission lines in 21 states where the department's Southwestern and Western power administrations distribute and sell electricity from federally built dams.

Clean Line Energy, whose investors include National Grid, one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world, and ZBI Ventures, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ziff Brothers Investments, is the only applicant for such DOE involvement, according to the department.

"Only time will tell how much it's used," Glotfelty, who was an official at DOE during the Bush administration, said of the department's authority.

Clean Line Energy also indicated previously that it might take the same course of action for another project called the Grain Belt Express, a 770-mile line from southwestern Kansas to Indiana, which was turned down by Missouri regulators last year. But Glotfelty said Clean Line Energy plans to revise the Grain Belt Express proposal and refile it with the Missouri Public Service Commission.

The decision by DOE to support the Plains & Eastern project isn't the final hurdle for the power line. In order to nail down financing for the \$2.5 billion project, Clean Line Energy must strike agreements with utilities to purchase about half of the project's 4,000 megawatts of capacity. That total capacity would be sufficient to power 1 million homes.

"Hopefully, our timing was perfect," Glotfelty said in an interview. "Costs (of wind power) are coming down, and the desire for more renewables is going up among utilities as well as consumers."

The potential customers include Southern Company, one of the largest investor-owned utilities in the U.S., with operations in four Southern states.

"We've been in discussions with them," he said of Southern Company. "They continue to evaluate the resource."

Still, opposition to the power line remains strong in Arkansas, despite Clean Line Energy's plans to sell some of the project's capacity in that state.

In Washington, members of Arkansas' congressional delegation are promoting legislation that would reverse DOE's decision.

"Today marks a new page in an era of unprecedented executive overreach as the Department of Energy seeks to usurp the will of Arkansans and form a partner-

ship with a private company — the same private company previously denied rights to operate in our state by the Arkansas Public Service Commission," the lawmakers said in a joint statement when DOE announced its decision on March 25.

All things considered, the battle over big energy infrastructure — be it green energy or not — is likely to continue.

Loveless is a veteran energy journalist and podcast host in Washington. He is a former anchor of Platts Energy Week.



PAUL BUCK, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

Power lines and wind turbines stretch across the Morongo basin near Palm Springs, Calif. Preserving landscapes is at the crux of an energy battle in the south-central USA.

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### NOTICES

#### LEGAL NOTICE

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, FORT WORTH DIVISION**  
In re Chapter 11  
Energy & Exploration Partners, Inc., et al., Case No. 15-4931 (RFN)  
Debtors.<sup>1</sup> (Jointly Administered)

**NOTICE OF ORDER (A) APPROVING THE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, (B) APPROVING THE SOLICITATION PROCEDURES, (C) APPROVING THE FORM OF BALLOTS AND NOTICES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, (D) ESTABLISHING THE PLAN CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE, AND (E) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF.**  
A HEARING WILL BE CONDUCTED ON APRIL 21, 2016 AT 9:30 A.M. CENTRAL STANDARD TIME IN ROOM 204, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT, 501 W. TENTH STREET, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102. IF YOU OBJECT TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED OR THE PLAN, YOU MUST RESPOND IN WRITING. UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THIS COURT, YOU MUST FILE YOUR RESPONSE WITH THE CLERK OF THIS COURT NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. (PREVAILING CENTRAL TIME) ON APRIL 15, 2016. YOU MUST SERVE A COPY OF YOUR RESPONSE ON THE PERSON WHO SENT YOU THE NOTICE. OTHERWISE, THIS COURT MAY TREAT THE PLEADING AS UNOPPOSED AND GRANT THE RELIEF REQUESTED.

**TO ALL HOLDERS OF CLAIMS AND EQUITY INTERESTS AND PARTIES IN INTEREST:**

**1. Court Approval of the Disclosure Statement and the Solicitation Procedures.** On March 18, 2016, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Court") entered the Order (A) Approving the Disclosure Statement, (B) Approving the Solicitation Procedures, (C) Approving the Form of Ballots and Notices in Connection Therewith, (D) Establishing the Plan Confirmation Schedule, and (E) Granting Related Relief (the "Disclosure Statement Order") that, among other things: (a) approved the Debtors' First Amended Disclosure Statement Pursuant to Section 1125 of the Bankruptcy Code (as may be amended or supplemented from time to time and including all exhibits and supplements thereto, the "Disclosure Statement") as containing adequate information, as required under section 1125(a) of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code"); and (b) authorized the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") to solicit votes with regard to the acceptance or rejection of the Debtors' First Amended Joint Plan of Reorganization (as may be amended or supplemented from time to time and including all exhibits thereto, the "Plan").<sup>2</sup>

**2. Voting Record Date.** March 18, 2016 is the Voting Record Date for purposes of determining (a) which holders of Claims are entitled to vote on the Plan and (b) whether Claims have been properly transferred to an assignee pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c) (such that the applicable assignee can vote as the holder of the Claim).

**3. Voting Deadline.** If you held a Claim against one of the Debtors as of the Voting Record Date and are entitled to vote on the Plan, you have received a Ballot and voting instructions appropriate for your Claim(s) or Equity Interest(s). For your vote to be counted in connection with Confirmation of the Plan, you must follow the appropriate voting instructions, complete all required information on the Ballot and execute and return the completed Ballot to us at the following address in accordance with the voting instructions by April 15, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) (the "Voting Deadline"). Any failure to follow the voting instructions included with the Ballot may disqualify your Ballot and your vote on the Plan.

**4. Objections to the Plan.** The Court has established April 15, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (prevailing Central Time) as the deadline for filing and serving objections to confirmation of the Plan (the "Plan Objection Deadline"). Any objection to the Plan must: (a) be in writing; (b) conform to the Bankruptcy Rules and the Local Rules; (c) state the name, address, phone number and email address of the objecting party and the amount and nature of the Claim or Equity Interest of such entity, if any; (d) state with particularity the basis and nature of any objection to the Plan and, if practicable, a proposed modification to the Plan that would resolve such objection; and (e) be filed, contemporaneously with proof of service, with the Court and served to that it is actually received by the Court at the following address by the Plan Objection Deadline: (i) Counsel to the Debtors: Jennifer Feldsher, Bracewell LLP, 1251 Avenue of the Americas, 49th Floor, New York, New York 10020, Telephone: (212) 508-6100, Jennifer.Feldsher@bracewell.com -and- William A. (Trey) Wood III, Bracewell LLP, 711 Louisiana, Suite 2300, Houston, Texas 77002, Telephone: (713) 223-2300, Trey.Wood@bracewell.com; (ii) U.S. Trustee: United States Department of Justice, Office of the United States Trustee, Attn: Erin M. Schmidt, 1100 Commerce Street, Room 576, Dallas, Texas 75242, Telephone: (844) 767-1075, Erin.Schmidt@usdoj.gov; and (iii) Ad Hoc Group of Lenders: Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10153, Attn: Matthew S. Barr and Charles M. Persons, Facsimile: (212) 310-8007.

**5. Confirmation Hearing.** A hearing to confirm the Plan (the "Confirmation Hearing") will commence on April 21, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. (prevailing Central Time) before the Honorable Russell F. Neims, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas. Please be advised that the Confirmation Hearing may be continued from time to time by the Court or the Debtors without further notice other than by such adjournment being announced in open court or by a notice of adjournment being filed with the Court and served on parties entitled to notice under Bankruptcy Rule 2002 and the Local Rules or otherwise. In accordance with the Plan, the Plan may be modified, if necessary prior to, during or as a result of the Confirmation Hearing without further action by the Debtors and without further notice to or action, order or approval of the Court or any other entity.

**6. Solicitation Packages.** The Solicitation Package (except the Ballots and the Election Forms, as applicable) may be obtained at no charge from Prime Clerk LLC ("Prime Clerk"), the Debtors' Claims and Solicitation Agent, by: (a) accessing the Debtors' restructuring website at https://cases.primeclerk.com/ENXP; (b) writing to Prime Clerk at ENXP Ballot Processing, c/o Prime Clerk LLC, 830 Third Avenue, Third Floor, New York, NY 10022; or (c) contacting Prime Clerk at (844) 597-1420 or via email at enxpballots@primeclerk.com. Prime Clerk will answer questions regarding the procedures and requirements for voting to accept or reject the Plan and for objecting to the Plan, provide additional copies of all materials (except the Ballots) and oversee the voting tabulation.

**7. Release, Exculpation and Injunction Provisions Contained in the Plan.** Please be advised that Article XII of the Plan contains the following release, exculpation and injunction provisions:

**Section 12.05(a). Releases by the Debtors, their Estates and the Reorganized Debtors.** Pursuant to section 1123(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, and except as otherwise specifically provided in the Plan or the Confirmation Order, for good and valuable consideration, including the service of the parties released herein to facilitate the expeditious reorganization of the Debtors and the implementation of the restructuring contemplated by the Plan, on and after the effective date, all Released Persons are deemed released and discharged by the Debtors and their Estates and the Reorganized Debtors, from any and all Claims, obligations, rights, suits, damages, Causes of Action, remedies and liabilities whatsoever, including any derivative Claims, asserted or assertable on behalf of the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing or hereinafter arising, in law, equity or otherwise, that the Debtors, their Estates, the Reorganized Debtors, or their respective Affiliates would have been legally entitled to assert in their own right (whether individually or collectively) or on behalf of the Holder of any Claim or Interest or other entity, based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, these chapter 11 cases, the Debtors' restructuring, the Final DIP Facility, the RSA and related agreements, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any Claim or Interest that is treated in the Plan, the business or contractual arrange-

ments between the Debtors and any Released Persons, the restructuring of Claims and Interests before or during these chapter 11 cases, the negotiation, formulation or preparation of the Plan and Disclosure Statement, or related agreements, instruments or other documents, any other act or omission, transaction, agreement, event or other occurrence taking place on or before the Confirmation date, other than Claims or liabilities arising out of or relating to any act or omission of a Released Person or a former officer or director of the Debtors that constitutes willful misconduct (including fraud) or gross negligence. The foregoing release shall not apply to any express contractual or financial obligations or any right or obligations arising under or that is part of the Plan or any agreements entered into pursuant to, in connection with, or contemplated by the Plan.

**Section 12.05(b). Releases by Holders of Claims and Interests and Other Released Persons.** Except as otherwise provided in the Plan or Confirmation Order, as of the Effective Date, each Holder of a Claim or an Interest that either voted in favor of the Plan or has not opted out of the releases provided for in section 12.05(b) of the Plan on their ballot, whether such Holder of a Claim or Interest votes to reject the Plan, and each Released Person shall be deemed to have conclusively, absolutely, unconditionally, irrevocably and forever, released and discharged the Debtors, the Reorganized Debtors, and the Released Persons from any and all Claims, Interests, obligations, rights, suits, damages, Causes of Action, remedies and liabilities whatsoever, including any derivative claims, asserted on behalf of the Debtors, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, existing or hereinafter arising, in law, equity or otherwise, that such entity would have been legally entitled to assert (whether individually or collectively), based on or relating to, or in any manner arising from, in whole or in part, the Debtors or these chapter 11 cases, the Debtors' restructuring, the Interim DIP Facility, the Final DIP Facility, the RSA and related agreements, the subject matter of, or the transactions or events giving rise to, any claim or interest that is treated in the Plan, the business or contractual arrangements between the Debtors and any Released Persons, the restructuring of Claims and Interests before or during these chapter 11 cases, the negotiation, formulation or preparation of the Plan, the Disclosure Statement, the Plan Supplement or related agreements, instruments or other documents, any other act or omission, transaction, agreement, event or other occurrence relating to the Debtors taking place on or before the Confirmation Date, other than Claims or liabilities arising out of or relating to any act or omission of a Released Person that constitutes willful misconduct (including fraud) or gross negligence. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the release set forth above does not release any post-effective date obligations of any party under the Plan or any document, instrument or agreement (including those set forth in the Plan Supplement) executed to implement the Plan.

**Section 12.05(c). Injunction.** Except as provided in this Plan and/or the Confirmation Order, as of the Effective Date, (i) all persons that hold, have held, or may hold a Claim or any other obligation, suit, judgment, damages, debt, right, remedy, Cause of Action or liability of any nature whatsoever, or any Interest or other right of a Holder of an Equity Security or other ownership Interest, relating to the Debtors or the Reorganized Debtors or any of their respective assets, property and Estates, that is released pursuant to this Article XII of this Plan, (ii) all other parties in interest, and (iii) each of the related persons of each of the foregoing entities, are, and shall be, permanently, forever and completely stayed, restrained, enjoined, prohibited, barred and enjoined from taking any of the following actions, whether directly or indirectly, derivatively or otherwise, on account of or based on the subject matter of such discharged Claims or other obligations, suits, judgments, damages, debts, rights, remedies, causes of action or liabilities, and of all Interests or other rights of a Holder of an Equity Security or other ownership Interest: (i) commencing, conducting or continuing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any suit, action or other proceeding (including, without limitation, any judicial, arbitral, administrative or other proceeding) in any forum; (ii) enforcing, attaching (including, without limitation, any prejudgment attachment), collecting, or in any way seeking to recover any judgment, award, decree, or other order; (iii) creating, perfecting or in any way enforcing in any manner, directly or indirectly, any lien; (iv) setting off, seeking reimbursement or contributions from, or subrogation against, or otherwise recouping in any manner, directly or indirectly, any amount against any liability or obligation owed to any person discharged under this Article XII; and (v) commencing or continuing in any manner, in any place of any judicial, arbitration or administrative proceeding in any forum, that does not comply with or is inconsistent with the provisions of this Plan and/or the Confirmation Order.

**Section 12.05. Exculpation.** The Released Persons shall not be liable for any Cause of Action arising in connection with or out of the administration of these chapter 11 cases, the planning of these chapter 11 cases, the formulation, negotiation or implementation of this Plan, the good faith solicitation of acceptances of this Plan in accordance with Bankruptcy Code § 1125(e), pursuit of Confirmation of this Plan, the consummation of this Plan, or the administration of this Plan, except for gross negligence or willful misconduct as determined by a final order of the United States Bankruptcy Court. All Holders of Claims and Interests are enjoined from asserting or procuring any Claim or Cause of Action against any Released Person for which such party has been exculpated from liability pursuant to the preceding sentence.

Dated: March 21, 2016, Fort Worth, Texas

**BRACEWELL LLP, /s/ William A. (Trey) Wood III** \_\_\_\_\_, William A. (Trey) Wood III, Texas Bar No. 21916050, 711 Louisiana, Suite 2300, Houston, Texas 77002, Telephone: (713) 223-2300, Facsimile: (713) 221-1212, Trey.Wood@bracewell.com -and- Jennifer Feldsher (admitted pro hac vice), 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020-1104, Telephone: (212) 508-6100, Facsimile: (212) 508-6100, Jennifer.Feldsher@bracewell.com, Counsel For Debtors And Debtors-In-Possession

Regards, /s/ Hunt Pettit \_\_\_\_\_, Energy & Exploration Partners, Inc.

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases are Energy & Exploration Partners, Inc. (9466); Energy & Exploration Partners, LLC (8621); Energy & Exploration Partners Operating GP, LLC (4266); and Energy & Exploration Partners Operating, LP (4049). The Debtors' main corporate and mailing address for purposes of these chapter 11 cases is: Energy & Exploration Partners, 420 Thimbleton St., Suite 1200, Fort Worth, TX 76102.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Disclosure Statement Order, the Disclosure Statement, or the Plan, as applicable.

<sup>3</sup> The Plan defines Released Persons as the Debtors, Reorganized Debtors, Consenting Secured Lenders, the Consenting Noteholders, the DIP Lenders, the Creditors Committee and its respective members in their capacity as such, and any of their Related Persons (each solely in its capacity as such); provided, that the Released Persons shall not include any Excluded Party. Related Person includes with respect to any Person, such Person's predecessors, successors and assigns (whether by operation of law or otherwise) and their respective present and former Affiliates and Related Funds, and each of their respective current and former members, partners, equity holders, officers, directors, employees, managers, shareholders, partners, financial advisors, attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, consultants, agents and professionals, each acting in such capacity, and any Person claiming by or through any of them (including their respective officers, directors, managers, shareholders, partners, employees, members and professionals); provided, that the Related Person shall not include any Excluded Party.

## 200M broadcasts in 1 year for Periscope

Jefferson Graham

USA TODAY

**LOS ANGELES** A year ago, live video streaming to a smartphone app was mostly talk.

But today, as Twitter's live video-streaming app Periscope celebrates its first birthday, the company announced a big milestone — an estimated 200 million live broadcasts have been streamed to date.

That's up from 100 million in January, "so we're seeing extraordinary growth in a short period of time," says Periscope co-founder Kayvon Beykpour.

The company says there are now so many live streams, they equate to 110 years of live video being watched every day on the app, which is available for Apple and Android devices.

A year ago, the South By Southwest conference had just ended, and live video via the Meerkat app was the talk of the show. Then Periscope popped out of the gate and stole the thunder, with its ease of use and ability to stream video directly to Twitter feeds.

By the end of 2015, Apple had named Periscope "App of the Year," and Facebook jumped loudly into live video streaming as well. Now Facebook users can record live directly into news feeds.

And just last week came word that Google may be looking to start a new live video-streaming app for YouTube, YouTube Connect.

Beykpour isn't worried about



PERISCOPE

Periscope was Apple's "App of the Year" in 2015.

the competition.

"Live streaming has been around for ages," he says. "We weren't the first." Justin.tv, Hang w/, Ustream, YouNow and many others predate Periscope. "We don't pay much attention to what other people are doing; we're just focused on making the best mobile experience. That more people are getting involved is great, it shows people are taking a broad view of the space."

Fans took to Periscope as the easiest form of video making. There's no big production skills — just hold up the smartphone to your face and show what you see, and when you're done, press stop. There's no fancy video editing or transfer process needed. Along the way, get massive feedback from folks all over the world, who respond with animated hearts and questions.

Peter Csathy — CEO of Manatt Digital Media, which invests in and consults with tech start-ups — says consumers responded, because of apps like Periscope and Facebook pushing the cause.

"It's easy; they tried it and now they understand the power of it," he says.



# There’s no catch: ‘Enjoy’ service rolling into Los Angeles, Chicago

CEO says shoppers skeptical of firm that sets up gizmos for free

Marco della Cava

@marcodellacava  
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO Nearly a year into the first start-up of his largely corporate career, Enjoy CEO Ron Johnson, 55, is facing an unanticipated problem.

Enjoy is a portal for high-end electronics such as iPhones and DJI drones that provides free delivery and an hour of in-person expert setup advice with each purchase. But company research shows that many shoppers still seem to greet the offer with a raised eyebrow.

“It’s like they think there’s a catch,” says Johnson, whose hip makeover of Target led Steve Jobs to put him in charge of the Apple Store launch. Before going the start-up route last May, Johnson had an ill-fated stint trying to turn around J.C. Penney.

The Enjoy catch is rather boring, Johnson explains. By selling products that aren’t typically subjected to online price wars, Enjoy takes the profit built in to retail prices to pay his full-time delivery staffers and cover the cost of inventory warehouses, “which is still cheaper than operating a bunch of stores.”

So even though there’s lingering consumer wariness about getting something for nothing, Enjoy is expanding. On Monday, the service debuts in Los Angeles. In May, it rolls into Chicago, a quick doubling from its current San Francisco and New York operations.

Despite sitting on \$80 million raised from the likes of Highland Capital Partners and Andreessen Horowitz, Johnson deliberately has taken his time with Enjoy’s expansion.

“The mistake I made at J.C. Penney was trying to change things too fast,” says Johnson. “So



CHRIS WIGGINS, USA TODAY

Enjoy is a portal for high-end electronics that provides free delivery and an hour of in-person expert setup advice with each purchase.

I’m going back to what I learned at Apple, which is that there’s no such thing as an overnight success. For the first 18 months, very few people came to the Genius Bar. We had to start stocking Evian water to lure people over.”

Now you need an appointment to get into the Genius Bar, an awareness turnaround that Johnson hopes also will happen to Enjoy.

“Our visits-per-week numbers are up tenfold from a year ago, 49% of customers give us feedback, and 97% of them give us five stars, so I feel comfortable that we are on the right path to changing the game on service,” he says, adding that Enjoy is also meeting its mission of “eliminating returns, since about 99% of our customers do not send the products back.”

Enjoy’s model has attracted a range of partners, including AT&T and American Express. The former made the brisk-selling iPhone 6 available to Enjoy

last fall, while the latter now offers its customers the ability to redeem rewards gifts via Enjoy. Late last year, Apple also started making its products available through Enjoy.

Operating in a new city requires Enjoy to both hire staffers familiar with the 150 products for sale on the site (up from 29 at launch) and get a feel for local transportation headaches to ensure that experts arrive on time. That’s particularly critical because 50% of those who order goods on Enjoy opt for the first available delivery window, which is within four hours of placing an order.

In New York, Enjoy experts often take the subway, while in Chicago they may also be using scooters. In Los Angeles, building in time to allow for epic traffic will be critical to expediting orders.

“When we started, I was sure most people would plan a visit when they knew they’d have time

“I was sure most people would plan a visit when they knew they’d have time for a focused interaction, but instead people just want to get what they order as fast as they can,” says Johnson.

for a focused interaction, but instead people just want to get what they order as fast as they can,” says Johnson.

So why not just order expedited delivery from a rival tech gadget site and dispense with the visit from a human instruction manual?

Johnson is convinced that as intuitive as many tech companies try to make their products, there are so many frequent feature upgrades that having someone show you is more efficient than figuring it out yourself.

He cites the example of his new Apple iPad Pro, whose split window and gesture features were demonstrated to him by an Enjoy expert.

“I could have figured it out over time, but in a matter of minutes he showed me what was new,” says Johnson.

“This certainly is a do-it-yourself world, thanks to the Internet. But we think it’s often nice to do it with someone else.”

## SoundCloud dives into streaming race

Jefferson Graham

USA TODAY

MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIF. Another company wants you to spend \$9.99 monthly to listen to unlimited music.

SoundCloud, the largest online audio service, seeks to convert free users to paid subscribers with a base of 175 million monthly users, more than Spotify, Apple Music and Pandora combined.

After long negotiations with major record labels and independents, the SoundCloud Go service opened for business Tuesday with the addition of licensed music from the major labels, an ad-free experience and the ability to download songs (and podcasts) and play them offline. (USA TODAY’s podcasts are hosted on SoundCloud.)

“Our audience is so big,” says Berlin-based SoundCloud co-founder Eric Wahlforss. “We had to try this.”

The new offering differs from its rivals’ in that its singular focus is on listening to, discovering and sharing single tracks. There’s no way, for instance, to click a button and listen to the entirety of the new Gwen Stefani *That’s What the Truth Feels Like* album, for instance.

Spotify is the leader in the premium music space, with 30 million paying subscribers. Apple Music, which launched in June 2015, has 11 million subscribers. Pandora is the most popular free online radio service, (and looking to expand into premium subscriptions) with over 80 million monthly listeners. Tidal, owned by a variety of recording artists, including rapper Jay-Z, says it has over 1 million paying subscribers.

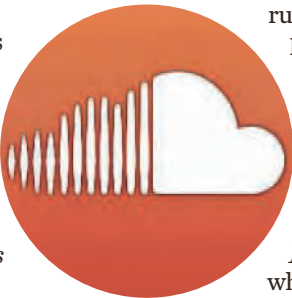
Google Music and YouTube Red, two other music subscription services, haven’t revealed subscriber totals, nor has Amazon Prime Music.

But SoundCloud is in a unique position, as the most popular source for uploading music and podcasts directly online in MP3 form. Facebook, Twitter and You-



JEFFERSON GRAHAM, USA TODAY

SoundCloud co-founder Eric Wahlforss and Sylvain Grande, vice-president of product, test new waters.



SOUND CLOUD  
SoundCloud, which accepts MP3 uploads, is “where new music is born,” says a popular blogger.

Tube for instance, don’t accept MP3 uploads.

“Everyone listens to SoundCloud,” says Peter Csathy, CEO of Manatt Digital Media, which invests in tech start-ups. “It’s where people post their music, where kids go to listen. It’s become the hub for musicians and fans.”

Beyond the emerging or unknown, top artists like Miley Cyrus, Kanye West and Beyoncé post songs directly to SoundCloud to build excitement for a tour or get feedback.

SoundCloud is “where new music is born, where people go to check things out,” says Bob Lefsetz, who writes the popular *Lefsetz Letter* blog. “We want to be where our friends are.”

But getting even 1% of the user base to pay the premium subscription is going to be a challenge, says Csathy. “Young people don’t have credit cards.”

Lefsetz says Spotify will continue as the No. 1 streaming service, “because it had first mover advantage,” while SoundCloud Go will find it slow because “it’s a latecomer”

Wahlforss said he hoped to do “way better” than signing up 1%-2% of SoundCloud’s user base over the long term. A 2% sign-up at \$10 monthly would produce over \$400 million yearly.

The company makes money by selling premium “pro” services that allow creators to post more media, starting at \$50 monthly. Pro accounts get the new Go service for six months at \$4.99.

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# USA TODAY SPORTS™

## Sizing up NL

In an even year, will the Giants rise again? National League narratives, 4C



MADISON BUMGARNER BY USA TODAY SPORTS

## Wooing with wins

Westbrook's play is giving Durant every reason to want to stay with Thunder, 8C

### SPORTSLINE



KIRBY LEE, USA TODAY SPORTS

**FIRST WORD**  
**IF THERE'S A CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE SOMEDAY AT SOMETHING, THAT'S INTRIGUING.**  
Tim Tebow to Fox, when asked about a possible political career.

### MAGIC NUMBER

## \$1 billion

National advertising sales (broadcast, cable and digital) for NBC for its coverage of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, according to a release from the network. NBC says it is on pace to secure the most national advertising sales for an Olympics and the most by a network for any media event in U.S. history.

### TWEET OF THE DAY

@pmouratoglou  
**To the fans that give advice, I take them. To those who are frustrated, I understand. To those who are positive and supportive, I love you.**  
Patrick Mouratoglou, Serena Williams' coach, a day after she lost to Svetlana Kuznetsova in the Miami Open tennis tournament.



KYLE TERADA, USA TODAY SPORTS

### LAST WORD

**"I'M A BREAKFAST GUY: THREE EGGS SCRAMBLED, WITH BACON AND WHEAT TOAST, BURNT. THE PROBLEM IS, IT NEVER CAME BACK BURNT."**  
CBS broadcaster Jim Nantz, explaining to "Golf Digest" why he carries a photo of burnt toast in his wallet — to show servers when he orders breakfast.

### SPORTS WEEKLY

Our 28-page MLB season preview pullout includes staff writers' and editors' bold predictions for 2016 (Cubs-Red Sox World Series, anyone?), team-by-team outlooks and every club's calendar-style schedule. Available on news-stands. To subscribe, go to mysportsweekly.com or call 800-872-0001. The digital edition is available in the Apple, Google Play and Amazon Kindle stores.

Edited by Thomas O'Toole

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ELLEN J. HORROW AND VERONICA BRAVO, USA TODAY

### NCAA TOURNAMENT

# Wright: Arcidiacono among 'Nova greats

Point guard praised for talent, hustle, leadership

**Nicole Auerbach**  
@NicoleAuerbach  
USA TODAY Sports



JAMIE RHODES, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Ryan Arcidiacono has been a starter in all four of his seasons at Villanova.**

**VILLANOVA, PA.** Ryan Arcidiacono might put on his Villanova jersey just one more time. Or maybe he'll get to wear it twice, if the Wildcats reach the NCAA national championship game.  
But at this point, that doesn't matter much. He's already etched in Villanova basketball lore.  
"I really think he's got to go down with the

### Men's Final Four

**At NRG Stadium, Houston**  
► Villanova (33-5) vs. Oklahoma (29-7), Saturday, 6:09 ET, TBS  
► Syracuse (23-13) vs. North Carolina (32-6), Saturday, 8:49 ET, TBS

all-time greats, I really do," Wildcats coach Jay Wright said. "Based on his whole body of work. Starting as a freshman, being captain as a freshman. Winning three Big East regular-season titles, then leading his team to the Final Four in his senior year. I think he's talented enough that you could put him in that

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 5C**



DAVID BUTLER II, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Connecticut's Breanna Stewart is seeking her fourth NCAA championship and fourth Final Four most outstanding player award.**

UConn  
standout  
looking  
to cap  
stellar  
career  
with  
title  
No. 4

# Assistant saw Stewart as special from start

**"The best part about her is that Breanna saves her best moments for the hardest moments."**

ESPN commentator **Doris Burke**, on Connecticut's Breanna Stewart

**Wayne Coffey**  
Special for USA TODAY Sports

**BRIDGEPORT, CONN.** Fingertip to fingertip, arms stretched wide, the greatest women's player in college basketball has a wingspan of 7 feet, 1 inch, a condor in blue and white. It wasn't that simple measurement, though, that moved Chris Dailey, Geno Auriemma's longtime associate head coach at Connecticut, to do what she did four years back.  
It was, well, everything else. Breanna Stewart had just ar-

**Women's Final Four**  
**At Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Indianapolis**  
► Connecticut (36-0) vs. Oregon State (32-4), Sunday, 6 p.m. ET, ESPN  
► Washington (26-10) vs. Syracuse (29-7), Sunday, 8:30 p.m. ET, ESPN2

rived in Storrs, Conn., from Cicero, N.Y., her little hometown north of Syracuse, a pigeon-toed kid with a swizzle-stick body and skin so pale you wondered when

she'd last seen the sun. Dailey took in the stunning breadth of Stewart's skills, her 6-4 frame and the ability to play guard on one end of the floor and defend the post on the other, a versatility as ridiculous as it was sublime. She pulled out a piece of paper and wrote down two names.  
They were the names of the players Stewart brought to mind — guys whose big-time, NBA games Stewart might be able to approximate if she really got after it. Dailey folded up the paper and

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 6C**

# Titans' Robinson glad he never quit

GM grasps gravity of No. 1 overall pick

**Tom Pelissero**  
@TomPelissero  
USA TODAY Sports

**BOCA RATON, FLA.** Jon Robinson's road to the Tennessee Titans general manager job was paved like so many others — with Diet Pepsi and beef jerky.  
The man who holds the No. 1 pick in next month's NFL draft came up as an area scout, a job with a relentless cycle of mid-night drives between college

campuses that formed Robinson's knowledge of what works in the league and made him question whether finding out was worth it.  
"To have to go out and be the lowest-paid guy in an area and eat Wendy's four nights a week on your way to the next school and get up the next morning and be at a school and pack a suitcase and unpack a suitcase — it's mentally draining," Robinson told USA TODAY Sports during a break at last week's league meetings.  
"I would say there were proba-



TREVOR RUSZKOWSKI, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Jon Robinson's path to a general manager job was tough.**  
bly two instances my second year where I had gone out on the road and I had been away from my family for probably 18, 19 days.

And by that 19th day, I was just gone. I was ready to quit. I was going to go coach high school football, where I could be home every night.  
"Then November rolls around. You come off the road, because college football's done. You kind of get re-energized."  
Roughly half the league's general managers have college scouting jobs on their résumés, and with good reason. It's a starting point for building a database of players, tracking their performance in the NFL and self-evalu-

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 3C**



# INDYCAR, PHOENIX TOGETHER AGAIN

Hopes high for first race since 2005

**Curt Cavin**  
@curtcavin  
USA TODAY Sports

When Jay Frye was asked last summer to pursue potential new venues for the Verizon IndyCar Series, he thought back to where he long enjoyed watching races. He thought of Phoenix International Raceway, and it wasn't a new idea. The staunchest of IndyCar fans have been clamoring for a return to the 1-mile desert track in Avondale, Ariz., virtually since the checkered flag waved on the last race there in 2005. Multiple factors led to Phoenix falling off IndyCar's calendar, most related to finances. Attendance figures aren't released by the track's owner, International Speedway Corp., but the crowd in 2005 was sparse at best. Whether the crowd is any better Saturday (8:15 p.m. ET, NBC Sports Network) remains to be seen, but there are reasons for optimism. The first is the differentiation from NASCAR, which

schedules both of its Sprint Cup races in daylight. There's also a multiyear contract and a title sponsor (the new Desert Diamond West Valley, a nearby casino and resort). And tickets are modestly priced, starting at \$35. Aside from Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Milwaukee Mile, no circuit better speaks to IndyCar's history than Phoenix. It's where A.J. Foyt won the inaugural race in 1964 and Lloyd Ruby, Don Branson and Jim McElreath won to become crowd favorites. The list of race winners spans the Andrettis and Unsers, Johnny Rutherford and Gordon Johncock, Tom Sneva and Rick Mears. Sam Hornish Jr. earned his first IndyCar win there in 2001. Team Penske made its Indy Racing League debut at Phoenix. "It's the first (place) we took the McLaren in '71," Roger Penske told USA TODAY Sports. "We took it to Phoenix with no wings on it, drove it around, saw how good it was, then put wings on it." Four races later, Mark Donohue won a race with that car. The



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

**Sam Hornish Jr. makes a pit stop in 2005 en route to his win in the last IndyCar race at Phoenix International Raceway.**

**DRIVERS TO WATCH IN PHOENIX RACE**  
Brant James offers his insight at [indycar.usatoday.com](http://indycar.usatoday.com).

next year, McLaren won the Indianapolis 500 with Donohue driving, the first such win for Team Penske. Sneva won so often at Phoenix (four times) he decided to make

the area his home, as did Arie Luyendyk. "It's a great, historic track that had success for more than 40 years," said Frye, who after landing the Phoenix deal became IndyCar's president. Track President Bryan Sperber said Phoenix fans always were asking about having a headline race at night.

## Power ready to start season

**Curt Cavin**  
@curtcavin  
USA TODAY Sports

2014 Verizon IndyCar Series champion Will Power was delighted to have the release of his book, *The Sheer Force of Will Power*, come Tuesday. It meant he didn't have to talk as much about his health. Power was forced to sit out the opener March 13 in St. Petersburg, Fla., because of a confounding illness. IndyCar first diagnosed it as a concussion from an accident during the weekend, but the nausea and gripping headache were later officially linked to an inner ear infection, from which he had been suffering for weeks. Tests at the University of Miami showed Power had suffered no head trauma during the practice crash. Power was cleared to drive days later, and he drove 77 laps in

a private test last week at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Ala. That session, along with feeling as good and strong as ever, has him ready for this weekend's race at Phoenix International Raceway. "Ready to go," he told USA TODAY Sports on Tuesday. Power supported IndyCar's decision to hold him out of the St. Petersburg race, and now he has work to do. He trails series leader and St. Petersburg winner Juan Pablo Montoya by 50 points, which is anything but insurmountable with 15 races to go, including a pair of double-points events — the Indianapolis 500 and the season-ending race at Sonoma Raceway. Power says he and Team Penske can relax, charge forward and see what they can make of their early deficit. Having the book released also offers Power perspective. Not that long ago he was at home in Australia spending another

Christmas worrying about not yet having a ride for the next season. Then Helio Castroneves became entangled in legal issues related to income taxes and wasn't available to start the 2009 IndyCar season with Team Penske. Power was offered the chance to stand in for the Brazilian, and he delivered a strong sixth-place finish in St. Petersburg. When Castroneves returned, Roger Penske kept Power for his effort and skill. "Going through each chapter of the book reminds me of the struggle it took to get to this point," Power said. "You forget (over the years) and slip into your routine, feeling comfortable with what you've got. Then you go back and remember how hard it was when we didn't have much money. "My routine, year after year, was to be home with my family at Christmas wondering what I was going to be doing the next year. I'd be there stressing out, and it



JASEN VINLOVE, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Will Power missed the opener but didn't have a concussion.**

would be torture. So many times I'd be thinking, 'Racing's not going to be my thing; I'm going to be back (here) working (for my father).'

"It was a great feeling that first year (with Penske) when I knew what I'd be doing the next season. I got to relax at Christmas."

There won't be time to relax once IndyCar practice begins Friday at Phoenix. The 1-mile oval is

smooth, fast and daunting. "It is unique, a cool layout," said Power, whose Phoenix experience includes three test days but no races. "It's very, very smooth, and (Turns) 1 and 2 are very different than 3 and 4. "I'm really looking forward to it."

**Cavin writes for The Indianapolis Star, part of the USA TODAY NETWORK.**

## IN BRIEF



STEVE MITCHELL, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Matt Harvey is scheduled to start the Mets opener Sunday.**

**METS' HARVEY CLEARED AFTER PASSING BLOOD CLOT**  
New York Mets ace **Matt Harvey** remains on track to start the opener Sunday night at the Kansas City Royals after passing a blood clot in his bladder. "I guess it started with a bladder infection that created a blood clot in the bladder," Harvey said Tuesday. "Passed it yesterday. It wasn't a great first day of my 27th birthday, but I cleared that. And we had a little procedure done this morning just to go in and check the bladder, and everything was clear. I'm cleared to go."

► The Chicago Cubs released veteran outfielder **Shane Victorino** and will put utility man **Javier Baez** on the 15-day disabled list. The Cubs said Tuesday that they would allot their final roster spots to pitcher **Neil Ramirez**, infielder **Tommy La Stella** and outfielder **Matt Szczur**. Victorino, infielder **Munenori Kawasaki** and left-handed reliever **Manny Parra** were released.

► Pitcher **Philip Humber** has told the San Diego Padres he's retiring instead of accepting a minor league assignment.

**U.S. MEN'S SOCCER TEAM BOUNCES BACK WITH WIN**  
The USA got back on track for a berth in the 2018 World Cup, ending four nervous days with a 4-0 win against Guatemala on Tuesday behind goals from **Clint Dempsey**, **Geoff Cameron**, **Graham Zusi** and **Jozy Altidore**.

**dore** in Columbus, Ohio. After a dismal 2-0 defeat at Guatemala City on Friday, a loss would have made it virtually impossible for the USA to finish among the top two teams in the group and reach the six-nation finals of North and Central America and the Caribbean, but the victory put the USA in good position to advance. The Americans are 27-0-2 at home in qualifying since 2001.

**NIT FINAL SET: VALPARAISO VS. GEORGE WASHINGTON**  
**David Skara** sank the tiebreaking three-pointer with 20 seconds left and Valparaiso held off BYU 72-70 on Tuesday to reach the championship game of the National Invitation Tournament in New York. The Crusaders (30-6) will play George Washington (27-10) for the title Thursday at Madison Square Garden. Skara came off the bench to score a season-high 15 points for the Crusaders. **Tyler Cavanaugh** had 20 points and 11 rebounds to lead George Washington, which trounced San Diego State 65-46. The fourth-seeded Colonials matched the school record for wins in a season and won in their first visit to Madison Square Garden since 2001.

**SENIORS VALENTINE, HIELD LEAD ALL-AMERICA TEAM**  
Whenever talk of the best college basketball player this season came up, so did two names: **Denzel Valentine** of Michigan State and **Buddy Hield** of Oklahoma. They were unanimous selections Tuesday to The Associated Press' 2015-16 All-America team. They were joined on the All-America team by fellow seniors **Brice Johnson** of North Carolina and **Malcolm Brogdon** of Virginia. Sophomore **Tyler Ulis** of Kentucky rounded out the team.

**REVENGE-PORN CHARGES DROPPED OVER JURISDICTION**  
DeKalb County (Ill.) prosecutors dropped revenge-porn charges Tuesday against Chicago Blackhawks minor leaguer **Garret Ross**, 23, after investigators determined the incident happened while Ross was in Michigan and

wasn't under their jurisdiction. The Blackhawks suspended Ross over the accusations that he shared an image of a woman engaged in a sexual act without her consent. The team said Tuesday that he was reinstated to the American Hockey League's Rockford (Ill.) IceHogs.

**VANDERBILT RAPE TRIAL TO START MONDAY**  
A judge in Nashville has ordered that the trial of a former Vanderbilt football player accused of rape begin as planned Monday. Lawyers for **Cory Batey** wanted the trial postponed after his case was separated from that of another ex-Vanderbilt player, **Brandon Vandenburg**. The men were tried together earlier, but a judge declared a mistrial because a juror failed to disclose he had been a victim of statutory rape. Judge **Monte Watkins** said Tuesday that jury selection would begin Wednesday, WKRN-TV reported.

**JUDGE REFUSES TO MOVE TITLE IX SUIT TO KNOXVILLE**  
A federal judge Tuesday denied the University of Tennessee's request to move a sweeping Title IX lawsuit to Knoxville. The ruling by U.S. District Judge **Aleta Trauger** found that UT was an arm of the state and therefore could be sued in any federal court district in Tennessee. "The entire state has an interest in the resolution of this case that has lodged serious allegations against the state's premier higher education



MARK J. REBELAS, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Jon Jones is on supervised probation for a hit-and-run accident.**



GEOFF BURKE, USA TODAY SPORTS

**No. 19 seed Timea Bacsinszky says of her run, "It's something amazing."**

institution," Trauger said in the ruling. The eight plaintiffs argued it would be traumatic for the case to be considered in Knoxville. Trauger ruled that she was not swayed by UT's argument about convenience because witnesses in the case live in both judicial districts. Trauger also denied UT's motion to strike a paragraph in the plaintiffs' lawsuit related to a sexual assault allegation against Vols legend **Peyton Manning**.

**UFC'S JONES ACCUSED OF VIOLATING PROBATION**  
Former Ultimate Fighting Championship light heavyweight champion **Jon Jones** was arrested in Albuquerque on Tuesday, five days after being cited on multiple traffic charges. Records show Jones was arrested Tuesday and booked on a charge of violating his probation. Jones, 28, was pulled over in Albuquerque on Thursday and cited for drag racing, exhibition driving, weaving, failing to properly display his license plate and modifying his exhaust pipe, Albuquerque police told MMAjunkie. A body cam video of Jones' traffic stop shows a heated confrontation between the officer and Jones, who denied drag racing and cursed at the officer. Jones was given up to 18 months' supervised probation stemming from a hit-and-run accident last April that left a pregnant woman with a broken arm. Under the terms of his probation, he was forbidden

from breaking any laws.

**BACSINSZKY OUSTS HALEP FROM MIAMI OPEN**  
Switzerland's **Timea Bacsinszky** has been the comeback queen of this Miami Open and is heading to the semifinals after another three-setter. The No. 19 seed rallied to top fifth-seeded **Simona Halep** of Romania 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 Tuesday, continuing her deepest run in four trips to Key Biscayne. The only top-10 seed left in the women's draw is Germany's **Angelique Kerber**, who plays American **Madison Keys** on Wednesday. **Novak Djokovic** is through to the quarterfinals, defeating **Dominic Thiem** of Austria 6-3, 6-4. His next foe is **Tomas Berdych**. Also advancing in straight sets: No. 15 **David Goffin**, No. 18 **Gilles Simon** and No. 24 **Nick Kyrgios**.

**AMERICA'S CUP PRELUDE RACE TO BE HELD IN NYC IN MAY**  
Part of America's Cup, considered to be sailing's most prestigious event, will return to New York City for the first time in nearly a century. The multiday sailing event is part of a series of preliminary events leading up to the next America's Cup. It will be held May 7-8. It's a prelude to next year's America's Cup in Bermuda. Organizers say the regatta will be the first time the event has been in New York City since 1920.

**SCHOOL JUMPS FROM NO. 17 TO NO. 6 IN SUPER 25**  
Chaminade (West Hills, Calif.) made a big leap in the USA TODAY Sports Super 25 girls basketball rankings, from No. 17 to No. 6, with its 80-71 defeat of then-No. 4 Miramonte (Orinda) in the CIF Open Division state final. This week, four Super 25 teams — No. 4 Riverdale Baptist (Upper Marlboro, Md.), No. 10 Seton Catholic (Chandler, Ariz.), No. 12 Ribault (Jacksonville) and No. 13 St. Francis (Alpharetta, Ga.) — play in the Dick's Sporting Goods High School Nationals in New York. — Jim Halley

► **Complete rankings, 7C**

From staff and wire reports



# Sandoval works to win over fans

## Red Sox Nation underwhelmed by big third baseman

Jorge L. Ortiz

@jorgelortiz  
USA TODAY Sports

**FORT MYERS, FLA.** He's no longer thought of as the fun-loving third baseman with the cuddly nickname and the knack for turning unreachable pitches into line drives.

Instead, Pablo Sandoval is regarded all over New England as the overweight bust the Boston Red Sox are stuck with for four more years. Even calling him Panda doesn't seem right anymore. That's so San Francisco.

Sandoval has a plan for changing those perceptions, and part of it has to do with David Ortiz, who knows a few things about winning over Red Sox fans. Helping "Big Papi" cap his farewell season with a World Series celebration surely would atone for Sandoval's brutal first year in Boston, and it might not be such a ridiculous notion.

After all, Sandoval is the only player on the roster who can match Ortiz's three championship rings.

"Getting David back to the World Series in his final season is everybody's dream. That would be a great (parting) gift," Sandoval said in Spanish, adding that he's seeking to redeem himself as well. "What I want the most is to get to the World Series with Boston so I can show the fans that I truly have love and respect for the team."

He might not get a chance. Sandoval is engaged in competition for the starting spot at third



KIM KLEMENT, USA TODAY SPORTS

**"What I want the most is to get to the World Series with Boston," Pablo Sandoval says.**

base with Travis Shaw, who has had an excellent spring at the plate and has outplayed him defensively. Manager John Farrell said the club wanted to see better range from Sandoval at third.

"That's probably where a lot of it centers around," Farrell said of the competition. "Both have swung the bat very good in spring training, and yet the defensive side is extremely important."

In addition, *The Boston Globe* reported that Sandoval is being scouted by the San Diego Padres, who pursued the switch-hitting veteran when he became a free agent after the 2014 season. A trade for pitcher James Shields — owed \$63 million over the next three years — could make sense

for both sides if the Red Sox deem Shaw ready to take over at third.

Until he's told otherwise, Sandoval is focusing on bouncing back from the worst season of his career. He left the San Francisco Giants after the 2014 World Series — where he set a record for hits in one postseason — to sign a \$95 million contract with the Red Sox, who envisioned him and Hanley Ramirez (four years, \$88 million) energizing a team that had finished last in 2014.

They both had disappointing years as the Red Sox wound up in the basement again, and Sandoval's was particularly ugly, as he set career lows for a full season in batting average (.245), home runs (10), RBI (47) and on-base-plus-

slugging percentage (.658). Defensively, advanced metrics indicated he was the majors' worst third baseman by a large margin, a year after being a finalist for a Gold Glove Award in the National League.

Sandoval, typically carefree and thrilled to be on the field during his seven years with the Giants, acknowledged the game wasn't quite as much fun last season. He blames himself for the struggles.

"It was pressure you put on yourself, because you're trying to do things better than you're capable of," said Sandoval, 29. "Instead of controlling that pressure so things come out well, I didn't know how to control it and it got

out of hand."

The pressure and scrutiny might only intensify this season if he doesn't play well.

Sandoval, listed as 5-11 and 255 pounds, already created a stir when he came into camp at what seemed like the same weight as last season, when he wasn't exactly nimble, and said the team had not asked him to shed pounds.

That does not mean, he emphasized, that he took the winter off. For one, he spent hours in the hitting cage trying to find his right-handed stroke, which was so off-kilter last season that he ditched it after going 2-for-41. He's back to switch-hitting this year.

Sandoval said he also focused on his physique, which remains burly, with broad shoulders and powerful arms but also a prominent belly.

"I worked out. It's not like I didn't," Sandoval said. "Did I lose weight? I did my work. I trained every day, and I saw results. It's not easy to lower your body fat from 22(%) to 16%. And I put on 20 pounds of muscle. I felt weak toward the end of the season, and that's why I worked out that way."

Ortiz vouches for Sandoval's work ethic, saying it's clear he wants to prove he's a better player — a two-time All-Star, 2012 World Series MVP and career .288 hitter — than last season indicated.

But while his 13 seasons in Boston have taught Ortiz how to deal with the area's relentless news media — both sides have had their spats at times — Sandoval is trying to figure that out while under a microscope.

"I just wish people would leave him alone a bit, because the pressure is too much," Ortiz said. "It's hard to play baseball that way."

# Lesson with Lochte ends without drowning

Nicole Auerbach

@NicoleAuerbach  
USA TODAY Sports

**CHARLOTTE** I'd told Ryan Lochte that I defined my swimming skill level as, "Capable of not drowning." He laughed, but I think he really feared the worst — that I'd need floaties or something to make it through our swim lesson.

I'd thought it'd be pretty fun to have an 11-time Olympic medalist teach me each of the four strokes — freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly — that have made him one of the greatest swimmers on the planet. I'd never swam competitively, so I barely knew anything about technique beyond freestyle, which most people know. And I could tread water pretty well!

My first moment of concern came when I popped into an athletic apparel store back in New York, trying to stock up on all the necessary gear. I wasn't entirely sure what I needed beyond a bathing suit. There were two Speedos on the rack: one for a child and one two sizes too large for me. I erred on the side of baggy. I browsed the goggle and swim cap selection, oblivious to the differences or advantages in any



USA TODAY SPORTS

**Reporter Nicole Auerbach attempts the butterfly as amused Olympian Ryan Lochte watches.**

particular style. I grabbed the slightly more expensive goggles and two swim caps. I had no idea if I purchased the right things.

(And I forgot to buy a cheap towel.)

By the time I got to Charlotte, I knew I had to follow through. Lochte and his coach thought the project sounded fun; I knew my performance — particularly as I attempted the butterfly — would be hilariously disastrous. I was

game but still nervous. I didn't want to completely flail at every single stroke in front of one of the world's best swimmers. And the probability of that happening still hovered around 80%.

One of Lochte's female training partners helped me put on my swim cap, to the amusement of the rest of the group. Then Lochte and I jumped into a smaller training pool off to the side of the main Olympic-length pool —

so at least I would be shielded from excess ridicule. Besides, it was only about 3 feet deep, so the risk of drowning went way down.

The training pool allows you to pick the intensity of the current so you can swim in place. There's a bar, too, to work on kicking. Mirrors underwater and on the ceiling allow you to see your strokes and technique.

By the time our lesson began and Lochte began to teach, I loos-

ened up. He had a knack for explaining complicated maneuvers in a very easy-to-digest way. In short, he was a great teacher. Despite the silly faces he made when I didn't quite listen to his instructions — I forgot to breathe a few times — he was incredibly patient and helpful ... except when it came to the fly. He had this devilish grin on his face as he tried to teach me the hardest stroke in swimming. Lochte knew I would look like someone trying not to drown; that is exactly what I looked like. Twice. He made me try it twice.

But for the most part, I think I impressed him. Maybe he thought I'd never actually taken a swim lesson before — and sure, it'd been about 20 years, but that still counts — or he just underestimated my perfectionist nature. But I did learn a bit, and he told me afterward I should swim regularly. He and his coach, David Marsh, started Googling pool locations in Manhattan for me to swim at in the future. Apparently they see the Olympics in my future (!) ... or maybe just the step up from "not drowning."

I'll pretend it's the former.

► To see a video of Lochte's swim lesson, go to [olympics.usatoday.com](http://olympics.usatoday.com)

# Scouting background defines Titans GM Robinson

► CONTINUED FROM 1C

ating based on those original scouting reports.

It's also a test of will, whether you're getting kicked out of a powerhouse's practice after a few minutes of stretching or — in one instance Robinson recalls — squinting to make out numbers on a shaky VHS tape being projected onto a bedsheet inside a small school's dilapidated gymnasium, breathing in sweat from the pads airing out nearby.

"Everybody thinks scouting is this awesome (job). You just drive to Oxford, Mississippi, on Saturdays, you eat chicken wings and cheer, and it couldn't be further from the truth," Robinson said. "Those reports, they pile up on you at night, and you've got to crank through them."

The end result is just a recommendation for somebody else's decision, as it was in Robinson's time with the New England Patriots — he was an area scout (2002-05), regional scout (2006-07), assistant director of college scouting (2008) and director of college scouting (2009-13) — and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, for whom he was



MARK HUMPHREY, AP

**Jon Robinson, left, hopes running back DeMarco Murray, center, and coach Mike Mularkey help end the Titans' doldrums.**

director of player personnel the last two seasons.

Now, it's Robinson's turn to make those calls.

Bucs GM Jason Licht said recently that his former assistant "has to hire a Jon Robinson," emphasizing the importance of delegation. But Robinson, 40, is carving out plenty of time for film amid his administrative duties,

knowing that's one spot where his expertise is needed with a franchise that went 5-27 over the last two seasons and last made the playoffs in 2008.

Asked if he's still a scout, Robinson replied, "Absolutely. I think it exuded itself in our meetings in February. When we sat down and had roundtable discussions with our scouts, I would disagree with

them on occasion. I was like, 'I don't know what game you watched, but the games I watched, I didn't see what you're seeing.'"

A Union City, Tenn., native, Robinson points out he's an ex-coach, too, having gotten his start as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, Southeast Missouri State, where he played three years on the defensive line. He also coached at Nicholls State, where he worked with linebackers and started to figure out his management and leadership styles.

Robinson has made moves that should help young Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota. He traded for running back DeMarco Murray (swapping fourth-round draft picks with the Philadelphia Eagles to consummate the deal) and signed receiver Rishard Matthews and center Ben Jones in free agency.

Robinson also added several veteran defenders (safety Rashad Johnson, linebacker Sean Spence and cornerback Antwon Blake) with one-year deals.

He's a platinum member for life at Marriott hotels, still the salty guy other scouts liked hav-

ing on campus and conscious of how the No. 1 pick will be a face of the Robinson era. He says there are realistically about 10 candidates for the choice — Mississippi left tackle Laremy Tunsil surely among them — and he has fielded calls with serious trade interest.

"You're right; that player will be a cornerstone piece," Robinson said. "You're sending a statement not only to the fan base but to the players on your team, too: This guy is worthy of being the No. 1 overall pick."

"(The evaluation is) kind of all-encompassing. There's a mental component. There's a character component. There's a psychological component. There's the on-the-tape component. There's just the overall interview piece: 'Are we going to be able to work with this guy on a daily basis?'"

Accounting for the full profile of the player — including coachability, dependability and fit for the program — is another valuable lesson from the road, where Robinson has spent enough time to have confidence that when April 28 comes he'll have the right answer.





ROB SCHUMACHER, THE (PHOENIX) ARIZONA REPUBLIC

The Diamondbacks lured Zack Greinke away from the NL West rival Dodgers with a six-year, \$206.5 million contract. Greinke was 19-3 with a 1.66 ERA in 2015.

# MANY CONTENDERS, LOTS OF INTRIGUE

A century-long curse. Even-year magic. High drama in Gotham. The National League will not lack for narratives — metaphysical or otherwise — in a year in which all but a handful of clubs have a chance to emerge with the pennant. USA TODAY Sports’ Bob Nightengale, Jorge L. Ortiz and Steve Gardner break down how 2016 should shake out:

### NL EAST

**Pivotal player:** Matt Harvey. He’s a horse when healthy, but injuries and drama seem to follow him. The latest scare was a blood clot in his bladder. With fellow hard throwers Jacob deGrom and Noah Syndergaard behind him, the Mets might have the majors’ best rotation if Harvey is ready to lead it.

**Kid in play:** Lucas Giolito. The Washington Nationals’ No. 1 prospect will begin the season in the minors, but he’s bound to get called up sooner rather than later. The 6-6 right-hander made an impression in the spring but needs a little more seasoning to help a rotation with question marks at the back end.

**Pure fantasy:** Maikel Franco, Philadelphia Phillies. The third baseman’s 2015 season was cut short by a broken wrist. But up to that point, he hardly looked over-matched for a rookie, hitting .280 with 14 home runs and 50 RBI in basically half a season (304 at-bats). This spring he looks fully recovered, leading the majors in home runs (eight) and RBI (20). While spring training stats can be deceiving, Franco has done most of his damage against MLB-quality pitchers.

**One crazy scenario:** The favored Mets and Nationals falter early, allowing the Miami Marlins to turn the division into a three-team race. With healthy Giancarlo Stanton anchoring the lineup, the Marlins become an offensive force that can score through the long ball or by relying on the speed of Dee Gordon and Christian Yelich. Their pitching behind Jose Fernandez improves with the addition of Wei-Yin Chen.

**Likeliest scenario:** The Nationals and Mets battle for division supremacy all season, beating up on the rebuilding Phillies and Braves. Washington’s Bryce Harper puts up monster numbers again, but the Mets benefit from having Yoenis Cespedes and Michael Conforto for a full season, in addition to new second baseman Neil Walker. In the end, the team with the most productive rotation prevails.

**Projected order of finish (based on USA TODAY Sports preseason power rankings):** Mets, Nationals, Marlins, Braves, Phillies.



JAKE ROTH, USA TODAY SPORTS

The Cubs signed Jason Heyward away from the rival Cardinals with an eight-year, \$184 million deal.



JONATHAN DYER, USA TODAY SPORTS

In his first full season in 2015, Pirates outfielder Gregory Polanco batted .256 with nine home runs, 52 RBI, 27 stolen bases and a .701 on-base-plus-slugging percentage.

### NL CENTRAL

**Pivotal player:** Closer Hector Rondon, Chicago Cubs. The Cubs can start renting out Wrigleyville rooftops in October, but everything could go up in smoke if Rondon struggles. He caused concern in camp when he gave up 10 hits and eight earned runs in 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings in back-to-back appearances before settling down. He has proved he can do the job with 59 saves over the last two seasons, but the spotlight will be on him more than ever.

**Kid in play:** Alex Reyes, St. Louis Cardinals. Just when you thought the Cardinals were running out of bullets ... Oh, Reyes won’t show up in your box scores for a couple months, as he opens the year serving a 50-game suspension after violating the minor league drug policy by testing positive for marijuana. But when he returns, look out. He struck out 13.4 batters per nine innings at the rookie level, high-Class A and Class AA in 2015, giving up one homer in 101<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings. Look for his arrival in midsummer, when he could be an integral part of the Cards’ postseason run.

**Pure fantasy:** Gregory Polanco, Pirates. Pittsburgh’s other starting outfielders — Andrew McCutchen and Starling Marte — are more coveted by fantasy owners, but Polanco, 24, can contribute in many of the same ways. Hitting out of the leadoff spot, Polanco could approach 100 runs if he can maintain his on-base percentage gains. There’s also room for improvement in his stolen base rate (27-for-37). And at 6-5, 230, he should hit home runs (nine last year) more frequently.

**One crazy scenario:** The Cubs don’t win the division. That’s right. The team that’s favored to win the World Series for the first time since 1908 struggles with expectations all year, and the Cardinals cruise right past them to win their fourth consecutive NL Central title for a sixth playoff berth in a row. The Cardinals won 100 games last season despite having more impactful injuries than any other team, and now they have their big boy back in ace Adam Wainwright. They are looming large in the Cubs’ rearview mirror.

**Likeliest scenario:** The Cubs win their first NL Central title since 2008, their first pennant since 1945 and their first World Series since 1908. Come on, the script has been written, right? This is a team that won 97 games last year, then emptied its bank account to bring in outfielder Jason Heyward, second baseman Ben Zobrist and starting pitcher John Lackey. The Cubs have an embarrassing array of riches on the field, and no black cat or Steve Bartman impersonator can stop them now. Right?

**Projected order of finish:** Cubs, Cardinals, Pirates, Brewers, Reds.

### NL WEST

**Pivotal player:** Shelby Miller, Arizona Diamondbacks. The D’backs went all-in this winter, expending \$206 million for ace Zack Greinke and emptying their farm system for Miller. There’s virtually no concern about Greinke, but Miller has the spotlight on him after the D’backs traded outfielder Ender Inciarte; shortstop Dansby Swanson, the first pick in the 2015 draft; and pitching prospect Aaron Blair. All for a guy who went 6-17 last season for the Atlanta Braves, though he had rotten luck and terrible run support while yielding a 3.02 ERA in 205<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings. If he struggles in a new environment, the D’backs are in big trouble.

**Kid in play:** Corey Seager, Los Angeles Dodgers. The Dodgers have been patiently awaiting the arrival of the finest prospect in the land, and Seager whet their appetite by batting .337 with four home runs and 17 RBI in 98 at-bats after a September call-up; he also batted leadoff during the NL Division Series. Seager has a sprained knee that has kept him out of Cactus League games since March 11, but he’s expected to be ready by opening day and remains the heavy favorite for NL rookie of the year honors.

**Pure fantasy:** Patrick Corbin, Diamondbacks. The lefty has been easy to overlook after elbow surgery caused him to miss 2014 and the first part of last season. But in 16 starts last year, his underlying skills were superior to those of his All-Star season of 2013 — his strikeout (8.3 K/9) and walk (1.8 BB/9) rates improved, as did his ground-ball rate. The only concern is a potential innings cap after he threw only 85 last year.

**One crazy scenario:** The Dodgers, with a spring training that mostly consisted of medical reports, with more players in the trainer’s room than the clubhouse, shake off their woes and win the division for a fourth consecutive season. They lost three starters in the spring and didn’t have their regular infield together for a single inning, but their depth overcomes their blemishes. Maybe there is more to them than just three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw.

**Likeliest scenario:** The San Francisco Giants continue their every-other-year script and win the NL West — and perhaps the World Series, too. They dropped \$220 million on Johnny Cueto and Jeff Samardzija to bolster their rotation. Their lineup, particularly the infield, has the potential to be lethal. They are the team that can end the Dodgers’ three-year reign.

**Projected order of finish:** Giants, Dodgers, Diamondbacks, Padres, Rockies.



# NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Foursome sparks Oklahoma's ascent

Staples Hield, Cousins, Woodard, Spangler put Sooners on brink of title

George Schroeder  
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USA TODAY Sports

Because of a mildly sprained ankle, Isaiah Cousins sat out the last exhibition game before the start of his sophomore season. When the season opener tipped off, though, Cousins was ready to go — and, though no one had any inkling at the time, something special started for Oklahoma.

Saturday against Villanova in a national semifinal, Cousins and teammates Buddy Hield, Ryan Spangler and Jordan Woodard will start together for the 105th consecutive time. Together, the three seniors and a junior, respectively, have fueled Oklahoma's rise from rebuilding to the Final Four.

"It's unbelievable," Sooners coach Lon Kruger says, and he's not talking about the current run so much as the group's remarkable longevity and consistency, which might also be unprecedented, at least in recent years. "I can't imagine that really ever happening before. Not a sprained ankle, knock on wood. Not an illness."

Like the lineup, winning has become a constant. Oklahoma is 76-28 in three seasons and has gotten better each season, growing along with its core four. The Sooners have been propelled by Hield's shooting, sure. But Cousins, Spangler and Woodard also have been integral — all four average double figures in points; combined they account for more than 75% of Oklahoma's scoring — and so has the group's chemistry.

In a sport that in many ways is predicated on instant gratification, the cohesion stands out. And if it's more a fortunate anomaly than something that can or will be replicated elsewhere — or even at Oklahoma — it has changed the culture of the program, according to Kruger, citing the players' collective attitude, work ethic and decision-making on and off the court.

"They're where they're supposed to be when they're supposed to, doing what they're supposed to do," says Alex Brown, Oklahoma's longtime athletic trainer, who calls them the Four Horsemen. "They just make good decisions, and they're leaders. They make everybody's job easier."

Along the way, the program has matured and grown with them,

from talented but raw sophomores and a freshman to a savvy, seasoned bunch of upperclassmen who seem unfazed by any situation.

"We ride and fight all together," Hield says, "so I think ending on a good note would be special for us."

### BACK TO THE FINAL FOUR

Oklahoma is making its first trip to the Final Four since 2002, when the current players were in elementary school. The previous trip to the Elite Eight came in 2009, long before anyone on the roster arrived. But if college hoops' biggest stage will be a new experience, when it comes to pressure and almost any situation, they've probably been there and done that.

"We know what each other is capable of doing," Hield says. "We're comfortable doing this. When everybody's on the court, we feel comfortable and we can be relaxed."

Others see it, too. Mitch Richmond, the former NBA All-Star who played for Kruger at Kansas State and attended both of the Sooners games last weekend in Anaheim, Calif., noted "a calmness they have within themselves."

"They know each other," Oregon forward Jordan Bell said after the Sooners beat the Ducks in

**"We know what each other is capable of doing. We're comfortable doing this."**

Oklahoma guard **Buddy Hield**, on his teammates

the West Region final. "They are so connected and play so well together. They don't argue with each other. They play very respectfully together."

When Oregon jumped to an early seven-point lead, the Sooners seemed unfazed. Kruger didn't call timeout. When Cousins and Woodard picked up two early fouls, he let Cousins keep going; the senior guard responded by sandwiching two three-pointers around a steal and a dunk.

"They've been in enough games together that they know each other," Oklahoma assistant Chris Crutchfield says. "They make eye contact or body language — they know each other."

They know they're close to



RAY CARLIN, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Buddy Hield (24), Isaiah Cousins (11), Jordan Woodard (10) and Ryan Spangler (00) will make their 105th consecutive start together in Saturday's national semifinal vs. Villanova.**

achieving something else that's unprecedented at Oklahoma. But when they got that first start together, against Alabama in November 2013, they didn't envision being in this position. The Sooners won after trailing by 16 points in the first half; it was clear early they had talent and moxie. But they had a learning curve to climb, too.

"We were young," says Woodard, who was younger than the others — the junior guard has started every game of his career. "We were young, and I feel like our expectations for ourselves might not have been as high. But as we grew together, I feel like we realized what we were capable of."

"We lost a lot of games off undisciplined (play) and little things, really," Cousins says.

They really didn't lose many games. But they took lumps, and they've certainly grown, both individually and as a unit, with experience. If anything, the Sooners' nucleus resembles what is sometimes found at the mid-major level, veterans who've been through plenty together and have grown collectively formidable. But even those groups don't put together this kind of streak.

Consider: None of the core four's performance ever dipped enough that he was sent to the bench, even for a game. No one was penalized for missing class or being late for a meeting or some other transgression. No one became dissatisfied and transferred. No one turned pro (although Hield considered the idea after last season, when he was named the Big 12's player of the year).

And somehow, no one has been injured or ill enough to miss a start. Brown says none of the four players has ever really been close to missing a game. A couple of years back, Spangler left a game after taking a hard shot to the shin, but he was back for the next game. There have been twisted ankles and assorted bumps and other bruises. But nothing that prevented a start.

"There's a lot of factors that go into it," Brown says. "First of all, God has blessed this team with great health. That can't be underestimated. We've had His blessing."

### ALWAYS THERE

Never mind games, Brown says they've rarely missed practices — and he attributes part of that to Kruger's philosophy of going light in practices, especially later in the season, to try to lessen wear and tear. The Sooners rarely run sprints. Coaches have quick whistles when players hit the floor.

"He does so many things to prevent injuries in practice," Brown says.

And there's one more factor, something Brown says he has learned over the years.

"Winning is the most powerful drug I know," he says. "Winning makes it a lot easier for guys to want to go to practice, to want to do that extra work."

They've done plenty of both, starting with extra work. If Kruger's approach lightens the load, the core four can usually be found in the gym, anyway. Spangler says they keep each other accountable. "We've had our ups and downs, and we've been through it all together, and we've all worked pretty hard," Spangler says.

Tyler Neal was a senior reserve when the starts streak began. He immediately noted the younger players' confidence, but more their work ethic.

"Those guys just came in with the idea they would try to out-work each other, and it was infectious to the whole team," Neal says. "They changed the culture."

Now, with their 105th consecutive start together coming Saturday — and perhaps their 106th in Monday's national championship game — they have a chance to change it even more.

"It's a special team," Woodard says. "We've been through a lot together, so it would be good to end it right."

## Wright, Wildcats just wild about Arcidiacono

► CONTINUED FROM 1C

category of Chris Ford, Kerry Kittles, Scottie Reynolds, Wali Jones. You've got to be good enough, which he is. Some of them might be a little more talented, but if you look at what he did over a career, he's got to go down into the all-time greats."

Part of Wright's affection for Arcidiacono — and Arcidiacono's for the Villanova program — stems from proximity. Arcidiacono grew up nearby in Bucks County, just like Wright did.

"His two parents played at Villanova; his father was a football player," Wright said. "So he was like a kid in Alabama, growing up wanting to play for Alabama football. And that doesn't happen in the Northeast, you know? So he didn't follow the Sixers as much as he followed Villanova basketball, so everything he knew about basketball was from how we played."

"I watched him in high school. He's diving on loose balls, diving in games, playing defense — even though he's the team's leading scorer. So this is a dream. And he was like that from Day 1 coming in here, and that's why we made him captain as a freshman."

Arcidiacono (pronounced Archie-dee-YOCK-uh-no) probably doesn't care much about his individual legacy at Villanova. He's consumed by winning and team success. He's focused on the Wildcats' Final Four opponent, Oklahoma.

"He's just a guy who's a great player who has done everything he's had to do," junior Josh Hart said. "He is someone, like an Aaron Craft kind of guy, who's just



JAMIE RHODES, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Ryan Arcidiacono, right, is averaging 12.3 points, 4.3 assists and 1.4 steals per game this season.**

tough as nails, who does everything he has to do to defend. ... He's just a tough, gritty point guard who cares more about our team than himself."

Nothing epitomizes that more than those moments — and there's likely enough footage of them to make a full-length movie — when Arcidiacono is diving for a loose ball. Sometimes he's on the ground. Sometimes he's trying to leap over the scorer's table. Sometimes he's bloody.

"That's something that we feed off. That's something that the

program is built off of," Hart said. "If you come in here during practice and someone dives, you hear everyone yelling. Everyone feeds off of that energy."

Hart laughed. He said even while Arcidiacono provides a boost to the team when he does it in games, sometimes it still reminds his teammates how unathletic he is. "He never fully clears the scorer's table," Hart said. "He'll jump, and his foot will knock over a chair or something — but, you know, we all feed off his energy when he does that."

That's why Arcidiacono will always be beloved at Villanova.

The 6-3 guard has been the heart and soul of this team and program for four seasons. It doesn't matter he never averaged more than 13 points per game in a season. What matters is he took over a team that had gone 13-19 the previous year and helped turn it into one of the best in the nation.

"As a former player and coach, he'll be, in my mind, one of the greatest to ever play here," Villanova assistant coach Baker Dun-

**"He's just a tough, gritty point guard who cares more about our team than himself."**

Villanova's **Josh Hart**, on teammate Ryan Arcidiacono

leavy said. "Take into perspective when he came in, what the program was like when he came in and then what the program is like when he is leaving. He really helped us re-establish ourselves here. When arguably your best player is the most committed player to the coach's vision, it makes coaching so much easier. And that's what he's been since Day 1. ... We were young and inexperienced. We didn't have anybody on the team that had really been a part of something — of a big-time, Final Four-type tournament team. We just needed, we were dying for leadership. He brought that right away. He was fearless."

"He's always been our most quality and toughest player. To see what he's developed into, not only as a well-rounded point guard but also as a kid, we're just so proud. ... This senior class is the winningest class (in Villanova history). To have that from a guy who came in the year after a 13-19 team, it's not easy. He's an unbelievable example that we'll point to. The guys, going forward, will really get sick of us talking about him. We're going to talk about him forever."



# NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Stewart sets bar high, stays humble

► CONTINUED FROM 1C

put it in her pocket. She has kept it all these years and kept the names private, even from Stewart, whom everybody around the UConn program knows as “Stewie.”

“I would never tell her this,” Dailey told USA TODAY Sports. “It would go to her head.”

Dailey smiled. Nothing seems to go to Stewart’s head, no matter that she is the only player in NCAA history to be named most outstanding player of the Final Four three times and is an overwhelming favorite to pick up No. 4 next week in Indianapolis, where Stewart and fellow All-Americans Moriah Jefferson and Morgan Tuck aim to become the first class of players to capture four consecutive NCAA titles.

Indeed, watching the full array of Stewart’s gifts in her last two games in the Bridgeport Region — she averaged 21.5 points, 13.5 rebounds, four blocks, four assists and two steals — was to see long-limbed dominance of mind-blowing diversity. Here was Stewart, No. 30 in your UConn program, reaching behind her head to haul in an impossible rebound. Here she was stepping up to swat away a shot. Here she was running the break, attacking the basket, stepping behind the three-point line, whipping a cross-court pass to an open teammate for a layup.

Here was the heir to UConn’s unmatched lineage of basketball royalty, a club that includes the likes of Sue Bird, Diana Taurasi, Tina Charles and Maya Moore.

“There are two or three moments in the course of every game that Breanna makes a play that no other player in the country could make,” said ESPN commentator Doris Burke, who worked the two UConn victories — a 98-38 thumping of Mississippi State and an 86-65 victory against Texas in the regional final Monday — that extended UConn’s latest winning streak to 73 and put Auriemma’s team in a record ninth consecutive Final Four. “She’s pretty unique.”

Stewart is 21, the oldest child of Brian and Heather Stewart, who work in the MRI department and human resources, respectively, of the same Syracuse hospital. Neither parent is tall; neither has special athletic pedigree. But somehow their genes produced a daughter who hit 6-0 in seventh grade and reached her current height a year or so later, when she began her varsity career as an eighth-grader for Cicero-North Syracuse High School, a shot-

blocking force who struggled to catch the ball in the low blocks and was utterly unpolished offensively.

Eric Smith, Stewart’s high school coach, had little inkling of her potential until he began to see it emerge almost daily, powered by a work ethic that was hard to fathom, a gawky, ungainly middle schooler morphing into a high school megastar.

“I remember one time when we scrimmaged the JV,” Smith said. “Breanna was the best player on the floor by far, but she was diving all over the place. She was the hardest-working player out there. That’s how it was every single day. Every day.”

Stewart, for her part, sees nothing remarkable in that. At her stall in a tiny locker room at Webster Bank Arena a day before the Texas game, she told USA TODAY Sports, “I want to continue to get better. There are things I have to work on. If you don’t want to (work at it), then you are in the wrong sport and the wrong area of your life.”

Beyond her unrelenting work, Stewart has an almost girlish exuberance, especially around teammates. Moments after the trip to Indianapolis was clinched, she jumped into a huddle of Huskies, pushing off nearby shoulders to get airborne. After suffering a black eye in a high school game, she and her teammates wrote a song about it on the bus ride home. Stewart has a noted weakness for Skittles and shopping.

“Sometimes I have to tell myself to stop shopping,” Stewart says, smiling. The message has not gotten through. Her favorite purchase, aptly, is sneakers. Size 12 men’s, the kind she wears in games. She has lost count of her inventory.

“I could open a shoe store,” Heather Stewart said.

Cara Gannett, a high school teammate, was a 5-11 post player who went against Stewart every day at Cicero North and might have had more of her shots blocked by Stewart than anyone in history. “It was a lesson in humility,” said Gannett, who has an equally vivid memory of a team trip to New York, where Stewart immediately sought out a Nike-town store.

“She was in there for an hour. We couldn’t get her out,” Gannett said.

The Gatorade High School Player of the Year as a high school senior, Stewart, for years, seemed destined to play for North Carolina. She fell in love with the 2005 men’s national championship



PHOTOS BY DAVID BUTLER II, USA TODAY SPORTS

**Breanna Stewart averages 19.3 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3.5 blocks for 36-0 Connecticut.**



**Stewart, Connecticut’s driving force, is 6-4, but her parents, Brian and Heather, are neither tall nor especially athletic.**

team, headlined by Sean May and Raymond Felton, and wore Carolina blue gear incessantly. At 12, Stewart wrote a letter to Sylvia Hatchell, North Carolina’s Hall of Fame coach, and the family had an informal visit to Chapel Hill while on vacation.

By the time recruiting heated up in earnest, Stewart’s preferences switched to Duke, Penn State and UConn. Ultimately, she was sold on Auriemma’s track record not just of winning but not letting anybody coast, ever.

“I knew they would push me to a level I’d never even thought of,” Stewart said.

Just games away from finishing what might be the most decorated career in the annals of her sport, Stewart, according to those

closest to her, has humility hard-wired into her.

She wants no fuss made over her, never engages in the slightest self-promotion. She just plays, low-maintenance and low-key.

She signed her UConn letter of intent on the hood of her Honda CR-V by the emergency room of her parents’ hospital.

Who needs a news conference? “That’s not what she’s about. That’s not what we’re about,” Dailey said.

Stewart was the best player on the floor in the first game of her freshman season, and, after enduring a midseason lull, finished the season in breathtaking form, highlighted by a 29-point, five-rebound, four-block performance in the national semifinals against

Notre Dame. She hit four of five three-pointers and channeled her inner Brittney Griner on defense. Stewart was only getting warmed up. Three national championships later, on the cusp of a fourth, she heads into the Final Four averaging 19.3 points, 8.7 rebounds, 3.5 blocks and four assists. She shoots 58% from the floor, 42% from beyond the arc.

The numbers don’t begin to convey her impact.

“The best part about her is that Breanna saves her best moments for the hardest moments,” Burke said.

Maybe sometime after the Final Four Dailey will pull out that 4-year-old piece of paper and show it to Stewart. Maybe the coach will reveal the identity of the players she thought of when she looked at the full range of this player’s skills.

The names are Dirk Nowitzki and Kevin Durant.

“Obviously she’s not them, but (she shares) their ability at their size to take people on the wing, shoot the three, do the fadeaway and face up and be able to handle the ball well enough to create matchup nightmares,” Dailey said.

Stewart’s wingspan might well take her to places no female player has gone before. Mississippi State’s Ketara Chapel wouldn’t disagree. A 6-1 junior, Chapel had the unenviable task of guarding Stewart for a good piece of the regional semifinal.

“She’s so long, so athletic. She can shoot. She can do anything,” Chapel said. “She’s the best player I ever played against.”

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NBA

# Westbrook woos Durant with play

Focused on assists, guard shows how good OKC can be

Sam Amick  
@sam\_amick  
USA TODAY Sports

The NBA recruiting season never truly stops, and so it has been for the latest big fish in the free agency sea: the Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant.

Reporters in rival cities get his thoughts on their respective market, then write about how he might look playing for that particular team. Fans who would love to steal him from OKC chant his name, hoping he remembers the love they showed. His contemporaries make a pitch with their play, aware that sustained excellence is the only real way to get his attention and, potentially, his signature on a contract.

To that end, no one is making a better impression than the Thunder's Russell Westbrook.

This is their eighth year as running mates and the latest in which they both have had MVP-caliber seasons, so the idea that Westbrook has anything left to prove to Durant might sound strange. But this evolved version of Westbrook is the kind of player who no superstar in his right mind would walk away from if this were, in fact, his new norm. Westbrook, long accused of being a score-first talent who was too reckless to embrace team basketball, has become this era's Oscar Robertson. And more.

During the eight-game winning streak — which ended Tuesday with an 88-82 loss at the Detroit Pistons — that breathed new life into the Thunder's title hopes, Westbrook had posted five triple-doubles for a league-high 16 this season. The 27-year-old, who had eight triple-doubles through his first six seasons, has a combined 27 in the last two. During the latest stretch, one in which the Thunder had a point-differential of +16.3 while beating several



DERICK E. HINGLE, USA TODAY SPORTS

The Thunder's Russell Westbrook had assisted on 67.4% of Kevin Durant's made field goals.

quality teams, he averaged 20.5 points, 12 assists, 9.6 rebounds and 3.1 turnovers per game.

This change in Westbrook's ethos might very well be the thing that keeps Durant in a Thunder uniform. Of all the factors that could come into play for Durant this summer, the question of Westbrook and how willing he is to play the kind of inclusive style that today's NBA demands is key. Although the Thunder have a dearth of playmakers that makes

it nearly impossible to reach the Golden State Warriors-San Antonio Spurs' level of basketball, no one can claim that Westbrook — with first-year coach Billy Donovan pounding these points at every turn — isn't doing his part.

Going into Tuesday, not only was Westbrook second in the league in assists (a career-high pace of 10.4 per game; the Sacramento Kings' Rajon Rondo led with 11.7), but he also was tops among point guards on winning

teams. What's more, he was feeding Durant more than ever. Of Durant's 356 made field goals that were assisted, Westbrook had been responsible for 240 (67.4%), according to NBA.com/stats. It's a serious spike compared with the last regular season in which both stars were able to stay (mostly) healthy. In 2012-13, Westbrook assisted on 56.7% of Durant's made field goals (214 of 377).

Westbrook as willing passer takes this tandem to a new level.

The Thunder need playmaking from other places if they're going to keep opposing defenses guessing in the playoffs.

And the synergy between them is improving.

Durant is the only player in the league averaging at least 26 points (he's at 28 points, third in the league behind Stephen Curry and James Harden), seven rebounds (8.3, tops among small forwards) and five assists (he's fifth, second to LeBron James among small forwards). He is also the guy who hinted at this kind of growth, saying repeatedly around the All-Star break that change was happening the hard way. This evolution, as long as it continues, could prove to be pivotal in the playoffs.

The Thunder have been at their ball-sharing best of late. Their assist-to-turnover ratio of 1.76 during the winning streak was better than the 1.43 mark they produced in the 66 previous games. The win Monday against the Toronto Raptors was a clinic in that regard, with 29 assists on 41 made baskets.

But that game also exposed the real problem with the Thunder's formula. Westbrook and Durant accounted for 20 of the assists, with no other player logging more than Dion Waiters' three.

After Westbrook's 240 assists to Durant, Waiters was second with 17 and Andre Roberson third at 16. By comparison, the Warriors' leading scorer, Curry, sees his assists from a versatile crew: Draymond Green led at 141, followed by Andrew Bogut at 55 and Andre Iguodala at 45.

The Thunder need playmaking from other places if they're going to keep opposing defenses guessing in the playoffs. But Westbrook is doing all he can — not only to make a serious title push but to convince Durant that he has every reason to stay.

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