

Collapse May Have Been Due To Wood

Berkeley's mayor says early investigation points to moisture-damaged wood as a prime cause of a deadly balcony collapse. Mayor Tom Bates said Wednesday that investigators believe the support beams may not have been sealed properly at the time of construction. The disclosure came a day after six people, including five students from Ireland, died in the collapse of the fifth-floor balcony during a 21st birthday party. Seven partygoers remained hospitalized with serious injuries.

Iraqi Forces Training Goal Won't Be Met

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. will fall way short of meeting its goal of training 24,000 Iraqi forces to fight Islamic State militants by this fall, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Wednesday on Capitol Hill where lawmakers are already skeptical of the Obama administration's strategy to address threats in the Mideast. Carter told the House Armed Services Committee that the U.S. has received only enough recruits to train about 7,000 — in addition to about 2,000 counterterrorism service personnel. "Our training efforts in Iraq have thus far been slowed by a lack of trainees. We simply haven't received enough recruits," Carter said at a nearly three-hour hearing. Carter said the train-and-equip mission in Syria also lacks enough trainees to fill existing training sites, primarily because it's difficult to make sure the recruits are people who can be counted on and are not aligned with groups like IS. "It turns out to be very hard to identify people who meet both of those criteria," Carter said.

AT&T Fined \$100M By FCC

WASHINGTON (AP) — AT&T Mobility LLC has been slapped with a record \$100 million fine for offering consumers "unlimited" data, but then slowing their Internet speeds after they reached a certain amount. The company says it will fight the charges. The Federal Communications Commission said Wednesday that the company misled consumers into buying plans they believed would give them unlimited ability to send and receive data, including Web browsing, GPS navigation and streaming videos. But once the consumer hit a certain level, the data on unlimited plans would be slowed down significantly, at speeds lower than advertised, the FCC said. AT&T said it would "vigorously dispute" the fine, which was the largest proposed in FCC history. If AT&T can provide evidence that the FCC allegations are wrong, the fine could be reduced. Otherwise, if AT&T refuses to pay, it's possible the two sides will wind up in court. "The FCC has specifically identified this practice as a legitimate and reasonable way to manage network resources for the benefit of all customers, and has known for years that all of the major carriers use it," the company said in a statement released to reporters. "We have been fully transparent with our customers, providing notice in multiple ways and going well beyond the FCC's disclosure requirements." It's not unusual for phone companies to slow, or "throttle," speeds on a network as a way to manage congestion. Verizon slows down speeds for its heaviest users, but only on certain smartphones when there is congestion. Once the bottleneck eases, speeds return to normal.

Runaway Tiger Mauls Man To Death

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — A tiger that broke loose after severe flooding at the Tbilisi Zoo mauled a man to death in the Georgian capital before being shot by police Wednesday, a day after officials said all the zoo's tigers had died. Zoo Director Zurab Gurieidze acknowledged he was to blame for releasing faulty information and said new counts indicated a tiger cub and a hyena could still be on the loose. The city has remained on edge, with runaway predators reportedly seen by some residents. The Interior Ministry in the former Soviet republic said the tiger was hiding at an abandoned factory that had been turned into a construction market when he attacked the man Wednesday. The victim, who worked at the market, later died of his wounds at a hospital. "We entered the depot and, suddenly, a white tiger rushed out of an adjacent room and attacked one of the workers, jumping at his throat and mauling him," colleague Alexander Shavbulashvili told The Associated Press. "We broke the window of another room to flee, and the sound of breaking glass must have scared it and it ran away." Police commandos rushed to the site and killed the tiger.

Greece, Creditors Trade Shots

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece and its creditors publicly blamed one another for an impasse in bailout talks Wednesday, on the eve of a eurozone finance ministers' meeting billed as key to their outcome. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras lashed at rescue lenders for demanding pension cuts, and got support from thousands of Greeks who hit the streets in Athens to protest against any further austerity measures. "If Europe insists in this incomprehensible option — if its political leadership insists — then they must bear the cost of developments that will not be beneficial for anyone in Europe," he said after meeting in Athens with Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann. Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis was defiant ahead of Thursday's meeting of finance chiefs from the eurozone. Asked during a visit to Paris on Wednesday whether the meeting could produce an agreement, Varoufakis said, "I do not believe so," and criticized the group for not making enough "preparations" to solve Greece's "incapacitating debt crisis." Greece needs to get more loans from its creditors before June 30, when its bailout program expires and it is scheduled to make a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.8 billion) debt repayment to the International Monetary Fund.

Prosecutor: Worker Discussed Having Inmates Kill Husband

BY MARY ESCH
Associated Press

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. — A woman charged with helping two convicted murderers escape from a maximum-security facility where she worked had discussed having them kill her husband, a district attorney confirmed Wednesday. Clinton County District Attorney Andrew Wylie said at a news conference that Joyce Mitchell had talked to inmates Richard Matt and David Sweat about killing her husband, Lyle, who also works at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, near the Canadian border. Sweat and Matt escaped from the 170-year-old prison on June 6 and remain on the lam. Joyce Mitchell, a prison tailoring shop instructor who befriended the inmates, was arrested June 12. Lyle Mitchell arrived at the state police barracks in Malone with his attorney late Wednesday morning to talk to authorities, the Press-Republican of Plattsburgh reported. Investigators have no information that Lyle Mitchell knew about the escape plan

or assisted in it, Wylie said. Meanwhile, state police expanded the search for the killers beyond a 16-square-mile area of woods, fields and swamps where the manhunt has been most intense. Police stepped up roving patrols and were checking the hundreds, if not thousands, of seasonal homes and hunting camps in the region. Officials said the number of law enforcement officers involved in the search had been reduced from more than 800 earlier in the week to more than 600 Wednesday. In Dannemora, the heavy law enforcement presence prevalent for more than a week all but disappeared by Tuesday, and roadblocks surrounding the town were gone. State police said Wednesday that they have "no hard evidence" that Sweat and Matt were able to leave the area. But they cautioned that the lack of evidence doesn't mean the escapees are somewhere near the prison. Sweat, 35, was serving a life sentence without parole in the killing of a sheriff's deputy. Matt, 48, was doing 25 years to life for the kidnap, torture and hacksaw dismemberment of his former boss.

Joyce Mitchell is charged with helping the killers flee by providing them with hacksaw blades, chisels and other tools. She was visited in jail Tuesday by her husband. Clinton County Sheriff David Favro described her as "composed" during the visit. Prosecutors say Mitchell had agreed to be the getaway driver but backed out because she still loved her husband and felt guilty for participating. She was charged last week with supplying contraband, including a punch and a screwdriver, to the two inmates. She has pleaded not guilty and has been suspended without pay from her \$57,000-a-year job overseeing inmates who sew clothes and learn to repair sewing machines. Authorities say the convicts used power tools to cut through the backs of their adjacent cells, broke through a brick wall and then cut into a steam pipe and slithered through it, finally emerging outside the prison walls through a manhole. Wylie says they apparently used tools stored by prison contractors, taking care to return them to their toolboxes after each night's work.

Welcome Aboard



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/TNS
Attorney General Loretta Lynch is sworn in during a formal investiture ceremony as President Barack Obama looks on at the Warner Theatre on Wednesday, in Washington, D.C. Lynch become the 83rd Attorney General of the United States.

Dolezal Facing New And Old Questions

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT AND NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Rachel Dolezal faced tough questions about her racial identity long before her career as a civil rights advocate and expert on African-American culture was derailed after recent revelations that she grew up "Caucasian." More than a decade ago, Howard University's lawyers questioned whether she had tried to pose as African-American when she applied for admission to the historically black university in the nation's capital. Dolezal, the Spokane NAACP leader who resigned this week after her parents said she had been pretending to be black but was actually white, now faces a swirl of criticism about past and recent statements. And on Wednesday, Spokane leaders asked her to resign from a police oversight panel, citing misconduct. At Howard University, Dolezal had accused the school of denying her a teaching position because she was white. During a deposition, Howard's lawyers asked whether she had tried to mislead the admissions office with an essay focused on black history and identity, according to court documents reviewed by The Associated Press. "I plunged into black history and novels, feeling the relieving release of understanding and common ground," she wrote in the essay. "My struggles paled as I read of the atrocities

so many ancestors faced in America." On Wednesday, an independent investigation by the city of Spokane concluded that Dolezal acted improperly and violated government rules while leading the city's volunteer police oversight commission. The report found that Dolezal violated the city's workplace harassment policy when she "engaged in conduct that humiliated, insulted or degraded" a city worker; abused her authority and showed bias against police. Spokane Mayor David Condon and City Council President Ben Stuckart said Wednesday that Dolezal and two others should remove themselves from the five-member commission after an independent investigation found they had acted improperly and violated government rules. KHQ-TV says Dolezal sent a statement saying she was "deeply disturbed" by the leaders asking her to resign from the commission. She says she stands by her work to promote civilian oversight of police. "I urge the people of Spokane to take a close look at the timing and intentions of the investigation and request for my resignation," Dolezal said in her statement. The city's Ethics Commission, meanwhile, is investigating whether she lied about her race on her application to the oversight board by presenting herself as the daughter of a black police officer from Oakland, California, when she sought the appointment last year.

A dozen years earlier, Dolezal's lawsuit against Howard was dismissed before reaching trial. A court said she failed to prove her claims and ordered her to pay the university's legal costs. In her admissions essay, she described her family as "transracial," writing that "at the early age of three I showed an awareness of the richness and beauty of dark skin when I said, 'Mama, all people are beautiful but black people are so beautiful.'" During the deposition, Dolezal said she was "talking about black history in novels." Lawyers pressed her to say if she had ever misled anyone into thinking she was black. "I don't know that I could lead anyone to believe that I'm African-American. I believe that, you know, in certain context, maybe someone would assume that, but I don't know that I could convince someone that I'm a hundred percent African-American," she responded. Asked to explain what she considers her own race to be, she said, "if you have to choose to describe yourself and you're able to give terms like a fraction or whatever but an overall picture, I consider myself to be Caucasian biologically." Asked by NBC's Matt Lauer this week if she is an "African-American woman," Dolezal said: "I identify as black." Civil rights leaders in

NAACP | PAGE 12

Possible FIFA Probe Cases Reaches 53

BY GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

BERN, Switzerland — Reeling from an American federal investigation of bribery in soccer, FIFA was put under more pressure Wednesday as the scale of a separate Swiss investigation of suspected money laundering was revealed. Banks in Switzerland have flagged up 53 possible acts of money-laundering that could be linked to FIFA's 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding contests, the country's attorney-general said. Future World Cup hosts Russia and Qatar were not implicated by Swiss federal prosecutor Michael Lauber. Still, the "huge and complex" case he outlined could potentially force FIFA to re-examine taking the world's most-watched sports event from either country if new evidence proves wrongdoing. "I don't mind if this has some collateral (damage) somewhere else," Lauber said of his investigation, addressing the media for the first time since the dual Swiss and American criminal probes into FIFA were announced three weeks ago. In a further sign of legal attacks on FIFA picking up pace, the ethics prosecutor of world soccer's ruling body later confirmed he expected an increased workload linked to the 2018 and 2022 case. The ethics investigation department "has taken the necessary preparatory measures for this and is prepared to increase its staff numbers at any time if needed," Cornel Borbely said in a rare public statement since succeeding Michael Garcia last December. There seems little respite for FIFA three weeks after a stunning U.S. Department of Justice indictment alleged a racketeering conspiracy among top soccer officials, and two weeks after FIFA President Sepp Blatter added to the

FIFA | PAGE 12

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