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BC-MCT-NEWS-BJT — wire editors (5600 words)

**McClatchy-Tribune News Service
News Budget for Thursday, January 14, 2010**

Updated at 11:45 p.m. EST (0445 UTC).

Adds SEATTLEATTACKS:SE, NASA-COCAINE:OS
Updates TORTURE-SUSPECT-FREED:TB, HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-ORPHANS:MI,
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Additional news stories appear on the [MCT-NEWSFEATURES-BJT](#).

TOP STORIES

Corpses pile up outside packed hospital; damage stymies relief

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-2ND-LEDE:MI](#)—The dead overwhelmed the General Hospital morgue, and the injured outnumbered doctors and nurses Thursday as rescue workers from across the globe struggled to reach the shattered island and distribute much-needed food, water and medical supplies.

At the morgue, police, civilians and private contractors clearing rubble were forced to leave corpses in piles outside the facility, where survivors searched among the dead for their loved ones.

The Haitian Red Cross estimates the number of deaths at between 45,000 and 50,000, and there appear to be few places to store or bury the bodies.

1500 (with trims) by Jacqueline Charles, Lesley Clark, Frances Robles and Trenton Daniel in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Also moving as:

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-1ST-LEDE:LA](#)—1250 (with trims) by Tina Susman, Tracy Wilkinson and Joe Mazingo in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Obama pledges \$100 million in aid for Haiti

[HAITI-USAID:TBW](#)—President Barack Obama, signaling “one of the largest relief efforts in history” for victims of the earthquake in Haiti, said Thursday he has ordered an immediate investment of \$100 million in U.S. aid.

“This investment will grow over the coming year,” the president said. He was joined by several Cabinet members and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Obama said he has ordered them to make the disaster in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince the No. 1 priority of all their agencies.

550 by Mark Silva in Washington. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

For Haitians, so many bodies, and so little help

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-SCENE:LA](#)—By Thursday, the bodies had begun piling up on the streets. Where on Wednesday there were one or two, by Thursday afternoon there were several, sometimes dozens in a single spot. It became common to see people carrying bodies through the streets, pickup trucks loaded with bodies on their beds, people pushing bodies in wheelbarrows.

Hundreds of bodies lay in the parking lot of the morgue at the General Hospital, waiting for families to identify them and take them away. Few have the financial means to bury them.

So many bodies, and so little help.

With no food, water or medical assistance in sight, a nearly palpable sense of chaos and urgency could be felt throughout Haiti’s capital two days after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake.

1100 (with trims) by Joe Mazingo and Tracy Wilkinson in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Rescuers experience moment of joy after freeing U.N. worker

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-RESCUE:MI](#)—For a moment, there was joy.

Tarmo Joeveer, a U.N. security officer from Miami, walked out of the rubble of the flattened U.N. headquarters just after dawn Thursday and raised a fist in triumph, nearly 40 hours after the earthquake that ravaged Haiti and taxed rescue workers from around the globe.

Assisted by a U.S. Agency for International Development team that labored five hours to free him, a dusty but beaming Joeveer emerged from the wreckage of the six-story building that now rises no higher than a single floor.

Joeveer’s rescue, by the Fairfax County, Va., Urban Search and Research Team, was a moment to hang onto for a team that says the damage here is the worst they have ever seen — and they have been to quakes in Turkey, Taiwan and Iran.

950 (with trims) by Lesley Clark and Lydia Martin in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Also moving as:

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-RESCUE:FL](#)—500 by Sofia Santana in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Haiti struggles to bury its dead

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[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-MORGUE:MI](#)—Just before dawn, the bodies began arriving—wrapped in sheets of plastic — and pulled off pickups and makeshift stretchers at a morgue that was already overflowing before disaster struck Tuesday evening.

Within hours, the corpses were strewn across the gray brick courtyard outside the drab one-story building that houses the city's dead.

For a country that has never been able to provide proper burials for its destitute, burying the estimated 45,000 to 50,000 may be Haiti's greatest challenge.

950 (with trims) by Frances Robles, Michael Sallah and Rob Barry in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Church, immigrant groups plan to airlift Haitian orphans to South Florida

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-ORPHANS-1ST-LEDE:MI](#)—Fifty years ago, 14,048 Cuban children whose lives were rocked by a political earthquake in their homeland found passage to refuge in Miami thanks to the Catholic Church, the United States government and the famed Operation Pedro Pan.

Now, a similar rescue mission will be launched for the hundreds, maybe even thousands, of Haitian children believed left orphaned by the massive earthquake that hit their country Tuesday.

950 (with trims) by Luisa Yanez and Alfonso Chardy in Miami. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Washington state family awaits word on missing woman

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-MISSING:SE](#)—In June, 22-year-old Molly Mackenzie Hightower of Port Orchard, Wash., arrived in Haiti for a year of service assisting in an orphanage and hospital.

On Tuesday, she was caught in a seven-story building that collapsed in the earthquake, and her family here in Washington is anxiously awaiting word about efforts to free her from the rubble.

550 by Hal Bernton in Seattle. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

With doctors lacking, hotel guests frantically treat Haiti wounded

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-HOSPITAL:MI](#)—It was a hotel, not a hospital. They were guests, not doctors. But they did what they could, turning the Hotel Villa Creole into a makeshift triage unit.

Dennis Shannon worked to treat feet twisted in wrong directions and heads crusted in blood, with only sheets supplied by the hotel owner for bandages. One bone exposed just above the ankle stuck hard in his mind.

"We tried very hard to get it back in place," said Shannon, who had never done this kind of thing before. "I am an agronomist, a professor in agronomy. I know nothing about medicine."

600 by Frances Robles and Curtis Morgan in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Disaster meets poverty to create total health crisis

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-HEALTH:LA](#)—In Haiti, average life expectancy is 53, three-quarters of women give birth without a health attendant, diarrheal illnesses are the second-leading cause of death and 30 percent of children under 5 have stunted growth.

And that was before Tuesday's 7.0 earthquake.

This time, emergency medical responders will have to provide much more than the usual food, water, latrines and bandages to stop the spread of disease, said Dr. Christina Catlett, associate director for health preparedness at the Johns Hopkins Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response in Baltimore. They'll also have to create a public health system on the fly.

900 (with trims) by Shari Roan in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

In Miami's Little Haiti, nothing to do but work, wait, hope, pray

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-MIAMI:LA](#)—Someone had hastily printed and taped the sign to a door in a county social services building: Haitian Relief Information Center.

But in a sign of the brutal conundrum facing the thousands of Haitian and Haitian American residents here Thursday, there was scant information within. Someone had delivered stacks of the morning's Miami Herald, with a headline that blared "Desperation." There was a sign for a special State Department phone number that people could call.

But the small group of social workers in the otherwise empty offices said calling the number usually yielded a recording. And, of course, calling Haitian relatives directly, in many cases, remained impossible two days after Tuesday's powerful earthquake destroyed Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital.

450 by Richard Fausset in Miami. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Navy hospital ship Comfort prepares respite for Haitian quake victims

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-SHIP:MCT](#)—The flurry of activity on Pier 11 in Baltimore began Thursday, as the USNS Comfort prepared for its latest mission — to aid in the relief effort following Tuesday's massive earthquake in Haiti.

The 894-foot-long ship, described as a "floating hospital," holds a trauma facility equipped to treat up to 1,000 patients at a time. Haitian patients are expected to be transported aboard by helicopter.

550 (with trims) by Graham Moomaw in Baltimore. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Donor beware: Experts warn that scams, disasters go hand-in-hand

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-SCAMS:FL](#)—The impulse to give money or other donations is a natural reaction to the horrific images of suffering and destruction now coming out of Haiti.

It is also a generous impulse that con artists, identity thieves and scammers are ready to exploit, just as they did after the Asian tsunami in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, say state and federal authorities and watchdogs of nonprofit groups.

2150 (with trims) by Jon Burstein in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

11 Lynn University Students on Haiti mission safe; 1 student, 2 faculty missing

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-STUDENTS:FL](#)— A Florida private jet service planned to fly to the Dominican Republic Thursday to bring back eight Lynn University students from Haiti.

Three Lynn staff members will travel on the Universal Jet Aviation flight, which is expected to depart later Thursday. Eleven students have been located and it's unclear which ones will be flying back. Lynn did not have transportation details for three other students who have been found.

550 by Scott Travis in Boca Raton, Fla. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Relief experts say best way to help in Haiti crisis is to donate cash

[HAITI-DONATIONS:HK](#)—When a staggering natural disaster like the Haitian earthquake strikes, all most people can think about is how to help.

Experts in international relief have a simple answer: Send cash, and send it to organizations that have experience responding to disasters and a history of operating in the affected country. Don't buy canned goods or blankets and clothing to donate.

"The best way to provide support in the quickest time is to identify a charity or non-government organization that is working in Haiti and provide them with a donation," said Harry Edwards, spokesman for the U.S. Agency for International Development. "This allows their representatives on the ground to provide assistance that matches what is needed and is the fastest way to make that happen."

900 (with trims) by Harvy Lipman in Hackensack, N.J.. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Companies chip in for Haiti earthquake relief

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-AID:MK](#)—A broad range of U.S. corporations has already provided millions of dollars to fund relief efforts for earthquake-ravaged Haiti, helping provide urgently needed food, supplies and disaster-management specialists.

Roger Lowe, senior vice president of communications at the American Red Cross, said that retailer Lowe's Companies Inc., Coca-Cola Co. and Bank of America Corp. have each donated \$1 million to the organization to fund its earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

400 by John Letzing in San Francisco. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

South Florida agencies mobilize to send aid, relief

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-FLORIDARELIEF:FL](#)—Emergency aid workers and volunteers throughout South Florida started mobilizing as soon as they heard the news of the earthquake in Haiti.

Coral Springs Fire Department Capt. Mike Moser rushed to a warehouse in Miami on Wednesday afternoon to catch up with a team of rescue workers from across South Florida.

700 by Rafael A. Olmeda, Lisa Huriash and Joel Marino in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Word from relatives in Haiti starts to trickle into South Florida

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-FLORIDAREACTION:OS](#)—Panic turned into relief for some Haitians in South Florida as word from relatives began to filter in Thursday from their earthquake-stricken homeland, where thousands of people are feared dead.

In Lake Worth, Creole-language radio station WPBR connected families through simultaneous broadcasts with a station in Saint-Marc, Haiti.

Earthquake survivors went on the air to give messages to family members in South Florida. And in Florida, listeners sent messages back.

500 by Alexia Campbell and Georgia East. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Their Haitian clinic is destroyed, but couple continues to help

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-CLINIC:KC](#)—The great roar sounded like the end of the world.

At first Jim and Sandy Wilkins thought the shaking was coming from the generator for their second-floor apartment in Gressier, Haiti. Then ceiling tiles began to drop and the floor cracked apart. They leaped to safety through a hole that had opened in the wall.

Within minutes, the first truckload of injured arrived at what was left of their medical clinic.

Sandy, a nurse, and Jim, 59, a family physician, moved to Gressier from Girard, Kan., 11 years ago.

750 (with trims) by Lee Hill Kavanaugh in Kansas City, Mo. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Undocumented Haitians can stay in U.S. for now, Clinton says

[HAITI-EARTHQUAKE-DEPORTATION:FL](#)—Tens of thousands of undocumented Haitians will be given temporary haven in the United States so they don't face deportation to their stricken homeland, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton indicated Thursday.

"The Obama administration is taking steps to make sure that people are given some temporary status so that we don't compound the problem that we face in Haiti," Clinton said on CBS' "The Early Show."

The Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday said it had "halted all removals to Haiti for the time being." On Thursday, Clinton signaled a broader change: giving legal immigration status to undocumented Haitians that could continue well after the crisis.

200 by William E. Gibson in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Specialists see no quick fix to call, text or e-mail Haiti

[HAITI-COMMUNICATIONS:FL](#)—Communications with earthquake-stricken Haiti are tough because links between networks are not working, and restoring full service could take weeks because of shortages of equipment and supplies, communications specialists said Thursday.

"It's not like Florida where you get hit by a hurricane, and you have all the equipment close by to move things and do repairs," said Martin Fierstone, who runs Global Satellite USA, a satellite phone provider in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "They don't have the heavy equipment in Haiti. The port and airport are damaged, It's a logistical nightmare to try to fix things."

500 by Doreen Hemlock. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

WASHINGTON

Obama proposes to tax largest financial firms

[OBAMA-BANKFEES:TBW](#)—Vowing to recover "every single dime the American people are owed," President Barack Obama on Thursday proposed a new tax on the nation's largest financial institutions to recover projected losses from the government's bailouts.

"We want our money back and we're going to get it," Obama said in a short but sharply worded White House speech. "If these companies are in good enough shape to afford massive bonuses, they surely are in good enough shape to afford to pay back every penny to taxpayers."

Obama's tough talk comes amid public anger about big profits and large bonuses at major financial firms as Wall Street — with the help of taxpayer money — has returned to robust fiscal health while much of the nation struggles to recover.

1050 (with trims) by Jim Puzanghera in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Justice Department eyes possible fraud on Wall Street

[ECONOMY-INOQUIRY:WA](#)—Turning its scrutiny to bigger fish in the subprime mortgage scandal, the Justice Department is investigating whether lenders or Wall Street firms defrauded investors in the sale of risky mortgage securities, its Criminal Division chief disclosed Thursday.

"We absolutely are looking at the conduct of the securitizers themselves, and what did they say to those who purchased the

(securities),” Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer told a commission created by Congress to investigate causes of the nation’s economic collapse.

1000 (with trims) by Greg Gordon in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Goldman Sachs: Blankfein didn’t say firm’s practices were ‘improper’

[ECONOMY-INOQUIRY-QUOTES:WA](#)—A day after Lloyd Blankfein, the chairman and chief executive of Goldman Sachs, characterized as “improper” the firm’s practice of betting that securities it was selling as safe would plummet in value, the company denied he said that to the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission.

The full Goldman statement and a transcript of Blankfein’s remarks.

650. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Trading commission proposes curbing speculation in energy markets

[ECONOMY-SPECULATION:WA](#)—In a move aimed at limiting financial speculators’ ability to drive up oil prices, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission on Thursday proposed restrictions on the number of energy contracts that any single investor can hold and new limits on the trading activities of Wall Street banks.

The commission staff proposal comes amid growing research that suggests that the record high oil and gasoline prices in 2008 were due in part to excessive financial speculation. Much of that speculation came from Wall Street powerhouses such as Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

750 (with trims) by Kevin G. Hall in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

White House, union leaders agree to modified Cadillac tax

[HEALTHCARE-TAX:TBW](#)—The White House and labor leaders agreed Thursday on a formula to tax high-cost insurance plans, removing one of the last obstacles to President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul, officials said.

Under the agreement, reached after an intense round of negotiations this week, union leaders dropped their opposition to the so-called Cadillac tax in exchange for concessions to limit its scope. Organized labor had bitterly opposed the health care tax, arguing that union members had negotiated generous benefits in lieu of pay increases.

350 by Janet Hook and Noam N. Levey in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Also moving as:

[HEALTHCARE-TAX:WA](#)—550 (with trims) by David Lightman and Margaret Talev in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Review shows officers ignored red flags in file of Fort Hood suspect

[FORTHOOD:TBW](#)—Several Army officers are expected to face discipline for failing to take action against Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the suspect in the Fort Hood, Texas, shootings, over a series of behavioral and professional problems in the years leading up to the November rampage.

Had corrective action been taken, Hasan’s career might have been cut short before the spree that left 13 people dead, an official familiar with results of a Pentagon review said Thursday.

850 (with trims) by Julian E. Barnes in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [ARCHIVE PHOTOS](#)

Google’s China threat revives interest in technology bill

[CPT-CONGRESS-TECHNOLOGY:WA](#)—Piggybacking on Google’s threat to withdraw from China over censorship issues, several lawmakers in Congress pushed Thursday for a vote on a bill that would regulate U.S. information-technology firms that deal with governments that use the Internet to spy on their own citizens or to hunt down dissidents.

A bipartisan group in the House of Representatives is hoping that Google’s action will revive interest in the Global Online Freedom Act, which has passed various committees but so far has failed to reach the House floor. They called for the House Democratic leadership to put the bill up for a vote.

600 (with trims) by William Douglas in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [GRAPHIC](#)

UNITED STATES

2 Chicago men linked to Mumbai attacks indicted

[TERRORISTPLOT-1ST-LEDE:TB](#)—A new indictment handed down Thursday in a terrorism case with local connections offers the most specific information yet on the roles that two Chicagoans allegedly played in the 2008 terror assault in Mumbai that took some 170 lives.

Tahawwur Rana and David Coleman Headley were indicted, with Rana being formally charged with aiding the planning of the Mumbai assault for the first time. The indictment alleges that Rana knew of the attacks as long ago as 2006, and that he allowed Headley to travel as a representative of his Chicago-based immigration business when Headley went overseas to scout out locations for the attacks on hotels, a train station and other sites.

500 by Jeff Coen in Chicago. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Jewish Federation shooter is sentenced to life in prison

[SEATTLEATTACKS:SE](#)—Naveed Haq insists he’s not the same man who stalked the halls of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle in 2006, killing one woman and wounding five others to vent his hatred of Israel and Judaism.

In a courtroom filled with victims and their relatives, Haq, 34, said Thursday that the man who attacked the federation was filled with rage from mental illness and the wrong medications.

“I am not a man filled with hate,” he said. “That Naveed Haq at the federation that July day was not the real Naveed Haq.”

But before a judge sentenced him to life in prison without parole — an obligatory penalty given his crimes — one victim took the stand and told Haq, “You will spend the rest of your life paying for your choices.”

550 by Jennifer Sullivan in Seattle. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Report: NASA says cocaine found at space shuttle facility

[NASA-COCAINE:OS](#)—The people who work on the space shuttle don’t fly on the orbiters they maintain—but it appears at least one of them was getting high.

A shuttle worker employed by United Space Alliance found a plastic bag with a white powder residue—later confirmed to be cocaine—in a shuttle processing hangar at Kennedy Space Center this week. The worker gave it to NASA security, and roughly 200 workers were given drug tests.

350 by Robert Block in Kennedy Space Center, Fla. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Kansas to charge fees for filing paper state tax returns

[CPT-ONLINETAXES:WI](#)—The state Department of Revenue is trying encourage people to file taxes electronically by charging fees when taxpayers use paper.

Under the request, you would pay \$25 to file a paper income tax return and \$5 for a paper sales or user tax return.

150 by Jeannine Koranda in Topeka, Kan. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

California waits for citizens to cash long-due IOUs

[CALIFORNIA-IOUS:SJ](#)—Talk about debt forgiveness.

According to the two state offices that manage California's checkbook, some 85,600 people and businesses have yet to redeem IOUs worth more than \$45 million — a lingering reminder of last summer's budget woes, when the state found itself too broke to pay its bills and issued billions in scrip.

And if those folks don't redeem their IOUs by September, a year after the Treasurer's Office first began cashing them, they may not get their money at all.

600 by Denis C. Theriault in Sacramento, Calif. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Money and mental health: Experts testify in support of gay marriage

[GAYMARRIAGE:SJ](#)—With the historic trial of a challenge to California's gay marriage ban nearing the end of its first week, two more experts testified Thursday on the negative fallout of denying same-sex couples the right to wed, from costing a local government such as San Francisco's millions of dollars a year to the mental health toll on gays and lesbians across the state.

The Proposition 8 trial resumes Friday morning with the likelihood of a day with a few more fireworks than Thursday's expert-laden testimony.

500 by Howard Mintz in San Francisco. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Man allegedly tortured by Chicago police is freed after 23 years

[TORTURE-SUSPECT-FREED-1ST-LEDE:TB](#)—Freed Thursday after almost a quarter century behind bars, Michael Tillman said it "feels good," but he also had a grim prediction for the Chicago police detectives who allegedly tortured him into confessing.

"They'll get what they got coming," Tillman told reporters in the Cook County Criminal Courts Building. "The system will do to them what they did to me."

Tillman stood in borrowed clothes and nervously fidgeted with a black stocking cap as he addressed the news media moments after special prosecutors dropped charges against him for the 1986 slaying and rape of Betty Howard in an abandoned South Side apartment.

950 (with trims) by Matthew Walberg in Chicago. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Southern California publisher buys Editor and Publisher

[EDITOR-PUBLISHER:LA](#)—Duncan McIntosh Co. Inc., an Irvine, Calif., magazine and newspaper publisher, bought media trade magazine Editor & Publisher from the Nielsen Co. late Thursday afternoon and quickly resumed reporting online.

"We're going to continue to be the main information source, the main idea source for the newspaper industry, with the realization of course that other media sources can provide inspiration and innovation for our industry during this time of transition for newspapers," said Mark Fitzgerald, who was named as E&P's editor Thursday. "We're all very excited around here about the news."

250 by Nathan Olivarez-Giles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

THE WORLD

Drone strike kills 16 in Pakistan's tribal areas

[USPAKISTAN:TB](#)—A U.S. drone missile attack that may have been aimed at Pakistan's most wanted militant killed 16 people in the country's troubled tribal areas Thursday, the latest in a dramatic step-up of such strikes since a Dec. 30 bombing killed seven CIA workers.

In the last two weeks, U.S. drones have carried out at least eight missile strikes in the country's largely ungoverned tribal region along the Afghan border. A video released last week linked the Pakistani Taliban to the suicide bomb attack at a U.S. compound in eastern Afghanistan where the CIA workers were based.

Thursday's early-morning drone strike targeted a suspected militant compound and nearby seminary in the village of Shaktoi along the border of North and South Waziristan, both regions regarded as strongholds for the Taliban and al-Qaida.

Tariq Hayat Khan, a top official with the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, where North and South Waziristan are located, confirmed the strike and said there were initial reports that senior Taliban commanders may have been among the dead.

750 by Alex Rodriguez and Zulfiqar Ali in Islamabad, Pakistan. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Rape allegations put focus on Indonesia's Sharia patrols

[INDONESIA-RAPE:LA](#)—Three members of a newly formed civilian patrol to enforce Islam's strict Sharia law in Indonesia's Aceh province have been accused of gang-raping a 20-year-old university student, authorities there said.

The attack allegedly occurred this month at a small-town police station after the patrol members, known here as the Sharia police, took the woman into custody. Two men, ages 27 and 29, were arrested and one is still being sought, authorities said.

Activists say the accusation deals a serious blow to the credibility of the controversial Sharia police patrols.

400 by Karima Anjani and John M. Glionna in Jakarta, Indonesia. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Deadly bombings strike Iraqi holy city of Najaf

[IRAQ-BOMBINGS-1ST-LEDE:WA](#)—Three bombs exploded in quick succession after sunset Thursday in the southern holy city of Najaf, killing up to 25 people and wounding scores of others, Iraqi Interior Ministry officials said.

The blasts occurred in a crowded open-air fish and vegetable market near the landmark Imam Ali shrine, a popular pilgrimage destination for Shiite Muslims from around the world. The bombings shattered a yearlong lull in violence in Najaf that had allowed the religious tourism industry to flourish, with new hotels and restaurants packed most nights with pilgrims mostly from neighboring Iran.

No firm death toll could be confirmed as of late Thursday. Police and medical workers offered figures compiled by different agencies from the chaotic scene and blood-smeared hospital wards.

750 (with trims) by Qassim Zein and Hannah Allam in Najaf, Iraq. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Cyber attacks on Google, others called 'watershed moment'

[CPT-CHINA-GOOGLE:LA](#)—The scale and sophistication of the cyber attacks on Google Inc. and other large U.S. corporations by hackers in China is raising national security concerns that the Asian superpower is escalating its industrial espionage efforts on the Internet.

While the U.S. focus has been primarily on protecting military and state secrets from cyber spying, a new battle is being waged in which corporate computers and the lucrative intellectual property they hold have become as much of a target of foreign governments as those run by the Pentagon and the CIA.

“This is a watershed moment in the cyber war,” James Mulvenon, director of the national-security firm, Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis at Defense Group Inc., said Thursday.

1150 (with trims) by Jessica Guynn. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Google’s possible retreat from China puts focus on cyber attacks

[CPT-CHINA-CYBERATTACKS:LA](#)— Google’s announcement on Tuesday that it might pull out of the Chinese market has cast a sharp focus on long-standing accusations about the shadowy world of Chinese cyber-hackers.

Since at least 2002, human rights activists have accused the Chinese government and military of infiltrating their computers as well as those maintained by private companies and non-government organizations. The activists say the attacks have spiked during politically sensitive periods — the summer Olympics in Beijing, Tibetan protests in March 2008 and clashes with Uighurs last summer.

850 by Barbara Demick in Beijing. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

SCIENCE, MEDICINE, ENVIRONMENT

New python found in Everglades sparks fears of a ‘super snake’

[ENV-SUPERSNAKE:FL](#)— Fears of a new “super snake” emerging in the Everglades grew this week during a hunt to track South Florida’s invasive python population.

A three-day, state-coordinated hunt that started Tuesday had, by Wednesday, netted at least five African rock pythons — including a 14-foot-long female — in a targeted area in Miami-Dade County.

Those findings add to concerns that the rock python is a new breeding population in the Everglades and not just the result of a few overgrown pets released into the wild, according to the South Florida Water Management District.

400 by Andy Reid in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Cold is good for Florida count of manatees but bad for their health

[ENV-MANATEES:OS](#)—The recent cold weather should make it easier than ever for those tracking manatees in a two-day Florida statewide count of the animals.

On Thursday, manatees huddled together at Orange City, Fla.’s, Blue Spring State Park, their bodies stacked next to one of the wood decks.

Continuing Thursday, wildlife officials are counting manatees throughout the state, with scientific teams flying overhead and surveying on the ground wherever the sea cows can be found.

850 (with trims) by Ludmilla Lelis in Orange City, Fla. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

PEOPLE

Book by suspect in Tylenol murders mentions ‘nut’ who spiked capsules

[TYLENOLMURDERS:TB](#)—First-time author and Tylenol murder suspect James William Lewis may be trying to distance his new science-fiction thriller from the infamous 1982 tampering case, but he couldn’t resist mentioning it in his self-published novel.

Halfway through Lewis’ 374-page fiction piece “Poison!: The Doctor’s Dilemma,” the story narrator refers to the tampering case as “some nut spiked Tylenol capsules with cyanide in 1982, killing several people in Chicago.”

Quite a few federal prosecutors and victim relatives believe that Lewis, himself, was that nut.

550 (with trims) by William Lee in Chicago. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Soul singer Teddy Pendergrass, 59, dies

[PENDERGRASS-OBIT:LA](#)—Teddy Pendergrass, the soul singer who combined hyper-romantic love songs with a virile, sexy stage presence to become the quintessential R&B boudoir crooner before a 1982 car accident left him paralyzed, died Wednesday in his native Philadelphia. He was 59.

Pendergrass, best known for the sandpaper voice behind the 1972 hit “If You Don’t Know Me By Now” while he was with Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, had undergone colon cancer surgery last year and had been in declining health ever since, his son, Teddy Pendergrass II, said in a statement.

1000 (with trims) by Randy Lewis. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTO](#)

Dale Rickards, horse wrangler for movies and TV shows, dies at 88

[RICKARDS-OBIT:LA](#)—Dale Rickards, a self-styled cowboy who wrangled horses for Hollywood and turned his Malibu ranch into a faux western town for location photography, has died. He was 88.

Rickards, who was a retired mounted officer for the Los Angeles Police Department, died of emphysema Dec. 29 at his home in the hills above Malibu, said his son Ron.

After Rickards bought 11 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains in 1957, he built a home. By the early 1980s, he had opened a business there selling and renting western props. The largest prop was the ranch itself, which appears in about a dozen projects a year, mainly commercials, his family said.

700 (with trims) by Valerie J. Nelson in Los Angeles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Mary Thomas, mother of NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas, dies

[THOMAS-OBIT:TB](#)—Mary Thomas’ schooling ended with the third grade, but she always reminded her nine children that she had something she called the “Mother Wit.”

Whatever that was, it proved equal to the task of raising seven boys and two girls on Chicago’s tough West Side.

The mother of NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas, Mary Thomas’ story was told in a 1989 made-for-TV movie starring Alfre Woodard.

Thomas, 86, died Wednesday at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

750 by Trevor Jensen in Chicago. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

HEALTH CARE — PAGINATED PAGE

MCT OnePage compares health care bills

A MCT OnePage, from the McClatchy Washington Bureau, will take a look at similarities and differences between the Senate and House health care legislation.

The full-color paginated page can be found at <http://www.mctdirect.com/onepages/index.php>
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