

KAYNE WEST APOLOGIZES TO BECK V/A TWITTER

"I follow the weather," he says. "After fall hits in Michigan, I come to Nashville, get another fall. When it's time for hunting season, I go to Alabama. Then, when all hell breaks loose, I go to Florida."

"I'd rather have double-wides all over the place than sit at the Holiday Inn Express or the Four Seasons. I'd rather walk around on my money than give it to some Wall Street (expletive)."

Rock's had a good hunting year leading up to *First Kiss* release. He killed a mountain lion with Ted Nugent in northern Idaho on Jan. 2 in the first hour of his first big-game hunt, drawing the online ire of animal-rights supporters when Nugent posted a photo of the two with their kill. Several days later, in Alabama, he bagged the biggest deer of his hunting career, then he landed two sailfish near his home in Florida. "I should just retire," he says.

He butchered the deer. The mountain lion he's having mounted. If his taxidermist can get him ready, he says, Rock will take the lion on his tour with *Foreigner* that begins in late June — he'll place the animal "right up there by the drum riser every night."

None of that, of course, compares to becoming a grandfather for the first time. Rock's son Bobby Ritchie Jr., and his girlfriend had a daughter, Skye Noel, on Christmas. Rock says he got the call late on Christmas Eve that the baby was on its way: "Got in the fastest car I got, cracked a beer, and said, 'I'm going to the hospital,'" he says. "I was there for the birth, and it was a great time."

Rock's first album as a grandfather is also the last under his contract with Warner Bros., a deal that began with 1998's breakthrough album, *Devil Without a Cause*, which sold more than 9 million copies. Rock says his approach to making this album was similar to a professional athlete in the final year of a contract: "My contract's up; let me have a great year and focus."

Rock recorded most of the album in Detroit with members of Texas rock group Band of Heathens. "They're pretty much the house musicians," he says. The group played on one of Rock's *Chillin' the Most* cruises and opened some dates on his 2013 tour. "I dig these cats' stuff," he says. "It's just blues-based rock 'n' roll. They turned out to be better than their music as people. I was originally going to use the keyboard player, then I was like, 'Bring the whole band.'"

Rock cut two tracks, the single *First Kiss* and an old-school country tune called *Drinking Beer With Dad*, in Nashville.

The album comes with two bonus songs — or, more precisely, two different versions of the same song. The first, titled *FOAD*, came from Rock's penchant for coming up with profane lyrics during the writing process. "I'll just try to fit in a dirty word, just to have a good laugh while we're writing," he says. The title's an acronym for (Expletive) *Off and Die*.

Rock says when he played the song for his friend Bob Seger, the fellow Michigan rocker told him he had ruined a perfectly good melody and insisted on writing a new version for him. Seger returned to Rock's studio the next day to coach him through the new lyrics, this time called *Say Goodbye*.

"He goes, 'You have such a beautiful voice, why do you sing with all that rasp?'" Rock says. "I said, 'I'm trying to sing like you!' He's like, 'No, don't do that; sing higher, without the rasp.' It's one of my best vocal performances."

Rock says he's not sure where his career will take him now that his label deal is up.

"People are like, 'Are you going to start your own record label?' I don't want a subzero refrigerator. You think I want to run a record label? I'm trying to simplify things."

But he likes where his life is. "When I get up every morning, my first thought is not about making money. How lucky am I? Everybody I know gets out of bed like, 'I've got to make money; I've got to pay bills.' That's not on my mind. Out of everything I've ever done, that means the most to me."

'Pee-wee' gets ready for new movie on Netflix

You heard it here first: Bow tie is the new black.

Pee-wee Herman, the goofball kiddie character who's still not grown up, is going to be in a new movie on Netflix and grown-up comedy titan Judd Apatow is going to help him make it.

Netflix confirmed Tuesday the long-expected project in which Apatow will team with Pee-wee creator Paul Reubens, who's played the arrested-development man-boy in theaters, the movies and on TV since 1981.

They're going to make *Pee-wee's Big Holiday*, in which a mysterious stranger inspires Pee-wee to take his first holiday in what Netflix described as "an epic story of friendship and destiny."

"Judd and I dreamt up this movie four years ago," said Reubens-as-Pee-wee in a statement. "The world was much different back then — Netflix was waiting by the mailbox for red envelopes to arrive."

"I've changed all that. The future is here. Get used to it. Bowtie is the new black."

Reubens and Paul Rust (*Arrested Development*) wrote the film, and John Lee (*Inside Amy Schumer*) will direct his first feature film. Production is to start early this year.

Apatow, the producer/director/screenwriter and comedy man-of-all-trades, said in a statement he's "thrilled," having been a fan of Reubens for decades.

"It is a dream come true," said Apatow, who's responsible for some of the biggest funny-movie hits of recent years, including *Bridesmaids*.

"We didn't hesitate for a moment," said the equally delighted Netflix Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos. "We are thrilled to

bring our viewers around the world the wonder of Pee-wee Herman."

Not much has been seen of Pee-wee of late, even though he was a huge hit in the 1980s with the 1985 comedy *Pee-wee's Big Adventure*, which Reubens co-wrote and marked Tim Burton's directorial debut. Reubens created *The Pee-wee Herman Show*, a hit for HBO, and created, co-wrote and co-directed *Pee-wee's Playhouse* on CBS, earning 22 Emmys in five years.

But then, in 1991, Reubens, now 62, was arrested for indecent exposure in an adult theater in Sarasota, Fla., which horrified parents and nearly destroyed his career as a children's character actor. Reubens and Pee-wee went into a time-out for nearly a decade. Eventually, Reubens returned as a different kind of character actor, and with some success. He's appeared in such series as *30 Rock*, *Reno 911*, *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *Murphy Brown*.

His film credits include *Mystery Men* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and he's voiced animated characters in such films as *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Star Wars Rebels*, *Robot Chicken*, *Family Guy* and *Smurfs*.

Netflix said he's now working on a variety show for TV and appears in a recurring role on NBC's drama *The Blacklist*.

Kanye West apologizes to Beck via Twitter

Better late than never?

Kanye West took to Twitter Thursday evening to apologize to Beck, presumably for the Grammy Awards incident 18 days ago on February 8.

"I would like to publicly apologize to Beck, I'm sorry Beck," the tweet read. There was no further explanation.

West, 37, walked to the Grammys stage and acted like he was going to interrupt best-album winner Beck, who took the award over Beyoncé ... but then he retreated before saying a word.

Many thought it was some sort of meta joke harkening back to 2009 when West actually interrupted Taylor Swift's VMA speech saying Beyoncé should have won.

But it turned out, West was serious.

In a backstage interview with E!, West said Beck didn't deserve to win.

"...All I know is if the Grammys want real artists to keep coming back, they need to stop playing with us. We ain't gonna play with them no more. *Flawless*, Beyoncé video," West said. "Beck needs to respect artistry and he should have given his award to Beyoncé, and at this point, we tired of it."

Beck took the high road, telling *US Weekly*:

"I was just so excited he was coming up. He deserves to be on stage as much as anybody. How many great records has he put out in the last five years, right?"

'Last Man on Earth' stands alone

There's no *Man* like this one.

That's quite the distinction, because we're in a particularly innovative period for TV comedy. You can start with *Modern Family*,

BY: LEON IRBY

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DATED: FEBRUARY 17, 2015

which reinvented and reinvigorated the traditional family sitcom — and then move on to new shows like *Black-ish*, *Cristela*, *Fresh off the Boat*, *Transparent* and *Jane the Virgin*, which expanded the types of families TV welcomed into the tradition; and idiosyncratic series like *Louie*, *Girls*, *Man Seeking Woman*, *Orange Is the New Black* and *Mozart in the Jungle*, which offer a very particular, and sometimes peculiar, take on what comedy can be and do.

Into that mix comes Fox's *The Last Man on Earth* (Sunday, 9 ET/PT, ***1/2 stars out of four), a new comedy about the cheery subject of near-extinction that is, by definition, a one-man show. And if that built-in ensemble restriction weren't difficult enough to pull off, the opening half-hour's central theme is loneliness tending toward insanity, all wrapped in unusually long stretches of silence.

Well, silence on the show's part; in your home, the silence may very well be broken by bursts of laughter. There may even be a few cheers for the audacity, inventiveness and achievement of Will Forte (*Saturday Night Live*), who created and stars in the show and has filled it with a warm, goofy spirit that always feels oddly appropriate to the subject matter.

The year is 2020, and an unnamed virus (and no, it does not involve zombies) has seemingly killed every man on Earth except Phil Miller (Forte), a 41-year-old former temp who clings to photos of his vanished family. Having searched America in vain for other survivors (leaving "Alive in Tucson" signs behind, just in case he missed someone), Phil now settles in for life on his own.

What would you do? For Phil, the answer is to move into a huge house and fill it with trinkets he acquired along the way, including Dorothy's ruby slippers, a rug from the White House, a suit of armor, and any number of museum masterpieces. Oh, and to entertain himself by inventing new, no-one-to-stop-me games like bowling with cars.

Phil has two goals: To stay happy in his solitude and to avoid talking to a volleyball like Tom Hanks did in *Cast Away*. Let's just say he has trouble with both as his links to civilization — and indoor plumbing — begin to fray.

What Phil wants is a friend, or better yet, a mate. Whether he gets what he wishes for is something you should discover on your own. In the wrong hands, *Last Man* could have easily been either grim or silly: *I Am Legend* or *Gilligan's Island*. Instead, Forte and *The Lego Movie's* Phil Lord and Chris Miller — who serve as producers and, superbly, as directors — have adeptly walked a middle line, taking a comic approach to a scary subject, but keeping the humor grounded in reality. None of which would be possible without a tour de force performance by Forte, who immediately pushes himself into the Emmy conversation.

He may not be the last man to be considered, but he and his show may be among the best.

Mendes: Bond's 'greater wisdom' in 'Spectre'

For once, James Bond has some extra experience on his fellow co-workers.

Sam Mendes, the director of the new 007 film *Spectre*, also shared in a new production "vlog" Thursday that Daniel Craig's secret agent is showing a greater sense of wisdom in the last Bond flick, 2012's *Skyfall* (also directed by Mendes).

And those smarts may impact his choice of career.

"That's very much what the movie's about: whether or not to pursue the life he's always pursued, whether he matters and is he going to continue or not," says Mendes.

The title of *Spectre* (in theaters Nov. 6) hints at the old nefarious organization S.P.E.C.T.R.E. headed up by megalomaniacal villain Ernst Blofeld in the older Bond films, and this story centers on the superspy on the prowl for a shadowy group.

Mendes introduced a new M (Ralph Fiennes), Miss Moneypenny (Naomie Harris) and Q (Ben Whishaw) in *Skyfall*, and the filmmaker wanted to develop their characters more while helping out 007 in his mission: "They all in different ways risk their careers and risk their livelihoods."

But the plot was the main thing that brought Mendes back for another dose of cinematic Bond thrills.

"What you have is a movie entirely driven by Bond," the director says. "He is on a mission from the very beginning — he is on the hunt, on the trail, of somebody. You don't know why, you don't know what he's doing there. That sense that something is up is also tied to a second part of a crucial story of Bond's childhood."

"Once it was clear that those two huge things were on the table, I had to do it."

MLB picks up the pace, but pitchers aren't on clock - yet

TAMPA - It will be messy at times.

There will new arguments between the umpires and players, and depending on the umpire's particular mood that game, or the popularity of a player, interpretation of these new rules could greatly vary.

There is so much gray area in the new speed-up rules announced Friday by Major League Baseball that the umpires' union has yet to be informed of anything official, president Joe West told USA TODAY Sports, with discussions still taking place on specific guidelines.

Yet, no matter what you may think, or how skeptical you want to be, new Commissioner Rob Manfred wasted no time putting his stamp on the game.

He advocated for change when he ran for office, and just as he promised, change came within just three weeks on the job.

Manfred immediately went to work with Tony Clark, executive director of the players

union, and six weeks left before opening day, they have a plan in place to quicken the pace of games that reached a record 3 hours, 2 minutes last season.

Will it work?

We'll see.

There are critics who don't like it. There are plenty of skeptics. But, hey, at least the folks on Park Avenue are trying, while not changing the principals or integrity of the game.

When that commercial break ends, you better be on that mound, and you better be in the batter's box, with clocks counting down the seconds when play begins.

If you're in the batter's box, and get upset over a strike call, or simply want to clear your head, you better keep one foot in or you'll be subjected to fines.

If you're a manager, and question whether the call on the field was right, you better make up your mind real quick, having only about 30 seconds to decide whether it's worth a challenge.

Welcome to the first genuine attempt to quicken the pace of games, without the need for a pitch clock, or even a revamped strike zone.

"Really, for us, it's about seeing whether we can use the rules that are already in the books to speed up the game," Yankees player representative Chris Capuano told USA TODAY Sports, "and really, doing it on our own."

"I think the biggest thing is that all of the players want to speed up the pace of the game. And enforcing the in-between innings break and pitching change breaks, I think a lot of guys are on board with that."

"Hopefully, this is something collectively from the players' side and the owners' side that we can get these things accomplished without changing the game too much."

Maybe, just enough, while also decreasing the number of times managers will request umpire challenges, or wasting time by walking onto the field to delay their challenge decision, and going back to the dugout without bothering to appeal the call.

There were 1,275 replay reviews in the regular season last year, according to MLB, including 1,050 from manager challenges. And this doesn't begin to cover the number of times managers walked onto the field and didn't challenge.

Now, the managers simply will stay in the dugout, and either gesture or yell within 30 seconds that he wants a challenge, ending the needless chit-chat while waiting to see if someone from the team's video room makes a judgment call.

"I'll tell you how to quicken the game, just get rid of the instant replay completely," Hall of Fame pitcher Goose Gossage told USA TODAY Sports. "That will speed the game up."

"Come on, umpire calls are just part of the game. What life has been lost in the last 100 years because of a bad call?"

AMANDA KNOX ENGAGED TO BROOKLYN 6 YEARS AFTER BEING CONVICTED

would hire 3,000 more hourly workers than originally forecast.

Two-tier wages will be a key issue in talks this year for a new deal. Dirksen said Ford will work with the UAW to come up with a solution "that works for both of us and is fair and competitive in the marketplace."

About 43% of workers at Chrysler, which has no cap as part of its bankruptcy deal, receive a lower wage. General Motors, also uncapped, has about 20% lower-wage workers.

Unexpected total

Automakers are always making calculated guesses on how well a vehicle will sell to determine the level of production and number of workers needed. Overestimation can lead to a glut of inventory and layoffs.

Underestimating poses the risk of a shortage could prompt an impatient buyer to turn to the competition.

Japanese automakers are known for erring on the conservative side and it is not unusual for Toyota, for example, to announce an additional shift right after a new plant starts production.

Detroit's automakers historically have been more aggressive with production forecasts at launch, Robinet said, and tend to have longer periods of downtime to prepare for new models while many Japanese competitors switch over on the fly without losing production.

Ford lost about 90,000 units of production in the 13 weeks of downtime to retool the two plants to make the new truck with aluminum. And the 2015 F-150 has a number of new features.

Now that the truck has been launched, "we sell every truck we can build, and we plan to build more," said Joe Hinrichs, executive vice president and president, the Americas.

Bob Simon's final '60 Minutes' story, on Ebola, will air as planned Sunday

Bob Simon's final story will air Sunday with an introduction by someone else.

The longtime CBS correspondent died in a Manhattan car wreck Wednesday evening as he put the final touches on a "60 Minutes" piece about the quest for a cure for Ebola. Produced by daughter Tanya, the story will serve as a tribute to late the 73-year-old newsmen.

"That is the plan," Kevin Tedesco, a "60 Minutes" spokesman, told CNN Thursday. Just Sunday, the network aired his piece on Selma and the movie made about the 1965 Civil Rights marches led by Martin Luther King Jr.

Simon, who won 27 Emmy Awards in a career spanning five decades, was on his way to a medical seminar Wednesday in downtown Manhattan when the crash occurred at 6:45 p.m., the newsmen's wife, Francoise, told police.

Authorities are investigating whether the livery cab driver, 44-year-old Reshad Abdul Fehadi, was speeding down the West Side Highway when he plowed into the back of a Mercedes-Benz near W. 30th St.

Simon's bereft widow was seen pacing her Upper West Side apartment while talking on the phone Thursday morning.

"60 Minute" segments are filmed and produced ahead of time, accompanied by an introduction given by the reporter. Simon already recorded the narration for the story, according to CNN.

It's unclear who will introduce Simon's final report.

Simon, a renowned war correspondent, had cheated death a number of times chasing stories in overseas conflicts, Jeff Fager, executive producer of "60 Minutes," said Wednesday.

"It is such a tragedy made worse because we lost him in a car accident, a man who has escaped more difficult situations than almost any journalist in modern times," Fager said. "Bob was a reporter's reporter."

Among the close calls were 40 days he spent imprisoned in Iraq during the opening days of the Gulf War in 1991. Simon was pictured embracing his wife and daughter after his release. Tanya went on to join her father at CBS, where she is a "60 Minutes" producer.

Brian Williams takes break from 'Nightly News'

Brian Williams, under internal investigation by NBC News over his embellished account of a 2003 helicopter mission over Iraq, told NBC staffers Saturday he'll step down temporarily to avoid becoming a distraction. In a note sent Saturday, he wrote:

"In the midst of a career spent covering and consuming news, it has become painfully apparent to me that I am presently too much a part of the news, due to my actions. As Managing Editor of *NBC Nightly News*, I have decided to take myself off of my daily broadcast for the next several days, and Lester Holt has kindly agreed to sit in for me to allow us to adequately deal with this issue. Upon my return, I will continue my career-long effort to be worthy of the trust of those who place their trust in us."

NBC confirmed Friday it will begin a probe of Williams' role in the story, and possibly others. Williams has not addressed the scandal on air since apologizing to viewers Wednesday.

Pharrell Williams steals the show at Clive Davis party

Pharrell Williams only intended to sing *Get Lucky* before ceding the stage to the guest of honor at Clive Davis' annual Pre-Grammys Gala Sunday. But when a gathering that includes former Vice President Al Gore, Apple CEO Tim Cook, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and dozens of the biggest stars in the music world start chanting, "Happy! Happy! Happy!," you give them *Happy*.

So Williams and the house band worked up an impromptu version of his hit while Sony/ATV Music Publishing chairman and CEO Martin Bandier, the recipient of the Recording Academy's President's Merit Award had to wait. Though the musicians took the song to a key too high for Williams

to comfortably sing, the partygoers at the Beverly Hilton enjoyed it.

Davis, currently Sony Music Entertainment's chief creative officer and one of the best-known record executives in the history of American pop music, has hosted the party for 39 years, picking both the acts that perform and the songs they'll sing.

Sam Smith started the evening with a rendition of *My Funny Valentine* featuring solo piano accompaniment, followed by his Grammy-nominated single *Stay With Me*. Smith was one of four artists nominated for either new artist, album, record or song of the year at tonight's Grammy Awards who performed at the party.

In addition to Smith and Williams, rapper Iggy Azalea performed *Black Widow* with Rita Ora, then brought Jennifer Hudson onstage to sing their new collaboration, *Trouble*. Meghan Trainor joined John Legend to sing *Like I'm Gonna Lose You*, a duet they recorded for her debut album.

The lineup boasted legends as well as young acts. Smokey Robinson brought Aloe Blacc, Miguel and JC Chasez with him to sing The Temptations hit *My Girl*, which he wrote.

When Jamie Foxx took a microphone into the audience and took a solo, then let Earth, Wind & Fire's Philip Bailey do the same, Taylor Swift and members of Haim freaked out behind them. Then Robinson turned his solo hit *Being With You* into a duet with Mary J. Blige.

Blige was an audience favorite, getting a standing ovation when she sang her song *Doubt*, then getting more applause for taking a surprise chorus on Carole King's gospel rave-up version of *You've Got a Friend*. Johnny Mathis got a standing ovation just for taking the stage. He quickly turned the evening into a Mathis mini-concert, segueing straight from *It's Not for Me to Say* into *Chances Are*, then singing *Wonderful! Wonderful!* and *Misty*, as well.

The evening ended with a tribute to the Bee Gees, one of this year's recipients of a Grammys' Lifetime Achievement Award. It began with a *cappella* group Pentatonix singing a medley of Bee Gees hits and ended with Barry Gibb, the last surviving member of the group, singing *To Love Somebody*.

Amanda Knox engaged to Brooklyn musician 6 years after being convicted of murder in Italy

Amanda Knox has been thunderstruck. Knox is still on trial for her life, but at least she's living it after announcing her engagement to Brooklyn musician Colin (Thunderstrike) Sutherland, the Seattle Times reported.

The 27-year-old Knox was found guilty, along with Italian ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito, in the brutal 2007 killing of British roommate Meredith Kercher while Knox was studying abroad.

Both Knox and Sutherland were famously seen coupling during a day trip to Coney Island in September and the romance apparently only grew more intense.

Sutherland reportedly moved to Seattle where Knox works at a bookstore and as a freelance

reporter for the West Seattle Herald. Knox graduated from the University of Washington in 2014, more than seven years after she landed in the middle of an Italian murder mystery that captivated the world. Knox is moving forward with her life after four years spent in prison abroad, but the ordeal is far from over. She was freed after a 2011 appeal overturned her conviction, but prosecutors won their own appeal and re-convicted Knox and Sollecito last year. Italy's highest court will rule March 25 on whether Knox must face another trial, although she has claimed she'll never return to Italy.

Sutherland, 27, a self-described ghost hunter, turned to the crowdfunding site Indiegogo in 2013 to film a pilot for "The Haunted Life," described as a show about "ghosts, music, storytelling, and travel and how they all come together around a campfire!"

Grammys Recap: Sam Smith Wins Big; Huge Performances Steal The Night

Sam Smith was the king of the Grammys, taking home three of the top four awards, including song and record of the year for "Stay With Me," and best new artist, while Beck won album of the year.

"I want to thank the man who this record is about ... Thank you so much for breaking my heart because I have four Grammys," said Smith, who also won best pop vocal album for "In the Lonely Hour."

Smith, along with Beyonce, Pharrell and Ed Sheeran, lost album of the year to Beck's "Morning Phase," which also won best rock album.

Kanye West, who famously interrupted Taylor Swift when she beat Beyonce at the MTV Video Music Awards, almost walked onstage when Prince announced Beck's name. Some in the audience seemed shocked, from Pharrell to Questlove.

Beck's album debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 albums chart and sold about 300,000 units.

Pharrell and Rosanne Cash walked away with three awards each. Pharrell won best pop solo performance for a live version of "Happy," released in 2013. He also won best music video for the song and best urban contemporary album for "G I R L," beating Beyonce.

"I am going to moonwalk my way off the stage right now," said Pharrell, wearing a blazer and shorts.

Pharrell's performance of "Happy" was dramatic with background dancers in black, musicians in yellow and a choir in white. When the chorus was supposed to come in, Lang Lang played the piano skillfully. Hans Zimmer also played the guitar.

"Thank you, God," Pharrell, in a bell-boy hat, said at the end of the performance. Rihanna gave an impressive vocal performance of "FourFiveSeconds" with Paul McCartney to her right and Kanye West to her left. Her hair was slicked back, and she rocked a black suit like her co-stars. Katy Perry, in all white, sang the ballad "By the Grace of God" after a woman who had

been abused talked about getting help and moving on with her life. A video of President Barack Obama appeared before she spoke, and he encouraged artists to help out.

"It's on us, all of us, to create a culture where violence isn't tolerated," he said.

Another serious moment came with Prince, who earned a standing ovation when he walked onstage to introduce album of the year.

"Albums — you remember those? They still matter. Like books and black lives, they still matter."

Madonna, dressed as a matador, performed "Living for Love" atop a platform surrounded by a plethora of background dancers wearing bull masks. A choir did most of the singing, while Madonna danced and the audience at the Staples Center clapped in unison. She ascended into the air as the performance finished.

West performed on a nearly pitch-black stage, with a light glowing from under his feet (he also sported the new sneakers he designed). He sang the new song about his late mother, "Only One."

Annie Lennox was a powerhouse when she sang "I Put A Spell On You" and joined Hozier for "Take Me to Church," nominated for song off the year.

Beyonce won best R&B song and R&B performance for "Drunk In Love" and surround sound album for "Beyonce."

"This has been such an incredible year," she said, thanking her "beloved husband" and "my daughter who is watching."

In one of 23 performances, AC/DC kicked off the show with a performance of their latest single, "Rock or Bust," and then transitioned into the classic "Highway to Hell." It earned a rousing applause from Pharrell, Lady Gaga and Katy Perry, who wore devil horns.

Ariana Grande gave a stripped, piano-led performance of "Just a Little Bit of Your Heart," a song co-written by One Direction's Harry Styles, while Miranda Lambert brought a rock-heavy vibe to "Little Red Wagon."

She won best country album for "Platinum." "I put my heart and soul in this record," she said. "Thank you so much for this amazing night. I love y'all!"

Cash led the pre-show with three Grammys, while Eminem, Kendrick Lamar, Chick Corea and the "Frozen" soundtrack earned two awards apiece.

"Reagan was president last time I won a Grammy," said Cash, who won best American roots performance, American roots song and Americana album. "I just showed up for work for 35 years and this is what happened."

Lamar, who lost in seven categories last year, marked a redemption by winning best rap performance and rap song for "i." Eminem won best rap album, beating Common and Iggy Azalea. He also won best rap/sung collaboration for "The Monster" with Rihanna.

The late Joan Rivers won best spoken word album for "Diary of a Mad Diva," and her

daughter, Melissa Rivers, was on hand to accept the award.

"If my mother was here tonight, she would not only be honored and thrilled to be holding her first Grammy," Melissa Rivers said. "She would most likely have it copied and on the air on QVC by 11."

NBC renews 'Blacklist,' 'Chicago' dramas There's nothing too dramatic about NBC's drama renewals.

The network, which ranks first among broadcasters in young-adult viewers this season, Thursday announced the return of five dramas for the fall 2015 season: *The Blacklist* (Season 3), *Chicago Fire* (Season 4), *Chicago P.D.* (Season 3), *Law & Order: SVU* (Season 17) and *Grimm* (Season 5).

None of the renewals are surprising.

"The creative vision of the executive producers who've guided these outstanding dramas has been nothing short of incredible," NBC Entertainment president Jennifer Salke said in a statement accompanying the announcement. "We're highly appreciative of the passion they bring to their shows at every step of the creative process and we're thrilled to reward that dedication with these renewals."

The Blacklist, which received the coveted post-Super Bowl slot on Sunday, moves to Thursday beginning today (9 p.m. ET/PT). James Spader stars.

Dogs Understand Human Smiles, Scowls Feeling happy or mad? A dog can tell your mood just by looking at the expression on your face.

New research in the journal *Current Biology*, represents the first solid evidence that an animal other than humans can discriminate between emotional expressions in another species.

As any dog owner knows, canines are skilled at figuring us out, but previously more attention was paid by scientists to how dogs read us using their other senses, such as smell and hearing, and by observing our behaviors. The latest study strongly suggests that the sight alone of a smile, frown, scowl and more conveys our moods to dogs.

"We think the dogs in our study could have solved the task only by applying their knowledge of emotional expressions in humans to the unfamiliar pictures we presented to them," co-author Corsin Müller of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna said in a press release.

For the study, Müller and his team took photos of the same person making either a happy or an angry face. The researchers then showed the photos to dogs, which were trained to discriminate between the happy and angry expressions. The researchers then showed only the upper or lower halves of the images to the dogs, which lost none of their ability to discriminate.

The researchers next presented the dogs with photos of different people making their own happy and angry expressions. Müller and his colleagues mixed up the images, sometimes showing the dogs one person or the other, or

BY: LEON IRBY

404 DATED: FEBRUARY 27 2015

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Now that the truck has been launched, "we sell every truck we can build, and we plan to build more," said Joe Hinrichs, executive vice president and president, the Americas.

Bob Simon's final '60 Minutes' story, on Ebola, will air as planned Sunday

Bob Simon's final story will air Sunday with an introduction by someone else.

The longtime CBS correspondent died in a Manhattan car wreck Wednesday evening as he put the final touches on a "60 Minutes" piece about the quest for a cure for Ebola. Produced by daughter Tanya, the story will serve as a tribute to late the 73-year-old newsman.

"That is the plan," Kevin Tedesco, a "60 Minutes" spokesman, told CNN Thursday. Just Sunday, the network aired his piece on Selma and the movie made about the 1965 Civil Rights marches led by Martin Luther King Jr.

Simon, who won 27 Emmy Awards in a career spanning five decades, was on his way to a medical seminar Wednesday in downtown Manhattan when the crash occurred at 6:45 p.m., the newsman's wife, Francoise, told police.

Authorities are investigating whether the livery cab driver, 44-year-old Reshad Abdul Fehadi, was speeding down the West Side Highway when he plowed into the back of a Mercedes-Benz near W. 30th St.

Simon's bereft widow was seen pacing her Upper West Side apartment while talking on the phone Thursday morning.

"60 Minute" segments are filmed and produced ahead of time, accompanied by an introduction given by the reporter. Simon already recorded the narration for the story, according to CNN.

It's unclear who will introduce Simon's final report.

Simon, a renowned war correspondent, had cheated death a number of times chasing stories in overseas conflicts, Jeff Fager, executive producer of "60 Minutes," said Wednesday.

"It is such a tragedy made worse because we lost him in a car accident, a man who has escaped more difficult situations than almost any journalist in modern times," Fager said. "Bob was a reporter's reporter."

Among the close calls were 40 days he spent imprisoned in Iraq during the opening days of the Gulf War in 1991. Simon was pictured embracing his wife and daughter after his release. Tanya went on to join her father at CBS, where she is a "60 Minutes" producer.

Brian Williams takes break from 'Nightly News'

Brian Williams, under internal investigation by NBC News over his embellished account of a 2003 helicopter mission over Iraq, told NBC staffers Saturday he'll step down temporarily to avoid becoming a distraction. In a note sent Saturday, he wrote:

"In the midst of a career spent covering and consuming news, it has become painfully apparent to me that I am presently too much a part of the news, due to my actions. As Managing Editor of *NBC Nightly News*, I have decided to take myself off of my daily broadcast for the next several days, and Lester Holt has kindly agreed to sit in for me to allow us to adequately deal with this issue. Upon my return, I will continue my career-long effort to be worthy of the trust of those who place their trust in us."

NBC confirmed Friday it will begin a probe of Williams' role in the story, and possibly others. Williams has not addressed the scandal on air since apologizing to viewers Wednesday.

Pharrell Williams steals the show at Clive Davis party

Pharrell Williams only intended to sing *Get Lucky* before ceding the stage to the guest of honor at Clive Davis' annual Pre-Grammys Gala Sunday. But when a gathering that includes former Vice President Al Gore, Apple CEO Tim Cook, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and dozens of the biggest stars in the music world start chanting, "Happy! Happy! Happy!," you give them *Happy*.

So Williams and the house band worked up an impromptu version of his hit while Sony/ATV Music Publishing chairman and CEO Martin Bandier, the recipient of the Recording Academy's President's Merit Award had to wait. Though the musicians took the song to a key too high for Williams

to comfortably sing, the partygoers at the Beverly Hilton enjoyed it.

Davis, currently Sony Music Entertainment's chief creative officer and one of the best-known record executives in the history of American pop music, has hosted the party for 39 years, picking both the acts that perform and the songs they'll sing.

Sam Smith started the evening with a rendition of *My Funny Valentine* featuring solo piano accompaniment, followed by his Grammy-nominated single *Stay With Me*. Smith was one of four artists nominated for either new artist, album, record or song of the year at tonight's Grammy Awards who performed at the party.

In addition to Smith and Williams, rapper Iggy Azalea performed *Black Widow* with Rita Ora, then brought Jennifer Hudson onstage to sing their new collaboration, *Trouble*. Meghan Trainor joined John Legend to sing *Like I'm Gonna Lose You*, a duet they recorded for her debut album.

The lineup boasted legends as well as young acts. Smokey Robinson brought Aloe Blacc, Miguel and JC Chasez with him to sing The Temptations hit *My Girl*, which he wrote. When Jamie Foxx took a microphone into the audience and took a solo, then let Earth, Wind & Fire's Philip Bailey do the same, Taylor Swift and members of Haim freaked out behind them. Then Robinson turned his solo hit *Being With You* into a duet with Mary J. Blige.

Blige was an audience favorite, getting a standing ovation when she sang her song *Doubt*, then getting more applause for taking a surprise chorus on Carole King's gospel rave-up version of *You've Got a Friend*. Johnny Mathis got a standing ovation just for taking the stage. He quickly turned the evening into a Mathis mini-concert, segueing straight from *It's Not for Me to Say* into *Chances Are*, then singing *Wonderful! Wonderful!* and *Misty*, as well.

The evening ended with a tribute to the Bee Gees, one of this year's recipients of a Grammys' Lifetime Achievement Award. It began with a *cappella* group Pentatonix singing a medley of Bee Gees hits and ended with Barry Gibb, the last surviving member of the group, singing *To Love Somebody*.

Amanda Knox engaged to Brooklyn musician 6 years after being convicted of murder in Italy

Amanda Knox has been thunderstruck. Knox is still on trial for her life, but at least she's living it after announcing her engagement to Brooklyn musician Colin (Thunderstrike) Sutherland, the Seattle Times reported.

The 27-year-old Knox was found guilty, along with Italian ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito, in the brutal 2007 killing of British roommate Meredith Kercher while Knox was studying abroad.

Both Knox and Sutherland were famously seen coupling during a day trip to Coney Island in September and the romance apparently only grew more intense. Sutherland reportedly moved to Seattle where Knox works at a bookstore and as a freelance

FUNDING FIGHT OVER HOMELAND SECURITY POSES DANGER FOR THE GOP

prevent the manatees from wandering inside the drains again.

Funding Fight Over Homeland Security Poses Dangers for the G.O.P.

WASHINGTON — After promising an era of responsible governing and an end to federal shutdowns, congressional Republicans find themselves mired in an immigration fight that could cause funding for the Department of Homeland Security to run out on Friday.

It is a risky moment for the new congressional majority. A nasty partisan impasse over funding for a vital agency would probably damage the party's brand just months after Republicans took power, and the impact could carry over into the next election cycle.

"I don't think shutdowns and showdowns are the way to win the presidency in 2016," said Representative Tom Cole, an Oklahoma Republican and a respected party strategist. He and many other lawmakers believe a last-minute resolution is possible, particularly given new terrorism threats, including one against the Mall of America in Minnesota.

And Senator Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican and majority leader, took the first steps toward trying to break the impasse on Monday night by proposing a measure that would allow the Senate to register its disapproval by blocking the president's 2014 actions on immigration in one bill, while approving the security money in another. While addressing the National Governors Association, the president warned of the effects of a Department of Homeland Security shutdown on states' economies. Video by AP on Publish Date February 23, 2015. Photo by Jabin Botsford/The New York Times.

"It's another way to get the Senate unstuck," Mr. McConnell said. He acted after Senate Democrats for a fourth time blocked Republicans in their efforts to force debate on a \$40 billion Homeland Security measure that would gut President Obama's executive actions on immigration. The vote was 47 to 46, well short of the 60 needed.

The prospect of an agency shutdown was seen as almost laughable until recently, most notably because Republicans are typically predisposed to fund security matters. But now the chances are increasingly serious. If the agency is shut down, roughly 30,000 of its 230,000 employees will be furloughed. The rest, deemed essential, would be expected to continue working, but without receiving their regular biweekly paychecks. Transportation Security Administration officers at airports, Border Patrol agents, frontline law enforcement officials and members of the Coast Guard would be required to report to work. But many administrative and front office staff members would be sent home, creating concerns about the day-to-day operations of the department. At the T.S.A., which screens 1.8 million passengers daily, roughly 5,500 — or about

10 percent — of its employees would be furloughed, forcing some of the security screeners and officials in the field to be diverted to help with those administrative tasks. Law enforcement officers serving in the Federal Air Marshal Service, however, would be exempt.

One potential way out of the stalemate — a decision last week by a federal judge in Texas to block the president's executive actions clearing the way for millions of illegal immigrants to obtain work permits — did not change many minds on Capitol Hill about how to proceed, though it may eventually be crucial to a resolution.

Some Democrats and Republicans argued that with the immigration policy stymied in the courts, Congress could move ahead with the funding bill and let the third branch of government referee the dispute between the White House and Capitol Hill.

Instead, the court action emboldened some congressional Republicans who said that since the president's action was blocked, Democrats should go ahead and drop their filibuster of the spending bill.

"Senate Dems filibustering DHS funding over executive amnesty that was halted by federal judge is senseless," Representative Tom Price, the Georgia Republican who chairs the Budget Committee, said in a Twitter post.

By Monday evening, however, at least a handful of more moderate Republicans had begun suggesting that the court's ruling might allow them to pass a clean spending bill.

"I've always thought the judicial system was an alternative way to deal with the president's overreach last November, and now that one court has ruled to put a stay on his executive order, perhaps that frees us to go forward and get the department fully funded," said Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine.

Unlike the provisions the House sent over to halt Mr. Obama's executive actions, Mr. McConnell's proposal does not seek to undo the legal protections provided to the young undocumented immigrants known as Dreamers — something even some Republicans said they thought was too harsh. As the administration on Monday requested a stay of the Texas ruling, Mr. Obama told a gathering of the nation's governors that a shutdown would hurt the rebounding economy. "We can't afford to play politics with our national security," he said. Many Republicans acknowledge that they will get most of the blame, just as they did in October 2013 — and, for that matter, in 1995 during the shutdown in the Clinton administration.

House members return Tuesday, leaving only three days to find a solution. Top House Republicans insist that it is up to the Senate to find a way out. But Mr. McConnell is in a procedural box where it is difficult for him to move either forward or backward, and his

proposal on Monday was an effort to gain some maneuvering room.

The current thinking is that the funding deadline needs to be imminent before House Republicans can relent and consider a bill that strips out the immigration provisions for a later fight. Or a short-term bill, which was emerging as a distinct possibility, may be the answer. But as in the past, events can slip out of the leadership's control and end up with no settlement and furlough notices going to thousands of agency employees while many others in jobs deemed critical will have to work without pay and only the expectation that they will ultimately get a check.

Some conservatives say they are willing to allow the Homeland Security funding to lapse since most employees would have to report to work anyway.

Representative Thomas Massie, Republican of Kentucky, said, "It's not clear what the impact is because there are a lot of things that are supposedly funded anyway, so the impact may be smaller than we think."

Jeh Johnson, the Homeland Security secretary, said in an interview that it was "indulging in a fantasy to believe you can shut down the Department of Homeland Security and there be no impact to homeland security itself."

"This is not the time to be shutting down the Department of Homeland Security by failure to act," Mr. Johnson added. He cited new challenges from global terrorism, cybersecurity threats, an exceptionally harsh winter in the Northeast and the South, and the possibility of another spike in illegal immigration on the Southwest border.

The funding fight has stifled momentum that Republicans carried into the new Congress. They posted a few quick victories, including approval of a lapsed terrorism insurance program and a veterans suicide prevention measure that had been blocked in December. They also pushed through a measure to expedite construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline and allowed a robust fight on the floor in line with Mr. McConnell's pledge to restore "regular order" in the Senate. But the funding fight has tied the Senate in knots for weeks, preventing Republicans from moving ahead on other legislation they had hoped to advance.

As they brace for a possible shutdown, leading Republicans say their colleagues need to embrace the reality that their new congressional majorities simply do not give them the power to force through provisions that Mr. Obama and Senate Democrats are dead set against.

"People demanding what can't be done are making a political mistake," Mr. Cole said.

Apostle Islands ice caves set to open Saturday

The National Park Service made the announcement Wednesday. But officials urge caution for people who make the trek on Lake Superior ice.

BY: LEON IRBY

3 & 3
DATED: MARCH 2, 2015

Minnesota Public Radio News reports lakeshore planning chief Julie Van Stappen warns the ice is slippery.

Van Stappen says unlike last year, "it's almost glare ice for a good chunk of the way." Officials recommend people use crampons and use ski poles.

The ice caves drew more than 138,000 tourists last year as the deep freeze made the caves accessible to pedestrians for the first time in nearly five years. The park system plans a \$5 fee this year for visitors age 16 and older.

Walker: Protesters prepared him to confront global terrorism

The likely Republican presidential contender on Thursday appeared at the Conservative Political Action Conference — known as CPAC — in suburban Washington.

Asked how he would handle the Islamic State group, Walker said he's been concerned about the terrorist group for years — at home and abroad. He told the conservative audience that if he can take on 100,000 protesters, he can do the same across the world.

"We will have someone who leads and ultimately will send a message not only that we will protect American soil, but do not take this upon freedom loving people anywhere else in the world," Walker said. "We need someone with that kind of confidence. If I can take on 100,000 protesters, I can do the same across the world."

The Wisconsin governor has faced particularly aggressive protests over his budget policies in the four years since he took office. He's gearing up for a 2016 presidential contest in which foreign policy figures to play prominently.

He also addressed the most controversial issue facing Wisconsin right now.

"And just breaking, as of next week Wisconsin will become the 25th state in America that allows workers the freedom to choose whether they want to work for a company and be in a union or not," Walker said.

Zoo announces new polar bears

Suka and Sakari are 2 1/2-year-old twins that will come from the Como Zoo in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Once they arrive, the Henry Vilas Zoo will house two of only 60 polar bears in Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited zoos in North America.

A release from the zoo states that the new exhibit is designed to meet or exceed "the most stringent standards in bear care."

The Arctic Passage exhibit is on schedule to open Memorial Day weekend. About \$270,000 is still needed to pay for the project.

No drones spotted over Paris landmarks overnight

There were no reports of drones over Paris landmarks overnight after two straight nights of the mysterious machines triggered concern and bewilderment in the French capital.

One of the three Al-Jazeera journalists arrested Wednesday for illegally flying a

drone — in what appears to be an unrelated incident — will appear in court next week, the Associated Press reported. All three of the journalists were released Thursday, a day after police said they were spotted flying a drone over a park in the western part of the city.

Al-Jazeera said Thursday the journalists — who it did not identify — were released after 19 hours in custody. The news organization said in a statement its staff was working on a story after the nighttime drones raised a number of questions in the city.

"Our staff in Paris were attempting to illustrate a piece to camera on domestic drones which are widely available, while also attempting to cover the recent drone mysteries in Paris and wider security concerns in France," the statement said. Flying the machines without a license in France is illegal and carries a maximum one-year prison sentence and a \$85,000 fine, according to the Associated Press.

The drones have so far confounded police, who are scrambling to figure out who has been operating the machines, which were first seen late last year. So far, no leads have been announced in the bizarre incidents. Five drone sightings had been reported near the Place de la Concorde, Les Invalides and the Eiffel Tower between 11 p.m. Tuesday and 2 a.m. Wednesday — a repeat of excursions over the iconic Iron Lady and near the U.S. Embassy the previous night, French news agency AFP reported.

The flights come amid tightened security in the wake of last month's terrorist attacks that left 17 dead in the capital.

Jewish heirs sue Germany in U.S. over medieval art

— The heirs of Nazi-era Jewish art dealers say they have filed a lawsuit in the U.S. suing Germany and a German museum for the return of a medieval treasure trove worth an estimated \$226 million.

The suit, which attorneys said was filed late Monday in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., is the latest salvo in a long-running campaign by the heirs for return of the so-called Welfenschatz, or Guelph Treasure — which they claim their ancestors sold under Nazi pressure.

Originally collected over centuries by the Braunschweig Cathedral, the Welfenschatz includes some of the outstanding goldsmith works of the Middle Ages, among them ornate containers in the form of cathedrals used to store Christian relics. Many of the silver and gold pieces are decorated with jewels and pearls. Some are more than 800 years old.

Attorney Nicholas O'Donnell told The Associated Press in an interview in Berlin that the suit asks the Washington court to declare an American and a British descendant of a consortium that owned the collection in 1935 — when it was sold to the German state of Prussia — the rightful owners today.

"Any transaction in 1935, where the sellers on the one side were Jews and the buyer on the other side was the Nazi state itself is by definition a void transaction," O'Donnell said. The organization that oversees Berlin's museums, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, says that the collectors were not forced to sell the pieces, arguing among other things that the collection was not even in Germany at the time of its sale.

Last year, a German government commission created to help resolve restitution claims evaluated both arguments and recommended that the collection stay in Germany. The commission wrote that after thoroughly investigating the sale process, it came to the conclusion that it was not a "forced sale due to persecution."

The commission's recommendations aren't binding, but they are often accepted by parties in such disputes.

Foundation spokeswoman Stefanie Heinlein said Tuesday the recommendation strengthened its argument, and that no new facts have emerged since it was made.

"We see no grounds for new adjudication now," she said.

But O'Donnell called the recommendation "flawed," and said that his clients decided to file suit in Washington because they feel "U.S. federal courts are the best suited to sort out these ownership rights" based on the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

The plaintiffs are identified in the suit as Alan Philipp from London and Gerald Stiebel from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

There have been other cases in which heirs of looted art have sued Germany or German government museums in U.S. courts. Two recent cases involving looted art were dismissed by the courts on sovereign immunity grounds.

Complicating matters, the state of Berlin recently declared the collection a national cultural treasure, meaning the art pieces can no longer leave the country without the explicit permission of the country's culture minister.

The Welfenschatz collection, originally 82 pieces, ended up in the hands of a consortium of Jewish art dealers from Frankfurt in 1929 when they purchased it from a Braunschweig duke. With the onset of the Great Depression, they were not able to resell all the relics as quickly and profitably as expected; in the early 1930s they still owned half of the collection.

After Adolf Hitler's rise to power in 1933, the story becomes murky.

What is undisputed is that Jewish owners sold the remaining 42 pieces to the state of Prussia, which at the time was governed by top Nazi Hermann Goering.

The lawyers for the heirs told the AP that the art dealers had to sell the treasure significantly below its actual value because they were under massive pressure, exposed daily to the terrors of the Nazi regime.

would hire 3,000 more hourly workers than originally forecast.

Two-tier wages will be a key issue in talks this year for a new deal. Dirksen said Ford will work with the UAW to come up with a solution "that works for both of us and is fair and competitive in the marketplace."

About 43% of workers at Chrysler, which has no cap as part of its bankruptcy deal, receive a lower wage. General Motors, also uncapped, has about 20% lower-wage workers.

Unexpected total

Automakers are always making calculated guesses on how well a vehicle will sell to determine the level of production and number of workers needed. Overestimation can lead to a glut of inventory and layoffs.

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