

# USA Times

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## EU divisions threaten crisis solution

BERLIN - Plans by France and Germany to save the euro through closer European unity faced a serious challenge Tuesday from Britain, as deep divisions emerged between the 17 EU nations that use the euro and the 10 others that don't.

Threatened by fears their joint currency may not survive, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy have demanded changes to European Union treaties to tighten controls over spending and borrowing for all who use the embattled euro. But Britain, which doesn't use the currency, has threatened to put the brakes on treaty changes, fearing they would force a greater transfer of power from London to Brussels and curb British influence in the EU.

Sarkozy's and Merkel's comments reinforced market expectations that EU

leaders at a Friday summit will finally contain, through tighter financial rules, the 2-year-old debt crisis that has engulfed the continent and threatens the entire global economy.



Prime Minister David Cameron

Enter David Cameron, the prime minister of Britain who said he would be heading to the Brussels summit "to defend and promote British interests." "Eurozone countries do need to come together, do need to do more things together. If they choose to use the

European treaty to do that, Britain will be insisting on some safeguards, too," he declared Tuesday. "As long as we get those, then that treaty can go ahead. If we can't get those, it won't."

Other non-euro members of the bloc have reacted with caution to the German-French demand for treaty changes, saying more details are needed about what they would entail.

Cameron is the leader of Britain's Conservative party, which resists transferring more powers to EU institutions in Brussels. Many party members have long wanted to ditch the EU altogether, forcing Cameron to walk a narrow line. He must satisfy those who fear a loss of Britain's sovereignty but also ensure that, while keeping Brussels at arm's length, he doesn't sacrifice London's say in EU affairs.

## Halliburton defends itself against BP claims

NEW ORLEANS - Halliburton defended itself Tuesday against accusations it intentionally destroyed evidence about the quality of cement slurry in an oil well that blew out in the Gulf of Mexico.

The cement job on the Macondo well is expected to play a big role in the court battle of who should bear the blame for the blowout that killed 11 workers and led to the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

Investigators with a presidential commission said in February that Halliburton's cement slurry pumped into the bottom of the well was a leading technical cause for the blowout April 20, 2010. Hydrocarbons passed through the cement plug at the bottom of the well and entered the wellbore, the panel said.

Chevron tested Halliburton's

cement mix for the commission and found it did not mix properly to be stable, the panel said.

Halliburton engineers have argued that hydrocarbons got into the well other ways. The company said the slurry used in the Macondo well was "designed to be stable."

Spokeswoman Beverly Stafford said testing after the spill was informal and "not conducted on rig samples or in a manner approved by Halliburton."

BP accused Halliburton employees of doing an internal investigation and discarding and destroying early test results after the blowout that found problems. BP said Halliburton's chief cement mixer for Gulf projects testified in depositions that the slurry seemed "thin" to him but that he chose not to write about his findings to his bosses out of fear he would be

misinterpreted.

"I didn't want to put anything on an email that could be twisted, and turned," Rickey Morgan, the Halliburton cement expert, said in depositions, according to BP.

The blame game ratcheted up the showdown among BP PLC and its contractors, Halliburton, Transocean Ltd., the drilling company, and Cameron International Corp., the maker of the blowout preventer.

Tyler Priest, a University of Houston historian who specializes in the Gulf oil industry, said the cement failure will be a big issue.

"It seems like the big litigation is going to be between BP and its contractors," Priest said. "There's a lot of money at stake, and it's going to be decided in the courts."

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NEW YORK  
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### Today's highlights



#### Gaga visits WH

Lady Gaga took her anti-bullying campaign to the White House where she was lauded as a source of strength for many young people who are scared at school.



#### NBA schedule

The NBA announced the compacted, 66-game schedule on Tuesday night, one that will require every team to play on three consecutive nights at least once.

#### TODAY IN HISTORY

On December 7 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. constitution becoming the first of the United States.

## Mine disaster yields \$210M settlement

BEAVER, W.Va. - In the biggest settlement ever reached in a U.S. mining disaster, the new owners of the West Virginia coal mine where 29 men were killed in an explosion agreed Tuesday to pay \$210 million over a tragedy the government blamed on the ruthless pursuit of profits ahead of safety.

The money will go to compensate the grieving families, bankroll cutting-edge safety improvements and pay for years of violations by Massey Energy, owner of the Upper Big Branch mine at the time of the April 2010 blast.

Under the deal, Alpha Natural Resources - which bought Massey earlier this year - will face no criminal charges in the explosion as long as it

abides by the settlement, U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin said.

But "no individuals are off the hook," Goodwin warned, adding that federal prosecutors are still investigating former Massey managers.

Charges have been brought against only one person so far: the mine's former security chief, Hughie Elbert Stover. A federal jury convicted him last month of lying to investigators and trying to destroy mine records. He is awaiting sentencing.

The settlement was bitterly criticized by some of the dead men's relatives, who said they won't be satisfied until charges are filed against those they consider responsible for the catastrophe, the nation's deadliest mine

accident in 40 years.

Gary Quarles, whose son Gary Wayne Quarles died in the disaster, said: "I want to hear names, and I want to know what they're going to be charged for. Today would have been a fine day for them to have told us."

Hours after the settlement was announced, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration released a final report on the blast that detailed 369 safety violations at Upper Big Branch, including 12 it said contributed to the explosion. MSHA labeled nine of the violations that led to the accident as flagrant, the most serious designation, and said they included illegally tipping off miners that inspectors were on the site and failing to conduct proper safety inspections.

## Clinton meets with Syrian opposition

GENEVA - The Obama administration moved to expand contacts with opponents of Syria's President Bashar Assad on Tuesday as Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton held a rare meeting with Syrian opposition figures and the top U.S. envoy to Syria returned to Damascus after a six-week absence.



Amid reports of a new surge in violence that the U.N. says has killed more than 4,000 people since an uprising against Assad erupted in March, Clinton told Syrian pro-reform activists in Geneva that she wanted to hear their plans to establish a new democratic government if they are successful in prying Assad and his regime from power.

The invitation was a step short of endorsement, but a clear sign the U.S. wants to work closely with those who

might assume leadership roles.

"Obviously, a democratic transition is more than removing the Assad regime. It means setting Syria on the path of the rule of law," Clinton told the activists who are all exiles in Europe and belong to the Syrian National Council, one of several umbrella groups for Assad foes.

Tuesday's meeting marked only the second time Clinton has held an in-person session with members of the Syrian opposition since President Barack Obama called for Assad to step down in August amid a still ongoing brutal crackdown on pro-reform demonstrators. As with Libya's exile opposition, the U.S. has stepped carefully in its contacts with Syrian opposition figures. The hesitance comes partly out of concern that the U.S. not be seen as trying to direct a revolution from afar.

Clinton sidestepped a request from one among the group of exiled academics for more formal U.S. recognition, a U.S. official familiar with the meeting said afterward. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the confidential discussions, said Clinton told the group that the U.S. primarily wants to see them continue organizing and suggesting ways the U.S. can help.

## Blagojevich team pleads guilty

CHICAGO - After all his claims of innocence and facing years in prison, Rod Blagojevich let his lawyers make an admission that he has so far avoided - that he is, in fact, guilty of public corruption.

The former Illinois governor will get a chance to do the same Wednesday, when he is scheduled to address the judge who will decide his sentence.

Judge James Zagel signaled Tuesday he may be prepared to impose a stiff prison sentence, saying he thinks Blagojevich lied when he told jurors he never tried to sell or trade an appointment to President Barack Obama's vacated Senate seat for campaign cash or a top job.

Throughout the first day of his two-day sentencing hearing, the impeached executive-turned-reality TV star known for his jocular personality was somber and ill-at-ease, staring down at the floor. His wife sobbed as a letter from their daughter was read begging Zagel not to send Blagojevich to prison.

The hearing was a stark contrast to the circus atmosphere around Blagojevich's trials on multiple counts of corruption.

The conciliatory tone came as something of a surprise - just days after defense filings that, as many times before, stridently declared Blagojevich's innocence and said he had been duped by aides but never intended to cross any lines into illegality.

## WORLD NEWS

**ISRAEL:** Israel's disgraced former president Moshe Katsav on Wednesday began a seven-year jail sentence after being convicted on two counts of rape and other sexual offences. The former head of state, who turned 66 on Monday, entered Ma'asiyahu prison near Tel Aviv shortly after 10.00 a.m. (0800GMT), a correspondent outside the jail said.

**RUSSIA:** Russia's opposition on Wednesday promised new rallies contesting the results of elections won by Vladimir Putin's party, despite the arrests of hundreds in a police crackdown on a Moscow protest. Riot police in helmets roughly dragged over 550 protestors into detention vans Tuesday evening in central Moscow, in the second protest in as many days organized via the Internet to protest Sunday's parliamentary polls.

**DR CONGO:** The DR Congo's election commission postponed declaring the winner of last week's polls amid fears the result could lead to new violence as protests erupted worldwide. The conflict-prone country has been on high alert while it awaits the final results after a campaign that saw deadly police crackdowns on opposition rallies and a series of clashes between rival partisans.

**AFGHANISTAN:** Afghans were Wednesday burying 59 people killed in unprecedented bombings against Shiite Muslims as officials blamed Pakistani militants, accusing them of trying to whip up Iraq-style sectarian violence. Investigators are poring over who was behind the coordinated attacks in the Afghan capital Kabul and northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif that the Taliban, the main faction leading a 10-year insurgency, have denied carrying out.

**ZIMBABWE:** The yearly conference of President Robert Mugabe's party starts Wednesday as he pushes for Zimbabwe to hold elections next year and to rally his divided ranks behind his campaign to defeat Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. Mugabe formally on Thursday opens the conference that will notably "look at the state of the party", ZANU-PF spokesman Rugare Gumbo said on Tuesday.

## Romney steps up pace

PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. - Mitt Romney is ramping up his presidential campaign in a big way - just as Newt Gingrich emerges as a serious threat for the Republican nomination.

Over the next week, Romney's cross-country fundraising trips will cease, replaced by a more rapid-fire campaign schedule in early voting states. That means more TV ads, more media interviews and more hand-to-hand politicking in early-voting Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Florida and, Romney says, "a couple other states."

"We're just starting," the former Massachusetts governor said Tuesday before jetting off to court donors. "We're making our closing argument. You'll see me campaigning aggressively."

That would be a stark contrast to the cautious, calculated approach that Romney has taken all year as he focused on stockpiling campaign contributions for a drawn-out nomination fight.

The more intense focus is born out of timing - and necessity.

Voting for the GOP nomination begins in Iowa on Jan. 3 and Gingrich, a former House speaker and nationally known figure, has shot to the top of public opinion polls in Iowa and South Carolina while making gains elsewhere. Much to Romney's chagrin, Gingrich has benefited from the struggles of other rivals also considered more conservative than Romney, including Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann and Georgia businessman Herman Cain, who has dropped out of the race.

The primary has essentially become a two-way fight between Romney and Gingrich.

## Bill to raise Medicare premiums for wealthy

WASHINGTON - House Republicans intend to propose a gradual increase in Medicare premiums for wealthy seniors to help cover the cost of renewing Social Security payroll tax cuts and benefits for the long-term unemployed, officials said Wednesday.

The precise details remain to be worked out as the leadership consults with rank-and-file Republicans about the legislation, which has grown significantly in recent days and is expected on the House floor next week.

## Obama sets campaign theme

OSAWATOMIE, Kan. - Declaring the American middle class in jeopardy, President Barack Obama on Tuesday outlined a populist economic vision that will drive his re-election bid, insisting the United States must reclaim its standing as a country in which everyone can prosper if provided "a fair shot and a fair share."



While never making an overt plea for a second term, Obama's offered his most comprehensive lines of attack against the candidates seeking to take his job, only a month before Republican voters begin choosing a presidential nominee. He also sought to inject some of the long-overshadowed hope that energized his 2008 campaign, saying: "I believe America is on its way up."

In small-town Osawatomie, in a high school gym where patriotic bunting lined the bleachers, Obama presented himself as the one fighting for shared sacrifice and success against those who would gut

government and let people fend for themselves. He did so knowing the nation is riven over the question of whether economic opportunity for all is evaporating.

"Throughout the country, it's sparked protests and political movements, from the tea party to the people who've been occupying the streets of New York and other cities," Obama said.

"This is the defining issue of our time," he said in echoing President Theodore Roosevelt's famous speech here in 1910.

"This is a make-or-break moment for the middle class and all those who are fighting to get into the middle class," Obama said. "At stake is whether this will be a country where working people can earn enough to raise a family, build a modest savings, own a home and secure their retirement."

For Obama, saddled with a weak national economic recovery, the speech was a chance to break away from Washington's incremental battles and his own small-scale executive actions. He offered a sweeping indictment of economic inequality and unleashed his own brand of prairie populism.

He spoke for nearly an hour to a supportive audience, reselling his ideas under the framework of "building a nation where we're all better off."

GOP officials described the plan on condition of anonymity because no final decision has been made.

In addition to the extension of payroll tax cuts and jobless benefits that are at the heart of President Barack Obama's jobs program, House Republicans plan to include a provision to avert a 27 percent cut in payments to doctors who treat Medicare patients. All three face a Dec. 31 deadline for action.

In addition, GOP leaders eager to attract votes for the measure are likely

to include conservative-backed provisions to speed the construction of a controversial oil pipeline from Canada to Texas and block a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule restricting toxic emissions from industrial boilers.

Across the Capitol, Democrats set the stage for a second politically charged vote in the Senate later in the week on their proposed surtax on million-dollar earners to help pay for the renewal of the tax cuts and unemployment benefits.

## Elian Gonzalez turns 18

HAVANA - Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban boy who survived a perilous raft journey that killed his mother and became a symbol of troubled relations between the United States and Cuba, is now an adult.

Gonzalez currently studies at a military academy on the island and took part in an 18th birthday celebration Tuesday in his native city of Cardenas alongside his father, according to images broadcast on the nightly news.

Gonzalez was shy of his sixth birthday on Thanksgiving Day 1999 when a fisherman found him off the coast of Florida, clinging to an inner tube after his mother and others fleeing Cuba drowned trying to reach American soil.

He was taken to live with relatives in Miami but his father, who was separated from his mother and had remained on the island, demanded that the boy be sent back, saying Elian was taken without his consent. The dispute turned into a headline-grabbing international custody battle that weighed heavy on the 2000 presidential race between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

Fidel Castro threw the weight of the Cuban government behind the case, mobilizing seven months of massive demonstrations calling for Gonzalez's repatriation.

## Feds: Couple claimed welfare, lived in \$1.2M home

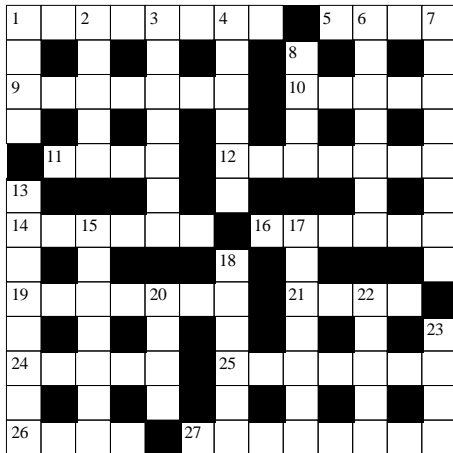
SEATTLE - A Seattle chiropractor and his wife live in a \$1.2 million waterfront home and have spent the past eight years flying to Moscow, Paris, Israel, Turkey, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

All the while, federal authorities say, the couple was collecting more than \$100,000 in welfare.

Now, the U.S. attorney's office is suing David Silverstein and Lyudmila Shimonova, accusing them of filing false claims and demanding that the couple pay back more than \$135,000 in federal housing assistance since 2003. Prosecutors are also seeking tens of thousands of dollars in fines.

In gaining Section 8 housing assistance, Shimonova represented that she lived alone with her two children and that her household assets were less than \$5,000. Silverstein received the monthly benefits of \$1,272 as Shimonova's purported landlord, the government said.

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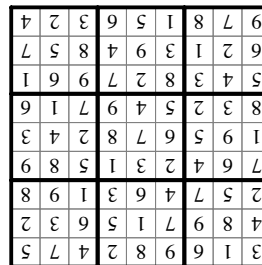
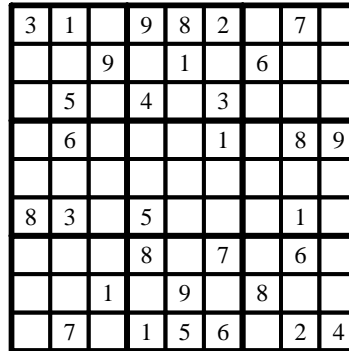
- ACROSS
- Settle differences (4,2,2)
  - Young horse (4)
  - Paper outputter (7)
  - Splits (5)
  - Antlered animal (4)
  - Initially (2,5)
  - Dig up (6)
  - Anti aircraft cannon (3-3)
  - Brag (4,3)
  - Bass brass (4)
  - Atmosphere (5)
  - Continuing (7)
  - Ritual (4)
  - Attend devotedly (3,5)

- DOWN
- Be gloomy (4)
  - Scalpel (5)
  - Meantime (7)
  - Outrage (6)
  - Make available (5,2)
  - Fall behind schedule (4,4)
  - Professor (abbr.) (4)
  - Remainder (4,4)
  - Large flatfish (7)
  - Eight-sided polygon (7)
  - Shun (6)
  - Shrub (4)
  - Tobacco pipe (5)
  - Leer (4)

SOLUTION

- ACROSS: 1. Make it up, 5. Foal, 9. Printer, 10. Riffs, 11. Deer, 12. At first, 14. Exhume, 16. Pom-pom, 19. Talk big, 21. Tuba, 24. Vibes, 25. Ongoing, 26. Rite, 27. Wet nurse. DOWN: 1. Mope, 2. Knife, 3. Interim, 4. Uproar, 6. Offer up, 7. Lose time, 8. Prof, 13. Left over, 15. Halbut, 17. Octagon, 18. Ignore, 20. Bush, 22. Briar, 23. Ogle.

Headland SatNews SUDOKU



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

HISTORY: Who killed Abraham Lincoln?

FILM: What was Adolf Hitler's favorite film?

MUSIC: Which artist won a Grammy for the single 'Don't Worry, Be Happy'?

(Answers on Page 8)

Shoppers say 'ho-hum' not 'ho-ho-ho' to sales

Sale, schmale. Used to be, customers would come running when stores cut prices. But these days, more Americans are becoming blasé about bargains.

Jennifer Beasley recently left a Toys R Us in Cary, N.C., unimpressed by the retailer's offers that day of 50 percent discounts on things like a \$150 Sylvania tablet computer and a \$45 My Baby Alive Doll.

"The sales just aren't as good this year," says Beasley, 30, who has three children. "It's almost not worth getting up."

People have been shopping more than ever this holiday season, largely because of a flood of sales. But Americans have become so used to deep discounts that they expect each sale to be bigger and better than the last. That means retailers will likely have to keep slashing prices, which could hurt their bottom line.

"I think they're going to have to continue to do the kind of 'come on' pricing that you saw on Black Friday," or the day after Thanksgiving, says Alison Paul, head of consulting firm Deloitte's U.S. retail practice.

Merchants already are rolling out big holiday sales. The Body Shop is letting customers spin a wheel of chance to win different discounts, including offers of "buy three, get three." The Gap is selling many of its pajamas, kids' hoodies and men's cardigans for 50 percent off. And Target has Barbie, Thomas the Tank Engine and many of its other toy brands for "buy one, get one half off."

But shoppers are yawning at deals that once excited them.

"The ads and the sales - I think it's all hype," says Karen Finch of Gresham, Ore., who is waiting to buy a tablet for her son until closer to Christmas Day because she thinks the discounts on Amazon.com - 48 percent off a \$500 Blackberry version, for instance - aren't good enough. "There's no substance."

CELEBRITY NEWS

Lady Gaga takes anti-bullying campaign to White House

Lady Gaga took her anti-bullying campaign to the White House where she was lauded as a source of strength for many young people who are scared at school. Her visit follows a White House bullying conference earlier this year, called to mitigate the plight of nearly a third of U.S. schoolchildren, or 13 million students, who are bullied each year, according to official figures.



Lady Gaga

President Obama was away making a major speech on the economy in Kansas, but Lady Gaga was welcomed to the White House by Valerie Jarrett, one of his most senior political advisers.

Alec Baldwin kicked off LA flight for playing game

A flight attendant was the subject of a Twitter tirade from Alec Baldwin after the actor was booted from a plane at Los Angeles International Airport for playing a word game on his cell phone as the plane was about to depart for New York.

The "30 Rock" actor was playing a game called "Words with Friends" while the plane idled at a gate Tuesday, said Baldwin's spokesman, Matthew Hiltzik.

"He loves 'Words with Friends' so much that he was willing to leave a plane for it," said Hiltzik, who added that Baldwin boarded another American Airlines flight to New York.

Baldwin, a prolific Twitter user, took to the social media site to vent, saying a "flight attendant on American reamed me out 4 playing Words With Friends while we sat at the gate, not moving."

Baldwin tweeted that it would be his last flight with American, despite the fact that they show "30 Rock" for in-flight entertainment.

He mocked American Airlines flight attendants on Twitter, saying the airline is "where Catholic school gym teachers from the 1950's find jobs as flight attendants."

Police: Ex-Miss USA was above legal alcohol limit

Former Miss USA Rima Fakhri was speeding and weaving through traffic with an uncorked, half-empty bottle of champagne and a blood-alcohol level more than twice the legal limit when she was arrested in the Detroit enclave of Highland Park, according to a police report released Tuesday.

The report on her drunken-driving arrest obtained by The Associated Press through a Freedom of Information Act request says the 26-year-old from Dearborn was pulled over early Saturday going 60 mph, weaving in heavy traffic and changing lanes without using a turn signal.

A police officer whose name was given only as R. Kalis said the traffic stop happened about 2:15 a.m.

The report says she was driving a black 2011 Jaguar.

Kalis reported asking for the driver's license said the "driver immediately identified herself as Miss USA and stated that she was driving a friend's car."

Kalis said Fakhri "appeared disoriented and had very slurred speech while fumbling for her purse." Kalis asked Fakhri if she had been drinking, and she said, "No, not at all."

# Dow ends up on EU hopes

The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 52 points following a report that European leaders are considering more aggressive programs to bail out weaker countries in the region.

Broader market indicators were mixed. The S&P 500 index rose 1 point and the Nasdaq composite edged lower. Materials and health care companies rose the most. Agricultural supplies company Monsanto Co. rose 2.8 percent and drug maker Pfizer Inc. rose 2 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 52.3 points, or 0.43 percent, at 12,150.13. Among its top performers was 3M Co., which rose 1.5 percent after the maker of Post-It notes forecast 2012 earnings that were stronger than many analysts expected.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed up 1.4 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,258.5. The Nasdaq composite average closed down 6.2, or 0.23 percent, at 2,649.56.

U.S. stock indexes have risen sharply from the lows they hit during a Thanksgiving-week drubbing. The S&P 500 is up 8.6 percent since Nov. 25, when it closed at 1,158.67.

Stocks were stuck in neutral for most of the day after S&P said it might downgrade the AAA rating of Europe's bailout fund. A report in the Financial Times late in the afternoon sent the Dow up as many as 117 points. The newspaper reported that European leaders are considering making more financial aid available to struggling countries.

Investors remain cautious ahead of a summit of European leaders Thursday and Friday where the main task will be coming up with credible plans for preventing a simmering debt crisis from causing a breakup of the euro, the currency shared by 17 European nations.

"We are coming to a head in Europe, and it's no longer about the small countries like Greece," said Paul Zemsky, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management. He said current stock prices reflect traders' expectations of a rate cut from the European Central Bank on Thursday and strong political action on Friday. Any less than that, he said, and "it's anyone's guess show bad things will get, but they'll get pretty bad."

## WALL STREET INDEXES

### Tuesday close

Dow Jones Industrials	12150.13	+52.30
S&P 500	1258.47	+ 1.39
NYSE Composite	7539.32	+ 8.31
Amex Index	2272.90	+ 7.62
NASD Composite	2649.56	- 6.20
NMS Composite	1236.89	- 2.91
Value Line Geometric	334.06	- 0.46
Value Line Arithmetic	2719.63	- 3.10
DJ US Total Stock Mkt	13160.99	
Russell 2000 Index	746.78	

## FOREIGN STOCK INDEXES

		Tuesday	Previous
Amsterdam	AEX	304.80	305.10
Brussels	Bel-25	2086.05	2117.39
Frankfurt	DAX	6028.82	6106.09
Hong Kong	H-S	18942.23	19179.69
London	FT-100	5568.72	5567.96
Mexico	IPC	37071.17	37103.17
Milan	MIB	15848.21	15926.47
Paris	CAC-40	3179.63	3201.28
Sydney	All Ord	4321.60	4379.50
Tokyo	Nikkei	8575.16	8695.98
Toronto	TSX	12081.25	12119.33
Zurich	SMI	5767.93	5739.86

# Toll Brothers' 4Q profit falls

HORSHAM, Pa. - Toll Brothers Inc.'s fiscal fourth-quarter net income slid 70 percent, partly because last year's quarter was helped by a large tax benefit. Still, the performance topped analysts' expectations, and the luxury homebuilder's revenue climbed as home deliveries and net signed contracts increased. Toll Brothers also benefited from fewer cancellations. Its shares rose 66 cents, or 3.2 percent, to \$21.40 in premarket trading Tuesday.

Homebuilders are a bellwether for the housing market and the economy. While new homes represent less than one-fifth of the total housing market, they have an outsize impact on the economy. Each new home creates an average of three jobs and generates

\$90,000 in taxes, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Executive Chairman Robert Toll said that the company believes its prospective customers have the ability to buy but that a lack of confidence in the U.S. economy is holding people back from making purchases.

Horsham, Pa.-based Toll Brothers reported net income of \$15 million, or 9 cents per share, for the three months ended Oct. 31, down from \$50.5 million, or 30 cents per share, a year earlier. Last year's results included a \$59.9 million tax benefit.

Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected earnings of 5 cents per share. For the quarter, revenue rose 6 percent

to \$427.8 million. That beat Wall Street's \$424.3 million estimate. Fourth-quarter home deliveries climbed 8 percent to 757 units. Signed contracts increased 15 percent to 644 units.

Toll Brothers said the average price of its quarterly signed contracts was \$606,000, up from \$565,000 a year ago. The homebuilder's contract cancellation rate came in at about 7.9 percent, down from 8.8 percent in the prior-year period.

For the full year, Toll Brothers earned \$39.8 million, or 24 cents per share, versus a net loss of \$3.4 million, or 2 cents per share, in the previous year. Annual revenue dipped 1 percent to \$1.48 billion from \$1.49 billion.

## NEW YORK EXCHANGE RATES

		Tue	Mon
Australia (Dollar)		.9746	.9732
Britain (Pound)		\$1.5605	\$1.5644
Canada (Dollar)		1.0092	1.0171
China (Yuan)		6.3410	6.3519
Euro		\$1.3414	\$1.3401
Hong Kong (Dollar)		7.7717	7.7703
India (Rupee)		51.416	51.350
Japan (Yen)		77.70	77.77
Mexico (Peso)		13.4570	13.5278
Norway (Krone)		5.7527	5.7721
Russia (Ruble)		31.3235	30.8775
Singapore (Dollar)		1.2825	1.2792
So. Africa (Rand)		8.0205	8.0335
Switzerland (Franc)		.9257	.9205

## Oil hovers above \$101 amid mixed US supply report

SINGAPORE - Oil prices hovered above \$101 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a crude supply report showed mixed signs about U.S. demand strength. Benchmark crude for January delivery was up 20 cents to \$101.48 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 29 cents to settle at \$101.28 on Tuesday.

In London, Brent crude was steady at \$110.81 on the ICE futures exchange.

The American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday that crude inventories fell 5.0 million barrels last week while analysts surveyed by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos., had predicted a drop of 1.3 million barrels.

However, inventories of gasoline rose 6.0 million barrels last week while distillates added 1.7 million barrels, the API said.

# 60 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

## Prices as of Tues Dec 6 17:36:57

AMR	NY	AMR	.70	+28	FordM	NY	F	11.05	-06	NwGold g	AM	NGD	10.65	+05
AT&T Inc	NY	T	29.17	+02	GenElec	NY	GE	16.72	+39	NewsCpA	NA	NWSA	17.86	+15
Alcoa	NY	AA	9.92	-08	GoldStr g	AM	GSS	2.12	+05	NokiaCp	NY	NOK	5.41	+04
Amgen	NA	AMGN	57.89	+39	GrtBasG g	AM	GBG	1.01	+05	Nvidia	NA	NVDA	15.26	-22
AntaresP	AM	AIS	2.77	-05	Hallibrtn	NY	HAL	35.57	-145	Oracle	NA	ORCL	31.73	-17
ApldMatl	NA	AMAT	11.09	+10	HeclaM	NY	HL	6.53	+55	Pfizer	NY	PFE	20.23	+39
BkofAm	NY	BAC	5.78	-01	HewlettP	NY	HPQ	28.18	+06	PwShs QQQ	NA	QQQ	57.08	-16
CheniereEn	AM	LNG	9.68	-23	iShSilver	NY	SLV	31.93	+88	PrUSHS&P	NY	SDS	19.48	-04
Cisco	NA	CSCO	18.73	-06	iShEMkts	NY	EEM	39.87	-55	PulteGrp	NY	PHM	6.48	+09
Citigrp rs	NY	C	29.75	-08	iS Eafe	NY	EFA	51.13	-24	Qualcom	NA	QCOM	54.83	+34
Clearwire	NA	CLWR	2.50	+25	iShR2K	NY	IWM	74.83	+07	RegionsFn	NY	RF	4.16	-15
Comcast	NA	CMCSA	23.19	+04	Intel	NA	INTC	25.35	+34	RschMtn	NA	RIMM	17.03	+01
Corning	NY	GLW	13.88	+26	JPMorgCh	NY	JPM	33.23	-28	S&P500ETF	NY	SPY	126.26	+04
Dell Inc	NA	DELL	15.86	-07	JetBlue	NA	JBLU	4.71	+01	SiriusXM	NA	SIRI	1.79	-02
DrSCBr rs	NY	TZA	26.87	-11	LillyEli	NY	LLY	38.86	+145	SprintNex	NY	S	2.61	-04
DirFnBr rs	NY	FAZ	38.64	+06	Lowe	NY	LOW	24.77	+42	SPDR Fncl	NY	XLF	13.18	+01
DirxSCBull	NY	TNA	46.73	+04	MarvellIT	NA	MRVL	14.10	+32	SuccessF	NY	SFSF	39.80	+05
EMC Cp	NY	EMC	23.58	+02	MicronT	NA	MU	5.65	-08	Synovus	NY	SNV	1.40	-11
ExxonMbl	NY	XOM	80.82	+37	Microsoft	NA	MSFT	25.66	-04	WellsFargo	NY	WFC	26.65	-09
FifthThird	NA	FITB	12.32	-24	MorgStan	NY	MS	16.58	+01	Yahoo	NA	YHOO	15.84	-05

## EU in antitrust probe of Apple

BRUSSELS - The European Union's antitrust watchdog is probing whether Apple helped five major publishing houses illegally raise prices for e-books when it launched its iPad tablet and iBookstore in 2010.



iPad

The probe, announced Tuesday by the European Commission, offers a glimpse into the fierce fight for share of the growing e-book market as Apple tries to take on Amazon and its Kindle e-book reader. It also highlights the struggle for profits between retailers and publishers, as more and more readers download books electronically.

In particular, the Commission is investigating a significant shift in the way the price of e-books is determined

that occurred in 2010, just as the Cupertino, California-based Apple introduced the iPad and its own online bookshop, iBookstore.

Apple was the first retailer to allow publishers to move to so-called agency agreements, which let publishers set the price that online bookshops sell e-books to consumers. Until then, publishers were able to set the wholesale price of e-books, while retailers decided what price to sell them on to readers.

"The Commission has concerns that these practices may breach EU antitrust rules that prohibit cartels and restrictive business practices," the regulator said in a statement.

Giving publishers the power to set retail prices could effectively restrict competition between online bookshops, since it takes away the individual retailers' powers to set lower prices. Since Apple's deal with the publishers, several other online retailers have also shifted to the agency model, possibly in an attempt to secure the rights to sell popular e-books.

## Occupy protests move to foreclosed homes

SEATTLE - The Occupy Wall Street protests are moving into the neighborhood. Finding it increasingly difficult to camp in public spaces, Occupy protesters across the country are reclaiming foreclosed homes and boarded-up properties, signaling a tactical shift for the movement against wealth inequality. Groups in more than 25 cities held protests Tuesday on behalf of homeowners facing evictions.

In Atlanta, protesters held a boisterous rally at a county courthouse and used whistles and sirens to disrupt an auction of seized houses. In New York, they marched through a residential neighborhood in Brooklyn carrying signs that read "Foreclose on banks, not people." Southern California protesters rallied around a family of six that reclaimed the home they lost six months ago in foreclosure.

"It's pretty clear that the fight is against the banks, and the Occupy movement is about occupying spaces. So occupying a space that should belong to homeowners but belongs to the banks seems like the logical next step for the Occupy movement," said

Jeff Ordown, one of the organizers of Occupy Homes.

The events reflect the protesters' lingering frustration over the housing crisis that has sent millions of homes into foreclosure after the burst of the housing bubble that helped cripple the country's economy. Nearly a quarter of all U.S. homeowners with mortgages are now underwater, representing nearly 11 million homes, according to CoreLogic, a real estate research firm.

Protesters say that banks and financial firms own abandoned foreclosed houses that could be housing people.

Seattle has become a leader in the anti-foreclosure movement as protesters took over a formerly boarded-up duplex last month. They painted the bare wood sidings with green, black and red paint, and strung up a banner that says "Occupy Everything - No Banks No Landlords."

While arrests have already been made in a couple of squatting cases in Seattle and Portland, it remains to be seen how authorities will react to this latest tactic.

## Citigroup to cut 4,500 jobs

NEW YORK - Citigroup Inc. is eliminating 4,500 jobs in its latest effort to cut costs. The bank will take a \$400 million charge in the fourth quarter as a result.

Citigroup's CEO, Vikram Pandit, disclosed the job cuts at an investor conference Tuesday. The cuts represent about 1.5 percent of its global workforce of 267,000. Pandit said the cuts would be made over the next few quarters.

Other banks have also been cutting staff. Last month, Swiss lender UBS told investors it is downsizing its investment bank to 16,000 people by 2016 from the current 18,000 as the bank tries to reduce its exposure to risk. In September, Bank of America Corp., based in Charlotte, N.C., said it would cut 30,000 jobs over the next few years.

Pandit also warned that Citigroup will take a \$500 million hit to revenue from an accounting-related charge related to the changing value of its debt.

## Verizon Wireless nixes Google Wallet in new phone

NEW YORK - Verizon Wireless is blocking Google's new flagship phone from supporting Google's attempt to make the smartphone the credit card of the future.

In blocking the Google Wallet software from running on the new Samsung Galaxy Nexus, Verizon Wireless said Tuesday that it was holding off on providing a wallet application until it can offer "the best security and user experience." Verizon and rivals AT&T Inc. and T-Mobile USA are part of a consortium called ISIS that is planning its own payment system.

Google confirmed that Verizon had asked it not to include the wallet function in the Galaxy Nexus phone, due out soon.

The way Google Wallet is supposed to work, the phone can be used to pay for merchandise in some stores, by tapping it to payment terminals.

Google calls the payment application a "wallet" because it can be loaded with payment "cards" from multiple sources. Right now, there are only two cards available: Citibank MasterCard and a prepaid card issued by Google. But Google is making the wallet available to any financial institution that wants to participate.

## Chrysler to call compact 'Dodge Dart'

DETROIT - The Dodge Dart, a 1960s compact car that gearheads turned into street racers, is making a comeback. Chrysler said Tuesday that it will use the Dart name for a new compact car based on Italian technology that it will introduce in the U.S. next year.

The Dart, which is expected to get 40 miles per gallon of gas on the highway, is an extremely important car for Chrysler Group LLC, which currently has outdated offerings in the fast-growing compact car market. Young buyers in the U.S. generally pick compacts as their first new cars, and research shows they'll stick with a brand if they like their first vehicle.

The new car is based on the Alfa Romeo Giulietta, a compact sold in Europe, but will be wider and longer to handle Americans' need for more space. Chrysler said in a statement that the four-door sedan will perform well and be efficient. It's the first car sold by Chrysler dealers that is based on Fiat underpinnings.

## No. 2 official takes over after FAA chief resigns

WASHINGTON - The resignation of the nation's top aviation official places the Federal Aviation Administration under the leadership of Deputy Administrator Michael Huerta, a well-regarded manager who nonetheless lacks his predecessor's insider knowledge of the aviation industry.

Randy Babbitt, who had been FAA administrator since 2009, resigned Tuesday following his arrest over the weekend on charges of drunken driving.

Huerta will serve as acting administrator. Industry officials and lawmakers said they expect him to continue in the post through next year since the White House probably will want to avoid a possible nomination fight before the presidential election.

In recent months, Huerta has been leading the FAA's troubled NextGen effort to transition from an air traffic control system based on World War II-era radar technology to one based on satellite technology. Babbitt had placed Huerta over NextGen after a key technology acquisition program that underpins the effort ran into delays and cost overruns, and airline industry officials began to balk at the cost of adding expensive new equipment that will be necessary to take advantage of the new system.

## Marlins trying to buy up the best of the pond

DALLAS - Jeffrey Loria quickly marched down the hallway with his team president, trailed by their top aides, and hustled into a meeting room with a labor lawyer from Major League Baseball.

Having already made the biggest splash at the winter meetings, the Miami Marlins owner was trying to reel in Albert Pujols and perhaps other big-name free agents with the newfound riches from their new ballpark.

"He's not the only guy," Loria said about 20 minutes later before heading back upstairs on an elevator with his delegation.

Baseball's new Big Fish were the talk of the winter meetings Tuesday, with teams wondering how close the Marlins were to an agreement with Pujols on a deal that could be worth \$200 million or more over 10 years for the three-time NL MVP.

St. Louis said it submitted a new offer Tuesday to keep Pujols with the Cardinals, a team he's already led to two World Series titles in the last six seasons. Agents for other players said they had heard the Los Angeles Angels were bidding, too.

Traditional big spenders such as the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox were reduced to spectators.

"They have a new stadium. They're excited about it, and it's good for baseball," former Marlins and current Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "They had hoped that they'd get the new stadium and they would be able to do those types of things. Our roster is pretty set. We have a lot of guys that are on long-term deals. That's why maybe there's not a lot happening for us."

## Winnipeg Jets snap Bruins streak

WINNIPEG, Alberta - Ondrej Pavelec made save after save, fending off the Boston Bruins. When it was all over, he had stopped 39 shots, and Bryan Little scored to help the Winnipeg Jets beat the Boston Bruins 2-1 Tuesday night, ending Boston's 15-game 15 game stretch in which it earned 29 of a possible 30 points.

"We know if we're going to stick with the plan, if we're going to play the way we want, that we can beat everybody," Pavelec said. The Jets (12-11-4) moved above the .500 mark

## Shorter NBA schedule announced



LA Lakers

NEW YORK - The Los Angeles Lakers will play games on the first three nights of the NBA season, the first of 42 back-to-back-to-back sets teams will face during this lockout-shortened season.

The NBA announced the compacted, 66-game schedule on Tuesday night, one that will require every team to play on three consecutive nights at least once. And it will force every team to navigate demanding stretches that are never seen during a full season, such as the nine games in 12 nights the Atlanta Hawks face starting with their Dec. 27 opener.

The league's 66th season begins with five games on Christmas, including the Lakers hosting the Chicago Bulls. Los Angeles then visits Sacramento the next night before returning home to host Utah on Dec. 27.

Teams will play 48 conference

games and 18 against the opposing conference, meaning they play only three nonconference opponents home and away. The league did preserve its most storied rivalry, with the Lakers traveling to Boston for a Feb. 9 matchup before the Celtics open a stretch of eight road games in 13 nights in March with games on back-to-back nights at Staples Center.

Dallas and Miami also will play twice, following their Christmas NBA finals rematch with a March 12 game in Miami. The Heat and Lakers also play two games.

The 50-game 1999 season featured 64 sets of back-to-back-to-backs and was plagued by sloppy basketball being played on fatigued legs. The NBA faces a similar predicament now after failing to reach a new labor deal in time to save the Nov. 1 start to the season.

Mark Stuart into the end boards from behind. Krejci and Zach Bogosian were in the penalty box for offsetting roughing minors after the hit, which left Stuart face down and motionless on the ice. He later returned to the game.

Jets coach Claude Noel chose not to comment on the hit, saying he would let the league decide whether it was dirty. The rest of his postgame comments consisted of nothing but praise for his players.

## Denmon leads Missouri over Villanova

NEW YORK - Missouri was No. 25 in the preseason poll. The Tigers have moved into the top 10 and are playing as though they mean to stay up there.

"The Mizzou brand was on the national scene tonight," first-year coach Frank Haith said. "And the lights are bright, very bright here in New York. We had an opportunity on national TV against a good team."

The country should be impressed. Marcus Denmon had his second straight strong game from 3-point range, this time making six and scoring 28 points in an 81-71 victory over Villanova in the Jimmy V Classic at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday night.

"There was a lid on the basket for a little while," Denmon said. "We kept the ball moving and started making some shots."

The 6-foot-3 senior guard made seven 3s while scoring a career-high 31 points in the Tigers' last game against Northwestern State. He came into the game averaging 20.6 points and 3.3 3-pointers. On Tuesday, he was 6 of 10 from 3-point range, making all three attempts in the first 7:41 of the second half when Missouri (8-0) opened a 16-point lead.

## AP source: Big East set to add Boise St, 4 others

NEW YORK - The Big East's long-awaited additions are set, with more rebuilding to come.

The conference is preparing to announce the additions of Boise State and San Diego State as football-only members and Houston, Central Florida and SMU for all sports as soon as Wednesday, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The five schools will join in 2013.

The Big East has been trying to rebuild as a 12-school football conference since Syracuse and Pittsburgh announced they would be moving to the ACC and West Virginia announced it was leaving for the Big 12.

TCU also reneged on a commitment to join the Big East and instead accepted an invite to the Big 12.

The Star-Ledger in New Jersey first reported the Big East was on the verge of making the additions.

TUESDAY'S SCOREBOARD

NHL

New Jersey 3, Toronto 2 OT  
N.Y. Islanders 5, Tampa Bay 1  
Columbus 3, Montreal 2 2OT  
St. Louis 3, Detroit 2  
Phoenix 3, Nashville 2  
Winnipeg 2, Boston 1  
Calgary 7, Carolina 6  
Vancouver 6, Colorado 0  
Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 2  
Minnesota 2, San Jose 1

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Top 25

Syracuse (3) 62, Marshall 56  
North Carolina (4) 97, Evansville 48  
Missouri (10) 81, Villanova 71  
Marquette (11) 79, Washington 77  
Kansas (13) 88, Long Beach St. 80  
Pittsburgh (15) 97, VMI 70  
Memphis (21) 71, Miami 54

Women's Top 25

UConn (2) 81, Texas A&M (8) 51  
Georgia (14) 80, Mercer 43  
Penn St. (17) 66, Virginia Tech 28

Mike Leach introduced as WSU head coach

PULLMAN, Wash. - New Washington State coach Mike Leach said Tuesday that some people have been asking him why he wanted to take over a downtrodden program in a remote town in the Pacific Northwest.

His response? "I think that's a stupid question," Leach said, drawing a roar from about 1,000 fans, players and marching band members at a rally where he was introduced on Tuesday. "You can win here and win big, I believe."

Leach, a former coach at Texas Tech, was hired last week to replace Paul Wulff, who was fired after going 9-40 in four seasons at Washington State.

Leach has been out of coaching the past two seasons. But he was 84-43 at Texas Tech, leading the Red Raiders to 10 bowl appearances in 10 seasons, before being fired in 2009 amid allegations he mistreated a player with a concussion.

On Tuesday, he thanked Washington State athletic director Bill Moos for hiring him and he thanked the coaches who came before him for laying the foundation for success.

He said he is contacting his former assistant coaches at Texas Tech as he seeks to fill out his staff. Leach said it's too soon to say whether he will keep any of Wulff's assistants.

AP source: UNC talking with Southern Miss' Fedora

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - North Carolina is in talks with Southern Mississippi coach Larry Fedora to take the same job with the Tar Heels, a person familiar with the situation said Tuesday night.

Fedora has guided the 22nd-ranked Golden Eagles (11-2) to a school record for wins, with the last coming over the weekend against unbeaten Houston in the Conference USA championship game. He has compiled a 33-19 record in four seasons there.

If Fedora and the school can reach a deal, it would be subject to approval by UNC chancellor Holden Thorp, as well as the university's board of trustees.

Neither Fedora nor Southern Miss Athletic Director Richard Giannini returned calls for comment. Southern Miss spokesman Jack Duggan said the two were expected to be in New York for the National Football Foundation annual awards dinner Tuesday night.

Mets send CF Angel Pagan to SF, sign 2 relievers

DALLAS - Walking across the hotel lobby, New York Mets manager Terry Collins smiled. "We rebuilt our bullpen in one day," he said.

In a rapid-fire series of moves at the winter meetings that took 1½ days to put together and 1½ hours to finalize, the Mets agreed to trade center fielder Angel Pagan to San Francisco for outfielder Andres Torres and pitcher Ramon Ramirez, and reached agreements with free-agent relievers Frank Francisco and Jon Rauch.

Francisco gets a \$12 million, two-year contract while Rauch receives a one-year deal worth \$3.5 million. He can earn an additional \$500,000 in performance bonuses.

"Good, solid arms," Collins said. "We've got some depth now."

While the trade had not yet been officially announced and the free-agent deals had not been finalized, Collins was beaming as he headed upstairs to congratulate general manager Sandy Alderson.

"No disrespect to our guys," Collins said, "but we couldn't stop some teams. I think we can now."

Yandle's late goal lifts Coyotes over Predators

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The road-tested Phoenix Coyotes took advantage of the home-challenged Nashville Predators. Keith Yandle scored with 1:45 remaining and the Coyotes beat the Nashville Predators 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Phoenix has won two in a row. Nashville has dropped six of eight. Ray Whitney and Taylor Pyatt also scored for Phoenix. Jack Hillen and Shea Weber had the Predators' goals.

With the teams skating 4-on-4, Shane Doan fired a pass from the right circle to Yandle skating through the slot. Yandle corralled the puck and put it past goalie Pekka Rinne for his fourth of the season.

"Four-on-four, whenever I am out there with Doaner, we always seem to find each other," Yandle said. "He's a guy who is always looking for other players, and 4-on-4 with so much ice I just tried to find a lane for him to get it to me. He made a great play."

Ducks get Boudreau's 1st win on Ryan's late goal

ANAHEIM, Calif. - Bobby Ryan's awkward shot glanced off Drew Doughty's shin and past Jonathan Quick with 48.8 seconds to play, and the Anaheim Ducks beat the Los Angeles Kings 3-2 on Tuesday night for their first victory under new coach Bruce Boudreau.

Jonas Hiller made 37 saves for the Ducks, who won for just the fourth time in 22 games with a fortuitous bounce for Ryan. The forward slipped into the circle after Teemu Selanne took a draw and bulled his way to the net, chipping the puck forward and getting a looping pinball glance off Doughty for the winner.

Ryan and Corey Perry scored first-period goals for the Ducks, who have blown 2-0 leads in each of their first three games under Boudreau. Selanne added two assists for the Ducks, who finally got a late break.

Justin Williams ended a 17-game goal drought by scoring with 11:10 to play for the Kings, who beat their area rivals in back-to-back games in mid-November to kick off the annual Freeway Faceoff. Quick stopped 24 shots, and Slava Voynov also scored for Los Angeles, which hasn't scored more than two goals in six straight games.

WEATHER

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

24hr period ending 7 a.m. EST Tuesday

	Hi	Lo	Weather
Amsterdam	45	39	Rain
Athens	66	44	Clear
Auckland	73	60	Cloudy
Berlin	44	35	Rain
Brussels	43	39	Rain
Cairo	70	51	Clear
Copenhagen	40	36	Rain
Dublin	40	33	Clear
Geneva	47	39	Rain
Hong Kong	72	65	Rain
Istanbul	59	49	Clear
Johannesburg	73	55	Cloudy
London	45	36	Clear
Madrid	56	31	Cloudy
Manila	85	74	Rain
Moscow	44	35	Rain
New Delhi	82	55	Clear
Paris	48	41	Rain
Rome	60	55	Rain
Singapore	84	74	Cloudy
Stockholm	35	32	Snow
Sydney	64	53	Rain
Tokyo	59	46	Clear
Toronto	46	35	Snow
Zurich	43	35	Rain

U.S. WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	31	28	Snow
Atlanta	70	61	Rain
Boston	61	49	Rain
Chicago	35	32	PCLdy
Dallas/Ft Worth	38	32	Clear
Denver	30	B05	Clear
Great Falls	43	23	
Houston	41	38	Clear
Kansas City	28	18	Clear
Las Vegas	47	29	Clear
Los Angeles	63	38	Clear
Miami Beach	80	67	PCLdy
Mpls/St Paul	19	15	PCLdy
New Orleans	52	50	Cloudy
New York City	61	52	Rain
Phoenix	56	36	Clear
Salt Lake City	33	15	Clear
San Francisco	54	39	Clear
Seattle	38	29	Cloudy
Washington, D.C.	60	53	Rain

NOW YOU KNOW!

HISTORY: Abraham Lincoln was killed by John Wilkes Booth.

FILM: Adolf Hitler's favorite film was 'King Kong'.

MUSIC: The artist who won a Grammy for the single 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' was Bobby McFerrin.

Quote of the day

"Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights. It should never be a crime to be gay." - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton as the Obama administration bluntly warned the world against gay and lesbian discrimination Tuesday, declaring the U.S. will use foreign assistance as well as diplomacy to back its insistence that gay rights are fully equal to other basic human rights.