

# JOE CROCKER: WOODSTOCK VET JOE COCKER DIES AT 70 OF CANCER!

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**Woodstock vet Joe Cocker dies at 70 of cancer**

Singer Joe Cocker, whose huge, sandpapery voice and wild stage presence thrilled rock audiences for more than 40 years, died early Monday after a battle with lung cancer. He was 70.

Cocker died in Crawford, Colo., where he has lived for the past two decades with his wife, Pam.

The Sheffield, England-born singer was best known for a memorable Woodstock performance in 1969 where he delivered a cover of The Beatles' *With a Little Help From My Friends* with almost frightening intensity.

The ballad *You Are So Beautiful*, with Cocker's voice cracking on the final emotional note, was a Top 10 hit in 1975. He reached the top of the charts again in the 1980s with the duet *Up Where We Belong*, with Jennifer Warnes.

The song appeared in the movie *An Officer and a Gentleman* and won them a 1983 Grammy Award for best vocal performance by a duo or group. It also won best original song at the Oscars and the Golden Globes.

"Joe Cocker is a legendary artist of rock and blues history and yet he was one of the most humble men I've ever met," said Edgar Berger, chairman and CEO of Sony Music Entertainment, in a statement. "His iconic voice will forever be etched in our memories. Joe will live on in the hearts of millions of fans around the world."

"Joe was one of the most powerful white singers of rock, soul and R&B that we've ever had," says Barney Hoskyns, editor of online library [rocksbackpages.com](http://rocksbackpages.com). His voice was "one of the defining sounds of the hippie revolution. When he performed live he got completely lost in his music."

Cocker made his public debut in Sheffield at 12, when his brother Victor invited him onstage to sing with his skiffle band. "My voice hadn't really broken, but I could sing all the Lonnie Donegan songs from the skiffle era," Cocker told USA TODAY in 2012. "My brother and his band loved to hear me sing, because I could do them all in the same key."

Cocker's early '60s band, Vance Arnold & The Avengers, initially missed out on the British Invasion, but he got a second chance during what he called "the *Whiter Shade of Pale* era." That 1967 Procol Harum hit reinvigorated the British pop scene and led directly to high-profile appearances by Cocker, including his Sunday afternoon set at Woodstock in 1969.

Cocker sang several songs that day, including *Delta Lady*, Ray Charles' *Let's Go Get Stoned* and Bob Dylan's *I Shall Be Released*. But his version of The Beatles' *With a Little Help From My Friends* became a career-igniting performance.

"We just had a good day," Cocker recalled. "We went on real early, and we got a good sound. It took a long time to connect with the audience, though."

Cocker's version of the Beatles' song later regained popularity as the theme for the late-'80s/early '90s TV show *The Wonder Years*.

In addition to his raspy, one-of-a-kind voice, Cocker also was known for his odd performance style, which included flailing arms and spasmodic body movements. That aspect became fodder for parody during a memorable 1976 appearance on *Saturday Night Live*, when John Belushi joined him onstage and impersonated him. At the time, Cocker was struggling with alcoholism and financial problems, but the appearance helped give his a career a boost.

The singer frequently cited Ray Charles as his key influence, and he performed *You Are So Beautiful* with the R&B great on a TV special in the '80s. "It was the most nerve-wracking experience I've ever gone through," Cocker said. Their relationship extended beyond that shared onstage moment. "If I went backstage, he'd always come out. They'd let me in when they wouldn't let other people in, and we'd have little chats. He always knew I was a fan by the stuff I would ask him."

Cocker recorded 22 studio albums, the latest being *Fire It Up* in 2012. One of his most popular works was the double live album *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, recorded on tour in 1970. The touring circus featured more than 40 musicians, including Leon Russell, Rita Coolidge and future members of Derek and the Dominos, and resulted in a concert film and Cocker's third gold album.

He also had hits with the Randy Newman song *You Can Leave Your Hat On* and *When the Night Comes*. *Rolling Stone* ranked him No. 97 on its list of 100 Greatest Singers.

In concert, Cocker relied heavily on cover versions of others' hits, including *Feeling Alright*, *She Came in Through the Bathroom Window*, *The Letter*, *Cry Me a River*, *High Time We Went* and *Unchain My Heart*.

Cocker said he never tired of revisiting his past: "For a long time, like a lot of artists, I said, 'Oh, God, is this all it means? As you get older, you're just going to keep doing the hits?' But, at the same time, there's something to it. There's a reason they were hits. I enjoy seeing how people reflect from the times."

**J. Cole's new album tops Billboard 200 chart, breaks one direction's Spotify record**

J. Cole's third studio album *2014 Forest Hills Drive* debuted at number 1 on the Billboard 200 album chart after selling over 371,000 copies in its first week of release. The disc also accumulated an astonishing 15.7 million streams on Spotify, a one-week record on the streaming service, according to J. Cole's management.

According to ChartNews, the Roc Nation artist's third straight number 1 album sold 371,228 copies. The album's 15.7 million streams in its first week on Spotify surpassed the previous record of 11.6 million streams by One Direction for their album *Four*, released in November.

The first single released off *2014 Forest Hills Drive*, "Apparently," debuted at number 40 on the Billboard R&B/Hip Hop Airplay charts on Monday, two spots ahead of the debut of Nicki Minaj and Beyonce's collaboration track, "Feelin' Myself."

Cole's album became the latest to enjoy a sales increase due to Billboard's change in tracking album sales for its Top 200 album chart. Under Billboard's new method, 1,500 streams are equivalent to one album sale. Cole's record-setting 15.7 million Spotify streams accounted for roughly 10,466 albums sold. The new method also takes into account "track equivalent" album sales which, count every ten song downloads from an album as an album sale.

Streaming and track equivalent album sales accounted for 17,690 of the total album sales for the first week, and those 15.7 million Spotify streams accounted for roughly 59 percent of those sales.

As streaming takes an increasingly larger chunk of total album sale revenue, streaming services continue to gain influence on the success of artists. The biggest benefactor of the new change in Billboard's chart methodology so far has been Ariana Grande's album, "My Everything." The album shot up to number 9 on the charts earlier this month after being charted at number 39 the week prior. One third of Grande's sales for that week came from streams.

**Final 'Hobbit' declares victory at the box office**

The third and final *Hobbit* film came out swinging and victorious. *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies* easily strode to the top of the weekend box office with \$56.2 million, according to studio estimates from Rentrak. Since opening Wednesday, the movie has earned \$90 million.

The Peter Jackson-directed film only had its franchise predecessors for true competition. 2013's *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* had a \$73.6 million three-day opening weekend last December.

The first in the franchise, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, opened with \$84.6 million in December 2012.

"This weekend marks the triumphant beginning to the end to this incredible franchise, which has been so consistent for over a decade since *Lord of the Rings*," says Rentrak analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "It's rare to see this kind of audience excitement, which has not diminished one bit."

The film received mixed reaction from critics (60% approval on [RottenTomatoes.com](http://RottenTomatoes.com)) and scored an A-minus with audiences on [CinemaScore](http://CinemaScore).

Another final chapter to a successful franchise opened as well. *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb* finished in second place with \$17.3 million.

The Shawn Levy-directed film is the third in the series and the final studio-produced film for Robin Williams, who died in August. Musical *Annie*, starring Quvenzhané Wallis, Jamie Foxx and Cameron Diaz, opened in third place with \$16.3 million.

Jeff Bock, analyst for Exhibitor Relations, says both *Night at the Museum* and *Annie* will continue to perform over the holidays.

"It's a little disappointing for both films. But they are competing for the same family market," says Bock. "And these are films that

BY: LEON IRBY

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in the fourth quarter if the ruble loses half its value, Ellinghorst estimated. Daimler, Volkswagen, Renault and Hyundai probably face an even larger impact, the analyst said. To reduce its Russia-related risks, BMW began reallocating cars to more attractive markets in early summer, said Nikolai Glies, a spokesman for the Munich-based company. The world's largest maker of luxury vehicles sold 33,465 BMW and Mini cars in Russia through November, a 17% decrease from last year. Industrywide, auto sales have fallen 12% in the first 11 months of 2014.

Toyota will raise prices to adjust to the market conditions and is determining when and by how much, spokesman Jean-Yves Jault said in an e-mail. While there are no plans to suspend sales at the moment, completing orders could be affected by the pending price increases. Volkswagen said it's still selling cars in Russia but is watching the market with concern.

### Free sample? Not so fast: White truffle bite cost \$300

WASHINGTON — A customer at a downtown restaurant made a very expensive mistake when she thought a rare white truffle was a sample and took a bite out of it during a recent brunch event.

Equinox owner Ellen Kassoff Gray says the prized fungus from Alba, Italy, sells for about \$1,000 an ounce. Recently, a 4.16-pound white truffle sold for \$61,250 at a New York City auction.

Gray explained that the truffle was part of several placed on top of rice displayed under a glass cloche in the entryway of the restaurant far from the buffet during a Market Vegan Brunch on Dec. 7. Gray said she was walking around at the brunch when she spotted a diner with one of the truffles on her plate. That truffle had a bite taken out of it.

Gray said she doesn't know why someone would think the truffle, which looks pretty strange and unappetizing in its natural form, would be a sample so she went to speak to the diner.

The diner told her that the truffle was "not very good" and suggested that the chef shave around it to save the uneaten part for later. Gray declined that offer.

Interestingly enough, the truffle isn't supposed to be eaten whole, but shaved with a razor into paper-thin slices and added to food. The display the female diner thought was a free sampling station was there to promote that customers could pay \$20 to add truffle shavings to their brunch, Gray said.

The bite the woman took cost approximately \$300.

Whether the woman knew what she was doing or not is up for debate, however, she didn't have to pay for the truffle. "I couldn't bring myself to do that," said Gray. She says the woman paid her bill and left.

Despite the costly error, the restaurant decided to continue to display the expensive truffles. Gray said they will, however, now be next to her husband, Chef Todd Gray, near the tofu scramble station.

### Waitress gets 'tip bombed' with huge surprise gratuity

HERNDON, Va. — An unsuspecting waitress got the tip of her life on Thursday.

Megan Asadi was working her regular shift at the Virginia Kitchen, when she received a \$1,200 dollar tip on a \$128 tab.

The tip came from an anonymous group that calls the massive gratuity a 'Tip Bomb.' The group chooses not to identify themselves in order to focus the act on the recipient of their large tips. Their goal is simply to spread holiday cheer to others.

Linc Kruger, the owner of Virginia Kitchen said he had no idea they group had decided to stop by his restaurant. "They were just kind of like... we left a tip on the table we want her to get it," Kruger explained.

Kruger said the random act of kindness could not have happened to a better person.

Asadi is a single parent with two young daughters, who has worked as a waitress for five year. She came to the United States as a refugee from Iran, and just recently became a U.S. citizen. Asadi said she could not wait to tell her children, "They're gonna be so surprised and excited, they can't wait until next week," Asadi explained.

The usual tip for the \$125 tab would be about \$20. Soon after receiving the generous gratuity, Asadi got back to work, clearing her table and greeting her next customers with a smile.

### Google shows off its fully functional Self-Driving Car prototype

Google Inc. (NASDAQ: GOOGL) accelerated its work on autonomous driving vehicles from just an early design concept in May to a finished self-driving car prototype, which it unveiled on Monday. The car looks like a compacted Volkswagen Beetle.

When Google showed off a mockup in May, it announced that the vehicle would not have a steering wheel, accelerator, and brake pedals. In September, the company received permits from the state authorities of California to test drive its concept cars on public roads.

And now, the company invites people on the streets of Northern California as the autonomous car will be spending the holidays around the test track. However, there is still no information available on when Google plans to bring its cars to the market.

Google noted that the drivers will be manned behind the wheels during early test rides to ensure additional manual control if necessary. The 'Lidar' system on the car roof also gets smaller than it was in May. This system holds the sensors for detecting its surroundings up to a distance of more than two football fields in all directions, in clear conditions.

Google believes that such autonomous driving could help eliminate drunk and distracted driving. In addition, the company would also limit top speeds to 25 mph. The company is also reported to offer in-car Internet through its Android Auto program upgrade. Reuters reported that the project is dubbed Android M and is not expected to be ready at least until 2016.

Last year a German newspaper reported that Google and IBM has partnered to develop autonomous driving cars and are also closing

on a deal with Continental AG, which is the world's second largest manufacturer of auto parts. All these companies were reported to share the cost of development as well as potential profits.

### BEST VIDEO GAME TRENDS OF 2014 FOCUS ON FREEDOM

So in that vein, might I present my five favorite gaming trends, in no particular order? Great!

**1. Cross-platform titles.** It's good to see that even though the new hardware is out there and respective networks are up and running, you can enjoy almost any game no matter the machine on which you chose to spend a month's rent.

For every Xbox-only *Titanfall*, there was a multiplatform *Alien: Isolation*. For every PlayStation-exclusive *Killzone: Shadow Fall*, there was a pan-console *Destiny*.

The exclusives are nice, but what gamers have always wanted is to not have to carefully orchestrate a strategy to play the games we want. I wouldn't have a GameCube in my closet if it wasn't for *Resident Evil 4*. Speaking of which ...

**2. Nintendo being exposed as a pretender.** Everyone knew the Wii U was just a rehash of the original Wii. But because it was the tip of the spear for the next console generation, everyone slavered over it.

Now sales are tepid and no one seems to want the box. Nintendo is in disarray. If it wasn't for *Super Smash Bros.* and *Mario Kart 8*, no one would be paying any attention at all.

Sure, the Wii U has sold somewhere in the neighborhood of 8 million units, but keep in mind less than 3 million of those were over the last 12 months, putting it behind Sony and Microsoft. It looks like no one wants a game console that Nintendo should have built last generation.

**3. The price cuts begin.** Hey, forget blowing \$500 on that new Xbox One. You can get a console, controller, headset and two games (or more) for \$349 now.

That's not yet what you could call cheap, but it is a relative bargain. It's also what a lot of people sitting out of this generation have been waiting for.

It also seems to be quite early for a hardware maker to be slashing prices. Maybe the Big Three are starting to realize consumer habits are changing, since ...

**2. Mobile gaming migrates off dedicated handhelds for good.** You guys remember the Game Boy? Or even the PSP? Remember the worst thing about those? Yeah, the cartridges, or discs, or whatever proprietary media was required to play the things.

In a country where any 3-year-old can pick up a phone or tablet and play *Angry Birds* like they were born to it, it's refreshing to see proper releases going to mobile. And you don't need cartridges to play them.

My personal fave, Telltale's *The Walking Dead*, showed up on iPhones and Android devices, sure, but there have been other greats like *The Silent Era* and *Xcom*. Plus, while some people like to stick to simple puzzlers, there's always *Final Fantasy* installments and

# A SLUGGISH START FOR TIGER WOODS IN PHOENIX

Final Score: San Jose 6, Anaheim 3  
San Jose, CA (SportsNetwork.com) - Antti Niemi made 25 saves and six different Sharks scored as San Jose used a five-goal second period to ease past the Anaheim Ducks, 6-3, on Thursday. Patrick Marleau, Barclay Goodrow and James Sheppard each tallied a goal and an assist and Brenden Dillon, Matt Irwin and Joe Pavelski also scored for the Sharks, who have won seven straight home games against the Ducks. Andrew Cogliano, Patrick Maroon and Matt Beleskey all lit the lamp for the Ducks, who had their six-game winning streak come to a screeching halt. Ilya Bryzgalov gave up all six goals on 25 shots and Frederik Andersen turned aside all eight shots fired his way in relief.

## NBA capsules

HAWKS 113, NETS 102

ATLANTA • Paul Millsap had 28 points and 15 rebounds, five other Atlanta players scored in double figures, and the Hawks stretched their franchise-record winning streak to 17 games in a row with a 113-102 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday night.

Atlanta (38-8) has won 31 of 33 and leads the Eastern Conference by a commanding seven games. This was a bit tougher than expected against the struggling Nets, who kept it close most of the way.

The Hawks pulled away in the final quarter, leading by as many as 15. Millsap finished off Brooklyn's last run with a 3-pointer from the corner with 2:34 remaining, pushing Atlanta to a 109-98 edge.

Joe Johnson led the Nets with 26 points. It wasn't enough to prevent Brooklyn's 11th loss in 13 games, a slide that has knocked the team out of the top eight in the Eastern Conference.

CAVALIERS 99, TRAIL BLAZERS 94

CLEVELAND • Kyrie Irving scored a career-high 55 points, breaking the arena record while LeBron James watched from the bench and leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to their eighth straight win.

Irving took over with James sidelined with a sprained right wrist. He buried a 3-pointer with 6.4 seconds left to break a 94-94 tie, grabbed a rebound off a missed 3-pointer by Portland's Damian Lillard, and as many in the crowd chanted "M-V-P" and James danced near the bench, Irving dropped two free throws with 2.1 seconds remaining to seal the win.

Irving broke the previous scoring record at Quicken Loans Arena held by Allen Iverson. His point total was also the highest in the league this season, bettering the 52 scored by Golden State's Klay Thompson and Minnesota's Mo Williams. Irving made a team-record 11 3-pointers and finished 10 of 10 from the free-throw line.

LaMarcus Aldridge, playing his second game since deciding to delay thumb surgery until after the season, scored 38 to lead the Trail Blazers, who have dropped six of seven.

76ERS 89, PISTONS 69

PHILADELPHIA • Robert Covington scored 19 points, Michael Carter-Williams had 14 points and 10 assists, and the Philadelphia 76ers snapped a six-game losing streak. JaKarr Sampson had 13 points and Luc Mbah a Moute added 12 for the Sixers (9-37). Carter-Williams, back after missing the Sixers' last game due to an upper respiratory infection, finished one rebound shy of a triple-double.

Greg Monroe led the Pistons (17-30) with 20 points, and Jodie Meeks scored 19 off the bench. Detroit shot just 2 of 20 from 3-point range in a matchup of slumping squads missing their top scorers. The Pistons have lost four straight, and three since leading scorer Brandon Jennings ruptured his left Achilles in a 101-86 loss to Milwaukee on Saturday.

## NBA Capsules

- Jordan Hill scored 26 points and forced the second overtime with a clutch jumper, and the Los Angeles Lakers snapped their nine-game losing streak in thrilling fashion with a 123-118 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night.

Wayne Ellington scored 23 points and rookie Jordan Clarkson added 18 for the Lakers, who held off the Bulls for their first victory since Jan. 9.

With big late baskets from everybody in their patchwork lineup, the Lakers avoided matching the 1994 squad coached by Magic Johnson for the longest skid in the 16-time champion franchise's history.

All-Star Jimmy Butler matched his career high with 35 points for the Bulls, who rallied from a nine-point deficit in 70 seconds late in regulation.

Pau Gasol had 20 points and 10 rebounds in his Staples Center return to face the Lakers, and he forced the first overtime with the tying tip-in shot with 11 seconds left.

GRIZZLIES 99, NUGGETS 69

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - Zach Randolph had 15 points and 17 rebounds, Jeff Green added 13 points and Memphis won its fifth straight. The Grizzlies held the Nuggets to 11 points in the first quarter and were never threatened the rest of the way as Randolph recorded his 10th consecutive double-double.

Courtney Lee, Nick Calathes and Beno Udrih, starting in place of the injured Mike Conley, scored 11 apiece, while Marc Gasol had 10 points.

Wilson Chandler and Kenneth Faried each scored 10 points for Denver, which lost for the eighth time in the last nine.

BUCKS 115, MAGIC 100

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - Jerryd Bayless scored 19 points, Jared Dudley and Khris Middleton had 17 apiece and Milwaukee ended a 17-game losing streak in Orlando. The Bucks never trailed and placed seven players in double figures, including all five starters. Brandon Knight had 16 points and eight assists. O.J. Mayo scored 13 points and John Henson had 12 points and 11 rebounds.

The Magic have lost seven straight and 13 of their last 15 games. Victor Oladipo led Orlando with 21 points. Nik Vucevic added 17 points and 14 rebounds.

The Bucks led 59-44 halftime and then blew open the game in the third period.

PACERS 103, KNICKS 82

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Rodney Stuckey scored 22 points, Roy Hibbert had 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Indiana routed New York.

The struggling Pacers (17-31) picked up their most lopsided home victory of the season by winning for only the second time in 10 games.

Carmelo Anthony scored 18 points, 12 in the first 9 minutes for the Knicks (9-38). Lou Amundson added 17 as New York managed just 33 second-half points and fell behind Philadelphia for the worst record in the East.

## A Sluggish Start for Tiger Woods in Phoenix

Four holes into his first tournament of the year, Tiger Woods already was 4-over par and 10 shots out of the lead in the Phoenix Open.

When he reached his tee shot on the par-4 fifth hole, he saw the golf ball partially sunken in a divot. Woods put his hands on his hips, closed his eyes and shook his head, wondering what else could possibly go wrong.

He couldn't chip.

He made only one putt over 6 feet, which is misleading only because Woods had just three birdie attempts on the green from inside 20 feet.

He hit one tee shot off the wall of someone's backyard, another in the desert that was marked by a hazard, and yet another that sailed into the gallery on a hill.

This was not the same Tiger Woods the crowd in Phoenix saw 14 years ago.

His last time at this tournament, Woods was No. 1 in the world by a mile and working his way toward Augusta National and a chance to sweep the majors, which he did. Now he is No. 47 in the world, coming off another injury-laden season, without a major in eight years.

He is 39. And he needs time.

"This is my second tournament in six months, so I just need tournament rounds like this where I can fight through it, turn it around, grind through it and make adjustments on the fly," Woods said.

Woods came up with two big shots on the back nine to salvage a 2-over 73. That left him nine shots behind Ryan Palmer, who had a 64.

It was the first time in his career that Woods shot over par in his first round of the year.

There were a few bright spots.

He was toward the bottom of the leaderboard at 5 over through 12 holes when he hit 5-iron to tap-in range for eagle. With water down the left side and a perilous chip shot awaiting for anything to the right — the last thing he needed — Woods smoked a tee shot on the

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Nash and Tyler Seguin. Eric Fehr and Mike Green scored in the third.

Holtby, who had allowed four goals in each of his last three starts, stopped 27 shots to blank the Penguins for the second time in a little over a month. Pittsburgh hasn't scored on Washington in 120 minutes this season. Crosby received an injection last week to treat a lower-body injury that caused him to miss one game as well as the NHL All-Star game, and he wasn't the usual Sid.

He lost 15 of his first 18 faceoffs and lost 17 of 24 for the game. The Penguins also played their third straight without Evgeni Malkin, who also has a lower-body injury. Pittsburgh has lost five of six.

**DEVILS 2, MAPLE LEAFS 1, SO**  
NEWARK, N.J. • Jacob Josefson and Patrik Elias scored in the shootout and New Jersey rallied late to extend Toronto's losing streak to a season-high seven games.

Cory Schneider made 29 saves through overtime and handled both Toronto shootout attempts as the Devils won for the fifth time in eight games (5-2-1). Defenseman Adam Larsson scored the tying goal with 2:50 left in regulation.

James van Riemsdyk scored on a breakaway in the third period, and Jonathan Bernier made 22 saves in Toronto's loss.

Bernier made a pad save on Scott Gomez on the Devils' first shootout attempt, but Josefson and Elias beat him with backhanders on the next two tries.

Mike Santorelli missed the net on Toronto's first attempt, and Schneider stopped Tyler Bozak on the second.

**KINGS 4, BLACKHAWKS 3**  
LOS ANGELES • Jake Muzzin scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:37 to play, Jeff Carter had two goals and an assist, and Los Angeles roared back in the final minutes to snap its four-game losing streak with a victory over Chicago.

Tyler Toffoli tied it with 6:11 left for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who made a dynamic rally in their first game back after stumbling into the break in ninth place in the Western Conference after losing seven of eight.

**National Hockey League Game Capsules**  
Uniondale, NY (SportsNetwork.com) -

Tuukka Rask made 43 saves, Milan Lucic and Reilly Smith tallied three points each and the Boston Bruins beat the New York Islanders 5-2 on Thursday. Lucic and Smith each had a goal and two assists to help Boston win for the seventh time in its last nine games. Patrice Bergeron, Kevan Miller and Torey Krug also scored for the Bruins. The Islanders got goals from John Tavares and Michael Grabner but had a two-game winning streak snapped. Jaroslav Halak allowed four goals on 32 shots.

**Final Score: Montreal 1, NY Rangers 0**  
New York, NY (SportsNetwork.com) - Carey Price made 24 saves for his third shutout of the season, and the Montreal Canadiens blanked the New York Rangers 1-0 on Thursday. Max Pacioretty scored the lone

goal with 4:17 remaining in the third period, helping the Canadiens extend their win streak to four games. Henrik Lundqvist finished with 25 saves for the Rangers, who have dropped two straight following the All-Star break. They had been on a 16-3-0 tear prior to the hiatus.

**Final Score: Philadelphia 5, Winnipeg 2**  
Philadelphia, PA (SportsNetwork.com) - Nick Schultz picked up the game winner in the second period, while Brayden Schenn and Sean Couturier scored in the third, as Philadelphia topped Winnipeg by a 5-2 count on Thursday. Wayne Simmonds and Chris VandeVelde also tallied for the Flyers, winners of three in a row and four of their last five. In his first start since Jan. 8, Steve Mason picked up his second straight positive result thanks to 36 saves. Mathieu Perreault potted both goals for the Jets, who have lost two straight since a five-game win streak. Michael Hutchinson took the loss despite 27 stops.

**Final Score: Arizona 3, Toronto 1**  
Toronto, ON (SportsNetwork.com) - Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored a short-handed goal five seconds into the third period -- yes, five seconds -- to kindle a rally that lifted the Arizona Coyotes to a 3-1 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Thursday. The Coyotes snapped a seven-game losing streak and extended Toronto's skid to eight games. Ekman-Larsson's goal, which tied a franchise record for quickest to open a period, came from beyond center ice after Lauri Korpikoski won the faceoff. Martin Hanzal netted the go-ahead goal 3:42 later and Sam Gagner scored on a power play later in the period as Arizona broke out of an 0-5-2 slump. Mike Smith had 24 saves in the win, which also stopped a five-game road losing streak for the Coyotes, who are in the midst of an eight-game trek. It was their first win away from home since Dec. 23 in Edmonton.

**Final Score: Dallas 6, Ottawa 3**  
Ottawa, ON (SportsNetwork.com) - John Klingberg snapped a tie in the latter stages of the third period before Trevor Daley and Jamie Benn added empty-net markers, and Dallas topped Ottawa by a 6-3 score on Thursday. Benn added a first-period goal, with Colton Sceviour and Ales Hemsky also lighting the lamp for the Stars, who put a two-game losing streak to rest. Kari Lehtonen provided a 25-save effort to back his offense. Mika Zibanejad, Bobby Ryan and Alex Chiasson scored once each for the Senators, who have lost seven of their last 10. Robin Lehner allowed four goals on 39 shots in the setback.

**Final Score: Tampa Bay 5, Detroit 1**  
Tampa, FL (SportsNetwork.com) - Cedric Paquette notched his first career hat trick to power the Tampa Bay Lightning to a 5-1 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Thursday. Steven Stamkos and Mark Barberio also scored, Jonathan Drouin and Alex Killorn both tallied two assists and Ben Bishop made 27 saves for the Lightning, who set a franchise record with their ninth straight win

at home. Darren Helm supplied the Red Wings' lone goal as their six-game winning streak came to an end. Petr Mrazek allowed five goals on 15 shots, while Tom McCollum stopped all 17 shots he faced in the third period.

**Final Score: Florida 3, Columbus 2**  
Sunrise, FL (SportsNetwork.com) - Sean Bergenheim's goal with 6:52 remaining in the third period lifted the Florida Panthers to a 3-2 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Thursday. Jonathan Huberdeau and rookie Aaron Ekblad both scored in the second period for the Panthers, who got 30 saves from Roberto Luongo. Florida ended a 10-game losing streak to the Blue Jackets, a six-game home skid and a five-game slide overall. Jack Johnson and rookie Alexander Wennberg had second-period goals for Columbus, which has dropped six of its last nine games. Curtis McElhinney gave up three goals on 31 shots.

**Final Score: St. Louis 5, Nashville 4 (SO)**  
St. Louis, MO (SportsNetwork.com) - Brian Elliott made 33 saves and came up with three key stops in the shootout to help the St. Louis Blues beat the Nashville Predators, 5-4, on Thursday. On his 26th birthday, Kevin Shattenkirk scored the decisive goal in the shootout and added an assist in regulation. Jaden Schwartz, T.J. Oshie, Steve Ott and Ryan Reaves all tallied goals for the Blues in their third straight win. Mike Fisher scored twice for the Predators, who have lost three of their last four games. Filip Forsberg and James Neal also scored for Nashville, but Neal could not convert in the shootout to extend the game. Carter Hutton allowed four goals on 35 shots.

**Final Score: Minnesota 1, Calgary 0**  
Calgary, AB (SportsNetwork.com) - Devan Dubnyk stopped all 30 shots fired his way and made several big saves down the stretch for his third shutout of the season as the Minnesota Wild beat the Calgary Flames 1-0 on Tuesday. Zach Parise continued his solid offensive play with the lone goal for the Wild, who ended a two-game skid. Parise now has six goals in his past six games. Jonas Hiller turned aside 31 shots for the Flames, who entered the game with wins in five of their previous six games.

**Final Score: Edmonton 3, Buffalo 2**  
Edmonton, AB (SportsNetwork.com) - In a game that could be key in determining draft lottery odds between teams at the bottom of their respective conferences, the Edmonton Oilers prevailed over the Buffalo Sabres, 3-2, on Thursday. Allowing two goals on 20 shots, Ben Scrivens was not particularly busy in net for Edmonton in its third win in its last four games. Oscar Klefbom and Anton Lander each scored their first goal of the season for the Oilers, and Lander also tallied two assists. Matt Fraser scored Edmonton's first goal. Jonas Enroth stopped 31 of the 34 shots he faced as Buffalo dropped its 13th game in a row. Defensemen Tyler Myers and Rasmus Ristolainen each scored and Brian Gionta picked up assists on both goals.

par-4 17th onto the green, pin-high to right, setting up a two-putt birdie.

And he made it through the par-3 16th hole without too much of an incident.

As he settled over his tee shot and was about to pull the trigger, someone in the stands screamed out, "Knock it in the tooth!" That was a reference to that photograph last week of Woods at a World Cup ski race in Italy missing his front tooth.

On his next try, someone else shouted, "Everybody quiet."

Woods never lost his poise, hit the middle of the green and made par.

Even so, the focus shifted quickly from the chipped tooth to simply his chipping. Woods twice chipped with a 4-iron, opting to bump the ball instead of loft it. Both came up dreadfully short. One led to bogey, the other a double bogey when he three-putted from 20 feet on the fringe.

He clanked a routine chip some 15 feet by the hole for a bogey. He bladed one across the green at No. 9 and chose to use his putter to go back a slope.

Perhaps the greater indication of the state of his game is that no one was terribly surprised by the struggle, although the chipping is becoming a topic. Woods is working with a new swing consultant, trying to fashion a swing similar to his glory days. He says the change means trying to get rid of the old swing, even in his chipping.

This could be a process.

"It's not the first time I have gone through this. It takes time," Woods said. "It's just a frustrating thing where I just need to get through competitive rounds. I need to get rounds out of my belt and get a feel for it. Eventually I start trusting it, start shaping shots, and then you just go play. Don't worry about it a whole lot."

His game was anything but super, but the atmosphere sure was.

The attendance was estimated at 118,461, breaking the Thursday record at the Waste Management Phoenix Open by just over 30,000. Woods and the Super Bowl in town are the reason for that. And while so much attention was on Woods for the opening round, other players benefited from the high-charged atmosphere.

Keegan Bradley and Masters champion Bubba Watson each shot 65, one shot out of the lead.

Watson hit a drive on the 17th that rolled inches by the hole. He missed the 5-foot eagle putt, but picked up an eagle on the third hole. There was a big crowd for that one, for Watson played in the group behind Woods.

"I could feel his crowd was really big,"

Watson said. "You could feel it, the energy, even with the weather the way it was. People still showed up. People still had a blast. And obviously, Tiger created a lot of that."

Bradley could sense it, too, even though he played on the opposite side of the draw.

Bradley finished his round on No. 9 and hit what he thought was a great approach, except that he wasn't sure because no one was

clapping. He turned to his caddie and asked him if it went over the green, or maybe even short of the green. And then he walked up to the green and saw it was 10 feet away. That's when the light came on.

"Tiger was on the second green. No one was watching me," Bradley said with a laugh. "It's just amazing to see the draw that Tiger has. Wow, there was a lot of people."

They saw some good golf — just not very often from Woods.

**Who will win Super Bowl 2015, Patriots or Seahawks? Roundup of media predictions**  
**PHOENIX** — Just one game stands between the end of the 2014 NFL season and the beginning of the 2015 offseason — and experts from all over are split on who will win it.

**Super Bowl XLIX** between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks is two days away, and beside the Lombardi Trophy, plenty is on the line. For the Patriots, a win would give quarterback Tom Brady his fourth Super Bowl ring, and move his record to 4-2 in the big game and cement his legacy as one of the greatest quarterbacks of all-time — depending, of course, on the Deflategate investigation. The Seahawks, with a victory, would become the NFL's first repeat champions since the Patriots in 2004 and 2005.

Of the 76 expert predictions rounded up from around the internet web, 44 picked Seattle and 32 picked New England. Here is a breakdown:

**ESPN:** 46 polled, 24 pick Seahawks, 22 picks Patriots

**Adam Schefter, ESPN**  
*Patriots 24, Seahawks 21 — New England deflates Seattle's hopes of repeating.*

**John Clayton, ESPN**  
*Seahawks 24, Patriots 20 — Like in their victory over the Patriots in 2012, the Seahawks will need a late fourth-quarter drive to win this game.*

**Chris Mortensen, ESPN**  
*Patriots 20, Seahawks 16 — The Patriots will have more answers for the Seahawks' offense, while LeGarrette Blount will present problems for Seattle. Still a pick 'em game.*

**CBS Sports:** Of the eight reporters and analysts polled, five picks the Seahawks and three picked The Patriots. Both NFL analysts Jason LaCanfora and Pete Prisco picked the Patriots.

**Bleacher Report:** Of the 16 reporters polled, 11 picked the Seahawks to beat the Patriots.

**NFL.com:** Of the 14 reporters polled, eight picks the Seahawks and six picked the Patriots.

**Charles Davis, NFL.com:**  
*Seahawks 27, Patriots 24: In a very evenly matched game, I always lean toward defense, and while New England has had one of its better defensive seasons in recent years, the best "Stop Troops" in the league reside in Seattle.*

**Chris Wesseling, NFL.com:** *Patriots 23, Seahawks 20: Rob Gronkowski is the best player on the field, plain and simple.*

**NJ Advance Media:**

**Nick Powell, Giants reporter**

*Score:* Seahawks 24, Patriots 21.

*Reason:* I won't be fooled into thinking that the ballyhooed Deflate-gate story will affect Bill Belichick and Tom Brady's preparation, but I also won't discount the fact that the Seahawks' pass rush could give Brady fits and flashbacks to his previous Super Bowl appearances against the Giants. It will be a nail-biter, but the Seahawks prevail on a late field goal.

*Super Bowl MVP:* Marshawn Lynch

**Steve Politi, Columnist**

*Score:* Seahawks 30, Patriots 17

*Reason:* Defense beats offense again as the Seahawks stake claim to a budding dynasty while Bill Belichick and Tom Brady go from 3-0 in Super Bowls to 0-3. Oh, and to finish off a bad year for Roger Goodell, Marshawn Lynch is named the game's MVP and refuse to answer questions on live TV during the trophy presentation, declaring, "I'm just here to get my Corvette."

**Dom Cosentino, Jets reporter**

*Score:* Seahawks 21, Patriots 16

*Reason:* The Seahawks have just enough speed on defense to take the air out of the football (sorry not sorry) for the Patriots.

*Super Bowl MVP:* Kam Chancellor

**Darryl Slater, Jets reporter**

*Score:* Patriots 31, Seahawks 24

*Reason:* Seattle was lucky to beat Green Bay in the NFC title game. Presumably, the Seahawks will play better than that in the Super Bowl. But it won't be enough to match points with Tom Brady and Co.

*Super Bowl MVP:* Tom Brady

**Matt Lombardo, Eagles reporter**

*Score:* Patriots 26, Seahawks 23

*Reason:* Somehow the New England Patriots always play their best football when their backs are against the proverbial wall. Tom Brady and company have only lost two games since being left for dead after falling to the Kansas City Chiefs back week Week 4. Fittingly, after two weeks of DeflateGate talk, a late game-winning drive led by Tom Brady and punctuated with a Stephen Gostkowski field goal wins Bill Belichick and Brady their fourth ring together.

*Super Bowl MVP:* Rob Gronkowski

**Mark Eckel, Eagles reporter**

*Score:* New England 26, Seattle 23

*Reason:* Tom Brady and Bill Belichick only lose this game when the Giants are on the other sideline. So unless Eli Manning and David Tyree show up in Seahawks' uniforms, Sunday, I'm taking the Pats in a close one.

*Super Bowl MVP:* Rob Gronkowski

**Eliot Shorr-Parks, Eagles reporter**

*Score:* Seattle 28, New England 24

*Reason:* Since their playoff hopes went on life support after a loss to Kansas City in Week 11, the Seahawks have gone 8-0, allowing less than 10 points in five of them. Combine that with their miraculous come-from-behind win over the Green Bay Packers last week, and this team has the look of one that can't be beat when it matters. Combine

BY: LEON IRBY

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Patriots' quarterback Tom Brady's less than stellar stats in his last two Super Bowl performances (less than 300 yards in both games, both of which were losses) and I can't pick against the Seahawks. Plus, we all know why Marshawn Lynch is here.

*Super Bowl MVP:* Russell Wilson, only because the media won't vote for Lynch.

#### **Your daily horoscope**

Venus has been in Pisces for three days and is already shaking up the romantic scene, issuing demands and causing doubt. Weather this square of Venus and Saturn by calmly refusing to identify with another person's expectation of who you're supposed to be. Mercury and the sun align to highlight the importance of clear communication.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You got to know a very pleasant person, only to later meet an extremely unpleasant person in the same being. This is the polarity of human nature. Right now, it's more useful to recognize it in yourself than it is to recognize it in others.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). One rule is that if you can lose it in a shipwreck, it was never really yours to begin with. Yet there are possessions in your care that you strongly identify with, and you'll spend hours maintaining and enjoying them today.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Feelings are not wrong or right; however, some resonate a lower vibration than others. The higher your vibration is the lighter and more joyful you will be. Choose thoughts that make you feel better.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Many people aren't ready for criticism, and when they ask for it, what they really want is encouragement. Encouragement helps them feel seen and understood, as well as giving them the motivation to go forward.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). The pleasure of reading awaits you. Actual paper will be best, as that will be the most expressive medium for your soul. Besides, your eyes need a break from the glowing screens.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are endless supplies of facts available to anyone on the Internet or in the library. Do not confuse information with education. Educate yourself by learning how to apply knowledge.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Misery is when you can't leave the party because you don't have a vehicle or when you can't leave the conversation because you can't find an out. Happiness is having your own (emotional and physical) transportation.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The difference between the things you keep and the things you throw away has to do with what you identify with and find useful in the moment of choice. Just be aware that a different moment may bring a different feeling.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Don't try to have the perfect conversation. It won't happen, because it doesn't exist. But for the most part, even a boring conversation is

better than no conversation; it's that important to connect now.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Before you take out that credit card, remind yourself that "enough" is not always "more." In fact, often "enough" is found when you get rid of the excess that's causing you to miss the treasures in your possession.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A loved one is trying to finish personal business and not so attentive to you as you would like. In fact, this person may be downright thoughtless or rude, but it's worth excusing for now.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). High expectations are the enemy of action. What if you lowered your aim by half? Halve it again; what does that look like? The point is to have such a small mental hurdle that you can baby step over it.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Jan. 30). The events of the next seven weeks help you realize what a wonderful life you have. You'll conspire with loved ones in March to improve your domestic environment. April boosts your reputation. A major deal is finalized in June. Create mischief with a fascinating someone in July. Libra and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 3, 11, 27 and 45.

The plane's whereabouts are still unknown despite a massive international search in the southern Indian Ocean.

The declaration on Thursday should allow compensation payments to relatives of the victims.

Malaysian officials added that the recovery of the missing aircraft remained a priority and that they have pursued "every credible lead". Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) Director-General Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said that it was "with the heaviest heart and deepest sorrow that we officially declare Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 an accident."

"All 239 of the passengers and crew onboard MH370 are presumed to have lost their lives," he said.

He added that Malaysia, China and Australia have spared no expense in the hunt for the plane.

Four vessels are currently searching the sea floor with specialised sonar technology in a remote stretch of ocean where the plane is believed to have ended its flight.

#### 'No evidence'

Based on analysis of satellite and aircraft performance data, MH370 is thought to be in seas far west of the Australian city of Perth. The vessels have so far searched an area of over 18,000 km sq (11,185 sq miles), according to officials.

The search area involved also has known depths of up to 6,000 m (19 685 ft).

Mr Azharuddin said that the progress of the safety investigation into the accident would be released soon, but that "at this juncture, there is no evidence to substantiate any speculations as to the cause of the accident". The DCA said on Wednesday said that it planned to release an interim report on the investigation on 7 March, a day before the first anniversary of the disappearance.

#### Hezbollah Said to Not Be Planning More Action Against Israel

Israel's defense minister said on Thursday that his country had received messages through United Nations channels that Hezbollah did not plan any further action after its missile strike the previous day that killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded seven.

The attack, in response to a Jan. 18 drone strike by Israel on a convoy in Syrian territory that killed six Hezbollah fighters and an Iranian general, capped the most severe flare-up between the two enemies since their bloody 33-day battle in 2006. Analysts said that neither side was interested in another full-contact confrontation, but that after years of uneasy calm, the periodic exchanges could easily escalate.

"We received a message," the defense minister, Moshe Yaalon, said on Army Radio, "that from their standpoint the incident is over, but we are of course prepared for any development."

In Lebanon, the labor minister, Sejaan Azzi, said the prime minister had assured him that

Israel had sent its own messages promising there would be no further aggression.

The area where the Wednesday attack took place, a disputed swath of former farmland near the intersection of Syria, Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, was quiet on Thursday. Israeli troops remained on high alert and were fortifying the road along the Lebanese border with concrete slabs.

They also resumed a mission begun Wednesday morning of digging near Zarit, a border town, after residents reported hearing underground rumblings that they feared might be Hezbollah building tunnels. Funerals were scheduled for Thursday for the soldiers killed when antitank missiles hit the unarmored, unmarked vehicle they were driving about a mile from the Lebanese border. Maj. Yochai Kalangel, 25 — promoted posthumously from captain — was to be buried before noon at the military cemetery on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. Staff Sgt. Dor Chaim Nini, 20, was to be buried in Shtulim, a small community in south-central Israel.

"I don't know if the events are behind us," Mr. Yaalon cautioned in the radio interview, emphasizing that the military was "ready, deployed for any development." He added, "Anyone who tries to attack us is signing their own death warrant."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel also promised "to defend ourselves against all threats" but sought to return the public focus from Hezbollah to its patron, Iran, whose nuclear program he considers an existential threat to the Jewish state.

"It is Iran that is responsible for yesterday's attack against us from Lebanon," Mr. Netanyahu said on Thursday at a memorial ceremony for one of his predecessors, Ariel Sharon, who died last January. "This is the same Iran that is now trying to achieve an agreement, via the major powers, that would leave it with the ability to develop nuclear weapons, and we strongly oppose this agreement."

A Spanish member of the United Nations peacekeeping force in the area, identified as Cpl. Francisco Javier Soria Toledo, 36, was also killed on Wednesday by fire that Spain's ambassador to the United Nations said "came from the Israeli side."

The United Nations Security Council extended condolences, as did the European Union's top foreign affairs official, Federica Mogherini.

"The threats to Israel on its northern border must stop," Ms. Mogherini said in a statement distributed on Thursday, calling for "an immediate cessation of hostilities."

The statement emphasized Europe's "full support" for the United Nations mission and the Lebanese government, army and people "in much-needed efforts to maintain peace and stability in Lebanon in these dramatic times for the country."

**Jordan ready to swap terrorist prisoner for pilot held by Islamic State**

Jordan is willing to swap an female Iraqi prisoner involved in a deadly 2005 hotel bombing for a Jordanian pilot captured in December by extremists from the Islamic State group, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

Such a swap would run counter to Jordan's hard-line approach toward Islamic militants and to the position of its main ally, the United States, not to negotiate with extremists. An exchange also would set a precedent for negotiating with Islamic State militants, who in the past have not publicly demanded prisoner releases.

However, Jordan's government faces domestic pressure to bring the pilot home, while its participation in a U.S.-led military coalition against Islamic State is widely unpopular among Jordanians.

The government spokesman, Mohammed Momani, did not say whether a swap would actually take place. He also made no mention of Japanese journalist Kenji Goto, who is also being held by Islamic State militants.

Efforts to release the pilot and the journalist gained urgency with the release late Tuesday of a purported online ultimatum claiming that Islamic State would kill both hostages within 24 hours if the Iraqi woman was not freed. On Wednesday, Momani said that "Jordan is ready to release the Iraqi prisoner, Sajida al-Rishawi, if the Jordanian pilot, Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, is released unharmed." His comments were carried by Jordan's official Petra news agency.

Rishawi was sentenced to death in Jordan for her involvement in a 2005 terrorist attack by Al Qaeda on hotels in Amman that killed 60 people. Her release would be a major propaganda coup for Islamic State.

Jordan is reportedly in indirect talks with the militants, communicating through religious and tribal leaders in Iraq to secure the hostages' release.

The chairman of the foreign affairs committee of Jordan's parliament, Bassam Manasseer, has been quoted as saying that Jordan and Japan would not negotiate directly with Islamic State and would not free Rishawi for the Japanese hostage only.

Earlier Wednesday, Goto's mother appealed publicly to Japan's prime minister to save her son. Junko Ishido read to reporters her plea to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, which she said she sent after both Abe and Japan's main government spokesman declined to meet with her.

"Please save Kenji's life," Ishido said, begging Abe to work with the Jordanian government until the very end to try to save Goto.

"Kenji has only a little time left," she said. Later Wednesday, a few dozen people gathered in front of the prime minister's official residence, holding banners and placards expressing their hopes for Goto's release.

"I have been trying to keep my hopes up and believe that Mr. Goto will return. I have this

BY: L. EDONZ RBY

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group that can facilitate paying for his activities as he seriously eyes a 2016 White House bid.

The group, Our American Revival, was formed on Jan. 16. Walker's campaign issued a statement Tuesday to The Washington Post announcing formation of the committee. Walker has talked about "our American revival" in recent speeches to conservatives, including one Saturday night in Iowa. The group borrows that rhetoric.

Walker has been bolstering staff as he considers a presidential run, hiring a former Republican National Committee political adviser and a strategist to oversee efforts in Iowa.

Walker began his second term as governor this month and is best known for taking on public union rights four years ago.

#### **Military plane makes emergency landing at Mitchell airport**

Authorities are investigating after a military plane was forced to make an emergency landing at Mitchell International Airport due to mechanical issues.

An official with the Wisconsin Air National Guard 128th Air Refueling Wing says a KC-135 Stratotanker returned to the airport Tuesday night in the midst of a training mission after crew members noticed smoke and fumes in the cockpit. Master Sgt. Tom Sobczyk says no injuries were reported and the aircraft landed safely at the airport just before 9 p.m.

Officials said the smoke and fumes were caused by a battery charger that failed. An investigation into the incident will attempt to determine why the battery failed.

#### **Kenosha mayor says he's disappointed with casino denial**

The Kenosha mayor says he's very disappointed Gov. Scott Walker decided against a request to build a casino there. The closed Dairyland Greyhound Park is where the proposed Kenosha casino was to be located.

Gov. Scott Walker on Friday denied the Menominee Nation's request for permission to build an off-reservation casino in Kenosha, saying it could leave the state owing a rival tribe millions of dollars.

Kenosha Mayor Keith Bosman told the Kenosha News he's frustrated with Walker's denial of the tribal casino at the former Dairyland Greyhound Park.

He said the loss of \$800 million in investment and the expected thousands of construction and permanent jobs is a blow to the city.

Bosman said the process has been very frustrating.

#### **Russian bombers over English Channel raise stakes with Moscow Add to ...**

It's becoming almost par for the course these days, even though the Cold War ended long ago: NATO aircraft dispatched to intercept Russian military aircraft encroaching on the edges of their countries' airspace.

But Thursday's flight by a pair of Russian strategic bombers was remarkable even by

the standards of this new conflict between Moscow and the West. Two Tu-95 "Bear" bombers – with their transponders off to foil radar – flew through the busy air corridor over the English Channel. The appearance of the warplanes forced Britain's Royal Air Force to scramble its own jets and caused civilian air traffic to reroute.

While the world is becoming used to Russian sabre-rattling amid the showdown over Ukraine, this flight of the Bears was a dangerous raising of the stakes, and came on the same day that the man who ended the first Cold War – former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev – warned that the latest confrontation between Russia and the West had the potential to devolve into a "hot" conflict.

"A cold war is already being waged openly. What will happen next?" Mr. Gorbachev said in an interview with the Interfax news service. He went on to accuse the United States of "triumphalism" since the Cold War ended with the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, and said that attitude had led to today's confrontation. "Unfortunately, I can no longer say firmly that the cold war won't turn into a hot one."

Mr. Gorbachev spoke out in a week that has seen a return to heavy fighting in southeastern Ukraine, where a Russian-backed insurgency has established a de facto mini-state around the cities of Donetsk and Lugansk.

Britain called the Russian bomber flights over the Channel "a serious escalation" and summoned Russian Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko to give an explanation. "It was very dangerous. Civil aircraft flying to the U.K. had to be rerouted," an unnamed British government source told Reuters. "The Russians were flying with their transponders turned off so could only be seen on military radar. They haven't flown this far south before."

The Kremlin-run Sputnik news service reported that the two Tupolevs "did not breach international regulations or any nation's borders."

NATO says it intercepted more than 100 Russian military aircraft last year, a threefold increase from 2013, as tensions soared following a pro-Western revolution in Kiev. Moscow subsequently annexed the Crimean peninsula from its neighbour and lent support to the uprisings in Donetsk and Lugansk.

Swedish authorities say a Russian military jet nearly collided with a commercial passenger airplane near its airspace in December.

Russia has denied that its warplanes were ever dangerously close to passenger aircraft. The NATO military alliance has accused the Russian military of direct involvement as separatist forces have broken through old front lines in Ukraine to capture Donetsk's international airport and lay siege to the Ukrainian government-controlled cities of Mariupol and Debaltsevo. Both cities are considered strategically important, with Mariupol being the region's biggest port, and

Debaltsevo astride a key road between Donetsk and Lugansk.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko also told the World Economic Forum last week that 9,000 Russian troops were operating on his country's soil. Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, has subsequently sought to designate the Donetsk and Lugansk rebels as "terrorists," hoping that will draw more Western military support to the Ukrainian side.

So far, however, Canada, the United States and the EU have offered only non-military aid to Ukraine's outgunned military. Russian President Vladimir Putin has denied the accusations of direct Russian involvement, though Kremlin-controlled media have acknowledged the presence of Russian "volunteers" in eastern Ukraine. This week, Mr. Putin referred to the Ukrainian army as a NATO "foreign legion" that acted in the interests of Washington instead of Kiev.

Other Russian officials have hardened their rhetoric over Ukraine in recent days. On Thursday, Russia's representative to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe warned of a "big catastrophe" if the West continued to support Mr. Poroshenko's government.

Mr. Gorbachev, who in the past has made headlines with his criticisms of Mr. Putin, said the conflict between Russia and the West was approaching a point of no return in Ukraine. "If our country gets involved [in the fighting], it could spark a fire so strong the whole world won't be able to put it out." European Union foreign ministers, meanwhile, broke a deadlock on Thursday by getting Greece's new left-wing government – seen as friendly to Moscow – to sign on to an extension of the economic sanctions against Russian businesses and individuals that were due to expire in February. The sanctions will now remain in place until September, and the EU also agreed on a new list of targets that will be added to the sanctions list on Feb. 9, unless there are signs of progress toward peace in Ukraine.

The United States said Thursday that it was also considering new economic measures to punish Russia. State Department spokeswoman Jan Psaki said the EU's decision was "just a further sign that the actions of the last several days and weeks are absolutely unacceptable and that there will be new consequences put in place."

#### **MH370: Malaysia declares plane's disappearance an accident**

The Malaysian government has officially declared the disappearance of Malaysian Airline flight MH370 an accident and has said that there were no survivors. No trace of the Beijing-bound aircraft has been found since it disappeared on 8 March 2014.

Officials said that the recovery operation is ongoing but that the 239 people onboard are now presumed dead.