

**BRIEFS**

H&R news service reports

**RUSSIA**

**Official threatens pre-emptive strike**

MOSCOW — Russia's top military officer has threatened to carry out a pre-emptive strike on U.S.-led NATO missile defense facilities in Eastern Europe if Washington goes ahead with its controversial plan to build a missile shield.

President Dmitry Medvedev said last year that Russia will retaliate militarily if it does not reach an agreement with the United States and NATO on the missile defense system.

Chief of General Staff Nikolai Makarov went even further Thursday. "A decision to use destructive force pre-emptively will be taken if the situation worsens," he said at an international conference attended by senior U.S. and NATO officials.

**AFGHANISTAN**

**Afghan intelligence averts truck bomb**

KABUL — Afghanistan's intelligence agency prevented a large terrorist attack, arresting a Pakistani citizen driving a truck packed with explosives, according to a statement Thursday.

The agency said the man was arrested on a main road in Kabul's east side. It said the man was going to use the truck bomb in a suicide attack, but it was unclear if the attack was imminent.

The agency pledged to release more details as they became available.

In eastern Paktya province, six Taliban militants were killed and two others wounded Thursday when the roadside bomb they were building in a mosque exploded.

**SYRIA**

**Troops kill four at Aleppo University**

BEIRUT — Syrian forces stormed student dormitories during an anti-government protest at Aleppo University on Thursday, firing tear gas and bullets in an hours-long siege that killed at least four students and forced the closure of the state-run school, activists said.

U.N. truce observers toured other restive parts of the country, and residents told them of being too terrified to walk on the streets after dark as the 14-month-old uprising rages on. The U.N. estimates 9,000 people have been killed since the revolt began, and a peace plan brokered by international envoy Kofi Annan nearly a month ago has done little to stem the bloodshed.

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney admitted the plan might be doomed.

**ISRAEL**

**Nation receives 4th nuclear-capable sub**

JERUSALEM — Israel on Thursday received its fourth German-made submarine capable of launching nuclear warheads, expanding a fleet that experts say could be used in an attack on Iran.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak said that the submarine would increase Israel's capabilities and strength "in the face of the growing regional challenges."

The Dolphin-type military submarine is one of six Israel has ordered from Germany, which subsidizes the submarines. Each submarine costs half a billion dollars. The sub was presented to Israeli officials in Hamburg, Germany, on Thursday and is expected to arrive in Israel in 2013, following final tests.

**FRANCE**

**Socialist candidate's chances improve**

PARIS — Socialist candidate Francois Hollande appeared to solidify his chances at winning France's presidency Thursday after his strong showing in a debate against beleaguered incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy.

Hollande also won the support of a prominent centrist.

The conservative Sarkozy has trailed Hollande throughout the campaign in the polls and needed a knockout performance in Wednesday night's debate. Pollsters said the mild-mannered Hollande was surprisingly resilient in the bitter back-and-forth with his longtime rival.

# Chinese dissident calls for help from Washington

## Chen in custody of police in Beijing hospital

BEIJING (AP) — The diplomatic disarray deepened Thursday after a blind activist reversed course and asked to leave China with his

family, abandoning an ardently negotiated agreement even though he had left the protection of the U.S. Embassy and was in a Beijing hospital ringed by Chinese police.

Bewildered and alone with his wife and children, Chen Guangcheng periodically switched on a cellphone to tell friends and foreign media

he felt scared and wanted to go abroad, and that he had not seen U.S. officials in over a day.

He even called in to a congressional hearing in Washington, telling lawmakers he wanted to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. "I hope I can get more help from her," Chen said.

Chen's high-profile effort to keep his case in the public eye served to increase pressure on Washington and embarrass Beijing as it hosted Clinton and other U.S. officials for annual talks on global political and economic hot spots.

Taken aback at Chen's change of heart, U.S. diplomats spent much of Thurs-

day trying to confirm that the family wanted to leave, and they eventually said they would try to help him. Still, it remained unclear how they might do so now that he has left the embassy, or whether the Chinese would be willing to renegotiate a deal that both sides thought had been settled a day earlier.



Associated Press  
Supporters of Pakistan's religious party Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam hold a poster of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden during pro-bin Laden rally in Quetta, Pakistan.

## Abortion foes claim to have clinic records

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — An anti-abortion group says it has the patient records of dozens of women and girls who sought treatment at a Kansas City, Kan., abortion clinic last month — a claim the clinic's attorney says is meant to scare off potential patients and would suggest a crime was committed.

Troy Newman, the president of Wichita-based Operation Rescue, said a confidential informant delivered boxes to the group about two weeks ago that contained the records of 86 female patients who sought treatment at Central Family Medicine, also known as Aid for Women.

Newman said the records contained patient names, addresses and other identifying details, as well as information about patients' pregnancies. He said the man insisted he obtained them legally.

Newman said the records contain proof of violations, including failure to report child sexual abuse, and that Operation Rescue has asked state Attorney General Derek Schmidt to reopen an investigation by a former attorney general.

Cheryl Pilate, an attorney for the clinic, said she contacted the FBI after someone broke into a locked Dumpster on clinic property about 10 days ago. She said she doubts Operation Rescue's claims because the clinic would not have discarded April medical records, and that documents of that nature always get shredded first.

She said the only way to have gotten the records would be to steal them.

"It certainly appears to me that a crime was committed," Pilate said. "I hope those people understand the gravity of what they've done. This has nothing to do with the safety of women ... This is about scaring women away."

## Letters show bin Laden as frustrated

WASHINGTON — Seventeen letters seized from Osama bin Laden's Pakistani hideout by the Navy SEALs who found and killed him there last May expose the international terrorist icon in his final years as increasingly irrelevant to his own movement.

The selection of letters — written between 2006 and April 2011 and released Thursday by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point — show bin Laden to be frustrated by the actions of the al-Qaida affiliates that had cropped up around the world and claimed the mantle of the organization he'd founded. With al-Qaida's central organization largely destroyed, and what was left harried and in hiding, the letters indicate that bin Laden and his inner circle were unable to direct the activities of a network of affiliates — from Pakistan to Yemen to Algeria — over which he apparently had little or no control.

During bin Laden's final years, as American and NATO forces focused the war on terrorism on breaking apart al-Qaida's ability to operate from Afghanistan and Pakistan, the terrorist leader was dashing off letters that were highly critical of the affiliates' operations, particularly those that resulted in the deaths of Muslims, and making calls for attacks that appear to have been ignored. Among them, bin Laden called for assassinating President Barack Obama, which he said would leave a "totally unprepared" Vice President Joe Biden to assume power.

**Hurlbert's**  
Basement Water Control  
**WE MAKE WET BASEMENTS DRY!!**  
Save 25%  
Ph. 1-800-222-6292  
Hundreds of happy customers in your area.

**Friday Fish Special**

Atlantic Cod Chunks  
Walleye Basket  
Butterfly Shrimp Basket

**THE DUGOUT**  
1464 E. William • 423-8639  
One block south of Soy Bank on East Eldorado

**LOW RATES & LOCAL SERVICE**

OUR POINT EXACTLY

ASK ABOUT OUR CURRENT RATES

All loans subject to credit approval.

**LOANS FOR LIFE**

- Mortgage, Vehicle and Personal Loans
- Refinance Existing Loans
- Home Equity Loans, Home Repairs, Debt Consolidation and More

**HICKORY POINT BANK & TRUST, fsb**  
Member FDIC  
hickorypointbank.com

**A new transmission line to meet our need for reliable, cost-effective and safe energy**

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) proposes to construct new 345 kilovolt transmission lines that will interconnect Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The project, known as the Illinois Rivers Project, is part of a portfolio of Multi-Value Projects (MVPs) that has been approved by the Midwest ISO, a regional transmission organization.

The MVPs will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, improve reliability, and provide economic and efficiency benefits. The Illinois Rivers Project is directly aligned with Ameren's strategic goals of providing our customers with reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy.

**We need your help.**

ATXI invites you to attend an Open House.

Friday, May 25th  
Mt. Zion Lions Center  
1595 West Main  
Mt. Zion, Illinois

Stop by anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

At this Open House, we will explain why this new transmission line is needed and what it will look like. We will answer your questions.

By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 25th, you will help us determine the best possible routes for this new transmission line.

For more information, please visit our Web site at [ilriverstransmission.com](http://ilriverstransmission.com) or call us at (800) 229-9280.

Visit [ActOnEnergy.com](http://ActOnEnergy.com) and learn how to use less to spend less!

CODE: IRT

**COME Together**

Let's Walk!

Decatur Memorial Hospital  
St. Mary's Hospital

**Thanks to Our Hero Sponsors**

ADM  
RESOURCEFUL BY NATURE™

MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY

BKD LLP  
CPAs & Advisors

ΔΣΘ  
Springfield-Decatur Area Alumnae Chapter

Join us on June 30th, in Fairview Park  
Call 876-2140 for information or email us [cletwalk@att.net](mailto:cletwalk@att.net)  
All proceeds stay in the Decatur and surrounding area.



Herald & Review/Jim Bowling

Professional golfer Jennifer Song and Celeste Bowman, 9, celebrate a putt as Song helps her with her golf swing before the presentation of the Jennifer Song Community Spirit Award at the Boys and Girls Club of Decatur.

# Song surprises with donations

Pro golfer came to Decatur because award named for her

By ALLISON COPENBARGER  
H&R Staff Writer

DECATUR — When Jennifer Song donated a third of her winnings from the 2010 Tate & Lyle Players Championship to three organizations in Decatur, the community was moved by her gift.

On Thursday, her generosity continued when she gave another \$1,950 to each of the original three organizations — Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois, Boys & Girls Club of Decatur and the LPGA Junior Girls Golf Club. “It’s already been two years since I’ve been here, and I just didn’t want to come here empty-handed,” she said.

Song was in town for the presentation of a new award named in her honor: the Jennifer Song Community Spirit Award.

After the presentation of the award, Song surprised the crowd with her announcement and presentation of the new donations.

The award, sponsored by Investment Planners Inc., was given to John Schirle. He was honored for his extensive volunteering at the Webster-Cantrell Hall, focusing on reading efforts and starting programs.

During the award festivities held in the Boys & Girls Club gym, Song helped to instruct children with their putting.

With the \$1,950 donated to the club in 2010, they were able to start a kids’ golf program, which included indoor golf practice equipment as well as a few clubs and rounds of golf. Boys & Girls Club Execu-

## Blagojevich associate escapes prison term

CHICAGO (AP) — A lesser-known figure linked to the administration of jailed Gov. Rod Blagojevich has escaped prison time.

A federal judge on Wednesday ordered businessman John Glennon to complete 320 hours of community service and serve two years of probation.

Prosecutors indicted Glennon in 2005 on charges he covered up kickbacks involving state boards controlled by Blagojevich insiders. He pleaded guilty in 2007 to failing to report a felony, which carries a maximum three-year sentence.

As part of a plea deal, the longtime real estate consultant admitted he knew a contractor was inflating the cost of a construction project but said nothing. He also admitted he got \$700,000 from the contractor as part of the project.

Glennon will perform his service at the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Governors State University.

Herald & Review  
Printed with environmentally safe water-based ink

# Obama may help Illinois’ gay marriage push

But lawmakers say it’s unlikely in election year

By KURT ERICKSON  
H&R Springfield Bureau Chief

SPRINGFIELD — President Barack Obama’s endorsement of gay marriage could help efforts to legalize it in Illinois, but supporters in the General Assembly said Thursday that a vote won’t happen anytime soon.

The legislature is scheduled to meet through May 31 and faces a daunting agenda of tough votes on the state’s significant financial woes, ranging from an overhaul of public employee pension to possibly deep cuts in Medicaid spending.

Those votes are already tough enough in an election year and will keep gay marriage off the legislative radar screen, officials said. “It’s so hard to predict. We’ve got elections this year. I would guess not this year so much, but in the future. The president’s announcement might help spur it on,” said state Sen. David Koehler, a Peoria Democrat who sponsored legislation last year to legalize civil unions.

State Rep. Greg Harris, an openly gay Chicago Democrat who helped lead the successful push to bring civil unions to Illinois, also suggested it was unlikely a push for gay marriage would take place anytime soon. “I never put a time frame on the civil union vote. I

won’t put a time frame on this one. I’ll keep counting noses,” Harris said. But, Harris said Obama’s announcement this week represents a huge step forward for supporters of gay marriage. “History was made by the president when he came out and made that statement,” said Harris, who is sponsoring a gay marriage bill. “Change is happening, and

it’s happening more quickly than I would have thought”

On Thursday, Gov. Pat Quinn, who helped lead the push for civil unions, for the first time clearly stated his support for gay marriage. “He stands with the president in supporting this,” Quinn spokeswoman Brooke Anderson said. “The governor believes in equal rights for all people.”

But, like Koehler and Harris, Anderson said the focus of the spring legislative session will be on the state’s money problems.

In addition to Quinn, Illinois supporters of gay marriage include Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton, D-Chicago.

Anderson said the focus of the spring legislative session will be on the state’s money problems.

In addition to Quinn, Illinois supporters of gay marriage include Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Senate President John Cullerton, D-Chicago.

kurt.ericson@lee.net|782-4043

## The Jeweler Is IN

Decatur’s **BEST** Jewelry Repair

### Decatur Jewelry & Pawn

Now In Two Locations: Decatur, IL 217-875-6625  
Mt. Zion, IL 217-864-3741

Locally Owned Family Business  
Celebrating 18 Years in Business

www.decaturjewelry.com

## Caterpillar to sell logistics business

PEORIA (AP) — Caterpillar is selling a majority stake in a logistics division for about \$750 million to better focus on its core businesses.

The world’s largest maker of construction and mining equipment said Thursday that it is selling a 65 percent interest in Caterpillar Logistics Services LLC to Platinum Equity.

Caterpillar will keep a 35 percent interest.

Firestone | GOODYEAR | BF Goodrich

**MARTY’S TIRE CENTER**

DISC BRAKES STARTING AT \$69.95 PER AXLE

2760 N. Main Decatur, IL 62526

**877-4744**

*Menu*

### Join us for AYCE Mother’s Day Brunch

**Sunday, May 13**

Adult (11 & up) \$18.99  
Ages 4-10 \$9.99 • Under 3 Free

Call today to enjoy our delicious buffet.

910 Airport Road  
Inside Decatur Airport  
421-7452  
www.MainHangarRestaurant.com  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and  
AYCE Sunday Brunch Buffet

## today’s deal

Hop on it

Get a \$5 Gift Card  
Limit 750

# Today’s Deal Price: \$250

Sign up at  
**herald-review.com/deal**

Scan this QR Code to find out more!  
(To scan this code you will need a smart phone with a camera, and a QR code reader application. Search your App store for a QR Code reader.)  
If your business is interested in participating in Today’s Deal, call (217) 421-6927

## A new transmission line to meet our need for reliable, cost-effective and safe energy

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) proposes to construct new 345 kilovolt transmission lines that will interconnect Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The project, known as the Illinois Rivers Project, is part of a portfolio of Multi-Value Projects (MVPs) that has been approved by the Midwest ISO, a regional transmission organization.

The MVPs will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, improve reliability, and provide economic and efficiency benefits. The Illinois Rivers Project is directly aligned with Ameren’s strategic goals of providing our customers with reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy.

### We need your help.

ATXI invites you to attend an Open House.

**Friday, May 25th**  
Mt. Zion Lions Center  
1595 West Main  
Mt. Zion, Illinois

Stop by anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

At this Open House, we will explain why this new transmission line is needed and what it will look like. We will answer your questions.

By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 25th, you will help us determine the best possible routes for this new transmission line.

For more information, please visit our Web site at [ilriverstransmission.com](http://ilriverstransmission.com) or call us at (800) 229-9280.

Visit [ActOnEnergy.com](http://ActOnEnergy.com) and learn how to use less to spend less!

CODE: IRT

## COME Together

Let’s Walk!

## Thanks to Our Refreshment Sponsors

Join us on June 30th, in Fairview Park

Call 876-2140 for information or email us [ctletwalk@att.net](mailto:ctletwalk@att.net)  
All proceeds stay in the Decatur and surrounding area.