

GUY NEXT DOOR

a day ago

Liberian Warlord Living in Philly Sued for Massacre



REUTERS/CORINNE DUFKA

In the suburbs of Philadelphia, the owner of Klade’s Liberian restaurant—Moses Thomas—has been identified as a former Liberian warlord, according to federal civil court papers filed Monday. According to the documents, Thomas was behind some of the bloodiest events of the African nation’s civil war, including the July 1990 Lutheran church massacre in which 600 men, women, and children were “indiscriminately” shot and “methodically” hacked to death with machetes. The filing follows a four-year investigation by a coalition of human-rights organizations that identified Thomas as a member of dictator Samuel Doe’s anti-terrorist unit, based on interviews with former soldiers and survivors. The suit claims he “bears responsibility for the [Lutheran church massacre] murders by directing the attack.” Thomas gained a U.S. immigration status in 2000 that was reserved for war-crime victims. “I don’t want to give any credence to the allegation,” Thomas told the [BBC](#). “No one in my unit had anything to do with the attack on the church.”

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1. FLYING ON FEDERAL DIME

2 hours ago

Trump's Veterans Affairs Chief Misled Ethics Officials on Travel Expenses



Veterans Affairs Sec. David J. Shulkin's chief of staff doctored an email and lied in order to have the federal agency pay for Shulkin and his wife's 10-day trip to Europe last summer, according to the VA's inspector general. Vivieca Wright Simpson, the number-three VA official, manipulated language in an email to an aide to make it seem like Shulkin was receiving an award from the Danish government and used that as an excuse for the agency to pay for Shulkin's wife's travel—totaling more than \$4,300 in flight costs. The VA released a statement to *The Washington Post* earlier this year, saying the ethics council “reviewed and approved” the Europe trip and the Wimbledon attendance—a statement the IG later found to be misleading. Shulkin is now the fifth Trump cabinet member to have been caught up in a travel-related ethics scandal.

READ IT AT THE WASHINGTON POST >


2. ON THE CASE

4 hours ago

Gowdy: Oversight Committee Launched Rob Porter Investigation



The House Oversight Committee has launched an investigation into the White House's hiring of Rob Porter, Chairman Trey Gowdy told CNN's *New Day* Wednesday morning. According to the South Carolina Republican, the investigation was launched Tuesday night. "You can call it official. You can call it unofficial," he said. "I'm going to direct questions to the FBI that I expect them to answer. And if they don't answer them, then they're going to need to give me a really good reason." In a [letter](#) to White House chief of staff John Kelly, the committee said it would be investigating "the extent to which any security clearances issued to Porter comported with" polices normally undertaken for clearances at the Executive Branch. The committee gave the White House until February 28th to hand over requested information, including when the White House knew about "became aware of potential derogatory or disqualifying information[.]" This comes after FBI Director Christopher Wray testified to Congress about the timeline of information about Rob Porter the bureau gave to the White House. Wray's recount contradicted the White House narrative.

A screenshot of a tweet from CNN Politics. The tweet text reads: "Chairman Trey Gowdy says the House Oversight Committee is 'directing inquiries' to the FBI about Rob Porter". It is dated 5:42 AM - Feb 14, 2018, and shows 95 replies and 113 people talking about it. The background of the tweet shows a video player with a "Capitol Hill 8:15 AM ET" overlay.

CNN Politics
@CNNPolitics

Chairman Trey Gowdy says the House Oversight Committee is "directing inquiries" to the FBI about Rob Porter

5:42 AM - Feb 14, 2018

95 113 people are talking about this

[READ IT AT POLITICO >](#)

3. TROUBLE BREWING

37 minutes ago

Pence: White House Could've Handled Rob Porter Situation Better



Vice President Mike Pence said Wednesday that the White House could have handled the Rob Porter situation better, doubling down on comments he made last week about the ex-White House staff secretary who resigned over domestic abuse allegations. Pence, who was speaking at an Axios event, added that Chief of Staff John Kelly has done a "remarkable job." Kelly has come under fire about whether he was informed about the allegations against Porter last year as part of the former aide's background check for his security clearance. FBI Director Christopher Wray testified to the Senate Intelligence Committee on

Tuesday that the agency delivered reports to the White House about Porter three times last year—the first coming in March.

VP Pence: "I think the White House could have handled this better." (C-SPAN)



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4. NOT GOING AWAY

6 hours ago

Shaun White Dismisses Sexual-Misconduct Allegations Against Him as 'Gossip'



Snowboarder Shaun White, who won his third gold for the U.S. on Wednesday, dismissed the sexual-misconduct allegations against him as “gossip” after he was questioned about them in a press conference after the event. The athlete [settled a graphic lawsuit last year](#) that accused him of groping and sending explicit texts to Lena Zawaideh, a female member of his rock band. However, when asked if the allegations would tarnish his legacy, White said: “I’m here to talk about the Olympics, not gossip and stuff. I don’t think so—I am who I am and I’m proud of who I am and my friends love me and vouch for me and I think that stands on its own.” When pressed further about the allegations, the moderator of the conference interrupted and urged journalists to only ask questions about White’s medal and performance. Hours later, White was asked to address the subject on NBC’s *Today*: “I’m truly sorry that I chose the word ‘gossip,’” he said. “It was a poor choice of words to describe a sensitive subject in the world today. I was so overwhelmed with just wanting to talk about the news today.” He added: “I feel like I’m a much more changed person than I was when I was younger.”

Shaun White: 'Here to talk about the Olympics, not gossip.'



READ IT AT ABC SPORTS >

5. AD BY DAILY BEAST SHOP

The World's First Bluetooth-Powered Luggage Lock Is 30% Off



It never hurts to secure your stuff when you're traveling abroad — but it can be a hassle to have to manage a set of keys for your luggage, or worry about remembering random combinations. This [AirBolt Smart Travel Lock](#) helps make your travel a little more manageable (and more secure). It's the world's first Bluetooth-powered smart lock, unlocking via an app on your smartphone with just a push of a button.

This Kickstarter success and 2017 Good Design Award winner also helps you track your luggage: you get notified if it's removed from a designated area and you can ping your luggage if it's not in front of you. And you don't need to worry about accidentally unlocking the AirBolt; it relocks itself if the rope isn't removed from the locking mechanism. As an extra security measure, you can see the lock's access history to verify each time somebody has opened it. Just in case you're a little accident prone, there's a unique backup button access code, with shared access available to family and friends.

Oh, and most importantly, AirBolt is TSA-compliant. Usually, this AirBolt Smart Travel Lock is \$79.95, but you can get it now for \$54.99.

Please note that if you buy something featured in one of our posts we may collect a share of sales.

6. WHAT INTERFERENCE?

7 hours ago

Report: Somehow, Trump Still Doesn't Think Russia Meddled in Election



George W. Bush believes it, the entire U.S. intelligence community believes it, and even members of Trump's Cabinet believe it—but, according to reports, Donald Trump is still skeptical that Russia meddled in the 2016 presidential election. Citing three sources who are familiar with Trump's thoughts on the matter, CNN reported Wednesday that the president is still reluctant to accept that Russia influenced the election. According to CNN's sources, Trump believes that accepting that the Kremlin interfered would

mean admitting that he had help to win the election. The report came hours after U.S. intelligence chiefs unanimously testified about Russian involvement in 2016. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said: “There should be no doubt that Russia perceives its past efforts as successful and views the 2018 U.S. midterm elections as a potential target for Russian influence operations.”

[READ IT AT CNN >](#)

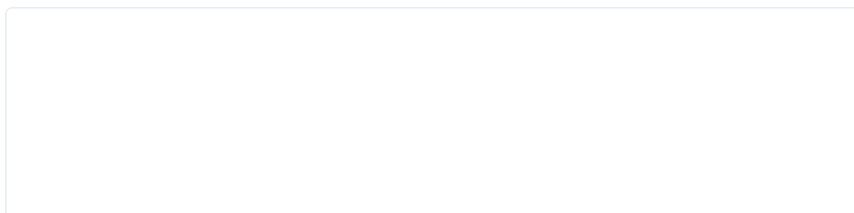
7. **KIM JONG DEUX**

5 hours ago

Dancing Kim Jong Un Impersonator Upsets South Korean Security



There are only two options if you're the spitting image of Kim Jong Un—grow your hair out and try to hide it, or accept your fate and throw yourself into it. A British man going only by the name of “Howard” has definitely chosen the latter. After being photographed with a Donald Trump lookalike earlier in the Games, on Wednesday he went to the Korea vs. Japan ice-hockey match and danced in front of an appalled North Korean cheer squad before being hauled away by security.





Anna Fifield

@annafield

This Kim Jong Un impersonator walked in front of the North Korean cheering squad at the Olympics, and boy were they unimpressed star.ohmynews.com/NWS_Web/OhmySt... h/t [@yoonjung_seo](https://twitter.com/yoonjung_seo)

3:37 AM - Feb 14, 2018

3,096 1,694 people are talking about this

According to journalist Vincent Bevins, who was at the match, the impersonator told South Korean police in an English accent: “I just showed up with my flag and my face. If you don’t like my face, there’s nothing you can do about it. I was born this way.”



Vincent Bevins
@Vinncent

At the united Korea vs Japan womens' hockey game, an apparent Kim Jong-un impersonator starts dancing in front of North Korean cheerleaders. Apparent employees of the DPRK push him aside. He's now sitting nearby giving interviews (in English)

1:27 AM - Feb 14, 2018

2,138 1,221 people are talking about this

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8. I'M OSCAR

9 hours ago

Prisoner Recaptured After Drugging Twin, Switching Clothes, And Walking Out of Jail



The Simpsons has had an impressive run of predicting real-life events, but reality is now stealing plot lines straight from *Arrested Development*. A Peruvian prisoner has been recaptured more than a year after he drugged his twin during a visit, switched clothes with him, and walked out of jail. Alexander Delgado's 13 months on the run came to an end Monday and he's now expected to be moved to a maximum-security prison to stop any more escape plots. Delgado reportedly told local media after his arrest that he carried out his daring escape "because I was desperate to see my mother." On the next *Arrested Development*...

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9. TOP DOGGO

13 hours ago

Flynn the Bichon Frise Wins Best in Show at Westminster



Flynn the bichon frise was crowned as America's top dog Tuesday night at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show in New York. The 5-year-old pooch beat out six other finalists to win Best in Show, apparently impressing judges with his powder-puff fur and light-footed prance. "It feels a little unreal," Flynn's handler, Bill McFadden, said after the event. "I came in expecting nothing and just hoping for a good performance and I think I got it," he said. A total of 2,882 entries competed in the 142nd Westminster event, with 202 breeds and varieties. Flynn competed against six other finalists, including Biggie the pug,

Bean the Sussex spaniel, Slick the border collie, Winston the Norfolk terrier, Lucy the borzoi, and Ty the giant schnauzer, who was the runner-up.

[READ IT AT THE NEW YORK TIMES >](#)

10. FREELoadERS

8 hours ago

South Korea to Pay the Huge Bill Racked Up by North Korean Cheer Squad



Everyone knows someone who orders the most expensive thing at a restaurant and then tries to wriggle out of paying their share of the bill. It turns out North Korea has around 400 of them. South Korea will pick up the \$2.6 million tab for the North Korean delegation at the Winter Olympics, the bulk of which was racked up by the country's massive cheerleading squad and a few tae kwon do performers. The majority of the North's delegation is reported to have stayed at luxury hotels in Seoul and near the Olympic venues in Pyeongchang. On top of the \$2.6 million bill, the cost of hosting the 22 North Korean athletes will be picked up by the International Olympic Committee, and the senior North Korean delegation's bills—including those of Kim Jong Un's sister—will be paid using a separate fund from the South Korean government.

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