

## Jurors Leave Court After Eventful Day

SANFORD, Fla. (AP) — Jurors in the George Zimmerman trial are leaving the courtroom after an eventful day.

Prosecutors rested their case Friday, a day in which Zimmerman's mother and Trayvon Martin's mother each testified that it was her son, not the other woman's, who can be heard screaming for help on a 911 call.

Judge Debra Nelson denied a request by defense attorneys to acquit Zimmerman of second-degree murder after prosecutors rested.

Defense attorney Mark O'Mara argued that the state didn't prove its case, and that Zimmerman was acting in self-defense.

Prosecutor Richard Mantei told the judge Zimmerman was a liar and had changed his story.

## Health Insurers Worry About Opt-Outs

MIAMI (AP) — Dan Lopez rarely gets sick and hasn't been to a doctor in 10 years, so buying health insurance feels like a waste of money.

Even after the federal health overhaul takes full effect next year, the 24-year-old said he will probably decide to pay the \$100 penalty for those who skirt the law's requirement that all Americans purchase coverage.

"I don't feel I should pay for something I don't use," said the Milwaukee resident, who makes about \$48,000 a year working two part-time jobs.

Because he makes too much to qualify for government subsidies, Lopez would pay a premium of about \$3,000 a year if he chose to buy health insurance.

"I shouldn't be penalized for having good health," he said.

## Syrian Army Fires Heavy Artillery Barrage

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government troops unleashed a major artillery barrage on the city of Homs on Friday, hitting buildings near a 13th century mosque as they pressed an assault on rebel-held areas in the country's strategic heartland.

Opposition activists said Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas had joined the fighting in Syria's third largest city. If confirmed, it would be the first major involvement for the Iranian-backed group since it helped regime troops capture a key border town from the rebels last month.

As the shells landed, thousands of civilians trapped in the city faced severe shortages of food, water and medicine, prompting the U.N. and opposition groups to warn of a humanitarian catastrophe.

The rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad have suffered a series of setbacks recently, including the loss of the strategic town of Qusair near the Lebanese border last month. Despite recent shipments of more advanced weapons from Gulf Arab countries, they have been unable to score any major gains in the past few weeks.

## Spain Warned Europe About NSA Leader

MADRID (AP) — Spain on Friday said it had been warned along with other European countries that former U.S. intelligence worker Edward Snowden was aboard the Bolivian presidential plane this week, an acknowledgement that the manhunt for the fugitive leaker had something to do with the plane's unexpected diversion to Austria.

It is unclear whether the United States, which has told its European allies that it wants Snowden back, warned Madrid about the Bolivian president's plane. U.S. officials will not detail their conversations with European countries, except to say that they have stated the U.S.'s general position that it wants Snowden back.

President Barack Obama has publicly displayed a relaxed attitude toward Snowden's movements, saying last month that he wouldn't be "scrambling jets to get a 29-year-old hacker."

## Pope Clears John Paul II For Sainthood

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis on Friday cleared two of the 20th century's most influential popes to become saints, approving a miracle needed to canonize Pope John Paul II and waiving Vatican rules to honor Pope John XXIII.

It was a remarkable show of papal authority and confirmed Francis' willingness to bend church tradition when it comes to things he cares deeply about. Both popes are also closely identified with the Second Vatican Council, the 1962-65 meetings that brought the Catholic Church into modern times, an indication that Francis clearly wants to make a statement about the council's role in shaping the church today.

Francis approved a decree that a Costa Rican woman's inexplicable cure from a deadly brain aneurism was the "miracle" needed to canonize John Paul. More significantly, he decided that John XXIII, who convened Vatican II, could be declared a saint even without a second miracle attributed to his intercession. The Vatican said Francis had the power to dispense with such requirements and could proceed with only one confirmed miracle to John's name.

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# Fireworks Accident Injures At Least 30

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — When a July Fourth fireworks display exploded and sent red and white bursts into spectators at a Southern California park, Paulina Mulkern saw shrapnel heading straight for her 4-year-old cousin.

Mulkern threw the child under a lawn chair, and then shielded her 7-year-old cousin with her body as scorching debris flew overhead.

"You feel the big old heat come right over your back," she said Friday, still shaking as she recounted the explosion the night before that left her with bruises and red marks on her back.

Dozens of people were injured, as many in the crowd of thousands fled for safety. The victims, from 17 months to 78 years old, had burns and shrapnel wounds, and some were trampled, authorities and hospital officials said.

Mulkern said she went into shock after the near-hit, trembling so badly she had to be carried to a road where rescuers stripped off most of

her clothes and wrapped her in a blanket.

Police in Simi Valley, northwest of Los Angeles, had earlier said it appeared a firework exploded prematurely in its mortar, knocking over others and aiming them across the field. Fire investigators, however, said later they had not yet determined a cause.

Among the questions investigators were trying to answer was whether the pyrotechnics display was set far enough away from spectators, and even if all the rules were followed, whether those guidelines needed to be revised so that the public is kept farther back from launch sites.

Authorities said regulations require the crowd be kept 70 feet away for every inch diameter of the largest shell used.

The largest shell at the display was likely five inches in diameter, meaning the spectators should have been at least 350 feet away from the launch site at the show put on by Bethpage, N.Y.-based Bay Pyrotechnics, said Ventura County Fire Department Deputy Chief Mike LaPlant.

Police said the fireworks rained down on a crowd that was at least 800 feet away. The distance of spectators from the show will be one of many factors considered by investigators, he said.

"We're just confirming what we feel to be true, which is that the distances were either at or beyond the normal distances, the prescribed distances, for that sized shell," he said.

The company said it regretted that spectators were injured and that it planned to publicly release the results of a thorough investigation.

The blast was among several fireworks mishaps on Thursday, including errant explosions injuring workers at shows in Ojai, Calif., and North Myrtle Beach, S.C., and a fireworks barge that caught fire in Montana at the start of the grand finale.

In the Simi Valley explosion, cellphone videos captured a frantic scene in which fireworks were exploding in spheres of sparks close to the ground, and smoke enveloped the park grounds. People were heard screaming.

Colette Schmidt, who lives across the street from the park and had about 150

guests over to watch the fireworks from her front lawn, said they could tell almost immediately that something went wrong. Two regular fireworks went off, she said, and then others started exploding at ground level.

One hit across from their home, leaving a crater, and bounced twice before shooting up over nearby trees and exploding in a puff of reddish-purple smoke, said Schmidt's daughter, Alessi Smith.

The family herded their guests inside and drew the blinds as sparks and embers rained down. "It was terrible but we were so blessed because we had 150 people here and not one single spark hit our house," she said.

A bomb squad was sent to the park to deactivate the remainder of the fireworks.

On Friday morning, blackened debris from the explosion littered the ground. Huge chunks of black shrapnel were still scattered across the park, and the stand the fireworks had been on was sitting, charred, in the middle of a green lawn.

Authorities said investigators planned to examine the debris and fly over the scene to photograph it.

## Egypt

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Hours later, Badie's deputy, Khairat el-Shater, considered the most powerful figure in the organization, was arrested in a Cairo apartment along with his brother on allegations of inciting violence, Interior Ministry spokesman Hani Abdel-Latif told The Associated Press.

After the speech, a large crowd of Islamists surged across 6th October Bridge over the Nile toward Tahrir Square, where a giant crowd of Morsi's opponents had been massed all day. Battles broke out there and near the neighboring state TV building. Pro-Morsi youth shielded themselves from flying stones and fireworks with sheets of barricaded metal. A car burned at the top of an exit ramp amid the sounds of automatic weapons and shotguns.

"They are firing at us, sons of dogs! Where is the army?" one Morsi opponent shouted as another was brought to medics with his

jeans soaked in blood from leg wounds. At least three people were killed at the bridge.

The fighting ended when at least seven armored personnel carriers sped across the bridge, chasing away the Morsi supporters. Young civilians jumped onto the roofs of the APCs, shouting insults at the Islamists and chanting, "The people and army are one hand."

Across the country, clashes erupted as Morsi supporters tried to storm local government buildings or military facilities, battling police or Morsi opponents. At least 30 people were killed throughout the day in Egypt, with 210 wounded, Heath Ministry official Khaled el-Khatib told The Associated

Press.

Islamists descended on anti-Morsi rally, opening fire with guns in the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria, where at least 12 people were killed, mostly Morsi opponents, emergency services official Amr Salama said. One man was stabbed and thrown from the roof of a building by Morsi supporters after he raised an Egyptian flag and shouted insults against the ousted president, according to an Associated Press reporter at the scene.

Five policemen killed by militants in shootings around the Sinai city of el-Arish, according to security officials speaking on condition of anonymity because not authorized to talk to the press.

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