

USA TIMES



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NEWS VIA SATELLITE FROM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST NEWSWIRES

Headland SatNews

Obama nixes motorist plan

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Friday rejected his transportation secretary's suggestion that the administration consider taxing motorists based on how many miles they drive instead of how much gasoline they buy.

"It is not and will not be the policy of the Obama administration," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters, when asked for the president's thoughts about Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's suggestion, raised in an interview with The Associated Press a day earlier.

Gasoline taxes that for nearly half a century have paid for the federal share of highway and bridge construction can no longer be counted on to raise enough money to keep the nation's transportation system moving, LaHood told the AP.

"We should look at the vehicular miles program where people are actually clocked on the number of miles that they traveled," the former Illinois Republican lawmaker said in the AP interview.

LaHood spokeswoman Lori Irving said Friday that the secretary was speaking of the idea only in general terms, not as something being implemented as administration policy.

Most transportation experts see a vehicle miles-traveled tax as a long-term solution, but

Congress is being urged to move in that direction now by funding pilot projects.

The idea also is gaining ground in several states. The governor of Idaho is talking about such a program. A North Carolina panel suggested in December the state start charging motorists a quarter-cent for every mile as a substitute for the gas tax. Rhode Island's governor, however, has expressed opposition to a panel's recommendation in December that the state charge motorists a half-cent for every mile driven in addition to the gas tax.

A tentative plan in Massachusetts to use GPS chips in vehicles to charge motorists by the mile has drawn complaints from drivers who say it's an Orwellian intrusion by government into the lives of citizens. Other motorists say it eliminates an incentive to drive more fuel-efficient cars since gas guzzlers will be taxed at the same rate as fuel sippers.

Besides a VMT tax, more tolls for highways and bridges and more government partnerships with business to finance transportation projects are other funding options, LaHood, one of two Republicans in Obama's Cabinet, said in the interview Thursday.

NETANYAHU URGES UNITY

JERUSALEM - Benjamin Netanyahu appealed to his moderate rivals Friday to join a unity government - a tricky alliance that would let the hawkish Israeli leader avoid relying on an unstable grouping of right-wingers almost sure to collide with the Obama administration and each other.

"I call on the members of all the factions ... to set politics aside and put the good of the nation at the center," Netanyahu said during a brief ceremony after President Shimon Peres tapped him to try to put together Israel's next governing coalition.

Although the election gave Netanyahu's Likud Party and other right-wing groups a majority in parliament, the prime minister-designate has a delicate task in forming a government.

POLICE CHIEF RESIGNS

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico - Ciudad Juárez's police chief stepped down Friday after criminal gangs made a chilling demand: Resign or we will kill more local officers.

Public Safety Secretary Roberto Orduna announced he was leaving his post only hours after gunmen killed a police officer and a jail guard and left signs on their bodies saying they had fulfilled a promise made Wednesday to slay at least one officer every 48 hours until Orduna quits.

The slayings were a sign that gangs are determined to control the police force of the biggest Mexican border city, with a population of 1.3 million people across from El Paso, Texas.

KYRGYZSTAN "EVICTS" U.S.

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan - The United States was on the verge of being kicked out of its only military outpost in Russia's historic backyard after Kyrgyzstan gave U.S. forces six months to vacate an air base that serves as a key supply hub for troops in Afghanistan.

The Manas base, created shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, at first served as a symbol of what seemed like a budding strategic partnership between the U.S. and Russia.

Obama issues warning over stimulus money

WASHINGTON - Invoking his own name-and-shame policy, President Barack Obama warned the nation's mayors on Friday that he will "call them out" if they waste the money from his massive economic stimulus plan.

"The American people are watching," Obama told a gathering of mayors at the White House. "They need this plan to work. They expect to see the money that they've earned - they've worked so hard to earn - spent in its intended purposes without waste, without inefficiency, without fraud."

In the days since the White House and

Congress came to terms on the \$787 billion economic package, the political focus has shifted to how it will work. Obama has staked his reputation not just on the promise of 3.5 million jobs saved or created, but also on a pledge to let the public see where the money goes.

His budget chief this week released a 25,000-word document that details exactly how Cabinet and executive agencies, states and local organizations must report spending. It is a system meant to streamline reports so they can be displayed on the administration's new Web site, Recovery.gov.

Report claims Guantanamo humane

WASHINGTON - The Defense Department says the Guantanamo Bay prison meets the standard for humane treatment dictated by the Geneva Conventions, according to a report prepared for President Barack Obama.

Obama has ordered the detention center for terror suspects closed within a year.

The report recommended some changes, including an increase in group recreation for some of the camp's more dangerous or less compliant prisoners, according to a government official familiar with the study.

The report also suggested allowing those prisoners to gather in groups of three or more, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the report has not been released officially.

Some of the hard-core prisoners are not

currently allowed to meet with other prisoners for prayer or socialization and are kept in their cells 23 hours a day.

Alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is among the prisoners who could be affected by the change. Prolonged social isolation has been known to harm mental health among prisoners.

The 85-page report by Adm. Patrick M. Walsh, the Navy's second in command, was written in response to Obama's Jan. 22 executive order to close the facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within a year.

Attorney General Eric Holder named a top federal prosecutor, Matthew Olsen, on Friday as executive director of Obama's Guantanamo Detainee Review Task Force.

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

	Lo	Hi	
Amsterdam	32	46	Rain
Athens	34	48	Pcldy
Auckland	66	77	Rain
Berlin	30	34	Snow
Brussels	36	45	Rain
Buenos Aires	73	82	Rain
Cairo	57	70	Pcldy
Copenhagen	27	34	Snow
Dublin	34	48	Pcldy
Hong Kong	64	75	Rain
Istanbul	41	46	Rain
Jerusalem	54	59	Rain
Johannesburg	63	77	Rain
London	39	50	Pcldy
Madrid	34	59	Clear
Manila	77	91	Pcldy
Mexico City	52	72	Rain
Moscow	7	30	Snowy
New Delhi	55	84	Clear
Paris	32	52	Rain
Rome	30	52	Clear
Sao Paulo	64	82	Rain
Singapore	77	88	Rain
Stockholm	16	30	Snow
Sydney	68	81	Rain
Tokyo	37	46	Clear
Toronto	21	27	Snow
Zurich	18	37	Snow

U.S. WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	29	23	Pcldy
Atlanta	45	26	Clear
Boston	30	23	Clear
Chicago	28	14	Snow
Dallas-Ft. Worth	69	30	Cloudy
Denver	26	27	Clear
Great Falls	28	21	Pcldy
Houston	67	40	Cloudy
Kansas City	56	22	Pcldy
Las Vegas	63	40	Pcldy
Los Angeles	75	52	Cloudy
Miami Beach	73	59	Pcldy
Mpls-St. Paul	26	7	Snow
New Orleans	33	23	Cloudy
New York City	32	23	Pcldy
Phoenix	76	48	Pcldy
Salt Lake City	48	27	Pcldy
San Francisco	62	45	Cloudy
Seattle	52	30	Cloudy
Washington, D.C.	39	23	Pcldy
National Temperature Extremes			Friday:
High 79 at Cotulla, Texas and Laredo, Tx.			
Low -23 at International Falls, Mn.			

Ex-death row inmate's DNA not found on evidence

NASHVILLE, Tennessee - DNA from key evidence in a Tennessee woman's slaying does not match the man who spent more than two decades on death row for killing her, according to new FBI lab tests.

Paul House, 47, who uses a wheelchair because he developed multiple sclerosis in prison, was convicted of killing Carolyn Muncey nearly 23 years ago. But the case against him has been in doubt for years because of DNA testing, which wasn't available then.

House was released last year after the U.S. Supreme Court concluded no reasonable juror would have found him guilty based on DNA tests of semen stains on Muncey's clothing. Authorities had claimed he lured Muncey from her dilapidated cabin, beat her, killed her and then dumped her body in a culvert. There were no witnesses.

Three teens fatally shot in Chicago

CHICAGO - Three teenagers, including a 13-year-old, were killed Friday in a shooting on Chicago's South Side that authorities believe involved an assault rifle.

It appears "several individuals" attacked the teens, and shell casings found at the scene point to at least one assault rifle, said Police Superintendent Jody Weis.

"It's just tragic, based on the guns that are on the streets, that three young men have lost their lives today," Weis said.

"We're bringing out every resource we have, and we'll work this case as hard as we can," he said.

Officials hope at least two surveillance

video cameras near the crime scene will lead to clues, said police Cmdr. Eddie Welch, who added that investigators are looking at "multiple scenes."

"They're in great positions," Welch said of the cameras.

No one was in custody as of Friday night, Officer JoAnn Taylor said.

The shooting occurred Friday afternoon about a block from Immaculate Conception School. It is not clear if any of the victims were students there.

One of the teenagers died at the scene, officials said. The others died after being transported to area hospitals.

Ill. governor: Burris should resign

CHICAGO - U.S. Sen. Roland Burris kept out of sight Friday as longtime friend Gov. Pat Quinn joined the roster of fellow Democrats calling for his resignation following new disclosures about his controversial appointment, while the White House urged the senator to take the weekend to consider his future.

Burris began the week with passionate defenses, proclaiming he had nothing to hide even as revelations mounted about his attempts to raise money for his disgraced patron, former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, and his failures to disclose multiple conversations with Blagojevich advisers.

By Friday, Burris eluded reporters and only

repeated pleas through his spokesman to "stop the rush to judgment." The junior senator scheduled private visits to a veterans medical center and naval training center north of Chicago but did not speak publicly.

Quinn praised Burris, a former Illinois attorney general, as an honorable man and said Friday it would be a "heroic act" for him to put the interests of the state and his constituents ahead of his own.

"It takes a great deal of fortitude and courage to do that and I think people will recognize that," Quinn said. "It's never easy to step aside and resign from anything in life, especially something as important as United States Senate."

Suspect in Indiana police shooting found dead

LOUISVILLE, Ky. - A man suspected of shooting two Indiana police officers in an ambush was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot Friday night, hours after he had barricaded himself in a Louisville house.

Negotiators tried all day to end the standoff peacefully, but the suspect was found dead at 8:45 p.m. after he shot himself, said Louisville Metro Police spokesman Robert Biven. Police had deployed gas inside the house around that time, Biven said.

Police had earlier said the suspect in the house was Robert Datillo, 37, of Jeffersonville, Ind. Datillo was wanted by investigators probing the shootings of the officers at a motel Thursday in southern

Indiana, just across the Ohio River from Louisville. Both officers were in stable condition Friday.

"It's always to our interests to have the person come out. Unfortunately this person decided to take his own life," Biven said.

Police had said Datillo indicated he was armed during the daylong standoff. A SWAT team, hostage negotiators and federal agents had descended on the southern Louisville neighborhood of well-kept one-story brick houses around 10:30 a.m. EST after a vehicle believed linked to the shootings was seen there, said Alicia Smiley, a Louisville police spokeswoman.

Texas says Peanut Corp. unresponsive to recall

DALLAS - The bankrupt company at the center of a national salmonella outbreak hasn't carried out a recall of its products manufactured in Texas, so the state is notifying customers itself, officials there said Friday.

Texas health officials ordered Peanut Corp. of America on Feb. 12 to recall all products ever shipped from a plant in Plainview after inspectors found dead rodents, feces and bird feathers in a crawl space above a production area.

But the Texas Department of State Health Services said the company hasn't responded

to its order, so state workers have begun asking manufacturers, distributors and retailers to keep products from the Plainview plant away from the public.

"When you order a recall and don't get a response you've got to do something to protect the public," Doug McBride, a spokesman for the Texas Department of State Health Services, said Friday. "They weren't going to do it, so we are doing it."

The company said in a press release on its Web site Friday that the bankruptcy proceedings were hampering its ability to carry out recall orders.

Ex-President Bush moves to Dallas

DALLAS - A month after leaving the White House, former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, moved into their new Dallas home Friday.

Bush's motorcade drove past a security barricade in the late afternoon, bringing the former first couple to their new residence: a 1959 ranch-style brick home that sits at the top of a quiet dead end street in a wealthy Dallas neighborhood. Bush waved to a jogger as he rode by, and the jogger waved back.

"President and Mrs. Bush are glad to be back in Dallas, appreciate the warm welcome by their neighbors, and look forward to once again being part of the Dallas community," said Rob Saliterman, a spokesman for Bush's office in Dallas.

The couple's new home has about 8,500 square feet, four bedrooms, four-and-a-half bathrooms and a wet bar. Local property records indicate the home on Daria Place is worth about \$2.1 million.

The house has a wide front yard and dark shutters, with a gate at the top of the driveway that affords some privacy. The Dallas City Council last month approved installation of a security gate that will eventually block access to the street.

Dallas police and Secret Service agents have set up a barricade in recent days limiting access to the neighborhood. They have even turned away delivery vans; packages must be dropped off with security personnel, who hand-deliver them.



'SLUMDOG' KIDS GO TO LA

In the slums where they live, goats pick over piles of trash and men kneel in the street to pray. But the young stars of "Slumdog Millionaire" were cruising Mumbai in an air-conditioned Toyota Friday, doing last-minute shopping and getting advice on the unimaginable: air travel. The slumdog kids had just got the good news - they were going to the Oscars.

"I feel very very very very very very good," 10-year-old Azharuddin Ismail said, sitting across from his home, a scruffy lean-to of tarps and blankets. He'd never been on plane. He'd never traveled outside India. And, when pressed, he couldn't name any Hollywood stars he'd really like to meet.

CYRUS DEFENDS DAD

Miley Cyrus doesn't like to admit it, but she's bothered by people who think there's something wrong with the bond between her and her dad, singer Billy Ray Cyrus.

"The media has said some stuff about my dad and me being too close and too cuddly for a father and a daughter," the 16-year-old actress-singer writes in "Miles to Go," a new memoir. "For me and my dad it's not weird at all."

Cyrus' memoir, written with Hilary Liftin, will be published next month by Disney-Hyperion Books. The Associated Press purchased a copy put on sale early.

T.I. HELPING KIDS

A month from beginning a yearlong federal prison sentence, rapper T.I. was in court again Friday, but this time he wasn't in the hot seat.

The 28-year-old performer, whose real name is Clifford Harris Jr., spoke to dozens of high school students - half serving juvenile sentences - gathered at the Georgia Supreme Court.

"You can see from me that nobody is too rich, too famous, too cool, too good-looking or too young to make a mistake and pay a price for it," said Harris, dressed in jeans, a gray hooded sweat shirt and a blue knit hat.

"More important than the mistake you make, though, is what you are able to take away from that mistake. How can you use that mistake to ensure you will never make a similar mistake again?"

Rihanna won't discuss Chris Brown

NEW YORK - In her first statement since she was allegedly attacked by Chris Brown, Rihanna thanked fans for their support but declined to address the accusations against her boyfriend, citing an ongoing police investigation.

"At the request of the authorities, Rihanna is not commenting about the incident involving Chris Brown," read a statement released by Rubenstein Associates.

"She wants to assure her fans that she remains strong, is doing well, and deeply appreciates the outpouring of support she has received during this difficult time."

The statement was released hours after the Web site TMZ released a photo that purportedly shows the battered face of the pop star, with bruises on her forehead, bloody lips and other marks on her face.

The Los Angeles Police Department announced it was investigating the leak shortly after the photos were posted Thursday evening. On Friday, Chief William Bratton

said his department is conducting an internal investigation, but also a criminal conspiracy case that could result in up to three years in prison.

"It as an embarrassment to this department," Bratton said. He said the agency believes a department employee leaked the photo, and that the department is working to quickly complete separate investigations into Rihanna's beating and the photo's leak.

Brown, 19, is under investigation for an attack on a woman in the hours leading up to this month's Grammy awards in Los Angeles; a person familiar with the situation, who was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter and requested anonymity, has confirmed that the woman was Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty.

Both stars were due to perform at the awards show, but subsequently dropped out; Brown surrendered to the authorities as the ceremony was under way.

LITERATURE: In which Shakespeare play does Shylock appear?

FOOD & DRINK: What is the beef dish named after a 19th-century Russian diplomat?

PLACES: In which American state would you find Fort Knox?

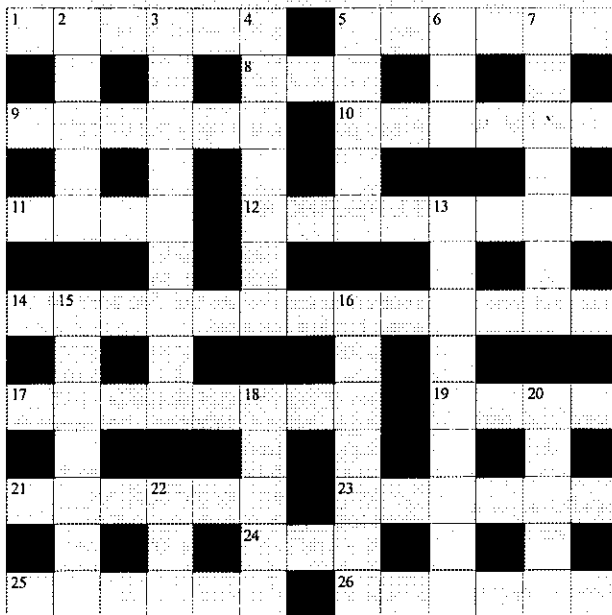
(Answers on Page 8)

WOMAN SUES SANTA

CHICAGO - Call it the case of the overserved Santa. Antoinette Basso filed a lawsuit Thursday against a man dressed in a Santa suit who she said stumbled and fell on top of her, knocking her face-first into the sidewalk outside a Chicago restaurant.

Basso claims in the Cook County Circuit Court lawsuit that she suffered "pain ... disability and disfigurement." She's asking for damages in excess of \$50,000.

Headland SatNews CROSSWORD No. 52



SOLUTION

ACROSS, 1. Toss up, 5. Rascal, 8. Ape, 9. Repair, 10. Rip saw, 11. Tich, 12. Sundries, 14. Dental surgery, 17. Aspirant, 19. Left, 21. Snared, 23. In time, 24. Eve, 25. Recess, 26. Dwindl. DOWN, 2. Overt, 3. Spaghett, 4. Parasol, 5. Return, 6. Sap, 7. Amateur, 13. Regulator, 15. Essence, 16. Untired, 18. Andes, 20. Fanned, 22. Roe.

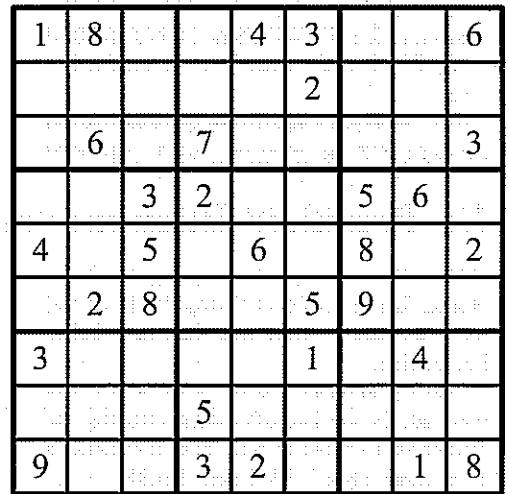
ACROSS

1. Spin coin (4,2)
5. Scoundrel (6)
8. Mimic (3)
9. Mend (6)
10. Rough cutter (6)
11. Longing (4)
12. Odd items (8)
14. Teeth treatment (6,7)
17. Hopeful (8)
19. Departed (4)
21. Trapped (6)
23. Eventually (2,4)
24. Night before (3)
25. Niche (6)
26. Tyrolean skirt (6)

DOWN

2. Open (5)
3. Stick pasta (9)
4. Sunshade (7)
5. Repeat show (5)
6. Tree juice (3)
7. Non-professional (7)
13. Controller (9)
15. Spirit (7)
16. Not tested (7)
18. S America mountain chain (5)
20. Renowned (5)
22. Fish eggs (3)

Headland SatNews SUDOKU



RULES & SOLUTION

The object is to fill in the squares so that each row, column & box contains the numbers 1-9. Numbers may not be repeated in the same column & row.

8	1	7	4	3	6	5	9	2
8	4	1	5	7	6	3	2	9
3	7	2	8	6	1	4	5	9
6	2	8	5	3	5	9	7	1
4	6	5	1	6	7	8	3	2
7	1	3	2	8	9	5	6	4
2	6	4	7	5	8	1	9	3
5	3	9	6	1	2	4	8	7
1	8	7	9	4	3	2	5	6

SPORTS NEWS

LeBron in the zone as Cavs beat Bucks

MILWAUKEE - LeBron James scored 55 points, coming up just one shy of his career high, and put together a stunning scoring flourish after halftime that helped the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 111-103 on Friday night.

James scored 16 points in the first 2 minutes, 50 seconds of the third quarter, almost single-handedly turning a six-point halftime deficit into an eight-point Cavaliers lead - and he could have scored two more if he hadn't missed a pair of free throws along the way.

James scored his previous season high of 52 points at New York on Feb. 4. His career high of 56 came at Toronto on March 20, 2005.

"Just got in the zone, man," James said. "I just kept going at it, man. Every shot that I made tonight, every shot that we all made tonight, we needed."

And as if that wasn't enough action for one night, Milwaukee's Charlie Villanueva was ejected after a heated on-court confrontation with Cleveland's Zydrunas Ilgauskas in the fourth quarter.

Still, James was the main attraction - especially on Cleveland's 18-4 third quarter run that began with Mo Williams' steal and layup, and the rest was all James.

He banked in a jump shot, then proceeded to drain long 3-pointers on four of the Cavaliers' next five possessions. James hit back-to-back 3s, then was fouled on the next possession and missed both free throws.

On the Cavs' next possession, James connected on a 3 from the left side over Milwaukee's Richard Jefferson. Jefferson answered with a jumper, but James hit yet another 3 - this time from the right side, bringing the Cavaliers' bench players to their feet in a raucous celebration.

"It was almost like watching a video game," Ilgauskas said.

Cavaliers coach Mike Brown fought the urge to cringe as James kept taking long-range 3s after long-range 3s, each seemingly longer than the next.

"I've just got to coach myself," Brown said. "I've got to make sure that I'm not overcoaching. And I just need to sit down, be quiet, and watch the show like everybody else."

James' scoring spree wasn't over. After an offensive foul on Milwaukee, James hit a pull-up jumper on the wing with 9:10 left in the quarter, putting Cleveland up 69-61 and forcing Milwaukee to call a timeout.

NBA

Orlando 92, Charlotte 80
New York 127, Toronto 97
Houston 93, Dallas 86
Indiana 110, Minnesota 105
Sacramento 112, Memphis 106
Washington 107, New Jersey 96
Cleveland 111, Milwaukee 103
Chicago 116, Denver 99
Phoenix 140, Oklahoma City 118
Portland 108, Atlanta 98
L.A. Lakers 115, New Orleans 111

NHL

Colorado 4, Washington 1
Carolina 4, Tampa Bay 1
Detroit 5, Anaheim 2

Despite James' scoring fireworks, the game remained close into the fourth quarter - when an offensive exhibition threatened to turn itself into a wrestling meet as tempers suddenly flared on both sides.

Eye injury blow for Stoudemire

PHOENIX - Amare Stoudemire could be finished for the season just days after the Phoenix Suns decided not to trade him.

Stoudemire, a starter for the West in Sunday's All-Star Game, had eye surgery Friday and won't be able to resume physical activity for about eight weeks.

"We're going to be ultraconservative with this and if means he misses the remainder of the season, so be it," Suns general manager Steve Kerr said. "He's got a long career and a long life ahead of him. And that's the most important thing."

The NBA playoffs begin eight weeks from Saturday, and it's no sure thing the Suns will even be in the postseason, especially with their All-Star power forward unavailable for the final 29 games of the regular season.

"He was really discouraged," Kerr said. "He was really starting to play well. He was feeling good about things. Our team obviously is feeling very good about things, just about the way the last couple of games have gone, and this is a major blow."

Stoudemire was injured during his 42-point performance in Phoenix's 142-119 victory over the Clippers in Los Angeles on Wednesday night. The Suns didn't find out about the need for surgery until after Thursday's trade deadline.

Barbosa's 41 lead Suns past Thunder

PHOENIX - The Phoenix Suns didn't slow down without Amare Stoudemire. Quite the contrary.

They inserted the fastest Phoenix player of all, Leandro Barbosa, into the starting lineup Friday night and the "Brazilian Blur" responded with a career-high 41 points to lead the Suns to a 140-118 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"I love to play running up and down," Barbosa said. "I think everybody does."

Jason Richardson added 34 points and Shaquille O'Neal 22 as the Suns became the first team in 18 seasons to score at least 140 points in three consecutive games. The Portland Trail Blazers did it from Nov. 13-17 in 1990. The Suns did it for the first time in franchise history.

With the Boston Celtics coming to town next, new Phoenix coach Alvin Gentry assured everyone the high-scoring streak was over.

"I can promise you we are not get 140 Sunday," he said.

Kevin Durant scored 35 for the Thunder, who trailed by 28 in the first half but cut the lead to six early in the fourth quarter before Barbosa and the Suns blew the game open for good.

"They started to go back to the way they were playing the first quarter," Durant said, "fast shooting 3s - they're just a different basketball team than we played before."

MLB interested in A-Rod's associations

NEW YORK - Major League Baseball investigators want to know whether Alex Rodriguez is still palling around with his cousin and a trainer from the Dominican Republic.

The goals of the intended interview with Rodriguez were disclosed Friday by a person familiar with the plans who spoke on condition of anonymity because MLB wasn't confirming the meeting.

The New York Yankees star has said his cousin injected him from 2001-03 with a banned substance obtained in the Dominican called "boli." The cousin was identified by ESPN.com as Yuri Sucart of Miami.

In addition, the Daily News said Angel Presinal, a Dominican trainer well known throughout baseball, traveled with A-Rod and the cousin during the 2007 season. Presinal has been banned from entering baseball clubhouses.

"I'm not getting into any of that," Rodriguez said.

Speaking Friday at the Yankees' spring training complex in Tampa, Fla., Rodriguez said he expected the meeting will be in the Tampa area. MLB would like to speak with him before he joins the Dominican team early next month ahead of the World Baseball Classic.

Presinal, then a trainer for former slugger Juan Gonzalez, was questioned by Canadian Border Service officers in 2001 about steroids and syringes in an unmarked duffel bag, according to the Mitchell Report. Presinal and Gonzalez both denied owning the bag.

Utah Jazz owner Larry H. Miller dead at 64

SALT LAKE CITY - Larry H. Miller, the car sales mogul who turned the Utah Jazz into one of the NBA's most stable teams, died Friday from complications of type 2 diabetes. He was 64.

Miller was at home with his family when he passed away around 4 p.m.

Miller had a heart attack in June 2008, then spent nearly two months in the hospital for complications from diabetes. He was in a wheelchair after his release from the hospital and his medical problems continued, leading to the amputation of his legs six inches below the knee in January.

"He did everything he could to stay here, but it wasn't to be," said Gail Miller, Larry's widow.

The Millers' five children, their families and friends packed a room at the Jazz practice facility Friday night for an emotional news conference, which included several lighthearted moments with memories from Miller's life right up until the final days.

Gail Miller said she got to tell her husband Thursday night that the Jazz had just beaten the NBA champion Boston Celtics, 90-85.

"He went peacefully. He was prepared. We were prepared," she said.

Dodgers sign Hudson to replace Kent

PHOENIX - Three-time All-Star second baseman Orlando Hudson and the Dodgers reached agreement on a one-year contract Friday, giving Los Angeles a replacement for the retired Jeff Kent.

Hudson's deal is expected to pay him \$3.4 million with another \$4.6 million in possible bonuses.

The deal was contingent on Hudson passing a physical, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Dodgers have not confirmed the contract.

The Dodgers will give up their first-round pick in the June draft, No. 17 overall, because he was a Type-A free agent who turned down salary arbitration with Arizona.

Hudson, a three-time Gold Glove winner and .282 career hitter, had season-ending surgery on his left wrist each of the past two years with the Diamondbacks. He earned \$6.2 million last year.

Hudson had an operation for a dislocated bone in the wrist last August, cutting short a season in which he was hitting a career-best .305. He had surgery for ligament damage in the same wrist late in the 2007 season.

His best year was in 2006, when he had 15 home runs with 67 RBIs and scored 87 times.

Assets of Damon, Nady frozen in Stanford fallout

TAMPA, Fla. - Yankees outfielders Johnny Damon and Xavier Nady are among the investors whose accounts were caught in a freeze by the government of a company affiliated with Robert Allen Stanford.

The pair did not invest directly with Stanford funds but rather have investments with broker dealers whose accounts were with a Stanford company, Scott Boras, the agent for the pair, said Friday. Boras said the personal management wing of his company was monitoring the situation.

"The broker dealers the players have chosen have advised our personal management auditors the players are not in jeopardy of losing money," Boras said.

"I understand government agencies are trying to protect the investor. Hopefully, the agencies will distinguish between those investors who are actually invested in Stanford products from investors whose broker dealers used Stanford as a clearing house and are not affected by the potential claims levied by the government.

"I trust government agencies will take quick steps to narrow the affected investor class and restore account access to all others."

The Securities and Exchange Commission this week froze the assets of Stanford International Bank, Stanford Capital Management and Stanford Group Co.

Garnett headed back to Boston after injuring knee

PHOENIX - Celtics forward Kevin Garnett is heading back to Boston to be checked out by the team doctor after injuring his right knee against the Utah Jazz.

Celtics spokesman Jeff Twiss said Garnett was traveling Friday, and his right knee strain was expected to be examined by Dr. Brian McKeon on Saturday.

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Garnett injured his knee while going up for an alley-oop late in the first half of Boston's 90-85 loss. He landed gingerly and motioned immediately to the bench for a substitute, then hopped on his good foot toward the locker room.

Twiss said Garnett was "not in tremendous pain" on Friday, but that the knee remained sore and stiff and the Celtics thought it best to be cautious and have Garnett examined.

McCarron builds a 2-shot lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES - With darkness rapidly descending, Scott McCarron saw enough of the 18th green from 211 yards away to realize it would be one of the tougher shots he faced Friday. The way his week is going, it turned into another birdie.

McCarron aimed his 5-wood toward the bleachers and watched it fade beautiful back toward the flag to about 10 feet, a final birdie in his round of 3-under 68 that gave him a two-shot lead over Steve Stricker and Tommy Armour III in the Northern Trust Open.

"I usually do my best work at night," McCarron said.

Phil Mickelson will need to do better on the weekend if he wants to successfully defend his title at Riviera. He was nine shots worse than his opening-round 63, but it was easy to see the upside after a 72 put him in the group only three behind.

"This is the first time I'm in contention heading into the weekend, and I'm excited about it," Mickelson said.

The last two groups finished in the dark, including two players whose PGA Tour debuts turned into short ones.

Zetterberg leads Red Wings

DETROIT - Ty Conklin is making a case to be Detroit's playoff goalie. Henrik Zetterberg had a goal and two assists, and Conklin made 24 saves for the Red Wings in his 11th straight home victory, 5-2 over the Anaheim Ducks on Friday night.

Pavel Datsyuk added a goal and an assist, and Dan Cleary, Johan Franzen and Kris Draper also scored for Stanley Cup champion Detroit.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Obama reacts to bank nationalization talk

WASHINGTON - The White House on Friday insisted it's not trying to take over two ailing financial institutions, even as stocks tumbled again.

On Wall Street, talk of nationalization of Citigroup Inc., and Bank of America Corp., prompted investors to continue to balk, worried that the government would have to take control and wipe out shareholders in the process. Citigroup fell 20 percent, while Bank of America fell 12 percent in afternoon trading but also came off their lowest levels.

"This administration continues to strongly believe that a privately held banking system is the correct way to go, ensuring that they are regulated sufficiently by this government," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said when asked about nationalizing the banks.

"That's been our belief for quite some time, and we continue to have that," Gibbs said.

Investors have shown decreasing confidence that U.S. banks can right themselves. Citigroup and Bank of America have already received significant help from taxpayers as the government has rushed in to try to save the financial sector, which has been choked by bad assets and seen the flow of credit shrink.

The speculation about the two banks' future continued to take a direct toll on the market.

Gibbs was pressed for more details on his answer - specifically whether Obama would not nationalize banks. He said it was hard for him to be any clearer.

When a reporter suggested Gibbs could do that by saying point bank that Obama would never nationalize banks, Gibbs would not make that statement, but emphasized; "I think I was very clear about the system that this country has and will continue to have."

Major indexes fall

NEW YORK - Wall Street ended another terrible week Friday, leaving major indexes down more than 6 percent as investors worried that the recession will persist for at least the rest of the year and that government intervention will do little to hasten a recovery.

The Dow industrials fell 100.28 points, or 1.3 percent, to 7,365.67 after earlier falling more than 215 points.

WALL STREET INDEXES

Friday close

Dow Jones Indust.	7365.67	-100.28
S&P 500	770.05	- 8.89
NYSE Composite	4804.51	-76.65
Amex Index	1333.49	-18.04
NASD Composite	1441.23	- 1.59
NMS Composite	670.38	+ 0.11
Value Line Geometric	184.82	- 2.91
Value Line Arithmetic	1187.56	-17.32
Wilshire 5000	7802.20	-87.03
Russell 2000	410.96	- 5.75

60 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of Fri Feb 20 18:11:39		
AT&T Inc	NY	23.58 +.39
AdobeS	NA	18.04 -1.50
AmExp	NY	12.97 +.10
AmIntLgp	NY	15.14 -0.05
Apple Inc	NA	91.20 +.08
ApplMatl	NA	8.76 +.42
BkofAm	NY	3.79 -0.14
BarcoSoil	AM	15.68 +.13
Cisco	NA	15.08 +.04
Citigrp	NY	1.95 -5.56
Comcast	NY	12.84 -1.15
CVRD	NY	13.60 -1.12
DJIA Diam	NY	73.73 -0.93
Dell Inc	NA	8.41 +.29
DirxFinBull	NY	4.90 -1.14
EldorGld g	AM	9.02 +.48
ExxonMbl	NY	71.23 -0.93
FifthThird	NA	1.03 -0.18
FordM	NY	1.58 -0.05
GenElec	NY	9.38 -0.68
Goldmans	NY	84.59 -0.95
HartFdFn	NY	6.79 -0.94
HuntBnk	NA	1.36 +3.33
ISHJapn	NY	7.64 -1.10
ISHC125 s	NY	21.14 -0.56
ISHENK125 s	NY	35.89 -0.53
IS Eafe	NY	41.14 -0.56
ISHR2K	NY	27.35 +1.65
ISHRest	NY	12.78 +0.10
Intel	NY	19.90 -0.70
JPMorgCh	NY	7.02 +0.02
MarvellT	NA	18.00 +0.09
Microsoft	NY	19.43 -0.50
MorgStan	NY	12.61 +1.04
Mylan	NA	6.04 +0.07
NewsGPA	NY	13.71 -0.52
Oracle	NY	1.97 -0.04
Pfizer	NY	28.87 +0.08
PSCrudeDL n	AM	91.01 +1.98
PWSHSQQ	NY	24.87 +0.07
PRUSHS&P	NY	19.03 -0.43
ProUltQQQ	NY	188.25 +2.13
ProUltTSP	NY	2.20 -0.03
ProUghtFn	NY	34.07 +2.23
ProUltFin	NY	39.15 -2.94
Qualcom	NA	97.80 +2.03
RschMtn	NY	13.00 +0.20
SpdrGold	NY	13.00 +0.00
Schwab	NY	3.22 -0.03
SiriusXM	NA	77.42 -0.76
SprintNex	NY	84.91 -0.73
SPDR	AM	42.38 -1.12
SP Mid	NY	7.44 -0.11
SP Engy	NY	71.81 +0.24
SPDR Fnc1	NY	10.58 -0.50
TD Ameritr	NY	24.35 +0.07
TimeWarn	NY	10.91 -1.10
US Bancrp	NY	
US OilFd	NY	
WellsFargo	NY	

(NY=NYSE; AM=AMEX; NA=NASDAQ)

FOREIGN STOCK INDEXES

	Friday	Previous
Amsterdam AEX	229.13	237.67
Brussels Bel-25	1740.36	1783.20
Frankfurt DAX	4014.66	4215.21
Hong Kong H-S	12699.17	13023.36
London FT-100	3889.06	4018.37
Mexico IPC	18324.23	18682.47
Milan MIB	12804.00	13465.00
Paris CAC-40	2750.55	2872.60
Sydney All Ord	3353.00	3398.00
Tokyo Nikkei	7949.98	8187.35
Toronto TSE-300	7949.98	8187.35
Zurich SMI	4851.21	4990.52

NEW YORK EXCHANGE RATES

	Friday	Previous
Australia (Dollar)	1.5455	1.5494
Britain (Pound)	\$1.4484	\$1.4302
Canada (Dollar)	6.2484	6.2505
China (Yuan)	6.8382	6.8365
Euro	\$1.2841	\$1.2684
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7540	7.7550
India (Rupee)	49.525	49.611
Japan (Yen)	93.10	94.40
Mexico (Peso)	14.7605	14.6825
Norway (Krone)	6.7851	6.8758
Russia (Ruble)	35.9028	35.8333
Singapore (Dollar)	1.5283	1.5288
So. Africa (Rand)	10.0653	10.0483
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1548	1.1733

The Standard & Poor's 500 index on Friday fell 8.89, or 1.14 percent, to 770.05. The Nasdaq composite index fell 1.59, or 0.11 percent, to 1,441.23.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 3 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 2.12 billion shares.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 5.75, or 1.4 percent, to 410.96. Other world indicators also fell sharply. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 3.2 percent, Germany's DAX index tumbled 4.8 percent, and France's CAC-40 fell 4.3 percent.

As investors dropped out of stocks, safer investments like Treasury debt and gold rose. The price of the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose sharply, sending its yield down to 2.79 percent from 2.86 percent. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments, fell to 0.26 percent from 0.30 percent late Thursday.

Gold broke above \$1,000, closing at \$1,002.20 an ounce on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Investors are looking desperately at any safe havens simply because the stock market, which rises and falls on investors'

Volcker sees crisis leading to global regulation

NEW YORK - "Even the experts don't quite know what's going on." Speaking to a number of those experts Friday, Paul Volcker, a top economic adviser to President Barack Obama, cited not only the lack of understanding of the global financial meltdown but the "shocking" speed with which it had spread across the world.

"One year ago, we would have said things were tough in the United States, but the rest of the world was holding up," Volcker told a conference featuring Nobel laureates, economists and investors at Columbia University in New York. "The rest of the world has not held up."

In fact, the 81-year-old former chairman of the Federal Reserve said, "I don't remember any time, maybe even the Great Depression, when things went down quite so fast."

He noted that industrial production is falling in countries across the globe faster than in the U.S., one result of the decline caused by the breakdown of unbridled financial markets that operated on a global scale.

"It's broken down in the face of almost all expectation and prediction," he noted.

Volcker didn't offer specifics on how long he thinks the recession will last or what will help start a recovery. But he predicted there will be some lasting lessons from the experience.

January rise in consumer prices largest since July

WASHINGTON - Consumer prices rose modestly in January, propelled by higher energy costs, but most economists and the government believe the recession will keep prices in check this year.

That's because inflation has been flat over the past year, the lowest reading in more than a half-century.

The Labor Department said Friday that consumer prices rose by 0.3 percent last month, the biggest monthly increase since a 0.7 percent rise in July.

But even with the January increase, which was in line with economists' expectations, inflation for the 12 months ending in January was zero. That's the lowest reading since prices actually fell by 0.4 percent for a 12-month period ending in August 1955.

Core inflation, which excludes energy and food, showed a modest increase of 0.2 percent, slightly higher than the 0.1 percent gain economists expected. Over the past 12 months, core inflation rose 1.7 percent, the lowest reading since a similar increase for the 12 months ending in August 2004.

Trustee: No evidence Madoff bought any securities

NEW YORK - The trustee in charge of untangling the mess brought on by the Bernard Madoff scandal told investors Friday there was no indication the disgraced money manager bought securities for his clients.

"We have no evidence to indicate securities were purchased for customer accounts," said Irving Picard, the court-appointed trustee overseeing the liquidation of Madoff's assets.

At a meeting for investors, Picard detailed the history of the case and how claims will be processed. He said his office has received 2,350 claims so far and they expect the number of claims to double.

LITERATURE: Shylock appears in Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice'.

FOOD & DRINK: Stroganoff is the beef dish named after a 19th-century Russian diplomat.

PLACES: Fort Knox is in Kentucky.

COLFAX CORP.

RICHMOND, Va. - Colfax Corp. posted a 64 percent drop in fourth-quarter profit Friday, weighed down by asbestos liability costs and expenses related to the pump and valve manufacturer's initial public offering.

Shares of the Richmond, Va.-based company fell sharply on the news, shedding \$1.23, or 12.1 percent, to \$8.90 in morning trading.

WEBMD HEALTH CORP.

NEW YORK - Shares of WebMD Health Corp. soared Friday and outpaced a sluggish market after the health Web site operator received an analyst upgrade following the release of fourth-quarter results.

UPS INC.

CANTON, Ohio - A UPS Inc. distribution center reopened after a small amount of mercury spilled from a package, sending two workers to a hospital, a corporate spokesman said.

AUTOMOTIVE INC.

DETROIT - Shares of Group 1 Automotive Inc. rose Friday after a Wachovia analyst upgraded the stock to "Outperform" after the auto retailer said it reduced its debt last year. Group 1 reported a \$44.5 million fourth-quarter loss Thursday on a steep decline in new vehicle demand. But excluding impairment charges and a \$20.9 million gain related to debt repurchases, the Houston-based company posted a profit of 8 cents per share.

Madoff was arrested in December after investigators said he confessed to his sons that he had swindled investors of \$50 billion in a Ponzi scheme. The 70-year-old former Nasdaq chairman remains confined to his Manhattan penthouse under house arrest.

At the hearing, David Sheehan, a lawyer working for Picard, called the alleged fraud "a Ponzi scheme where no stock was purchased."

Picard said his office and criminal investigators are reviewing a mountain of evidence, including 7,000 boxes of records at a Queens warehouse that go back more than a decade.

He cautioned that the criminal investigation is ongoing and said: "We are operating out of a crime scene. There is a limit to what we can say."

Lowe's 4Q profit falls

CHICAGO - Lowe's Cos. Inc., the second biggest U.S. home improvement retailer, said Friday its fourth-quarter profit dropped 60 percent and forecast 2009 earnings that are short of Wall Street's expectations.

The latest results narrowly missed analysts' estimates as consumers spent less on items for their homes amid a deepening recession.

Earnings declined to \$162 million, or 11 cents per share, in the three months ending Jan. 30, from \$408 million, or 28 cents per share, during the same period last year.

The Mooresville, North Carolina-based retailer said revenue fell 4 percent to \$9.98 billion from \$10.4 billion a year ago.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected a profit of 12 cents per share on revenue of almost \$10.1 billion. Those estimates typically exclude one-time items.

Lowe's said it faced intense competition during the holiday season and had to make more aggressive discounts on seasonal products, which squeezed gross margins, but helped it reduce inventory in stores.

Quarterly same-store sales dropped 9.9 percent. Same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, are a key indicator of retailer performance since they measure growth at existing stores rather than newly opened ones.

"The economic pressures on consumers intensified in the fourth quarter, resulting in a further decline in consumer confidence and dramatic reductions in consumer spending," Robert A. Niblock, Lowe's chairman and CEO, said in a statement. "As a result, our comparable store sales for the quarter remained weak and fell at the low end of our expectations."

Obama wants to halve deficit

WASHINGTON - Barack Obama wants to cut the federal deficit in half by the end of his first term, mostly by scaling back Iraq war spending, raising taxes on the wealthiest and streamlining government, an administration official said Saturday as the president worked to finalize his first budget request.

Obama's proposal for the 2010 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 projects that the estimated \$1.4 trillion deficit he has inherited from former President George W. Bush will be halved to \$533 billion by 2013. That's a difference of 9.2 percent of the overall economy now vs. 3 percent in four years.

He's expected to outline some broad themes of his budget request Monday at a White House summit on fiscal policy and touch on it during his first speech to Congress on Tuesday evening. He is slated to officially send at least a summary of it to Congress on Thursday, barely a week after his \$787 billion economic stimulus plan becoming law.

The official, who spoke on the condition of

anonymity because the president has not yet released his budget, said Obama hopes to achieve his deficit-reduction goal by generating savings as he follows through on three core campaign promises over the next four years.

He has pledged to wind down the Iraq war by withdrawing most combat troops within 16 months of taking office. He also has said he would let the temporary Bush tax cuts expire in 2011 for people making more than \$250,000 a year, effectively raising taxes on those people. And, he has vowed to scale back spending and improve government efficiency by eliminating programs that don't work.

The budget projections suggest that Obama hasn't backed off of any of those priorities, despite relatively little movement on them and at least one misstep in his first month in office as he concentrated on lobbying for the economic stimulus plan and rescuing the housing, auto and financial sectors.

Feds interviewed Burris about Blagojevich

CHICAGO - Federal authorities interviewed U.S. Sen. Roland Burris on Saturday as they continued their corruption investigation of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Burris, who left his home for several hours Saturday, declined to talk to reporters standing outside. Earlier in the week, he said federal investigators wanted to talk to him about their probe into Blagojevich. Burris said his attorneys had been trying to set up a meeting with investigators for some time.

A person familiar with the matter confirmed Saturday's meeting to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the matter was confidential.

Burris spokesman Jim O'Connor declined comment, as did U.S. attorney's office spokesman Randall Samborn.

The Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times and WMAQ-TV, citing people

they did not name, reported that the meeting occurred at the Chicago offices of Burris' lawyer. Messages left Saturday for the lawyer, Timothy Wright III, were not immediately returned.

The reports said the meeting had been delayed for weeks and was not related to investigations into Burris' testimony before state lawmakers last month about his contacts with people close to Blagojevich.

Blagojevich was arrested Dec. 9 on federal corruption charges, including allegations that he tried to sell or trade President Barack Obama's vacant U.S. Senate seat for money or favors. He shocked everyone by naming Burris to the seat Dec. 30.

Blagojevich, who has denied any wrongdoing, was impeached by the Illinois House on Jan. 9. Weeks later, he was convicted and removed from office by the Illinois Senate.

CLINTON HAILS CHINA TIES

BEIJING - U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is urging China to continue investing in United States Treasury bonds and says that Beijing's continued investment in the U.S. is a recognition that the two countries depend on each other.

"I certainly do think that the Chinese government and central bank are making a smart decision by continuing to invest in treasury bonds," she said during an interview with the show "One on One" on Sunday. "It's a safe investment. The United States has a well-deserved financial reputation."

In order to boost the economy, the U.S. has to incur more debt, she said. "It would not be in China's interest if we were unable to get our economy moving," Clinton said.

CHAVEZ SEES FIDEL TWICE

HAVANA - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has met twice with the ailing 82-year-old Fidel Castro during a surprise 24-hour visit to Cuba.

Cuban state media says Chavez arrived Friday night on a working visit and was greeted by Fidel's younger brother President Raul Castro.

Venezuela's socialist leader - fresh off a referendum win that allows him to run for re-election - met with Fidel Castro Friday night and again shortly before departing Saturday.

There were no images of Chavez meeting with Fidel Castro, only with his younger brother.

Fidel has not been seen in public since mid-2006 when he underwent intestinal surgery and ceded power to Raul.

44 MINERS DEAD IN CHINA

BEIJING - At least 44 miners died and 21 remained trapped underground after a gas blast ripped through a coal mine in northern China on Sunday, state media said.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the pre-dawn blast occurred while 436 workers were in the Tunlan Coal Mine in Gujiao city near Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi province.

Rescuers said the death toll had risen to 44 by 11 a.m. local time, Xinhua said in a brief dispatch without providing details. State television channel CCTV reported that 21 workers remained trapped.

Arrest warrant prepared in Chandra Levy case

WASHINGTON - Investigators in the 2001 slaying of Chandra Levy have prepared an arrest warrant for a Salvadoran immigrant convicted of similar attacks in the park where the former intern disappeared, a person close to the investigation said Saturday.

The person told The Associated Press that Ingmar Guandique's arrest is imminent and an official announcement is expected soon. The person was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Levy had just completed an internship with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons when she went missing in May 2001 in Washington, D.C. The 24-year-old was wearing jogging clothes

when she vanished, and her remains were discovered in Rock Creek Park a year later.

Authorities questioned former U.S. Rep. Gary Condit in Levy's disappearance, but he was never a suspect in her death. Condit was reportedly having an affair with Levy, and the negative publicity from the case was cited as a main reason the California lawmaker lost reelection in 2002.

Guandique, 27, has denied any involvement in Levy's disappearance and killing. However, investigators interviewed him in the Levy case after he was convicted of attacking two women joggers in Rock Creek Park shortly after her disappearance.

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

	Lo	Hi	
Amsterdam	32	45	Pcldy
Athens	32	48	Rain
Auckland	64	75	Rain
Berlin	27	32	Snow
Brussels	34	46	Rain
Buenos Aires	66	70	Rain
Cairo	66	63	Rain
Copenhagen	35	38	Snow
Dublin	39	50	Rain
Hong Kong	70	79	Rain
Istanbul	37	59	Rain
Jerusalem	52	55	Rain
Johannesburg	59	81	Rain
London	37	52	Pcldy
Madrid	34	63	Clear
Manila	77	91	Rain
Mexico City	50	79	Rain
Moscow	27	27	Snow
New Delhi	49	52	Pcldy
Paris	44	50	Rain
Rome	34	54	Pcldy
Sao Paulo	66	86	Rain
Singapore	75	90	Rain
Stockholm	16	27	Snow
Sydney	66	82	Rain
Tokyo	32	57	Pcldy
Toronto	25	32	Snow
Zurich	25	39	Snow

U.S. WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	22	15	Pcldy
Atlanta	27	29	Clear
Boston	39	23	Rain
Chicago	29	23	Cloudy
Dallas-Ft. Worth	49	30	Clear
Denver	49	17	Pcldy
Great Falls	50	17	Pcldy
Houston	71	52	Clear
Kansas City	34	39	Clear
Las Vegas	63	42	Cloudy
Los Angeles	72	51	Cloudy
Miami Beach	74	41	Pcldy
Mpls-St Paul	21	16	Pcldy
New Orleans	66	41	Pcldy
New York City	42	26	Snow
Phoenix	76	50	Cloudy
Salt Lake City	51	24	Cloudy
San Francisco	59	48	Rain
Seattle	55	34	Rain
Washington, D.C.	45	25	Snow
National Temperature Extremes			
Saturday:			
High 82 at McAllen, Tx.			
Low -20 at Orr, Mn.			

Memorials held for Buffalo crash victims

CLARENCE, N.Y. - Hundreds of mourners gathered Saturday to remember a Sept. 11 widow killed in a commuter plane crash and the owner of the suburban Buffalo home that was destroyed by the crash.

The two were among the 50 people who died when Flight 3407 from Newark, N.J., fell from the sky as it approached the Buffalo airport on Feb. 12, killing all 49 people aboard and a man who was in the house.

Beverly Eckert, 57, was aboard the Continental Connection turboprop on her way to her hometown to celebrate what would have been the 58th birthday of her late husband Sean Rooney.

Bill Bourque, her brother-in-law, said in a Buffalo church that Eckert carried the grief of Rooney's death in the burning World Trade Center by becoming a prominent advocate for the families of the Sept. 11 victims.

"She was not in it to be a hero," he said. "She was in it so that this would not happen to anyone ever again. ... She did what she set out to do. We love you Beverly."

Another service, in an auditorium at the Clarence Middle School that Douglas Wielinski's four daughters attended, honored the owner of the two-story house who died when the plane fell on the Clarence home.

Suspect held in Curry ex-girlfriend, baby deaths

CHICAGO - Police said Saturday they had arrested a suspect in the slayings of the former girlfriend of New York Knicks' player Eddy Curry and her baby.

Police spokeswoman Laura Kubiak confirmed Saturday that one person was in custody.

Kubiak said police believe the person under arrest killed Nova Henry and her infant daughter, Ava, who were found dead of multiple gunshot wounds in their apartment on Jan. 24.

Henry was the mother of ex-Chicago Bulls player Curry's 3-year-old son. The boy was found unharmed at the scene.

Knicks spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz said to The Associated Press: "I am sorry. Eddy has no comment."

Kubiak said she could not confirm details of the arrest.

NAACP wants NY Post editor and cartoonist fired

NEW YORK - The head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on Saturday urged readers to boycott the New York Post, calling a cartoon that the newspaper published an invitation to assassinate President Barack Obama.

Benjamin Todd Jealous, the civil rights group's president, called on the tabloid to remove editor-in-chief Col Allan, as well as longtime cartoonist Sean Delonas.

Earlier this week, the newspaper apologized to anyone who might have been offended by the image printed Wednesday, which some say likens the nation's first black president to a violent chimpanzee gunned down by police in Connecticut. Jealous said the cartoon was "an invitation to assassination."

On Thursday, after protests by notable figures including director Spike Lee, the paper posted an editorial on its Web site saying the cartoon was meant to mock the federal economic stimulus bill, but "to those who were offended by the image, we apologize."

A spokeswoman for the newspaper referred The Associated Press to the paper's editorial when asked Saturday about the proposed NAACP boycott.

Critics said the cartoon recalled historical racial stereotypes of African-Americans depicted as monkeys.

Jealous called the editorial "a half of an apology, without elaboration."

JRC files for bankruptcy protection

PHILADELPHIA - The Journal Register Co. filed Saturday for bankruptcy protection from its creditors and said slumping advertising revenue and circulation are to blame.

In the Chapter 11 filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan, Journal Register proposed a restructuring plan in which it would cancel its stock and become a closely held company controlled by its lenders.

The Yardley, Pa.-based newspaper publisher reported \$596 million in assets as of Nov. 30 and \$692 million in debt, including unpaid interest. Revenue has fallen more than 20 percent since 2006, the company said in the court filing.

In the documents, company Chairman and Chief Executive James W. Hall said the recession had placed an even greater burden on an already distressed industry.

On Thursday, JP Morgan Chase & Co. and 26 of the company's 37 lenders agreed to the reorganization, according to a statement

posted Saturday on the Journal Register's corporate Web site.

A phone message left for company spokesman Edward Yoakam at Journal Register's corporate offices was not immediately returned.

The Journal Register owns 20 daily and 159 non-daily newspapers and has about 3,500 employees.

In its filing, Journal Register said it serves greater Philadelphia, Michigan, Connecticut, the greater Cleveland area and parts of New York state. Its newspapers include the New Haven Register in Connecticut, a number of suburban Philadelphia newspapers and the Trentonian near Philadelphia.

Journal Register stock, which traded as high as \$23.87 a decade ago, was removed from the listings of the New York Stock Exchange in April. It traded for less than one cent on Friday.

Man hit, killed by Mardi Gras parade float

NEW ORLEANS - Police in Louisiana say a man died after he fell off a Mardi Gras parade float and it hit him.

It happened Saturday after a parade in the Cajun town of Carencro, about 130 miles west of New Orleans.

Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Lt. Craig Stansbury says the 23-year-old was hit as the float drove away from the parade route.

Police didn't release his name because they hadn't notified his family. Toxicology tests will be performed on the driver and rider.

Crowds in cities and towns across Louisiana are jamming parade routes this weekend as part of celebrations leading up to Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, just before Ash Wednesday ushers in Lent.

NASA delays shuttle launch a fourth time

CAPE CANAVERAL - NASA delayed the launch of space shuttle Discovery for a fourth time on Friday amid valve concerns, and managers are uncertain when the flight will take place.

Following a 13-hour meeting at Kennedy Space Center, shuttle managers decided against launching next week. The launch had been targeted for no sooner than Feb. 27; no new date was set.

Officials said they believe they have a realistic shot at launching Discovery to the international space station before mid-March. After that, the shuttle would have to get in line behind a Russian Soyuz launch with a new space station crew, and the next opportunity for Discovery would be after April 6.

NASA originally hoped to send Discovery to the space station, with one final set of solar wings, on Feb. 12. But extra tests were ordered for the valves that control the flow of hydrogen gas into the external fuel tank during liftoff. One of those valves broke during the last shuttle launch in November.

Shuttle program manager John Shannon said "we were really, really close" to approving the launch. But some of the test data were not available until late in the week and did not allow for full scrutiny, and a few small mistakes were found in the data.

"There was just a sense of unease that we did not quite have the rigor that we typically expect for a question like this," Shannon told reporters late Friday night. "It's a very complicated problem."

HILTON, MYERS TOP RAZZIES

Mike Myers' "The Love Guru" has found some disciples among Razzies voters who pick Hollywood's lowest achievements.

And Paris Hilton is getting her own Razzies moment with three awards all on her own at a ceremony that spoofs the Academy Awards on the eve of the Oscars.

"The Love Guru" won three Razzies on Saturday for worst picture, actor (Myers in the title role) and screenplay, which Myers co-wrote.

Hilton's three prizes are worst actress for "The Hot Chick and the Nottie," supporting actress for "Repo! The Genetic Opera" and screen couple alongside either of her "Hottie" co-stars, Christine Lakin or Joel David Moore.

With three Razzies, Hilton tied the record set last year by Eddie Murphy, who won worst actor, supporting actor and supporting actress for his multiple roles in "Norbit."

Pierce Brosnan was chosen as worst supporting actor for "Mamma Mia!" The worst-director Razzie went to Uwe Boll for three movies: "In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale," "1968: Tunnel Rats" and "Postal."

SAINT LAURENT ART AUCTION

From the Picassos that graced his walls to historic artifacts and hundreds of sculptures, the artwork that inspired late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent went on display Saturday, three days before it is auctioned.

Billed as "the sale of the century," the auction of the 733-piece collection will disperse in three days a collection that took Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Berge half a century to amass.

Highlights include Piet Mondrian's 1922 painting "Composition in Blue, Red, Yellow and Black," whose squares of saturated colors inspired Saint Laurent's legendary 1965 shift dress; a wooden sculpture by Romanian Constantin Brancusi that is expected to sell for euro15 million-euro20 million (\$19 million-\$25 million); and a pair of bronze animal heads that disappeared from a Beijing palace in 1860 and that China now wants removed from the auction and returned.

The lot that's expected to fetch the highest price is a 1914-1915 Picasso painting of a guitar, "Instruments de musique sur un guerdon," (Musical Instruments on a Table) from the Spanish artist's cubist period.

'Wrestler' wins top indie honors

SANTA MONICA, California - The sports comeback tale "The Wrestler" was picked as best picture Saturday at the Spirit Awards honoring independent film and won two other prizes, including best actor for Mickey Rourke.

A tuneup for the Academy Awards on Sunday, the Spirit Awards featured several winners also up for Oscars, including three of the four acting choices - Rourke, best-actress recipient Melissa Leo for "Frozen River" and supporting-actress pick Penelope Cruz for "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

Rourke gave a prolonged, hilarious, expletive-laden acceptance speech, dedicating the award to Loki, his beloved Chihuahua that died six days earlier, and thanking everyone from his director, Darren Aronofsky, to the wrestling community.

He mentioned that he had just talked with the Santa Monica police department, which "gave me a bed to sleep in 10 years ago," when Rourke was in the midst of the bad-boy

behavior that made him a Hollywood has-been until his comeback in recent years with films such as "Sin City" and "The Wrestler."

The film stars Rourke as a washed-up former star with a last shot at glory in the ring. It also took the cinematography award for Maryse Alberti. The crowd gave Rourke a standing ovation and he received hugs and backslaps from audience members as he headed to the stage.

"I didn't realize how many closet Mickey Rourke fans there were," Aronofsky said backstage. "That's been the biggest surprise of the whole trip."

Momentarily forgetting co-star Marisa Tomei's name, Rourke later complimented her for her role as a stripper in "The Wrestler," which earned her a supporting-actress Oscar nomination.

"Not many girls can climb the pole," Rourke said. "She climbed the pole, and she did it well."

DO YOU KNOW?

TV: Which actress provides the voice of Marge Simpson in 'The Simpsons'?

FOOD & DRINK: What kind of meat is used to make pastrami?

PATRON SAINTS: Augustine of Hippo, Wenceslaus and Luke the Apostle are all patron saints of which group of people?

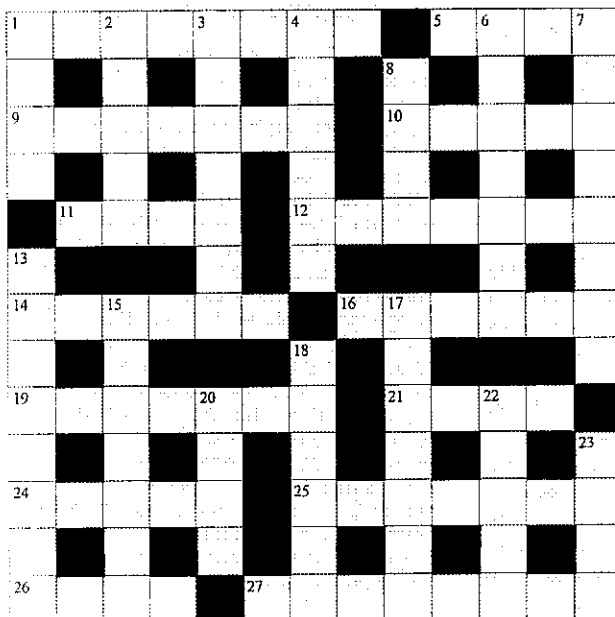
(Answers on Page 8)

INMATE IMPERSONATION

MADISON, Wis. - A Madison man already serving time for impersonating an officer apparently hasn't learned his lesson.

Thirty-year-old Joshua D. Kay is charged with a new count of impersonating an officer. At an initial court appearance Friday he stood mute so the court entered a plea of not guilty.

Headland SatNews CROSSWORD No. 53



SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1. Sugar Ray, 5. Boob, 9. Templar, 10. Angle, 11. Stem, 12. Setback, 14. Escape, 16. Sea dog, 19. Mongrel, 21. Doge, 24. Merit, 25. Trainer, 26. Nell, 27. Serenade. DOWN: 1. Sate, 2. Cannut, 3. Rollmop, 4. Arrest, 6. On guard, 7. Breakage, 8. Wait, 13. Helmsman, 15. Control, 17. Endgame, 18. Cloth, 20. Rite, 22. Gena, 23. Brie.

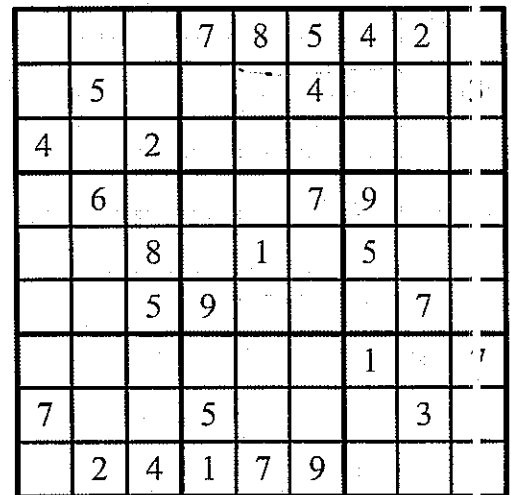
ACROSS

1. - -, boxer (5,3)
5. Silly mistake (4)
9. Simon -, the Saint (7)
10. Turn, bend (5)
11. Trunk (4)
12. Hindrance (7)
14. Breakout (6)
16. Old sailor (3,3)
19. Cur (7)
21. Venice leader (4)
24. Deserve (5)
25. Coach (7)
26. - Gwynn (4)
27. Lover's song (8)

DOWN

1. Fill (4)
2. Range (of emotions) (5)
3. Soused herring (7)
4. Seize and hold (6)
6. Ready for danger (2,5)
7. Amount broken (8)
8. Delay (4)
13. Steerer (S)
15. Direct order (7)
17. Final chess moves (7)
18. Dress (6)
20. Ritual (4)
22. Large jib sail (5)
23. Soft French cheese (4) (4)

Headland SatNews SUDOKU



RULES & SOLUTION

The object is to fill in the squares so that each row, column & box contains the numbers 1-9. Numbers may not be repeated in the same column & row.

6	5	8	5	4	2	3	2	4
7	1	9	5	6	8	7	1	9
4	4	3	4	2	2	4	1	9
5	8	6	3	4	2	1	6	7
1	4	5	9	2	6	3	7	8
9	7	8	4	1	3	5	6	2
2	6	3	8	5	7	9	4	1
4	9	2	6	3	1	7	8	5
8	5	7	2	9	4	6	1	3
6	3	1	7	8	5	4	2	9

SPORTS NEWS

Maryland stuns UNC

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - Greivis Vasquez did something no Maryland player had done since 1987, and the Terrapins pulled off an upset that was almost as remarkable.

Vasquez had a career-high 35 points and 11 rebounds and 10 assists - Maryland's first triple-double in 22 years - and the Terrapins rallied from a 16-point deficit to shock No. 3 North Carolina 88-85 in overtime Saturday, ending the Tar Heels' 10-game winning streak.

"I just have no words to describe this feeling right now," Vasquez said. "It was an unbelievable game. I've played big-time games at Maryland, but I put that game on the top."

Vasquez, a junior guard, was sensational early and late. He scored Maryland's first 16 points, and in overtime hit a pivotal 3-pointer with 1:15 left and made two free throws with 5.4 seconds remaining to put the Terrapins up by three.

After North Carolina's Ty Lawson lost the ball while heading toward the basket just before the buzzer, many of the 17,950 fans stormed the court to celebrate the unlikely upset.

At the center of the celebration was Maryland coach Gary Williams, who came under fire earlier this season after the Terrapins slipped under .500 in the Atlantic Coast Conference after losing to Duke by 41 points and North Carolina by 17.

"Every Maryland fan should be grateful because that man right there can coach," Vasquez said.

Even North Carolina coach Roy Williams offered words of praise for his counterpart, saying, "The best team won today. The stronger team, the tougher team, the better-coached team. Sorry to be so blunt, but that's the way it was."

The triple-double by Vasquez was the first for Maryland (17-9, 6-6) since Derrick Lewis did it twice in 1987.

"Greivis had a heck of a game," North Carolina guard Wayne Ellington said. "He made shots and got his team going. On the other hand, we were flat out there. We were being selfish and weren't playing as a team."

The evidence: North Carolina finished with five assists.

Lawson led the Tar Heels (24-3, 10-3) with 24 points, Danny Green had 18 and Tyler Hansbrough had 11 points and 11 rebounds. But North Carolina got only five points from its bench, compared to 41 by Maryland.

NBA

Miami 97, Philadelphia 91
San Antonio 98, Washington 67
Utah 102, New Orleans 88
Dallas 116, Sacramento 95
Golden State 133, Oklahoma City 120

NHL

Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 4
Chicago 3, Dallas 1
Montreal 3, Ottawa 3
San Jose 3, Atlanta 1
Phoenix 6, Los Angeles 3
Buffalo 4, N.Y. Rangers 2
Florida 2, Boston 0
Anaheim 5, Columbus 2
N.Y. Islanders 4, New Jersey 0
Vancouver 3, Toronto 2, 50
Minnesota 5, Detroit 2
Nashville 1, St. Louis 0, OT
Calgary 3, Edmonton 2, 50

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Top 25

Connecticut (1) 64, South Florida 50
Texas 73, Oklahoma (2) 68
Maryland 88, North Carolina (3) 85 OT
Pittsburgh (4) 80, DePaul 61
Memphis (5) 70, UTEP 63
Louisville (7) 72, Cincinnati 63
Marquette (10) 78, Georgetown 72
Missouri (11) 66, Colorado 53
Kansas (15) 70, Nebraska 53
Gonzaga (17) 92, Pepperdine 58
Purdue (19) 81, Indiana 67
Washington St. 82, UCLA (20) 81
Butler (21) 75, Davidson 63
Washington (22) 60, Southern Cal 51
LSU (23) 79, Auburn 72
Saint Louis 57, Dayton (25) 49

Women's Top 25

Oklahoma (2) 66, Baylor (5) 58
Stanford (4) 68, Oregon 49
California (6) 62, Oregon St. 40
Louisville (8) 76, Villanova 56
Texas A&M (14) 78, Texas (12) 65
Kansas St. (16) 72, Colorado 60
Xavier (17) 70, Saint Louis 67
Pittsburgh (19) 68, Cincinnati 53
S.Dakota St. (22) 70, N.Dakota St. 36
Arizona St. (25) 60, Arizona 53

Cliff Tucker contributed a career-high 22 points to that total on 8-for-12 shooting.

"Before the game, Coach wrote on the board, 'Someone nobody knows needs to step up tonight,'" Tucker said. "I just got it in my mind the whole night that I wanted to be that guy."

After Green scored the first basket in overtime, Tucker made a layup and Vasquez nailed a 3-pointer to give the Terrapins their first lead since 18-17. Lawson tied it with a 3-pointer, but Vasquez put Maryland back in front by coolly making a shot from beyond the arc.

Abrams' 23 points leads Texas past No. 2 Oklahoma

AUSTIN, Texas - Texas' A.J. Abrams was firing away and knocking down shots while Oklahoma's Blake Griffin sat on the bench in a daze.

The Longhorns' little guy was scoring points in bunches and the Sooners' big man was clouded by a concussion sustained in the first half.

Abrams' burst of 16 straight points over the final 8 minutes and the injury to one of the best players in the country were too much for the No. 2 Sooners to overcome in a 73-68 Texas victory that snapped Oklahoma's 13-game winning streak.

The loss also likely spoiled the Sooners' chance at grabbing their first No. 1 ranking since 1990.

"I feel like with Blake playing it would have been a different game and I feel like with him we would have won," said Oklahoma's freshman guard Willie Warren, who led the Sooners with 27 points.

But Griffin played only 11 minutes, all in the first half, and the Big 12's leading scorer and rebounder finished with two points and three rebounds. It appeared Griffin turned on the baseline to take a shot and ran into the open hand of 300-pound Texas forward Dexter Pittman. He left the game with about 4 minutes left in the half and didn't return.

"Those are two strong guys. When they hit, that's a big enough collision right there," Texas coach Rick Barnes said.

Warren hit six 3-pointers to lead Oklahoma (25-2, 11-1 Big 12). Abrams finished with 23 points and Damion James scored 16 for the Longhorns (18-8, 7-5).

Abrams started his run of consecutive points with a 3-pointer that put Texas up 56-50. He finished it with another 3 over two defenders to put the Longhorns up 69-65 with 1:17 to play.

"I talked to him a bit and asked him if he could stop hitting shots to help us out a bit, but he didn't listen," Warren said.

After the Sooners cut the lead to one on Juan Patillo's putback layup, Pittman grabbed an offensive rebound before powering over three Sooners for the basket. Oklahoma's Tony Crocker missed a 3-pointer to tie before Abrams drew a foul and made his two free throws.

Warren, the Big 12's top scoring freshman, did his best to carry the Sooners on the court where he won a Texas state high school championship last season. He was 10 of 20 from the floor and his six assists but it was clear the Sooners missed their leader Griffin.

Blair dominates again, Pitt tops DePaul

PITTSBURGH - DeJuan Blair became tangled with DePaul's Matija Poscic as the two went for a rebound early in the game, but only for a moment. Once he realized Blair was pulling him as well as the ball, Poscic quickly yanked his arm away.

One could almost read Poscic's mind: Uhh, uhh, not happening to me.

Blair outmuscled DePaul inside for 20 points and 18 rebounds while setting No. 4 Pittsburgh's two-game record for rebounds, and the Panthers pulled away early in the second half for an 80-61 victory on Saturday night.

Blair, averaging 20 points during Pitt's seven-game winning streak, followed up his dominating 22-point, 23-rebound effort in a 76-68 win at No. 1 Connecticut on Monday with a similar can't-stop-me show, gathering 13 rebounds in the first 13 minutes and 16 by halftime.

In that game, Blair signaled early on that he didn't care if he was on the Huskies' home court, in front of their fans, he planned to take charge. He did that by effectively tossing 7-foot-3 Hasheem Thabeet over his shoulder during a rebound - and, intimidated or not, Thabeet ended with only 5 points and 4 rebounds.

No wonder Poscic wasn't about to experience a Thabeet-like takedown.

"I started laughing, man, because he got his arm out quick," Blair said. "I was snatching the ball. I think he saw what happened. He wasn't going to go over me and fly into the Zoo" - referring to the Oakland Zoo, the Pitt student section.

Blair's 41 rebounds in successive games surpassed the Pitt record of 38 by former NBA player Jerome Lane.

UConn beats USF

HARTFORD, Conn. - It wasn't a bounce-back blowout, but No. 1 Connecticut responded to its second loss of the season by grinding out its 14th win in 15 games. Hasheem Thabeet had 21 points and nine rebounds as the Huskies beat South Florida 64-50 on Saturday.

The 7-foot-3 junior blocked six shots and showed no ill effects from a hyperextended shoulder when he was flipped by Pittsburgh's DeJuan Blair in the Huskies' 76-68 loss on Monday.

A.J. Price had 11 points and Jeff Adrien had nine points and 15 rebounds for UConn (25-2, 13-2 Big East), which reached the 25-win mark for the 11th time in the last 20 years.

"It was one of those games where the ball wasn't falling in the hole offensively, but we still played good defense," Adrien said. "It shouldn't worry us. We just have to play better offensively and score some baskets."

Augustus Gilchrist had 15 points to lead South Florida (8-18, 3-11), while Dominique Jones added 14. The Bulls, who have never beaten UConn in seven tries, lost their fourth straight.

The Huskies, who were playing their third game without injured guard Jerome Dyson, their top outside threat, were just 1-of-7 from 3-point range.

But that 3-pointer, by Price, made it 51-40, and was part of a 14-4 run that put the game out of reach.

"We feel like we can win any style of game, whether it be slow or up-tempo or physical," Price said. "Tonight showed it. The game was played at their pace, but we still prevailed."

Crabtree to miss workouts with stress fracture

INDIANAPOLIS - Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree wanted to solidify his status as the top receiver in the NFL draft at this weekend's scouting combine. Instead, he left more questions than answers.

On Saturday, NFL doctors diagnosed Crabtree with a stress fracture in his left foot. He reportedly will need surgery to insert a screw and might face a recovery of 10 or more weeks.

"It's not a career-ending injury or anything like that," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "He's a good football player, and he's got plenty of time to get well."

NFL officials would not immediately confirm details of the injury or the surgery, though coaches were told about it during Saturday's first drills. Crabtree was not scheduled to work out until Sunday.

NFL Network first reported the injury. Only its reporters are permitted inside the seating area of Lucas Oil Stadium, where workouts are held. Crabtree was not available for interviews Saturday.

All of the roughly 330 players at the combine spend their first day getting measured and going through medical checks. Those with additional questions are often sent to a nearby hospital for further examination.

That's apparently when Crabtree's injury was discovered, culminating a bad week.

Mickelson pulls away at Riviera

LOS ANGELES - Phil Mickelson showed up early Saturday to work with swing coach Butch Harmon, then ran off four straight birdies late in his round for a 9-under 62 to build a four-shot lead going into the final round of the Northern Trust Open.

Five players had at least a share of the lead at one point in the third round, but what had been shaping up as a shootout at Riviera soon turned into a showcase for Mickelson.

It began with an tee shot into 4 feet on the par-3 14th for the outright lead. Mickelson followed that with an 8-foot birdie on the 15th, a 35-foot birdie on the 16th, and an up-and-down from the bunker on the par-5 17th for his fourth straight birdie. He had a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th to tie the course record, but hit the putt too hard. Mickelson was at 16-under 197.

Andres Romero of Argentina birdied his last three holes for a 65 and could remain the last obstacle for Mickelson. It was Romero who made 10 birdies in 16 holes during the final round at Carnoustie two years ago when he nearly won the British Open.

They will be joined in the last group by Fred Couples, who was poised to give himself a good chance to win only to have a familiar figure spoil the occasion. Mickelson and Couples were in the last group at the 2006 Masters when Lefty outlasted him over the final five holes.

Mason's return nets 25; Spurs top Wizards

WASHINGTON - Oh, the humiliation! The player that got away, Roger Mason, comes back with the San Antonio Spurs and drops 25 points - on a night the awful Washington Wizards post their lowest points total in six years. A season of embarrassment for president Ernie Grunfeld's front office hit another low Saturday as the travel-weary Spurs beat the Wizards 98-67.

San Antonio wrapped up its annual road stretch with a 5-3 record, while Washington was left to wonder how much better than 30 games under .500 it would be if Mason were still playing in his hometown.

"That's what we need," Wizards forward Antawn Jamison said. "We need a veteran who knows how to play the game, a guy who can play multiple positions, a guy who can knock down big shots, a guy who is defensively sound. That's a luxury we had last year, and that's a luxury we don't have this year."

Mason went 9-for-15 from the field, including 5-for-9 from 3-point range, and had 10 points and two steals in the 19-4 run that capped the third quarter and gave the Spurs a 78-57 lead. He was done for the night after that, taking a place on the bench as coach Gregg Popovich rested his starters in the blowout.

"Definitely wasn't just another game," said Mason, who was born in the nation's capital and played the last two seasons with the Wizards. "It's always exciting playing in front of family and friends. Washington Bulls fans, growing up here, then playing for them for two years. I'll see these guys in the summer."

Michael Finley added 19 points, and Tim Duncan had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who jumped to a 19-9 lead and were never seriously threatened by the worst team in the Eastern Conference. The win capped 10,761 miles of travel over 19 days while their home court was occupied by the annual San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.

Jazz win one for Larry, top Hornets

SALT LAKE CITY - On a night he had 13 assists, Deron Williams' most memorable pass came after the final buzzer.

Williams walked across the court after Utah's 102-88 win over New Orleans and handed the game ball to Gail Miller, the wife of owner Larry H. Miller one day after his death.

From the pregame moment of silence on, there was no doubt that this one was for Larry.

"It's great to win on a night like this. We wanted to win for Larry and the whole Miller family," said Williams, who scored 20 points for Utah. "They're going through a tough time and hopefully this can ease their pain just a little bit for one night."

Miller, 64, died Friday of complications from diabetes. His usual courtside seat remained empty Saturday night, a noticeable reminder on a night full of gestures in Miller's memory. A short video tribute was shown before the moment of silence and a lone spotlight shined down on the empty blue chair across from the visitors' bench.

"Sometimes emanations and everything get involved and everybody handles it a little differently. We made it through a tough time today," said Utah's Jerry Sloan, who was promoted from assistant to coach by Miller in 1988. "Regardless of what happens day-to-day, you still have a job to do. And in respect to Larry Miller and his family, that's what we were supposed to do."

Mehmet Okur scored 25 and Paul Millsap had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Utah, which will wear patches with the initials LHM for the rest of the season.

Quiet Twins break their silence, sign 3B Crede

From across the diamond, Minnesota Twins manager Ron Gardenhire always admired the way Joe Crede played - good glove, pop in his bat, hard-nosed guy.

Gardenhire and the Twins are going to get a close-up look from now on.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	12	.786	-
Philadelphia	27	27	.500	16
New Jersey	24	32	.429	20
New York	23	31	.426	20
Toronto	21	36	.368	23 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	40	14	.741	-
Atlanta	32	23	.582	8 1/2
Miami	29	25	.537	11
Charlotte	22	33	.400	18 1/2
Washington	13	43	.232	28

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	42	11	.792	-
Detroit	27	26	.509	15
Milwaukee	27	31	.466	17 1/2
Chicago	25	30	.455	18
Indiana	23	34	.404	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	37	17	.685	-
Houston	34	21	.618	3 1/2
Dallas	33	22	.600	4 1/2
New Orleans	32	22	.593	5
Memphis	15	40	.273	22 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	37	18	.673	-
Portland	34	20	.630	2 1/2
Utah	33	23	.589	4 1/2
Minnesota	18	36	.333	18 1/2
Oklahoma City	13	43	.232	24 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	45	10	.818	-
Phoenix	31	23	.574	13 1/2
Golden State	20	36	.357	25 1/2
L.A. Clippers	13	42	.236	32
Sacramento	12	45	.211	34

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	38	19	3	79	182	151
Philadelphia	31	17	9	71	189	169
N.Y. Rangers	31	23	6	68	149	167
Pittsburgh	29	25	6	64	183	186
N.Y. Islanders	18	35	6	42	144	198

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	40	11	8	88	197	133
Montreal	31	22	7	69	184	184
Buffalo	31	23	6	68	179	168
Toronto	21	26	12	54	177	217
Ottawa	22	27	9	53	144	168

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	37	17	5	79	196	170
Florida	30	21	8	68	166	159
Carolina	30	25	5	65	157	174
Tampa Bay	19	28	12	50	148	188
Atlanta	21	33	6	48	176	211

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	39	13	8	86	228	177
Chicago	34	15	8	76	193	141
Columbus	30	24	6	66	165	169
Nashville	28	28	4	60	142	158
St. Louis	25	26	8	58	165	178

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Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	35	18	6	76	187	173
Vancouver	30	21	9	68	181	170
Edmonton	29	25	5	63	165	182
Minnesota	26	24	4	62	149	134
Colorado	28	30	1	57	163	181

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	40	8	9	89	199	140
Dallas	29	22	7	65	174	179
Anaheim	29	27	5	63	173	177
Los Angeles	25	24	9	59	155	170
Phoenix	27	28	5	59	156	184

After sitting idle for more than four months following a season in which they lost to the White Sox in a one-game playoff for the AL Central title, the Twins agreed to terms with Crede on a one-year deal on Saturday.

Provided Crede's back holds up, he will fill a major need for the Twins at third base.

The 30-year-old Crede had major back surgery in each of the last two seasons. He hit .248 with 17 homers and 55 RBIs last season for Chicago. But the All-Star played sparingly in the second half because of recurring back trouble, which limited him to 47 games in 2007.

"We've been thinking about this guy for a while, never knowing whether it was going to work out or not. But it finally has," Gardenhire said. "When his name was out there recommended, I said yeah, I would love to have this guy. Absolutely."

"I have never talked to Joe Crede besides saying 'how are you doing?' on the field. You're killing me, take it easy on me."

Twins general manager Bill Smith and assistant GM Rob Antony negotiated off and on with Crede's agent, Scott Boras, for more than two months without reaching a deal. The San Francisco Giants also showed interest in the free agent.

Crede topped 20 homers in three straight years, including a career-high 30 in 2006, before back problems held him to 144 games total in the last two seasons.

Busch gets Saturday sweep

FONTANA, Calif. - Kyle Busch did something Saturday no one has done before in NASCAR, winning twice in the same day. Busch added a dominating NASCAR Nationwide Series victory under the lights to an overpowering truck win earlier in the day at Auto Club Speedway.

The 23-year-old speedster, who led 95 of 100 laps in winning the Camping World Truck Series race, was out front for 143 of 150 laps on the 2-mile oval to earn his 22nd Nationwide victory. That made him the first driver to win races in two NASCAR national touring series in the same day.

Former series champion Carl Edwards beat Busch out of the pits on the last pit stops by the leaders Saturday night, but Busch powered back into the lead on the restart 16 laps from the end and pulled away.

"It's awesome," Busch said after climbing out of his No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota. "This is just a blast. It's pretty special to beat guys like Carl and Kevin (Harvick). To win here twice in one day is even more special. ... This was pretty close to a perfect day."

Despite building leads of up to 11 seconds at times during the race, it all came down to the restart on lap 135 after Edwards beat Busch out of the pits by the length of the hood on his No. 60 Ford to take the lead and threaten to end Busch's dominance.

But Busch wasn't going to let that happen.

On the restart, Busch nudged Edwards and dove under him as Harvick, in third, made it three-wide for several seconds before Edwards slipped all the way to fifth. Busch easily led the rest of the way, beating Harvick to the finish line by 1.011 seconds - most of the front straightaway and almost the same margin he had in beating Todd Bodine in the truck race.

Giants GM not counting on return of Burress

INDIANAPOLIS - General manager Jerry Reese wants Plaxico Burress to wear a New York Giants uniform next season. He's just not sure it will happen.

Reese, who attended the NFL's annual scouting combine Saturday, said he's planning for all scenarios, including keeping the suspended wide receiver who shot himself in the leg at a nightclub last season.

"I hope he's motivated, but the legal process is what's most important right now and his health is what's most important right now," Reese said. "But we'll prepare as if he's not going to be here, and if he is, it's a bonus."

Burress faces felony charges of criminal possession of a weapon relating to the shooting, which could result in a prison sentence of 3 1-2 to 15 years if he's convicted.

Reese would not comment on the e-mail sent last week by Drew Rosenhaus, Burress' agent, to NFL teams saying three clients wanted to be traded. Burress was one of them.

Despite the trouble surrounding Burress, Reese said he would take the 31-year-old player back with some caveats.

TV: Julie Kavner provides the voice of Marge in 'The Simpsons'.

FOOD & DRINK: Pastrami is made of beef.

PATRON SAINTS: Augustine of Hippo, Wenceslaus and Luke the Apostle are all patron saints of brewers.

PAVLIK STOPS RUBIO

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - No longer perfect, Kelly Pavlik is still the best middleweight in the world.

Dominating overmatched Marco Antonio Rubio from the start, Pavlik emphatically rebounded from his first career loss Saturday night by stopping the Mexican challenger after the ninth round before a raucous hometown crowd that arrived more than 5 hours early to see its hero.

The pride of Youngstown gave them something to remember.

Pavlik outclassed and outpunched Rubio almost the entire fight, hurting him in the eighth round and battering him throughout the ninth, after which Rubio's corner decided he couldn't continue.

"There's no place like home. There was a lot of pressure on me for this fight but it's great to bounce back in my hometown," Pavlik said. "It was electric." In the co-main event of a split-site doubleheader, Miguel Cotto came back from his own first career loss to knock out Michael Jennings in the fifth round and capture the vacant WBO welterweight title at New York's Madison Square Garden.

It was just the second time Pavlik (35-1, 31 KOs) had fought in his hometown since 2001, long before he stunned Jermain Taylor to win the WBO and WBC middleweight titles. In his only other defense since then, the scrawny middleweight champion stopped unheralded Gary Lockett in the third round in Atlantic City, N.J.

Carrying tremendous momentum away from that fight, Pavlik accepted a 170-pound bout against Bernard Hopkins last October. Battling bronchitis and a troublesome elbow leading up to it, the savvy ring veteran dominated Pavlik in a surprisingly one-sided loss.

Rubio proved to be the perfect antidote for any hangover.

"We want him to be like everyone else as far as the team structure is involved," Reese said. "Plaxico is a New York Giant right now, so I don't know what it means to 'have him back.' He hasn't gone anywhere yet."

The disparity between Burress' presence and absence was remarkable.

With Burress, the Giants were one of the league's best. He made the winning catch in the Giants' 2008 Super Bowl victory, and helped lead them to an 11-1 record last season.

Without him, it was easier for defensive coordinators to game plan against the Giants.

Crosby leads Pens past Flyers

PHILADELPHIA - Sidney Crosby got just the break the Pittsburgh Penguins needed to end their road woes.

Crosby scored his second goal of the game with Flyers goalie Martin Biron nowhere near the net, helping the Penguins beat Philadelphia 5-4 Saturday for their first road win in nearly six weeks.

"It was really a good break," Crosby said. "You can't really blame the goalie."

Try selling that to the largest regular-season crowd in Flyers history (19,992).

Biron's trouble started when he drifted out toward the hash marks of the right circle to stop Pascal Dupuis' breakaway. He sprawled out on all fours and failed to secure the puck, then tried to dump it behind him toward a teammate.

Dupuis snagged the puck and sent it toward the empty net where Crosby was there for the gift goal, his 23rd, with 2:15 left in the game.

Biron, who had 22 saves, said his reaction was simply to get rid of the puck.

"I made a bad play and it ends up in the net," he said. "Looking back, you say, 'Just get it to the corner. Get it to the boards. Even let it stay alive and let the guys recover,' but I just kind of got anxious and got rid of it."

"It ends up losing the game."

The Penguins will gladly take it. They had dropped all five road games since their last win away from Pittsburgh, on Jan. 13, also against the Flyers.

AC Milan not raising offer for Beckham

MILAN - The vice president of AC Milan says the club's offer of \$3 million for David Beckham was the market rate and it won't be increased.

The Los Angeles Galaxy recently turned down the offer, calling it 'ridiculous.' Adriano Galliani said in Saturday editions of La Gazzetta dello Sport there won't be another offer.

Sarkozy lance 'un message d'espoir' aux agriculteurs

PARIS - Le président de la République, Nicolas Sarkozy, a inauguré samedi le salon de l'agriculture de Paris, en lançant un "message d'espoir" aux agriculteurs et aussi aux plus jeunes d'entre eux, leur assurant qu'"il y a de l'avenir, qu'ils peuvent croire dans leur métier".

Pendant près de deux heures, le chef de l'Etat, qui était accompagné du ministre de l'Agriculture Michel Barnier, a sacrifié à la tradition en parcourant quelques stands du salon.

Il a serré les mains et caressé les vaches alors qu'une cohue indescriptible a suivi le président pendant toute sa visite, rythmée par les "Nicolas" "Nicolas" d'une "claque" de symphonisants bien orchestrée.

Le président s'est arrêté à plusieurs reprises pour admirer les races de bovins, le fleuron de la génétique française à l'export.

Il a eu l'occasion d'apprécier de nombreux spécimens, limousines, charolaises, parthenaises, simmentals, ou encore

prim'holstein, de vraies bêtes de concours, coiffées et recoiffées, pour les faire paraître sous leur meilleur jour.

Contrairement à son prédécesseur Jacques Chirac qui goûtait largement aux produits du terroir, Nicolas Sarkozy s'est contenté d'avalier un chocolat à la fin d'un parcours mené au pas de charge.

"J'espère qu'il mange de la viande chevaline", a lancé un des animateurs de stands au passage de la caravane présidentielle. "Il doit en manger car il court vite", lui a répondu un de ses alter ego.

Le chef de l'Etat a aussi écouté les doléances des éleveurs, inquiets du virage que prendra la prochaine politique agricole commune à partir de 2013. Et plus immédiatement de la redistribution des aides agricoles que doit annoncer lundi Michel Barnier pour relancer certaines productions.

"Je voulais d'abord adresser un message d'espoir à l'agriculture", a lancé M. Sarkozy à la presse à l'issue de sa visite.

Guadeloupe: Woerth adopte des mesures douanières de soutien

PARIS - Le ministre du Budget Eric Woerth a annoncé samedi l'adoption de "mesures douanières exceptionnelles pour soutenir les entreprises en Guadeloupe", comme la possibilité de reporter les échéances de paiement ou de solliciter leur échelonnement, d'après un communiqué.

Le leader du LKP Elie Domota a réagi en qualifiant ces mesures de "bonne idée".

Ces mesures "vont dans le sens d'aider les entreprises, je crois que c'est une bonne idée", a déclaré le dirigeant syndical sur France 24. Il a précisé qu'elles allaient bénéficier notamment aux "petites entreprises qui ont des difficultés d'accès au marché ou bien d'accès au financement".

Pour répondre aux "événements qui affectent aujourd'hui la Guadeloupe (et) se traduisent par des difficultés économiques et financières importantes pour les entreprises", Eric Woerth a décidé, "en accord avec la région Guadeloupe, la mise en oeuvre sans délai d'un train de mesures douanières exceptionnelles", indique le communiqué du ministère.

Il s'agit de "la possibilité de reporter d'un à trois mois les échéances de paiement de l'ensemble des droits et taxes de douane (dédouanement, contributions indirectes, octroi de mer externe et en régime intérieur)" ou de "solliciter l'échelonnement des paiements sur une période de 3 à 12 mois".

ISRAËL BOMBARDE LE LIBAN

EL QLAILE, Liban - Israël a bombardé l'artillerie samedi la région d'el-Qlaile, dans le sud du Liban, en représailles à des tirs de roquettes sur l'Etat hébreu à partir du territoire libanais, ravivant les tensions dans cette région frontalière.

Selon la radio publique israélienne, une femme a été légèrement blessée près de la ville de Maaiot, proche de la frontière libanaise, par l'explosion d'une roquette tirée du Liban.

Les urgences israéliennes ont fait état pour leur part de "trois blessés légers" israéliens.

MADAGASCAR: RAJOELINA A RENCONTRÉ LE PRÉSIDENT

ANTANANARIVO - Le maire destitué d'Antananarivo, Andry Rajoelina, a rencontré samedi le président Marc Ravalomanana, pour la première fois depuis le début fin janvier de la crise qui secoue Madagascar, a indiqué l'entourage de M. Rajoelina.

"La rencontre a eu lieu. Elle a duré 45 minutes", a déclaré sous couvert d'anonymat un proche collaborateur de M. Rajoelina, en précisant que les deux hommes s'étaient vus au siège de l'épiscopat à Antananarivo.

De même source, on s'est refusé à toute indication sur la teneur des échanges entre le chef de l'Etat et le maire destitué.

LA DISCRIMINATION GÉNÉTIQUE EST 'UN ATTENTAT', DIT LE PAPE

CITE DU VATICAN - Le pape Benoît XVI a condamné samedi "les discriminations contre les personnes, les peuples ou les ethnies basées sur des facteurs génétiques" comme un attentat contre l'humanité entière", dans une nouvelle critique contre l'eugénisme.

"Il est nécessaire de réitérer que toute discrimination exercée (...) contre des personnes, des peuples ou des ethnies sur la base de différences provenant de vrais ou supposés facteurs génétiques est un attentat contre l'humanité entière", a déclaré le pape en recevant les participants au congrès "Les nouvelles frontières de la génétique et les risques de l'eugénisme".

Un des échappés de l'hôpital psychiatrique s'est présenté à la gendarmerie

VANNES - L'un des deux patients qui s'étaient échappés vendredi soir de l'hôpital psychiatrique de Saint-Avé (Morbihan) en arrachant une fenêtre du quartier fermé s'est présenté spontanément à la gendarmerie de Josselin samedi matin, a-t-on appris auprès des gendarmes et de la préfecture.

L'homme s'est présenté spontanément ce matin à la gendarmerie de Josselin en compagnie de sa soeur", ont-ils indiqué. Il s'agit de l'homme, âgé de 20 ans, qui était susceptible d'être "agressif" en cas d'absorption d'alcool.

La préfecture du Morbihan a précisé dans un communiqué qu'"il est actuellement reconduit vers l'hôpital de Saint-Avé", précisant qu'il s'était présenté "en état d'ivresse".

Rhône-Alpes: une centaine de kilomètres de bouchons

L'ION - Une petite centaine de kilomètres de ra entassement était enregistrée samedi sur les routes en direction des stations de ski alpines, et cette journée de chassé-croisé des vacances classée noire en Rhône-Alpes, a-t-on appris auprès du CRICR.

En Rhône-Alpes, la journée de samedi est classée noire dans le sens des départs et rouge dans le sens des retours, a rappelé dans un communiqué transmis le centre régional d'information et de coordination routières (CRICR) Rhône-Alpes-Auvergne.

"Le trafic est chargé sur les axes menant et revenant des stations alpines", précise le communiqué, qui ajoute que les "équipements spécifiques sont recommandés pour l'accès aux stations de sports d'hiver".

Négationnisme: Reynouard cherche refuge en Suisse

GENEVE - Le négationniste Vincent Reynouard, recherché par les justices française et belge depuis un an, s'apprêterait à trouver refuge en Suisse, selon ses propos tenus à un journal suisse samedi.

Interrogé par courrier électronique par la Tribune de Genève, celui qui est présenté comme "le chef de file du négationnisme franco-belge" affirme avoir "certains contacts avec des sympathisants" en Suisse.

"Quelqu'un m'accueillera en toute discrétion", affirme le fugitif, qui a refusé de dévoiler où il se cachait.

LES BRÉSILIENS SE LANCENT DANS LE CARNAVAL

RIO DE JANEIRO - Des millions de Brésiliens, défiant la crise mondiale, se sont lancés vendredi dans la frénésie du carnaval dont l'apogée sera les fastueux défilés des écoles de samba dimanche et lundi sur le Sambodrome de Rio de Janeiro.

Ce pays de 190 millions d'habitants va pratiquement s'arrêter, à partir de vendredi et pour une semaine, emporté de Salvador de Bahia à Sao Paulo par la folie du carnaval, une tradition de plus de 150 ans.

Premier président brésilien à se rendre au carnaval depuis 1994, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva assistera à la première nuit des défilés, a confirmé son porte-parole.

En dépit de la crise, un nombre record de touristes sont attendus à Rio. "709.000 touristes, cinq mille de plus que l'an dernier, dont 30% venus de l'étranger, sont déjà dans la ville", a indiqué l'entreprise municipale de tourisme Riotur.

M. Reynouard rappelle qu'il a déjà séjourné en Suisse où il a "donné une conférence privée" en 2007 et où, selon le journal genevois, il a "une case postale à Montreux", sur les bords du lac Léman.

Ségolène Royal se rend en Guadeloupe

PARIS - L'ancienne candidate du PS à la présidentielle de 2007 Ségolène Royal a pris l'avion samedi pour la Guadeloupe où elle assistera dimanche aux obsèques du syndicaliste Jacques Bino, a-t-on appris auprès du maire DVG de Pointe-à-Pitre, Jacques Bangou.

Mme Royal, qui doit arriver à Pointe-à-Pitre à 14h30 locales (19h30 à Paris), restera sur place "deux ou trois jours", a indiqué M. Bangou.

Le délégué interministériel à l'égalité des chances des Français d'Outre-Mer, Patrick Karam, a demandé à Mme Royal, "si elle veut être utile, d'appeler au calme et à la reprise du dialogue" en Guadeloupe.

"Toute autre posture ne serait que basse manoeuvre politicienne et serait un mauvais coup contre la Guadeloupe et les Guadeloupéens", a estimé M. Karam, lui-même Guadeloupéen.

Livret A: l'Afub dénonce des pratiques de flibustiers

PARIS - L'Association française des usagers de banque (Afub) dénonce des "pratiques de flibustiers" dans certaines banques engendrées par la banalisation du Livret A, ainsi que la résistance de la Caisse d'Epargne et de la Banque Postale aux demandes de transferts vers d'autres banques.

"L'Afub stigmatise les pratiques de flibustiers de certains professionnels à l'occasion de la banalisation du Livret A", notamment des "ouvertures forcées" avec débit "de manière autoritaire" des comptes en banque, remarque-t-elle dans un communiqué reçu samedi.

Autre abus, l'imposition d'une prime d'assurance de 36 euros par an pour protection du Livret A avec clause royée dans les conditions générales, ainsi qu'y procède la BNP", ajoute le communiqué.

Marche pour les 70 ans de la Retirada

ARGÈLES-SUR-MER - Environ 500 réfugiés espagnols et leurs enfants ont marché samedi près de Perpignan pour le 70e anniversaire de la Retirada (la retraite) de 1939, lorsque les républicains ont fui l'Espagne de Franco pour se réfugier dans le sud de la France.

Le doyen du rassemblement Vicente Vicente, 101 ans, entouré de quatre générations d'Espagnols et de Français d'origine espagnole, étaient présents à Argelès-sur-mer, où fut construit en 1939 un camp de concentration pour les occuper temporairement.

La première adjointe au maire de Paris, Anne Hidalgo, fille de républicain espagnol, a également participé à une marche symbolique. La plupart des exilés avaient traversé à pied les Pyrénées jusqu'en Catalogne française pour fuir le franquisme.

25 chefs européens pour l'Omnivore food festival

DEAUVILLE - Vingt-cinq chefs européens vont se retrouver pour la quatrième édition de l'Omnivore food festival, qui se veut un espace de confrontation de la "jeune" cuisine inventive, lundi et mardi à Deauville, dans le nord-ouest de la France.

Parmi les chefs annoncés figurent les Français Pierre Hermé, Alexandre Bou das, Laurent Chareau, Bertrand Grebaut et Frank Cerruti, les Italiens Stefano Baiocco et Ricardo Camanini ou encore les Espagnols Paco Morales, Jordi Butron et Ferran Adrià.

Top 14

Vendredi

Stade Français 22-12 Toulon

Ces chefs se livreront à des démonstrations de cuisine ou raconteront leur parcours et leur expérience lors de "cafés confidences". Le festival sera ponctuée par des débats sur "le menu unique", "l'ordinaire" du restaurant (apéritifs, pain, beurre, fromages), la cuisine "bio" ou encore "la place du dessert" dans le repas.

Vatican: Benoît XVI annonce dix nouveaux saints

CITE DU VATICAN - Le pape Benoît XVI a annoncé samedi au cours d'un consistoire ordinaire la canonisation au cours de l'année de dix bienheureux, dont une Française, Jeanne Jugan, indique un communiqué de la salle de presse du Vatican.

Un premier groupe de cinq bienheureux sera canonisé le 26 avril prochain et il comprendra quatre Italiens et un Portugais.

Le second groupe de cinq bienheureux sera en revanche canonisé le 11 octobre prochain et il comprend notamment la Française Jeanne Jugan (1792-1879), fondatrice des Petites sœurs des pauvres.

Une statuette renversée à l'exposition de la collection YSL-Bergé

PARIS - La maison d'enchères Christie's a connu une petite frayeur samedi matin quand une statue estimée à plusieurs dizaines de milliers d'euros de la collection Yves Saint Laurent et Pierre Bergé exposée à Paris a perdu un bras après avoir été renversée.

Un porte-parole de Christie's a indiqué que la statuette allait être réparée par des spécialistes et ne serait pas retirée de la vente aux enchères qui doit avoir lieu lundi.

Cette statue de 20cm du XVIIIe siècle en bois et ivoire représentant Jupiter est estimée entre 50.000 et 80.000 euros. Elle est tombée accidentellement au moment où un manutentionnaire bougeait la vitrine dans laquelle elle se trouvait avec d'autres objets, avant l'ouverture au public.

"C'est sérieux mais c'est réparable", a-t-on précisé chez Christie's, car le bras en ivoire n'est pas cassé. Il s'est seulement détaché du bois au niveau de l'épaule. Les acheteurs intéressés seront avertis de l'incident, a indiqué Christie's.

La Bourse s'enfonce encore

PARIS - Retombée au plus bas depuis près de six ans, la Bourse de Paris guettera sans grand espoir d'éventuels signes d'amélioration sur le front économique, seuls susceptibles d'inciter les investisseurs à racheter des actions.

L'indice CAC 40 a perdu 8,25% sur la semaine écoulée pour terminer à 2.750,55 points, portant à 14,52% son repli depuis le début de l'année, et retrouvant son niveau le plus bas depuis le 2 avril 2003 (2.743,88 points en clôture).

Après deux séances de baisse, il a fait du surplace mercredi et jeudi avant de replonger vendredi.

"On croyait tenir fermement les 3.000 points mais le marché abdique à nouveau depuis dix jours, alors qu'il n'y a pas eu de nouvelles catastrophiques. Elles sont juste mauvaises", résume Arnaud Riverain, responsable de la recherche chez Arkéon Finance.

Sarkozy attend que l'Europe apporte de 'vraies réponses'

PARIS - Nicolas Sarkozy a indiqué samedi qu'il attendait que les pays européens du G20 qui se réunissent dimanche à Berlin adoptent de "vraies réponses" en matière de régulation des marchés financiers et que la France s'opposerait à un "compromis au rabais".

"J'attends deux choses. Que l'Europe se prépare à avoir une position commune pour le sommet du G20 à Londres le 2 avril et que ce ne soit pas une position commune sur un faux compromis, un compromis au rabais avec de petites ambitions", a déclaré M. Sarkozy.

"La violence de la crise, la profondeur de la crise nous imposent des changements profonds. Il faut refonder le capitalisme, il faut le moraliser (...) ce sont donc des vraies réponses que j'en attends et la France poussera pour qu'on soit ambitieux dans les réponses", a-t-il ajouté.

Stade Français domine Toulon

PARIS - Le Stade Français n'a pas eu à forcer son talent pour battre Toulon (22-12), dominé malgré deux essais inscrits et le retour sur le terrain du manager néo-zélandais Tana Umaga après deux ans de retraite sportive, vendredi lors de la 17e journée du Top 14 de rugby.

MICHAEL JACKSON PRÉPARE SON COME-BACK SUR SCÈNE

LONDRES - Le roi de la pop Michael Jackson est en négociations pour une trentaine de concerts à Londres cet été, a indiqué samedi une source proche des pourparlers.

Le chanteur de "Thriller" pourrait obtenir un cachet de 1,5 million de livres (1,7 millions d'euros) par concert, ce qui contribuerait à éponger ses dettes, rapportent samedi le Times, le Sun et le Daily Mail.

Si cette série de concerts se confirme, elle marquerait le premier vrai come-back de Michael Jackson depuis son acquittement en 2005 à l'issue d'un procès où il était accusé d'attouchements sur un garçon de treize ans.

Les tickets VIP pourraient être vendus dans les 1.000 livres et Michael Jackson pourrait gagner jusqu'à 150 millions de livres (169 millions d'euros) pour cette série de concerts envisagés à l'O2, une salle de 20.000 places à Londres, d'après le Sun.

Mais Londres est en concurrence avec Las Vegas pour cette série de concerts exceptionnelle, selon la presse.

L'ancien capitaine des All Blacks a été sa place à la 51e minute. Visiblement hors de forme, il n'a rien pu faire sur la percée de l'ex-treiziste australien Mark Gasnier, à l'origine de l'unique essai parisien inscrit par Bastareaud (23).

Les Parisiens, renforcés dans le combat d'avants par le retour du 2e ligne Pascal Papé après huit mois d'absence, avaient auparavant pris l'avantage au score par une pénalité et un drop de Lionel Beauxis.

L'ouvreur parisien, donné forfait mais finalement titulaire après l'absence d'Hernandez (fièvre), a dû céder son poste peu avant l'heure de jeu après avoir reçu un coup dans le dos.

Les Toulonnais ne parvenaient pas à inscrire le moindre point au cours du premier acte, l'ouvreur sud-africain Conrad Barnard ayant écrasé une tentative de pénalité.

Tsonga retrouve Djokovic en demi-finale

MARSEILLE - Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, qualifié vendredi pour les demi-finales du tournoi de Marseille, affrontera samedi le Serbe Novak Djokovic dans une finale avant l'heure, l'autre demi-finale, 100% tricolore, opposant Mickael Llodra (N.50) à Gilles Simon, tête de série N.2.

songa, tête de série N.4, a confirmé sa bonne forme en venant à bout de l'Espagnol Feliciano Lopez (N.8) 6-2, 6-7 (1-7), 6-4, dans un match qu'il aurait pu terminer en dix sets sans un petit coup de mou au tie break du deuxième set.

Il retrouvera en demi-finale Novak Djokovic (N.1) qui s'est montré dominateur face à l'Allemand Mischa Zverev, battu sèchement 6-3, 6-3, après deux tours plus héritants.

Dans le bas du tableau, le Français Michael Llodra, 50e joueur mondial, a exploité au mieux ses qualités de joueur de double pour s'imposer difficilement face au Russe Mikhail Yuzhny 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-3).

Dans un match dense et spectaculaire, le gaucher français a mis la pression sur son adversaire en multipliant les montées à contre-temps, offrant au public quelques belles volées-volées.

Géant de Sestrières: victoire de Cuche

SESTRIERES - Le Suisse Didier Cuche a remporté samedi le slalom géant de Sestrières comptant pour la Coupe du monde messieurs de ski alpin, devant les Autrichiens Stephan Gergl et Benjamin Raich.

En 2min 49sec 57centièmes, Cuche a devancé Goergl de 66 centièmes et Raich de 89 centièmes.

C'est sa première victoire de la saison en Coupe du monde puisque jusqu'ici sa meilleure performance remontait au 26 octobre avec une 2e place en géant à Sölden (Autriche).

Le Suisse avait très bien réussi ses Mondiaux à Val d'Isère en remportant le titre de champion du monde en super-G et celui de vice-champion du monde en descente.

C'est seulement la deuxième victoire de sa carrière en géant, après un succès à Adelboden (Suisse) en 2002.

Stechert remporte la descente de Tarvisio

TARVISIO - L'Allemande Gina Stechert, 21 ans, a remporté samedi la descente de Tarvisio, le premier podium de sa carrière en Coupe du monde dames de ski alpin, en précédant l'Américaine Lindsey Vonn et la Suédoise Anja Pärson.

En 1min 59sec 94/100, la skieuse d'Oberstdorf a devancé Vonn d'un centième et Pärson de 39/100.

Stechert, dont le meilleur résultat était jusqu'à ce jour une 4e place lors de la descente de Lake Louise (Canada), le 5 décembre dernier, s'est imposée sur la piste la plus longue du circuit féminin exigeant de grandes qualités de glisse.

BEAUXIS INCERTAIN POUR GALLES

PARIS - L'ouvreur du XV de France Lionel Beauxis, qui a reçu un coup à la crête iliaque vendredi lors de la victoire (22-12) de son club, le Stade Français, contre Toulon, est incertain pour la réception du pays de Galles, vendredi prochain lors de la 3e journée du Tournoi des six nations.

Beauxis a cédé sa place à la 51e minute de jeu au Sud-Africain Noel Oelschig. L'ouvreur parisien avait été donné pour forfait cette semaine en raison d'une douleur à un mollet. Il a finalement tenu sa place en raison du forfait de dernière minute de l'Argentin Juan Martín Hernandez, fiévreux.

"Il a reçu un coup à la crête iliaque. On est désolé pour l'équipe de France, il ne devait pas jouer mais on n'avait plus de numéro 10", a déclaré l'entraîneur adjoint du Stade Français, Christophe Dominici, après la rencontre.

Villeurbanne et Orléans s'offrent un duel au sommet

LE HAVRE - Villeurbanne et Orléans, les deux co-leaders de ProA, sont sortis vainqueurs vendredi des deux derniers quarts de finale de la Semaine des As, face respectivement à Nancy et Strasbourg, et s'affronteront samedi au Havre dans un duel au sommet pour une place en finale.

Mais pour les deux équipes qui se partagent la tête du championnat (15 vict., 3 déf.), la route des demiés n'a pas semblé bâtie sur le même itinéraire.

Villeurbanne, bon gestionnaire, n'a eu besoin que de deux coups d'accélérateurs, en début de match (25-15, 12e), puis dans le 3e quart temps (41-32, 26e) pour parvenir à ses fins, menant au score durant l'ensemble de la rencontre face à un adversaire privé de munitions extérieures (3-20 à trois points).

Sur les bancs, le match a aussi été l'occasion d'un affrontement tactique de haute volée entre deux prétendants au poste de sélectionneur de l'équipe de France, avec Vincent Collet côté rhodanien et Jean-Luc Monschau pour les Lorrains.

Au final, la victoire des hommes dirigés par le cadet des deux techniciens (45 ans pour Collet contre 57 pour Monschau) ne souffre pas vraiment contestation (62-55).

WTA: amende de \$300.000 pour le tournoi de Dubaï

ST PETERSBURG, Etats-Unis - Le circuit féminin de tennis WTA a infligé vendredi une amende de \$300.000 aux organisateurs du tournoi de Dubaï, auquel l'Israélienne Shahar Peer n'a pas pu participer en raison du refus, par les Emirats arabes unis, de lui accorder un visa.

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La WTA précise dans son communiqué que cette amende (d'un montant de 234.000 euros au cours actuel), assortie d'autres mesures contraignantes, est d'un montant record. Elle a été infligée au tournoi de Dubaï au motif de "manquement aux règles du circuit".

"Les décisions que nous avons prises aujourd'hui (vendredi) ont pour but de redresser les torts subis par Shahar Peer, victime d'une politique injuste et discriminatoire de la part des Emirats arabes unis", fait valoir Larry Scott, patron de la WTA, dans un communiqué.

"Elles ont aussi pour but d'envoyer un message clair, à savoir que notre organisation ne tolérera aucune discrimination de quelque sorte que ce soit, et que ce qui est arrivé n'arrivera plus, ni aux Emirats ni ailleurs", a-t-il ajouté.

EPGA: les Anglais McGowan et Bickerton en tête

PERTH - Les Anglais Ross McGowan et John Bickerton étaient en tête du tournoi de Perth, comptant pour le circuit européen masculin de golf, samedi à l'issue du troisième tour sur le parcours de The Vines Resort (par 72).

Raphaël Jacquelin, seulement 27e la veille, a quant à lui rendu une belle carte de 69 qui lui a permis de remonter à la troisième place, à deux coups du duo de tête. Il est à égalité avec l'étonnant amateur néo-zélandais Emory Lee, le constant Chilien Felipe Aguilar et l'Australien Terry Pilkadaris.

Tour de Californie: Levi Leipheimer sur la voie royale

SOLVANG - L'Américain Levi Leipheimer a fait un grand pas vers un troisième succès consécutif dans le Tour de Californie cycliste en s'adjugeant vendredi la 6e étape un contre-la-montre de 24km autour de Solvang qu'il avait déjà remporté avant ses succès en 2007 et 2008.

Son ami, compatriote et coéquipier chez Astana Lance Armstrong n'a pas connu la même fortune, relégué à la 14e place à plus d'une minute. Le Texan, qui n'avait plus couru de contre-la-montre depuis juillet 2005 sur le Tour de France, a rétrogradé de la 4e à la 6e place au classement général.

USA TIMES



A unique service from Headland Media

Monday, February 23, 2009

NEWS VIA SATELLITE FROM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST NEWSWIRES

Headland SatNews

'Slumdog' rules Oscars

LOS ANGELES - "Slumdog Millionaire" took the best-picture Academy Award and seven other Oscars on Sunday, including director for Danny Boyle, whose ghetto-to-glory story paralleled the film's unlikely rise to Hollywood's summit.

The other top winners: Kate Winslet, best actress for the Holocaust-themed drama "The Reader"; Sean Penn, best actor for the title role of "Milk"; Heath Ledger, supporting actor for "The Dark Knight"; and Penelope Cruz, supporting actress for "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

A story of hope amid squalor in Mumbai, India, "Slumdog Millionaire" came in with 10 nominations, its eight wins including adapted screenplay, cinematography, editing and both music Oscars (score and song).

"Just to say to Mumbai, all of you who helped us make the film and all of those of you who didn't, thank you very much. You

dwarf even this guy," Boyle said, holding up his directing Oscar.

The filmmakers accepted the best-picture trophy surrounded by both the adult professional actors who appeared among the cast of relative unknowns and some of the children Boyle cast from the slums of Mumbai.

The film follows the travails and triumphs of Jamal, an orphan who artfully dodges a criminal gang that mutilates children to make them more pitiable beggars. Jamal witnesses his mother's violent death, endures police torture and struggles with betrayal by his brother, while single-mindedly hoping to reunite with the lost love of his childhood.

Fate rewards Jamal, whose story unfolds through flashbacks as he recalls how he came to know the answers that made him a champion on India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

Investigator to lead stimulus oversight

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama plans to announce Monday a former Secret Service agent who helped expose lobbyists' corruption at the Interior Department as his pick to oversee the \$787 billion economic stimulus plan.

Obama is set to name Earl Devaney as chairman of the new Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board, an administration official said Sunday. Vice President Joe Biden also will be given a role coordinating oversight of stimulus spending.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because the White House had not made public the announcement.

Devaney, the inspector general of the Interior Department, helped turn up disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff's dealings at the department.

The department's No. 2 official, Steven Griles, pleaded guilty to charges he lied during congressional testimony based in part

on Devaney's investigation.

Obama has pledged the Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board to be an at-large body to oversee how the government spends billions allocated to help the flailing U.S. economy. But with dozens of agencies and departments involved, Obama wanted a central group to independently monitor where those funds are going.

Obama also planned to tap Biden to meet regularly with Cabinet members, governors and mayors to make sure their efforts were quick and effective. His reports to Obama were expected to be posted at the administration Web site devoted to the bill, Recovery.gov.

Obama was set to announce Devaney during a Monday meeting with governors, who have largely supported the economic stimulus package because it will direct billions to their states for schools, roads and technology.

WORLD NEWS

DEADLY EXPLOSION IN CAIRO

CAIRO - An explosion ripped into a famed bazaar in Cairo on Sunday, killing a French woman and wounding at least 21 people, most of them foreigners, the government said. An expert on Islamic extremism said it might have been a response to Israel's deadly offensive in Gaza last month.

Tourism is one of Egypt's major sources of foreign income and has been a target in past attempts to harm the government, which is now trying to negotiate a long-term Gaza cease-fire. Sunday's attack was the first on tourists in three years.

The blast hit the bustling main plaza at the Khan el-Khalili, a 650-year-old bazaar packed with tourists next to one of Cairo's most revered shrines, the Hussein mosque.

NETANYAHU TO WORK WITH U.S.

JERUSALEM - Israel's hard-line prime minister designate, Benjamin Netanyahu, promised Sunday to work with the United States to promote peace in the region as he sought to forge a moderate government with his chief rival - but did not reach a deal.

Netanyahu's crucial meeting with the moderate Tzipi Livni was intended to persuade her to ally with him in forming a new government and avoid an unwelcome alliance with ultra-nationalists to his right.

But after their meeting, Livni said the two were still at odds regarding talks with the Palestinians.

"We didn't reach any agreement. There are deep disagreements on this issue," she said. "This evening did not progress us on the core issues in a way that we can talk about a joint path."

ATHENS CONVICTS ESCAPE

ATHENS, Greece - The daring escape of two robbers from a high-security prison in Athens by helicopter - for the second time in less than three years - has rattled the Greek government, which has proceeded to dismiss three Justice Ministry officials.

Vassilis Paleokostas, 42, and Alket Rizaj, 34, were picked up by a helicopter that flew over the courtyard of Athens' Korydallos prison on Sunday afternoon. The inmates climbed a rope ladder thrown to them by a woman passenger, the Ministry of Justice said.

WEATHER

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

	Lo	Ht	
Amsterdam	35	42	Clear
Athens	32	44	Clear
Auckland	64	73	Rain
Berlin	26	32	Clear
Brussels	35	43	Clear
Buenos Aires	66	80	Rain
Cairo	57	62	Clear
Copenhagen	24	33	Clear
Dublin	39	48	Rain
Hong Kong	71	77	Rain
Istanbul	33	37	Clear
Jerusalem	49	51	Clear
Johannesburg	59	69	Clear
London	37	48	Clear
Madrid	33	60	Clear
Manila	77	91	Rain
Mexico City	50	75	Rain
Moscow	20	22	Clear
New Delhi	55	82	PCldy
Paris	33	44	Clear
Rome	33	44	Clear
Sao Paulo	66	80	Rain
Singapore	73	81	Rain
Stockholm	15	28	Clear
Sydney	66	80	Rain
Tokyo	37	55	PCldy
Toronto	24	32	Snow
Zurich	24	39	Clear

U.S. WEATHER

	H1	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	22	6	PCldy
Atlanta	48	34	Clear
Boston	42	29	Clear
Chicago	24	13	Clear
Dallas-Ft Worth	60	30	PCldy
Denver	61	26	PCldy
Great Falls	43	20	Cloudy
Houston	64	37	Clear
Kansas City	38	16	Clear
Las Vegas	70	52	Cloudy
Los Angeles	73	58	Cloudy
Miami Beach	81	59	Cloudy
Mpls-St Paul	18	1	Clear
New Orleans	57	44	Clear
New York City	44	34	Clear
Phoenix	78	55	Cloudy
Salt Lake City	48	35	Cloudy
San Francisco	57	64	Rain
Seattle	57	43	Rain
Washington, D.C.	42	36	Clear
National Temperature Extremes Sunday:			
High 83 at Nogales, Az.			
Low -12 at Wahpeton, N.D.			

Gov't mulls taking larger stake in Citi

WASHINGTON - Citigroup Inc. is reportedly negotiating with government officials to have the U.S. boost its stake in the troubled bank to as much as 40 percent, The Wall Street Journal said late Sunday, citing people familiar with the situation.

Such a move by Citigroup would result in the New York-based bank ceding far more control to the feds than executives likely desire, and would dilute shareholders' investments.

The Journal, which said Citigroup made the

proposal to its regulators, noted that sources say executives would prefer to keep the government's stake closer to 25 percent.

But with the company's shares trading at their lowest point in nearly two decades, Citigroup is seeking ways to stem further losses.

On Friday, shares of Citigroup fell 22 percent to close below \$2, and Bank of America Corp. shares also sank, as talk of the banks' nationalization spooked investors.

Charges in Curry's ex-girlfriend, baby case

CHICAGO - A 36-year-old attorney fatally shot the former girlfriend and infant daughter of New York Knicks player Eddy Curry during a domestic-related dispute, according to police and published reports.

Fredrick Goings of Chicago was charged Sunday with two counts of first-degree murder, Cook County State's Attorney spokeswoman Sally Daly said.

Police said Goings was arrested Friday evening as he was getting into his car outside a relative's place in Chicago. Goings has not made any statements to authorities and is not cooperating in the investigation, Lt. Denis Walsh said.

It was not immediately clear who was representing Goings. A message left at his Chicago law office Sunday was not returned.

Goings was due in bond court on Monday.

The bodies of 24-year-old Nova Henry and her 9-month-old daughter, Ava, were found in their Chicago apartment on Jan. 24. Both died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Henry also was the mother of ex-Chicago Bulls player Curry's 3-year-old son, who was found unharmed at the scene.

Court records show that Goings was Henry's attorney in a paternity case with Curry involving Ava.

According to the Chicago Tribune, records show that DNA tests confirmed Ava was Curry's daughter. Curry, through Knicks spokesman Jonathan Supranowitz, declined comment. Messages left Sunday for his attorney were not immediately returned.

Pa. boy accused of killing dad's girlfriend

WAMPUM, Pa. - Fifth-grader Jordan Brown boarded the bus and headed to school like he did most other mornings in this rural western Pennsylvania community.

But before he left home on Friday, authorities say, the 11-year-old boy had shot his father's pregnant fiancée in the back of the head as she lay in bed. He then put his youth model 20-gauge shotgun back in his room before going out to catch his bus, police say.

Brown was charged Saturday as an adult in the death of 26-year-old Kenzie Marie Houk, who was eight months pregnant, Lawrence County District Attorney John Bongivengo said. Houk's fetus died within minutes due to a lack of oxygen, Lawrence County Coroner Russell Noga said.

Houk's family and friends, who gathered at her parents' house Saturday night, told The Associated Press that there had been past problems with the boy.

8 years on, Levy family's grief endures

MODESTO, Calif. - In the first weeks after her only daughter disappeared, grief hit Susan Levy so hard she could not move from a fetal position on the living room couch.

By the time Chandra Levy's skull and bones were found in a park in the nation's capitol a year later, her mother had found enough strength to dial Washington police detectives to ask why it was taking so long to find her daughter's killer.

Now, eight years after Chandra's death, Susan Levy said the sudden news late Friday that police planned to arrest a Salvadoran immigrant in the slaying may resolve the crime, but it will do nothing to stem her family's heartache.

"This helps a little," said Levy, staring

listlessly in the den of her central California home. "But we still don't have our daughter and we have a life sentence without her. Grief is like a marathon. You don't get over it. It recycles itself."

Chandra Levy was 24 and had just completed an internship with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons when she disappeared in May 2001 after leaving her Washington, D.C., apartment.

After authorities questioned her congressman, Gary Condit, in the disappearance and revealed his affair with Levy, media from around the world descended on the family's split-level home amid the orchards of Modesto, a sleepy city 90 miles east of San Francisco.

Sebelius: No talks about health post

WASHINGTON - Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, mentioned as a top candidate for health secretary, said Sunday she has not talked with President Barack Obama about joining his Cabinet.

"There really isn't anything to tell. I haven't had any meetings about the position," Sebelius, 60, said in an interview with The Associated Press during the winter meeting of the National Governors Association.

Pressed on whether she had spoken to Obama about heading the Health and Human Services Department, Sebelius said, "I have

not."

Sebelius's name surfaced when former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Obama's first choice for health secretary, withdrew after disclosing he had failed to pay \$140,000 in taxes and interest.

Sebelius was an early Obama backer during the Democratic primary contest and a frequent surrogate to women's groups. She was a finalist for Obama's running mate and was mentioned as a Cabinet possibility after the election but withdrew from consideration in December, citing Kansas' budget problems.

Philly newspaper owner files for Chapter 11

PHILADELPHIA - The owner of The Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia Daily News filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Sunday in an effort to restructure its debt load.

Philadelphia Newspapers Inc., owned by Philadelphia Media Holdings LLC, is the second newspaper company in two days, and fourth in recent months, to seek bankruptcy protection.

"This restructuring is focused solely on our debt, not our operations," chief executive officer Brian P. Tierney said in a statement. "Our operations are sound and profitable."

The filing Sunday indicated the company

has between \$100 million and \$500 million in assets and liabilities in the same range.

The company said it will continue the normal operations of its newspapers, magazines and online businesses without interruption during the debt-restructuring process. In a story posted on its Web site Sunday, the company says it has a debt load of \$390 million.

"In the last two years, we experienced the rare trifecta of a dramatic decline in revenue, the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and a debt structure out of line with current economic realities," Tierney said.

First lady welcomes culinary students

WASHINGTON - First lady Michelle Obama opened the White House kitchen Sunday to six culinary students so they could learn about preparations for a big official dinner.

The first lady was joined by White House chef Cristeta Comerford, executive pastry chef Bill Yosses and social secretary Desiree Rogers. The group guided the students through the menu and planning for President Barack Obama's dinner with the nation's governors.

"This is where the magic happens," she told the students from the L'Academie de Cuisine in nearby Gaithersburg, Maryland, as they gathered in the main kitchen.

Mrs. Obama told them about the value she places on fresh and regionally grown food.

"That's one of the things that we're talking a lot about that, you know, when you grow something yourself and it's close and it's

local, oftentimes it tastes really good," she said. That's especially important, she added when trying to get kids to eat vegetables.

Comerford said she designed the menu for the governors dinner to reflect the season and represent the American spirit. It included beef from Nebraska, red dragon carrots from Ohio, sea scallops from Massachusetts and watermelon radishes grown in the Washington area. The dessert featured huckleberries from Idaho.

"We like to use regional specialties, natural and unadulterated whenever possible," Yosses said.

Asked for her favorite dishes served from the White House kitchen, Mrs. Obama said the waffles and grits at breakfast were particular family favorites. She also praised the soups and salads served for lunch.

CELEBRITY NEWS

HEEL BREAK AT OSCARS

We may not have even noticed, but Amanda Seyfried did when she briefly caught her heel in a stocking during that elaborate song-and-dance number she did with Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens and other young stars at Sunday's Oscars.

"I would feel a lot better if I hadn't," the disappointed "Mamma Mia!" co-star said as she came offstage. Efron, however, made light of the moment.

"We'll never be invited back," he joked. Turns out the "High School Musical" star had a little wardrobe malfunction of his own. His microphone had gotten tangled in his bow tie, and Hudgens had to untangle him when they got offstage.

ANISTON ROMANCE

The Oscars aren't all about winning. They're also about romance, as in Jennifer Aniston overheard backstage whispering into John Mayer's ear, "I really love you, every part of you."

The couple arrived at the backdoor entrance to the Kodak Theatre shortly before the show began. Perhaps indicating why they hadn't gotten there earlier, Mayer joked that it took Aniston three hours longer to get ready than him.

As the couple stood hand-in-hand, pre-show chaos unfolded all around them. At one point Ben Stiller sprinted by. A moment later, two crates filled with Oscars for the night's winners were carried toward the stage. "Wow!" Aniston exclaimed. "Do we have to stand and salute?"

NO FUSS FOR GOLDIE HAWN

Not every star who arrives at the Oscars strolls along the red carpet out front to the applause of thousands of star-struck fans. Some like to sneak in the back.

"It's so much nicer. No one's screaming," Goldie Hawn said as she arrived at a loading dock about 45 minutes before Sunday's Oscar show and slipped through a door that led directly to the Kodak Theatre's green room. Hawn, a best supporting actress winner in 1970, was accompanied by longtime beau Kurt Russell.

Although the show's producers kept a tight lid on who would be handing out awards during the show, word leaked out that a number of presenters and performers used the back way in to keep people watching at home in suspense.

Jerry Lewis awarded humanitarian Oscar

LOS ANGELES - Jerry Lewis, whose success as a philanthropist relied on his ability to endure round-the-clock telethons, accepted his humanitarian award Sunday with a moment of graceful brevity.

In a heartfelt - and mercifully short - speech, Lewis profusely thanked the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, which presented him its Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. The award was presented to the 82-year-old actor by Eddie Murphy, who starred in a remake of one of Lewis' signature roles, "The Nutty Professor."

Lewis is perhaps now best-known for his annual telethon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association as an advocate of "Jerry's Kids."

Holding his hand over his heart, Lewis softly said, "Thank you" after Murphy handed him his Oscar statuette.

"For most of my life I thought that doing good for someone didn't mean you would receive commendation for that act of kindness," Lewis said. "At least until now."

"This award touches my heart and the very

depth of my soul because of who the award is from, and those who will benefit."

The award is named after Hersholt, a Danish actor who co-founded the Motion Picture Relief Fund and served as an Academy president. The relief fund was established to help care for movie industry employees who couldn't pay for their own care.

Murphy also paid homage to Lewis' role as an actor, noting him as half of the comedic duo Martin and Lewis with Dean Martin.

"Jerry has had a huge influence on my career and the career of just about every other comic who's working in movies today," Murphy said.

The muscular dystrophy telethon has been broadcast on Labor Day since 1966, although Lewis' fundraising efforts began in the 1950s.

"The impact of his humanitarian efforts on people with muscle-wasting diseases is beyond measure," Muscular Dystrophy Association President Gerald C. Weinberg said in a statement released earlier this month.

DO YOU KNOW?

MUSIC: Who won a Grammy for the album 'Graceland'?

PEOPLE: Which superhero is Peter Parker's alter ego?

HISTORY: Which battle is also known as Custer's Last Stand?

(Answers on Page 8)

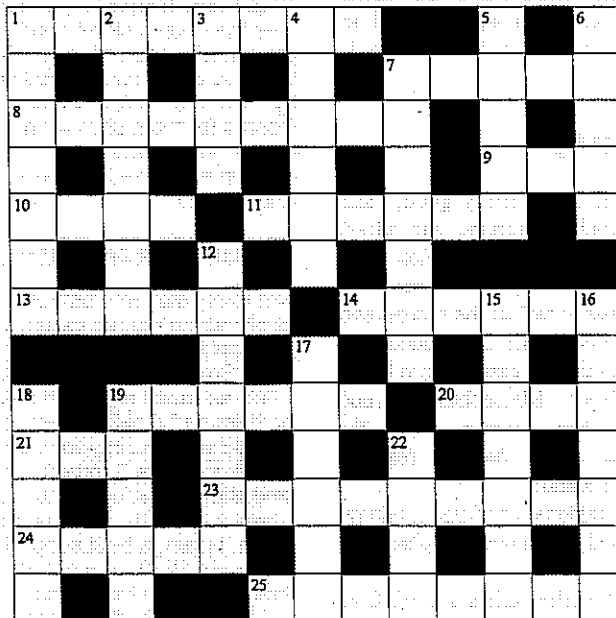
THAT'S ODD!

LATE INVITE

LA GRANDE, Ore. - An Oregon woman finally received an invitation to her nephew's high school graduation in New Jersey, but she may be a little late - it was in 1987.

Theresa Schlossarek, of La Grande, found the invitation last week in her mailbox. The envelope, which had been opened, was postmarked June 2, 1987, from Toms River, N.J., where her brother, Hermann Inseher, lives.

Headland SatNews CROSSWORD No. 54



SOLUTION

ACROSS, 1. Merchant, 7. Adept, 8. James Bond, 9. Run, 10. Save, 11. Albino, 13. Yelped, 14. Call up, 19. Gasket, 20. Kayo, 21. All, 23. Turn aside, 24. Merry, 25. Stanger. DOWN: 1. Majesty, 2. Removal, 3. Hush, 4. Noodle, 5. Repto, 6. Stump, 7. Admiral, 12. Density, 15. Leading, 16. Pioneer, 17. Ferret, 18. Magma, 19. Glory, 22. Gale.

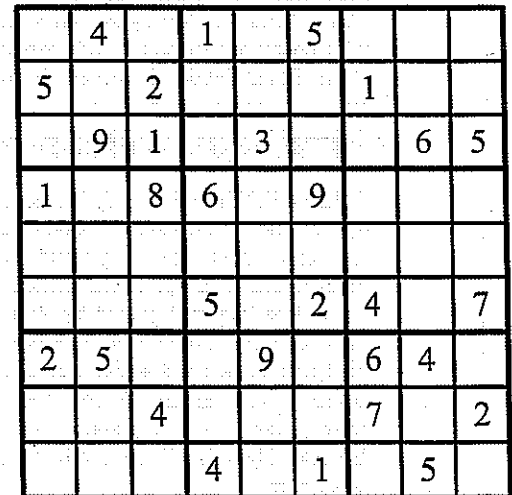
ACROSS

1. Trader (8)
7. Skilled (5)
8. 007 (5,4)
9. Naval spirit (3)
10. Rescue (4)
11. Pigment-deficient type (6)
13. Squealed (6)
14. Summon (4,2)
19. Engine seal (6)
20. Knock out (4)
21. Sicken (3)
23. Deflect (4,5)
24. Cheerful (5)
25. Unknown visitor (8)

DOWN

1. Great dignity (7)
2. Taking away (7)
3. Silence (4)
4. Ribbon pasta (6)
5. Copy (5)
6. Postal charge (5)
7. Fleet commander (7)
12. Obtuseness (7)
15. Going in front (7)
16. Ground breaker (7)
17. Root around (6)
18. Hot volcanic rock (5)
19. Exaltation (5)
22. Festive celebration (4)

Headland SatNews SUDOKU



RULES & SOLUTION

The object is to fill in the squares so that each row, column & box contains the numbers 1-9.

Numbers may not be repeated in the same column & row.

8	3	5	3	1	4	7	6	9
6	7	9	2	5	6	7	8	1
2	5	3	7	9	8	6	4	1
6	3	9	7	1	2	4	8	7
4	2	5	8	7	3	9	1	6
1	7	8	6	4	9	5	2	3
7	9	1	2	3	4	8	6	5
5	8	2	9	6	7	1	3	4
3	4	6	1	8	5	2	7	9

SPORTS NEWS

Nats GM part of federal investigation

Washington Nationals general manager Jim Bowden is part of a federal investigation into the skimming of signing bonuses given to prospects from Latin America, according to an SI.com report posted Sunday night.

The Web site reported, citing an unidentified baseball executive familiar with the investigation, the FBI is looking at Bowden's actions as far back as 1994, when he was GM of the Cincinnati Reds.

Bowden met last year with FBI investigators looking into an alleged scam involving skimming signing bonuses for prospects from the Dominican Republic.

Last year, the Chicago White Sox fired director of player personnel David Wilder and two other scouts in the club's Latin American operation after a two-month investigation by Major League Baseball's Department of Investigations.

The White Sox said the three were dismissed "for actions in Latin America that were violations of club policy and standards," but did not elaborate.

Findings from baseball's investigation were turned over to federal authorities.

SI.com reported that two unidentified sources inside baseball say that former Latin America scout Jorge Oquendo, who confirmed being contacted by the FBI to SI but denied skimming bonuses, has worked for Wilder and Bowden.

The SI.com report comes a day after the Nationals announced that special assistant Jose Rijo was taking a leave of absence after a Major League Baseball investigation revealed a prospect from the Dominican Republic he discovered was older than originally believed.

Rijo is a former major league pitcher and the MVP of the 1990 World Series for the Reds.

Earlier in the week, it was announced that prospect Esmailyn "Smiley" Gonzalez lied about his age and name. Gonzalez received a \$1.4 million signing bonus in 2006 when the Nationals signed what they thought was a 16-year-old shortstop.

The Nationals had been listing his date of birth as Sept. 21, 1989, which would make him 19. But Kasten said an MLB investigation determined Gonzalez is actually Carlos David Alvarez Lugo, who was born in November 1985 - meaning he is really 23.

SUNDAY'S SCOREBOARD

NBA

Indiana 98, Chicago 91
 Toronto 111, New York 100
 Boston 128, Phoenix 108
 Houston 99, Charlotte 78
 Milwaukee 120, Denver 117
 Orlando 122, Miami 99
 Portland 116, L.A. Clippers 87
 L.A. Lakers 111, Minnesota 108
 Cleveland 99, Detroit 78

NHL

Washington 5, Pittsburgh 2
 Carolina 5, Colorado 2
 Tampa Bay 4, Boston 3
 Minnesota 2, Chicago 1
 Toronto 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Top 25

Michigan St. (6) 61, Wisconsin 50
 Duke (9) 101, Wake Forest (8) 91
 Villanova (12) 89, Syracuse (24) 86
 Clemson (13) 81, Georgia Tech 73
 Arizona (14) 70, Arizona 68
 Xavier (16) 71, George Washington 53
 Illinois (18) 70, Ohio St. 68

Women's Top 25

Connecticut (1) 76, N. Dame (24) 66
 Auburn (3) 65, Georgia 59
 Maryland (9) 77, Duke (7) 59
 Florida St. (11) 59, Miami 58
 Tennessee (13) 82, Mississippi St. 68
 Florida (15) 82, South Carolina 66
 Mississippi 71, Vanderbilt (18) 69
 Ohio St. (20) 79, Indiana 67
 Kansas 58, Iowa St. (21) 47
 Virginia (23) 90, Boston College 70

Kenseth makes it two in a row

FONTANA, Calif. - Matt Kenseth's team has found some much-needed magic. After going through a winless and disappointing 2008, the former NASCAR Sprint Cup champion is 2-0 in 2009, adding a victory in Sunday's Auto Club 500 to his win the previous week in the Daytona 500.

"Just great team, great crew, great, great engines," Kenseth bubbled in the aftermath of his 18th career victory. "You just need everything to go right, really to win these races."

At Daytona, Kenseth took the lead moments before rain, which eventually cut the race short, began to fall.

Sunday's race was considerably more dramatic, with Kenseth fending off a determined challenge from four-time Cup champion Jeff Gordon to win for the third time on the 2-mile Auto Club Speedway oval. Kenseth took the lead from Gordon in the pits under caution with 38 laps to go in the 250-lap race and stayed ahead, pulling away over the last 20 laps. But it took a while for the winner to shake Gordon, who went also went winless last year and is desperate to get back to Victory Lane.

"I honestly thought that we were going to be too loose at the end and he was going to catch us," Kenseth said. "Especially (when) I couldn't get away from him that time he ran me down and got right on my bumper (on lap 231)."

But get away he did, beating Gordon's No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet to the finish line by 1.464 seconds - most of the front straightaway.

It is the first time a Cup driver has won the first two races of the season since Gordon did it in 1997 on the way to the second of his four championships.

The key to Kenseth's win Sunday was a near-perfect pit stop that put him in the lead on lap 213.

Rondo, Allen lead Celtics past Suns

PHOENIX - Rajon Rondo was off and running, and Kevin Garnett was hardly missed.

Rondo scored a career-high 32 points to go with 10 assists on his 23rd birthday in Boston's 128-108 victory over the Suns on Sunday.

"As Rondo goes, this team goes," Celtics All-Star Paul Pierce said. "If he plays as well as he's playing, then there's no way we can lose."

Each team was without an All-Star starter because of injury. The Celtics did just fine without Garnett. Phoenix sorely missed Amare Stoudemire.

"We've got a lot of work to do," Suns point guard Steve Nash said.

Ray Allen scored 31 and Pierce 26 in Boston's first game since Garnett went down with a strained muscle in his right knee that is expected to sideline him for at least two weeks.

"Guys step up and play their roles even better when Kevin is out," Rondo said.

Phoenix will have a much tougher time compensating for the loss of leading scorer and rebounder Stoudemire following eye surgery on Friday. He won't be able to resume physical activity for about eight weeks.

The Celtics blistered Phoenix with 6 percent shooting. Rondo made 13-of-18 an Allen 10-of-15. After going 1-for-8 in the first half, Pierce was 7-for-9 in the second. He was 10-for-10 at the foul line.

The catalyst was Rondo. The Suns had no one who could defend him.

"Going into the game we thought that Rondo's speed was a huge advantage for us," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "I told him to be just ultra-aggressive, just attack, attack attack."

Jason Richardson scored 21 for the Suns in their first loss in four games under new coach Alvin Gentry. Steve Nash added 19 points and 11 assists. Leandro Barbosa scored 18 and Shaquille O'Neal 17 for Phoenix.

It was an end to a tumultuous week for the Suns that began with the firing of coach Terry Porter. His replacement Gentry returned the team to its old ultra-fast style, and the Suns went on to win three straight under the new coach.

Magic top Heat despite Wade's big night

ORLANDO, Fla. - It's not too often Orlando Magic coach Stan Van Gundy can crack jokes after watching one of the NBA's best players have a career game against his team. Then again, allowing such a performance doesn't usually come in a blowout win.

Dwight Howard had 32 points and 17 rebounds, and the Magic withstood a career-high 50 points by Dwyane Wade to rout the Miami Heat 122-99 on Sunday.

"My concern is when Dwyane goes into the Hall of Fame and they start putting off his top career games, it's going to be like 50 versus Orlando," Van Gundy joked.

"We're going to fill up the entire screen. So, I don't know what to tell you. When I coached Dwyane I really liked him, but I'm not so sure anymore. Our relationship is strained."

Hedo Turkoglu had 20 points and Rafer Alston added 12 points and nine assists for the Magic, who have won 12 of the past 15 games against their Sunshine State rival.

Wade was potent from inside and out, scoring with high-flying dunks and soaring jumpers that had even some Magic fans chanting "M-V-P!" Miami's do-it-all guard had previously scored 48 twice in his career, and had 43 points two times earlier this season.

But the lopsided loss put a damper on his performance.

"It's great to know you can score 50 points, but it would be better to walk away with a win," said Wade, who was 17-for-30 shooting from the floor. "It's bittersweet. No player alone can carry everything."

He sure tried.

Wade hit a pair of 3-pointers in an 11-4 Heat run to start the third quarter, closing the gap to 68-57. But the Magic would come back with a series of 3s to go ahead 91-72 at the end of the period to offset Wade's performance.

The Heat never got close in the fourth, and Miami coach Erik Spoelstra cleared most of the bench midway through the period -except for Wade, who was left in until his shot over Courtney Lee gave him 50 points.

Bargnani leads Raptors over Knicks

TORONTO - Anthony Parker and the Toronto Raptors didn't have to wait very long to avenge an ugly loss at Madison Square Garden.

Andrea Bargnani had 28 points and 10 rebounds on Sunday to help Toronto beat New York 111-100 two days after absorbing a 30-point loss against the Knicks.

"We wanted to come out and set a different tone from the beginning and just let them know that this isn't going to be that kind of night," said Parker, who finished with 24 points.

Each of Toronto's starters reached double figures and four of the five had double-doubles. Shawn Marion had 16 points and 15 rebounds, and Chris Bosh added 11 points and 12 boards. Jose Calderon had 13 points and 11 assists.

"It's good the way this team responded to adversity," Bosh said. "It's all about effort. We played good defense, we rebounded the ball well and, for the first time in a very long time, we ran the fast break well."

The Raptors added the athletic Marion in a Feb. 13 trade with Miami and hope to make running a priority for the remainder of the season.

"When you're able to do that the game comes naturally, it starts feeling better," Marion said. "That's when you start feeling the rhythm and everything starts coming together."

Al Harrington scored 31 points and David Lee had 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Knicks, who have lost nine straight games in Toronto and 11 of 12 overall against the Raptors. Chris Duhon finished with 17 points.

Duke tops No. 8 Wake

DURHAM, N.C. - Mike Krzyzewski usually hides his emotions pretty well on Duke's bench, but Coach K couldn't help himself for this one. He pumped his fist to fire up his players, then ditched the sportcoat that he's never seen without.

"I told them, I'm not going to tell you we have to win it," Krzyzewski said. "I'm going to tell you we're going to win it."

Then, Gerald Henderson went out and proved him right.

Henderson scored a career-high 35 points and the ninth-ranked Blue Devils held on to beat No. 8 Wake Forest 101-91 on Sunday night.

Jon Scheyer added a career-high 30 points in his second straight start at point guard for the Blue Devils (22-5, 8-4 Atlantic Coast Conference). They twice led by 22 points in the first half and let the Demon Deacons creep within two points before finally putting them away with a late 16-6 run keyed by Henderson.

He led Duke to a critical victory that moved it into a three-way tie for second in the league standings behind North Carolina. Now, the Blue Devils finish the season with three of its final four games away from cozy Cameron Indoor Stadium.

That's why Coach K made it a point to impress the importance of this game on his players.

"You could tell (Krzyzewski's) intensity level had risen a little bit," Henderson said. "We want to win this league, and we're still fighting for first place. His intensity and his passion is something that leads us, and we just follow his lead."

Jeff Teague scored 28 points and James Johnson added 26 for the Demon Deacons (20-5, 7-5). They shot 61 percent but allowed Duke to hit 54 percent of its attempts - the worst performance of the season by the ACC's stingiest defense.

Mickelson avoids a meltdown to win at Riviera

LOS ANGELES - On the verge of blowing the biggest lead of his career, Phil Mickelson turned his fortunes around in the final hour at Riviera with back-to-back birdies that carried him to a one-shot victory Sunday in the Northern Trust Open.

Mickelson went from a four-shot lead at the start of the final round to a two-shot deficit with three holes to play. But he hit 9-iron to 5 feet for birdie on the 16th, holed a 6-foot birdie on the 17th and saved par with a 6-foot putt on the final hole.

He closed with a 1-over 72 to become only the fourth player to win back-to-back years at Riviera.

"I'm pleased to be sitting here as the champion," Mickelson said. "And it was not easy. I had a five-shot lead and I let it slide. The good thing was that I was able to fight hard. Even though I didn't have my best stuff, I was able to fight through it."

Steve Stricker closed with a 67 and was on his way to the range to get ready for a playoff when he saw Mickelson leave himself a tough par putt on the final hole, and stopped when he heard the cheer.

"It's just a little disappointing when you don't finish it off, or have the opportunity to finish it off," he said. "And I didn't."

Stricker missed a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-5 17th that would have given him a three-shot lead at the time, then missed a 12-footer for par on the 18th.

But the real heartache belonged to Fred Couples.

Colts' Harrison reluctant to take pay cut

INDIANAPOLIS - Marvin Harrison's reluctance to take a pay cut could mark the end of his career in Indianapolis.

Colts president Bill Polian told reporters Sunday at the NFL's annual scouting combine that the team was trying to rework Harrison's deal to lower the receiver's salary cap number from approximately \$13.4 million, the highest number of any wide out in the NFL.

But a person familiar with the negotiations, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the team has not made an announcement, later told The Associated Press that Harrison "probably would not be interested in" reducing his base salary.

If Harrison decides against a redoing his contract, the only other options for the Colts would be to keep Harrison at his cap number or to release him.

Harrison has been one of the Colts' most identifiable players since their move to Indianapolis. He ranks No. 2 in the NFL in career receptions (1,102) and holds all of the franchise's major career and season receiving records.

He is also 36 years old, coming off one of the least productive seasons of his career - he missed all but five games in 2007 - and with the Colts in a salary cap crunch, Polian may not be able to keep Harrison at his current price.

Next year's cap is expected to be \$123 million.

"The new cap rules, that's not something we planned for," Polian said. "As a result, we have some issues with veterans, including Marvin. Hopefully, we'll find a way to work through that. I don't know if we will, but we hope to."

Since being drafted by the Colts in 1996, Harrison has been a model of consistency.

Anderson agrees to deal with Braves

ATLANTA - The Atlanta Braves shored up their outfield Sunday after being spurned by Ken Griffey Jr., reaching a preliminary agreement with Garret Anderson on a one-year deal.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	12	.789	-
Philadelphia	27	27	.500	16 1/2
New Jersey	24	32	.429	20 1/2
New York	23	32	.418	21
Toronto	22	36	.379	23 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	41	14	.745	-
Atlanta	32	23	.582	9
Miami	29	26	.527	12
Charlotte	22	34	.393	19 1/2
Washington	13	43	.232	28 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	43	11	.796	-
Detroit	27	27	.500	16
Milwaukee	28	31	.475	17 1/2
Chicago	25	31	.446	19
Indiana	24	34	.414	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	37	17	.685	-
Houston	35	21	.625	3
Dallas	33	22	.600	4 1/2
New Orleans	32	22	.593	5
Memphis	15	40	.273	22 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	37	19	.661	-
Portland	35	20	.636	1 1/2
Utah	33	23	.589	4
Minnesota	18	37	.327	18 1/2
Oklahoma City	13	43	.232	24

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	46	10	.821	-
Phoenix	31	24	.564	14 1/2
Golden State	20	36	.357	26
L.A. Clippers	13	43	.232	33
Sacramento	12	45	.211	34 1/2

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	38	19	3	79	182	151
Philadelphia	31	17	9	71	189	169
N.Y. Rangers	31	23	7	69	151	170
Pittsburgh	29	26	6	64	185	191
N.Y. Islanders	18	35	6	42	144	198

Northeast Division

Boston	40	12	8	88	200	137
Montreal	31	22	7	69	184	184
Buffalo	31	23	6	68	179	168
Toronto	22	26	12	56	180	219
Ottawa	22	27	9	53	144	168

Southeast Division

Washington	38	17	5	81	201	172
Florida	30	21	8	68	166	159
Carolina	31	25	5	67	162	176
Tampa Bay	20	28	12	52	152	191
Atlanta	21	33	6	48	176	211

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

Detroit	39	13	8	86	228	177
Chicago	34	16	8	76	194	143
Columbus	30	24	6	66	165	169
Nashville	28	28	4	60	142	168
St. Louis	25	26	8	58	165	178

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Northwest Division

Calgary	35	18	6	76	187	173
Vancouver	30	21	8	68	181	170
Minnesota	30	24	4	64	151	135
Edmonton	29	25	5	63	165	182
Colorado	28	31	1	57	165	186

Pacific Division

San Jose	40	8	9	89	199	140
Dallas	29	22	7	65	174	179
Anaheim	29	27	5	63	173	177
Los Angeles	25	24	9	59	155	170
Phoenix	27	28	5	59	156	184

Anderson is expected to undergo a physical on Monday or Tuesday, according to a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal hadn't been finalized.

The Braves thought Griffey was going to join them Wednesday but he decided to return to the Seattle Mariners, where he started his career.

The jilted Braves were surprised by Griffey's decision but they bounced back quickly with the acquisition of Anderson, who hit .293 with 15 homers and 84 RBIs in 145 games with the Los Angeles Angels last year.

Anderson joins an outfield that produced only 27 homers last season, worst in the majors. He could platoon in left with the righty-hitting Matt Diaz.

A three-time All-Star, Anderson had spent his entire career with the Angels and holds several franchise records, including games played (2,013), runs scored (1,024), hit (2,368), doubles (489), total bases (3,743) and RBIs (1,292). He ranks second in home runs (272) and career batting average (.296).

Anderson helped the Angels win the World Series in 2002, hitting .300 with two homer and 13 RBIs in the postseason. Los Angeles declined to pick up his \$14 million option after last season, instead paying a \$3 million buyout.

The Braves are counting on Anderson to provide steady play in an outfield full of question marks.

Oklahoma's Griffin day-to-day

NORMAN, Okla. - Preseason All-American Blake Griffin's status was uncertain for No. 1 Oklahoma's game against Kansas on Monday night after he sustained a concussion in a loss to Texas.

Sooners coach Jeff Capel said Griffin would be held out of practice Sunday, but he won't know until game day whether his star player will be able to go against the 15th-ranked Jayhawks on Monday night in a game that will give one team the lead in the Big 12 title race.

"The most important thing is him and his future. You don't want to do anything to risk any further damage, so that's the most important thing," Capel said before practice Sunday. "We're going to proceed with caution with this and make sure he's OK."

"And we'll move on whichever way we have to, with him or without."

Griffin averages 22 points and an NCAA-best 13.8 rebounds and leads the nation with 22 double-doubles this season. He was hurt Saturday night when he caught an inadvertent shot to the face from the open hand of Dexter Pittman, Texas' 300-pound center.

Griffin sat out the second half and appeared dazed at times as he sat on the bench during the Sooners' 73-68 loss. Capel said he knew when he saw Griffin stagger off the court at halftime that his 6-foot-10 forward wouldn't be returning to the game.

Ovechkin gets his 43rd, Caps dismiss Pens

WASHINGTON - Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals put their biggest rival firmly in the rear view mirror Sunday, thumping Sidney Crosby and the Pittsburgh Penguins with a 5-2 victory that included a dismissive goodbye wave from one superstar to the other.

Ovechkin scored his league-leading 43rd goal, one of five Capitals to find the net, and Washington chased goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury in the second period in a blowout that should settle any doubt the tide has turned in a series that used to be one-sided in favor of the Penguins.

The Capitals are 3-0 against Pittsburgh this season and 4-1-1 since Bruce Boudreau became coach 15 months ago. Before Boudreau, the Capitals were 1-7-1 in their previous nine games in the series, giving Crosby the early bragging rights over Ovechkin in what the NHL hopes will be a long rivalry between its young marquee talents.

Roddick wins 1st title of 2009 in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee - Andy Roddick won his first title of 2009 and the 27th of his career Sunday, beating Czech Radek Stepanek 7-5, 7-5 in the finals of the Regions Morgan Keegan Championships.

NOW YOU KNOW!

MUSIC: Paul Simon won a Grammy for the album 'Graceland'.

PEOPLE: Spiderman is Peter Parker's alter ego.

HISTORY: The battle of the Little Big Horn was Custer's Last Stand.

81ST ANNUAL OSCARS WINNERS

Complete list of winners at the 81st annual Academy Awards, presented Sunday night at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles:

- Motion Picture: "Slumdog Millionaire."
- Actor: Sean Penn, "Milk."
- Actress: Kate Winslet, "The Reader."
- Supporting Actor: Heath Ledger, "The Dark Knight."
- Supporting Actress: Penelope Cruz, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."
- Director: Danny Boyle, "Slumdog Millionaire."
- Foreign Film: "Departures," Japan.
- Adapted Screenplay: Simon Beaufoy, "Slumdog Millionaire."
- Original Screenplay: Dustin Lance Black, "Milk."
- Animated Feature Film: "WALL-E."
- Art Direction: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."
- Cinematography: "Slumdog Millionaire."
- Sound Mixing: "Slumdog Millionaire."
- Sound Editing: "The Dark Knight."
- Original Score: "Slumdog Millionaire," A.R. Rahman.
- Original Song: "Jai Ho" from "Slumdog Millionaire," A.R. Rahman and Gulzar.
- Costume: "The Duchess."
- Documentary Feature: "Man on Wire."
- Documentary (short subject): "Smile Pinki."
- Film Editing: "Slumdog Millionaire."
- Makeup: "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."
- Animated Short Film: "La Maison en Petits Cubes."
- Live Action Short Film: "Spielzeugland (Toyland)."

Only Roger Federer (57) and Rafael Nadal (32) have won more titles among active players. Roddick confirmed Friday that he wouldn't defend his title at Dubai. He said he wasn't happy about the denial of a visa to Israeli player Shahar Peer by the United Arab Emirates for the women's event this week.

But Roddick read a report that a hernia was his reason for withdrawing.

"There's no other reason. Obviously, I don't have a hernia. I probably wouldn't have played too well today. I would ask you guys to check but that might be inappropriate. I'm 100 percent healthy," Roddick said.

Roddick got a bit of revenge for losing to Stepanek in the semifinals in San Jose last week and improved to 5-1 all-time against the man trying to become the first Czech to win in Memphis since Ivan Lendl in 1991.

Leipheimer captures third straight Tour of California

ESCONDIDO, Calif. - The climb up a snowcapped mountain during the final stage certainly gave the Tour of California a European feel, as well as the spectators dressed in an array of costumes from a devil to an overweight guy wearing only a lime-green thong.

So did the presence of seven-time Tour de France Lance Armstrong, although his role this time was simply as a teammate.

With a boost from Armstrong and a tough mountain to climb, Levi Leipheimer won his third straight Tour of California on Sunday.

It was somewhat of an anticlimactic finish, considering that Leipheimer had taken over the lead in the nine-day race last Monday and never gave it up.

"It's the sweetest victory of the three," Leipheimer said. "It's hard to describe. I mean, to keep a streak going like that, it just becomes so difficult. I told Lance this week that I don't know how the hell he won seven times in the Tour de France. I've got a lot of respect for that because the pressure builds, the expectations are higher and you can't get second place because that's losing."

Leipheimer was ninth in the final stage and finished with an overall time of 31 hours, 28 minutes, 21 seconds. His winning margin was 36 seconds over David Zabriskie of Garmin-Slipstream. He came into Sunday's eighth stage with the same margin over Zabriskie.

Armstrong, who began a comeback last month, spent this race in support of Leipheimer, his Astana teammate. The seven-time Tour de France winner finished 31st in Sunday's stage and seventh overall, 1 minute, 46 seconds behind Leipheimer.



ISRAELI LEADER FIRES TRUCE NEGOTIATOR

JERUSALEM (AP) - Prime Minister Ehud Olmert dismissed Israel's top negotiator in Gaza truce talks for publicly criticizing his demand that Palestinian militants hand over a captured Israeli soldier before any deal is clinched, officials said Monday.

The move threatens to roil the talks just weeks before Olmert is succeeded by the hawkish Benjamin Netanyahu, who wants Gaza's Hamas rulers toppled and likely would take a tougher line in the Egyptian-brokered truce negotiations.

N. KOREA PREPARING SATELLITE LAUNCH

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - North Korea said Tuesday it is preparing to shoot a satellite into orbit, its clearest reference yet to an impending launch that neighbors and the U.S. suspect will be a provocative test of a long-range missile.

The statement from the North's space technology agency comes amid growing international concern that the communist nation is gearing up to fire a version of its most advanced missile - capable of reaching the U.S. - in coming days, in violation of a U.N. Security Council resolution.

North Korea asserted last week it has the right to "space development" - words the regime has used in the past to disguise a missile test.

YVES AUCTION FETCHES RECORD PRICE FOR MATISSE

PARIS (AP) - A painting by Henri Matisse sold Monday for euro32.1 million (US \$41.1m) - a record auction price for a work by the artist - at an art sale from the estate of Yves Saint Laurent, Christie's said.

The sale came at the start of a three-day Paris auction of art from the collection of the late French fashion designer that some are calling "the sale of the century."

Sales reached euro206 million (\$263.6m) in the auction's first day - marked by six world record prices for works by individual artists at auction, Christie's auction house said.

RCMP officer 'feared for safety' when confronting Dziekanski

By James Keller

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - Robert Dziekanski took a "combative stance" with his fist clenched around a stapler, causing at least one RCMP officer to fear for his safety before the Polish man was stunned with a Taser at Vancouver's airport.

But Const. Gerry Rundel told a public inquiry into Dziekanski's death Monday that it was a far less threatening motion - turning away from the officers and tossing his hands in the air - that justified using a Taser.

Rundel is the first of the four officers to appear at the inquiry, recounting for the first time publicly the officers' recollection of the final moments of Dziekanski's life.

He said he and the other officers were on a dinner break at the airport RCMP detachment on Oct. 14, 2007, when they received a call

over their radios about an intoxicated man throwing luggage around the international terminal.

They arrived within minutes, headed straight for Dziekanski and tried talking with him briefly, even though they were told by a witness that he didn't speak English.

Rundel said Dziekanski reached for his luggage, prompting the supervising officer, Cpl. Monty Robinson, to shout "No" and motion for Dziekanski to stop, which he did.

Dziekanski then turned around, lifted his hands in the air and started to walk away.

At some point after that, Dziekanski picked up a stapler and when he turned back toward the officers, Rundel said he was holding the stapler up by his chest with his other hand in a fist.

Retail sales plunge shows problems not all from afar

By Julian Beltrame

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - The Canadian economy took a beating in December, with retail sales plunging a Scrooge-like 5.4 per cent, the largest such fall in 15 years, as consumers stayed away from stores and auto dealerships during the traditional high-spending month.

Retail figures released Monday by Statistics Canada suggest that weak consumer spending and a sagging housing market are adding to an already battered export sector to drag the economy more deeply into recession.

"We can't just point our finger at the U.S. and the rest of the world and say, 'There's our problem,'" noted economist Douglas Porter of BMO Capital Markets.

"We've also seen a deep drop in domestic indicators as well, like housing and now consumer spending."

The latest retail number may also go a long way toward dispelling the notion that Canada's economy is far healthier than that of the U.S., the so-called epicentre of the global crisis.

Harper in NY to capitalize on post-Obama profile

By Lee-Anne Goodman

NEW YORK (The Canadian Press) - Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited the financial capital of the world Monday to capitalize on the goodwill from last week's Barack Obama love-in and extol Canada's virtues to an American audience notorious for ignoring its northern neighbours.

"Raising some base-level awareness about Canada is important," Kory Teneycke, Harper's communications director, said as his boss met with U.S. business leaders at the headquarters of information giant Thomson Reuters in mid-town Manhattan.

It was just the first of more such visits to come, said Teneycke, who characterized Harper's foray to the Big Apple as the beginning of what he billed as the biggest-ever U.S. media blitz launched by a Canadian prime minister.

"There's an appreciation that communicating to the American public right now, and more broadly to an international realm, is good."

Flaherty warns budget delay will hurt economy

By Julian Beltrame

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says the country's economy is in too much trouble to allow partisan debates to delay implementation of the federal government's \$40-billion stimulus package.

In a combative performance before the House finance committee Monday, Flaherty said parliament must pass the budget he tabled last month before April or risk setting the economic recovery back.

"The first step is to adopt this bill quickly," he said. "This is not a time for business as usual."

Afterwards, he described the state of the Canadian economy as a "crisis" that is being confirmed almost daily by new reports of weakness, including Monday's report of retail sales dropping 5.4 per cent in December, the steepest in 15 years.

Villagers blame Canadians for death of children

By Murray Brewster

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (The Canadian Press) - Angry Afghan villagers chanted "Death to the Canadians" and paraded the blood-spattered bodies of two young children through the streets of Kandahar city Monday after a tribal elder accused Canada of firing the shell that killed them.

Residents of the village of Salehan, about 15 kilometres southwest of the city, staged an angry protest outside the white gates of the Kandahar provincial council office after an elder in the war-racked district of Panjwahi laid the blame for the tragedy at the feet of Canadian forces.

The allegation, which prompted the army to launch an immediate investigation, was one of several conflicting accounts to emerge Monday about exactly what caused the fatal explosion.

The protest, however, left little doubt that the tragedy had shaken the village - a community financed in part by Mohammed Bin Rashid, the ruler of Dubai, and dedicated, ironically, to housing those maimed and dismembered by war - to its foundations.

CBC airs videotape of kidnapped journalist

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - A videotaped recording emerged Monday of a Vancouver journalist who was abducted last year in northern Pakistan - and who says she's in the hands of the Taliban.

TESTS SHOW MAD TRAPPER WASN'T REALLY CANADIAN

By Bob Weber

EDMONTON (The Canadian Press) - Advanced technology that helps police crack cold murder cases has helped TV producers prove that one of Canada's most notorious criminals wasn't actually Canadian.

"A lot of people thought that he might be Canadian and we know that isn't the case," Carrie Gour of Myth Merchant Films said Monday.

Myth Merchant is making a documentary on attempts to discover the true identity of the Mad Trapper of Rat River, who entered Arctic lore when he died in a gun battle with police after a brutal mid-winter manhunt that cost the life of an RCMP constable.

Police began chasing the man they later identified as Albert Johnson in January 1932 after he shot and nearly killed an officer who wanted to ask him about complaints that someone was interfering with traplines near Fort McPherson, N.W.T.

RCMP responded by dynamiting Johnson's cabin, but the wily bushman survived and led police with dogs on a spectacular two-week chase that was followed across the continent on the then-new medium of radio. When officers eventually reached him, Johnson shot one of them dead and escaped again.

Despite travelling on foot and not being able to build a fire or hunt, he somehow crossed the Richardson Mountains in the middle of a blizzard. It took the first aerial search in Canadian history - by First World War flying ace Wilfred (Wop) May - to eventually find him.

Beverly Giesbrecht, who adopted the name Khadija Abdul Qahaar when she converted to Islam in 2002, was on a freelance assignment for the Al Jazeera network when she disappeared Nov. 11 while travelling in the Bannu district in Pakistan near the Afghan border.

In the segment of the recording aired Monday on CBC Newsworld, a visibly nervous Giesbrecht, 52, is flanked on either side by masked gunmen armed with assault rifles.

"I was kidnapped by the Taliban the second time I went to Bannu," Giesbrecht says in the video, her voice trembling.

Giesbrecht goes on to say she's unsure of her location, but believes she's in the "American area" of the Afghan border region and says there are "air raids," describing her location as the "war zone."

Judge acquits Ahenakew of wilfully promoting hate

By Chris Purdy

SASKATOON (The Canadian Press) - A judge has vindicated David Ahenakew in a case involving Anti-Semitic comments he made in 2002, but the former aboriginal leader says he's not sure if he will rejoice in the world of First Nations politics.

"I don't know if I have the stomach for it anymore," he said, outside Saskatoon court following his acquittal Monday. "I'm not going to push one way or the other."

Provincial court Judge Wilfred Tucker found Ahenakew not guilty of wilfully promoting hatred against Jews but chided him for the controversial comments.

Tucker said the remarks were "revolting, disgusting and untrue." But he ruled Ahenakew, 75, didn't intend to promote hate when he made them.

Teen shot on Toronto bus

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Police were looking for two suspects after a 17-year-old boy was shot Monday on a Toronto transit bus in the city's north west end.

Officers responded to a call about the shooting shortly after 1 p.m. and found a victim with a gunshot wound that was described by police as non-life-threatening.

Police say the suspects and victim knew each other and got into an altercation on the bus.

Film star appears in courtroom in sex scandal case

By Terri Theodore

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - Sexually explicit photos of some of China's most famous female stars spread like a virus over the Internet, and now the man who took them says he wants to protect the innocence of those women - even if it means refusing to testify in court.

Chinese film star Edison Chen told a Vancouver judge Monday he will not reveal anything of an intimate nature regarding any of the women in the photos.

"They have suffered enough. I believe it's wrongdoing to them for me to state facts that I believe are irrelevant to this case," Chen said in B.C. Supreme Court, where he was testifying for a trial taking place back in China.

The unusual hearing is taking place to get Chen's testimony for the trial of Ho Chu Sze in China. Sze faces three counts of obtaining access to a computer with illegal intent for allegedly stealing the private photos from Chen's computer.

CLOSING STOCK INDEXES

		Feb 23	Feb 20
Toronto	TSE-300	7647.67	7949.99
New York	D-J	7114.78	7365.67
New York	Nasdaq	1387.72	1441.23
London	FT-100	3950.72	3889.06
Tokyo	Nikkei	9576.16	7416.38

TORONTO MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of	Mon Feb 23	18:01:58	
HRZ CrdOilBI	HOU=T	4.27	-0.39
Nvg Chem	NCX=T	6.49	+4.83
Blu Noteo	BN=T	0.01	+0.01
Bom drBSV	BBD/B=T	2.63	-0.17
ISH resCDN60	XIU=T	11.57	-0.47
Man LifeFin	MFC=T	12.53	-0.59
Roy Bank	RY=T	25.82	-1.25
Te ComBSV	TCK/B=T	9.68	+0.02
CGI ipASV	GIB/A=T	9.88	-0.08
Red orpVeno	RDV=T	0.01	-0.01

NH

San Jose 1, Dallas 0

NBA

New York	123	Indiana	119
New Jersey	98	Philadelphia	96
Utah	108	Atlanta	89
Boston	114	Denver	76
New Orleans	112	Sacramento	105
L.A. Clippers	118	Golden State	105

NH STANDINGS

EA STERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	38	19	3	79	182	151
Philadelphia	31	27	9	71	189	169
N.Y. Rangers	31	23	7	69	151	170
Pittsburgh	29	26	6	64	185	191
N.Y. Islanders	18	35	6	42	144	198

Northeast Division

Boston	40	12	8	88	200	137
Montreal	31	22	7	69	184	184
Buffalo	31	23	6	68	179	168
Toronto	22	26	12	56	180	219
Ottawa	22	27	9	53	144	168

Southwest Division

Washington	38	17	5	81	201	172
Florida	30	21	8	68	166	159
Carolina	31	25	5	67	162	176
Tampa Bay	20	28	12	52	152	191
Atlanta	21	33	6	48	176	211

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

Detroit	39	13	8	86	228	177
Chicago	34	16	8	76	194	143
Columbus	30	24	6	66	165	169
Nashville	28	28	4	60	142	168
St. Louis	25	26	8	58	165	178

Northwest Division

Calgary	35	18	6	76	187	173
Vancouver	30	21	8	68	181	170
Minnesota	30	24	4	64	151	135
Edmonton	29	25	5	63	165	182
Colorado	28	31	1	57	165	186

Pacific Division

San Jose	41	8	9	91	200	140
Dallas	29	23	7	65	174	180
Anaheim	29	27	7	63	173	177
Phoenix	27	28	8	58	156	184
Los Angeles	25	24	9	59	155	170

Game show legend condemns zoo over elephant

By Dean Bennett

EDMONTON (The Canadian Press) - TV game-show legend Bob Barker took aim at the City of Edmonton Monday, accusing it of "torturing" Lucy the elephant by keeping her sick and isolated at its Valley Zoo.

"The isolation is sheer torture for this elephant. Lucy is being tortured," Barker said in an interview from Hollywood, Calif.

"If she were alone any place she would be suffering, but alone in that building seven months out of the year, it's incredible to me she's even alive."

Zoo officials, however, say Lucy is fine and that the 85-year-old TV icon is getting some poor information.

More than 100 acts to hit stages for JunoFest

By Greg Joyce and Sunny Dhillon

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - A live downtown concert by local band Said The Whale kicked off the beginning of what is sure to be a killer month for Vancouver music fans, leading up to the annual Juno Awards.

The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences announced the lineup Monday for JunoFest 2009.

The festival, held on March 27 and 28, the same weekend as the awards ceremony, will feature more than 100 musical acts from throughout Canada.

More than half of those participating have been chosen locally to highlight Vancouver's rich and diverse music scene.

TSX hits October 2003 levels

By Malcolm Morrison

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The Toronto stock market fell to levels not seen in more than five years on Monday as a fresh wave of pessimism trumped assurances from U.S. regulators on the financial system.

"There's just a lot of fear in the air and I don't think investors really know what to do," said Adrian Mastracci, portfolio manager at KCM Wealth Management in Vancouver.

"I think they would like to make a decision but I don't think anybody really knows what in the world is going on and how deep this problem is."

Toronto's S&P/TSX composite lost 302.32 points to 7,647.67, its lowest close since October 2003.

SUNDIN'S RETURN A RATINGS WINNER

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Mats Sundin's return to Toronto was a ratings winner for CBC.

Saturday night's game between the Vancouver Canucks and Toronto Maple Leafs drew 1.833 million viewers, the network's highest audience for a regular-season game since 2006-07.

It was Sundin's first game in Toronto since he signed with the Canucks in December.

The average audience for CBC's early game on Hockey Night in Canada this season is 1.242 million viewers.

New York indexes revisited 1997 levels as investors succumbed to their growing worries about a recession that has no end in sight. The Dow Jones industrials fell 250.89 points to 7,114.78.

Reeling Rangers fire coach Renney, hire Tortorella

NEW YORK (AP) - Not only did the New York Rangers seek to change the message behind the bench, but the way it was delivered, too. That left mild-mannered coach Tom Renney out of a job on Monday and blustery John Tortorella en route to a starring role on Broadway.

Renney was fired by Rangers general manager Glen Sather after he failed to turn around a once-promising season that suddenly spiralled out of control. New York is stuck in a skid that produced 10 losses in 12 games (2-7-3).

With only 21 games left in the regular season, Sather couldn't wait any longer to try to save it. The Rangers started 10-2-1 and were in first place for much of the first half of the season. Now their hold on a playoff spot in tenuous.

Canada still perfect, B.C. suffers first loss

By James Bisson

VICTORIA (The Canadian Press) - During the fourth end of Monday night's Scott Tournament of Hearts showdown between B.C., and Alberta, a female fan jokingly yelled: "Boring!"

She may have been partly right, but you won't hear Cheryl Bernard complaining.

	Min	Max	Weather
Calgary	-6	-5	snow
Edmonton	-19	-14	light snow
Halifax	-4	-1	light snow
Montreal	-7	-6	snow
Toronto	-9	-6	snow
Vancouver	5	10	rain

(Temperatures in Celsius)

The Alberta skip continued her resurgence at the Canadian women's curling championship, edging B.C.'s Marla Mallett 4-3 in a game that was lacking in spectacular shots, but still featured plenty of drama.

The win moved Bernard to 4-1, good for a second-place tie with Mallett. Canada's Jennifer Jones is the only unbeaten rink at 5-0 after rallying for a 6-5 win over Ontario's Krista McCarville.

P.E.I.'s Robyn MacPhee and Quebec's Marie-France Larouche are tied for fourth at 3-2. Both were idle Monday night.

Blue Jays CF Vernon Wells injures hamstring

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP) - Toronto Blue Jays centre fielder Vernon Wells injured his left hamstring during drills Monday and could be sidelined for most of spring training.

It's the same hamstring that kept Wells out for a month last season. The two-time All-Star was scheduled for an MRI late in the day and the team was waiting for results.

"Right now, preliminarily, I'd say he's going to miss four weeks," Blue Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi was quoted as saying by MLB.com.

Wells missed 52 games due to injuries in 2008. He broke his left wrist making a sliding catch early in the season, then returned to the disabled list July 10 with a strained left hamstring.

Briere's return pushed back to Friday

VOORHEES, N.J. (AP) - The Flyers are closer to adding that impact player that so many teams look for around the trade deadline. They won't even have to discuss deals or go outside the locker room to find a former All-Star.

Danny Briere is feeling stronger, fresher and more confident that he can finally return to the lineup this week after missing 33 games with groin injuries. Briere had set Wednesday as his target date, but the star centre now expects to play in Philadelphia's game against Montreal on Friday night.

EDMONTON TO HOST GREY CUP IN 2010

EDMONTON (The Canadian Press) - The 2010 Grey Cup game will be played in Edmonton. The CFL team will make the official announcement at a news conference at Commonwealth Stadium, sources told The Canadian Press on Monday.

League commissioner Mark Cohon, Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach and Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel will be on hand for Tuesday's announcement.

The event will keep the Grey Cup in Alberta for two years running. The 2009 Grey Cup will be held in Calgary.

Edmonton has hosted the Grey Cup three times, the last being in 2002 when Montreal beat the Eskimos 25-16.

Briere, in the second year of a \$52 million, eight-year contract, has played in nine games this season for the Flyers and none since he injured his groin against Tampa Bay on Dec. 2.

Nabokov leads Sharks past Stars

DALLAS (AP) - Devin Setoguchi scored with 12:05 remaining, Evgeni Nabokov stopped 29 shots for his 45th career shutout, and the San Jose Sharks extended their winning streak to four games with a 1-0 victory over the Dallas Stars on Monday night.

Setoguchi stickhandled up the right side and skated around Stars defenceman Darryl Sydor to get free, then fired a low shot from the circle that beat Dallas goaltender Marty Turco to the stick side. It was Setoguchi's 25th goal of the season.

"I saw (Sydor), he kind of stopped at the blue line," said Setoguchi, who scored his fifth regular-season goal in the last two seasons against the Stars. "I had to make a quick move, and once I did I could get by him. He could see one of my teammates coming, and that made him indecisive on the blue line."

Lions sign Banks to extension through 2011 season

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - The B.C. Lions are locking up star defensive back Corey Banks to a long-term deal.

The CFL team said Monday that Banks has agreed to terms on a contract extension through the 2011 season.

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"Korey is another key part of our consistency on defence and a player we look to for big plays," Lions GM and head coach Wally Buono said in a release.

The Lions signed defensive backs Dante Marsh and Jerome Dennis to contract extensions last week.

Argos officially sign Willie Pile

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. (The Canadian Press) - The Toronto Argonauts have officially re-signed free-agent linebacker Willie Pile.

Pile and the team had agreed to terms last week when the free-agent period opened. The deal was announced Monday at the team's training complex in Mississauga.

Pile was Toronto's defensive leader last season, posting a team-high 75 tackles that left him sixth among CFL defenders.

"Willie was our most consistent player on defence last year," Argos GM Adam Ritvo said in a release. "He will continue to play an important role on our defence for years to come."

Stampeders sign non-import defensive end Alain Kashama

CALGARY (The Canadian Press) - The Calgary Stampeders signed non-import defensive end Alain Kashama to a contract Monday.

The six-foot-four, 270-pound Montreal native had nine tackles and one sack last season with the Alouettes and Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

"I'm very excited about having him come in and compete," Stampeders coach and general manager John Hufnagel said in a release. "He's an explosive, veteran, non-import defensive end who will help strengthen our defensive line."

Richards, Vokoun, Huet named stars of the week

NEW YORK (The Canadian Press) - A career-best game helped make Mike Richards the NHL's first star of the week. Florida Panther goalie Tomas Vokoun was given the second star on Monday and Chicago Blackhawks goalie Cristobal Huet was named third star.

USA TIMES



A unique service from **Headland Media**

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

NEWS VIA SATELLITE FROM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST NEWSWIRES

Headland SatNews

Obama vows to halve deficit

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama vowed to cut the trillion-plus dollar U.S. budget deficit by half in his first term, in a daring pledge issued hours before he was to make his highly-anticipated first speech to Congress on Tuesday.

The economy has consumed Obama's time, but measurements of the U.S. economy's health have only worsened dramatically as he pulled together his new administration, shepherded his \$787 billion stimulus bill through Congress and battled to keep the nation's ailing financial sector afloat.

And as Obama looks forward toward deficit reduction, he knows he's added vast amounts of federal spending to that indebtedness with the stimulus plan and untold outlays that still will be needed to prop up the wobbly banking and financial sectors.

"If we confront this crisis without also confronting the deficits that helped cause it we risk sinking into another crisis down the road," Obama warned. "We cannot simply spend as we please and defer the consequences to the next budget, the next

administration or the next generation."

Obama issued the vow shortly after telling state governors he was sending them \$15 billion to help with health care payments for poor people - a first outlay by Washington of Obama's economic stimulus plan designed to rescue the economy from the steepest downturn in eight decades.

The administration has also announced it had revamped financial bailout plans with an eye to injecting fresh capital into financial institutions starting Wednesday. The announcement came as concerns grew that some of the biggest U.S. banks likely need more federal money to survive the fallout from the worst financial crisis since the 1930s.

The plan was designed boost available capital by shifting the nature of government holdings in the banks without fresh injections of cash.

The statement did not name any specific banks or respond to reports that the government was considering increasing its ownership of Citigroup Inc.

NKorea preparing satellite launch

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea said Tuesday it is preparing to shoot a satellite into orbit, its clearest reference yet to an impending launch that neighbors and the U.S. suspect will be a provocative test of a long-range missile.

The statement from the North's space technology agency comes amid growing international concern that the communist nation is gearing up to fire a version of its most advanced missile - capable of reaching the U.S. - in coming days, in violation of a U.N. Security Council resolution.

North Korea asserted last week that it bears the right to "space development" - words the regime has used in the past to disguise a missile test. In 1998, North Korea test-fired a Taepodong-1 ballistic missile over Japan and then claimed to have put a satellite into orbit.

"The preparations for launching experimental communications satellite Kwangmyongsong-2 by means of delivery rocket Unha-2 are now making brisk headway" at a launch site in Hwadae in the northeast, the North's agency said in a statement carried by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency. The report did not say when the launch would take place.

Intelligence officials reported brisk personnel and vehicle activity at the Hwadae launch site, the Yonhap news agency reported Tuesday. However, the North has not yet placed the missile on a launch pad, the report said.

After mounting the missile, it would take five to seven days to fuel the rocket, experts say.

GUANTANAMO DETAINEE FREED

LONDON - The first Guantanamo detainee released since President Barack Obama took office returned to Britain on Monday, saying his seven years of captivity and torture at an alleged CIA covert site in Morocco went beyond his "darkest nightmares."

Binyam Mohamed's allegations - including repeated beatings and having his genitals sliced by a scalpel - have sparked lawsuits that could ensnare the American and British governments in protracted court battles.

Looking frail from a hunger strike, Mohamed, who once was accused by U.S. authorities of being part of a conspiracy to detonate a bomb on American soil, stepped off a charter plane and was whisked away by police, border control agents and immigration officials.

TALIBAN EXTEND CEASE-FIRE

ISLAMABAD - Taliban militants indefinitely extended a cease-fire Tuesday in a northwestern Pakistani valley, granting more time for peace talks that the United States worries could create an insurgent haven in the nuclear-armed country.

Troops and insurgents have been observing a truce in the Swat valley since Feb. 15, when Pakistani authorities offered to introduce Islamic law in the region if militants lay down their arms. A hard-line cleric is negotiating a possible deal with the militants on behalf of the government.

THAI ANTI-GOVERNMENT GROUP STAGES PROTEST

BANGKOK - Several thousand protesters allied with exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra marched toward the prime minister's office Tuesday, demanding a dissolution of Parliament and the holding of snap elections.

One of the protest leaders, Jakrapob Penakir, said the demonstrators would camp out around Government House for at least two days to press their demands but would not force their way into the compound.

White House helicopters under review

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama never had a helicopter, which he says might explain why he is perfectly happy with the current White House fleet and does not need a more costly one.

At the conclusion of a fiscal meeting at the White House on Monday, Obama faced questions from Republican and Democratic lawmakers, including his former presidential rival, Sen. John McCain.

McCain bemoaned cost overruns in military procurement. The new fleet of 28 Marine One helicopters being built by Lockheed Martin Corp., now over budget at \$11.2 billion, will cost more than Air Force One.

Obama said the helicopter he has now seems adequate, adding that he never had a helicopter before, and "maybe I've been deprived and I didn't know it."

Obama said he already has talked to Defense Secretary Robert Gates about reviewing the program and its ballooning costs.

"It is an example of the procurement process gone amok, and we're going to have to fix it," Obama said.

The U.S. Navy, in charge of overseeing the helicopter program, reported to Congress in January that its price tag had nearly doubled. That notification triggered a formal process mandating that the program be re-certified as a national security requirement by senior Pentagon leaders.

The Navy waited almost a year before formally disclosing the information to lawmakers as it sought to find ways to keep the program within budget. Those efforts failed.

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

	Lo	Hi	
Amsterdam	37	45	Rain
Athens	36	45	Rain
Auckland	55	73	Rain
Berlin	36	37	Rain
Brussels	41	45	Rain
Buenos Aires	57	72	Clear
Cairo	50	64	Rain
Copenhagen	28	36	Snow
Dublin	41	50	Rain
Hong Kong	70	81	Clear
Istanbul	36	41	Rain
Jerusalem	46	61	Rain
Johannesburg	59	77	Rain
London	43	50	Rain
Madrid	32	64	Clear
Manila	77	91	Pcldy
Mexico City	41	72	Clear
Moscow	5	18	Snow
New Delhi	41	84	Pcldy
Paris	43	54	Rain
Rome	34	54	Rain
Sao Paulo	61	84	Rain
Singapore	73	90	Rain
Stockholm	25	32	Snow
Sydney	70	90	Clear
Tokyo	39	50	Rain
Toronto	16	21	Snow
Zurich	30	41	Rain

U.S. WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	23	9	Pcldy
Atlanta	48	26	Clear
Boston	42	28	Clear
Chicago	24	9	Clear
Dallas/Ft. Worth	60	41	Cloudy
Denver	63	29	Cloudy
Great Falls	63	37	Cloudy
Houston	64	37	Pcldy
Kansas City	38	22	Pcldy
Las Vegas	70	54	Cloudy
Los Angeles	73	61	Cloudy
Miami Beach	81	65	Cloudy
Mpls/St. Paul	18	0	Clear
New Orleans	57	43	Clear
New York City	44	27	Pcldy
Phoenix	61	29	Cloudy
Salt Lake City	78	60	Cloudy
San Francisco	57	39	Rain
Seattle	57	44	Rain
Washington, D.C.	42	28	Clear
National Temperature Extremes:			
High Sunday 83 at Nogales, Ariz.			
Low Monday -20 At Cook, Minn.			

Report urges boost for family planning

NEW YORK - Publicly funded family planning prevents nearly 2 million unintended pregnancies and more than 800,000 abortions in the United States each year, saving billions of dollars, according to new research intended to counter conservative objections to expanding the program.

The data is in a report being released Tuesday by the Guttmacher Institute, a reproductive-health think tank whose research is generally respected even by experts and activists who don't share its advocacy of abortion rights.

Report co-author Rachel Benson Gold called the family planning program "smart government at its best," asserting that every dollar spent on it saves taxpayers \$4 in costs associated with unintended births to mothers eligible for Medicaid-funded natal care.

Despite such arguments, federal funding for family planning is a divisive issue.

House Democrats unveil spending bill

WASHINGTON - House Democrats unveiled a \$410 billion spending bill on Monday to keep the government running through the end of the fiscal year, setting up the second political struggle over federal funds in less than a month with Republicans.

The measure includes thousands of earmarks, the pet projects favored by lawmakers but often criticized by the public in opinion polls. There was no official total of the bill's earmarks, which accounted for at least \$3.8 billion.

The legislation, which includes an increase

of roughly 8 percent over spending in the last fiscal year, is expected to clear the House later in the week.

Democrats defended the spending increases, saying they were needed to make up for cuts enacted in recent years or proposed a year ago by then-President George W. Bush in health, education, energy and other programs.

Republicans countered that the spending in the bill far outpaced inflation, and amounted to much higher increases when combined with spending in the stimulus legislation that President Barack Obama signed last week.

Health care costs to top \$8,000 per person

WASHINGTON - A new government report on medical costs paints a stark picture for President Barack Obama, who is expected to call for a health care overhaul in a speech Tuesday night to a joint session of Congress.

Even before lawmakers start debating how care is delivered to the American people, the report shows the economy is making the job of reform harder.

Health care costs will top \$8,000 per person this year, consuming an ever-bigger slice of a shrinking economic pie, says the report by the Department of Health and Human Services, due out Tuesday.

As the recession cuts into tax receipts, the giant hospital trust fund run by the federal Medicare program for the elderly is running

out of cash more rapidly, and could become insolvent as early as 2016, the report said. That's three years sooner than previously forecast.

At the same time, the government's already large share of the nation's health care bill will keep growing.

Programs such as Medicaid, the federal program that aids low-income people, are expanding to take up some of the slack as more people lose job-based coverage. And baby boomers will soon start reaching 65 and signing up for Medicare. Those trends together mean that taxpayers will be responsible for more than half of the nation's health care bill by 2016 - just seven years from now.

Blanket is 'evidence boy planned to kill'

PITTSBURGH - An 11-year-old boy apparently covered his shotgun with a blanket to keep it hidden when he left his bedroom, went downstairs and fatally shot his father's pregnant girlfriend in the head as she slept, a prosecutor said Monday.

The blue blanket, which has a quarter-sized hole that appeared to be singed from a shotgun blast, supports a claim that the crime was premeditated, Lawrence County District Attorney John Bongivengo said.

Police found the blanket in the farmhouse where the boy, Jordan Brown, lived with his father, the father's girlfriend, Kenzie Marie

Houk; and her two daughters, ages 7 and 4. Houk was killed Friday morning while Brown's father was at work and the two girls were in the home, authorities believe.

"The operating theory is that he covered the gun with the blanket to hide it when he came downstairs" from his bedroom to shoot Houk, who was in a first-floor bedroom, Bongivengo said. "It wasn't used to muffle (the shot) or anything, the blanket wasn't thick enough for that."

Brown got the youth-sized shotgun as a Christmas present, and used it to win a turkey shoot on Valentine's Day.

Possible Levy suspect had troubled past

WASHINGTON - Since Washington intern Chandra Levy disappeared in 2001, one name had been familiar: Gary Condit, the former congressman who was questioned by authorities in her disappearance.

But a man named Ingmar Guandique was never far away. The Salvadoran immigrant lived in an apartment near the park where Levy's remains were found. He's now serving time in federal prison for assaulting two female joggers there weeks after Levy disappeared.

An arrest in the Levy case is imminent, and two people with knowledge of the case have told The Associated Press that Guandique will be charged.

Relatives and court records offer a glimpse of Guandique, who was described by prosecutors as a violent predator with drug

and alcohol problems and poor self-control.

But there are still few answers for why it's taken so long to make an arrest in a case that some say brought down a popular congressman and embarrassed District of Columbia police.

Guandique left the San Miguel area of eastern El Salvador for the U.S. about eight years ago. He had been in the Washington area since at least 2000, moving often and taking day-laborer jobs like carpentry and construction, according to court records.

But he quickly ran into legal and personal problems. The Washington Post, which explored the Levy case in a 12-part series last year, reported that Guandique was an illegal immigrant who had abused his ex-girlfriend, Iris Portillo.

Battle over secret accounts to take months

MIAMI - A federal judge decided Monday it will take months to determine if and when the Internal Revenue Service will learn the identities of 52,000 wealthy Americans who have secret accounts at Swiss bank UBS AG.

U.S. District Judge Alan S. Gold set a July 13 hearing on the IRS lawsuit, unless an agreement is reached first. UBS claims that turning over the account names would violate Swiss privacy law and jeopardize the bank's license to stay in business.

"Such violations would expose these (UBS) employees to substantial prison terms, as well as fines, penalties and other sanctions," the

UBS lawyers said in a court filing last week. "There is simply no reason to have, nor equity in having, such an expedited process here."

The IRS had sought an accelerated timetable, but Justice Department tax attorney Stuart Gibson and UBS lawyers told Gold at a brief telephone hearing Monday they had agreed on a lengthier process. Gold also set a series of deadlines for court filings.

"I would appreciate the continued efforts to discuss this matter, to narrow down what the legal issues are and the factual issues are," Gold said.

HOWARD ZIEFF DIES

LOS ANGELES - Howard Zieff, a film and television commercial director whose works included "Private Benjamin" and "My Girl," has died. He was 81.

Zieff died Sunday of Parkinson's disease in Los Angeles, said his wife Ronda Gomez-Quinones.

Goldie Hawn, who received an Oscar nomination for best actress for her role in "Private Benjamin" in 1980, said Zieff "had a special talent for directing comedies, always a rare gift."

"What I remember and cherish most was his humor and love of laughter," Hawn said in a statement.

Zieff is also credited with helping to change the face of American commercials in the 1960s with witty slice-of-life vignettes, such as his "Spicy Meatball" spot for Alka-Seltzer.

BRITNEY'S DAD TESTIFIES FOR RESTRAINING ORDER

LOS ANGELES - Britney Spears' father testified for nearly 90 minutes Monday about why he felt a long-term restraining order should be issued against three people, including the singer's former manager and an ex-boyfriend.

Jamie Spears was the first witness to testify in the restraining order case, and it did little to establish direct contact between Osama "Sam" Lutfi and his daughter since a conservatorship was established a year ago.

Calling Lutfi a "predator" and repeating an allegation that he ground medication into his daughter's food, Jamie Spears said he thought his daughter's one-time friend and manager was a danger to the family.

STEVIE WONDER HONORED

WASHINGTON - Stevie Wonder is in Washington to receive the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song from the Library of Congress.

He'll also perform a newly composed song for the first time Monday evening during a concert at the library. The library commissioned the tune that will be performed with a full orchestra.

Later this week, President Barack Obama will award Wonder the Gershwin Prize in a White House ceremony.

Research sheds light on irregular heartbeat

WASHINGTON - How the heart handles anger seems to predict who's at risk for a life-threatening irregular heartbeat.

Negative emotions like hostility and depression have long been considered risks for developing heart disease, and deaths from cardiac arrest rise after disasters such as earthquakes.

But research released Monday goes a step farther, uncovering a telltale pattern in the EKGs of certain heart patients when they merely recall a maddening event - an anger spike that foretold bad news.

In already vulnerable people, "anger causes electrical changes in the heart," said Dr. Rachel Lampert, a Yale University cardiologist who led the work. When that happens even in the doctor's office, "that means they're more likely to have arrhythmias when they go out in real life."

At issue is cardiac arrest, when the heart's electrical system goes haywire and heartbeat abruptly stops. Survival requires a fast electrical shock from a device called a defibrillator.

To track anger's effect, Lampert gave EKGs to 62 patients who had defibrillators implanted in their chests because of preexisting heart disease. When they recounted something that had made them angry, some patients experienced beat-to-beat EKG alterations that were similar to irregular heartbeat-predicting alterations that doctors can spot during treadmill testing.

In other words, the emotional stress was producing a red flag like physical stress can. But it did so without causing the jump in heart rate that exercise does, suggesting anger's Adrenalin rush may act directly on heart cells.

MUSIC: How old was George Gershwin when he died of a brain tumor?

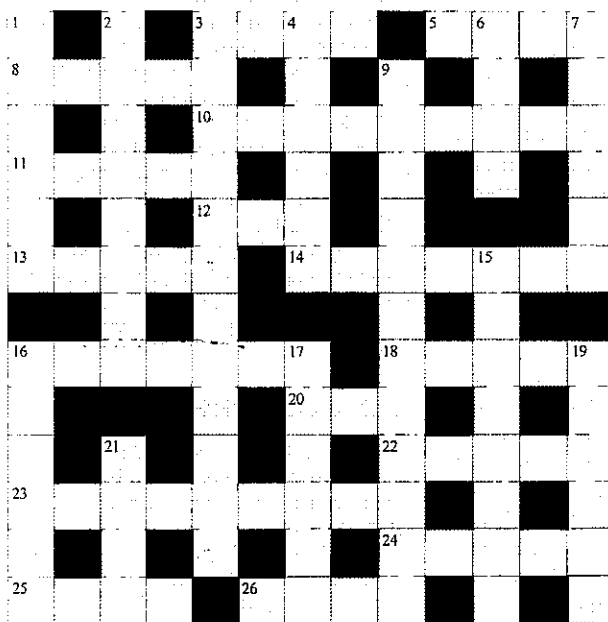
SCIENCE: What connects muscle to bone?

SPORTS: Which sports stadium was known as 'The House That Ruth Built'?
 (Answers on Page 8)

FISH PEDICURES BANNED

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - A trendy pedicure with fish that nibble dead skin from the feet has been nipped in the bud. The Florida Board of Cosmetology has banned the procedure, even before it was known to be offered anywhere in the state. The board said salons had been inquiring about its legality and decided to preemptively strike.

Headland SatNews CROSSWORD No. 55



SOLUTION

ACROSS, 3. Army, 5. Clod, 8. Climb, 10. Souwester, 11. Close, 12. Nod, 13. Plant, 14. Yule log, 16. Passing, 18. Sims, 20. Lbs, 22. Nasty, 23. Therefore, 24. Stain, 25. Rung, 26. Eyas. DOWN: 1. Iccap, 2. Bifocals, 3. Absent minded, 4. Mouldy, 6. Late, 7. Darling, 9. Fearlessness, 15. Linesman, 16. Porter, 17. Gloomy, 19. Saying, 21. Mean.

ACROSS

- 3. Large force (4)
- 5. Earth lump (4)
- 8. Ascend (5)
- 10. Waterproof hat (9)
- 11. Shut (5)
- 12. Assent signal (3)
- 13. Factory (5)
- 14. Christmas wood (4,3)
- 16. Overtaking (7)
- 18. Head cavity (5)
- 20. Pounds weight (3)
- 22. Not nice (5)
- 23. For that reason (9)
- 24. Blotch (5)
- 25. Ladder rail (4)
- 26. Young hawk (4)

DOWN

- 1. Polar mass (6)
- 2. Compound lens glasses (8)
- 3. Forgetful (6,6)
- 4. Stale, musty (6)
- 6. Beyond time (4)
- 7. Bravery (6)
- 9. Unafraid state (12)
- 15. Games official (8)
- 16. Bag carrier (6)
- 17. Miserable (6)
- 19. Adage (6)
- 21. Miserly (4)

Headland SatNews SUDOKU

			6	8		5	7	
						2	6	
6	7							8
		2		1	6	3	4	
3				5				9
	5	1	4	3		8		
8							3	2
	6	4						
	3	9		7	2			

RULES & SOLUTION

The object is to fill in the squares so that each row, column & box contains the numbers 1-9.

Numbers may not be repeated in the same column & row.

4	8	6	9	2	7	1	9	5
2	4	8	9	3	1	5	7	6
8	7	5	6	4	4	6	3	2
9	1	4	3	7	8	2	6	5
3	6	2	5	8	7	1	9	4
7	2	9	1	6	3	4	5	8
6	5	3	2	1	4	9	8	7
1	8	7	4	5	2	6	3	9
4	3	6	8	9	5	7	1	2

SPORTS NEWS

Sooners fall to Kansas

NORMAN, Okla. - Without Blake Griffin, No. 3 Oklahoma is suddenly beatable - and out of first place in the Big 12.

Tyshawn Taylor scored a career-high 26 points and Sherron Collins added 22 of his 26 points in the second half as No. 15 Kansas surged to the top of the conference standings with a 87-78 victory Monday night against third-ranked Oklahoma.

"We control our own destiny. We feel pretty good about it, but we know it's not a given yet," Collins said. "We've still got to go out and make it happen."

Cole Aldrich was able to dominate inside with the Sooners missing Griffin, a preseason All-American, because of a concussion. He had 15 points and a career-high 20 rebounds as the Jayhawks (23-5, 12-1 Big 12) took control in the race for their fifth straight conference title.

"With or without Blake, they're a great team," Aldrich said. "They showed it tonight. Blake would have definitely helped a lot if they would have had him, but that's kind of how the ball bounces. You just get an unfortunate injury like that, and you've just got to go with it."

The Big 12's biggest game so far this season lacked some of the sizzle after Griffin was ruled out because of the concussion that left him dazed on the sidelines of the loss at Texas on Saturday night. The player of the year contender is the NCAA's leader in rebounding average (13.8) and double-doubles (22) and the Big 12's top scorer with 22 points per game.

But instead of suiting up, Griffin was in a dark sports jacket and jeans. He participated in a pregame team huddle in the tunnel and hugged Aldrich and Collins as he walked out to the court to watch the Sooners warm up. After that, he was merely a cheerleader.

He got fired up as the Sooners (22-3, 11-2) deployed a full-court press to eat away at the Jayhawks' lead that reached 20 midway through the second half, but the rally could only cut the deficit to three in the final 3 minutes.

Harris half-court shot gives Nets win

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. - Devin Harris hit an unbelievable lunging half-court shot at the buzzer and the New Jersey Nets snapped a season-high five-game losing streak with a 98-96 victory over the slumping Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

NBA

New York 123, Indiana 119
New Jersey 98, Philadelphia 96
Utah 108, Atlanta 89
Boston 114, Denver 76
New Orleans 112, Sacramento 105
L.A. Clippers 118, Golden State 105

NHL

San Jose 1, Dallas 0

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Top 25

Kansas (15) 87, Oklahoma (3) 78
Louisville (6) 76, Georgetown 58

Women's Top 25

Texas A&M (12) 57, Oklahoma (2) 56
North Carolina (9) 74, N.C. State 57

COLLEGE BASKETBALL POLL

THE AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Pittsburgh (69)	25-2	1,797	14
2. Connecticut (1)	25-2	1,692	12
3. Oklahoma (2)	25-2	1,643	12
4. North Carolina	24-3	1,556	11
5. Memphis	24-3	1,543	11
6. Louisville	21-5	1,403	9
7. Duke	22-5	1,228	9
8. Marquette	23-4	1,169	10
9. Michigan St.	21-5	1,136	6
10. Villanova	22-5	1,125	12
11. Missouri	23-4	1,094	11
12. Clemson	22-4	1,050	13
13. Wake Forest	20-5	992	8
14. Arizona St.	21-5	869	14
15. Kansas	22-5	817	10
16. Purdue	21-6	766	19
17. Gonzaga	21-5	661	17
18. LSU	23-4	541	23
19. Xavier	22-5	413	16
20. Illinois	22-6	364	18
21. Washington	20-7	291	22
22. UCLA	20-7	268	20
23. Florida St.	21-6	217	-
24. Butler	23-4	192	21
25. Texas	18-8	162	-

With players from both teams surrounding the scorer's table, the referees watched replays of Harris' shot for nearly three minutes before signaling the basket was good.

Seconds earlier, the 76ers seemingly nailed down the victory when Andre Iguodala sank the second of two free throws to give them a one-point lead with 1.8 seconds to play.

The Nets quickly inbounded to Harris, who bobbled the ball after bumping with Iguodala and then heaved in the winner from in front of the scorer's table.

Harris finished with a game-high 39 points, but his 22nd shot of the night will be one Nets fans remember, especially if it helps key a run to the playoffs.

Vince Carter added 10 points, including a driving layup with 13.2 seconds to play that tied the game at 95.

Colts agree to release Marvin Harrison

INDIANAPOLIS - Marvin Harrison refused to take a pay cut. The Indianapolis Colts couldn't afford to keep him without one.

On Monday, the two sides reached agreement on one thing: Harrison will be a free agent.

Agent Tom Condon told The Associated Press that Indianapolis has agreed to release the franchise's all-time leading receiver, although an official announcement is not expected until Tuesday or Wednesday.

The decision comes one day after team president Bill Polian said he hoped to cut a deal that would keep Harrison in Indy. When Harrison said no, the Colts said farewell.

"Basically, we were not able to come to any kind of agreement, it was not contentious and the Colts have agreed to release him," Condon said in a phone interview.

It's not a surprising move because the Colts would save about \$6 million, based on Harrison's base salary. They would still be charged for prorated bonuses from the \$66 million deal he signed in December 2004.

The Colts found it too expensive for a 36-year-old receiver coming off one of the least productive seasons of his career.

Reeling Rangers fire Renny

NEW YORK - Tom Renny was fired as coach of the New York Rangers on Monday and replaced by John Tortorella in an attempt to save a season that has spiraled out of control.

The Rangers opened 10-2-1, but 10 losses in the last 12 games have knocked the team out of contention for the Atlantic Division title and placed it in danger of missing the playoffs completely.

Tortorella led the Tampa Bay Lightning to the Stanley Cup title in 2004 and was let go following last season. The Rangers were not required to provide compensation to the Lightning.

Renny, a former coach of the Vancouver Canucks, was 164-121-42 with the Rangers in four-plus seasons and ranks fourth on the team's career wins and games coached lists.

In recent home games, fans had chanted for Renny's dismissal.

"I've been thinking about it the last couple of weeks," general manager Glen Sather said. "I wish it hadn't have come to this, but it did. After the last two or three games it was obvious something had to be done."

Assistant coach Perry Pearn was also fired, but fellow assistant Mike Pelino was retained along with goalie coach Benoit Allaire, the Rangers said. Jim Schoenfeld, the team's assistant general manager, will also serve as an interim assistant coach.

Barkley pleads guilty to DUI charges

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona - Charles Barkley will serve time in jail after pleading guilty Monday to charges of driving drunk.

According to Scottsdale court records, the 45-year-old former NBA star pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges related to the same drunken driving arrest.

Barkley, who works as a TV analyst, is set to begin a five-day jail sentence on March 21. The Hall of Famer must pay more than \$2,000 in fines and attend an alcohol treatment program. Under Arizona law, he'll also be forced to install an ignition interlock device on his vehicles.

Barkley was stopped by police Dec. 31 shortly after leaving a Scottsdale nightclub. He was arrested after failing a sobriety test. He had a blood-alcohol level of .149 percent, nearly twice the legal limit of .08 percent in Arizona when he was pulled over.

After a six-week leave of absence, Barkley resumed his studio analyst role for TNT last week.

Pittsburgh back on top

PITTSBURGH - Pittsburgh jumped from fourth to No. 1 in The Associated Press' college basketball poll following a week in which the top three teams all lost.

The Panthers (25-2) made history on Jan. 5 when they became No. 1 for the first time ever. Almost two months later they're back on top after making Connecticut one of those highly ranked losers.

"It's been talked about so much and with its TV ratings the game has reached that level great games do," Pittsburgh coach Jamie Dixon said of last Monday's 76-68 victory over the Huskies, who were No. 1 for three weeks.

"I thought we competed and executed pretty well and didn't shoot great, but they focused on execution and commitment and that was definitely there."

That win, and Saturday's 80-61 victory over DePaul, allowed the Panthers to take advantage of the losses by Connecticut, Oklahoma and North Carolina to make the biggest jump to No. 1 since UCLA went from fifth to No. 1 on Nov. 28, 2006.

It was the first time the top three teams lost in the same week since November 2003, when the top four teams - Connecticut, Duke, Michigan State and Arizona - all were defeated.

No. 6 Louisville rides fast start to win

WASHINGTON - Earl Clark scored 22 points, and No. 6 Louisville overcame 16 turnovers with good defense and solid 3-point shooting Monday night in a 76-58 victory over Georgetown that moved the Cardinals into a tie for first place in the Big East.

The Cardinals started 9-for-9 from the field - their first miss coming nearly 11 minutes in - and were 7-for-7 from 3-point range well into the second half. The marksmanship was more of a necessity than a luxury because they were so careless with the ball, but the initial shooting burst was enough to build a lead that kept Georgetown at bay throughout the second half.

Samardo Samuels, Terrence Williams and Preston Knowles added 10 points apiece for the Cardinals (22-5, 13-2), who have won four straight and are tied with Connecticut atop the conference standings.

Louisville had a 17-point first-half lead cut to eight in the second half and shot only 15-for-35 after the 9-for-9 start, but the defense forced 14 Georgetown turnovers and held the Hoyas to 31 percent shooting in the second half.

Nabokov leads Sharks past Stars

DALLAS - The San Jose Sharks got a perfect shot from Devin Setoguchi and perfect goaltending from Evgeni Nabokov.

Setoguchi scored with 12:05 remaining. Nabokov stopped 29 shots for his 45th career shutout, and the Sharks extended their winning streak to four games with a 1-0 victory over the Dallas Stars on Monday night.

Setoguchi stickhandled up the right side and skated around Stars defenseman Darryl Sydor to get free, then fired a low shot from the circle that beat Dallas goaltender Marty Turco on the stick side. It was Setoguchi's 25th goal of the season.

"I saw (Sydor), he kind of stopped at the blue line," said Setoguchi, who scored his fifth regular-season goal in the last two seasons against the Stars. "I had to make a quick move, and once I did I could get by him. He could see one of my teammates coming, and that made him indecisive on the blue line."

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Turco felt he should have stopped Setoguchi's shot, missing the puck by inches.

"Hindsight is always a beautiful thing and I wish I could have had that one back," Turco said. "You'd like to be in good position and take away that spot. If I was one inch over to the right and in a perfect square position, I would have had a lot better chance of saving it."

Blue Jays CF Vernon Wells injures hamstring

DUNEDIN, Fla. - Vernon Wells hurt his hamstring again - before the Toronto Blue Jays even started spring training games.

The high-priced center fielder injured his left leg during drills Monday in Dunedin, Fla., and could be sidelined for most of spring training.

It's the same hamstring that kept Wells out for a month last season. The two-time All-Star was scheduled for an MRI late in the day and the team was waiting for results.

"Right now, preliminarily, I'd say he's going to miss four weeks," Blue Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi told MLB.com.

Toronto manager Cito Gaston said he thought Wells was hurt running the bases.

"I was on another field," Gaston said, "but I noticed he wasn't doing the cutoffs and re-ays so it must have happened during that time."

Gaston said the only positive thing about Wells' injury is that it happened early in spring training.

"He's got a chance to be ready to start the season," possibly as a designated hitter, Gaston said.

Celtics thrash frazzled Nuggets

DENVER - At this rate, Kevin Garnett can take all the time he needs to get healthy.

The Boston Celtics handed the Nuggets one of the worst home losses in their history Monday night, routing Denver 114-76 behind 26 points from Ray Allen. It was Boston's second game since Garnett strained a muscle in his right knee that is expected to sideline him for at least two weeks.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Major indexes fall to 1997 levels

NEW YORK - Wall Street has turned the clock back to 1997.

Investors unable to extinguish their worries about a recession that has no end in sight dumped stocks again Monday.

The Dow dropped 250.89, or 3.41 percent, to 7,114.78. It last closed this low on May 7, 1997 when it finished at 7,085.65.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 26.72, or 3.47 percent, to 743.33. It was the lowest close since April 11, 1997, when it ended at 737.65.

The technology-laden Nasdaq composite index dropped 53.51, or 3.71 percent, to 1,387.72.

Investors looking for a bottom also dumped smaller stocks. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 16.38 or 3.99 percent, to 394.58.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by more than 6 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 6.35 billion shares compared with heavy volume of 8.12 billion shares on Friday.

Among tech stocks, Hewlett-Packard Co. fell \$1.96, or 6.3 percent, to \$29.28, and Intel Corp. dove 70 cents, or 5.5 percent, to \$12.08.

Other big losers included General Electric Co., which dropped to a 14-year low of \$8.80, but ended down 53 cents, or 5.7 percent, at \$8.85. Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. tumbled 48 cents, or 7.6 percent, to \$5.81.

Some financial stocks managed to gain, including Citigroup, which rose 19 cents, or 9.7 percent, to \$2.14, and Bank of America Corp., which gained 12 cents, or 3.2 percent, to \$3.91.

Bond prices were mixed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 2.76 percent from 2.79 percent late Friday. The yield on the three-month T-bill, considered one of the safest investments, rose to 0.29 percent from 0.26 percent Friday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude fell \$1.59 to settle at \$38.44 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.99 percent, Germany's DAX index fell 1.95 percent, and France's CAC-40 slipped 0.82 percent. Earlier, Japan's Nikkei stock average fell 0.54 percent.

MARKING TIME

WALL STREET INDEXES

Monday close

Dow Jones Indust.	7114.78	-250.89
S&P 500	743.33	-26.72
NYSE Composite	4633.78	-170.73
Amex Index	1293.32	-43.51
NASD Composite	1387.72	-53.51
NWS Composite	1605.19	-23.19
Value Line Geometric	177.47	-7.35
Value Line Arithmetic	1142.42	-45.14
Wilshire 5000	7525.62	-276.58
Russell 2000	394.58	-16.38

60 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of	Mon	Feb 23	17:36:38
AT&T Inc	NY	22.68	-0.90
ActivisBZ s	NA	9.43	+0.03
AmIntIgp	NY	53	-0.01
Apple Inc	NA	86.95	-4.25
AplMatl	NA	8.37	-0.39
BkofAm	NY	3.91	+1.12
Broadcom	NA	15.35	-1.10
Cisco	NA	14.36	-0.72
Citigrp	NY	2.14	+0.19
Comcast	NY	12.00	-1.15
CVRD	NY	12.00	-1.60
DJIA Diam	NY	71.15	-2.58
Dell Inc	NA	7.99	-0.42
DirxFinBull	NY	4.41	-0.49
DryShips	NY	3.92	+0.13
EldorGld g	AM	9.34	+0.32
ExxonMbl	NY	69.30	-1.93
FifthThird	NA	1.24	+0.21
FordM	NY	1.73	+0.15
GenElec	NY	8.85	-0.53
HartfDfn	NY	6.68	-1.11
HewlettP	NY	29.28	-1.96
IBM	NY	7.37	-0.37
ISHCh25 s	NY	24.80	-0.34
ISHEMK s	NY	20.99	-0.53
IS EafE	NY	34.52	-1.37
ISHRZK	NY	39.56	-1.58
ISHREST	NY	25.27	-2.08
Intel	NA	12.08	-0.70
JPMorgch	NY	19.51	-0.39
Microsoft	NA	17.21	-0.79
MorgStan	NY	18.82	-0.61
Mylan	NA	12.77	+0.26
NewsCPA	NA	7.78	+0.26
NGTGM	AM	4.42	-0.01
NovaChem	NY	5.21	+3.87
Nvidia	NA	7.26	-0.35
Oracle	NA	15.86	-0.70
Pfizer	NY	13.27	-0.44
PSCrudeDL n	AM	1.90	-0.07
PWshs QQQ	NY	27.86	-1.01
PRUSHS&P	NY	97.27	+6.26
PROULTQQQ	NY	23.16	-1.71
PROULTSP	NY	31.19	+0.33
PROUSHG	NY	31.35	+2.66
PROULTO&G	NY	20.43	-1.96
PROULTFin	NY	2.01	-0.19
Qualcom	NA	32.78	-1.29
RschMotn	NA	37.42	-1.73
Schwab	NA	12.11	-0.89
SirusXM	NA	13	+0.01
SprintNex	NY	3.31	+0.09
SPDR	AM	74.65	-2.77
SP Mid	AM	81.51	-1.40
SP Engr	NY	40.40	-1.98
SPDR FincI	NY	7.18	-0.26
Timewarr	NY	7.54	+0.19
US Bancrp	NY	11.33	+0.75
US OilFd	NY	23.32	-1.03
WellsFargo	NY	11.03	+0.12

(NY=NYSE; AM=AMEX; NA=NASDAQ)

FOREIGN STOCK INDEXES

		Monday	Previous
Amsterdam	AEX	223.98	229.13
Brussels	Bel-25	1725.58	1740.36
Frankfurt	DAX	3936.45	4014.66
Hong Kong	H-S	13175.10	12699.17
London	FT-100	3850.73	3889.06
Mexico	IPC	17936.40	18324.23
Milan	MIB	12639.00	12804.00
Paris	CAC-40	2727.87	2740.55
Sydney	All Ord	3304.10	3353.00
Tokyo	Nikkei	7376.16	7416.38
Toronto	TSE-300	7647.67	7949.99
Zurich	SMI	4797.12	4851.21

NEW YORK EXCHANGE RATES

	Monday	Previous
Australia (Dollar)	1.5572	1.5455
Britain (Pound)	\$1.4486	\$1.4422
Canada (Dollar)	1.2516	1.2442
China (Yuan)	6.8370	6.8321
Euro	\$1.2713	\$1.2810
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7536	7.7500
India (Rupee)	49.559	49.500
Japan (Yen)	94.60	93.50
Mexico (Peso)	14.9415	14.7655
Norway (Krone)	6.8235	6.7811
Russia (Ruble)	36.0295	35.9088
Singapore (Dollar)	1.5294	1.5233
So. Africa (Rand)	10.0701	10.0638
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1671	1.1588

Forecasters see higher unemployment in 2009

WASHINGTON - Brace yourself. The recession is projected to worsen this year. The country stands to lose a sizable chunk of economic activity in 2009 as consumers at home and abroad retrench in the face of persistent economic troubles.

And the U.S. unemployment rate - now at 7.6 percent, the highest in more than 16 years - is expected hit a peak of 9 percent this year.

That gloomy outlook came from leading forecasters in the latest survey by the National Association for Business Economics to be released Monday.

In 2008, the jobless rate averaged 5.8 percent, the highest since 2003. The survey's median forecast - or middle point - called for the unemployment rate to rise to 8.4 percent this year and 8.8 percent next year.

Companies touching every part of the economy have announced thousands of layoffs already this year and more cuts came last week. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., said it will cut nearly 5,000 jobs, or almost 7 percent of its work force, this year, following the elimination of about 4,000 jobs in the second half of last year.

General Motors Corp. and Chrysler, which are asking the government for billions more in aid to remain viable, announced plans to cut 50,000 more jobs, 47,000 of which would be at GM.

Micron Tech to cut up to 2,000 more jobs

BOISE, Idaho - Just two months after saving more local job cuts weren't expected, computer chip maker Micron Technology Inc. announced it will slash as many as 2,000 workers by the end of August and phase out certain manufacturing operations at its Boise, Idaho facility, amid the weak economy and lower demand for its DRAM memory chips.

The company said late Monday it will end manufacturing of DRAMs on 200-millimeter wafers in Boise, cutting 500 jobs in the near term. The 200-millimeter wafers are being shelved in favor of 300-millimeter wafer plants, which are more cost-effective.

Micron makes DRAM, or dynamic random access memory, a type of memory chip that has suffered in the last two years from oversupply and pricing pressure on chips used in personal computers and the slumping automobile industry.

Its rivals also are hurting. South Korea's Hynix Semiconductor has posted five consecutive quarterly losses, including nearly \$1 billion in the three months ending Dec. 31, while German memory-chip maker Qimonda AG filed for bankruptcy protection in January. Hynix has said DRAM prices dropped 43 percent from the third quarter.

Spansion slashes 35 pct of workforce

SUNNYVALE, California - Troubled flash memory maker Spansion Inc. said late Monday it will slash its global work force by 35 percent, affecting about 3,000 employees, mostly at manufacturing sites.

The move comes as Spansion, one of the world's largest makers of flash memory chips used in digital cameras and other gadgets, is cutting costs amid a company-wide restructuring effort and exploring a possible sale.

"The global recession is forcing us to make this very difficult decision in order to bring our costs in line with the current expectations for significantly reduced revenues," said John Kispert, Spansion president and chief executive, in a statement.

The job cuts are expected to cost \$25 million during the first half of 2009, but generate annual cash cost savings of approximately \$225 million.

Judge orders Thain to testify on Merrill bonuses

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - A New York judge ordered former Merrill Lynch & Co. CEO John Thain to testify about bonuses paid to Merrill employees before the company was sold to Bank of America Corp.

New York's Attorney General Andrew Cuomo filed a motion in the state's Supreme Court Monday asking that Thain be compelled to provide details on the bonuses, which he had declined to give during a deposition Thursday.

Thain's attorney Andrew Levander later Monday said that the motion was granted and Thain will answer the questions Tuesday.

MUSIC: George Gershwin was just 38 years old when he died of a brain tumor.

SCIENCE: Tendons connect muscle to bone.

SPORTS: The New York Yankees' stadium was known as 'The House That Ruth Built'.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS

DETROIT - The United Auto Workers union said Monday it reached a tentative deal with Ford Motor Co. on how the company will fund a trust that will pay retiree health care expenses.

The union says that a 2007 agreement with the automaker about funding for the union-run trust had been modified. Ford said the agreement allows the company to settle each scheduled payment to the trust with up to 50 percent of Ford stock. Previously, Ford was required to make the multimillion-dollar payments in cash.

FREDDIE MAC

WASHINGTON - Lawyers hired by mortgage finance giant Freddie Mac are quietly investigating the firm's own \$2 million lobbying campaign, reports say. The lobbying effort helped quash proposed new regulations on the company before the housing market collapsed.

THE CAMPBELL SOUP CO.

MOUNT LAUREL, New Jersey - The Campbell Soup Co. said Monday that its second-quarter profit dropped 15 percent as its main U.S. soup division did well but business slowed in other divisions and it was hurt by the stronger dollar. The company said it earned \$233 million, or 64 cents per share, for the three months ended Feb. 1.

MEDTRONIC

MINNEAPOLIS - Medtronic announced two acquisitions Monday that will expand the company's heart valve business at a price of more than \$1 billion. Medtronic, the world's largest medical device maker, said it will pay \$700 million for Irvine, Calif.-based Corevalve and \$325 million for Israeli firm Ventor Technologies. Both companies make replacement heart valves.

Levander said Thain has been cooperating with the investigation. "He's answered 97 percent of the questions asked, and the only ones he didn't answer were at the request of Bank of America," Levander told the Associated Press.

Thain declined to give details about individual bonuses during the deposition Thursday because he said he was instructed not to by Bank of America. Levander also said Thain was worried BofA might sue him if he answered those questions.

The court also ruled to keep Thain's scheduled testimony Tuesday on the subject confidential until at least March 13 at the request of Bank of America, Levander said. The judge will hold a hearing later to determine if details about individual bonuses should remain confidential, he added.

Rattner to advise Treasury on auto industry

WASHINGTON - The White House selected a Wall Street financier on Monday to advise Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on the restructuring of General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC.

Steven Rattner, co-founder of Quadraangle Group LLC, will serve as counselor to Geithner, who is leading an auto industry task force charged with shaping the future of GM and Chrysler.

The White House said in a statement that Rattner would advise Geithner "on a variety of economic and financial matters, and will lead the Treasury's efforts with regard to the automobile sector."

Rattner had been a leading candidate to become the so-called "car czar."

But President Barack Obama decided instead to create a task force led by Geithner and White House economic aide Larry Summers to review \$17.4 billion in federal loans to GM and Chrysler and their requests for billions more in aid.

Quadraangle Group said Monday that Rattner was leaving his role as managing principal of the firm to take the Treasury position.

JPMorgan Chase slashes dividend

NEW YORK - JPMorgan Chase said Monday it will slash its quarterly dividend to 5 cents per share from 38 cents in a bid to preserve capital.

Chief Executive Jamie Dimon said the cut was a precautionary measure to ensure that the company has financial flexibility should economic conditions drastically worsen. The move will save the company about \$5 billion per year.

Father pleased with sentences in McMynn kidnapping

By Steve Merti

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - The father of a university student who endured eight terrified days in the hands of a kidnap gang is resigned to the prison terms handed out to the abductors Tuesday.

Anh The Nguyen and Jose Hernandez were given 13 and 12 years respectively for kidnapping Graham McMynn in 2006, plus an eight-year concurrent sentence for unlawful confinement.

Sam Vu, who was acquitted of kidnapping, drew an eight-year sentence for unlawful confinement.

The Crown asked that Nguyen, the group's purported leader, and Hernandez, who supposedly threatened McMynn with rape, dismemberment and death, get 18 years each. It wanted Vu to receive the 10-year maximum for unlawful confinement.

"Obviously I wished for more," Vancouver businessman Robert McMynn said outside B.C. Supreme Court.

"Listening to the judge's comments, my

feeling was he was going to give less, so in the end I was pleased they got as much as they did."

All three will receive double credit for the time they've spent in custody since being arrested in April 2006, when police swooped in on a Surrey basement suite to rescue McMynn eight days after he was taken.

They will have five years, 38 weeks lopped off their prison terms and could be freed even sooner under statutory-release provision after serving two-thirds of their sentences.

"I understand the logic behind the double time but I don't agree with it," said McMynn.

Prosecutor Richard Cairns said it's pointless to oppose double credit, routinely granted because prisoners in pre-trial remand centres do not get parole and don't have access to the services and programs available in prison.

"You can't do anything else because our Court of Appeal has said that they are entitled to that so it's no use arguing against it in front of a Supreme Court judge," Cairns said outside court.

Officer regrets what happened to Dziekanski

By James Keller

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - One of the Mounties who confronted Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver's airport the night he was stunned by a Taser and died says he regrets the Polish man's death.

But Const. Gerry Rundel told a public inquiry into Dziekanski's death that there was nothing he could have done differently.

Rundel said Tuesday that the death in October 2007 was a "terrible outcome."

Still, he said when he and three officers approached Dziekanski and shocked him with a Taser seconds later, they acted according to their training and did the best they could under the circumstances.

Rundel said he's sure everyone involved has wondered if they could have done something differently.

Boy waiting for school bus dies in collision

MILLARVILLE, Alta. (The Canadian Press) - The father of a seven-year-old southern Alberta boy who was struck and killed by a car that failed to stop for a school bus says he feels sympathy for the teen driving the vehicle.

Wilf Kruggel said he watched his son Brandon die after he rushed to the tragic scene below his hillside home about 25 kilometres southwest of Calgary.

"The bus driver said he had a heartbea but I looked at him and his lips were blue. I'm heartbroken," Kruggel said Tuesday as friends arrived at his home to pay their respects.

Brandon, a Grade 2 student at Millarville School southwest of Calgary, was crossing the road about 8 a.m. Tuesday with his two siblings.

OBAMA: US WILL RECOVER

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama vowed to lead a fearful America through its torment to emerge stronger than ever, declaring a "day of reckoning" after an age of excess ended in economic meltdown.

In an ambitious, policy-heavy debut address to Congress, the new president demanded national sacrifice and responsibility in a bold show of confidence meant to restore his nation's optimism and revive its moribund economy.

"Tonight, I want every American to know this: We will rebuild, we will recover, and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before," Obama said, triggering riotous cheers from U.S. lawmakers.

In a blizzard of programs and reforms, the president demanded an overhaul of financial regulation and warned he may need more than the \$700 billion already earmarked to save the debt-riddled finance industry.

MUTINY IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA (AFP) - A fierce gun battle broke out Wednesday inside the headquarters of Bangladesh's border security force in the capital Dhaka after a mutiny by soldiers against their officers, officials said.

At least one bystander was killed and eight others wounded, medical sources said, as police and regular troops ringed the headquarters of the Bangladesh Rifles.

IRAN TO TEST NUCLEAR PLANT

BUSHEHR, Iran (AFP) - Iran is to test its much-delayed first nuclear power plant on Wednesday as the Islamic republic presses on with its atomic drive despite international sanctions.

The head of the Russian nuclear agency Sergei Kiriyenko, who is visiting Iran for the so-called pre-commissioning, said construction of the plant at the Gulf port of Bushehr was now complete.

"The construction stage of the nuclear power plant is over, we are now in the pre-commissioning stage, which is a combination of complex procedures," Kiriyenko told reporters in Bushehr.

Family quarrel led to the shooting of Mounties

By Chris Purdy

SASKATOON (The Canadian Press) - Curt Dagenais was in an angry family argument at his mother's house before he led RCMP officers on a high-speed chase that left two Mounties shot in the head and a third with bullet fragments embedded in her body.

Details of what happened the evening of July 7, 2006, were made public for the first time Tuesday to a jury in a Saskatoon courtroom.

Dagenais sat quietly in the prisoner's box, his back turned to a packed courtroom.

The 44-year-old has pleaded not guilty to the first-degree murders of constables Robin Cameron and Marc Bourdages, as well as to the attempted murder of Const. Michelle Knopp.

Tories wanted PR help on native schools: documents

By Sue Bailey

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - Internal documents suggest the Harper government downplayed health risks and wanted pricey PR advice after halting plans for new schools on native reserves.

The papers obtained by the New Democrats discuss hiring public relations giant Hill and Knowlton to help the government finesse what one official described as a tough subject to shine.

"We've been digging into this for weeks now and there is no straightforward, simple answer and it's not a good story," says an internal e-mail dated Feb. 22, 2008.

It was written by Susan Bertrand, an Indian Affairs communications manager in Thunder Bay, Ont. She was referring to the government's decision a few months earlier to halt plans for a new elementary school on Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario.

Father arraigned on charges of killing his children

SAINT-JEROME, Que. (The Canadian Press) - The father of two young children who were found dead in the family's home last weekend was charged Tuesday with two counts of first-degree murder.

Guy Turcotte, a cardiologist at a hospital in Saint-Jerome, faces life in prison without chance of parole for 25 years if he is convicted.

Turcotte remained in a Montreal hospital where he was taken for treatment of unspecified injuries after police found the children's bodies.

STEVEN PAGE LEAVES BARENAKED LADIES

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The Barenaked Ladies will be hitting the recording studio this spring - without one of their founding members.

Steven Page has left the popular band he helped form in Toronto more than 20 years ago.

The band's website said Wednesday that Page will be parting company with the remaining members of the band to pursue solo projects including theatrical opportunities.

The other band members, Jim Creeggan, Kevin Hearn, Ed Robertson, and Tyler Stewart will go back in the studio in April and out on the road in the fall.

The news comes months after drug charges against Page were dropped in the U.S. Page wished them the best in the future.

"These guys are my brothers," he said. "We've grown up together over the past twenty years. I love them and wish them all the best in the future."

The 36-year-old was unable to go to court for his arraignment because of his condition and no plea was entered.

Harper not a fan of high speed rail link

By Maria Babbage

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Prime Minister Stephen Harper is frowning on a proposal for a high-speed rail link between Ontario and Quebec that would boost the economy and help the environment, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Tuesday.

Without federal support, the proposed link between Windsor, Ont., and Quebec City may never get off the ground, McGuinty said.

"I continue to be a big fan of (the plan), as does (Quebec Premier) Jean Charest," McGuinty said. "The prime minister is not as much of a fan on this score."

Alta. owner of abandoned horses faces cruelty charges

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - The owner of two horses who were rescued from certain death off a B.C. mountainside has been charged with three counts of animal cruelty.

Frank McKay of Edmonton is accused of abandoning the animals just before Christmas near the town of McBride, B.C., where snowmobilers found them trapped in the snow.

They brought feed and blankets for Belle and Sundance while volunteers started digging a one-kilometre trench that took a week to open up a pathway before the horses could be rescued on Dec. 23.

Shawn Eccles, the SPCA's chief animal protection officer, said Tuesday the animals suffered from malnutrition and various health issues after being exposed to freezing temperatures.

Another small leak at Chalk River

By Bruce Cheadle

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - There's been another small leak of heavy water from the nuclear research reactor at Chalk River, Ont.

It is the third such leak since December at the aging facility that currently provides about half the global supply of isotopes used in medical imaging.

The reactor remains online and the leak did not cause any disruption in the isotope supply.

News of the latest leak came as top officials from both the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and Atomic Energy Canada Ltd., were appearing Tuesday at the Commons committee on natural resources.

Report calls for \$700M heart disease war

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - After two years of consulting and analysis, a federal agency has concluded that too many Canadians die from heart attacks and strokes because they eat too much, exercise too little and are still smoking.

The Canadian Heart Health Strategy and Action Plan says the government should spend \$700 million over seven years to persuade people to drop fatty, salty food, get more exercise and ditch the butts.

The return, it says, would be a \$2-billion savings in direct and indirect costs by 2010.

The strategy group was set up in 2006 to develop a national plan to reduce cardiovascular deaths.

Photo radar coming to Quebec

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - Speeding Quebec motorists will have to start keeping their eyes peeled for photo radar starting in May.

Transport Minister Julie Boulet says the device will be used in three regions in the province as part of an 18-month test.

CLOSING STOCK INDEXES

	Feb 24	Feb 23
Toronto TSE-300	7859.33	7647.67
New York D-J	7850.84	7114.78
New York Nasdaq	1441.83	1387.72
London FT-100	3816.44	3850.73
Tokyo Nikkei	7268.56	7376.16

TORONTO MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of	Tue Feb 24	18:08:04
BombdBSV	BSD/B=T	7.91 +0.28
HrznCrdr0181	HOU=T	4.69 +0.42
ISharesCDN60	XIU=T	11.98 +0.41
ManulifeFin	MFC=T	13.50 +0.97
TeckComBSV	TCK/B=T	4.00 +0.18
RoyalBank	RY=T	28.48 +2.66
EldoradoGld	ELD=T	10.24 +0.34
YamanaGld	YRI=T	10.54 +0.96
BarrickGold	ABX=T	39.25 +5.43
SuncorEngy	SU=T	22.76 +1.44

NHL

Philadelphia 4	Washington 2
Anaheim 3	Buffalo 2
Boston 6	Florida 1
Atlanta 4	Colorado 3
Montreal 3	Vancouver 0
Ottawa 4	Carolina 2
Nashville 5	Chicago 3
Los Angeles 2	Minnesota 1 (SO)
St. Louis 2	Phoenix 1
Edmonton 5	Tampa Bay 3
Calgary 4	Columbus 1

NBA

Miami 103	Detroit 91
Cleveland 94	Memphis 79
Toronto 118	Minnesota 110
Chicago 120	Orlando 102
L.A. Lakers 107	Oklahoma City 93
San Antonio 93	Dallas 76
Houston 98	Portland 94
Phoenix 112	Charlotte 102

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	46	17	.732	
Philadelphia	27	28	.491	17 1/2
New Jersey	25	32	.439	20 1/2
New York	24	32	.429	21
Toronto	23	36	.390	23 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	41	15	.732	
Atlanta	32	24	.571	
Miami	30	26	.536	1 1/2
Charlotte	22	34	.386	19
Washington	13	43	.232	28

Central Division

Cleveland	44	11	.800	
Detroit	27	28	.491	17
Milwaukee	28	31	.475	18
Chicago	26	31	.459	19
Indiana	24	35	.407	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	38	17	.691	
Houston	33	22	.600	
New Orleans	33	23	.589	
Dallas	30	26	.536	1 1/2
Memphis	15	41	.268	23 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	37	20	.649	
Portland	35	21	.625	
Utah	34	23	.596	1 1/2
Minnesota	18	38	.321	18 3/4
Oklahoma City	13	44	.228	24

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	47	10	.825	
Phoenix	32	24	.571	14
Golden State	20	37	.351	27
L.A. Clippers	14	43	.246	33
Sacramento	12	46	.207	35 1/2

The radar will be used in Montreal, the Monteregic region south of Montreal and the Chaudiere-Appalaches area near Quebec City.

It will be set up in 15 targeted locations in a bid to cut the number of accidents caused by speeding.

Three types of machines will be used, including those attached to traffic lights and others fixed to poles on roads with an excessive number of speeders.

Chinese celebrity hopes picture scandal will soon fade

VANCOUVER - The Chinese-Canadian celebrity whose private sex pictures with several Hong Kong starlets set off an Internet firestorm hopes the women involved will soon put the incident behind them.

Edison Chen made the comments Tuesday as he emerged from a B.C. Supreme Court hearing in Vancouver where he reviewed his testimony to be presented in a Hong Kong criminal court case.

"I hope every victim can become healthy again and be happy again as soon as possible," Chen told a crush of Chinese media outside the Vancouver court.

Stocks close higher

By Malcolm Morrison

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - North American stock markets bounced off multi-year lows Tuesday to close sharply higher.

Buyers were encouraged by an assessment from U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke that "there is a reasonable prospect" the recession will end this year.

A day after falling by 302 points to levels not seen since 2003, Toronto's S&P/TSX composite index closed up 211.66 points at 7,859.33. The gains would have been even higher if not for a selloff in the gold sector.

The TSX Venture Exchange slipped 25.35 points to 853.59. The Canadian dollar rose 0.51 of a cent to 80.43 cents US.

Maple Leaf CEO 'satisfied' with Q4 loss

By Kristine Owram

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The CEO of Maple Leaf Foods Inc. says he "feels good" about the progress in restoring consumer confidence following last year's massive recall of packaged meats after some were found to be tainted with deadly bacteria.

WBC ROSTER LONG ON OFFENCE, SHORT ON PITCHING

By Shi Davidi

DUNEDIN, Fla. (The Canadian Press) - The stellar pitching staff that might have been long ago pushed out of the equation for the Canadian national team, leaving manager Ernie Whitt to squeeze all he can from the unsung staff that is at the World Baseball Classic.

Ace Scott Richmond, a hopeful with the Toronto Blue Jays, and reliever Jesse Crain, a key setup man for the Minnesota Twins, headline a list of 13 arms filled with already-wares and yet-to-bes named to the final 28-man roster unveiled Tuesday.

Minus the injured Jeff Francis, Rich Harden and Erik Bedard, and without Ryan Dempster and Eric Gagne who have declined to play, an area that might have been a strength for Canada in the 16-country tournament instead looks like a liability.

The Canadians can only hope the pitchers give the offence an honest chance to outslug opponents. With Justin Morneau, Jason Bay, Russ Mar in, Joey Votto, Matt Stairs and Mark Teahen leading the lineup, scoring runs should not be an issue.

Although Maple Leaf posted a significant loss in the three months ended Dec. 31, chief executive Michael McCain said Tuesday the company was making "material progress" in winning consumers back to the fold with improved food safety procedures.

Canadiens down Canucks

By Bill Beacon

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - Coach Guy Carbonneau gave Jaroslav Halak the chance to be a starting goaltender, and the Montreal Canadiens backup seized it with relish.

"He's been waiting for the chance for a long time," Carbonneau said after Halak's 34 save performance gave the Canadiens a 3-0 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday night. "It's unfortunate for someone like (No. 1 goalie) Carey Price, but hopefully Halak will grab the bull by the horns and win us five, six or seven games in a row."

It was a second start and a second win in a row for Halak, who took over with Price struggling through a five-game losing run.

	Min	Max	Weather
Calgary	-11	-11	snow
Edmonton	-24	-20	clear
Halifax	-7	1	sunny
Montreal	-13	-7	snow
Toronto	-11	-3	snow
Vancouver	4	7	rain

(Temperatures in Celsius)

Tomas Plekanec had a goal and set up one by Andrei Markov, and Maxim Lapierre added an empty-net goal with six seconds left to play for the Canadiens (32-22-7), who have won only five of their last 17 games.

Heatley hits 30 goal mark in Senators' win

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - After getting killed by several slow starts, the Ottawa Senators got out of the gate quickly against the Carolina Hurricanes.

The Senators scored three first-period goals, two in a 46-second span, then rode the goaltending of Alex Auld to deal a blow to the Hurricanes' playoff hopes with a 4-2 victory Tuesday.

Ottawa (23-27-9) had fallen behind in each of the past three games - all losses. But a season-low crowd of 16,541 - the Senators' lowest attendance since 2003 - saw Dany Heatley notch his 30th goal of the season as part of an opening outburst in the opening 20 minutes that ultimately decided the contest.

Galusha stuns Jones at Scotties

By James Bisson

VICTORIA (The Canadian Press) - Territories skip Kerry Galusha can't recall the last time she played a close game against Team Canada at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

She won't have trouble remembering the answer to that question anymore.

Galusha's Yellowknife rink staged the biggest upset of the Canadian women's curling championship Tuesday night, downing Jennifer Jones 10-8 in Draw 11 action in front of an electric crowd of 2,448 at the Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre.

The victory not only sent shockwaves through the pro-Territories crowd, it also contributed to what has become a truly muddled leaderboard.

B.C.'s Marla Mallett is alone on top at 6-1 following a pair of victories Tuesday. Jones fell into a tie for second at 5-2 with Quebec's Marie-France Larouche, while three other teams - P.E.I.'s Rebecca Jean McPhee, Alberta's Cheryl Bernard and the resurgent Stefanie Lawton of Saskatchewan - are close behind at 4-3.

PETITCLERC AND LAMAZE WIN CANADIAN SPORTS AWARDS

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - Wheelchair racer Chantal Petitclerc and show jumper Eric Lamaze were named the female and male athletes of the year at the Canadian Sport Awards on Tuesday.

Petitclerc, 39, won five gold medals and set three world records while competing in her final Paralympic Games last summer in Beijing. The Montreal racer was also voted The Canadian Press female athlete of the year.

Lamaze, a 40-year-old from Schomberg, Ont., finished the year as the world's top-ranked rider. Lamaze and his mount, Hickstead, dominated the international show jumping scene.

Lamaze won a gold medal in individual show jumping at the Beijing Olympics and added a silver medal in the team competition.

Bosh, Bargnani lead Raptors to win

By Lori Ewing

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Chris Bosh found himself in a shoving match with Brian Cardinal late in the first quarter of Tuesday's game against the visiting Minnesota Timberwolves.

Bosh had been preaching intensity to his teammates, and whether or not that exact moment was what turned the tide on an ugly game, it seemed to kickstart the Raptors en route to a 118-110 win over Minnesota, Toronto's 10th consecutive victory over the TWolves.

"We had to realize nice guys sit home and watch the playoffs," Bosh said. "If we play with intensity, you're more likely to win and you're more likely to play better basketball."

Wells expects to miss 2 weeks

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP) - Toronto Blue Jays centre fielder Vernon Wells expects to miss two weeks after an MRI showed he re-injured the left hamstring that kept him on the disabled list for a month late last season.

"I don't think it's that big of a deal," Wells said Tuesday. "It's something that if I needed to get through it now, I could. But this time of the year, it's just basically get healthy and get ready for the season."

Wells, who batted .300 with 20 home runs and 78 RBIs in 108 games last year, injured his hamstring during drills Monday.

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Crosby leaves Pens practice with sore groin

CANONSBURG, Pa. (AP) - Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby has left practice early because of a sore groin, but is listed as probable for Wednesday night's home game against the New York Islanders.

Crosby's groin bothered him a few minutes into the practice and he decided to leave the ice Tuesday. Crosby did not speak with reporters after practice.

Crosby, the 2006-07 NHL scoring champion, is second in scoring with 79 points, eight points behind teammate Evgeni Malkin and two points ahead of last year's champion, Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals.

Crosby had two goals and two assists as the Penguins beat the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday, but settled for an assist - and a shoving match with Ovechkin - during a 5-2 loss in Washington on Sunday.

Woods hopes to get off to hot start in golf Match Play

TUCSON, Arizona (AP) - It's win or go home on Wednesday when the world's best golfers - led by Tiger Woods - tackle each other in the WGC Accenture match play Championship.

Woods has chosen the elite event, the first in the World Golf Championships calendar, to make his return from an eight-month absence in the wake of reconstructive surgery on his left knee.

As Woods himself noted, the match play format is fickle. A player can get away with a poor hole, or even an off day, if his opposition struggles even more.

Conversely, a good round can come to nothing if an opponent plays even better, and the knockout format means that half of the 64-strong field will be eliminated on the first day.

"You have to be on your game right away. It's not like you can build into it," said Woods, a three-time titlist who lost in the first round in 2002.

USA TIMES



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Wednesday, February 25, 2009

NEWS VIA SATELLITE FROM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST NEWSWIRES

Headland SatNews

Obama: U.S. will recover

WASHINGTON - Standing before the nation on a "day of reckoning," President Barack Obama summoned politicians and public alike Tuesday night to forge a path out of the worst economic disaster in a quarter-century by embracing shared sacrifice and costly new endeavors to improve health care, schools and the environment.

"The time to take charge of our future is here," Obama declared in his first address to a joint session of Congress, watched by millions of worried Americans on television and the Internet.

Adding words of reassurance, he said, "Tonight I want every American to know this: We will rebuild, we will recover, and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before."

Obama had to wade his way into a chamber packed with lawmakers eager to welcome the nation's first black president into a Capitol built by slaves.

The House gallery included a special section hosted by first lady Michelle Obama, where guests served as living symbols of the president's goals.

Cramming the floor was virtually the entire

leadership of the federal government, including Supreme Court justices, led by Ruth Bader Ginsberg, back on the bench only this week after cancer surgery, and all but one Cabinet member, held away in case disaster struck. Obama's 52-minute speech was interrupted 61 times by applause.

To deal with the current economic crisis, deepening each day, the president said more money would be needed to rescue troubled banks beyond the \$700 billion already committed last year.

He said he knows that bailout billions for banks are unpopular - "I promise you, I get it," he said - but he also insisted it was the only way to get credit moving again to households and businesses, the lifeblood of the American economy.

Along with aid for banks, he also called on Congress to move quickly on legislation to overhaul regulations on the nation's financial markets.

"I ask this Congress to join me in doing whatever proves necessary," Obama said. "Because we cannot consign our nation to an open-ended recession."

NKOREA PREPARES LAUNCH

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea declared Tuesday it is making "brisk headway" in plans to send a satellite into orbit as part of its space program, a launch regional powers fear is a cover up for testing a long-range ballistic missile capable of striking Alaska and the western United States.

Analysts called Pyongyang's announcement yet another bid for President Barack Obama's attention as he met in Washington with Prime Minister Taro Aso of Japan, a key ally in the regional push to get North Korea to give up its nuclear program.

A senior U.S. intelligence official said in Washington that North Korea was about a month away from launching a missile or a rocket. Private imagery specialists indicated a launch could come sooner.

BORDER GUARDS LAUNCH MUTINY IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA, Bangladesh - Mutinous border guards opened fire inside their headquarters and seized a shopping mall in the Bangladesh capital Wednesday, killing one person and wounding several others in an apparent pay dispute, officials said. The army moved in to quell the unrest.

Sajjad Haider, a spokesman for Bangladesh Rifles, the official name of the paramilitary border guards, said gunfire erupted inside the agency's Dhaka headquarters compound and that "the army has moved in to deal with the situation."

A rickshaw driver, who suffered a bullet wound outside the compound, died at state-run Dhaka Medical College Hospital, doctors said.

IRAN TESTS NUCLEAR PLANT

BUSHEHR, Iran - Iranian and Russian nuclear officials are testing the first nuclear power plant built in Iran.

A spokesman for the Iranian atomic energy organization, Mohsen Shirazi, says virtual fuel has been loaded into the Russian-built plant. The material consists of lead and is meant to imitate the enriched uranium needed to run the plant.

Russian nuclear agency chief Sergei Kiriyenko is inspecting the process Wednesday.

Most troops out of Iraq 'in 18 months'

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama plans to remove all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by August 2010, administration officials said Tuesday, which would end the war that defined his upstart presidential campaign three months later than he had promised.

The withdrawal plan could be announced as early as this week. It would specify that a large contingent of troops, 30,000 to 50,000 troops, would be left behind to advise and train Iraqi security forces and to protect U.S. interests.

Obama built enormous voter support for his White House bid by pledging to withdraw troops within the first 16 months he was in office.

That schedule, based on removing roughly one brigade a month, was predicated on commanders determining that it would not endanger U.S. troops left behind or Iraq's fragile security.

The contingent remaining will include intelligence and surveillance specialists and their equipment, including unmanned aircraft, according to two administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan has not been made public.

The complete withdrawal of American forces will occur by December 2011, the period by which the United States agreed with Iraq to have all troops removed.

GOP: Obama's plan is irresponsible

WASHINGTON - Republican leaders continued their attacks on President Barack Obama's handling of the economy Tuesday, calling it irresponsible and certain to increase taxes and federal debt.

Responding to Obama's televised speech to a joint session of Congress, top Republicans said the president relies too heavily on spending, and not enough on tax cuts, to try to revive the gasping economy.

They said they want to work with Obama, and sometimes blamed congressional Democrats more than him. But their criticisms were sharp and plentiful.

"The way to lead is not to raise taxes and put more money and power in hands of Washington politicians," said Louisiana Gov.

Bobby Jindal, who gave the Republican Party's official response.

The massive economic stimulus bill recently enacted by Obama and congressional Democrats, Jindal said, will expand the government, "increase our taxes down the line, and saddle future generations with debt."

"It's irresponsible," said Jindal, who is eyeing a presidential bid in 2012 and frequently cited his accomplishments in Louisiana.

The tone of the Republicans' response was in keeping with their nearly unanimous opposition to the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill, which was backed by only three Republicans in the Senate and none in the House.

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

	Lo	Hi	
Amsterdam	32	37	Clear
Athens	36	46	Clear
Auckland	35	70	Rain
Berlin	33	39	Clear
Brussels	34	39	Clear
Buenos Aires	54	84	Clear
Cairo	54	57	Clear
Copenhagen	25	36	Clear
Dublin	43	46	Rain
Hong Kong	72	81	Clear
Istanbul	37	41	Clear
Jerusalem	48	54	Clear
Johannesburg	57	64	Clear
London	43	50	Rain
Madrid	32	37	Clear
Manila	32	38	Rain
Mexico City	37	73	Clear
Moscow	3	14	Clear
New Delhi	55	84	Clear
Paris	41	43	Clear
Rome	37	45	Clear
Sao Paulo	64	75	Clear
Singapore	73	91	Rain
Stockholm	21	34	Clear
Sydney	66	81	Rain
Tokyo	45	51	Rain
Toronto	15	27	Snow
Zurich	28	37	Clear

U.S. WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	28	9	Cloudy
Atlanta	54	30	Cloudy
Boston	37	20	PClidy
Chicago	39	17	Cloudy
Dallas-Ft. Worth	80	51	Cloudy
Denver	68	35	Cloudy
Great Falls	51	20	Snow
Houston	77	47	Cloudy
Kansas City	58	33	Cloudy
Las Vegas	69	48	PClidy
Los Angeles	71	51	Rain
Miami Beach	76	60	PClidy
Mpls-St. Paul	46	38	Cloudy
New Orleans	68	38	PClidy
New York City	37	22	PClidy
Phoenix	84	57	PClidy
Salt Lake City	61	42	Cloudy
San Francisco	60	50	Cloudy
Seattle	48	44	Rain
Washington, D.C.	39	22	PClidy
National Temperature Extremes For Tuesday:			
High 94 at Pecos, Tx.			
Low -15 at Spincich Lake, Mi.			

Seven shot on Mardi Gras parade route

NEW ORLEANS - A Mardi Gras parade erupted into chaos on Fat Tuesday when a series of gunshots struck seven people, including a toddler. The child was not seriously injured and two suspects were in custody, police said.

The shootings happened near the Garden District about 1:40 p.m. after the last major parade of the celebration, Rex, had ended. A stream of truck floats that follow the parade were passing by when gunfire broke out.

"It sounded like a string of fireworks, so I knew it was more than one shooter," said Toni Labat, 29, a limousine company manager.

She was with her two children, a 2-year-old

boy and a 10-year-old girl.

"Everybody was petrified. They hit the ground, the floats stopped, everybody or the floats ducked," Labat said.

Labat said one man dragged himself or the ground screaming for help after being wounded and another man was gasping for air and bleeding from his mouth.

Police spokesman Bob Young said the victims - three men ages 50, 33 and 20, two young women ages 20 and 17 and a 15-year-old boy - were taken to area hospitals.

The conditions of all the victims were not immediately available, but Young said the 20-month-old baby was grazed by a bullet and not seriously hurt.

Bing, Cockrel set for runoff

DETROIT - NBA Hall of Famer Dave Bing and incumbent Ken Cockrel Jr. advanced Tuesday to a May 5 runoff election, vying to serve out the remainder of disgraced ex-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's second term.

With 99 percent of precincts reporting, Bing received 26,104 votes, or about 29 percent, while 24,500 ballots, or 27 percent, were cast for Cockrel.

The Democrats were among 15 candidates vying for the mayor's job in Tuesday's nonpartisan special primary.

"I promise to fight for improvements in public safety, education, and most important, employment," Bing told supporters at a post-victory rally. "It looks like the people of Detroit agreed with us that we had the right message."

Cockrel, the former city council president who became mayor when Kilpatrick resigned, quickly looked to portray himself as the candidate with the right experience to win in May.

Burrus refuses call for his resignation

WASHINGTON - Sen. Roland Burrus refused to resign on Tuesday, rebuffing a call from the Senate's No. 2 Democrat who made it clear that the embattled Illinois lawmaker has little hope next year of winning the seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

"I told him that under the circumstances, I would resign," fellow Illinois Sen. Richard Durbin told reporters after an hour-long meeting with Burrus. "He said, 'I'm not going to resign.'"

"I can't force him," Durbin added.

Burrus, also a Democrat, was appointed by disgraced former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who

was impeached and driven from office after he was accused of trying to sell the Senate seat.

Burrus repeatedly changed his story about how he was appointed. He is facing calls for his resignation after he admitted trying to raise money for Blagojevich. Burrus has said he did nothing wrong.

Emerging from the hour-long private meeting with Durbin, Burrus looked a bit shaken and inexplicably said he was under orders not to comment, other than to say the session was a "great discussion."

Boy held in killing to go to juvenile facility

NEW CASTLE, Pa. - An 11-year-old boy charged with killing his father's pregnant fiancée will be moved from a county jail to a juvenile facility under a court order issued Tuesday.

A judge agreed that it is in Jordan Brown's best interest to be housed in the Allencrest Juvenile Detention Center northwest of Pittsburgh.

Brown remains charged as an adult in the shooting death of 26-year-old Kenzie Marie Houk, though his attorney said he will ask to have the case moved to a juvenile court.

"What we have learned is... that under Pennsylvania law he can continue to be... prosecuted as an adult and be housed in a secure juvenile detention center," defense attorney Dennis Elisco said.

Brown is accused of shooting Houk in the

head Friday, killing her and her unborn baby boy.

He's in a cell isolated from the adult inmates in Lawrence County Jail. Elisco said his client will be moved to the juvenile center Wednesday morning.

A viewing and funeral for Houk and her baby boy, who was named Christopher after his father, was held Tuesday evening.

Hundreds of friends and family stood for hours in freezing temperatures to pay their respects to Houk at the viewing.

They walked quietly past her body, which was dressed in a red sweater. Near her feet were two blue baby booties for the baby she was to deliver in just a few weeks and beside her was a red pillow with the words "Special Mom" embroidered in white.

Rocket with NASA satellite crashes

WASHINGTON - A new satellite to track the chief culprit in global warming crashed into the ocean near Antarctica after launch Tuesday, dealing a major setback to NASA's already weak network for monitoring Earth and its environment from above.

The \$280 million mission was designed to answer one of the biggest question marks of global warming: What happens to the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide spewed by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas? How much of it is sucked up and stored by plants, soil and oceans and how much is left to trap heat on Earth, worsening global warming?

"It's definitely a setback. We were already

well behind," said Neal Lane, science adviser during former President Bill Clinton's administration.

"The program was weak and now it's really weak."

For about a decade, scientists have complained of a decline in the study of Earth from space.

NASA spent more money looking at other planets than it did at Earth in 2007. That same year, the National Academy of Sciences warned that NASA's study of Earth "is at great risk" with fewer missions than before and aging satellites.

Palin to pay nearly \$7,000 for kids' trips

JUNEAU, Alaska - Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, last year's Republican vice presidential candidate, will reimburse the state nearly \$7,000 for costs associated with nine trips taken by her children, her attorney said Tuesday.

Palin must reimburse the state within 120 days, according to a settlement agreement filed by a special investigator hired by the Alaska Personnel Board to investigate an ethics complaint filed against her.

The exact amount will be determined by the Alaska Department of Administration, said Palin's attorney, Thomas Van Flein. He estimated the amount would be \$6,800.

There is no state law prohibiting the governor's family from traveling with her and the personnel board found no wrongdoing on the part of the governor. But the investigator, Timothy Petumenos, interpreted the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act to require that state only pay if the first family serves an important state interest.

Petumenos said "some of the travel raised by the Complaint does not meet this standard," according to the agreement.

Van Flein said 72 travel authorizations were studied, with nine found to be of questionable state interest.

COWELL: NO FREEZE PLAN

A spokeswoman for Simon Cowell says reports that the "American Idol" judge wants to be frozen after death are greatly exaggerated.

Cowell was making a tongue-in-cheek remark at a dinner in London two weeks ago with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and other guests, spokeswoman Lisa Dallos said Tuesday.

But the cryogenics comment that Dallos said was meant as a joke was trumpeted in a number of news reports as a serious plan by Cowell, a music industry executive and the producer behind "America's Got Talent" and Britain's "The X Factor."

THE KILLERS FILE COUNTERSUIT

The Killers are countersuing a former manager in federal court in Nevada, where the two sides seek millions of dollars from each other over breach-of-contract allegations.

In the most recent filing in the 3-year-old case, lawyers for the Las Vegas-based rock band accuse Brader Merrick of "double-dealing" in representing the band after it burst on the music scene with the multiplatinum album "Hot Fuss" in 2004.

Lawyers for the band allege "Merrick was an incompetent manager who abandoned his clients." The counterclaim was filed Friday with U.S. District Court Judge Philip Pro in Las Vegas.

It alleges that Merrick was secretly paid by Island Def Jam Records while managing the band.

PATRIDGE POSTS VIDEO

Audrina Patridge is sharing video from a different kind of tense life episode: a break-in at her house.

The star of "The Hills" posted surveillance video Tuesday on her blog of the break in, which police said was reported Monday.

The footage shows a young man and woman, apparently aware of at least one camera, running around her Hollywood hills home in the dark. Patridge was not home at the time.

She blogged Tuesday that the robber was "pretty devastating," but that most of the items taken are replaceable. She asks anyone with information to call police.

SPORTS NEWS

Providence upsets Pittsburgh

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - Weynmi Efejuku scored 16 and Providence upset No. 1 Pittsburgh 81-73 on Tuesday night for its first win over a top-ranked team in 33 years.

Sharaud Curry added 15 points for the Friars (17-11, 9-7 Big East), who picked up a big victory for their NCAA tournament hopes.

DeJuan Blair fouled out on a moving pick with 46 seconds left as Pittsburgh (25-3, 12-3) tried to rally.

Blair, the reigning Big East player of the week, averaged 21 points and 20.5 rebounds in wins over No. 1 Connecticut and DePaul that elevated the Panthers to the top spot on Monday. But he picked up two quick fouls - his third and fourth - midway through the second half.

He finished with 17 points and eight rebounds.

Providence led by 20 after completing a 17-1 run with the first basket of the second half, but the Panthers cut it to five points, 75-70, on Blair's putback with 51 seconds left.

After Brian McKenzie hit a pair of free throws for Providence a fraction of a second later, Pitt brought the ball down and Blair was called for an offensive foul.

It was the home finale - senior night - for Providence, which was coming off a 103-84 loss to Notre Dame that might have eliminated its chances of reaching the tournament.

With a signature win and a game left against 15th-place Rutgers, the Friars may have played their way in.

The fans in the Dunkin' Donuts Center sensed it, crowding around the courtside press tables for the final minutes. Twice in the final minutes, the public address announcer begged the fans to stay off the floor following the game; twice the crowd responded with a laugh.

Sure enough, after the Friars dribbled out the last 20 seconds - it was too far gone for Pitt to try fouling - the fans went over the tables and chairs circling the floor and celebrated one of the biggest wins in school history.

The Friars are just 2-10 all-time against No. 1-ranked teams, with their only other victory against coming in double overtime against Michigan in 1976.

This win made them 2-5 against ranked teams this season, having also beaten then-No. 15 Syracuse on Jan. 28.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Top 25

Providence 81, 1. Pittsburgh 73
18. LSU 81, Florida 75
Boston College 72, 23. Florida St. 67

Women's Top 25

1. Connecticut 74, Villanova 47
22. Virginia 68, 11. Florida State 63
15. Pittsburgh 72, West Virginia 60
16. Texas 66, Missouri 56
23. Notre Dame 90, Syracuse 79

NBA

Miami 103, Detroit 91
Cleveland 94, Memphis 79
Toronto 118, Minnesota 110
Chicago 120, Orlando 102
L.A. Lakers 107, Oklahoma City 93
San Antonio 93, Dallas 76
Houston 98, Portland 94
Phoenix 112, Charlotte 102

NHL

Philadelphia 4, Washington 2
Anaheim 5, Buffalo 2
Boston 6, Florida 1
Atlanta 4, Colorado 3
Montreal 3, Vancouver 0
Ottawa 4, Carolina 2
Nashville 5, Chicago 3
Los Angeles 2, Minnesota 1 (SO)
St. Louis 2, Phoenix 1
Edmonton 5, Tampa Bay 3
Calgary 4, Columbus 1

Woods ready to compete

MARANA, Arizona - Tiger Woods pulled into the parking lot as sunlight began to filter across the desert floor. He ducked into the clubhouse to change into golf shoes and headed out for a practice round, a routine he has followed for a dozen years.

For a moment, it didn't seem as though he had been gone from golf for the last eight months recovering from knee surgery.

"It feels the same. Nothing feels any different," Woods said, recalling a conversation with his wife on Tuesday morning.

"Just because it feels like I'm coming back to what I used to do."

But there was one change that brought so much satisfaction.

Standing on the first tee at Dove Mountain, he drew back his 3-wood and sent the ball soaring against the Arizona sky, his swing looking just as good as it did that Monday in June at San Diego when he won the U.S. Open in a playoff.

Only this time he didn't win. He didn't stoop over and clutch his left leg. He didn't have to use his club for a cane. Nothing hurt.

"I feel great," Woods said.

"I didn't think it would feel this good before the surgery, or even just after the surgery, because I hadn't known what it's like to feel this way. It's been so long. So to have it feel this healthy and this solid and secure, man, it's a great feeling."

He was about an hour late for his press conference, but he had a good excuse.

It was his first time walking 18 holes since the U.S. Open, and "I forgot how long it takes," said Woods, who has been riding a cart at home.

Knicks, Marbury part ways

NEW YORK - The New York Knicks are free of Stephon Marbury, and the troublesome point guard is free to join a playoff contender.

Marbury was waived Tuesday by the Knicks, ending a turbulent five-year stint in which the former All-Star couldn't lead his hometown team to a single playoff victory.

The team released a statement saying an agreement between the Knicks and Marbury had been reached, but did not disclose financial terms.

Knicks president Donnie Walsh has said the team and Marbury have been trying to work out a buyout.

Walsh's hope was to get something for Marbury in a trade, but with Marbury's salary of close to \$21 million this season and a divisive personality, he knew a deal was improbable.

Marbury would be eligible to play in the postseason for any team that signs him because he was waived by March 1. He has been linked to the Boston Celtics, who are in need of a backup guard with Tony Allen injured.

"The Celtics are focused on defending our championship and are working day and night to finalize our playoff roster," owner Steve Grousbeck said.

"We don't have anything to announce at this point except that we intend to do everything we can to raise Banner 18."

Though perhaps the most talented player on the roster, Marbury hadn't played in a game this season as new coach Mike D'Antoni preferred to stick with the players who would be part of the Knicks' future.

Colts release Harrison

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indianapolis Colts released Marvin Harrison on Tuesday, ending the star receiver's 13 years with the team.

Colts owner Jim Irsay grudgingly honored Harrison's request to be released after meeting with him in a final effort to re-sign the franchise's career receiving leader.

Harrison would have counted \$13.4 million against the cap in 2009, the highest of any NFL receiver. Although Indianapolis wanted to restructure Harrison's contract, Polian said there was no feasible way to do it.

Agent Tom Condon said a day earlier that Harrison declined a pay cut.

He was second in NFL career receptions. He turns 37 in August and was coming off the least productive season of his career in which he was not injured.

Cutting him could save the Colts about \$6 million on next season's salary cap.

Team officials turned the news conference to announce Harrison's release - the receiver didn't attend - into an emotional tribute to one of the most identifiable players in the franchise's Indianapolis era.

They took turns recounting stories that stretched back more than a decade. Irsay's halting words at the start and team president Bill Polian's reddened eyes at the end were indicative of how hard it was to let go of one of the best receivers in NFL history.

"I've always treasured the time I've had with him because I respected him so much as a person," Polian said.

Warner 'deserves top pay'

PHOENIX - The agent for Kurt Warner says he expected the quarterback and the Cardinals would have a contract agreement by now and hopes the team isn't using his client's desire to stay in Arizona against him.

Agent Mark Bartelstein said Warner deserves a salary among the top "four or five" quarterbacks in the league, no matter where he plays. According to Bartelstein, those five earn an average of about \$14.5 million per year.

Bartelstein declined to say what the Cardinals were offering.

"It's unfortunate," Bartelstein said. "I thought it would get done quickly, but it hasn't. We'll keep working on it."

Barring an agreement, Warner will become a free agent on Friday.

In an interview on Sporting News Radio, the 37-year-old quarterback said he was leaning toward either signing with Arizona or retiring.

At this point in his career, Warner said, "you don't want to go and start over, you don't want to have to rebuild. You want to be able to be a part of something you're comfortable with, where the pieces are in place to be successful." Warner also doesn't want to move his wife and seven children.

His comments add to the leverage the Cardinals have in their negotiations, but Bartelstein said it would be unfair to pay the quarterback less than he deserves just because he wants to stay put.

Phelps to return in May

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina - Michael Phelps will swim in a meet in Charlotte in May, ending his three-month suspension for being photographed with his mouth to a marijuana pipe.

Meet officials announced Tuesday that the Olympic great has committed to the Charlotte UltraSwim on May 14-17.

The Grand Prix event will be the first major meet for which Phelps is eligible, and first warmup before July's world championships in Rome.

"Michael is focused on practicing and regaining the mental and physical momentum that he had achieved going into the Beijing Olympics," Phelps' coach, Bob Bowman, said in a statement.

"He is committed to a very demanding and rigorous training schedule as he prepares for upcoming meets and the FINA World Championships."

Phelps won a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics, but he was suspended by USA Swimming this month after a British tabloid published a photograph showing him with a marijuana pipe at a party in November at the University of South Carolina.

The 23-year-old Phelps apologized and called the suspension "fair." While he's returned to training in his hometown of Baltimore, the suspension put him behind his preparation for the world championships.

Crabtree 'might not run'

INDIANAPOLIS - Michael Crabtree might not perform in front of NFL scouts, after all.

The top-rated receiver in this year's draft told NFL Network on Tuesday there was only a 50-50 chance he would run at his personal workout next month in Lubbock, Texas.

On Saturday, doctors at the league's annual scouting combine diagnosed a stress fracture in his left foot and recommended surgery to insert a screw.

Rehabilitation is expected to take 10 weeks or more, meaning Crabtree wouldn't be able to work out for scouts before the draft if the procedure was done soon. The draft is April 25-26.

On Sunday, Crabtree changed his plans. He said he would delay surgery until after his personal workout. Now that could change.

"It's 50-50," Crabtree told the television network by phone Tuesday. "I'm going to take some time and evaluate it."

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There already are questions about how his condition might affect his draft status. Before the combine, most projected the record-setting Texas Tech receiver to be among the top five picks -and he still might.

But he measured 6-foot-1 - 2 inches shorter than his listed height at Texas Tech, creating a potential concern for teams that thought he fit the mold of a taller receiver such as Randy Moss or Larry Fitzgerald.

Calhoun rant 'embarrassing'

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - Connecticut basketball coach Jim Calhoun's tirade at a freelance journalist posing questions about the his \$1.6 million salary was an "embarrassing display," the state's governor said Tuesday.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell said she believes Calhoun regrets the outburst directed at Ken Krayeske, who questioned the veteran coach about his salary after a game Saturday.

"I think if Coach Calhoun had the opportunity right now, he would welcome a do-over and not have that embarrassing display from last week," Rell said after meeting with local college officials and business leaders.

Rell said Calhoun's whole tone was embarrassing.

Calhoun hasn't spoken with the media since the tirade. A call seeking comment from the university was not immediately returned.

The No. 2 Huskies' next game is at No. 8 Marquette on Wednesday.

Krayeske, a freelancer and political activist, attended the game on a photo press pass and asked the first question of the coach's postgame news conference following a 61-50 win over South Florida.

He asked why the coach of a public university was making \$1.6 million while the state has a \$944 million deficit and a projected \$8 billion shortfall over the next two years.

Calhoun first responded with a joke, then grew angry as Krayeske continued the line of questioning.

"My best advice to you is, shut up," Calhoun said.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Bernanke cites 'contraction'

WASHINGTON - Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress Tuesday the economy is suffering through a "severe contraction" and pledged to use all available tools to lift the country out of the recession that already has cost millions of Americans their jobs.

In testimony to the Senate Banking Committee, Bernanke said the economy is likely to keep shrinking in the first six months of this year.

Housing, credit and financial crises - the worst since the 1930s - plunged the economy into its worst slide in a quarter-century at the end of last year.

Bernanke hoped that the current recession will end this year, but said there were significant risks to that forecast. Any economic turnaround will hinge on the success of the Fed and the Obama administration in getting credit and financial markets to operate more normally again.

"Only if that is the case, in my view there is a reasonable prospect that the current recession will end in 2009 and that 2010 will be a year of recovery," Bernanke said.

Among the risks to any recovery are if economic and financial troubles in other countries turn out to be worse than anticipated, which would hurt U.S. exports and further aggravate already shaky financial conditions in the United States.

Another concern is that the Fed and other Washington policymakers won't be able to break a vicious cycle where disappearing jobs, tanking home values and shrinking nest eggs are forcing consumers to cut back sharply, worsening the economy's tailspin.

In turn, battered companies lay off more people and cut back in other ways.

"To break that adverse feedback loop, it is essential that we continue to complement fiscal stimulus with strong government action to stabilize financial institutions and financial markets," Bernanke said.

Stocks up on Bernanke remarks

NEW YORK - Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gave Wall Street a double dose of reassurance.

The Dow rose 236.16, or 3.3 percent, to 7,350.94. On Monday, the major indexes tumbled more than 3 percent, including the Dow, which fell 251 points and hit its lowest close since May 7, 1997.

WALL STREET INDEXES

Tuesday close

Dow Jones Indust.	7350.94	+236.16
S&P 500	773.14	+29.81
NYSE Composite	4821.74	+187.96
Amex Index	1319.05	+25.82
NASD Composite	1441.83	+54.11
NMS Composite	670.56	+25.37
Value Line Geometric	186.38	+ 8.91
Value Line Arithmetic	1201.51	+59.09
Wilshire 5000	7833.85	+308.23
Russell 2000	412.48	+17.90

60 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of Tue Feb 24 17:37:32	
AT&T Inc	23.25 +.57
ActivisBlz s	10.10 +.67
AmExp	13.62 +1.47
AmIntLgp	41 -12
Apple Inc	90.25 +3.70
ApdMatl	8.74 +.37
BkoFam	4.73 +.82
Cisco	14.99 +.63
Citigrp	2.60 +.46
Comcast	13.88 +1.19
CVRD	12.93 +.93
DJIA Diam	73.38 +2.23
Dell Inc	8.26 +.27
DirxFinBull	5.62 +1.21
EldorGld g	8.19 -1.15
ExxonMbl	72.09 +2.79
FtFthThird	1.45 +.21
FordM	2.00 +.27
GenElec	9.08 +.23
Goldstr g	1.51 -1.50
HartfFdFn	8.01 +1.33
HewlettP	29.62 +1.34
HomeDp	20.67 +1.96
HuntBnk	1.41 +.25
ISHJag	7.60 +1.30
ISHCh25 s	26.15 +1.32
ISHMkt s	22.14 +1.15
IS_Eafe	31.96 +1.44
ISHR2K	41.06 +1.46
ISHREst	27.35 +2.08
Intel	12.73 +.65
JPMorgCh	21.02 +1.51
Marvett	7.48 +.87
Microsoft	17.17 -1.04
MorgStan	22.07 +3.25
NewsCpa	6.12 +.34
NthgtM g	1.18 -1.24
Novagld g	2.69 +.36
Oracle	16.44 +1.28
Pfizer	19.59 +1.32
PSCrudeL n	2.06 +.16
PwShs OQ	28.78 +.92
PRUSHs&P	89.93 -7.34
PROULTQQ	24.60 +1.44
PROULTSP	19.04 +1.34
PROULTFin	2.44 +.43
Qualcom	34.49 +1.71
RschMotn	40.42 -3.00
RndGold	94.73 -3.00
Schwab	13.30 +1.19
Seagate	3.96 -1.05
SirtusXM	.14 +.00
SprintNex	3.58 +.27
SPDR	77.48 +2.83
SP Engy	42.30 +1.90
SPDR Fncl	8.05 +.87
US Bancrp	12.54 +1.21
WeatherInt s	9.69 +.17
WellsFargo	13.05 +2.02
Yahoo	12.75 +.78

(NY=NYSE; AM=AMEX; NA=NASDAQ)

FOREIGN STOCK INDEXES

	Tuesday	Previous
Amsterdam AEX	225.55	223.98
Brussels Bel-25	1692.60	1723.58
Frankfurt DAX	3892.75	3936.45
Hong Kong H-S	1798.52	1875.10
London FT-100	3816.44	3850.73
Mexico IPC	18296.11	17956.40
Milan MIB	12614.00	12639.00
Paris CAC-40	2708.05	2727.87
Sydney All Ord	3285.00	3304.10
Tokyo Nikkei	7268.56	7376.16
Toronto TSE-300	7859.33	7647.67
Zurich SMI	4723.02	4797.12

NEW YORK EXCHANGE RATES

	Tuesday	Previous
Australia (Dollar)	1.5365	1.55
Britain (Pound)	\$1.4491	\$1.44
Canada (Dollar)	1.2416	1.25
China (Yuan)	6.8383	6.83
Euro	\$1.2852	\$1.27
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.2528	7.25
India (Rupee)	49.689	49.5
Japan (Yen)	96.89	94.10
Mexico (Peso)	14.8185	14.94
Norway (Krone)	6.8092	6.82
Russia (Ruble)	35.7782	36.02
Singapore (Dollar)	1.5216	1.52
So. Africa (Rand)	9.8593	10.07
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1603	1.16

Broader stock indicators also rebounded Tuesday. The S&P 500 index rose 29.81, or 4 percent, to 773.14. On Monday, it logged its lowest finish since April 11, 1997.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 54.11, or 3.9 percent, Tuesday to 1,441.83, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 17.90, or 4.5 percent, to 412.48.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by about 6 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 7.09 billion shares, compared with Monday's 6.35 billion.

Bernanke told Congress on Tuesday the recession might end this year, and that regulators aren't planning to nationalize banks.

The news alleviated some of investors' worries about the economy and the banking industry, and lifted the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index off their lowest levels since 1997.

Home Depot posted a loss but the nation's largest home improvement retailer's results topped expectations when excluding costs for shutting four home-improvement brands. The stock rose \$1.96, or 10.5 percent, to \$20.66.

Dollar mostly lower

NEW YORK - The dollar slipped against European currencies but rose against the yen Tuesday after traders learned that consumer sentiment sank sharply in February.

The 16-nation euro rose to \$1.2852 in late New York trading Tuesday from \$1.2713, while the British pound edged up to \$1.4491 from \$1.4486 late Monday.

Meanwhile, the buck rose to 96.89 Japanese yen from 94.60 yen, topping out at 96.93 earlier in the session, a three-month high.

Stocks in Japan dropped 3 percent to close near 26-year lows on Tuesday.

The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index sank to 25 in February from a revised 37.4 last month, below analysts' expectations. The current level is the lowest since the index began in 1967.

In other New York trading, the dollar fell to 1.1603 Swiss francs from 1.1671 francs, and dropped to 1.2416 Canadian dollars from 1.2516 Canadian dollars late Monday.

Treasurys end mixed

NEW YORK - Treasury prices finished mixed Tuesday as stocks rebounded and the government sold \$40 billion in two-year notes.

The auction was well-received, but upcoming supply is nevertheless weighing on Treasury prices. Later this week, the Treasury Department will auction \$32 billion in five-year notes and \$22 billion in seven-year notes.

The benchmark 10-year Treasury note dipped 12/32 to 99 17/32. Its yield rose to 2.80 percent from 2.76 percent.

The two-year note fell 2/32 to 99 25/32, and its yield rose to 0.98 percent from 0.94 percent. The 30-year bond rose 14/32 to 100 6/32, and its yield fell to 3.49 percent from 3.51 percent.

The three-month Treasury bill's yield was unchanged at 0.29 percent. The discount rate was 0.30 percent.

Official: Obama to name commerce pick Wednesday

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama intends to nominate former Washington Gov. Gary Locke to be commerce secretary on Wednesday in his third try to fill the job.

Locke, a Democrat, became the nation's first Chinese-American governor when he took office in 1997 and served two terms.

Obama planned to make the announcement on Wednesday, said an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the appointment has not been made public.

His appointment drew quick applause from fellow Washington-state Democrats.

"Who better than Gary to understand international trade and our relationship with China? He gets it better than anyone," Gov. Chris Gregoire said Tuesday.

Asked if she expected Locke to be confirmed, Gregoire said: "If Gary Locke cannot be confirmed, I don't think anybody can get confirmed." Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., also praised Locke's selection.

"Obviously a lot of growth in our economy is through exports, and obviously he knows how important exports can be for big sectors like Boeing and Microsoft and agriculture. And he might be the first commerce secretary who comes into office with some understanding of fish," she said.

MOVIES: 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane' told the story of the Hudson sisters.

HISTORY: Sotheby's is the world's oldest auctioneer.

GAMES & PASTIMES: A jack can also be called a knave in a pack of cards.

MACY'S INC.

NEW YORK - Macy's Inc. reported an almost 59 percent drop in fourth-quarter earnings Tuesday as its results were dragged down by weak sales and one-time costs associated with the consolidations of regional divisions and store closings.

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS

BOSTON - Fidelity Investments said Tuesday its operating profit fell 18 percent last year compared with 2007, as the nation's largest mutual fund company saw fund performance decline compared with peers.

TARGET CORP.

MINNEAPOLIS - Target Corp. said Tuesday that its fourth-quarter profit fell 41 percent as consumer spending suffered amid high unemployment and other economic woes.

MEDCO HEALTH SOLUTIONS INC.

NEW YORK - Pharmacy benefits manager Medco Health Solutions Inc. said Tuesday its fourth-quarter profit rose 32 percent as the deteriorating economy drove increased sales of generic and mail-order drugs as customers tried to save money.

OFFICE DEPOT INC.

NEW YORK - Office Depot Inc. said Tuesday it lost \$1.54 billion in the fourth quarter as hefty charges and sharply lower sales in North America and abroad weighed on the office supply chain.

Salmon and other fish are a huge part of the culture of the Pacific Northwest. The Commerce Department oversees the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Ford execs take pay cuts

DETROIT - Hourly workers at Ford Motor Co. will get yet another round of buyout and early retirement offers, and the company's top two executives will take 30 percent pay cuts as Ford tries to find a way out of the worst auto sales slump in 26 years.

Chief Executive Alan Mulally and Executive Chairman Bill Ford Jr. will see the salary reductions this year and next, according to a memo.

In addition, local union leaders were told Tuesday that the company will make buyout or early retirement offers to all 42,000 U.S. hourly workers.

The offers are part of a series of contract concessions in a tentative agreement reached between the United Auto Workers and the company, according to two union officials briefed on the deal.

Top UAW leaders explained the concessions to plant-level officials from across the country at a meeting in Detroit Tuesday afternoon.

The union officials didn't want to be identified because the deal has not been explained to the membership.

Other concessions include suspension of cost-of-living pay raises, lump-sum performance bonuses and end-of-the-year bonuses in the remaining three years of the union's contract with Ford, the officials said.

The union also agreed to take as equity 50 percent of the payments that Ford is required to make into a union-run trust fund that will take over retiree health care expenses starting next year.

Penny stocks? Small change for big-name companies

What costs more - a spark plug or a share of General Motors? A Sunday New York Times or a share of the newspaper company? A General Electric toaster or a share of GE?

In the surest sign of the depth of the recession, the products associated with these high-profile companies now cost more than buying a piece of the business.

Shares of some of the most renowned companies have come under assault as the worst recession in decades saps investor confidence and drags major stock indexes to their lowest levels since 1997.

Despite Tuesday's 3 percent gain, the Dow Jones industrial average is still off almost 50 percent from its 2007 high - and there's little evidence it's hit bottom.

USA TIMES



A unique service from Headland Media

Thursday, February 26, 2009

NEWS VIA SATELLITE FROM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST NEWSWIRES

Headland SatNews

Obama seeks \$634bn for health

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama is asking Congress to raise taxes on the wealthy and cut Medicare costs to provide health care for the uninsured while making the just-enacted \$400 tax cut for most workers permanent.

In his first budget blueprint, Obama proposes setting aside \$634 billion over the next decade to expand government subsidized health coverage - a little more than half the money needed to ensure that every American gets medical care.

Obama is also expected to ask Congress for an additional \$75 billion to cover the costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through September.

The disclosures came from three administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the budget won't be made public until Thursday.

Obama's budget proposal would effectively raise income taxes and curb tax deductions on couples making more than \$250,000 a year, beginning in 2011.

By not extending former President George W. Bush's tax cuts for such wealthier filers, Obama would allow the marginal rate on household incomes above \$250,000 to rise

from 35 percent to 39.6 percent, said an administration official.

The plan also contains a contentious proposal to raise hundreds of billions of dollars by auctioning off permits to exceed carbon emissions caps Obama wants to impose on users of fossil fuels to address global warming.

Some of the revenues from the pollution permits would be used to extend the "Making Work Pay" tax credit of \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples beyond 2010 as provided in the just-passed economic stimulus bill.

About half of what officials characterized as a \$634 billion "down payment" toward health care coverage for every American would come from cuts in Medicare.

That is sure to incite battles with doctors, hospitals, health insurance companies and drug manufacturers.

Some of the Medicare savings would come from scaling back payments to private insurance plans that serve older Americans, which many analysts believe to be inflated.

Other proposals include charging upper-income beneficiaries a higher premium for Medicare's prescription drug coverage.

House OKs \$410bn in spending

WASHINGTON - The Democratic-controlled House pushed through a \$410 billion measure Wednesday that boosted domestic programs, bristled with earmarks and chipped away at policies left behind by the Bush administration.

The vote was 245-178, largely along party lines.

Republicans assailed the measure as too costly - particularly on the heels of a \$787 billion stimulus bill that President Barack Obama signed last week. But Democrats jabbed back.

"The same people who drove the economy into the ditch are now complaining about the size of the tow truck," said Rep. James

McGovern, D-Mass., pointing out the large increase in deficits that President George W. Bush and GOP-controlled Congresses amassed.

From the GOP side, Rep. Jeb Hensarling of Texas said the legislation was "going to grow the government 8.3 percent... but the family budget which has to pay for the federal budget only grew at 1.3 percent last year."

The debate occurred one day after Obama told Congress in a prime time television address that he intends to cut deficits in half over the next four years, and one day before he was submitting tax and spending plans for the coming year.

WORLD NEWS

SCORES SURVIVE PLANE CRASH

HAARLEMMEERLIEDE, Netherlands - A Turkish Airlines jetliner plummeted out of the mist and plowed into a muddy field Wednesday near Amsterdam's main airport, but nearly everyone on board - 125 people - survived. The nine dead included both pilots.

The Boeing 737-800 was en route from Istanbul to Amsterdam carrying 134 people when it suddenly lost speed and fell out of the sky about two miles short of the runway at Schiphol Airport, investigators said.

The jetliner broke into three pieces upon impact: the fuselage tore in two near the cockpit and the tail was ripped off. Despite the catastrophic impact, the wreckage did not burn and scores of people walked away.

LAWMAKER FACES ARREST

BAGHDAD - An Iraqi Airways jet carrying a Sunni lawmaker accused of being a terror boss was ordered back to Baghdad on Wednesday, but authorities could only watch as the combative legislator slipped away before fellow parliament members stripped him of his immunity.

The boomerang voyage of Mohammed al-Dayni - who was pulled back just as the jet was about to leave Iraqi airspace - capped days of friction between the Shiite-led government and the defiant al-Dayni, who called the charges part of a campaign to muzzle critics.

He made one last blitz of calls to journalists and supporters after the Jordan-bound jet returned to Baghdad.

YSL AUCTION BREAKS RECORDS

PARIS - Two rare bronze sculptures that disappeared from China nearly 150 years ago - and demanded back by Beijing - sold for millions Wednesday as an auction of art works owned by the late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent concluded with dazzling sales of nearly \$500 million.

The collection of Saint Laurent and his partner, Pierre Berge, broke several world records in a three-day "sale of the century" that amassed more than \$484 million, said the organizer, Christie's.

That was well over the \$250 million-\$380 million the 733-piece sale had been expected to fetch.

WEATHER

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

City	Lo	Hi	Condition
Amsterdam	43	53	Clear
Athens	43	53	Clear
Auckland	43	53	Clear
Berlin	43	53	Clear
Brussels	43	53	Clear
Buenos Aires	54	84	Clear
Cairo	46	61	Clear
Copenhagen	34	41	Clear
Dublin	39	46	Rain
Hong Kong	33	39	Rain
Istanbul	33	39	Clear
Jerusalem	44	54	Clear
Johannesburg	37	50	Clear
London	37	51	Clear
Madrid	37	51	Clear
Manila	77	90	Rain
Mexico City	41	77	Clear
Moscow	5	25	Clear
New Delhi	5	25	Clear
Paris	34	41	Clear
Rome	34	41	Clear
Sao Paulo	68	72	Rain
Singapore	68	72	Rain
Stockholm	23	35	Clear
Sydney	64	72	Rain
Tokyo	43	50	Rain
Toronto	21	39	Clear
Zurich	18	32	Clear

U.S. WEATHER

City	Hi	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	26	11	Snow
Atlanta	57	41	Cloudy
Boston	36	22	Cloudy
Chicago	54	33	Rain
Dallas-Ft. Worth	54	58	Rain
Denver	67	32	Cloudy
Great Falls	18	17	Snow
Houston	79	63	Cloudy
Kansas City	68	39	Rain
Las Vegas	74	49	PCldy
Los Angeles	64	52	Cloudy
Miami Beach	75	63	PCldy
Mpls-St. Paul	37	34	Snow
New Orleans	73	57	PCldy
New York City	42	24	Cloudy
Phoenix	85	58	PCldy
Salt Lake City	58	32	Cloudy
San Francisco	61	50	Cloudy
Seattle	74	49	PCldy
Washington, D.C.	55	42	Snow
National Temperature Extremes for Wednesday:			
High 98 at Laredo, Tx.			
Low -15 at East Berkshire, Vt.			

Funeral director arrested

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama - A funeral director accused of leaving a woman's body to decay in a parked hearse after her relatives failed to pay the bill was arrested on a felony charge of abusing a corpse, police said Wednesday.

Watson and Sons Funeral Home embalmed the remains of Edna Kathleen Woods, 52, after she died of natural causes in November 2007, said Gadsden police Sgt. Jeff Wright.

Relatives wanted the body cremated but failed to sign the necessary paperwork or pay owner Harold Watson Sr., he said.

After storing the corpse at his funeral home for more than a year, Wright said, the 76-year-old Watson decided to move it because he couldn't reach the woman's family. Someone complained about a foul smell near downtown Gadsden, about 60 miles northeast of Birmingham, and officers on Tuesday found the woman's remains in a cardboard box that was inside a locked hearse parked on a piece of property that Watson owns.

Obama eyes financial sector regulations

WASHINGTON - After devoting money and time in search of a rescue for the ailing banking sector, President Barack Obama on Wednesday demanded tough new regulations to keep financial institutions in check and avoid future Wall Street meltdowns.

Obama pressed key lawmakers to overhaul the nation's financial regulatory scheme to restore "accountability, transparency and trust in our financial markets."

He specifically called for a system that would monitor the risks that institutions can take.

"We can no longer sustain 21st century markets with 20th century regulation," Obama said after meeting with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and the chairmen and top Republicans of the two House and Senate

committees charged with writing new regulatory legislation.

Obama leveled a broad indictment of the industry, saying the current financial crisis occurred when "Wall Street wrongly presumed the markets would continuously rise and traded in complex financial products without fully evaluating their risks."

But he also blamed government regulators for not adequately protecting consumers.

In calling for a sweeping regulatory change, Obama is providing ballast to his still unfinished effort to shore up the ailing industry.

As such, he is taking both a policy and a political step designed to assure the public that bailing out banks is not his only prescription for the industry.

Forces will face combat after Iraq pullout

WASHINGTON - Some of the U.S. forces likely to remain in Iraq after President Barack Obama fulfills his pledge to withdraw combat troops would still have a combat role fighting suspected terrorists, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Obama plans to announce his withdrawal strategy as early as Friday. He will travel that day to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, the White House announced Wednesday.

While there, Obama is expected to outline a compromise withdrawal plan that leaves behind as many as 50,000 troops for cleanup and protection operations.

"The president will thank the Marines and

their families for their incredible sacrifice, and will outline his plan for a way forward in Iraq," said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the plan has not been announced.

Although most of the fighting forces would be withdrawn in the next 18 months, some troops could remain in Iraq for years to come. An agreement forged by the Bush administration with Iraqi officials requires removal of all U.S. forces by 2012.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that a holdover, or "residual," force would number in the tens of thousands.

Jindal slammed over speech response

NEW YORK - Insane. Childish. Disaster. And those were some of the kinder comments from political pundits about Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and his response to President Barack Obama's speech to Congress on Tuesday night.

Jindal, 37, a Rhodes scholar and son of Indian immigrants, is considered a rising star in Republican ranks and a likely 2012 presidential candidate.

GOP leaders, looking for a fresh face for the party's image, tapped Jindal earlier this month for the high-profile task of rebutting Obama's first address to a joint session of Congress.

But in both style and substance, Jindal's

speech has drawn flak from Republicans and Democrats alike.

His criticism of government spending for emergency economic relief has been widely panned, especially given his state's receipt of billions in federal assistance after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

And Jindal's voice and earnest, awkward delivery have drawn comparisons to Kenneth Parcell, the geeky page on the NBC comedy "30 Rock."

Indeed, a new Facebook group titled "Bobby Jindal is Kenneth the Page" had already attracted more than 1,800 members Wednesday afternoon.

Police: Miami man kills wife, daughters

MIAMI - A 53-year-old music teacher fatally shot his wife and two daughters Wednesday before killing himself, while his 16-year-old son who survived the attack managed to call police as he escaped uninjured from the Miami home, authorities said.

Police haven't released names, but neighbors identified the family members as Pablo Josue Amador; his 45-year-old wife, Maria; their youngest daughters, Priscila and Rosa; and the escaped son, Javier.

They said the couple also had a 19-year-old daughter who attends college.

Sarait Betancourt, a 44-year-old school bus driver who lives near the family, said Amador is a Cuban immigrant who gave piano lessons at a guitar shop and at his home. Betancourt's two sons, ages 9 and 10, had been taking

piano lessons from him once a week since 2006.

"He was a marvelous person and a tremendous professor," she said. "People would enter the house, and you just breathed peace."

Betancourt said all four children excelled at piano and performed together at church and home as Los Galileos. Authorities have not confirmed that there is a fourth sibling.

Officers went to the home in southern Miami-Dade County just before 6 a.m. to investigate reports of shots being fired. Police found a gun but didn't say what type or how many shots were believed fired.

Neighbors on the quiet street of modest single-family homes said there was nothing that particularly stood out about the family.

Sanctuary 'warned chimp owner about dangers'

STAMFORD, Connecticut - The founder of a primate rescue sanctuary said Wednesday that she warned a Connecticut woman years ago that her pet chimpanzee was a "ticking time bomb."

April Truitt, who runs the Primate Rescue Center in Kentucky, said she took it upon herself to warn chimp owner Sandra Herold of the dangers of keeping the animal in her home after she heard of its escape in 2003.

The 200-pound chimp, named Travis, attacked and critically injured 55-year-old Charla Nash last week as she tried to help Herold lure the animal back into a house. Nash remains hospitalized with massive injuries to her hands and face.

Police shot and killed the chimp shortly after the attack. Its remains were cremated Wednesday.

Police have not said if they will file charges against Herold. Her lawyer, Joe Gerardi, declined to comment Wednesday.

Authorities said they don't know why the chimp attacked. Herold has speculated that Travis was trying to protect her from Nash, who arrived at the house with an unfamiliar hairstyle and car.

"Travis was a ticking time bomb, and keeping him in the house and trying to domesticate him was a really, really bad idea and he wasn't going to put up with it forever," Truitt said.

Mom: Hospital may not release octuplets

LOS ANGELES - Nadya Suleman has voiced concern that the hospital where her octuplets are being cared for may prevent her from taking them home when they're healthy enough in coming weeks.

But in reality, hospitals don't prevent healthy children from going home - child protective services do.

And that's only if a complaint has been filed. Hospital employees are mandated to report to county authorities any concerns they have about unsuitable home environments, a mother's emotional or psychological

instability, or any other situation that could result in harm to a child.

According to talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw, the 33-year-old unemployed mother called him Tuesday and said hospital officials were worried that her current living arrangement wouldn't be suitable.

Stu Riskin, a spokesman for Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, said the agency cannot comment specifically on Suleman's situation and could not confirm whether a case had been opened on her family.

CELEBRITY NEWS

MORGAN FREEMAN SUED

The woman who was with Morgan Freeman the night of a car crash that injured both of them insists she was never romantically linked to Freeman and is suing the actor for negligence.

Demaris Meyer and her lawyer, Gloria Allred, held a news conference Wednesday announcing that Meyer has filed a lawsuit against the 71-year-old Academy Award winner.

"I have been labeled as the other woman and have been accused of having caused the breakup of Mr. Freeman's marriage," Meyer said.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. I had hoped and prayed that Mr. Freeman or his representatives would have set the record straight and cleared my name, but they have not done so and that is why I have chosen to come forward to tell the truth about our relationship."

BRITNEY 'SCARED OF LUTFI'

Britney Spears' hairdresser testified Wednesday that the pop superstar told her she was scared of her former manager and friend, Osama "Sam" Lutfi.

The testimony came as lawyers for Spears' father seek lengthy restraining orders against Spears' ex-boyfriend Adnan Ghalib, attorney Jon Eardley and Lutfi.

A judge on Wednesday extended temporary restraining orders against the men and plans to hear further testimony April 1.

O'DONNELL SET TO RETURN

Rosie O'Donnell says she doesn't have time these days to view "The View."

"I don't watch it too much," O'Donnell said. "I don't really watch too much daytime, having four kids and being kind of overwhelmed by that."

O'Donnell - who left the daytime talk show in 2007 after a single tumultuous season - returns to TV on Saturday night with a Lifetime movie about the foster-care system called "America."

She had been a foster parent to two children, including a girl named Rosie for 1 1/2 years, when an intern in 2002 handed her the book by E.R. Frank that inspired the movie.

O'Donnell, who co-wrote the script and is executive producer, plays a therapist for a boy aging out of foster care. She discovered her 17-year-old co-star Philip Johnson while eating at a Detroit diner just days before production was to begin.

Low-carb? Study finds calories count more

LOS ANGELES - Low-fat, low-carb or high-protein? The kind of diet doesn't matter, scientists say. All that really counts is cutting calories and sticking with it, according to a federal study that followed people for two years.

However, participants had trouble staying with a single approach that long and the weight loss was modest for most.

As the world grapples with rising obesity, millions have turned to popular diets like Atkins, Zone and Ornish that tout the benefits of one nutrient over another.

Some previous studies have found that low carbohydrate diets like Atkins work better than a traditional low-fat diet. But the new research found that the key to losing weight boiled down to a basic rule - calories in, calories out.

"The hidden secret is it doesn't matter if you focus on low-fat or low-carb," said Dr.

Elizabeth Nabel, director of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the research.

Limiting the calories you consume and burning off more calories with exercise is key, she said.

The study, which appears in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, was led by Harvard School of Public Health and Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Louisiana.

Researchers randomly assigned 811 overweight adults to one of four diets, each of which contained different levels of fat, protein and carbohydrates.

Though the diets were twists on commercial plans, the study did not directly compare popular diets. The four diets contained healthy fats, were high in whole grains, fruits and vegetables and were low in cholesterol.

DO YOU KNOW?

LITERATURE: Whose lover was Oliver Mellors?

MYTHS & LEGENDS: Which mythical river led to Hades?

SPORTS: In which sport is the Britannia Cup contested?

(Answers on Page 8)

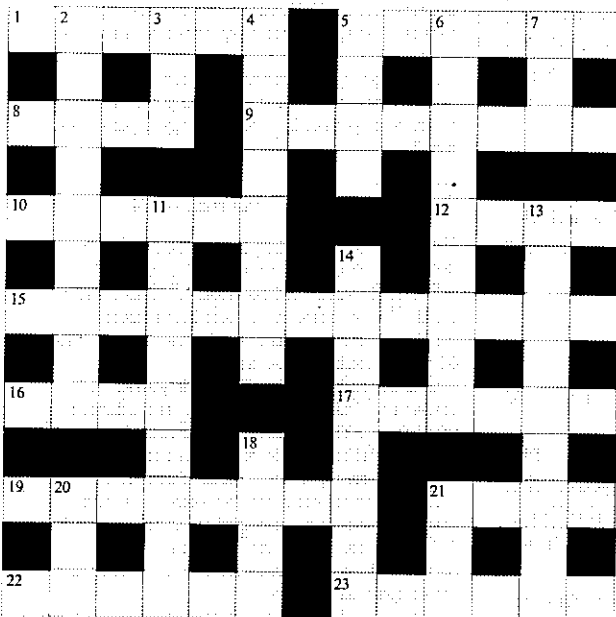
FANCY THAT!

THIEVES TRY TO PASS \$1,000 BILL

TEXAS TOWNSHIP, Mich. - Authorities say an antique \$1,000 bill proved the downfall of three teenagers on the run in Michigan.

The Kalamazoo County sheriff's department says the trio stole a safe containing antique money from one of the youth's parents.

Headland SatNews CROSSWORD No. 57



SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1. Citrus, 5. Piping, 8. Ffy, 9. Ungainly, 10. Mutual, 12. Cash, 15. In short supply, 16. Pall, 17. Trench, 19. Coliseum, 21. With, 22. Peeled, 23. Canary. DOWN: 2. Influenza, 3. Ray, 4. Soullery, 5. Page, 6. Principle, 7. Nil, 11. Unhephtl, 13. Solicitor, 14. Esoteric, 18. Herd, 20. Ore, 21. Win.

ACROSS

1. Orange, lemon (6)
5. Cake decoration (6)
8. Chancy (4)
9. Awkward (8)
10. Joint (6)
12. Hard currency (4)
15. Scarce (2,5,6)
16. Bucket (4)
17. Frontline hole (6)
19. Hairdresser (8)
21. Accompanying (4)
22. Stripped (6)
23. Cage songbird (6)

DOWN

2. Aching fever (9)
3. Beam (3)
4. Washing up room (8)
5. Book leaf (4)
6. Conduet standard (9)
7. No score (3)
11. Not assisting (9)
13. Lawyer (9)
14. Abstruse (8)
18. Cattle group (4)
20. Metal-bearing mineral (3)
21. Succeed (3)

Headland SatNews SUDOKU

6				4	3	8		5
					6		1	
2		4						6
9			8			3	2	
	8							5
	5	3			9			8
	2					5		6
	4		6					
1		6	4	5				9

RULES & SOLUTION

The object is to fill in the squares so that each row, column & box contains the numbers 1-9. Numbers may not be repeated in the same column & row.

9	6	2	8	5	8	4	5	8	1
5	4	9	6	3	2	2	1	8	7
3	2	8	9	1	7	5	4	6	
4	5	3	1	2	9	6	7	8	
7	8	2	3	6	4	9	5	1	
9	6	1	8	7	5	3	2	4	
2	9	4	5	8	1	7	6	3	
8	3	5	7	9	6	4	1	2	
6	1	7	2	4	3	8	9	5	

SPORTS NEWS

Triumphant return for Tiger

MARANA, Arizona - Tiger Woods made a triumphant return to golf in the Accenture Match Play Championship on Wednesday with a start that showed fans what they'd been missing for eight months.

Just past high noon in the desert, Woods fired an 8-iron into 5 feet for birdie. Then came a gentle fist pump when his 3-iron from 237 yards on the par-5 second settled 4 feet from the cup for eagle.

He closed out Brendan Jones of Australia with a 3-foot par on the 16th hole for a 3-and-2 victory in his first competitive outing in the 253 days since he limped his way to an epic U.S. Open title.

"It felt like nothing had changed," Woods said. "Walking down the fairway, it was like business as usual."

But this was no ordinary day.

Before thousands of fans who scurried through the high desert, eager to see every shot from the world's No. 1 player, Woods showed no sign of the reconstructive surgery done on his left knee a week after winning the U.S. Open.

"It held up," he said. "It felt good."

Woods said he had looked forward to the rush of competing. It was as if all that time away from golf had been bottled up inside of him. And then it came gushing out on a scorching day on Dove Mountain, where temperatures approached 90 degrees (32 C).

Fans packed into the stands around the first tee, with more lined up behind the ropes all the way to the green, and the cheer when Woods walked onto the tee could be heard all the way down the fairway.

Woods backed off his tee shot, and without much expression, belted a fairway metal down the right side of the fairway.

"You are back!" one spectator shouted.

He won the first two holes before some rust settled in. Woods made three bogeys over his next five holes and was leading, 1 up, until he birdied the par-5 eighth with a 6-foot putt.

Jones never got any closer.

Woods seized control of the match when Jones couldn't save par behind the green on the par-3 12th, and then Woods struck another familiar pose by raising his putter above his head as his 20-foot eagle putt dropped on the 13th.

It was the third time in five years Woods had surgery on his left knee, adding to the mystery of whether he would be as good as the player who has won 65 times on the U.S. PGA Tour, including 14 majors.

WEDNESDAY'S SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Top 25

2. Connecticut 93, 8. Marquette 82
7. Duke 78, Maryland 67
9. Michigan State 62, Iowa 54
10. Villanova 74, DePaul 72
11. Missouri 94, Kansas State 74
Virginia Tech 80, 12. Clemson 77
25. Texas 87, Texas Tech 81

Women's Top 25

6. Baylor 83, Texas Tech 53
10. Duke 83, Wake Forest 50
Temple 74, 13. Xavier 65
Nebraska 52, 20. Kansas State 47
25. Iowa State 76, Colorado 63

NBA

New Jersey 111, Chicago 99
New Orleans 90, Detroit 87
Utah 120, Minnesota 103
Indiana 104, Memphis 99
Philadelphia 106, Washington 98
Orlando 114, New York 109
Dallas 116, Milwaukee 96
San Antonio 99, Portland 84
Denver 110, Atlanta 109
Charlotte 98, Sacramento 91
L.A. Clippers 93, Boston 91

NHL

Toronto 2, N.Y. Rangers 1 (SO)
Philadelphia 2, Los Angeles 0
Detroit 4, San Jose 1
Pittsburgh 1, N.Y. Islanders 0

"I came back from surgery before, but never this long," Woods said. "And it didn't have quite the same attention."

Calhoun gets 800th win

MILWAUKEE - Jim Calhoun's 800th career victory came thanks in large part to senior guard A.J. Price, who scored a career-high 36 points as No. 2 Connecticut beat No. 8 Marquette 93-82 on Wednesday night.

Calhoun became only the seventh coach in Division I history to win 800 or more games. Stanley Robinson added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Huskies (26-2, 14-2 Big East), who had a pronounced size advantage going into the game but ended up getting the best of Marquette on the perimeter, too.

Jerel McNeal scored 26 points for the Golden Eagles (23-5, 12-3), who played most of the game without guard Dominic James who broke a bone in his left foot in the first half.

James played only 4 minutes, and the school announced after halftime that he broke the fifth metatarsal in his left foot.

No timeline was given for his return. James, one of the Golden Eagles' trio of standout senior guards, has 1,749 points and is considered one of the Big East's top defensive players.

Maurice Acker picked up the majority of James' minutes running the offense, and the Golden Eagles kept rallying after Connecticut squandered several chances to run away.

After yet another Marquette rally, Price finally clinched the game by hitting a 3-pointer to put the Huskies ahead by eight points with 1:10 left in the game.

Trailing by 11 early in the second half after Price hit two 3-pointers and a jumper on three straight possessions, Marquette went on a 12-0 run that included two 3-pointers by Acker to take a 1-point lead with 12:07 remaining.

But Connecticut regained control with an 11-0 run that included three three-point plays - one by Kemba Walker and two by Robinson on consecutive possessions that put the Huskies up 82-74 with 4:28 remaining.

Marquette rallied again to cut the lead to three on a pull-up jumper by McNeal with 2:28 left. And the Golden Eagles appeared to come up with a defensive stop when Price missed a driving layup, but McNeal was called for a loose ball foul and Jeff Adrien hit two free throws to extend the lead to five.

Price hit the clinching 3-pointer from the left wing with 1:10 remaining, then added two free throws to put Connecticut ahead 91-81 with 45.5 seconds left.

A-Rod homers in opener

DUNEDIN, Fla. - Back on the field, Alex Rodriguez was able to put aside the steroids scandal. At least for a little while.

Booed and taunted by opposing fans in the Yankees' spring training opener, Rodriguez homered and drew two walks Wednesday in a 6-1 exhibition victory over Toronto that was anything but routine.

It was his first game since admitting he took performance-enhancing drugs from 2001-03 with Texas. He left after drawing a walk in the fifth inning, then signed autographs for five minutes before calling it a day.

"This is what I do. I know how to play baseball," Rodriguez said.

"I just hope that's the start of something really special for this year. I feel really good about our team."

There were lots of cheers for the three-time AL MVP, a smattering of boos and occasional catcalls from the crowd of 5,014 at mostly filled Dunedin Stadium.

The New York third baseman walked on five pitches in the first inning. Many in the crowd stood and cheered as he circled the bases after hitting a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Ricky Romero in the fourth.

"It was just a fastball I left up and he's a great hitter," Romero said. "He's going to hit mistakes and I made a mistake. I was just trying to be aggressive."

Dodgers in new Manny bid

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Dodgers made a fourth bid for Manny Ramirez on Wednesday, this time offering the enigmatic slugger a \$25 million, one-year contract with a \$20 million player option for 2010.

The player option came at the request of Ramirez's agent, Scott Boras, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations who requested anonymity because talks are ongoing.

The latest proposal is similar in dollars to Los Angeles' first offer to the free-agent left fielder this offseason, a \$45 million, two-year deal with a buyout or a club option that was ignored by Boras and later withdrawn by the team.

This offer, however, gives Ramirez a chance to determine his fate in 2010. He could stay with the Dodgers for a \$20 million salary or decline the option and become a free agent again.

Dodgers spokesman Josh Rawitch confirmed that general manager Ned Colletti, owner Frank McCourt and Boras met Wednesday in Los Angeles and an offer was made, but Rawitch declined to provide further details.

The Los Angeles Times first reported details of the offer on its Web site Wednesday.

Ramirez rejected a one-year, \$25 million proposal from Los Angeles three weeks ago. The team also offered him salary arbitration in December, but Ramirez turned that down, too.

Giants sign Brandon Jacobs

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey - The New York Giants signed bruising halfback Brandon Jacobs to a four-year, \$25 million contract on Wednesday, less than two days before the NFL's free agency period starts.

"I was confident all along that this was going to get done I didn't panic one bit," Jacobs said in a statement released by the team.

"I know the reason we did it the way we did; I knew I was going to be here. I was super-confident and I am here. I'm happy about it."

The deal includes \$13 million in guarantees. Jacobs will earn \$15 million over the first two years.

"This team is full of young talent," he said.

"We brought some great talent in here the last two years and those guys are still learning and getting better. Our offensive line is great and will continue to be great. There are a lot of young guys on our team that are still playing great, great football. I'm looking for big things out of our football team next year."

Despite missing three games with a knee injury, Jacobs ran for 1,089 yards and a team-leading 15 touchdowns in helping the Giants win the NFC East last season.

He also combined with fellow halfback Derrick Ward (1,025 yards) to make the Giants only the fifth team with two 1,000-yard running backs.

Bucs release Derrick Brooks

TAMPA, Fla. - Derrick Brooks had no explanation for what just happened to him.

Brooks, one of the top players in Tampa Bay history, was cut by the Buccaneers Wednesday in a purge of the team's veterans.

"Right now, like all of you guys, I'm just trying to get a feel for it all, trying to come to grips with it," the 11-time Pro Bowl selection said by telephone. "I don't even know what to think."

He can begin thinking about his future in the NFL away from Tampa.

Brooks, the NFL Defensive Player of the Year when Tampa Bay won the Super Bowl after the 2002 season, was among five players cut, four of them older than 32-year-old Raheem Morris, the team's new head coach.

The others were wide receivers Joey Galloway and Ike Hilliard, running back Warrick Dunn and linebacker Cato June. The 29-year-old June is the only player under 30 and the only one younger than Morris.

The releases save more than \$10 million in salary cap space for a team that already is close to \$50 million under the projected cap of \$123 million. General manager Mark Dominik said the object of the cuts was less to save money than to get the team younger.

"Obviously decisions like these are extremely difficult to make," Dominik said.

Harris inspires Nets again

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. - Devin Harris scored 19 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter and carried the New Jersey Nets for the second straight game in a 111-99 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night.

The dazzling performance came just two days after Harris scored 39 points and hit a buzzer-beating half-court shot for a win over Philadelphia.

The All-Star point guard hit 7 of 9 shots from the field in the period to boost the Nets' playoff hopes and hand Chicago only its fifth loss in 13 games.

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Reserve Bobby Simmons added 18 points and rookie Brook Lopez had 13. Vince Carter had 11 points and nine rebounds.

Ben Gordon had 17 points and recently acquired John Salmons added 15 points to lead the Bulls, who were a woeful 7-for-25 from the field in the final quarter, including one of their first 11.

Chicago, which was coming off an impressive win over Orlando in their first game since acquiring Salmons, Brad Miller and Tim Thomas in trades, seemed in control late in the third quarter after Kirk Hinrich hit three straight baskets to give the Bulls a 78-69 lead.

Harris suddenly started hitting everything. He converted a three-point play after getting Salmons off the floor on a jumper and hit a high-arcing layup to close the gap to 78-74 after three quarters.

Keyon Dooling got New Jersey within a point with an early 3-pointer, but Gordon hit a jumper to push the lead to 80-77.

A shot in the lane by backup center Sean Williams and two free throws by Dooling gave New Jersey an 81-80 lead before Chicago took its last lead at 82-81 on two free throws by Salmons.

Harris then went wild. He hit a layup, went down the lane for another basket and nailed a 3-pointer to give New Jersey an 88-82 edge. After feeding Lopez inside for a three-point play, Harris hit another jumper to give the Nets a 93-83 lead.

New Jersey built the lead to as many as 16 points down the stretch with Harris hitting a late 3-pointer before walking off to a standing ovation.

Hokies end losing streak

CLEMSON, S.C. - Malcolm Delaney scored 26 points and Virginia Tech ended a three-game losing streak with an 80-77 victory over No. 12 Clemson on Wednesday night.

Delaney put the Hokies (17-10, 7-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) ahead for good with 7 minutes left, then kept pushing them forward to keep their NCAA tournament hopes alive.

Clemson (22-5, 8-5) had a final shot to tie the game, but Demontez Stitt missed a desperation 3-point try.

USA TIMES



A unique service from Headland Media

Thursday, February 26, 2009

NEWS VIA SATELLITE FROM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST NEWSWIRES

Headland SatNews

Obama seeks \$634bn for health

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama is asking Congress to raise taxes on the wealthy and cut Medicare costs to provide health care for the uninsured while making the just-enacted \$400 tax cut for most workers permanent.

In his first budget blueprint, Obama proposes setting aside \$634 billion over the next decade to expand government subsidized health coverage - a little more than half the money needed to ensure that every American gets medical care.

Obama is also expected to ask Congress for an additional \$75 billion to cover the costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through September.

The disclosures came from three administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the budget won't be made public until Thursday.

Obama's budget proposal would effectively raise income taxes and curb tax deductions on couples making more than \$250,000 a year, beginning in 2011.

By not extending former President George W. Bush's tax cuts for such wealthier filers, Obama would allow the marginal rate on household incomes above \$250,000 to rise

from 35 percent to 39.6 percent, said an administration official.

The plan also contains a contentious proposal to raise hundreds of billions of dollars by auctioning off permits to exceed carbon emissions caps Obama wants to impose on users of fossil fuels to address global warming.

Some of the revenues from the pollution permits would be used to extend the "Making Work Pay" tax credit of \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples beyond 2010 as provided in the just-passed economic stimulus bill.

About half of what officials characterized as a \$634 billion "down payment" toward health care coverage for every American would come from cuts in Medicare.

That is sure to incite battles with doctors, hospitals, health insurance companies and drug manufacturers.

Some of the Medicare savings would come from scaling back payments to private insurance plans that serve older Americans, which many analysts believe to be inflated.

Other proposals include charging upper-income beneficiaries a higher premium for Medicare's prescription drug coverage.

House OKs \$410bn in spending

WASHINGTON - The Democratic-controlled House pushed through a \$410 billion measure Wednesday that boosted domestic programs, bristled with earmarks and chipped away at policies left behind by the Bush administration.

The vote was 245-178, largely along party lines.

Republicans assailed the measure as too costly - particularly on the heels of a \$787 billion stimulus bill that President Barack Obama signed last week. But Democrats jabbed back.

"The same people who drove the economy into the ditch are now complaining about the size of the tow truck," said Rep. James

McGovern, D-Mass., pointing out the large increase in deficits that President George W. Bush and GOP-controlled Congresses amassed.

From the GOP side, Rep. Jeb Hensarling of Texas said the legislation was "going to grow the government 8.3 percent... but the family budget which has to pay for the federal budget only grew at 1.3 percent last year."

The debate occurred one day after Obama told Congress in a prime time television address that he intends to cut deficits in half over the next four years, and one day before he was submitting tax and spending plans for the coming year.

WORLD NEWS

SCORES SURVIVE PLANE CRASH

HAARLEMMEERLIEDE, Netherlands - A Turkish Airlines jetliner plummeted out of the mist and plowed into a muddy field Wednesday near Amsterdam's main airport, but nearly everyone on board - 125 people - survived. The nine dead included both pilots.

The Boeing 737-800 was en route from Istanbul to Amsterdam carrying 134 people when it suddenly lost speed and fell out of the sky about two miles short of the runway at Schiphol Airport, investigators said.

The jetliner broke into three pieces upon impact: the fuselage tore in two near the cockpit and the tail was ripped off. Despite the catastrophic impact, the wreckage did not burn and scores of people walked away.

LAWMAKER FACES ARREST

BAGHDAD - An Iraqi Airways jet carrying a Sunni lawmaker accused of being a terror boss was ordered back to Baghdad on Wednesday, but authorities could only watch as the combative legislator slipped away before fellow parliament members stripped him of his immunity.

The boomerang voyage of Mohammed al-Dayni - who was pulled back just as the jet was about to leave Iraqi airspace - capped days of friction between the Shiite-led government and the defiant al-Dayni, who called the charges part of a campaign to muzzle critics.

He made one last blitz of calls to journalists and supporters after the Jordan-bound jet returned to Baghdad.

YSL AUCTION BREAKS RECORDS

PARIS - Two rare bronze sculptures that disappeared from China nearly 150 years ago - and demanded back by Beijing - sold for millions Wednesday as an auction of art works owned by the late fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent concluded with dazzling sales of nearly \$500 million.

The collection of Saint Laurent and his partner, Pierre Berge, broke several world records in a three-day "sale of the century" that amassed more than \$484 million, said the organizer, Christie's.

That was well over the \$250 million-\$380 million the 733-piece sale had been expected to fetch.

Big banks face 'stress tests'

WASHINGTON - The Obama administration hopes to restore confidence in the nation's ailing financial sector by subjecting 19 of the largest banks to "stress tests" that will gauge whether each institution has adequate capital to survive a severe downturn.

Banks that need new funds will be given six months to obtain it from the private sector or, failing that, from the federal government's \$700 billion bank rescue program, the Treasury Department said Wednesday.

Government officials haven't specifically said which banks will be subject to the tests, but under the government's criteria they would include large nationwide banks such as Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co.

The 19 largest banks hold two-thirds of the banking industry's assets.

Treasury officials said the new support will be provided through the government's purchase of preferred shares of the banks' stock that are convertible into common shares at a 10 percent discount to their price before Feb. 9.

The additional financing will be available immediately if needed, the department said.

The preferred shares will carry a 9 percent dividend and be convertible at the bank's option, subject to regulatory approval. They will automatically convert in 7 years.

Banks seeking additional funds will have to demonstrate how they would use the money to support their lending activities. Those plans would be made public.

The option to convert the preferred shares into common shares is a change in the rescue program designed to give the government greater flexibility in managing its assistance.

Citi deal 'may come this week'

NEW YORK - Citigroup Inc.'s bid to boost its equity capital could result in the federal government raising its stake in the troubled bank this week to as much as 40 percent, a person familiar with the talks said Wednesday.

Citigroup already has received \$45 billion in U.S. bailout money made up primarily of debt-like preferred shares, plus federal guarantees to cover losses on some \$300 billion in risky investments.

It also has transferred control of its Smith Barney brokerage to Morgan Stanley in return for \$2.7 billion, and has prepared itself for more asset sales by splitting in two - effectively undoing the merger that created Citigroup a decade ago.

Q NOW YOU KNOW

LITERATURE: Oliver Mellors was Lady Chatterly's lover.

MYTHS & LEGENDS: The Styx led to Hades.

SPORTS: The Britannia Cup is contested in rowing.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

SAKS INC.

NEW YORK - Saks Inc. reported a loss for the fourth quarter Wednesday as the luxury retailer was forced to slash prices to pull in affluent shoppers who have sharply pulled back on their spending in the recession. The company also issued a downbeat sales forecast.

FORD MOTOR CO.

DETROIT - United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger urged union members to vote for contract concessions to Ford Motor Co., saying the automaker can't survive in the long term without major restructuring.

NORTEL NETWORKS CORP.

NEW YORK - Bankrupt telecom equipment company Nortel Networks Corp. plans to cut its work force by 3,200 jobs worldwide. The Canada-based telecom equipment maker said Wednesday the new round of job cuts will be made over the next several months. The reduction is on top of 1,800 job cuts already announced.

TJX COS.

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. - TJX Cos. said Wednesday that its fiscal fourth-quarter profit fell 17 percent partly because of the stronger dollar, but adjusted results still managed to top analysts' estimates.

VISTEON CORP.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich. - Auto parts supplier Visteon Corp. posted a wider quarterly loss Wednesday and said it could no longer guarantee compliance with its debt agreements due to growing uncertainty over the fate of the auto industry.

But the New York-based bank has been involved in talks with regulators over ways the government could help strengthen the bank still further.

While a deal is unlikely to be announced early Thursday, it could be hammered out within days, the person said, asking not to be named because the discussions are still ongoing.

While the exact details of the talks aren't known, they could center on the terms of converting the government's \$45 billion in preferred shares into common equity.

The preferred shares carry a high interest rate, requiring a yearly payout of billions in coupon payments. But if converted to common stock, Citi's annual dividend payout would be minimal since it's been cut to just 4 cents per share.

Home sales sink unexpectedly

WASHINGTON - Sales of existing U.S. homes sank unexpectedly last month to the lowest level in nearly 12 years as potential buyers worried about their jobs and awaited details of President Barack Obama's plans to stabilize the housing market.

But the banking industry's teetering fortunes and mounting job losses could stall any recovery. Falling prices and low mortgage rates don't make much of a difference for people who are out of work - or fearful of losing their jobs.

The most optimistic outlook is for a spring revival as home prices plummet. Government officials, hoping to spur demand, on Wednesday rolled out the details of a new \$8,000 tax credit for first-time buyers.

Prices have been falling as thousands of Americans lose their jobs every week. Employers took an especially large ax to their payrolls last month, the Labor Department said Wednesday, and the cuts are likely to get worse over the next few months.

Mass layoffs, or job cuts of 50 or more by a single employer, increased to 2,227 in January, up almost 50 percent from the same month last year. More than 235,000 workers were fired in last month's cuts.

The labor market pain persists this week. Spartanburg, South Carolina-based textile maker Milliken & Co. said it would cut 650 jobs at facilities worldwide, and jeweler Zale Corp. said it will close 115 stores and eliminate 245 positions.

As layoffs mount, foreclosures have swamped the housing market - especially in particularly distressed states like California, Florida, Nevada and Arizona.

About 45 percent of sales nationwide are foreclosures or other distressed properties.

Joel Rodriguez, owner of Global Investments Realty in Miami, estimates that 70 percent of his business comes from foreclosures, but says sales are picking up.

WORLD NEWS

DUTCH INVESTIGATE TURKISH AIRLINES CRASH

AMSTERDAM (AP) - Investigators took detailed photos of the wreckage of a Turkish Airlines Boeing 737 and analyzed black box recordings Thursday, trying to piece together why the plane lost speed and crashed into a field, killing nine people and injuring 86.

Flight TK1951 from Istanbul fell out of the sky about three kilometres short of the runway at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Wednesday morning, smashing into three pieces and spraying luggage and debris across a muddy farmer's field.

Despite the catastrophic impact, the wreckage did not burn and dozens of people walked away with only minor injuries.

CHINA SLAMS CHRISTIE'S AUCTION

BEIJING (AP) - Beijing slammed auction house Christie's for selling two imperial bronze sculptures it says should have been returned to China and vowed Thursday to continue to hunt for and reclaim other similarly looted relics.

The State Administration of Cultural Heritage said the sale of two 18th century bronzes as part of an auction of art works owned by the late designer Yves Saint Laurent on Wednesday would affect Christie's interests in China.

The disputed fountainheads - heads of a rat and a rabbit - sold for 28 million euros (US\$36m) at the Paris auction to an unidentified telephone bidder or bidders.

OBAMA NAMES GARY LOCKE AS COMMERCE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama introduced former Washington Gov. Gary Locke as his nominee for commerce secretary Wednesday, trying a third time to fill a key Cabinet post for a country in recession.

"I'm sure it's not lost on anyone that we've tried this a couple of times. But I'm a big believer in keeping at something until you get it right. And Gary is the right man for this job," Obama said, standing with the fellow Democrat in the Indian Treaty Room at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building near the White House.

Caisse loses nearly \$40bn

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - The Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec announced Wednesday the worst results in its history - a staggering drop of \$39.8 billion in the value of its assets in 2008.

The drop of 25 per cent left the assets of the giant pension-fund manager worth \$120.1 billion as of last Dec. 31.

The Caisse said the average loss in large Canadian pension funds in 2008 was 18.4 per cent.

"As with all other investors, the first element that explains our return this year is the global financial crisis that broke out in the fourth quarter," Caisse president Fernand Perreault said Wednesday as he announced the results.

"In October 2008, in a matter of days, the world tipped into the worst financial and economic crisis of the past 80 years.

The Caisse said unrealized decreases in value, or paper losses, totalled \$22.4 billion last year, or 56.3% of the \$39.8-billion loss.

"The ABCP (asset-backed commercial

paper) episode is without doubt a difficult page in the Caisse's history," Perreault said.

"Over the short term, its impact on the institution's return is significant. In 2008, the impact was amplified by wide credit spreads in the first and fourth quarters.

"In hindsight, we placed too much confidence in these securities ... It was a mistake to accumulate so much ABCP."

Perreault also said the drop in the Canadian dollar had a disastrous effect on the Caisse's performance.

"These unusual events affected all investors, but certain factors had a specific or more pronounced impact on our portfolio, such as our large holdings of asset-backed commercial paper and the cost of hedging the foreign exchange risk of our assets outside Canada, which increased significantly as the Canadian dollar fell," Perreault added.

In Quebec City, Premier Jean Charest called 2008 a "disappointing" year for the pension-fund manager but said Quebecers must think of its long-term performance.

Ski trip turns tragic for Quebec couple

GOLDEN, B.C. (The Canadian Press) - A Quebec couple lost for nine days in British Columbia's back country in the dead of winter spelled out SOS in the snow before the man eventually waved down a helicopter flying overhead.

But their ordeal ended with both an incredible tale of survival and a tragedy, after the woman died before rescue came.

RCMP said Wednesday the couple went missing while skiing out of bounds in the Rockies in southeastern B.C. on Feb. 15.

Temperatures in Golden, the nearest community to the ski resort, ranged from a high of 5C one day to a low of -18C overnight.

Const. Annie Linteau said the man's survival is incredible.

"They only had in their possession two granola bars. No water. Apparently they may have had access to a creek that was nearby, and of course the snow in the area. It appears he may have eaten some foliage."

Mistakes will happen in stimulus spending: Flaherty

By Julian Beltrame

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - The Canadian economy is in such dire straits the government must rush billions of dollars in stimulus into action even if that increases the risk of mistakes, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says.

The finance minister was not specific about what kind of mistakes might occur, but said it was essential to get a portion of the \$40-billion stimulus package in the budget working soon after April 1, the beginning of the government's fiscal year.

"There will be some mistakes made, but it's worth the risk to help the majority of Canadians during what is a serious recession," he said after meeting with the Conservative caucus.

Opposition leaders called on the government to commit to public accountability - as U.S. President Barack Obama pledged during his State of the Union address - on the rolling out of spending programs.

Tories, Liberals brush off oilsands article

By Jennifer Ditchburn

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - Conservatives and Liberals both came to the defence of Alberta's oilsands Wednesday, responding to a stark 20-page spread in this month's National Geographic magazine.

The article, "The Canadian oil boom: Scraping the bottom," details the environmental and social problems around the oilsands, as well as an explanation of the extraction process.

Inside the magazine's distinctive yellow-rimmed cover are grim, glossy photographs of sludge-filled tailing ponds and the grey, muddy moonscapes around Fort McMurray, Alta.

The spread is the latest in a series of public-relations challenges for the Canadian and Alberta governments as they struggle to deal with the enormous carbon footprint of the oilsands. Activists have mounted a campaign in the U.S. portraying the oilsands as an environmental catastrophe.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff, who recently positioned himself as a supporter of the oilsands, was emphatic in his disdain for the National Geographic story.

"National Geographic is not going to teach me any lessons about the oilsands," he said.

Harper to unveil anti gang law in B.C.

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Prime Minister Stephen Harper heads to B.C.'s gang-plagued Lower Mainland on Thursday to unveil his government's anti-crime bill.

The legislation would require automatic first-degree murder charges for gang-related killings.

There have been more than a dozen shootings in the last few weeks in British Columbia, causing several deaths.

Hundreds of people gathered last weekend in Surrey, B.C., to protest the violence, including the mayor and local MPs.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson has called for a regional police force that would operate across the Metro Vancouver area.

The legislation is also said to include mandatory minimum prison sentences for drive-by shootings and some serious drug offences.

Environmental groups welcome killer whale plan

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - Environmental groups concerned about the future of killer whales welcome an order issued by the federal government that will help protect the mammals' threatened habitats.

PLAINS OF ABRAHAM BOSS WILLING TO RESIGN

By Alexander Panetta

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - The federal bureaucrat responsible for the Plains of Abraham says he's prepared to resign over a battle re-enactment controversy - but only if the government asks him to leave. Andre Juneau says he will not quit his volunteer job as head of the National Battlefields Commission just because sovereigntist politicians are asking him to.

Juneau was forced to cancel a planned summer re-enactment of the 1759 Plains of Abraham battle at Quebec City, which led to the fall of New France.

The embattled battlefields boss received a grilling at a House of Commons committee Wednesday where Bloc Quebecois MPs asked for his resignation. He replied he would resign at the request of Heritage Minister James Moore - but not at the Bloc's behest.

"I won't resign because the Bloc is asking for it," Juneau said after the committee hearing. "I've written to the minister. If the minister asks me to leave for reasons he judges appropriate, it will be my pleasure to reply, 'yes,' to his request. But not because the Bloc is asking for it."

The order was issued in Ottawa earlier this week under the federal Species At Risk Act, giving legal protection to both Northern and Southern Resident killer whales that travel the waters off the B.C. and Washington State coasts.

The order comes after several environmental groups launched a lawsuit last fall against the Department of Fisheries.

The group Ecojustice, on behalf of nine environmental organizations, says the lawsuit was intended to force the government to use the legislation to safeguard orca habitat.

The lawyer for Ecojustice, Lara Tessaro, says the lawsuit will now likely be abandoned.

Mulroney Schreiber probe to top \$14 million

By Jim Brown

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - A public inquiry into controversial business dealings between Brian Mulroney and Karlheinz Schreiber will cost taxpayers more than \$14 million, The Canadian Press has learned.

Sources familiar with the commission's work say the first instalment of its budget will likely come in at about \$7.5 million for the fiscal year that ends March 31.

That's well below the \$9.5 million forecast in government spending estimates quietly tabled in the House of Commons this month. But the saving is illusory, largely resulting from delays that have put off most of the public hearings until spring.

The leftover money will be rolled into the 2009-10 fiscal year, and further costs from April to December are expected to boost the total to between \$14 million and \$15 million by the time Justice Jeffrey Oliphant delivers a final report.

Manitoba flag 'outdated'

By Steve Lambert

WINNIPEG (The Canadian Press) - Some grassroots members of Manitoba's governing New Democrats want the province to adopt a new flag, saying the current one, as well as that of Ontario, is an archaic symbol of British rule.

Manitoba's flag "is outdated and a relic from the days of our former British colonial heritage", reads a resolution by the NDP's Riel constituency association in south Winnipeg. The resolution is on the agenda of the provincial party's annual convention next month.

"Manitoba's flag is often confused with Ontario's flag, with the only difference being a bison ... instead of three maple leaves."

Both provinces' flags are similar to the Red Ensign that Canada used as a national flag prior to adopting the maple leaf design in 1965.

B.C. aboriginal rights case heads back to court

By Robert Matas

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - The province has gone back to court to settle the Tsilhqot'in aboriginal rights case after a year of negotiations failed to resolve the multimillion-dollar dispute.

Justice Mary Newbury of the B.C. Court of Appeal is expected to rule Thursday on a request from the provincial government to allow an appeal of a lower court decision.

That decision recognized aboriginal rights and title to about 45 per cent of the 432,000-hectare Nemiah Valley southwest of Williams Lake.

The province's position in court differs from its approach in the political arena. Media reports have indicated the province is circulating a draft paper that proposes recognition in legislation of aboriginal rights and title.

Legal expert Douglas Harris said the province's move to return to court was "another marker on how hard it is" to resolve issues of aboriginal rights and title.

MARKET DATA

CLOSING STOCK INDEXES

	Feb 25	Feb 24
Toronto TSE-300	7932.30	7859.33
New York D-J	7270.89	7350.83
New York Nasdaq	1425.43	1441.83
London FT-100	3848.98	3815.44
Tokyo Nikkei	7461.22	7268.56

TORONTO MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of	Wed Feb 25	18:02:07
HRZncrdOilB1	HOU=T	5.26 +0.57
ISharesCDN60	XIU=T	12.01 +0.03
BombdrBSV	BBD/B=T	2.87 -0.04
ManulifeFin	MFC=T	13.68 +0.18
TeckComBSV	TCK/B=T	4.05 +0.05
RoyalBank	RY=T	29.99 +1.51
YamanaGldo	YRI=T	10.54 +0.20
BankersPeteo	BNK=T	1.45 +0.30
EqnoxMnrIso	EQN=T	1.29 -0.03
SuncorEngy	SU=T	23.11 +0.35

WEDNESDAY'S SCOREBOARD

NHL

Toronto 2, N.Y. Rangers 1 (SO)
 Philadelphia 2, Los Angeles 0
 Detroit 4, San Jose 1
 Pittsburgh 1, N.Y. Islanders 0

NBA

New Jersey 111, Chicago 99
 New Orleans 90, Detroit 87
 Utah 120, Minnesota 103
 Indiana 104, Memphis 99
 Philadelphia 106, Washington 98
 Orlando 114, New York 109
 Dallas 116, Milwaukee 96
 San Antonio 99, Portland 84
 Denver 110, Atlanta 109
 Charlotte 98, Sacramento 91
 L.A. Clippers 93, Boston 91

Topless cafe in Maine gives neighbours the jitters

VASSALBORO, Maine (The Canadian Press) - Cup size has more than one meaning at a new central Maine coffeehouse.

Servers are topless at the Grand View Topless Coffee Shop, which opened its doors Monday on a busy road in Vassalboro. A sign outside says, "Over 18 only." Another says, "No cameras, no touching, cash only."

On Tuesday, two men sipped coffee at a booth while three topless waitresses and a bare-chested waiter stood nearby. Topless waitress Susie Wiley said men, women and couples have stopped by.

The coffee shop raised the ire of dozens of residents when it went before the town planning board last month. Town officials said the coffee shop met the letter of the law.

FINANCIAL NEWS

TD earnings help TSX advance

By Malcolm Morrison

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The Toronto stock market finished higher for a second day Wednesday with Canadian bank stocks receiving a solid lift after TD Bank's earnings beat expectations, showing that Canadian financial companies appear much better off than their troubled U.S. rivals.

One Bay Street money manager called Canada's big banks, which report their quarterly results over the next two weeks, "an oasis of calm" compared with the troubled U.S. banking sector on Wall Street.

Energy stocks were also supportive on rising crude prices, and there was a big deal in the fertilizer sector.

Toronto's S&P/TSX composite index closed up 72.97 points to 7,932.3 on top of Tuesday's 212-point surge. The TSX Venture Exchange added 1.38 points to 854.97.

CBC wants help from Ottawa

By Cassandra Szklarski

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The CBC expects serious funding shortfalls in the upcoming fiscal year and is looking to the federal government for financial help.

CBC spokesman Jeff Keay says the public broadcaster wants Ottawa to provide immediate relief for a budgetary shortfall expected in 2009-2010 but he dismissed suggestions that bridge financing would amount to a handout.

"It nets out to the same amount of money (the CBC would otherwise receive), it's just that we get access to the money sooner," said Keay.

He refused to get into specifics, saying only that the corporation was "in discussions with the heritage minister's office" to alleviate expected shortfalls.

Nortel to cut 3,200 jobs worldwide

By David Friend

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Nortel Networks is laying off another 3,200 employees worldwide, or more than 10 per cent of its global workforce, in an ongoing effort to restructure its operations while under court protection.

Analysts weren't optimistic, however, with some saying that another round of layoffs won't lift the telecom equipment maker out of its problems - which include heavy debts, an intensely competitive market and weak economies in several key countries.

"I would have more hope (in the company) if they had a strategy - or if they at least revealed that they have a strategy," said Andy Woyzbun, the lead analyst at Info-Tech Research Group.

HUGE SOCCER CROWD REVELS IN IMPACT'S VICTORY

By Bill Beacon

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - The fans turned out to Olympic Stadium in droves and the Montreal Impact responded.

Eduardo Sebrango scored twice as the Impact fed off the noise and enthusiasm of 55,571 spectators at Olympic Stadium for a stunning 2-0 victory over Santos Laguna of Mexico in the first leg of their CONCACAF Champions League quarter-final on Wednesday night.

The Impact will take a two-goal advantage into the second leg of the two-game, total goals series March 5 in Torreon, Mexico, where the stadium holds 30,000.

"We needed a boost because it was our first competitive game since October, and they gave us a big boost," Impact coach John Limniatis said of the fans, most of them dressed in Impact blue and white. "They really helped us with their energy."

The veteran Sebrango, signed in the off-season from Vancouver, worked a give-and-go with Roberto Brown, slid between two defenders and blasted a shot past goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez in the fifth minute to a huge roar from the stands, where many fans were still making their way to their seats.

Sebrango said the shot went off a Santos defender, but "I'll take it."

In the 77th minute, defender Nevio Pizzolitto's long ball down the middle on a free kick was headed into the box by Brown and went over a Santos defender. Sebrango jumped and just beat Sanchez to the ball to head it in and give Montreal a commanding lead in the home-and-away series.

SPORTS NEWS

Leafs spoil Tortorella's debut

By Chris Johnston

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - A new face behind the bench didn't reverse the fortunes of the New York Rangers. Nikolai Kulemin scored the shootout winner on Wednesday as the Toronto Maple Leafs spoiled John Tortorella's debut with a 2-1 victory.

The Leafs rookie beat Henrik Lundqvist with the team's first attempt and watched as goalie Vesa Toskala turned aside all three shots against him.

WEATHER

	Min	Max	weather
Calgary	-19	-17	snow
Edmonton	-19	-16	sunny
Halifax	-1	-3	sunny
Montreal	-13	-4	clear
Toronto	-6	4	pt cloudy
Vancouver	1	3	snow

(Temperatures in Celsius)

Niklas Hagman scored in regulation for Toronto (23-26-12). Wade Redden replied for the Rangers (31-23-8).

Tortorella hasn't had much time to work with his new team. He replaced Tom Renney on Monday and only had one full practice with the Rangers before they travelled to Toronto.

Red Wings' Zetterberg scores 2 in win vs. Sharks

DETROIT (AP) - Henrik Zetterberg scored two goals - the first short-handed and the second on a power play - to help the Detroit Red Wings beat the NHL-leading San Jose Sharks 4-1 on Wednesday.

The Sharks have a three-point lead over the Stanley Cup champion Red Wings in the Western Conference standings with less than two months left.

Detroit's Marian Hossa scored the first goal of the game, but the team held him out of the third period for precautionary reasons. Ty Conklin made 34 saves for the Red Wings, winning his 12th straight home start.

Ville Leino also scored for Detroit. Christian Ehrhoff scored for San

Glenn to remain with Bombers, at least for now

By Judy Owen

WINNIPEG (The Canadian Press) - Quarterback Kevin Glenn will pocket a hefty cheque Sunday and remain a Winnipeg Blue Bomber. The big question is for how long.

"People are sitting on their hands waiting for us to release Kevin and I believe he has more value than that," Winnipeg head coach Mike Kelly said Wednesday. "He will remain property of the Winnipeg Football Club until such time we have consummated a trade for his services or he has competed for a position on the roster."

The eight-year CFL veteran, who's spent the past 4 1/2 seasons as Winnipeg's starter, is due a reported \$50,000 bonus Sunday.

TRIUMPHANT RETURN FOR TIGER

MARANA, Arizona (AP) - Tiger Woods made a triumphant return to golf in the Accenture Match Play Championship on Wednesday with a start that showed fans what they'd been missing for eight months.

Just past high noon in the desert, Woods fired an 8-iron into 5 feet for birdie. Then came a gentle fist pump when his 3-iron from 237 yards on the par-5 second settled 4 feet from the cup for eagle.

He closed out Brendan Jones of Australia with a 3-foot par on the 16th hole for a 3-and-2 victory in his first competitive outing in the 253 days since he limped his way to an epic U.S. Open title.

"It felt like nothing had changed," Woods said. "Walking down the fairway, it was like business as usual."

A Rod homers in second at bat during spring debut

By Shi Davidi

DUNEDIN, Fla. (The Canadian Press) - Greeted by boos each time he stepped up to the plate, controversial slugger Alex Rodriguez homered in his second at-bat of the spring for the New York Yankees.

The superstar third baseman, who earlier admitted to the use of steroids from 2001 to '03, walked in his first at-bat in a 6-1 exhibition win over the Toronto Blue Jays.

A large contingent of Yankees fans helped ease some of the boos directed at him by the crowd at Dunedin Stadium, but plenty of potshots were still easily heard.

"What did you have for breakfast, A-Roid?" was among the more creative.

He came up again in the fourth to a similar reaction but this time hammered a 2-2 offering from 2005 first-round pick Ricky Romero over the wall in left to give the Yankees a 3-1 lead.

B.C.'s Mallett clinches playoff spot

By James Bisson

VICTORIA (The Canadian Press) - The only thing B.C. skip Marla Mallett knows about her performance at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts is that it has earned her a playoff spot.

Where she ends up - and who will be joining her - won't be decided until the end of a crazy Thursday at the Canadian women's curling championship.

Headland Media produces the market-leading Headland SatNews service, incorporating the News On-Board and HotelNewspapers brands. The service covers 30 countries in more than 11 languages and is delivered daily by e-mail or via satellite. Tel: +44 151 236 4124 (UK) and +1 954 492 2292 (US) E-mail: news@headlandmedia.com Website: www.headlandmedia.com

Mallett's Vancouver foursome secured the first Page playoff berth Wednesday night with a 6-4 win over Kerry Galusha of the Territories in Draw 14. Mallett (8-1) can finish no worse than third, and a victory over either P.E.I.'s Rebecca Jean MacPhee or Canada's Jennifer Jones will earn her top spot in the round robin.

Ross earns TKO win over Ehikhamenor

MASHANTUCKET, Conn. (The Canadian Press) - Canadian Troy Ross didn't let friendship stand in his way Wednesday night.

Ross earned a fourth-round technical knockout over Nigerian Ehinomen (Hino) Ehikhamenor in the final of "The Contender," a boxing-based reality TV show in its fourth season on the Versus network in the United States.

The two were the last men standing out of 16 cruiserweights who spent six weeks living together and fighting five-round bouts against each other in Singapore leading up to the final. It was all on film, in and out of the ring, as the show's producers tried to show the human side as well as the boxing skills of the 200-pound pugilists.

"He and I had good times together in the house and unfortunately I had to fight a friend," Ross said. "But 'The Contender' is all about the champion, the one person at the end of the night."

Moose Jaw will finally get a new arena complex

MOOSE JAW, Sask. (The Canadian Press) - After years of squabbling Moose Jaw will finally get a new arena complex.

About 60 per cent of people who voted Wednesday supported the city's plan to spend about \$35-million on a facility that will include a hockey rink, an eight-sheet curling rink and an indoor soccer pitch.

Mayor Dale McBain said he is thrilled by the referendum results. It's the second time in three years that voters have endorsed a plan to build a new arena complex.

USA TIMES



A unique service from Headland Media

Friday, February 27, 2009

NEWS VIA SATELLITE FROM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST NEWSWIRES

Headland SatNews

Obama outlines Iraq pullout

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama told lawmakers on Thursday he plans to withdraw most American troops from Iraq by August 2010 but leave tens of thousands behind to advise Iraqi forces and protect U.S. interests, congressional officials said.

Obama is expected to announce the new strategy on Friday during a trip to the Marine Corps base at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In a closed-door meeting with Republican and Democratic leaders, Obama and his top advisers estimated that 35,000 to 50,000 troops would remain in Iraq after the bulk of troops are withdrawn.

Obama campaigned on ending the Iraq war and pledged to do so in 16 months. The withdrawal timetable he is expected to approve stretches over 19 months from his inauguration in January. That means some 100,000 troops would leave over the coming 18 months.

Rep. John McHugh, the top Republican on

the House Armed Services Committee, said Obama promised him to reconsider the new strategy if violence rises. McHugh said he was worried the situation in Iraq remained fragile, especially as it approaches elections in December.

"Our commanders must have the flexibility they need in order to respond to these challenges, and President Obama assured me that there is a 'Plan B,'" McHugh, R-N.Y., said in a statement.

According to one congressional official, lawmakers were told that Gen. David Petraeus, head of U.S. Central Command, and Gen. Ray Odierno, the top commander in Baghdad, believed the plan presented moderate risk but supported the 50,000 figure.

Some Democrats are skeptical but because they say it would leave too many troops behind.

Obama unveils \$3.6 trillion budget

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama charted a dramatic new course for the nation Thursday with a bold but contentious budget proposing higher taxes for the wealthy and the first steps toward guaranteed health care for all - accompanied by an astonishing \$1.75 trillion federal deficit that would be nearly four times the highest in history.

Denouncing what he called the "dishonest accounting" of recent federal budgets, Obama unveiled his own \$3.6 trillion blueprint for next year, a bold proposal that would transfer wealth from rich taxpayers to the middle class and the poor.

Congressional approval without major change is anything but sure.

The plan is filled with political land mines including an initiative to combat global warming that would hit consumers with considerably higher utility bills. Other

proposals would take on entrenched interests such as big farming, insurance companies and drug makers.

Obama blamed the expected federal deficit explosion on a "deep and destructive" recession and recent efforts to battle it including the Wall Street bailout and the just-passed \$787 billion stimulus plan.

The \$1.75 trillion deficit estimate for this year is \$250 billion more than projected just days ago because of proposed new spending for a fresh bailout for banks and other financial institutions.

As the nation digs out of the most serious economic crisis in decades, Obama said, "We will, each and every one of us, have to compromise on certain things we care about but which we simply cannot afford right now."

CALDERON TALKS CARTELS

MEXICO CITY - President Felipe Calderon hopes to quell Mexico's rampant drug violence by the end of his term in 2012, and disputes U.S. fears that Mexico is losing control of its territory.

Calderon and his top prosecutor said the violence that killed 6,290 people last year - and more than 1,000 in the first eight weeks of 2009 - is a sign that the cartels are under pressure from military and police operations nationwide, as well as turf wars among themselves.

"To say that Mexico is a failed state is absolutely false," Calderon said. "I have not lost any part - any single part - of Mexican territory."

ENGINE EYED IN PLANE CRASH

AMSTERDAM - Engine trouble may have caused the Turkish Airlines crash that killed nine people in the Netherlands, the head of the agency investigating the accident said Thursday.

Other officials identified the dead as five Turks and four Americans.

Flight TK1951 from Istanbul crashed about one mile short of the runway at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Wednesday morning, smashing into three pieces and spraying luggage and debris across a field. It was carrying 135 passengers and crew.

BANGLADESH MUTINY ENDS

DHAKA, Bangladesh - Tanks rolled through the Bangladeshi capital in a show of force that finally persuaded mutinous border guards to lay down their arms, ending a two-day revolt that threatened to spread across the impoverished South Asian nation.

At least 22 people were killed in the insurrection after nearly 2,000 guards opened fire on their senior officers and seized their headquarters in the capital Wednesday to protest poor pay and conditions.

Concerned about reports of dozens still missing, firefighters searched the area through the night and recovered 11 more bodies, fire official Dilip Kumar Ghosh said early Friday.

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

	LO	H1	
Amsterdam	37	45	Clear
Athens	36	45	Clear
Auckland	61	70	Rain
Berlin	37	43	Clear
Brussels	39	42	Clear
Buenos Aires	55	64	Clear
Cairo	57	86	Clear
Copenhagen	34	39	Clear
Dublin	39	48	Rain
Hong Kong	70	77	Rain
Istanbul	36	42	Clear
Jerusalem	55	60	Clear
Johannesburg	55	66	Clear
London	45	52	Rain
Madrid	49	56	Clear
Manila	75	86	Rain
Mexico City	44	51	Clear
Moscow	18	30	Clear
New Delhi	55	62	Clear
Paris	36	42	Clear
Rome	32	48	Clear
Sao Paulo	66	77	Rain
Singapore	73	88	Rain
Stockholm	26	34	Clear
Sydney	64	71	Rain
Tokyo	41	48	Rain
Toronto	32	43	Pcldy
Zurich	23	30	Clear

U.S. WEATHER

	H1	LO	Outlook
Anchorage	28	24	Clear
Atlanta	69	46	Clear
Boston	48	28	Cloudy
Chicago	48	32	Clear
Dallas-Ft. Worth	86	68	Pcldy
Denver	59	35	Cloudy
Great Falls	6	1	Pcldy
Houston	81	67	Cloudy
Kansas City	65	47	Cloudy
Las Vegas	70	48	Cloudy
Los Angeles	69	49	Pcldy
Miami Beach	79	66	Pcldy
Mpls-St. Paul	28	22	Pcldy
New Orleans	77	62	Cloudy
New York City	50	35	Rain
Phoenix	78	56	Pcldy
Salt Lake City	58	33	Cloudy
San Francisco	58	32	Pcldy
Seattle	58	26	Pcldy
Washington, D.C.	57	35	Rain
National Temperature Extremes for Thursday:			
High 98 at Laredo, Tx.			
Low -8 at St. Mary, Mt.			

NYC terrorist deported

NEW YORK - A Black September terrorist who served about half his 30-year sentence for planting three car bombs in New York City in 1973 was deported Thursday, a law enforcement official said.

It was unclear which country had agreed to accept the 63-year-old Khalid Al-Jawary. The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the deportation, didn't immediately know where Al-Jawary was going.

Al-Jawary was convicted in federal court of placing the bombs in 1973 that could have killed and injured hundreds if they had detonated. They were timed to coincide with the arrival of then-Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir.

Al-Jawary was captured in 1991 and sentenced to 30 years in prison in 1993.

Assisted suicide group members arrested

ATLANTA - Joining the Final Exit Network costs \$50, and the privileges of membership include this: When you're ready to die, the organization will send two "exit guides" to show you how to suffocate yourself using helium tanks and a plastic hood.

The Georgia-based organization says it is providing an invaluable and humane service. Authorities call it a crime.

Four members of the Final Exit Network, including its president and its medical director, were arrested Wednesday and charged with assisted suicide in the death of 58-year-old John Celmer last June at his home near Atlanta.

Investigators said the organization may have been involved in as many as 200 other deaths around the country.

"The law is very clear, and they clearly violated it," said Georgia Bureau of

Investigation spokesman John Bankhead.

The arrests came after an eight-month investigation in which an undercover agent posing as someone bent on suicide infiltrated the Final Exit Network, which bases its work on "The Final Exit," a best-selling suicide manual by British author Derek Humphry.

Members of the Final Exit Network are instructed to buy two new helium tanks and a hood, known as an "exit bag," according to the FBI. In court papers, investigators said the organization recommends helium because it is undetectable during an autopsy.

The network, which was founded in 2004 and claims 3,000 members, donors and volunteers nationwide, has long operated in the open. It has its own Web site, and its leaders have held news conferences and appeared at paid speaking engagements.

Ban on photos of troops' caskets reversed

WASHINGTON - The Obama administration is reversing an 18-year ban on news coverage of the return of war dead, allowing photographs of flag-covered caskets when families of the fallen troops agree, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday.

"My conclusion was we should not presume to make the decision for the families," Gates said in announcing results of a quick review of a ban that had stood through Republican and Democratic administrations.

Although details are being worked out, the new policy will give families a choice of whether to admit the press to ceremonies at

Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, the entry point to the United States for the caskets of overseas war dead.

President Barack Obama asked for a re-examination of the blanket ban and supports the decision to change it, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said.

"I have always believed that the decision as to how to honor our fallen heroes should be left up to the families," Vice President Joe Biden said. "The past practice didn't account for a family's wishes and I believed that was wrong."

Feds 'moving enemy combatant to Ill. court'

WASHINGTON - An accused al-Qaida sleeper agent held for 5 1/2 years at a Navy brig in South Carolina will soon be sent to Illinois for trial in civilian court, a move the government has fought for years saying terror suspects caught in the U.S. could be held indefinitely without charges.

Two people familiar with the case of Qatar native Ali al-Marri said Thursday the government plans to transfer him to the civilian court system.

One of them said he would be charged with providing support to terrorists. The two people spoke on condition of anonymity because it's a pending criminal case.

The transfer could avert a Supreme Court hearing in April and a subsequent ruling that would govern other cases against accused terrorists.

Al-Marri's transfer is the first signal of how the Obama administration is likely to handle accused terrorists, a significant shift from the strategy of the Bush administration.

Since shortly after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, government lawyers argued that the president has the wartime authority to send the military into any U.S. neighborhood, capture a citizen - or legal resident like al-Marri - and hold him in prison without charge, indefinitely.

Colleges warn students about Mexico travel

PHOENIX - The U.S. State Department and universities around the country are warning college students headed for Mexico for some spring-break partying of a surge in drug-related murder and mayhem south of the border.

"We're not necessarily telling students not to go, but we're going to certainly alert them," said Tom Dougan, vice president for student affairs at the University of Rhode Island.

"There have been Americans kidnapped, and if you go you need to be very aware and very alert to this fact."

More than 100,000 high school- and college-age Americans travel to Mexican resort areas during spring break each year.

Much of the drug violence is happening in border towns, and tourists have generally not

been targeted, though there have been killings in the big spring-break resorts of Acapulco and Cancun, well away from the border.

The University of Arizona in Tucson is urging its approximately 37,000 students not to go to Mexico.

Other universities - in the Southwest and far beyond, including Penn State, Notre Dame, the University of Colorado and the University at Buffalo - said they would call students' attention to the travel warning issued Feb. 20 by the State Department.

The State Department stopped short of warning spring breakers not to go to Mexico, but advised them to avoid areas of prostitution and drug-dealing and take other commonsense precautions.

Three charged over swap of kids

NEW ORLEANS - A Louisiana woman is accused of trading two young children in her care for a pet cockatoo and \$175 cash from a couple who had been trying for years to have their own child, authorities said Thursday.

Donna Greenwell, 53, a long-haul trucker with an arrest record from Pitkin, is charged with aggravated kidnapping, along with would-be adoptive parents Paul J. Romero, 46, and Brandy Lynn Romero, 27, of Evangeline Parish.

"The Romeros had good intentions from what we see," said Keith Dupre, a detective with the Evangeline Parish Sheriff's Office.

"They really wanted to take care of the kids. The kids were well-dressed and seemed to be treated good by the Romero family."

The transaction for the 5-year-old boy and the 4-year-old girl was negotiated by phone after Greenwell spotted a flier posted at a livestock barn selling a cockatoo for \$1,500 and called the Romeros on Feb. 18, Dupre said.

Although Paul Romero had three children from a previous marriage, Dupre said, he and Brandy had tried unsuccessfully for years to have a child together.

When they told that to Greenwell, she allegedly offered to hand over the boy and girl for about \$2,000. When the Romeros said they couldn't meet the price, Dupre said, "Ms. Greenwell agreed to make an even trade: the bird for the kids."

Jury gets Phoenix's serial shooter case

PHOENIX - Jurors began deliberating Thursday in the trial of a man accused of killing eight people and attacking 20 others in dozens of random nighttime shootings in 2005 and 2006.

Deliberations began shortly after prosecutors wrapped up closing arguments in the trial of Dale Hausner, who is accused of attacking people and animals from his car in a conspiracy that occasionally included his brother, Jeff Hausner, and his roommate, Samuel Dieteman.

Prosecutors plan to seek the death penalty against Dale Hausner if he's convicted. In closing arguments Thursday, prosecutor Vince Imbordino called Dale Hausner's testimony "all lies."

Hausner, 36, denied any involvement in the attacks and suggested that Dieteman may have carried out some of them. Dieteman has pleaded guilty to two of the killings.

Hausner's attorney, Tim Agan, declined to comment on the prosecutor's closing arguments.

NO AGREEMENT IN PIVEN CASE

No agreement has been reached in the Jeremy Piven grievance hearing.

Piven appeared Thursday at the session requested by the producers of "Speed-the-Plow," which the performer abruptly quit in December after his doctor said he was suffering from mercury poisoning.

But after hearing from both parties, a panel composed of Actors' Equity and Broadway League representatives were unable to reach the necessary unanimous decision.

A joint statement issued by the union and the Broadway producers' trade association said "the producers have the right, as a next step, to proceed to arbitration."

SIMMONS AGREES PAYMENTS

Court records show hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons has agreed to pay \$40,000 a month in child support.

A Los Angeles judge signed off on an agreement Thursday giving Kimora Lee Simmons sole custody of the couple's two daughters, 9-year-old Ming and 6-year-old Aoki.

The couple's divorce was finalized in January. Kimora Lee Simmons filed for divorce in March 2008, citing irreconcilable differences.

Russell Simmons was granted visitation rights and must pay child support until each daughter reaches 19 and a half years of age.

Kimora Lee Simmons has final say on whether her daughters appear on her reality TV show "Kimora: Life in the Fab Lane."

JEWEL PLANS TO RETURN

Pop singer Jewel says she injured her knees while rehearsing for "Dancing With the Stars" but plans to return to the dance floor as soon as she heals.

Jewel blogs on her Web site Wednesday that she's been sidelined for the ABC series' upcoming season due to tendinitis in both knees, and that her physical therapist said she'd be "good to go by next week" if she takes time to recover.

In a statement issued by ABC on Thursday, the singer says, "don't count me out as I am in this for the long run."

13,000-year-old tools unearthed in Colorado

DENVER - Landscapers were digging a hole for a fish pond in the front yard of a Boulder home last May when they heard a "chink" that didn't sound right.

Just some lost tools. Some 13,000-year-old lost tools. They had stumbled onto a cache of more than 83 ancient tools buried by the Clovis people - ice age hunter-gatherers who remain a puzzle to anthropologists.

The home's owner, Patrick Mahaffy, thought they were only a century or two old before contacting researchers at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

"My jaw just dropped," said CU anthropologist Douglas Bamforth, who is leading a study of the find. "Boulder is a densely populated area. And in the midst of all that to find this cache."

The cache is one of only a handful of Clovis-age artifacts uncovered in North America, said Bamforth.

The tools reveal an unexpected level of sophistication, Bamforth said, describing the

design as "unnecessarily complicated," artistic and utilitarian at the same time.

What researchers found on the tools also was significant. Biochemical analysis of blood and other protein residue revealed the tools were used by butcher camels, horses, sheep and bears.

That proves that the Clovis people ate more than just woolly mammoth meat for dinner, something scientists were unable to confirm before.

"A window opens up into this incredibly remote way of life that we normally can't see much of," Bamforth said.

The cache was buried 18 inches deep and was packed into a hole the size of a large shoe box. The tools were most likely wrapped in a skin that deteriorated over time, Mahaffy said.

"The kind of stone that's present - the kind that flakes to a good sharp edge - isn't widely available in this part of Colorado. It looks like they were storing material because they knew they would need it later," said Bamforth.

TV: What TV coroner was played by Jack Klugman?

NATURE: What is the name given to the region near the Equator characterized by light winds and calms?

SPORTS: What color is the jersey worn by the leader of the Tour de France?

(Answers on Page 8)

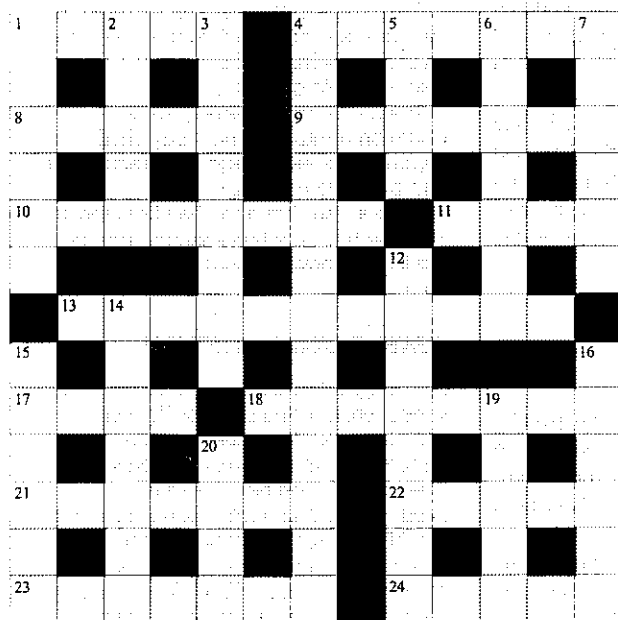
COUPLE WIN \$50K PRIZE AGAIN

INDIANAPOLIS - An Indianapolis couple beat the odds when they claimed their second \$50,000 Lucky 5 Hoosier lottery prize.

Elinor and John T. Phillips of Indianapolis claimed the prize Thursday, less than five years after Elinor Phillips won \$50,000 on the same game in 2004.

Elinor Phillips said her heart fluttered when she heard the numbers for the Feb. 24 evening draw.

Headland SatNews CROSSWORD No. 58



SOLUTION

ACROSS, 1. Cynic, 4. Handbag, 8. Scuba, 9. Rivalry, 10. Identity, 11. Vice, 13. Part company, 17. Once, 18. Ventured, 21. Discuss, 22. In one, 23. Horizon, 24. Event. DOWN: 1. Cosmic, 2. No use, 3. Chastity, 4. Horatio Nelson, 5. Nave, 6. Bullion, 7. Geyser, 12. Spitfire, 14. Accuser, 15. Howdah, 16. Advent, 19. Rhone, 20. Quiz.

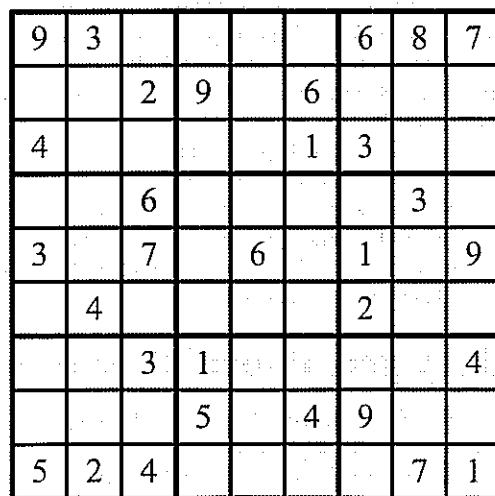
ACROSS

1. Sceptic (5)
4. Large purse (7)
8. Diving tank (5)
9. Competition (7)
10. Personality (8)
11. Carpenter's jaws (4)
13. Split up (4,7)
17. On an occasion (4)
18. Dared (8)
21. Talk about (7)
22. Combined (2,3)
23. Earth/sky line (7)
24. Happening (5)

DOWN

1. Vast (6)
2. Ineffectual (2,3)
3. Virginal purity (8)
4. Trafalgar hero (7,6)
5. Central church space (4)
6. Gold, silver mass (7)
7. Natural spout (6)
12. Famous RAF fighter (8)
14. Charge layer (7)
15. Elephant seat (6)
16. Coming (6)
19. Lyon's department (5)
20. Question (4)

Headland SatNews SUDOKU



RULES & SOLUTION

The object is to fill in the squares so that each row, column & box contains the numbers 1-9.

Numbers may not be repeated in the same column & row.

1	7	8	3	6	4	5	2	9
4	9	6	5	2	4	8	7	1
3	5	7	8	1	7	3	6	9
4	6	3	1	7	2	5	8	9
3	5	7	8	6	2	1	4	9
2	1	6	4	5	9	7	3	8
4	6	5	7	8	1	3	9	2
8	2	9	3	6	4	1	5	7
5	6	8	7	1	9	2	4	3

SPORTS NEWS

Tiger loses in second round

MARANA, Arizona - One day after a ceremonious return to golf, Tiger Woods was on his way home.

Tim Clark of South Africa played 16 holes without a bogey and pulled ahead for good on the back nine to knock Woods out of the Accenture Match Play Championship with a 4-and-2 victory on Thursday.

Woods holed out a 50-foot bunker shot for birdie on the 14th hole and appeared to be making a run, but his tee shot on the 15th hole hit a cart path and went over a fence and out of bounds, costing him the hole.

The good news for golf was it probably won't have to wait eight months to see him again.

Woods likely will play in two weeks at Miami in the CA Championship, although he said he would wait to see how his left knee felt.

This was his first tournament since reconstructive surgery on the knee one week after he won the U.S. Open in June.

Asked where he would go from here, Woods replied, "To the airport."

Clark, a pesky opponent with a sharp short game, didn't give him much of a chance. He was 6-under par when the match ended on the par-3 16th hole, where he put his tee shot 4 feet away.

The putt was conceded when Woods failed to chip in from just off the green.

"I knew I had to play out of my mind to beat him," Clark said. "I'm very proud of the way I played."

Next up for Clark is 19-year-old Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, who birdied the last two holes to beat Hunter Mahan.

Phil Mickelson, coming off a victory last week at the Northern Trust Open, is the highest seed left in the tournament going into the third round.

Mickelson, No. 5, again avoided a late meltdown and hung on to beat fellow Masters champion Zach Johnson, 1 up.

Vijay Singh, the No. 4 seed, lost his last three holes and was beaten by Luke Donald of England in 19 holes.

The only other top-10 players remaining were No. 8 seed Geoff Ogilvy, who won in 19 holes for the second straight day, this time against Shingo Katayama; and No. 9 seed Camilo Villegas, who beat Miguel Angel Jimenez, 5 and 4.

Villegas has played only 26 holes in two rounds.

THURSDAY'S SCOREBOARD

NBA

Houston 93, Cleveland 74
 L.A. Lakers 132, Phoenix 106

NHL

New Jersey 4, Colorado 0
 Boston 6, Anaheim 0
 Carolina 2, Buffalo 1 (SO)
 Washington 4, Atlanta 3
 Florida 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
 Toronto 5, N.Y. Islanders 4 (SO)
 San Jose 2, Ottawa 1
 Nashville 4, Phoenix 1
 St. Louis 3, Dallas 1
 Columbus 1, Edmonton 0

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Top 25

5. Memphis 71, UAB 60
 13. Wake Forest 85, N.C. State 78
 21. Wash. St. 73, 14. Arizona St. 70 (OT)
 Michigan 87, 16. Purdue 78
 17. Gonzaga 81, Santa Clara 73
 19. Xavier 68, Saint Joseph's 54
 20. Illinois 52, Minnesota 41
 22. UCLA 76, Stanford 71
 24. Butler 78, Youngstown State 57

Women's Top 25

9. North Carolina 90, Miami 76
 14. Ohio State 75, Wisconsin 53
 LSU 63, 18. Tennessee 61
 24. Arizona State 55, Washington 32

Manny rejects Dodgers' offer

PHOENIX - Star slugger Manny Ramirez has rejected yet another offer from the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Dodgers announced Thursday that the outfielder's agent Scott Boras had declined a \$25 million, one-year contract with a \$20 million player option for 2010. It was the club's fourth offer to Ramirez this offseason.

"We want Manny back, but we feel we are negotiating against ourselves," Dodgers owner Frank McCourt said in a statement.

"When his agent finds those 'serious offers' from other clubs, we'll be happy to restart the negotiations."

General manager Ned Colletti and McCourt met Wednesday in Los Angeles with Boras.

The offer is similar to the two-year, \$45 million deal with a buyout or club option that the Dodgers put on the table in November.

Ramirez refused the offer and the Dodgers withdrew their proposal. The team came back with a one-year, \$25 million offer, but Ramirez turned that down as well. Ramirez also turned down salary arbitration.

"Even with an economy that has substantially eroded since last November, out of respect for Manny and his talents, we actually improved our offer," McCourt said.

"So now, we start from scratch."

Colletti said there was no hard deadline, and Ramirez was not yet needed in spring training.

No LeBron assists in loss

HOUSTON - The Houston Rockets held LeBron James without an assist for the first time in his career and limited Cleveland to its lowest point total of the season, beating the Cavaliers 93-74 on Thursday night.

Yao Ming scored 28 points and Ron Artest added 15 while harassing James on defense most of the night, leading the Rockets to their sixth consecutive victory and ninth straight at home.

James scored 21 points, but went 7-for-21 from the field with three turnovers. He left for good with 4:03 left, the first time in 493 NBA games (counting playoffs) he failed to record an assist.

The Cavaliers had season-low point totals in the first (11) and third (10) quarters, and their 34 percent shooting (27-for-80) was also a season worst.

Mo Williams also scored 21 for the Cavs, who had a five-game winning streak snapped. They also may have lost forward Ben Wallace, who left in the third quarter with a broken right leg.

Von Wafer scored 19 points and Luis Scola added 14 points and nine rebounds for the Rockets. Houston had 25 assists, its sixth straight game with 20 or more, and went 8-for-19 from 3-point range.

Vick home confinement OK'd

RICHMOND, Va. - Imprisoned NFL star Michael Vick will be allowed to serve the last two months of his sentence under home confinement because there is no room at a halfway house for him, a government official told The Associated Press Thursday.

Vick is serving a 23-month sentence at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., after pleading guilty to bankrolling a dogfighting operation at a home he owned in eastern Virginia's Surry County.

He also admitted to participating in the killing of several underperforming dogs.

Vick's lawyers have said they expected him to be moved any day into a halfway house in Newport News. But because of a lack of space, Vick will be released instead to his home in nearby Hampton at some point on or after May 21, said the official, who has knowledge of the case but requested anonymity because the individual was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

"We are aware of reports regarding the release of Michael Vick," Vick attorneys Billy Martin and Lawrence Woodward said in a written statement.

"As his attorneys we understand and respect that there is a process that the Bureau of Prisons follows therefore it is not appropriate for us comment at this time."

The Hampton house is one of four Vick still owns, according to bankruptcy court papers. He sold the Surry County property that served as headquarters for his BadNewz Kennels soon after his July 2007 indictment.

Hall, Redskins agree deal

WASHINGTON - The Washington Redskins achieved one of their major offseason goals around the midnight stroke that signaled the start of free agency, agreeing to terms for a six-year, \$54 million contract with DeAngelo Hall.

The deal Friday includes \$22.5 million in guaranteed money, giving the 25-year-old cornerback his second big payday in as many years.

Hall was guaranteed around \$24 million in a seven-year, \$70 million contract he signed a year ago with Oakland, but he struggled to adjust to the Raiders' man-to-man defense and was waived after eight games.

The Redskins picked him up less than a week later, and he provided a needed boost to a secondary beset by too many injuries and not enough big plays.

Hall played in seven games and started the last four, eventually moving ahead of Carlos Rogers on the depth chart.

Hall's five interceptions for the season - three with Oakland, two with Washington - were three more than any other cornerback on the Redskins roster.

He has a model citizen during his short time in the nation's capital, avoiding the type of temperamental outbursts that prompted the Atlanta Falcons to trade him to Oakland in 2008.

Brodeur shuts out Avalanche

NEWARK, N.J. - Martin Brodeur recorded his 99th career regular-season shutout, making 24 saves in his first game since elbow surgery in early November and the New Jersey Devils beat the Colorado Avalanche 4-0 on Thursday night.

"It was an exciting night to get out there and perform," Brodeur said.

"I was really anxious all day, more nervous that I thought I was going to be. We pulled it off. It was nice to score early in the game. I didn't get much work. It was a nice game to play."

Brodeur posted his third shutout in 11 games this season to move within four of Terry Sawchuk's regular-season career mark of 103, and reached 545 victories to close within six of tying Patrick's Roy's NHL record.

The four-time Vezina Trophy winner as hockey's best goalie was greeted by a standing ovation from fans when he stepped on the ice for the warmups and they cheered every time he touched the puck, even when he simply directed it to the corner.

"The fans were great," Brodeur said. "I don't know if they were sarcastic about cheering me on the saves sometimes but it was definitely nice."

Despite missing 50 games after having surgery to repair a torn biceps in his left elbow, Brodeur was very sharp. He got a gimme on his first save, a shot from the red line by Chris Stewart about 6 minutes into the contest.

A-Rod 'told to keep cousin away'

NEW YORK - Alex Rodriguez was told by the New York Yankees to keep his cousin away from the team.

The message was given to the star third baseman on Thursday, said a person familiar with the situation, speaking on condition of anonymity because the team did not make an announcement.

The message applied both to spring training and the regular season, the person said.

Rodriguez also was told the cousin should not be anywhere the team congregates, which presumably includes the team's hotel when it travels and the ballpark.

Speaking at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa, Fla., general manager Brian Cashman said only that the matter of Rodriguez being picked up from his spring training opener Wednesday by his cousin "has been handled."

Rodriguez took a similar tone following New York's 5-1 victory on Thursday over Tampa Bay.

"It's been addressed," he said. "And, no further comment."

A day earlier in Dunedin, Rodriguez homered and walked twice, then got into a SUV driven by Yuri Sucart.

He's been identified as the cousin who provided Rodriguez with performance-enhancing drugs obtained in the Dominican Republic. Rodriguez admitted using them while playing for Texas from 2001-3.

Rodriguez acknowledged to the Yankees that having the cousin meet him at the ballpark in Dunedin was a mistake, the person who told The Associated Press about the situation said.

Bulls mourn Van Lier, 'Red' Kerr

CHICAGO - Johnny "Red" Kerr, the former Chicago Bulls coach who spent more than three decades as a broadcaster for the team, died Thursday. He was 76.

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Kerr died at his home after a battle with prostate cancer, Bulls spokesman Tim Hallam said.

"His name was synonymous with basketball, both here in Chicago, and throughout the entire NBA," Bulls chairman Jerry Reinsdorf said.

"Those that were fortunate enough to have known Johnny were touched by both his tremendous compassion for people, and his lifelong passion for the game of basketball. We will miss him greatly."

Kerr's death is a double blow for the Bulls, following the death also Thursday of Norm Van Lier, one of the most popular players in Bulls history. Van Lier was 61.

"We're deeply saddened by the whole course of events today," Hallam said.

The Bulls unveiled a statue of Kerr at the United Center during an emotional ceremony earlier this month that included taped messages from President Barack Obama and commissioner David Stern and speeches from Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan.

Pippen said Kerr "makes Chicago Bulls basketball what it is," while Jordan called him "an inspiration to me as a basketball player and as a person."

SoCal city approves proposal for NFL stadium

LOS ANGELES - City Council members in the city of Industry unanimously approved a proposal Thursday for a pro football stadium intended to lure a team back to the Los Angeles area.

The vote helped clear the way for developers of the \$800 million venue to begin talks with NFL teams about a possible move to the industrial and warehousing city 15 miles east of Los Angeles.

Majestic Real Estate Co. managing partner John Semcken said the company would begin shopping for a team on April 1, the deadline for opponents of the project to file a lawsuit.

At least eight franchises, including the Oakland Raiders, Buffalo Bills and Minnesota Vikings, have been identified as possible targets for relocation, he said.

Developers are confident the NFL would approve a move by a team, he said.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Weak health care stocks drag market lower

NEW YORK - Health insurers and drug companies, some of the better performers on Wall Street lately, led the market lower Thursday after the White House proposed cutting payments to private insurance plans. The major stock indexes gave up early leads to close lower.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 88.81, or 1.2 percent, to 7,182.08, pulled down by stocks including drug maker Merck & Co., down \$1.87, or 6.7 percent, at \$26.04 and health products company Johnson & Johnson, off \$1.52, or 2.8 percent, at \$52.44.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 12.07, or 1.6 percent, to 752.83 and the Nasdaq composite index fell 33.96, or 2.4 percent, to 1,391.47.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 8.49, or 2.1 percent, to 392.95.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 8 to 7 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 6.48 billion shares, down from Wednesday's 7.29 billion.

The Obama administration's \$3.55 trillion budget plan for 2010 includes cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. Private insurance plans serving Medicare seniors would take the biggest hit, but hospitals, drug manufacturers and home health agencies also face cuts.

As investors became aware of the impact that the budget, if enacted, could have on the companies, they turned against what had been one of the strongest industries in the stock market recently.

Market watchers had been looking to health care to help lead the market's recovery along with other recession-resistant industries like consumer staples.

Banking shares initially pulled much of the market higher as investors welcomed plans from Washington for additional bailout measures that could provide up to \$750 billion in support to the struggling banking system. But the Obama administration said the money was for a contingency fund and that it didn't plan to immediately ask Congress to add to the government's existing \$700 billion rescue program.

Many financial stocks managed to close the day higher.

WALL STREET INDEXES

Thursday close

Dow Jones Indust.	7182.08	-88.81
S&P 500	752.83	-12.07
NYSE Composite	4713.02	-40.15
Amex Index	1339.40	+17.43
NASD Composite	1391.47	-33.96
NMS Composite	647.52	-16.02
Value Line Geometric	178.80	-3.22
Value Line Arithmetic	1155.44	-19.27
Wilshire 5000	7619.39	-122.41
Russell 2000	392.95	-8.49

60 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of	Thu Feb 26	17:35:28
AT&T Inc	NY	24.09 +.38
ActivsBlz s	NA	9.95 +.06
AmIntlGp	NY	52 +.06
Amgen	NA	51.23 -5.33
Apple Inc	NA	89.19 -1.97
ApdMatl	NA	9.84 +.39
BkofAm	AM	5.32 +.16
BarcGSol	NY	17.60 +.85
CapOne	NY	12.98 +.28
Cisco	NA	14.49 -28
Citigrp	NY	2.46 -0.06
Comcast	NA	13.34 -0.71
CVRD	NY	12.94 +.09
DeI1 Inc	NA	8.21 -1.15
DirxFinBull	NY	5.81 +.21
DryShips	NA	3.59 -0.24
EldorGld g	AM	8.33 +.39
ExxonMbl	NY	29.75 -1.10
FifthThird	NA	2.29 +.35
FormD	NY	1.98 -0.03
GenElec	NY	9.10 +.09
GoldStr g	AM	1.57 +.07
HuntBnk	NA	1.98 +.32
ISHJpp	NY	7.31 -0.09
ISHch25 s	NY	24.81 -0.70
ISHMkt s	NY	21.57 -0.19
ISHR2K	NY	39.42 -1.75
ISHR2K	NY	15.53 -1.13
Int1	NA	2.70 +.35
JPMorgCh	NY	23.05 -1.32
La11Ph	NA	0.06 +.00
LVSands	NY	2.85 +.69
Microsoft	NA	16.42 -0.54
MorgStan	NY	21.33 -0.43
NewsCpa	NA	5.77 -0.29
NovaBioF	AM	0.06 -0.01
Nvidia	NA	8.26 +.26
Oracle	NA	15.78 -0.46
Pfizer	NY	22.70 -0.38
PSCFudeDL n	AM	2.42 +.78
PWSHS QQQ	NA	27.79 -1.80
PRUSHSP	NY	94.40 +2.96
ProULTQQQ	NY	23.00 -1.32
ProULTSP	NY	18.13 -0.57
ProULTFin	NY	2.46 +0.03
Qualcom	NA	33.66 -0.27
RegionsFn	NY	3.94 +.18
SFM Cp	NY	5.80 -2.59
SIRJUSM	NA	1.3 -0.01
SPRIntNex	NY	3.48 -0.11
SPDR	NY	75.62 -1.25
SP Engy	NY	42.15 +.10
SPDR Fnc1	NY	8.13 +.13
SunTrst	NY	12.95 +2.05
US Bancrp	NY	14.91 +2.15
US OilFid	NY	27.23 -1.23
Utdh1thGp	NY	20.07 -2.96
WeathrInt s	NY	10.58 +.88
WellsFargo	NY	14.40 +.96
Yahoo	NA	12.98 +.50

(NY=NYSE; AM=AMEX; NA=NASDAQ)

FOREIGN STOCK INDEXES

		Thursday	Previous
Amsterdam	AEX	273.07	270.69
Brussels	Bel-25	1638.15	1651.13
Frankfurt	DAX	3942.62	3846.21
Hong Kong	H-S	12894.94	13005.08
London	FT-100	3915.64	3848.98
Mexico	IPC	18047.16	18200.70
Milan	MIB	12744.00	12494.00
Paris	CAC-40	2744.84	2696.92
Sydney	All Ord	3297.40	3281.50
Tokyo	Nikkei	7457.93	7461.22
Toronto	TSE-300	8186.82	7932.30
Zurich	SMI	4770.78	4702.50

NEW YORK EXCHANGE RATES

	Thursday	Previous
Australia (Dollar)	1.5362	1.5463
Britain (Pound)	\$1.4310	\$1.4196
Canada (Dollar)	1.2490	1.2523
China (Yuan)	6.8376	6.8415
Euro	\$1.2749	\$1.2716
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7538	7.7548
India (Rupee)	50.401	49.855
Japan (Yen)	98.38	97.64
Mexico (Peso)	14.9725	14.8815
Norway (Krone)	6.9404	6.8909
Russia (Ruble)	35.6710	35.8076
Singapore (Dollar)	1.5382	1.5294
So. Africa (Rand)	9.9002	9.9290
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1650	1.1733

Dollar falls on banks plan

NEW YORK - The dollar fell against most major currencies Thursday after governments said they were stepping up efforts to help struggling banks, while economic reports showed that new-home sales tumbled to record lows and jobless claims jumped more than expected.

The 16-nation euro rose to \$1.2749 in late New York trading from \$1.2716 late Wednesday. The British pound jumped to \$1.4310 from \$1.4196 after the British government set up a program to allow banks to access government insurance against future losses on bad assets.

The Commerce Department reported that new home sales tumbled 10.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 309,000 last month, the worst showing on government records going back to 1963.

Separately, U.S. manufacturers saw orders for big-ticket goods sink by a larger-than-expected 5.2 percent in January as global economic troubles cut demand from customers at home and abroad, the Commerce Department said.

The dollar rose to 98.38 Japanese yen from 97.64 yen late Wednesday, however, as the Asian country's sinking exports and rapidly-contracting output eat away at its value as a safety beacon.

Treasury yields edge up

NEW YORK - Amid all the gloomy economic data, this week has brought one piece of good news for the U.S. government: Appetite for its debt is still holding up.

The Treasury Department managed to auction a record \$94 billion in new long-term debt this week, and all three auctions were met with solid demand.

On Thursday, the Treasury auctioned seven-year notes for the first time in 16 years, and the \$22 billion auction received more than twice as many bids as notes available.

In late trading, the benchmark 10-year Treasury note dipped 18/32 to 97 27/32. Its yield rose to 3.00 percent from 2.93 percent late Wednesday.

The two-year note was flat at 99 18/32, and its yield was unchanged at 1.09 percent. The 30-year bond fell 1 18/32 to 96 24/32, and its yield rose to 3.68 percent from 3.59 percent.

The three-month Treasury bill's yield slipped to 0.26 percent from 0.29 percent. The discount rate was 0.27 percent.

FBI arrests Stanford Financial Group exec

HOUSTON - FBI agents arrested the chief investment officer of troubled Stanford Financial Group on Thursday, accusing Laura Pendergest-Holt of obstructing a Securities and Exchange Commission fraud investigation.

The SEC has been investigating allegations of an \$8 billion investment fraud involving Texas billionaire R. Allen Stanford's financial group.

Pendergest-Holt was arrested in Houston, where Stanford Financial Group is based. The FBI said she was taken to the federal detention center and would appear in federal court Friday morning for an arraignment.

"She is looking forward to working with the government to get all the facts out and put this behind her," her attorney Brent Baker said Thursday night.

The government alleges in a federal complaint that Pendergest-Holt obstructed the investigation with some of her answers to SEC investigators' questions, including failing to reveal to the SEC how much she knew about investments in Stanford International Bank Ltd.

BofA CEO Ken Lewis keeps lips sealed

NEW YORK - The New York attorney general's office has subpoenaed Bank of America Corp. seeking the names of Merrill Lynch executives who received \$3.6 billion in year-end bonuses, after Chief Executive Ken Lewis failed to provide those details during a lengthy deposition Thursday evening.

Lewis, who traveled to New York on the company's corporate jet, said that he "answered the questions that were asked to the best of my knowledge."

Lewis' deposition was part of an ongoing investigation by New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo into the timing of Merrill Lynch's bonuses and whether proper disclosure was made to shareholders about the size of the bonuses.

TV: Jack Klugman played Quincy in the TV series.

TV: Jack Klugman played Quincy in the TV series.

NATURE: The region near the Equator characterized by light winds and calms is known as the doldrums.

SPORTS: The jersey worn by the leader of the Tour de France is yellow.

GENERAL MOTORS CORP.

GENERAL MOTORS CORP.

DETROIT - General Motors Corp. posted a \$9.6 billion fourth-quarter loss and said it burned through \$6.2 billion of cash in the last three months of 2008 as it fought the worst U.S. auto sales climate since 1982 and sought government loans to keep the century-old company running.

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

NEW YORK - JPMorgan Chase & Co. said Thursday it will eliminate about 12,000 jobs as it folds in the operations of Washington Mutual Inc.

AIG INC.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Beleaguered insurer American International Group Inc. could be split into at least three separate government-controlled divisions in an effort to save the business, according to a report on Thursday by the Financial Times.

SEARS HOLDINGS CORP.

HOFFMAN ESTATES, Ill. - Sears Holdings Corp., the owner of Kmart and Sears stores that is led by financier Edward Lampert, said Thursday its fourth-quarter profit dropped 55 percent due to charges for store closings, valuation declines and severance.

CABLEVISION SYSTEMS CORP.

BETHPAGE, N.Y. - Cablevision Systems Corp. posted a loss for the fourth quarter Thursday, dragged into the red by a hefty write-down on the value of its Newsday newspaper.

They were granted just before Bank of America's acquisition of Merrill closed, and as that bank was seeking additional government aid on top of \$25 billion it had already received.

Lewis' use of the company aircraft seemed surprising since it comes at a time when bailed-out banks have faced heavy scrutiny over executives' use of such perks.

"Because of the timing of this meeting, we felt it was necessary to use corporate aircraft," said company spokesman Timothy Gilles.

Americans receiving unemployment top 5 million

WASHINGTON - As bad as it is already, the economy keeps getting worse - and government figures Thursday provided more evidence that the downward spiral won't end anytime soon.

The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits topped 5 million for the first time since record-keeping began in 1967. And the number of first-time claims hit 667,000, the highest level in more than a quarter-century.

Both figures were worse than experts expected.

Orders for cars, computers, machinery and other durable goods plunged a larger-than-expected 5.2 percent in January as global economic troubles reduced demand from customers at home and abroad.

"We have been looking for signs that the economy's rate of decline might be slowing, but can't find any," said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at the IHS Global Insight consulting firm.

The government reports offered more evidence that consumers are scaling back purchases as jobs vanish, home prices drop and stock portfolios shrink.

Those factors fuel more job and spending cuts by profit-starved businesses.

"The hope is that policy efforts by the federal government will be able to break that cycle," said Zach Pandl, an economist at Nomura Securities International. "But it's still going to take some time before that happens."

Fannie Mae seeks \$15.2bn in aid after 4Q loss

WASHINGTON - Fannie Mae said Thursday it needs \$15.2 billion in government aid - though that figure is expected to grow - because it lost nearly \$59 billion last year as the foreclosure crisis mushroomed.

The Washington-based mortgage finance company hemorrhaged \$25.2 billion, or \$4.47 per share, in the fourth quarter. That compares with a loss of \$3.6 billion, or \$3.80 a share, in the year-ago period.

Ottawa pegs cost of Afghan mission at \$11.3bn

By Murray Brewster

PANJWAH DISTRICT, Afghanistan (The Canadian Press) - The direct cost of Canada's 10-year involvement in Afghanistan is estimated to be \$11.3 billion, the federal government has quietly revealed.

It is the first complete fiscal accounting of the mission, which Prime Minister Stephen Harper last year suggested would run in the neighbourhood of \$8 billion by the time the combat mission ends in 2011.

The figures, which include for the first time estimates for the Foreign Affairs Department, the Canadian International Development Agency, Corrections Canada and the RCMP, were posted without fanfare Tuesday on the Privy Council Office's Task Force Afghanistan web site.

The incremental cost estimate does not include post-2011 disability and health care costs for soldiers wounded in battle or

suffering from post-traumatic stress.

The forecast runs considerably less than the \$13.9 billion to \$18.3 billion estimate parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page issued last October at the height of the federal election campaign.

A direct comparison between the figures is difficult because Page's estimates included projection for long-term veteran's benefits and were, by his own admission, a hazy accounting because the civilian agencies refused to co-operate with his investigation.

The new federal numbers suggest almost 80 per cent of the price tag - \$9 billion - will be for military operations and hardware.

The report also includes a massive caveat, noting that "operations are constantly changing and adapting," meaning cost estimates "are constantly refined and adjusted to reflect this changing reality."

Feds unveil \$3bn stimulus stash

By Alexander Panetta

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - The Harper government is creating a \$3-billion fund to fast-track economic stimulus cash and begin pumping it out within weeks - a move rivals call a recipe for a boondoggle.

The fund would let money start filtering down April 1, nearly three months sooner than the traditional period in which Parliament endorses supplementary budget spending.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper warned opponents they risk triggering an election should they vote against the fund.

But the threat appeared unnecessary. While the Liberals expressed concern that they were being asked to sign a blank cheque, they

offered no indication they would block the government's stimulus measures.

Still, the Bloc Quebecois called it a slush fund and the NDP warned the conditions are in place for another sponsorship scandal.

Even the Conservatives admitted the spending stampede could result in waste.

Harper agreed there are some long-term risks associated with the stimulus package, but he cited a famous economist to argue that the short-term danger is greater.

"Of course there's all kinds of risks of inefficient, expanded government policies that will continue into the future," Harper told a news conference in British Columbia.

"I'm not suggesting there aren't long-term risks.

OBAMA UNVEILS \$3.6TLN BUDGET

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama charted a dramatic new course for the U.S. Thursday with a bold but contentious budget proposing higher taxes for the wealthy and the first steps toward guaranteed health care for all - accompanied by an astonishing \$1.71 trillion federal deficit that would be nearly four times the highest in history.

Congressional approval without major change is anything but sure. The plan is filled with political land mines including an initiative to combat global warming that would hit consumers with considerable higher utility bills. Other proposals would take on entrenched interests such as big farming, insurance companies and drug makers.

BANGLADESH GUARDS DETAINED

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - The Bangladeshi government says about 300 fleeing border guards have been detained after a bloody two-day revolt against superior officers left at least 22 people dead.

The border guards, who rose up against their commanders earlier this week, had been promised amnesty - though it's not clear if that will apply to guards who fled their bases.

Soon after laying down their arms, many mutineers fled their compound Thursday night under cover of darkness, says Abdul Kashem, a border force official.

FORMER SERB PRESIDENT CLEARED OF WAR CRIMES

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - U.N. judges have acquitted former Serbian President Milan Milutinovic of ordering a deadly campaign of terror against Kosovo Albanians, saying he had no role in what they ruled was a criminal plot to drive ethnic Albanians out of Kosovo.

The tribunal ordered Milutinovic released from custody Thursday, but it convicted five other senior Serbs and gave them prison sentences of between 15 and 22 years. It was the court's first judgment establishing widespread Serb crimes in Kosovo.

PM says public supports tough new crime bills

By Steve Aertl

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited the city that his public safety minister calls Canada's gang capital Thursday to fuel the government's push for Criminal Code changes that would sentence gangsters to longer stretches in prison.

After handing out \$350 million in infrastructure money for a new rapid-transit line, Harper met for an hour with Metro Vancouver police chiefs and the families of gang-violence victims who've become reluctant lobbyists for a crackdown.

"I was very encouraged to listen to the prime minister," said Eileen Mohan, whose son Chris was one of two innocent victims among six men executed gang-style in a Surrey apartment in 2007.

RCMP spokesman Cpl. Peter Thiessen said Harper listened intently. "He took notes," said Thiessen. "There was a lot of dialogue both from the police and from the victims of crime that were in that room."

The meeting with Harper, just a week after Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan came out to meet police, local mayors and crime victims, signals the level of importance the issue is attracting, Thiessen said.

RCMP 'should have searched sooner' for skiers

By Bill Gaveland

GOLDEN, B.C. (The Canadian Press) - RCMP admitted they should have acted sooner when they heard about an SOS marked on a mountainside where two skiers, one of whom died, spent days desperately trying to alert rescuers.

At a news conference in Golden, B.C., RCMP Cpl. Dan Moskaluk explained that RCMP contacted the nearby Kicking Horse ski resort when they first received the report of the international distress signal carved into the snow Feb. 21.

The resort said it didn't know of any missing or overdue skiers, so the Mounties decided not to check out the area around the rescue symbol. Moskaluk conceded that, in hindsight, that was the wrong call.

Gilles Blackburn, 50, and his wife Marie-Josée Fortin, 44, ended up spending nine days lost on the mountain.

They were worried about keeping wolves at bay while they were lost in the wilderness.

BNL'S SINGER SAYS HE WAS BEING SQUEEZED CREATIVELY

TORONTO (AP) - Barenaked Ladies' singer-guitarist Steven Page said Thursday that he decided to leave the band because he felt like his contributions as a songwriter were being diminished.

A day after Page announced he was leaving on the band's Web site, he said a big reason for the split was that he felt as though the then five-member band had so many songwriting voices, his was occasionally squeezed out.

"Frankly, the band itself was a five-way democracy and one of the great things about it is that it's been about the five-way collaboration, but it's also one of the things that's made me decide to be a solo artist," he said.

The other members: Ed Robertson, Jim Creeggan, Kevin Hearn and Tyler Stewart plan to continue on as the Barenaked Ladies, and have no immediate plans to replace Page.

They will return to the studio in April and will tour in the fall.

Male nurse investigated for allegedly assisting suicides

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The Globe and Mail says a Minnesota man who allegedly tried to persuade a student at Ottawa's Carleton University to hang herself online last March is under investigation in similar cases.

The paper quotes police in St. Paul as saying a 46-year-old nurse has been under investigation for 11 months in other suicides or attempted suicides, though no charges have been laid.

Police allege he posed as a young woman who also thought about suicide as he had online chats with Nadia Kajouji, an 18-year-old Carleton student who killed herself last March.

Police allege that in the chats, he advised Kajouji on what kind of rope to use to hang herself, and suggested she do it online as part of a joint suicide pact.

Ontario's deficit could reach \$18bn over two years

By Maria Babbage

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - There are new predictions that Ontario's deficit could climb as high as \$18 billion over two years, leading a tide of red ink that's expected to wash over Canada as the provinces hunker down for a recession.

TD chief economist Don Drummond said Thursday he's expecting Ontario to run a deficit of about \$5 billion in the current fiscal year ending March 31 and another \$13 billion in the next.

Previous estimates had pegged the province's deficit between \$5 billion and \$10 billion, taking into account its promises to bail out struggling automakers and match federal dollars for infrastructure projects meant to kickstart the ailing economy.

Second video of Canadian diplomats abducted in Niger

BAMAKO (AFP) - A second video of two Canadian diplomats and their driver who were kidnapped in Niger in December has been passed on to Canadian and Malian authorities, a Malian source said.

"A second cassette showing this time not only the two Canadian diplomats Robert Fowler, the UN Secretary General's special envoy to Niger, and Louis Gay but also their driver (Soumana Moukaila) exists," the source said.

The source, who previously revealed the existence of the first video, said he had viewed the tape in which Fowler was seen speaking French. Moukaila's family had also seen the tape, he added.

Ottawa kept its silence on the matter and denied to confirm or refute that it had received the tape.

Mountie found officer with back of head missing

SASKATOON (The Canadian Press) - One of the first RCMP officers at the scene after two fellow Mounties were shot in Saskatchewan says he found one with the back of his head blown off.

Constables Marc Bourdages and Robin Cameron were gravely wounded during a high-speed chase along country roads in July 2006.

Curt Dagenais is on trial for their murder.

Cpl. Jason Teniuk told the jury Bourdages was alive when he found him lying on the ground outside his police truck. Teniuk says he was able to get Bourdages to another vehicle and supported his bleeding body on "a hellish ride" to an ambulance.

The Saskatoon courtroom filled with sobs as the corporal testified, and two jury members were visibly upset.

Man gets 21 months in jail for street race

BARRIE, Ont. (The Canadian Press) - A Toronto man who participated in a race along Highway 400 that left Innisfil, Ont., truck driver David Virgoe dead has been sent to jail.

CLOSING STOCK INDEXES

		Feb 26	Feb 25
Toronto	TSE-300	7932.30	7859.33
New York	D-J	7270.89	7270.89
New York	Nasdaq	1425.43	1425.43
London	FT-100	3848.98	3816.44
Tokyo	Nikkei	7461.22	7268.56

TORONTO MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of	Thu Feb 26	18:03:34	
ISharesCDN60	XIU=T	12.44	+0.43
HRznCrd01LB	HOU=T	5.80	+0.54
EqnoxMnr150	EON=T	1.57	+0.28
BombdrBSV	BBD/B=T	2.91	+0.04
VerenxEgyo	VNX=T	9.55	+1.75
TeckComBSV	TCK/B=T	4.52	+0.47
RoyalBank	RY=T	31.90	+1.91
ManulifeFin	MFC=T	14.18	+0.50
SuncorEngy	SU=T	25.66	+2.55
HorznCapBu11	HFU=T	4.08	+0.43

NHL

New Jersey 4, Colorado 0
 Boston 6, Anaheim 0
 Carolina 2, Buffalo 1 (SO)
 Washington 4, Atlanta 3
 Florida 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
 Toronto 5, N.Y. Islanders 4 (SO)
 San Jose 2, Ottawa 1
 Nashville 4, Phoenix 1
 St. Louis 3, Dallas 1
 Columbus 1, Edmonton 0

NBA

Houston 93, Cleveland 74
 L.A. Lakers 132, Phoenix 106

Prabhjit Multani, 21, pleaded guilty to criminal negligence causing death by street racing and was sentenced Thursday to 21 months in jail, two years probation and a 10-year driving prohibition.

Justice Michelle Fuerst said she took into consideration the fact that Multani had already spent 291 days in jail.

Multani raced in his black Mustang Convertible with friends in two other vehicles, gesturing and laughing as they zigzagged through heavy traffic on June 18, 2007, court heard.

They called each other on cellphones for a total of 66 calls over 44 kilometres as they drag raced along the highway at speeds up to 200 kilometres an hour.

First female sea captain in North America, dies at age 93

MONCTON, N.B. (The Canadian Press) - Molly Kool, the first woman in North America to become a registered sea captain, died Wednesday. She was 93.

Kool was born in 1916 in Alma, N.B., and spent the first 30 years of her life there. She had been living in Bangor, Maine, for years when she died.

"She was a real pioneer in the status of women and she tackled something absolutely unheard of," said Ken Kelly, president of the Fundy Beautification and Historical Society.

Kelly was a friend of Kool and would visit her in Bangor once a year. She would also regularly come stay with him and his wife in Alma.

Kool tried to enrol in navigation school in Saint John, N.B., but was initially turned away because no woman in North America had ever obtained her mate's papers. She persisted and was eventually admitted.

She passed her mate's papers in 1937 at the age of 21 and passed her master's exam a couple of years later, receiving her master's certificate and the title of captain.

TSX surges as bank earnings impress

By Malcolm Morrison

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - The Toronto stock market's gains extended to a third session Thursday as earnings from three of the big banks reminded investors that Canadian financial companies are in far better shape than most of their counterparts in the U.S. and Europe.

Toronto's S&P/TSX composite index rose 254.52 points to 8,186.82, for a gain of 539 points in the last three days. The TSX Venture Exchange edged up 7.84 points at 862.81.

"People are relieved," said Jennifer Radman, associate portfolio manager at Caldwell Securities. "Despite everything that's going on - the banks are still making a lot of money. The market in general has been very short sighted and a lot of the valuations that are out there - it's like society is going to go backwards!"

Energy stocks also gave major support to the TSX as oil prices improved for a third straight day.

U.S. claims victory in latest softwood lumber fight

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - The United States claimed victory over Canada on Thursday in the latest fight over the 2006 softwood lumber agreement.

An LCIA tribunal, formerly the London Court of International Arbitration, found Canada breached the agreement by failing to calculate quotas properly during the first six months of 2007, the United States said.

The tribunal said Canada must collect an additional 10 per cent export charge on softwood lumber shipments from Eastern Canadian provinces until C\$68.26 million has been collected.

BRODEUR SHUTS OUT AVALANCHE

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) - Marty's back, as good as ever. Martin Brodeur recorded his 99th career regular-season shutout, making 24 saves in his first game since elbow surgery in early November and the New Jersey Devils beat the Colorado Avalanche 4-0 on Thursday night.

The shutout was Brodeur's third in 11 games this season and it moved him within four of Terry Sawchuk's regular-season career mark of 103.

Zach Parise, Jamie Langenbrunne, Patrik Elias and Travis Zajac scored, but the night belonged to Brodeur as he picked up his 545th career win, moving within six of tying Patrick's Roy's NHL record.

The four-time Vezina Trophy winner as hockey's best goalie was greeted by a standing ovation from fans when he stepped on the ice for the pre-game warmup and they cheered every time he touched the puck, even when he simply directed it to the corner.

Despite missing 50 games after having surgery to repair a torn biceps in his left elbow, Brodeur was very sharp. He got a gimme on his first save, a shot from the red line by Chris Stewart about 6 minutes into the contest.

Celebrity renovator to open home inspection business

TORONTO (The Canadian Press) - Celebrity renovator Mike Holmes is launching his own home inspection business.

The beefy contractor, known for unearthing renovation horror stories on the defunct HGTV series "Holmes on Homes," will launch Mike Holmes Inspections in the southwestern Ontario communities of Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph and Canbridge.

Holmes says many homeowners have emailed and written him complaining about the quality of their home inspections.

He says his company will offer inspections, energy audits and "will provide homeowners with the facts, not just an opinion."

Blue Jackets blank Oilers

EDMONTON (The Canadian Press) - Steve Mason faced just 19 shots in his eighth shutout of the season and the Columbus Blue Jackets ended a two-game losing skid, defeating the Edmonton Oilers 1-0 in a key Western Conference clash Thursday night.



	Min	Max	Weather
Calgary	-24	-14	snow
Edmonton	-17	-7	sunny
Halifax	3	5	fog
Montreal	-6	1	snow
Toronto	0	6	ptclouidy
Vancouver	-6	2	snow

(temperatures in Celsius)

Former Oiler Raffi Torres scored the lone goal of the game for the Blue Jackets (31-25-6), who moved with Vancouver for fifth in the West.

The Oilers (30-26-5) remained in a four-way logjam for seventh with Dallas, Anaheim and Minnesota with 65 points apiece.

There was no scoring in a relatively uneventful first period with both Oilers goaltender Dwayne Roloson and Mason called upon to make seven saves apiece.

Columbus was the vastly better team in the second period, with Roloson needing to be on his game as the blue Jackets outshot the Oilers 11-5.

Stapleton's SO goal leads Maple Leafs past Isles

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) - Tim Stapleton scored in the third round of the shootout, leading the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 5-4 win over the New York Islanders on Thursday night.

The teams traded goals in the second round, with Jeff Tambellini scoring for the Islanders and Jason Blake answering for the Maple Leafs.

The Islanders tied the game with 3:07 left in regulation when Jon Sim's shot from the right circle appeared to deflect off a Maple Leafs player and over Vesa Toskala's glove.

Ian White, Dominic Moore, Pavel Kubina and Nik Antropov scored for Toronto, while Toskala stopped 42 shots for his third straight victory.

Dean McAmmond, Sean Bergenheim and Mark Streit also scored for the Islanders, who are 4-1-1 in the last eight home games.

Sharks beat Senators

OTTAWA (The Canadian Press) - Milan Michalek and Patrick Marleau scored power-play goals in the second period as the San Jose Sharks beat the Ottawa Senators 2-1 Thursday.

Brian Boucher made the start in goal in place of Evgeni Nabakov and stopped 23 of Ottawa's 24 shots for the win. It was the fifth victory in the past six games for the Sharks (42-9-9), who were 4-1 losers in Detroit Wednesday night.

TIGER LOSES IN SECOND ROUND TO TIM CLARK

MARANA, Arizona (AP) - One day after a ceremonious return to golf, Tiger Woods was on his way home. Tim Clark of South Africa played 16 holes without a bogey and pulled ahead for good on the back nine to knock Woods out of the Accenture Match Play Championship with a 4-and-2 victory on Thursday.

Woods holed out a 50-foot bunker shot for birdie on the 14th hole and appeared to be making a run, but his tee shot on the 15th hole hit a cart path and went over a fence and out of bounds, costing him the hole.

The good news for golf was it probably won't have to wait eight months to see him again.

Woods likely will play in two weeks at Miami in the CA Championship, although he said he would wait to see how his left knee felt. This was his first tournament since reconstructive surgery on the knee one week after he won the U.S. Open in June.

Mike Fisher had the only goal for the Senators (23-28-9) while Alex Auld was strong in goal, making 22 saves.

The Senators had the only power play of the third period and a handful of good chances late, but they were unable to beat Boucher.

Five teams still alive at Scotties Tournament of Hearts

By James Bisson

VICTORIA (The Canadian Press) - To repeat as Canadian women's curling champion, Jennifer Jones will need to take the same gruelling path she did last year - and that suits her just fine.

Jones slid a draw to the eight-foot with her final shot in the 10th end Thursday night to beat B.C.'s Marla Mallett 6-5 in the 17th and final draw at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

Jones, third Cathy Overton-Clapham, second Jill Officer and lead Dawn Askin controlled the must-win game from the start but needed the knee-knocking draw to advance to a Friday tiebreaker (TSN, 4 p.m. ET), where the foursome will face upstart P.E.I., led by sisters Rebecca Jean and Robyn MacPhee.

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B.C. Lions to host 2011 Grey Cup

VANCOUVER (The Canadian Press) - The B.C. Lions will host the 2011 Grey Cup at Vancouver's B.C. Place, according to multiple media reports. The Lions will reportedly announce the decision at a news conference Friday.

It will mark the third straight year the CFL's championship game will be held in Western Canada. Calgary is hosting this year's Grey Cup, while Edmonton will host in 2010.

Vancouver has hosted the Grey Cup on 14 previous occasions. The last time was 2005, when the Edmonton Eskimos beat the Montreal Alouettes 38-35 in overtime.

Canadiens trade Begin to Stars for Janik

MONTREAL (The Canadian Press) - The Montreal Canadiens traded popular checking winger Steve Begin to the Dallas Stars in exchange for defenceman Doug Janik on Thursday.

Begin, 30, who had been a healthy scratch in the last five games, had expressed a wish to be dealt to another team if the Canadiens were not going to use him.

The Trois-Rivieres, Que., native had six goals and four assists in 42 games this season. It was his fifth season with the Canadiens since he was claimed off waivers from the Buffalo Sabres in 2003. The former Calgary Flame had his best NHL season with Montreal in 2005-06 with 11 goals and 12 assists.

Penguins send Whitney to Ducks for Kunitz, Tangradi

PITTSBURGH (The Canadian Press) - The Pittsburgh Penguins are adding some forward depth to their lineup.

Chris Kunitz and prospect Eric Tangradi are heading to Pittsburgh from the Anaheim Ducks in exchange for defenceman Ryan Whitney.

It's not a typical deadline deal because Kunitz and Whitney both have long-term contracts.