

Puzzle Over China Data and Rising Smog

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Body

Puzzle Over China Data and Rising Smog

An analysis by Michael Lelyveld

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China's recent energy reports have posed a puzzle for those seeking to understand the connections between slower economic growth and rising urban smog.

Ordinarily, a slowdown in growth would be expected to result in reduced rates of emissions, but China's worst air pollution in its modern history seems an exception to the rule.

Official economic and energy reports for 2013 have pointed in conflicting directions.

Last year's gross domestic product (GDP), the broadest measure of economic activity, rose 7.7 percent, matching the growth level of 2012 as the lowest since 1999.

Growth in industrial output of 9.7 percent also weakened from the 10-percent pace of 2012, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.

Yet power consumption climbed 7.5 percent in 2013, considerably more than the 5.5-percent gain a year earlier, according to the National Energy Administration (NEA).

Electricity use is often cited as a more reliable indicator of economic activity than official GDP, suggesting China's performance last year may not have been as lackluster as it appeared, The Wall Street Journal said on Jan. 20.

Confusing indicators

But it is unclear whether China produced more economic value last year or simply used more electricity.

The question is complicated by other ambiguous indicators.

Implied oil demand rose just 1.6 percent, the weakest yearly rate in more than two decades, Reuters reported.

According to state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), the growth in apparent oil consumption was 1.7 percent, which it called the smallest in 13 years.

The oil figures seem to conflict with the more bullish implications of electricity use and the rise in urban smog.

But the results reported by the coal industry are even more curious.

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The China National Coal Association (CNCA) reported that growth in coal consumption slowed to 2.6 percent last year, reaching 3.61billion metric tons.

The rate is slightly more than the 2.5-percent growth reported by the NBS for 2012, but still seemingly at odds with the 7.5-percent rise in electricity use, since coal is China's main fuel for power.

'A difficult question'

Philip Andrews-Speed, a China energy expert at National University of Singapore, said the question of conflicting reports is "a really difficult one."

"Why so much extra electricity with so little extra coal?" Andrews-Speed asked.

China has made great strides in renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, as well as natural gas, but probably not enough to account for the discrepancy between power and coal consumption growth.

According to the 2013 World Energy Outlook of the Paris-based International Energy Agency, coal supplied 88 percent of China's electricity demand in 2011, suggesting consumption should have advanced on parallel tracks.

Between 1990 and 2011, the share of coal consumption accounted for by power generation doubled from 26 to 52 percent, Andrews-Speed said.

Slumping coal prices for most of last year might also have been expected to encourage consumption. China's five major power companies reported an 18-percent jump in combined profits last year thanks to low coal prices, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The difficulty posed by China's data is compounded by the fact that it comes from such a variety of sources, including the NBS, the NEA, and industry, while official GDP figures are frequently criticized as unreliable.

A Xinhua report on Jan. 23 noted that the sum of provincial-level GDP figures for last year exceeded the national total by 2 trillion yuan (U.S. \$330 billion), even before three of the 31 provincial governments had submitted results.

Common inconsistencies

Such inconsistencies in NBS estimates have been common over the past decade.

"One plus one equals two. But it's not always the case when you are talking about the calculating of local and national GDP data in China," Xinhua said, calling the addition error "a somewhat peculiar math problem."

But Andrews-Speed said 2013 was not unique in its apparent conflicts with energy data. Over the past 13 years, China has recorded similarly large and unexplained gaps in growth rates between power and coal consumption during the periods 2000-2002 and 2007-2008.

Andrews-Speed said the answer to the puzzle may be contained in research by China energy expert Kevin Jianjun Tu, formerly of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

In a 2011 paper for Stanford University, Tu found that the sum of coal consumption figures from the provinces has frequently topped national totals by as much as 500 million tons annually for the past decade. The excess is suspected to be a sign of illegitimate trade in coal.

Andrews-Speed noted that the biggest discrepancies in reporting correspond to the years with the greatest gaps in consumption growth between coal and power.

The correlation suggests that China may be burning far more coal than estimated in the industry reports, Andrews-Speed said.

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If so, that could explain the big difference between growth rates in coal and power consumption last year and, more importantly, the big increase in urban smog.

Copyright (c) 1998-2011, RFA. Used with the permission of Radio Free Asia, 2025 M St. NW, Suite 300, Washington DC 20036. -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DCD -ST_SN- COMMERCE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CDDDD2034q8A9Q -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Commerce Department Blog Document -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- COM -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- After State of the Union Secretary Lew Highlights Importance of U.S. Manufacturing and Workforce Training -ST_LP- Commerce Department Blog Document Guest blog post by Marissa Hopkins Secreto, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs at the United States Department of the Treasury and Angie Martinez, Director Office of External Affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. -ST_TD- Crossposted from Treasury Notes. As part of President Obama's call for creating more high-tech manufacturing jobs in his State of the Union Address last week, Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew visited the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM) in Prince George County, Virginia, on Friday. Secretary Lew toured CCAM's facility and discussed the future of U.S. manufacturing and the importance of workforce training with CCAM's business and university partners, as well as Matt Erskine, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. "To build on the progress we have made over the last five years, we have to continue to take action to help strengthen economic growth, create jobs, and restore opportunity for all," Secretary Lew said in statement about his visit. "CCAM is at the forefront of expanding opportunity by bringing researchers, students, and business together to drive innovation and develop advanced manufacturing technologies. It is also a powerful example of why this Administration's focus on increasing job training, modernizing our education system, and creating manufacturing institutes is so important." CCAM is changing the game for how we can grow manufacturing in the U.S. Their approach bridges the gap between fundamental research typically performed at universities and product development routinely performed by companies. CCAM's members guide the research, leveraging talent and resources within CCAM and at Virginia's top universities, through a collaborative model that enables them to pool R&D efforts to increase efficiencies. Results can then be applied directly to the factory floor, turning ideas into jobs faster and more affordably than ever before. CCAM is just one example of the federal government's efforts to connect universities to businesses and strengthen American manufacturing and our economy through these partnerships. The U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) has been a key partner in the development of CCAM since its inception. In May 2011, EDA invested \$4 million to help build the CCAM facility, which opened in September 2012. The 62,000 square-foot state-of-the-art building serves as the physical hub for university and corporation collaboration. In October 2013, EDA, through the Administration's multi-agency Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP), awarded a \$280,600 strategic planning grant to CCAM to help develop an Advanced Manufacturing Apprentice Academy Center to prepare workers in the region for careers in advanced manufacturing. Friday's visit to CCAM reinforces the Administration's commitment to investing in high-tech manufacturing, research and development, and job training in order to promote real, lasting economic opportunity for all. To make sure America is better positioned than ever to compete globally, the President has proposed launching four new manufacturing institutes in 2014, a government-wide review of federal training programs to help Americans get skills in demand for good jobs, and expanding apprenticeships by mobilizing business, community colleges and labor. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DCD -ST_SN- COMMERCE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CDDDD2034q9A9R -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Commerce Department Blog Document -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- COM -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker Begins First Official Trade Mission in Mexico -ST_LP- Commerce Department Blog Document U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, officially began her five-day trade mission to Mexico today, starting the trip in Mexico City. She is joined by representatives from 17 U.S. companies looking to expand partnerships and develop effective strategies for accessing and doing business in the Mexican market. -ST_TD- The focus of this trade mission is to promote U.S. exports to Mexico by helping export-ready U.S. companies launch or increase their business in a number of key industry sectors including advanced manufacturing, information and communications technology, and health IT and medical devices. The companies joining the Secretary address the demand of these growing industries in Mexico. "The 17 companies who have joined me on this important mission represent the best of American business. These outstanding and innovative companies understand that selling American products overseas is a crucial component to growing and creating jobs," U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker said. "I

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am delighted we can help these companies expand their presence in Mexico through this business development mission." The U.S.-Mexico bilateral relationship is among the United States' closest and most extensive in the world and one of the reasons it was selected by Secretary Pritzker as the destination for her first trade mission. Mexico is the United States' third-largest trading partner, and approximately \$1.3 billion of merchandise trade and one million people cross the 2,000 mile shared border daily. In addition, deeply integrated supply chains in North America and an established free trade agreement make it easy for Mexico and the U.S. to do business with one another. The Department of Commerce recognizes that there is incredible potential for both countries to deepen their economic relationship and for U.S. and Mexican companies to do business together. With common values and shared aspirations for prosperity, it is a crucial relationship for both nations, and with Canada's involvement, it can help make the North American platform the most competitive in the world. During her trade mission to Mexico, the Secretary will meet with U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Tony Wayne, Secretary of Finance Luis Videgaray, Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal, Secretary of Communications and Transportation Gerardo Ruis Esparza, Minister of Health Mercedes Juan Lopez, state and city government officials, and CEOs of Mexican and U.S. companies. Additional details about the Secretary's mission to Mexico City and Monterrey will be announced in the coming days.

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That's because Youngstown has a first-of-its-kind manufacturing innovation institute, and is being used as a model for the creation of a National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI). Recently, I urged my colleagues to pass the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act (RAMI). This bipartisan legislation-which was endorsed by the Senate manufacturing Caucus-would establish a Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NMI) and create thousands of high paying, high-tech manufacturing jobs. This network will retain U.S. leadership in a range of next-generation technologies, capitalize on our investment in basic research, and create thousands of high pay, high tech manufacturing jobs. By leveraging existing infrastructure and pockets of innovation across the country, NNMI provides small businesses with access to the tools and expertise needed to compete in the global economy. This will create regional magnets for cutting-edge research, talented students, and additional investments. Collaboration is critical for our success - and an NNMI would provide small businesses and research institutions access to the tools and expertise needed to compete in the global economy. And it can also spur the creation of regional hubs of advanced manufacturing throughout the U.S. The President's State of the Union address laid groundwork for opportunities Congress can take to work together on commonsense efforts that create jobs, promote economic development, and improve the lives of all Americans. Democrats and Republicans shouldn't be fighting each other; we should be fighting for the middle class. We have a chance to set aside partisan differences and remember who we're fighting for. And if we do that, we might even see bipartisanship emerge as an unintended - but certainly welcome - side effect. Sincerely, Signature Sherrod Brown U.S. Senator -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A - ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1x502032014A9T -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- McConnell Urges President to Join Republicans in Expanding Job Opportunities through Keystone and Free Trade -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents Monday, February 03, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Don Stewart, Michael Brumas 202-224-2979, Robert Steurer, Stephanie Penn 202-224-8288 McConnell Urges President to Join Republicans in Expanding Job Opportunities through Keystone and Free Trade 'America's middle class is hurting. The very least Washington can do for them is approve job-creating initiatives like Keystone and enhancing American exports.' Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell made the following remarks on the Senate floor today calling on the President to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline and to urge his fellow congressional Democrats to support legislation that would enhance American exports: "In his State of the Union speech last week, President Obama promised America a 'year of action.' "He says he wants to use his 'pen and his phone' to make it happen. "Well, here's what I say: use that pen and that phone of yours today for Keystone XL Pipeline jobs. "Here's something both can parties agree on. "Here's your chance to work with Republicans on a bipartisan plan to create thousands of private-sector jobs today. "Here's your chance to show you're not captive to the ideological extremists on the Left. "Here's your chance for action - on a policy the American people actually want. "Here's your chance, Mr. President. "On Friday, the State Department released yet another report concluding what the President and everyone else already knew: that Keystone XL would meet the President's stated requirements on the environment; that there basically was no good reason not to build it. "So here's a project that essentially wouldn't cost the taxpayers a dime to build, that would have almost no net environmental effect, and that would put thousands of Americans to work right away. It's an initiative that's supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans it is supported by unions, by businesses, by Republicans and independents and even by prominent Democrats - close to 20 in the Senate alone. "And yet, the President has delayed and delayed for more than five years now. Not because the project really needs to be studied further, but because of pressure from the most doctrinaire fringe of the Doctrinaire Left. "These are the kind of folks who care a lot more about ideology than what makes sense for the middle class. "And yet, these are the same folks who have a lot of influence in today's Democrat Party. "Just look at the War on Coal - a war that's being waged with scant concern for the lives of people who live in states like Kentucky. People are hurting, and it doesn't seem to matter much to these folks. "So here's the thing: The President has run out of excuses on Keystone. It's way past time to make a decision, and let's be honest: this decision shouldn't be a hard one. "Because the science, the economics, and common sense all basically point in one direction. "And as far as I can tell, ideology is really the only thing that could lead to a different decision here. "So, is President Obama on the side of the middle class, or is he on the side of left-wing special interests? "He needs to use that pen to show us where he stands. Today. "And, while he's at it, he should pick up the phone too. "Because, in his State of the Union address, the President called for Congress to help break down trade barriers that stand in the way of more American jobs. He called for legislation that would help prevent foreign countries from taking the trade jobs that should be going to America's middle class. "China and Europe aren't standing on the sidelines,' he said, and 'neither should we.' "Republicans

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applauded him for that. He's absolutely right. But now the President's own party is now standing in the way of getting anything done. So if ever there was a moment for the President to use his phone, this is it. "Because trade should be a bipartisan issue. It sure used to be. Just ask President Clinton. "America's middle class is hurting. The very least Washington can do for them is approve job-creating initiatives like Keystone and enhancing American exports. "So we'll see soon enough if the President meant what he said about his pen and his phone - if his 'year of action' will really be just that, instead of yet another tired slogan. "The answer here is pretty simple: the President needs to lead. "Middle class Americans have taken a backseat to the hard-left extremists in this town for too long. "It's time for the President to stand up to these folks and do the right thing. Pick up that phone and that pen and get this done." -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1x602032014A9U -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Reid Remarks On The Need To Extend Unemployment Insurance -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Adam Jentleson, (202) 224-2939 Reid Remarks On The Need To Extend Unemployment Insurance "In the three weeks since Republicans filibustered a bill to extend this important program, 220,000 more Americans have lost their benefits. And state economies across the country have suffered, as unemployed people who were already getting by on so little find ways to survive on even less." "It's no wonder two-thirds of Americans - including 65 percent of Independents - believe we should extend unemployment assistance. Helping neighbors who have hit hard times is not only the compassionate thing to do. It's also the smart thing to do for our economy." "I remain cautiously optimistic that Republicans will heed their constituents at home and help Democrats restore emergency benefits to Americans in need. Congress can't solve every problem. But we can solve this one. All we have to do is work together." Washington, D.C. - Nevada Senator Harry Reid spoke on the Senate floor today regarding the bipartisan farm bill conference report and the importance of restoring emergency unemployment benefits. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery: Tonight the Senate will vote to end debate on the farm bill conference report. I expect the Senate to conclude work on this measure, which will reduce the deficit and protect hungry families, after tomorrow's weekly caucus meetings. Passing this legislation will support our nation's farmers and ranchers, and more than 16 million jobs in the farm industry. Ensuring our farms remain the most productive in the world and protecting American agriculture jobs is vital to our economic recovery. I commend Chairwoman Stabenow for her skillful negotiation of this conference report, and I look forward to a strong bipartisan vote on final passage tomorrow. As we continue to work toward final passage of the farm bill conference report, a bipartisan group of Senators has been working behind the scenes to reach an agreement to restore emergency unemployment benefits to 1.6 million Americans. In the three weeks since Republicans filibustered a bill to extend this important program, 220,000 more Americans have lost their benefits. And state economies across the country have suffered, as unemployed people who were already getting by on so little find ways to survive on even less. When unemployment benefits dry up, customers disappear from local stores and business suffers. More than \$2.2 billion has drained from state economies since emergency unemployment insurance expired. Nevada alone lost \$29 million in economic activity last month. And \$28 million has drained from the economy in the Republican Leader's home state of Kentucky since emergency benefits expired on December 31. It's no wonder two-thirds of Americans - including 65 percent of Independents - believe we should extend unemployment assistance. Helping neighbors who have hit hard times is not only the compassionate thing to do. It's also the smart thing to do for our economy. Since Republicans filibustered a bill to restore benefits without adding a penny to the deficit, the toll on local and national economies has been devastating. But the toll on unemployed Americans has been immeasurable. For people who have worked all their lives and who lost their jobs through no fault of their own, being unemployed is difficult enough. But worrying about how to pay the rent, put gas in the car and buy groceries while they look for a new job can be demoralizing. And for the long-term unemployed - some of whom have been struggling to find work for more than a year - \$300 a week in unemployment benefits can be the difference between keeping a roof over their heads or becoming homeless. A 57-year-old Nevada woman wrote to me last week to say the loss of her unemployment check was the last straw. Now she's homeless and "couch surfing" - sleeping on the couches of friends kind enough to take her in. This is what she wrote to me: "Can you imagine sleeping on friends' couches at my age" Can you imagine having to sell everything you worked hard for just to keep gas in the car in the event that someone calls for an interview?" She went on to say this: "I have worked my whole life, since I was 16 years old, and contributed to a system that is now failing me on a major scale." Millions of people just like this unfortunate Nevada woman - people who have worked hard all their lives, contributed to their communities and played by the rules - are on the verge of losing everything. But it doesn't have to be this way. I remain cautiously

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optimistic that Republicans will heed their constituents at home and help Democrats restore emergency benefits to Americans in need. Congress can't solve every problem. But we can solve this one. All we have to do is work together - Democrats and Republicans - to do what is right for our constituents, our country and our economy. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1x702032014A9V -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- ROCKEFELLER PRESSES DATA BROKERS FOR DETAILS ON VULNERABILITY-BASED MARKETING TOOLS -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Kevin McAlister, 202-224-8374 ROCKEFELLER PRESSES DATA BROKERS FOR DETAILS ON VULNERABILITY-BASED MARKETING TOOLS Committee seeks information from companies selling products that identify consumers based on their financial or health challenges WASHINGTON, D.C. - Chairman John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV is **asking** six data brokers for information on the compilation and sale of products that identify consumers based on their financial vulnerability or health status. Rockefeller brought attention to this industry practice during the Committee's December 18, 2013, hearing titled, "What Information Do Data Brokers Have on Consumers, and How Do They Use It?", and it was also highlighted in the majority staff report released at the hearing. "I am concerned that data brokers are categorizing vulnerable consumers based on their economic and health challenges, and selling that information without consumer knowledge or consent," Rockefeller said. "As I said during the hearing in December, I want to know which companies are buying these types of products to target their marketing to these groups of consumers." As discussed in the Committee majority staff report, data brokers compile detailed dossiers on consumers and sell products that group them based on judgments about their characteristics and predicted behavior. Privacy experts have raised serious concerns regarding the sale and dissemination of lists identifying a consumer's fragile health or financial circumstances without the consumer's knowledge or permission. They argue that segmenting and selling vulnerable consumers' information can facilitate practices that cause real consumer harm, such as identifying who should wait longer for customer service, or targeting consumers more likely to buy financially risky products. During the hearing, Rockefeller also expressed his deep concerns about this practice. Rockefeller sent letters today to six companies, including two - NextMark, Inc. and MEDbase200 - that were highlighted in testimony presented at the hearing as data brokers that produce lists of consumers exhibiting certain financial and health characteristics, such as "Empty Wallets," "African American Pay Day Loan Responders," and "Dementia Sufferers". Four other letters were issued to Acxiom, Epsilon, Experian, and Lexis Nexis - companies that were part of Rockefeller's initial inquiry into data brokers that sell products focused on consumers' financial circumstances. Rockefeller noted that the letters sought information "necessary for the Committee's assessment of the potential consumer harms and benefits associated with data broker practices." The Chairman pointed out that despite repeated requests, three of the largest data brokers - Acxiom, Experian, and Epsilon - have refused to provide information related to both purchasers and sources of their consumer data. A copy of the letter is available here <http://www.commerce.senate.gov/public/?a=Files.Serve&Fileid=ba61630e-dc23-4f3b-a2ec-1bd5c46a15c2>. The letters were sent to: . NextMark, Inc. . MEDbase200 . Acxiom . Epsilon . Experian . LexisNexis Background: In October 2012, Rockefeller launched an investigation into the data broker industry to give consumers a better understanding of how their personal information may be collected, shared, and used. Rockefeller expanded the investigation in September 2013 when he sent letters to twelve popular personal finance, health, and family-focused websites. He requested their **assistance** in his ongoing investigation into the way data brokers collect and share a consumer's personal information. He further expanded the investigation in November 2013 following news reports alleging an Experian subsidiary sold data to an identity theft scheme, sending a letter to Experian **asking** for information related to the company's vetting process along with lists of all customers and sources of consumer data. On December 18, 2013, the Committee held a hearing on this topic and released a majority staff report on the findings of the investigation to date. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1x801312014A9W -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- ICYMI: Chairman Murray keeps pressure on House Republicans to walk back debt limit demands -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents In case you missed some of the stories coming out of Secretary Lew's lunch yesterday with Senate Democrats... -ST_TD- Politico - Jack Lew to Senate Democrats: Pass clean debt hike (Burgess Everett): Treasury Secretary Jack Lew on Thursday told Senate Democrats they must pass a clean debt ceiling increase by the end of February. Leaving a party lunch, the ideologically diverse Democratic Caucus appeared largely united in supporting a lift in the country's borrowing authority without offering

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concessions to Republicans. Along with liberal senators, moderates like Sens. Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) and Mary Landrieu (D-La.) both indicated they would prefer a clean bill over one laden with policy changes..."We just had a budget agreement, we have appropriations, we determined where our spending is going to be. We have to pay our bills for that," said Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-Wash.). "Why would anybody throw a black cloud on the economy when we are just starting to get back on our feet?" [1/30/14] Washington Post - Jack Lew: White House 'not paying ransom' on debt ceiling (Ed O'Keefe): Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew and other top administration officials repeatedly told Democratic senators Thursday that the White House is "not paying ransom" to congressional Republicans in order to secure another increase in the federal debt limit..."There is no reason to hold anything hostage to getting a debt ceiling raise," Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray (D-Wash.) said after the meeting. "We just had a budget agreement, we had an appropriations bill, we determined where our spending is going to be, we now have a responsibility as the managers of this country to pay for that." [1/30/14] The Hill - Lew urges Senate **Dems** to hold firm on debt limit (Erik Wasson and Peter Schroder): Treasury Secretary Jack Lew huddled with Senate Democrats at lunch on Thursday, telling them not to negotiate with Republicans on the debt ceiling. Lew reminded **lawmakers** that the nation's ability to borrow officially ends Feb. 7 and that while the Treasury was able to buy months of time in the past, its toolbox of "extraordinary measures" will last less than a month this time around. Lew has said the government could miss a payment by the end of February... Democrats remain adamant that the debt limit is not up for debate, especially now that the economy is back on the right road. "The economy is starting to improve and the reason that we need to have the debt ceiling lifted -- we just had a budget agreement, we had appropriations, we determined where our spending is going to be, we have to pay the bills for that. Why would anybody throw a black cloud on our economy right now when we are just getting back on our feet?" Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) said. [1/30/14] Washington Post - Economy grew **3.2** percent in fourth quarter, fueling hopes for faster recovery (Ylan Q. Mui): ...Lew told Senate Democrats that he will need another suspension or an increase in the limit before the end of February to avoid defaulting on the nation's obligations. The national debt stands at nearly \$17.**3** trillion. "There is no reason to hold anything hostage to getting a debt ceiling raise," Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray (D-Wash.) said after the lunch meeting. "We just had a budget agreement. We had an appropriations bill. We determined where our spending is going to be. We now have a responsibility as the managers of this country to pay for that." [1/30/14] National Journal - Senate **Dems** Very Carefully Plot 2014 Strategy (Michael Catalini): Mindful of competitive races in conservative states, Senate Democrats are building out an agenda for the rest of 2014, taking up the populist parts of President Obama's State of the Union and laying aside issues that stir intraparty division....Bashing the GOP over the debt ceiling has become as much an arrow in the Democrats' political quiver as they expect the economic issues will be. Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray of Washington has recently increased her pleas to Republicans not to hold the debt limit "hostage," and on Wednesday Democrats met with Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew behind closed doors in the Capitol to discuss the high-stakes deadline, which he said could be reached in late February or early March, according to Senate Democratic aides. "We just had a budget agreement. We have appropriations; we determined where our spending is going to be," Murray said Wednesday. "We have to pay our bills for that." [1/30/14] -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1x901312014A9X -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Murray comment on House GOP debt limit wish list discussion -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents For those of you covering the House GOP retreat debt limit conversation, below is a quote you can use from Chairman Murray. Let me know if you have any questions or need anything else. -ST_TD- "The more time Republicans spend dreaming up their latest debt limit wish list, the closer they are pushing workers and the economy toward another completely unnecessary crisis. The American people are sick and tired of Republicans playing games with our economic recovery and Democrats have made it clear that Republicans don't get to demand a ransom simply for allowing Congress to do its job. Hopefully Republicans will stop worrying about keeping the Tea Party happy and will work with us to prevent a default the way they've done the last two times, but this time without the drama and needless uncertainty." As a reminder, Murray sent a letter to her colleagues last week <http://www.budget.senate.gov/democratic/index.cfm/pressreleases---statements?ContentRecordId=8be0f5df-34d9-4de3-b241-c2119b0ed7a5&ContentTypeId=40fa0d81-5955-4941-88e6-75ce8cfd67b4&98533c0c-fb7f-4c08-9a85-cdcbe5fc6c8&Groupid=2ae1491e-2251-4893-9fae-fdfc42eda2f3> calling on Republicans to drop their debt limit brinkmanship and has been keeping the pressure on them as their leaders have tried to figure out how to get their caucus to come around on an issue they've caved on twice before. Eli Zupnick Communications Director Senate

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Budget Committee - Majority Staff Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chairman 624 Dirksen Senate Office Building (202) 224-5398 -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1y101312014A9Y -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Deficit Reduction: The 2014 Farm Bill -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents January 31, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Ben Becker, (202) 224-5466 benbecker@ag.senate.gov Deficit Reduction: The 2014 Farm Bill In 2011, the House and Senate Agriculture Committees set a goal of **cutting** \$23 billion from agriculture programs. This Farm Bill ensures that, including sequester, the bill yields a total of \$23 billion in **cuts** to program spending, meeting the committees' deficit reduction goal. Farm Bill Savings The Farm Bill achieves major reform by ending direct payment subsidies, accounting for the bulk of the Farm Bill's spending **cuts**. Savings are achieved in nutrition programs by addressing fraud and misuse; these changes do not remove anyone from food **assistance** programs and ensures that every person receives 100% of the benefits they are intended to under the current rules of the program. Savings in conservation are achieved by streamlining and consolidating 23 programs into 13, while strengthening tools to protect land and water - an approach supported by hundreds of conservation organizations across the country. Farm subsidy programs were **cut** far more significantly than any other area of the budget under the Agriculture Committees' jurisdiction. By comparison, farm subsidy programs were **cut** by 31%, while nutrition programs were reduced 1%. Farm Bill Savings Overview (Total: \$37.3 billion): * Farm subsidy programs: \$23.3 billion * Nutrition: \$8.0 billion * Conservation: \$6.0 billion Farm Bill Investments A portion of the above gross savings is reinvested back into key priorities that help protect farmers and create jobs - like strengthening risk management programs, bio-energy production, bolstering research, expanding fruits and vegetables programs. These investments total \$14.2 billion. Farm Bill Investments Overview (Total: \$14.2 billion): * Crop Insurance: \$5.7 billion * Livestock Disaster **Assistance**: \$3.7 billion * Energy, Research, Rural Development, Fruit and Vegetable, other programs: \$3.9 billion * Dairy program: \$912 million With all spending **cuts** and investments, the 2014 Farm Bill reduces the deficit by a net total of \$23 billion. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1y201312014A9Z -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- What Supporters of Food **Assistance** Programs Are Saying About Farm Bill Food Stamp Policy -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents January 31, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Ben Becker, 202-224-5466 benbecker@ag.senate.gov What Supporters of Food **Assistance** Programs Are Saying About Farm Bill Food Stamp Policy For more information on the Farm Bill's savings in food **assistance**, go to:

<http://www.ag.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/2014-farm-bill-addressing-misuse-protecting-food-assistance>. Bob Greenstein, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: "Congress did not intend for states to stretch the benefit rules this way and longstanding [food stamp] supporters like myself find it difficult to defend... It's difficult to defend the practice of giving people higher benefits for supposedly paying bills they don't, in fact, pay... If Congress doesn't address the weakness in the SUA rules, SNAP's opponents surely will use it to tarnish the program in the public mind as they lay the groundwork for more radical and damaging changes to the program." Additionally, the Farm Bill "includes provisions designed to provide SNAP households with more access to healthy food outlets such as farmers' markets, to ensure that retailers that participate in the program offer a healthy variety of foods for sale, and to tighten retailer compliance with SNAP rules." The New York Times Editorial Board: "On balance, the bill is clearly worthy of support, particularly because it will prevent austerity fanatics in future Congresses from gutting food stamps for the next five years... Most of [those affected] live in the 16 states that have taken advantage of a loophole in a utility-**assistance** program, receiving benefits that Congress did not intend. That loophole should have been closed..." Washington Post Editorial Board This "loophole... costs taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars each year -- and gives an otherwise vital component of the social safety net a black eye." "This maneuver results in many people receiving money based on utility expenses they did not actually incur." For Members of Congress looking to gut food stamps, this "looks less like a clever way to help the poor and more like a political gift to SNAP's perennial opponents." The Farm Bill's policy would affect "only 4?percent of all SNAP families," and "crucially, none would lose basic eligibility." Oran Hesterman, Fair Food Network: "Congress should pass this farm bill." The 2014 Farm Bill "is the best chance we have of protecting the integrity of this program, which is critical to the food security of low-income Americans... With incentive programs like those supported by the farm bill, we can begin to turn SNAP from strictly an anti-hunger program into an anti-hunger and pro-health program." "This farm bill limits some of the egregious payments to rich, corporate farms that should have been done away with long ago. Many of the likely provisions promote healthy food systems in unprecedented ways. I have hope that we can improve our

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nation's nutrition **assistance** to better serve both farmers and those in need. Congress should pass the farm bill and bring us closer to that reality." Additional reading: Washington Post editorial ("Congress should close a food stamp loophole"):

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/congress-should-close-a-food-stamp-loophole/2013/12/30/23736316-699c-11e3-8b5b-a77187b716a3story.html> Bob Greenstein commentary:

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4081> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Analysis:

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4082> -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1y301312014B01 -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Sen. Murkowski Comments on State Report on Keystone XL -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents January 31, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Robert Dillon (202) 224-6977 Chester Carson (202) 224-5305 Sen. Murkowski Comments on State Report on Keystone XL WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) today commented on the Obama administration's release of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on the Keystone XL Pipeline, which can be found on the State Department's website <http://1.usa.gov/LizMVU>. "Today's report from the State Department report has once again determined that the Keystone XL pipeline - which would mean thousands of jobs for Americans - would not cause a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions," Murkowski said. "It's now been more than five years since TransCanada first applied for a permit - it's time for the president to stop stalling and approve this shovel-ready project." The Obama administration has 90 days from the release of the State Department's review to find that building the pipeline is in the national interest. "The president has called for this to be a year of action," Murkowski said. "What better way to start the year than by approving a project that will create thousands of jobs and assist one of our closest allies in the world" All the president has to do is find the Keystone XL pipeline in the national interest - just as he did with the Alberta Clipper pipeline in 2009. It's truly not that difficult. After five years of delay, the decision should already be made." Murkowski is Alaska's senior senator and the ranking Republican on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Robert Dillon Communications Director Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (202) 224 6977 office, (202) 285 6783 mobile robertdillon@energy.senate.gov -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1y401312014B02 -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Pryor: It's Time To Build the Keystone Pipeline -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents January 31, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Michael Teague, 501-324-6336 Pryor: It's Time To Build the Keystone Pipeline Once again, we've received a favorable environmental review on the Keystone Pipeline, and once again, I'm calling on the President to approve this project. We cannot afford to wait any longer. Let's build the Keystone Pipeline so we can ensure our future energy security and create jobs here at home. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOS1y502022014B03 -ST_PD- 20140202 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Senate Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Levin releases statement in response to Clinton letter on Iran sanctions legislation -ST_LP- U.S. Senate Documents Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Tara Andringa, (202) 228-3685 Levin releases statement in response to Clinton letter on Iran sanctions legislation WASHINGTON - Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, issued the following statement today in reaction to a letter he received from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton offering her thoughts on legislation to impose new sanction on Iran while nuclear talks are ongoing: "This is a thoughtful, persuasive argument from an experienced, respected senior official. It makes clear Secretary Clinton's belief that tough sanctions helped bring Iran to the negotiating table, and that Congress and the administration are poised to act if Iran violates its commitments or fails to negotiate in good faith toward a final agreement. Her letter is another strong signal to Congress that we should not take any legislative action at this time that would damage international unity or play into the hands of hard-liners in Iran who oppose negotiations." Clinton's letter is available here <http://levin.senate.gov/download/clintonlettertocliransanctions>. It same in response to a letter from Levin <http://levin.senate.gov/download/cllettertoclintoniransanctions> asking for Clinton's thoughts on the issue. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOH1y602032014B04 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Democratic Leaders Introduce Net Neutrality Legislation -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents Committee on Energy and Commerce -ST_TD- Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member February 3, 2014 Karen

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Lightfoot (Waxman): (202) 225-5735 Charles Stewart (Eshoo): (202) 225-8104 Giselle Barry (Markey): (202) 224-2742 Democratic Leaders Introduce Net Neutrality Legislation WASHINGTON, DC- Today Reps. Henry A. Waxman and Anna G. Eshoo introduced H.R. 3982, the Open Internet Preservation Act, with a Senate companion bill to be introduced by Sen. Ed Markey, to protect consumers and innovation online. Last month, the D.C. Circuit struck down the Federal Communications Commission's Open Internet rules preventing broadband providers from blocking or discriminating against content online. The bill would restore these rules until the FCC takes new, final action in the Open Internet proceeding. Original co-sponsors of the bills are: Reps. Waxman, Eshoo, Frank Pallone, Jr., Doris Matsui, Mike Doyle, Zoe Lofgren, Jan Schakowsky, Michael E. Capuano, and Suzan DelBene and Sens. Markey, Richard Blumenthal, Al Franken, Tom Udall, Ron Wyden, and Jeff Merkley. "The Internet is an engine of economic growth because it has always been an open platform for competition and innovation," said Rep. Waxman, Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. "Our bill very simply ensures that consumers can continue to access the content and applications of their choosing online. The FCC can and must quickly exercise the authorities the D.C. Circuit recognized to reinstate the Open Internet rules. Our bill makes clear that consumers and innovators will be protected in the interim." "With the recent D.C. Circuit appeals court ruling, the open Internet as we know it suffered a blow. By striking down rules that prevented broadband providers from discriminating against or even blocking online content, the Court's decision threatens the openness and freedom that has defined the success of the Internet. Although the Court struck down the FCC's 'no-blocking' and 'nondiscrimination' rules, it explicitly affirmed the agency's authority to oversee broadband services in the United States," said Rep. Eshoo, Ranking Member of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee. "I'm introducing legislation today to reinstate the FCC's open Internet rules until the Commission adopts replacement rules. This bill ensures that consumers, not their Internet service provider, are in the driver's seat when it comes to their online experience. The free and open Internet has been a pillar of our country's growing economy, unparalleled technological innovation, and even global social movements. It is the backbone of our digital world, and I intend to keep it that way." "The open nature of the Internet has made it the most successful commercial and communications medium in history," said Sen. Markey, a member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. "The Internet's vitality and openness drives competition, innovation and job creation and we need to ensure it remains a level playing field for consumers and innovators in the wake of the D.C. Circuit Court decision. This bill ensures consumers are protected until the FCC uses its clear authority, as recognized by the court, to put in place replacement rules. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this important legislation forward." "Keeping the Internet free from gatekeeper control is essential to ensuring consumers have access to the content, websites and services of their choice," said Sen. Blumenthal, member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. "Until the D.C. Circuit Court's recent decision, broadband companies had been barred from blocking content they dislike or holding innovative new services hostage for higher and higher tolls. This bill would reinstate principles of choice and freedom on the Internet and protect consumers and entrepreneurs." "The Internet is an open marketplace where everyone can participate on equal footing," said Sen. Franken, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law. "And that's the way it should be-the website of a Minnesota small business should load as quickly as the website of a large corporation. However, the FCC's rules for net neutrality were struck down last month. I immediately wrote to the FCC to press for swift action to preserve open and equal access to the Internet. This legislation is an important part of that effort." "The D.C. Circuit decision threatens network neutrality standards that preserve free speech, promote innovation, and help Internet entrepreneurs compete on a level playing field with established companies," said Sen. Udall, chair of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations subcommittee. "Our legislation would restore the open Internet rules gutted by the court order and protect the open Internet we enjoy today until the FCC is able to address the issue. I urge Congress to hold a vote on our bill as soon as possible. And ultimately, I encourage the FCC to use its existing authority to ensure that the Internet continues to be an open platform for all." The full text of the bill is available online here http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Bil_I-Text-Waxman-Eshoo-Open-Internet-Preservation-Act-2014-1-24.pdf. A bill summary is available online here <http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/HR-3982-Open-Internet-Bill-Summary-2014-1-24.pdf>. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDP0H1y702032014B05 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Hastings Celebrates Black History Month -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents February 03, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Evan Polisar (202) 225-1313 Hastings

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Celebrates Black History Month ?(Washington, D.C.) Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) released the following statement in recognition of Black History Month: "Every February, we celebrate the proud history and valuable contributions made by Americans of African descent. From the scars of slavery to the triumph of emancipation, and from the injustice of segregation to the struggle for equal rights, the journey of the Black community is inseparably woven into the fabric of American history. "Despite the persistent forces of prejudice and discrimination, Black Americans have done much to shape America into the nation it is today. The African American community has left its mark on every aspect of American culture, from the arts and humanities to research, scientific exploration, and public service. "This year, we also mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As we celebrate this great victory of the Civil Rights era, we do so knowing that the fight for equality is not yet over. Disparities in employment, wealth, and education still persist among American communities of color, and across the country, new laws have been enacted that restrict the ability of minorities to vote. "This year, let us mark Black History Month by rededicating ourselves to the fight for equality for all Americans." Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Co-Chairman of the Florida Delegation. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOH1y801312014B06 -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Hoyer Op-Ed: A Year of Action, a Year of Opportunity in Congress -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents Office of the Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer -ST_TD- January 31, 2014 Contact: Stephanie Youn, 202-225-3130 Hoyer Op-Ed: A Year of Action, a Year of Opportunity in Congress Wanted to make sure you saw today's op-ed by House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) in the Huffington Post about President Obama's State of the Union address and House Democrats' legislative priorities in 2014. To read the op-ed, go to: <http://huff.to/1iTDkwD> or see below: A Year of Action, a Year of Opportunity in Congress Posted: 01/31/2014 8: 18 am By: Rep. Steny Hoyer On Tuesday, President Obama stood before Congress and the American people to deliver a message of optimism borne from the progress we have made over the past five years recovering our economy from the Great Recession. Millions of jobs have been created and saved, we enacted health reforms that are already benefiting many, and our housing market has rebounded. The state of our union is undoubtedly stronger than it was when President Obama took office in the depths of a recession. But for the millions in poverty or struggling to stay out of it, this distinction matters little. Without a real and equal opportunity to join a secure and growing middle class, those among us who face the greatest hardships will see the American Dream grow farther and farther out of reach. With the Census Bureau reporting that 49.7 million Americans live in poverty, there is still much work to be done to ensure that the state of our union reflects our forebears' vision of a nation where one's hard work and personal responsibility can lift an entire family into the middle class. Poverty in America is not limited to the chronically hungry or homeless. For so many working families, even two incomes are not enough to make ends meet, as the cost of living has outpaced a rise in wages. These families are increasingly experiencing the effects of poverty, and, for the first time in the program's history, households led by working-age Americans are the largest group accessing federal food assistance. In his speech, the president made clear that the current minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour is insufficient to enable working families to reach for the middle class. That's why Democrats in Congress are committed to raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. Doing so would lead to higher pay for 28 million Americans, billions of dollars more in economic activity for businesses, and the creation of 140,000 new jobs. At the same time, an increase in long-term unemployment has forced many families to go without an important source of income for months at a time, often depleting savings that would have been used to send a child to college or provide for a secure retirement. When the recession hit, Congress made emergency unemployment insurance available to workers who had lost their jobs and were seeking new ones. On December 28, Congress irresponsibly allowed this emergency insurance to expire, and now 1.6 million Americans are without critical assistance -- a number that will continue to grow by an average of 72,000 people a week for as long as Congress fails to act. Bringing it back ought to be the first order of business on Capitol Hill, and Democrats will not rest until this goal is achieved. Neither will we stop working to address the widening gap between those who are doing well in our economy and those who are finding it harder and harder to get by. To close this gap, Congress must act to expand access to the opportunities that lead to economic security and success. That's what House Democrats' Make It In America plan is all about: increasing domestic manufacturing, expanding education and skills training so America's workers are prepared for the jobs of today and tomorrow, and encouraging businesses to create high-skill, high-wage jobs here. In addition to passing Make It In America legislation, Congress must make a serious effort to enact comprehensive immigration

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reform this year that brings millions of workers out of the shadows and provides a pathway to citizenship. And it is critical that Democrats and Republicans work together immediately to prevent another economy-stifling default crisis. No one can deny the deep chasm that often separates the parties in Congress. But that divide must be bridged for the sake of the millions for whom the American Dream now seems so remote. Congress has the ability to make 2014 a year of action in response to our economic challenges -- but it must also have the will. Democrats are ready to do our part and work across the aisle to expand opportunities to those left behind by the economy's recovery. I sincerely hope that Republicans will join us in carrying out this important work and, in the process, truly strengthening our union for years to come. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOH1y901312014B07 -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Straight Talk: More Than a Mention -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents House Committee on Small Business, Republicans -ST_TD- Straight Talk: More Than a Mention Weekly Update from Sam Dear Friends, Small businesses are sometimes mentioned but not often made a priority by this Administration. In the State of the Union address this week, small businesses were acknowledged, as expected, but the source of many of the obstacles facing them was not. After a five-year track record, President Obama's policies of more red tape, higher taxes, economic uncertainty and disrupted health care coverage are not leading to the kind of growth that matches this great nation's capabilities. The real economic recovery that we need is only possible when small businesses are prospering, too. Small businesses find opportunity, not through subsidies or government programs, but through innovation and entrepreneurship. While Washington can produce rhetoric and nicely-titled programs, small businesses and the American private sector are the real producers of jobs and growth. When it comes to helping small businesses, sometimes the best thing government can do is simply get out of the way. Sincerely, Sam Graves Chairman Latest Committee Action On Tuesday, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy and Trade, under presiding Chairman Richard Hanna (R-NY), held a hearing with James Sanford, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Small Business, Market Access and Industrial Competitiveness. The Subcommittee examined the status and impact of trade policy on small firms, and heard testimony regarding Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and ongoing negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO). On Thursday, Chairman Graves sent a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius requesting data on the number of small businesses which have enrolled in health insurance via the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP). The Administration delayed online federal SHOP exchange for a year, but small businesses can still seek enrollment through paper applications. As reported here and here, the data is still unavailable. News from Washington On Wednesday, the House passed the Agricultural Act of 2014, commonly known as the Farm Bill, by a bipartisan vote of 251-166. The legislation protects farm programs, tightens guidelines for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and sets agricultural priorities for the next five years. Stay Plugged In Be sure to check out the House Small Business Committee on Facebook, and for all the latest in Small Biz news and resources and to join the conversation. We value your input, so tell us about your small business on our interactive website Small Biz Open Mic. January 31, 2014 Committee Calendar What We're Reading *Forbes: Almost Everything You Have Been Told About The Minimum Wage Is False *Inc. Magazine: The most important thing the President forgot to say *The Hill: Small-business enrollment in ObamaCare will be 'modest,' administration says *Washington Free Beacon: PA Small Biz Hit With Skyrocketing Health Costs From Obamacare *Reuters: Jobless claims post surprise jump as fourth quarter growth falls short *The Hill: Unions lash out at ObamaCare regs *Washington Post: Obama lauds small business owners in his State of the Union - but not all of them buy it *Businessweek: Was there enough for small business in Obama's State of the Union? Small Biz Resources *Washington Post: Determining the right capital for every stage of growth *Entrepreneur: Is your business at risk of a hack attack" *Bloomberg: (Video) New software that's upending small business -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOH1z101312014B08 -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Another program? -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents Education and Labor Committee Republicans -ST_TD- Education and the Workforce Committee January 31, 2014 Another program? WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Obama has announced he will create through executive fiat another federal job training program. That's right - another program on top of the more than 50 federal employment and training programs that already exists. It might have been nice to wait for Vice President Biden to complete his redundant review of the workforce development

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system before adding more confusion to an already bloated bureaucracy. However, this announcement does raise an important question: Where in the maze of confusing training programs does the president intend to put this latest initiative? The House has already acted to provide workers and job-seekers with a more streamlined, dynamic, and effective job training system. Mr. President, let's fix the problem. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOH1z201312014B09 -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Hoyer Statement on Black History Month -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents Office of the Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer -ST_TD- January 31, 2014 Contact: Stephanie Young, 202-225-3130 Hoyer Statement on Black History Month WASHINGTON, DC - Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement today to commemorate Black History Month, which begins tomorrow, February 1: "I join in celebrating Black History Month, which begins tomorrow. It is both an opportunity to honor the important contributions made to our great country by African Americans and a chance to rededicate ourselves to the work of making our nation more just and more equal. "While we take time to remember the hardships and celebrate the triumphs of the African American community throughout its long and proud history, we ought to take stock of the inequalities that continue to challenge us as a nation. When the poverty line continues to trace the color lines in our cities, when members of minority groups still have difficulty exercising their right to vote, and when fear and mistrust still divide communities and neighbors, our work is not done. It is up to us, in our generation, to continue perfecting our union. "We can carry that work forward today by protecting the hard won victory of voting rights by passing the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendments Act, which I am proud to cosponsor with Rep. John Lewis and others. We can make progress toward equality by increasing access to opportunity and upward economic mobility - and this begins with restoring emergency unemployment insurance and passing the Fair Minimum Wage Act. And we can lay the foundation for a stronger future by making sure every child in America has access to a world-class education that leads to a good job. "House Democrats will continue to press this agenda in Congress, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to make certain that the lessons of Black History Month continue to inspire our efforts on behalf of the American people." -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOH1z301312014B10 -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Democrats Are Committed to Expanding Access to Economic Opportunities -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents Office of the Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer -ST_TD- January 31, 2014 Democrats Are Committed to Expanding Access to Economic Opportunities MESSAGE FROM THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP On Tuesday, President Obama delivered his State of the Union address and challenged Congress to work together to expand economic opportunity for Americans. This is why House Democrats are continuing to call for immediate action on the most pressing issues facing our nation, including restoring unemployment benefits and raising the minimum wage. We will also continue to work to advance our Make It In America plan, which is focused on increasing economic opportunities for our people by creating the conditions for American businesses to manufacture their products and create jobs right here in the U.S. This week the Republican-led House voted on two pieces of legislation: one bill continued their attack on women's health, the other was a farm bill conference report. While I disagreed with the bill's **cuts** to funding for nutrition **assistance** programs, this compromise bill was far better than the **cuts** in the House Republicans' bill, and it will provide certainty to our farming communities, families in need, and commodity markets. I'm also pleased that Republicans announced their set of principles for immigration reform yesterday. This is an important first step and I hope Republicans will now be willing to work with Democrats to move forward and discuss how we compromise to fix our broken immigration system. House Democrats are ready to do our part and work across the aisle to achieve results. Over the next few weeks, our nation will not be able to pay its bills unless Congress takes action. I'm very disappointed that House Republicans are signaling that they are going to once again hold our nation's economy hostage to unrelated political demands. I believe they should work with Democrats to ensure our nation can pay its bills and provide certainty to our economy and businesses. Sincerely yours, STENY H. HOYER -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDPOH1z402032014B11 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Hoyer Statement on January Manufacturing Report -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents Office of the Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer -ST_TD- February **3**, 2014 Contact: Stephanie Young, 202-225-3130 Hoyer

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Statement on January Manufacturing Report WASHINGTON, DC - House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement today after the Institute for Supply Management released its report for January: "For the eighth consecutive month our manufacturing sector continues to expand, in spite of the effects of the Republican-led government shutdown in October and the economic uncertainty caused by the looming deadline for our government to pay its bills and avoid default. However, January's manufacturing growth was not as robust as the past two months, and this ought to be taken as a warning sign for Congress to get off the fence and take action to promote manufacturing job growth right away. "The Make It In America plan for jobs and competitiveness will create the right conditions for businesses to bring high-skill, high-wage manufacturing jobs to our communities - jobs that make it possible for our workers to access the opportunities that lead to a secure place in our middle class. Make It In America, which already has bipartisan support, includes four main components: pursuing a national manufacturing strategy, promoting American exports, encouraging companies to bring innovation and jobs back to our shores, and training a twenty-first century workforce ready to compete for the jobs of tomorrow. Senate Democrats have already introduced a complementary jobs plan of their own, and there is no reason why both chambers cannot begin consideration of bills to support a strong and growing domestic manufacturing base without delay. "I urge House Republicans to allow bipartisan Make It In America legislation to move to the Floor for consideration quickly and to work with Democrats to ensure that our nation pays its bills on time." -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CONGDP -ST_SN- CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- CONGDP0H1z502032014B12 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. House of Representatives Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- LARSON ON THE RETIREMENT OF CONGRESSMAN HENRY WAXMAN -ST_LP- U.S. House of Representatives Documents February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Geraldine de Puy 202-225-2265 Larson on the Retirement of Congressman Henry Waxman (Washington) - Congressman John B. Larson released the following statement today on the announced retirement of Congressman Henry Waxman of California: "Throughout his career, Congressman Henry Waxman fought to improve the lives of every generation. A dogged advocate for seniors, youth and families, Henry led the way in efforts to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid and provide affordable, quality health coverage across the country. His efforts to both reduce pollution and understand climate change are already helping to protect our environment for years to come. "Whether working on health, energy, environment or commerce, Henry's determination and knowledge of the issues helped develop comprehensive policies crucial to our nation. Henry stood up for those struggling with HIV/ AIDS and stood guard against efforts to threaten the rights of women, reduce regulation on environmental abuses and reduce transparency in government. "I would like to thank Henry for all he has given to the people of this nation and wish him, Janet and his family all the best moving forward." -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DODDOC -ST_SN- DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDDDD2034r7B13 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Department of Defense Releases - News Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- General Officer Announcements -ST_CT- 703-697-5131; media@defenselink.mil -ST_LP- Department of Defense Releases - News Releases Release No: NR-066-14 -ST_TD- February 3, 2014 General Officer Announcements Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced today that the president made the following nominations: Marine Corps Reserve Brig. Gen. William T. Collins for appointment to the rank of major general. Collins is currently serving as commanding general, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, New Orleans, La. Marine Corps Reserve Brig. Gen. James S. Hartsell for appointment to the rank of major general. Hartsell is currently serving as commanding general, 4th Marine Division, New Orleans, La. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DODDOC -ST_SN- DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDDDD2034r8B14 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Department of Defense Releases - News Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- General Officer Assignments -ST_CT- 703-697-5131; media@defenselink.mil -ST_LP- Department of Defense Releases - News Releases Release No: NR-067-14 -ST_TD- February 3, 2014 General Officer Assignments The chief of staff, Air Force announced the following assignments: Brig. Gen. Jay B. Silveria, who has been selected for the grade of major general, vice commander, 14th Air Force, Air Forces Strategic, Air Force Space Command, Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., to commander, U.S. Air Force Warfare Center, Air Combat Command, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Col. David A. Krumm, who has been selected for the grade of brigadier general, principal military assistant to the secretary of defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., to vice commander, 5th Air Force, Pacific Air Forces, Yokota Air Base, Japan. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DODDOC -ST_SN- DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND

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PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDDDD2034r9B15 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Department of Defense Releases - American Forces Press Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- US, Italy Sign Training Agreement -ST_CT- 703-697-5131; media@defenseink.mil -ST_LP- Department of Defense Releases - American Forces Press Service WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 2014 -- The Defense Department and Italy's defense ministry have signed a memorandum of understanding to promote joint training and education for peacekeeping operations. -ST_TD- The agreement, signed today at the Pentagon, takes effect immediately and identifies and develops joint training and education as well as policies and procedures. "I believe this is the first, formal agreement on education and training that the undersecretary of defense of personnel and readiness has ever signed with [Italy's] Carabinieri," said Frank C. DiGiovanni, director of DOD's force readiness and strategy. "This new MOU, [while] old in association, has a very productive objective to promote peace and stability to areas of the world that are under stress," added Frederick E. Vollrath, assistant secretary of defense for readiness and force management. Maj. Gen. Ilio Ciceri, Italy's chief of staff of the Carabinieri General Headquarters, said the support and position of the United States has been a source of "immense pride" for his country. Reflecting on critical moments of the Carabinieri deployments in peace support operations, Ciceri said the first Carabinieri intervention model was tried in the Balkans in the 1990s, marking the first shared experience with the United States. It was also deployed in Albania and Kosovo, where it is still active, and in Iraq, he said, adding that it has become a specialized instrument supporting the coalition armed forces with police information gathering and public security. Such experiences continued in Afghanistan, with the International Security **Assistance** Force mission, he said, by training and mentoring local police forces. "The use of our training and deployment techniques in the theaters of operations has always enjoyed an extraordinary support and appreciation by U.S. commanders and by the highest political authorities and soldiers of your country," he said. The agreement lasts five years, and could be extended for another five. (Follow Terri Moon Cronk on Twitter @MoonCronkAFPS) -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DODDOC -ST_SN- DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDDDD2034s1B16 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Department of Defense Releases - American Forces Press Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Hagel Calls ICBM Officers -ST_CT- 703-697-5131; media@defenseink.mil -ST_LP- Department of Defense Releases - American Forces Press Service MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont., Feb. 3, 2014 -- While flying back to Washington D.C., Feb. 1 from the Munich Security Conference, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel spoke by phone with six officers currently pulling alert duty in three of the 341st Missile Wing's ICBM launch control centers here. -ST_TD- In conversations that lasted approximately an hour, Hagel expressed his confidence in the officers' ability to carry out the nuclear deterrence mission, according to DOD officials. The officers Hagel spoke with belong to the 10th, 12th and 490th Missile Squadrons. Hagel also listened to the officers' concerns and said he deeply appreciates their critical service to the nation, according to those he spoke with. "Secretary Hagel **asked** how I felt about everything that's going on and I told him the workload has increased and it's hard to see friends involved," said Air Force 1st Lt. Jordan Seibert, a 12th Missile Squadron missile combat crew commander. "It was really humbling, and it showed that our mission is on his mind." The officers told the secretary they hoped the nuclear review he ordered will result in improvements for the intercontinental ballistic missile career field. "I was able to express to him personally that I feel optimistic about potential changes in how we're tested," said Air Force Capt. Adam Ross, a 490th Missile Squadron missile combat crew commander. "More importantly, I'm optimistic about how we can find new ways to interpret the results of our testing." Hagel thanked the missileers for dealing with a higher operational tempo and more time on alert given the ongoing investigation he ordered into alleged cheating on proficiency exams by nuclear launch missileers. More than 90 officers at Malmstrom Air Force Base have been suspended in what Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James has characterized as a "systemic problem". During his phone calls, Hagel encouraged those he spoke with to continue carrying out their mission in support of strategic deterrence. "The SecDef showed concern for the crew force's personal life impacts, with the understanding that we are being called upon to complete a higher ops tempo to complete our mission," said Air Force 1st Lt. Tracie Davis, a 10th Missile Squadron missile combat crew commander. "It really showed interest in us for him to take his personal time to connect with the force. He absolutely achieved his goal to connect and show concern for this mission and its people." For one member, it was definitely an alert duty shift to remember. "The call was surprising and really cool," said Air Force 2nd Lt. James Hunter III, a 10th Missile Squadron deputy missile combat crew commander, who was in the midst of completing his first alert shift. "It's something I will never forget -- eye opening." -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DODDOC -ST_SN- DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDDDJ2034v9B17 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S.

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Marine Corps Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Family, friends, service members remember 2nd Supply Bn. Marines -ST_CT- 703-697-5131; media@defenseink.mil -ST_LP- U.S. Marine Corps Releases Camp Lejeune, N.C. -ST_TD- Family, friends, service members remember 2nd Supply Bn. Marines () CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. -- Family, friends and fellow service members gathered together at Marston Pavilion here, Jan. 31. This was not a normal congregation. Tears, sorrows and mourn filled the room as individuals paid their respects to Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Buscarnera and Pfc. Skyler D. Way, both ammunition technicians with 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group. "On behalf of all the Marines and sailors in the battalion I'd like to offer my sincere condolences to both the Way and Buscarnera families for the loss of their sons," said Lt. Col. Jesse A. Kemp, an Ardmore, Okla., native and the battalion commander of 2nd Supply Bn. "I want them to know the collective thoughts and prayers of every Marine and sailor in this battalion are behind them always. We will never forget Skyler and Nicholas." Buscarnera, 19, a Mastic Beach, N.Y., native and Way, 19, a Gouverneur, N.Y., native were both found dead Jan. 7 as a result of a single vehicle incident that occurred along Catfish Lake Rd., Havelock, N.C. "We lost a fellow Marine, brother, son, fiance and most of all a friend," said a friend with the battalion. "We miss [him] everyday, rest easy." Marines and sailors with the battalion hosted a formal memorial ceremony for both Marines. Friends of the Marines came to the podium to speak about memories formed with Buscarnera and Way. Some stories showed their personality, as well as their commitment to the Corps, friends and loved ones. "[They] never complained," said a friend. "[They] always helped us. We were real lucky to have them in our lives." Buscarnera and Way started their journey in the Marine Corps at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. After earning the title United States Marine, they completed Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, N.C. then finished Ammunition Technician School at Ft. Lee, Va. "The loss of Lance Cpl. Buscarnera and Pfc. Way has been devastating," said Kemp. "In any situation it is a tragic blow to the battalion, Buscarnera and Way were incredibly valued members of their section that worked and provided support to Camp Lejeune and the [II Marine Expeditionary Force]." () -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DODDOC -ST_SN- DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDDDN2034w1B18 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Navy Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Naval Hospital Bremerton Volunteers brings Energic Support to Washington State Special Olympics Basketball Tournament -ST_CT- 703-697-5131; media@defenseink.mil -ST_LP- U.S. Navy Releases Story Number: NNS140203-08 -ST_TD- Release Date: 2/3/2014 By Douglas H. Stutz, Naval Hospital Bremerton Public Affairs BREMERTON, Wash. (NNS) -- There were 106 teams, 93 games, five venues and 12 courts of play, along with approximately 50 volunteers from Naval Hospital Bremerton (NHB) helping at the annual Washington State Special Olympics Southwest Regional Basketball tournament held Feb. 1. NHB staff members helped with score-keeping, clock operators, medal presentation, book-keeping, as well as sharing a collective show of spirit and support that delighted athletes and tournament officials alike. "We have always had volunteer help from Naval Hospital before, but we've never had so many with so much energy. The support is very much appreciated. We can't say enough of how much it means to the teams and to the organizers. This is truly amazing," said Chris Funke of the Kiwanis Club of Bremerton and past president of the organization. From the Kitsap Fairgrounds SUN Pavilion to Olympic High School, Fairview Junior High, Central Kitsap Junior High and Woodland Elementary, NHB volunteers fanned out to handle needed duties. "I personally volunteered to get out and do things and help out our community. I also helped out with the Bowling Tournament back in the fall and it was a lot of fun. The athletes really like having us there for them," said Hospitalman Benjamin Stewart, NHB orthopedics technician from Oklahoma who coordinated bringing the hospital corpsmen from Orthopedics Department to the event. Perhaps nowhere were NHB volunteers more evident than in the Olympic HS venue, with two full court games being played simultaneously. One contest was supported by Orthopedic staff and the other by almost 20 corpsmen from Nursing Services Directorate. "This was my first time doing this and this is awesome. Giving back to our community in this setting is really something. It's not only a lot of fun, but it's easy to see that these teams really like the support we're bringing," shared Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Randall Tacbi, a Modesto, Calif. native. NHB volunteers cheered, clapped, and stomped the floor in encouragement. High fives were exchanged. Smiles were shared. The lively applause was infectious for not just the athletes but also for the volunteers. "Did you see that player who just came over and shook each volunteer's hand at the scoring table? Did you see that high-five that (Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class) Demetrius Walker was doing with that athlete? That's what being a volunteer in a setting like this is all about. Helping support others by giving of ourselves. I grew up in a family that always gave back to the community so when the opportunity came up to support this event I knew I had to take part. I also knew I had to bring as many of our corpsmen from Multi-Service Ward and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) as possible to share the experience,"

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explained Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Jordan Mullan, ICU leading petty officer and Oregon native. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DODDOC -ST_SN- DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDDDN2034w2B19 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- U.S. Navy Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Peleliu's CSADD Holds Clothing Drive -ST_CT- 703-697-5131; media@defenseink.mil -ST_LP- U.S. Navy Releases Story Number: NNS140203-09 -ST_TD- Release Date: 2/3/2014 By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Michael Duran, USS Peleliu Public Affairs SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Sailors from the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) chapter aboard amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) held a weeklong clothing drive on board the ship, Jan. 27-31. CSADD volunteers erected a box in the hangar bay where service members could bring in used clothing items they wished to donate. "I know I have a lot of clothes that I don't wear at all and I thought, instead of just throwing them away or letting them sit there, why not donate them," said Aviation Machinist's Mate **3rd** Class Alana Swann, a native of Jacksonville, Fla., and acting public affairs representative for Peleliu's CSADD chapter. "I think a lot of Sailors probably have the same problem and, after going downtown and seeing a lot of people lying on the street, I brought the idea of a clothes drive to the [CSADD] cabinet board." CSADD, which is comprised of junior enlisted Sailors, is primarily designed to guide Sailors away from making poor and destructive decisions by providing positive and dynamic training. Peleliu's chapter of CSADD has interpreted this to involve community volunteer service as well. "We're helping our Sailors out by having them help others," said Swann. "You really get a better feeling about yourself when you're able to give back to your community." Volunteer service through CSADD allows Peleliu Sailors the opportunity to give back to local communities as well as develop skills in networking, teambuilding and leadership. Sailors have also shown to develop a positive sense of self-worth which can aid in the CSADD mission to prevent destructive behavior. "The reason why we do volunteer work is we want CSADD to be known for not only helping just Sailors, but to just help period," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) **3rd** Class Liz Camacho-Gonzalez of Warminster, Penn., president of Peleliu's CSADD chapter. "A lot of us actually love doing community service, so why not use CSADD to help the homeless?" Donated clothing articles will be distributed to the needy through various homeless and battered women shelters. Uniform items will be donated to the Naval Base San Diego thrift shop to benefit the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society. Overall, the clothing drive has been positively received by the crew and, if donations continue to be received, the clothing drive will be extended for another week. Peleliu is currently undergoing a planned maintenance availability period in preparation for its next scheduled deployment. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DED -ST_SN- EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- EDNDD1274u1B20 -ST_PD- 20140127 -ST_SBJ- Press Releases and Statements and Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- EDN -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- U.S. Department of Education Announces Awards to 7 States to Continue Efforts to Turn Around Lowest-Performing Schools -ST_LP- Press Releases and Statements and Documents January 27, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: Press Office, (202) 401-1576, press@ed.gov U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced that seven states will receive more than \$39 million to continue efforts to turn around their persistently lowest-achieving schools through new awards from the Department's School Improvement Grants (SIG) program. The states receiving these new awards are: Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Utah and Washington. "When schools fail, our children and neighborhoods suffer," Duncan said. "Turning around our lowest-performing schools is hard work but it's our responsibility. We owe it to our children, their families and the broader community. These School Improvement Grants are helping some of the lowest-achieving schools provide a better education for students who need it the most." School Improvement Grants are awarded to State Educational Agencies (SEAs) that then make competitive subgrants to school districts that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to provide adequate resources to substantially raise student achievement in their lowest-performing schools. Under the Obama Administration, the SIG program has invested up to \$2 million per school at more than 1,500 of the country's lowest-performing schools. Early findings show positive momentum and progress in many SIG schools. Findings also show that many schools receiving SIG grants are improving, and some of the greatest gains have been in small towns and rural communities. States announced today and their grant amounts are: COLORADO \$5,024,226 INDIANA \$8,643,769 KANSAS \$3,671,341 MASSACHUSETTS \$7,228,760 NEW MEXICO \$3,754,213 UTAH \$3,120,475 WASHINGTON \$7,604,902 -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- EPA -ST_SN- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- EPANA2034u3B21 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Press Release/Statement -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- EPA -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- Nominations for EPA New England's Annual Environmental Merit Awards - Deadline is Feb. 21, 2014

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(CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) -ST_LP- Press Release/Statement Release Date: 02/03/2014 -ST_TD- Contact Information: David Deegan, (617) 918-1017 (Boston, Mass. -- Feb. 3, 2014) -- EPA is now accepting nominations for the 2014 Environmental Merit Awards, which will recognize environmental achievements during the past year. Award categories are available for individuals, businesses, state and local governments, and other organizations. Awards are also given under a lifetime achievement category. These regional awards have been given out annually since EPA was created in 1970. Past recipients have included scientists, community activists, business representatives, public officials and other individuals committed to preserving the environment. An independent EPA panel will select the winners based on the following criteria: long-term effects on the environment; ability to address an environmental problem or need; collaboration with others; ability of the program or accomplishments to be widely shared; clarity and effectiveness of the presentation; and promotion of innovative ideas or techniques. Awards are traditionally given in four categories: individual; business, industry, trade, and professional organization; local, state or federal government; and environmental, community or non-profit organization. This year we are introducing a new award, in addition to the four award categories that have existed for many years. Along with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC), the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA), and in coordination with the New England state Environmental Commissioners, EPA has initiated the Ira Leighton "In Service to States" Environmental Merit Award. The new award is a tribute to Ira Leighton, who passed away in 2013 after serving 41 years at EPA. The "Ira Leighton in Service to States Annual Award" will recognize an individual or organization that has made significant strides in facilitating state and federal partnerships through innovative sustainable solutions addressing critical environmental challenges in New England. The successful candidate will have actively demonstrated conviction and leadership in protecting the environment and in promoting sustainable practices. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 21. Awards winners will be invited to a ceremony this spring in Boston. Nominations are only accepted online. More information on Award categories, evaluation criteria and how to submit nominations is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/ne/ra/ema/> . -ST_END- -ST_START- -

ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- EPA -ST_SN- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- EPANA2034u4B22 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Press Release/Statement -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- EPA -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- U.S. District Court Orders Stabl Inc. to Pay \$2.2M Penalty for Violating Environmental Regulations at Lexington, Neb., Facility (NE) -ST_LP- Press Release/Statement Release Date: 02/03/2014 -ST_TD- Contact Information: Ben Washburn, 913-551-7364, washburn.ben@epa.gov Environmental News FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Lenexa, Kan., Feb. 3, 2014) - The U.S. District Court in Omaha, Neb., has ordered Stabl Inc. to pay a \$2,285,874 civil penalty for violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act at its Lexington, Neb., rendering facility, EPA Region 7 announced today. The Court supported its penalty findings based on facts presented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) that Stabl had a long history of serious violations and that Stabl's efforts to comply with environmental regulations were minimal. According to the judgment, from August 2006 until May 2010, Stabl violated a series of environmental regulations. Sampling data from May 2006 through March 2008 indicates that Stabl violated discharge limits causing the City of Lexington's wastewater treatment plant to violate its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Pollutants discharged by Stabl to the treatment plant include high levels of ammonia, oil and grease, among others. NDEQ issued Stabl a Nebraska Pretreatment Program (NPP) permit in March 2008. The NPP permit established discharge limitations and required Stabl to monitor and report values for various pollutants discharged from the facility. Stabl was in frequent noncompliance with these requirements from the time the permit was issued until the time the facility was sold. "The actions by Stabl over a multi-year period demonstrate a lack of compliance that had serious consequences for the city of Lexington, Neb., and the fragile Platte River basin," Regional Administrator Karl Brooks said. "Protecting the waters of the United States is one of our most important missions, and this judgment sends a clear message that EPA will work closely with our state partners to ensure that chronic violators of the Clean Water Act will be held accountable." The Court found that Stabl Inc., formerly known as Nebraska By-Products, violated the CWA a total of 1,533 times, resulting in an economic benefit of more than \$1.1 million. The facility was sold in May 2010, having never achieved compliance with CWA regulations. Stabl has 60 days from the date of the judgment to appeal the decision. A copy of the Court's decision is available online. # # # Learn more about EPA's enforcement of the Clean Water Act -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- EEOD -ST_SN- EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- EEOQD2034u2B23 -ST_PD- 20140203 -

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ST_SBJ- Press Releases and Statements -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. - ST_GV- FDL -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- JPMorgan Chase Will Pay \$1,450,000 to Resolve EEOC Class Sex Discrimination Lawsuit -ST_LP- Press Releases and Statements 2-3-14 -ST_TD- JPMorgan Chase Will Pay \$1,450,000 to Resolve EEOC Class Sex Discrimination Lawsuit Female Mortgage Bankers in Columbus, Ohio Were Subjected to Sex-Based Harassment And Denied Lucrative Sales Opportunities, Federal Agency Charged CLEVELAND - Financial giant JPMorgan Chase will pay \$1,450,000 and revamp its call data retention procedures to settle a sex-based harassment lawsuit filed by the U.S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the agency announced today. The EEOC charged in its lawsuit that JPMorgan Chase maintained a sexually hostile work environment towards its female mortgage bankers assigned to its Polaris Park facility, located outside Columbus, Ohio. This situation consisted of sexually charged behavior and comments from the supervisory staff and participating mortgage bankers, which resulted in a sexist and uncivil atmosphere. The EEOC further alleged that the female mortgage bankers who did not embrace and participate in these circumstances became ostracized and suffered economic consequences by being deprived of lucrative sales calls, being deprived of training opportunities, and being denied other benefits of employment. Such alleged conduct violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC filed suit in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Civil Action 2: 09-cv-00864, after first attempting to reach a pre-litigation settlement through its conciliation process. "This case demonstrates the EEOC's ongoing commitment to ensuring that women enjoy the same terms and conditions of employment as their male counterparts and that their success on the job cannot be conditioned on participating in a sexually hostile work environment," said EEOC General Counsel David Lopez. EEOC Philadelphia District Director Spencer H. Lewis, Jr. said, "The EEOC is committed to combating unlawful sex discrimination in the workplace and will hold an employer responsible for fostering an inhospitable and uncomfortable atmosphere for women." The \$1,450,000 in monetary relief will be allocated among 16 female mortgage bankers who worked at JPMorgan Chase's call center in its Polaris Park facility. The consent decree resolving the case also enjoins JPMorgan Chase from creating or maintaining a sexually hostile work environment there in the future. Moreover, JPMorgan Chase is developing a call data retention system so that assignments of sales calls can be accessed and analyzed to ensure that they are being equitably distributed among the mortgage bankers. Philadelphia Regional Attorney Debra M. Lawrence added, "We are pleased that JPMorgan Chase worked with us to craft a comprehensive settlement that will benefit its mortgage sales staff. In addition to the monetary compensation for the class members, the extensive training and equitable measures are designed to ensure the equality of the terms and conditions of employment and ensure the elimination of the discriminatory situation that resulted in this lawsuit." According to company information, New York-based JPMorgan Chase (NYSE: JPM) is a leading global financial services firm with assets of \$2.4 trillion, operating in more than 60 countries, with more than 260,000 employees. The EEOC's Philadelphia District Office oversees Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and parts of New Jersey and Ohio. The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Further information about the agency is available at its website, www.eeoc.gov. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- GOVPUB -ST_SN- FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDFR2034v1B24 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Radio Free Asia News and Information -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Puzzle Over China Data and Rising Smog -ST_LP- Radio Free Asia News and Information Puzzle Over China Data and Rising Smog -ST_TD- An analysis by Michael Lelyveld 2014-02-03 China's recent energy reports have posed a puzzle for those seeking to understand the connections between slower economic growth and rising urban smog. Ordinarily, a slowdown in growth would be expected to result in reduced rates of emissions, but China's worst air pollution in its modern history seems an exception to the rule. Official economic and energy reports for 2013 have pointed in conflicting directions. Last year's gross domestic product (GDP), the broadest measure of economic activity, rose 7.7 percent, matching the growth level of 2012 as the lowest since 1999. Growth in industrial output of 9.7 percent also weakened from the 10-percent pace of 2012, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said. Yet power consumption climbed 7.5 percent in 2013, considerably more than the 5.5-percent gain a year earlier, according to the National Energy Administration (NEA). Electricity use is often cited as a more reliable indicator of economic activity than official GDP, suggesting China's performance last year may not have been as lackluster as it appeared, The Wall Street Journal said on Jan. 20. Confusing indicators But it is unclear whether China produced more economic value last year or simply used more electricity. The question is complicated by other ambiguous indicators. Implied oil demand rose just 1.6 percent, the weakest yearly rate in more than two decades, Reuters reported. According to state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), the growth in apparent oil consumption was 1.7 percent, which it called the smallest in 13 years. The oil

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figures seem to conflict with the more bullish implications of electricity use and the rise in urban smog. But the results reported by the coal industry are even more curious. The China National Coal Association (CNCA) reported that growth in coal consumption slowed to 2.6 percent last year, reaching 3.61 billion metric tons. The rate is slightly more than the 2.5-percent growth reported by the NBS for 2012, but still seemingly at odds with the 7.5-percent rise in electricity use, since coal is China's main fuel for power. 'A difficult question' Philip Andrews-Speed, a China energy expert at National University of Singapore, said the question of conflicting reports is "a really difficult one." "Why so much extra electricity with so little extra coal?" Andrews-Speed asked. China has made great strides in renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, as well as natural gas, but probably not enough to account for the discrepancy between power and coal consumption growth. According to the 2013 World Energy Outlook of the Paris-based International Energy Agency, coal supplied 88 percent of China's electricity demand in 2011, suggesting consumption should have advanced on parallel tracks. Between 1990 and 2011, the share of coal consumption accounted for by power generation doubled from 26 to 52 percent, Andrews-Speed said. Slumping coal prices for most of last year might also have been expected to encourage consumption. China's five major power companies reported an 18-percent jump in combined profits last year thanks to low coal prices, the official Xinhua news agency said. The difficulty posed by China's data is compounded by the fact that it comes from such a variety of sources, including the NBS, the NEA, and industry, while official GDP figures are frequently criticized as unreliable. A Xinhua report on Jan. 23 noted that the sum of provincial-level GDP figures for last year exceeded the national total by 2 trillion yuan (U.S. \$330 billion), even before three of the 31 provincial governments had submitted results. Common inconsistencies Such inconsistencies in NBS estimates have been common over the past decade. "One plus one equals two. But it's not always the case when you are talking about the calculating of local and national GDP data in China," Xinhua said, calling the addition error "a somewhat peculiar math problem." But Andrews-Speed said 2013 was not unique in its apparent conflicts with energy data. Over the past 13 years, China has recorded similarly large and unexplained gaps in growth rates between power and coal consumption during the periods 2000-2002 and 2007-2008. Andrews-Speed said the answer to the puzzle may be contained in research by China energy expert Kevin Jianjun Tu, formerly of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington. In a 2011 paper for Stanford University, Tu found that the sum of coal consumption figures from the provinces has frequently topped national totals by as much as 500 million tons annually for the past decade. The excess is suspected to be a sign of illegitimate trade in coal. Andrews-Speed noted that the biggest discrepancies in reporting correspond to the years with the greatest gaps in consumption growth between coal and power. The correlation suggests that China may be burning far more coal than estimated in the industry reports, Andrews-Speed said. If so, that could explain the big difference between growth rates in coal and power consumption last year and, more importantly, the big increase in urban smog. Copyright (c) 1998-2011, RFA. Used with the permission of Radio Free Asia, 2025 M St. NW, Suite 300, Washington DC 20036. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- CDCDOC -ST_SN- CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDHCM2034r6B25 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Press Release, Media Statements, Public Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- CDC Telebriefing: New Vital Signs Report Have we made any progress keeping children buckled up and safe on the road? - Media Advisory -ST_LP- Press Release, Media Statements, Public Documents Embargoed until: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 1pm ET -ST_TD- Contact: Media Relations (404) 639-3286 CDC Telebriefing: New Vital Signs Report Have we made any progress keeping children buckled up and safe on the road? What Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for U.S. children, although deaths have gone down in the past decade. So why are our youngest children still dying in crashes? One of three children who die in a crash is not buckled up. CDC will discuss the latest data on motor vehicle deaths among children aged 12 and under, the impact of improving state child passenger restraint laws, and what everyone can do to protect children on the road. Who Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention When Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at Noon (ET) DIAL-IN: Media: 888-795-0855 Non-Media: 800-369-1605 International: 1-630-395-0331 PASSCODE: CDC MEDIA Important Instructions: If you would like to ask a question during the call, press *1 on your touchtone phone. Press *2 to withdraw your question. You may queue up at any time. You will hear a tone to indicate your question is pending. TRANSCRIPT A transcript of this media availability will be available following the briefing at CDC's web site: www.cdc.gov/media. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- HHSDOC -ST_SN- HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- HHSHP2034u5B26 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Press Releases, Fact Sheets, Public Materials -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News

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Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- Statement by Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on African American History Month -ST_LP- Press Releases, Fact Sheets, Public Materials February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: HHS Press Office, (202) 690-6343 Statement by Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on African American History Month Today, we celebrate the beginning of African American History Month, a time for all Americans to recognize the countless contributions African Americans have made to our nation, including major advances in scientific research and public health. During African American History Month, we draw inspiration from the courage of trailblazers like Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first African-American woman in our nation's history to receive a M.D. degree. In the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, Crumpler overcame the deeply entrenched discrimination of her time and in 1864 graduated from New England Medical College. We also honor the legacy of innovators like Dr. George Washington Carver, who earned global recognition in the early 20th century for his groundbreaking research in the fields of agriculture and nutrition. A brilliant scientist, Dr. Carver used his skills to help the most vulnerable in society, educating poor farmers on ways to cultivate alternative crops that would yield more abundant and nutritious harvests. This year, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a critical turning point in the fight against racial segregation and discrimination. As we reflect on how far we have come, we also recognize that there is much work to do. This administration has made reducing the long standing disparities in health care in the African American community a top priority. African Americans suffer from higher rates of a range of illnesses as compared to the general population, yet are 55 percent more likely to be uninsured than white Americans. A critical step toward improving the health of communities of color is expanding access to affordable health coverage, and that's what the Affordable Care Act does. Through the Health Insurance Marketplace (<https://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/individual/>), 6.8 million uninsured African Americans have new options for affordable health coverage that covers a range of benefits, including important preventive services with no out-of-pocket costs. According to a recent HHS study, six out of 10 uninsured African Americans are currently eligible for **Medicaid**, the Children's Health Program (CHIP) or financial **assistance** to purchase **private** coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. But, if all states took advantage of new opportunities to expand **Medicaid** coverage under the law, 95 percent of uninsured African Americans would be eligible for **Medicaid**, CHIP or financial **assistance** to buy Marketplace coverage. As outlined in the HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities (<http://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/templates/content.aspx?lvl=1&lvlid=33&ID=285>), we are committed to continuously assessing the impact of all policies and programs on racial and ethnic health disparities. Today, we renew our pledge to ensure that every child in this country has the chance to live a healthy life and reach their full potential. Please join us in our efforts to improve the lives of millions of Americans by expanding access to health care and reducing health disparities. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- HHSDOC -ST_SN- HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- HHSHP2034u6B27 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Press Releases, Fact Sheets, Public Materials -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- American Heart Month -ST_LP- Press Releases, Fact Sheets, Public Materials February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Contact: HHS Press Office, 202-690-6343 American Heart Month A statement by Kathleen Sebelius Heart disease is responsible for 1 of every 4 deaths in the United States, making it the leading cause of death in our nation. As we observe American Heart Month, there are some key steps you and your loved ones can take to protect against heart disease. By maintaining a healthy diet, getting regular exercise and not smoking, you can dramatically reduce the risk of premature death or disability due to heart disease. Awareness of risk factors is also critical to preventing heart disease. Far too many people who are at high risk for heart disease don't know it. That is why it is so important to get your blood pressure and cholesterol checked regularly and to speak with your doctor about your health history. The Affordable Care Act is making it easier than ever before to take care of your heart. Most health plans now must cover a set of preventive services, such as cholesterol and blood pressure checks, at no out-of-pocket costs to the consumer. The security that comes with quality, affordable health insurance is vital to the fight against heart disease. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans are gaining access to health coverage, many for the first time. Under the health care law, patients can no longer be discriminated against because of a pre-existing condition, such as cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure or diabetes. In addition to expanding access to care, we are working to coordinate and strengthen heart disease prevention efforts across the nation through initiatives like Million Hearts(R), Healthy People 2020 and The Heart Truth(R). Million Hearts (<http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/index.html>) and partners recently urged practices and health systems to improve blood pressure control through the adoption of standardized treatment protocols. Widespread adoption of simple,

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evidence-based treatment protocols can have a major impact on blood pressure control among patients, saving lives and preventing disability. The Healthy People 2020 (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/default.aspx>) Heart Disease and Stroke objectives track the heart and stroke health of our Nation and set targets for improvements. The Heart Truth (<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/educational/hearttruth/>)'s nine 2014 community action program grantees are initiating year-long education programs for reaching women of color and low income with heart disease risk factor screenings and tailored interventions that encourage the adoption of heart healthy lifestyle behavior changes. This American Heart Month, please consider what steps you and your family can take to promote a heart healthy lifestyle. There's no better Valentine than a healthy heart! -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DID -ST_SN- INTERIOR DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DIDNR2034q7B28 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Reclamation News Release -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- INR -ST_IN- TLS ISO -ST_HD- Pre-Proposals Sought for Desalination and Water Purification Research Grant Opportunity -ST_LP- Reclamation News Release DENVER - The Bureau of Reclamation is seeking new technologies to study through the Desalination and Water Purification and Development Program. Pre-proposal applications are being accepted for research and laboratory studies as well as pilot scale projects aimed at increasing usable water supplies in the United States. -ST_TD- Reclamation will provide funding up to \$150,000 for the research and laboratory studies and \$400,000 for the pilot scale projects. Individuals, institutions of higher education, commercial or industrial organizations, private entities (including state and local governments), and Indian Tribal governments are eligible to apply. Cost-sharing is encouraged but not required for institutions of higher education. Other applicants must provide cost-share of 75% of the cost of their project. The DWPR Program is helping Reclamation and its partners confront widening imbalances between supply and demand in basins throughout the west through testing and development of new advanced water treatment technologies. The DWPR Program focuses on three main goals: (1) augment the supply of usable water in the United States; (2) understand the environmental impacts of desalination and develop approaches to minimize these impacts relative to other water supply alternatives; (3) develop approaches to lower the financial costs of desalination so that it is an attractive option relative to other alternatives in locations where traditional sources of water are inadequate. The funding opportunity announcement is available at www.grants.gov by searching for announcement number R14AS00014. Pre-proposals must be submitted through www.grants.gov by Feb. 27, 2014, at 4: 00 p.m. To learn more about Reclamation's Advanced Water Treatment activities, please visit: www.usbr.gov/awt/. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034s2B29 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Las Vegas Attorney Pleads Guilty for Role in Multimillion-Dollar Fraud -ST_LP- Justice Department Press Releases Monday, February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Las Vegas Attorney Pleads Guilty for Role in Multimillion-Dollar Fraud A Las Vegas attorney pleaded guilty today for his role in multiple schemes to defraud his clients, to defraud the IRS and to fraudulently gain control of condominium homeowners' associations (HOAs) in the Las Vegas area to ensure that the HOAs would steer business to a certain law firm and a certain construction company. Acting Assistant Attorney General Mythili Raman of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, Special Agent in Charge Laura Bucheit of the FBI's Las Vegas Field Office, Sheriff Doug Gillespie of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Acting Special Agent in Charge Shea Jones of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI) made the announcement. Barry Levinson, 47, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge James C. Mahan in the District of Nevada to one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud. Levinson is the 30th person to plead guilty in connection with the scheme to defraud HOAs in the Las Vegas area. Levinson simultaneously pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion and one count of wire fraud, with the latter charge relating to his embezzlement of his legal clients' funds. Levinson admitted that from approximately August 2003 through February 2009, he participated in a scheme to control various HOA boards of directors so that the HOA boards would award the handling of construction-related lawsuits and remedial construction contracts to his law firm and construction company designated by Levinson's co-conspirators. This scheme was carried out in part by straw buyers who purchased properties in their names that were in reality paid for and controlled by other co-conspirators. According to plea documents, Levinson's co-conspirators managed and operated the payments associated with maintaining straw properties by running a so-called "Bill Pay Program," by which co-conspirators funded the properties through several limited liability companies at the direction of a co-conspirator. Many of the payments were wired from California to Nevada. Levinson admitted that he was hired to represent the Park Avenue condominium complex, but he treated a co-conspirator as his client rather than the HOA itself. Levinson also

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admitted that several of his co-conspirators rigged an HOA board election at Park Avenue. Levinson admitted that, after a lawsuit was filed by the homeowners and a special election master was designated for the make-up election, he attempted to bribe the special election master. Similarly, Levinson admitted that after a rigged election at the Pebble Creek HOA, the homeowners filed a recall petition. Levinson was hired as the HOA general counsel at the direction of a co-conspirator and took several steps to deter the recall election, including firing the property management company and filing a lawsuit to stop the recall election. Related to the tax evasion charge, Levinson admitted that he failed to file taxes for the 2005 to 2010 tax years and filed a false 2011 tax return. Levinson also admitted that he took affirmative steps to evade taxes for the tax years 2009, 2010 and 2011, including concealing cash earnings from the IRS and telling the IRS that his business was no longer operating. Finally, related to the wire fraud charge, Levinson admitted that between March 2010 and September 2011, he embezzled nearly \$180,000 from at least nine different minor personal injury clients. Levinson also admitted that he stole another \$65,000 from an individual for whom he was serving as an escrow agent. As part of the plea agreement, Levinson has agreed to be disbarred by the State Bar of Nevada. Levinson's sentencing is scheduled for May 5, 2014. The maximum sentence for conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud is 30 years in prison. The maximum sentence for attempting to evade or defeat federal taxes is five years in prison. The maximum penalty for wire fraud is 20 years in prison. The case is being investigated by the FBI, IRS-CI and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Criminal Intelligence Section. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Chief Charles La Bella, Senior Deputy Chief for Litigation Kathleen McGovern and Trial Attorneys Thomas B.W. Hall and Alison Anderson of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section. The Department also thanks former Trial Attorneys Mary Ann McCarthy and Nicole Sprinzen for their efforts in prosecuting the case. # # # 14-114 Criminal Division -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT-A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034s3B30 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department Criminal Division Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Las Vegas Attorney Pleads Guilty for Role in Multimillion-Dollar Fraud -ST_LP- Justice Department Criminal Division Press Releases Monday, February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Las Vegas Attorney Pleads Guilty for Role in Multimillion-Dollar Fraud A Las Vegas attorney pleaded guilty today for his role in multiple schemes to defraud his clients, to defraud the IRS and to fraudulently gain control of condominium homeowners' associations (HOAs) in the Las Vegas area to ensure that the HOAs would steer business to a certain law firm and a certain construction company. 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the IRS and telling the IRS that his business was no longer operating. Finally, related to the wire fraud charge, Levinson admitted that between March 2010 and September 2011, he embezzled nearly \$180,000 from at least nine different minor personal injury clients. Levinson also admitted that he stole another \$65,000 from an individual for whom he was serving as an escrow agent. As part of the plea agreement, Levinson has agreed to be disbarred by the State Bar of Nevada. Levinson's sentencing is scheduled for May 5, 2014. The maximum sentence for conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud is 30 years in prison. The maximum sentence for attempting to evade or defeat federal taxes is five years in prison. The maximum penalty for wire fraud is 20 years in prison. The case is being investigated by the FBI, IRS-CI and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Criminal Intelligence Section. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Chief Charles La Bella, Senior Deputy Chief for Litigation Kathleen McGovern and Trial Attorneys Thomas B.W. Hall and Alison Anderson of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section. The Department also thanks former Trial Attorneys Mary Ann McCarthy and Nicole Sprinzen for their efforts in prosecuting the case. # # # 14-114 Criminal Division -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034s4B31 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Two Nuetas Gang Members and a Gang Associate Plead Guilty in Connection with the Murders of Two 17-Year-Old Rival Gang Members -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Two Nuetas Gang Members and a Gang Associate Plead Guilty in Connection with the Murders of Two 17-Year-Old Rival Gang Members -ST_TD- U.S. Attorney's Office February 3, 2014 Eastern District of New York (718) 254-7000 Earlier today, two members of the Nuetas street gang, Alvaro Cabral, also known as "Boobi," and Jason Cabral, also known as "J-Live," pleaded guilty to the 2004 murders of Anthony Marciano and Fabian Mestres. Stephanie DiCarlo-Cabral, an associate of the gang and at the time the girlfriend of Alvaro Cabral, pleaded guilty to robbery and using a firearm in connection with the robbery of Marciano and Mestres. Today's pleas took place before United States District Judge Joanna Seybert. When sentenced, the defendants face life in prison. The pleas were announced by Loretta E. Lynch, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York; George Venizelos, Assistant Director in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New York Field Office (FBI); and William J. Bratton, Commissioner, New York City Police Department (NYPD). "These were brutal, senseless gang murders. The defendants stuffed the victims into the trunk of a car in the dog days of August and then drove them to their execution," stated United States Attorney Lynch. "We hope the victims' families can take some measure of solace in knowing that the individuals who are responsible for their sons' murders have been brought to justice." Ms. Lynch expressed her grateful appreciation to the Suffolk County Police Department, the Tampa Division of the FBI, and United States Attorney's Office, Middle District of Florida, for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation. The defendants targeted one of the victims, Anthony Marciano, because of his affiliation with a rival gang, the Latin Kings. On August 10, 2004, at the direction of Jason Cabral, the leader of gang, the defendants devised a plan to rob and kill 17-year-old Marciano. As part of the plan, the defendants lured Marciano to a house in Brentwood. Marciano arrived with 17-year-old Fabian Mestres, a fellow "Pee Wee" member of the Latin Kings street gang. Once inside the house, Marciano and Mestres were restrained with duct tape, and their drugs, money, and jewelry were stolen. The victims were stuffed into the trunk of a car and driven to a warehouse in Queens where Luis Benitez (Luis Benitez pleaded guilty to the murders of Marciano and Mestres on November 7, 2013), with the assistance of Alvaro Cabral, shot them with a shotgun. Mestres was shot once in the head, and Marciano was shot once in the head and once in the back of the neck. Marciano's and Mestres's bodies were found behind a warehouse in Queens the following day. The government's case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Nicole Boeckmann and Christopher C. Caffarone. Defendants: Alvaro Cabral Age: 28 Apollo Beach, Florida Jason Cabral Age: 36 Riverview, Florida Stephanie Dicarlo-Cabral Age: 29 Riverview, Florida Follow the FBI's New York Office on (). Sign up for our e-mail alerts (<http://www.fbi.gov/e-mail-updates> link) to receive the latest information from the FBI's New York Office on breaking news, arrests, and fugitives. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034s5B32 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Aisan Industry Co. Ltd. Agrees to Plead Guilty to Price Fixing on Automobile Parts Installed in U.S. Cars -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Aisan Industry Co. Ltd. Agrees to Plead Guilty to Price Fixing on Automobile Parts Installed in U.S. Cars -ST_TD- Company Agrees to Pay \$6.86 Million Criminal Fine U.S. Department of Justice February 3, 2014 Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007/TDD (202) 514-1888 WASHINGTON--Aisan Industry Co. Ltd., an Obu, Japan-based company, has agreed to plead guilty and to pay a

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criminal fine of \$6.86 million for its role in a price fixing conspiracy involving electronic throttle bodies sold in the United States and elsewhere, the Department of Justice announced today. According to a one-count felony charge filed today in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, Aisan engaged in a conspiracy to rig bids for and to fix stabilize and maintain the prices of electronic throttle bodies sold to Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. and certain of its subsidiaries in the United States and elsewhere. In addition to the criminal fine, Aisan has also agreed to cooperate with the department's ongoing auto parts investigations. The plea agreement is subject to court approval. "The Antitrust Division will continue to hold companies accountable for anticompetitive conduct that impacts the automobile industry in the United States," said Brent Snyder, Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division's criminal enforcement program. "To date, 25 companies have been charged as part of the Antitrust Division's ongoing auto parts investigation." According to the charges, Aisan and its co-conspirators carried out the price fixing conspiracy through meetings and conversations in which they discussed and agreed upon bids and price quotations for electronic throttle bodies. Aisan's involvement in the conspiracy to fix prices of electronic throttle bodies lasted from at least as early as October 2003 until at least February 2010. Aisan manufactures and sells automotive electronic throttle bodies, which are part of the air intake system in an engine that controls the amount of air flowing into an engine's combustion chamber. By controlling air flow within an engine, the electronic throttle body controls engine speed. Including Aisan, 25 corporations have pleaded guilty or agreed to plead guilty in the department's investigation into price fixing and bid rigging in the auto parts industry. The companies have agreed to pay a total of more than \$1.8 billion in fines. Additionally, 28 individuals have been charged. Aisan is charged with price fixing in violation of the Sherman Act, which carries a maximum penalty of a \$100 million criminal fine for corporations. The maximum fine may be increased to twice the gain derived from the crime or twice the loss suffered by the victims of the crime, if either of those amounts is greater than the statutory maximum fine. Today's prosecution arose from an ongoing federal antitrust investigation into price fixing, bid rigging, and other anti-competitive conduct in the automotive parts industry, which is being conducted by each of the Antitrust Division's criminal enforcement sections and the FBI. Today's charges were brought by the San Francisco Office of the Antitrust Division with assistance provided by the National Criminal Enforcement Section of the Antitrust Division, the Detroit Field Office of the FBI, and FBI Headquarters' International Corruption Unit. Anyone with information concerning this investigation should contact the Antitrust Division's Citizen Complaint Center at 1-888-647-3258, visit www.justice.gov/atr/contact/newcase.html, or call the Detroit Field Office of the FBI at 313-965-2323. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034s6B33 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Aisan Industry Co. Ltd. Agrees to Plead Guilty to Price Fixing on Automobile Parts Installed in U.S. Cars -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Aisan Industry Co. Ltd. Agrees to Plead Guilty to Price Fixing on Automobile Parts Installed in U.S. Cars -ST_TD- Company Agrees to Pay \$6.86 Million Criminal Fine U.S. Department of Justice February 3, 2014 Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007/TDD (202) 514-1888 WASHINGTON--Aisan Industry Co. Ltd., an Obu, Japan-based company, has agreed to plead guilty and to pay a criminal fine of \$6.86 million for its role in a price fixing conspiracy involving electronic throttle bodies sold in the United States and elsewhere, the Department of Justice announced today. According to a one-count felony charge filed today in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, Aisan engaged in a conspiracy to rig bids for and to fix stabilize and maintain the prices of electronic throttle bodies sold to Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. and certain of its subsidiaries in the United States and elsewhere. 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Aisan manufactures and sells automotive electronic throttle bodies, which are part of the air intake system in an engine that controls the amount of air flowing into an engine's combustion chamber. By controlling air flow within an engine, the electronic throttle body controls engine speed. Including Aisan, 25 corporations have pleaded guilty or agreed to plead guilty in the department's investigation into price fixing and bid rigging in the auto parts industry.

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Anyone with information concerning this investigation should contact the Antitrust Division's Citizen Complaint Center at 1-888-647-3258, visit www.justice.gov/atr/contact/newcase.html, or call the Detroit Field Office of the FBI at 313-965-2323. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034s7B34 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Leader of \$28.3 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme Pleads Guilty -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Leader of \$28.3 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme Pleads Guilty -ST_TD- U.S. Department of Justice February 3, 2014 Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007/TDD (202) 514-1888 WASHINGTON--A Florida man who had been the owner and operator of multiple physical therapy rehabilitation facilities pleaded guilty today for his role in organizing and leading a \$28.3 million Medicare fraud scheme involving physical and occupational therapy services. Acting Assistant Attorney General Mythili Raman of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, Acting U.S. Attorney A. Lee Bentley, III of the Middle District of Florida, Special Agent in Charge Paul Wysopal of the FBI's Tampa Field Office, and Special Agent in Charge Christopher B. Dennis of the U.S. Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) region (including all Florida) made the announcement. Luis Duluc, 53, formerly of southwest Florida, pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida to conspiracy to commit health care fraud and making a false statement relating to health care matters. His sentencing date will be set by the court. He faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison. According to documents filed in the case, Duluc and his co-conspirators used various physical therapy clinics and other business entities throughout Florida and elsewhere to submit approximately \$28,347,065 in fraudulent reimbursement claims to Medicare from 2005 through 2009. Medicare paid approximately \$14,424,865 on those claims. Duluc was chairman and president of a Delaware holding company known as Ulysses Acquisitions Inc. Duluc and his co-conspirators used Ulysses Acquisitions to purchase comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs) and outpatient physical therapy providers (OPTs) including West Coast Rehab Inc. in Fort Myers, Florida; Rehab Dynamics Inc. in Venice, Florida; Polk Rehabilitation Inc. in Lake Wales, Florida; and Renew Therapy Center of Port St. Lucie LLC in Port St. Lucie, Florida, in order to gain control of these clinics' Medicare provider numbers. Working with co-conspirators in Miami and elsewhere, Duluc obtained identifying information of Medicare beneficiaries by paying kickbacks and stealing beneficiaries' identifying information. Duluc and his co-conspirators also obtained unique identifying information of physicians. They then used this information to create and submit false claims to Medicare through the clinics Ulysses Acquisitions purchased. These claims sought reimbursement for therapy services that were not legitimately prescribed and not actually provided. The conspirators created and used false and forged patient records in an effort to conceal the fact that services had not actually been provided. Part of the conspiracy included what came to be known as the 80/20 deal, which Duluc developed and marketed. The 80/20 deal involved extensive kickback arrangements with co-conspirators who owned other therapy clinics that were used to further the overall fraud scheme. For example, Duluc and co-conspirators used the clinics they controlled to submit false reimbursement claims to Medicare on behalf of Miami-based therapy clinics such as Hallandale Rehabilitation Inc., Tropical Physical Therapy Corporation, American Wellness Centers Inc., and West Regional Center Inc. Duluc and co-conspirators would retain approximately 20 percent of the money Medicare paid on these claims and pay the other 80 percent of the fraud proceeds to the co-conspirator clinic owners. When Duluc and his co-conspirators were done using the clinics they acquired through Ulysses Acquisitions, they engaged in sham sales of the clinics to nominee or straw owners, all of whom were recent immigrants to the United States who had no background or experience in the health care industry. Duluc did this in an effort to try to disassociate himself from the fraudulent operations of the rehabilitation facilities. This case is being investigated by the FBI and HHS-OIG and was brought as part of the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, under the supervision of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District

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of Florida. This case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorneys Christopher J. Hunter and Andrew H. Warren of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section and Assistant United States Attorney Simon A. Gaugush of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida. Since its inception in March 2007, the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, now operating in nine cities across the country, has charged more than 1,700 defendants who have collectively billed the Medicare program for more than \$5.5 billion. In addition, the HHS Centers for Medicare and **Medicaid** Services, working in conjunction with the HHS-OIG, are taking steps to increase accountability and decrease the presence of fraudulent providers. To learn more about the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Team (HEAT), go to www.stopmedicarefraud.gov.

-ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034s8B35 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Westside Gun & Bag Bandit Arrested After Allegedly Robbing Seven Banks in the West Los Angeles Area -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Westside Gun & Bag Bandit Arrested After Allegedly Robbing Seven Banks in the West Los Angeles Area -ST_TD- FBI Los Angeles February 3, 2014 Public Affairs Specialist Laura Eimiller (310) 996-3343 A Studio City man sought for a series of bank robberies under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department and the FBI was arrested following a bank robbery last weekend. Alim Shamil Urmancheev, 44, of Studio City, was taken into custody by Los Angeles police in Venice on Monday, January 27, following a bank robbery that occurred on Saturday, January 25, at a Chase Bank on National Boulevard in West Los Angeles. Urmancheev was charged by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in connection with the following bank robberies: DateBankAddressCity September 25, 2013 Union Bank 429 Santa Monica Boulevard Santa Monica October 22, 2013 U.S. Bank 4700 Lincoln Boulevard Los Angeles November 4, 2013 U.S. Bank 3302 West Pico Boulevard Santa Monica November 30, 2013 Chase Bank 1415 Lincoln Boulevard Venice December 11, 2013 Chase Bank 310 North Fairfax Avenue Los Angeles January 7, 2014 U.S. Bank 1401 Wilshire Boulevard Santa Monica January 25, 2014 Chase Bank 11700 National Boulevard West Los Angeles During the robberies linked to the Westside Gun & Bag Bandit, the suspect was described as having worn sunglasses and a hat, alternating between a baseball cap and a cowboy hat. The Westside Gun & Bag Bandit threatened a weapon and typically carried a brown paper bag in which the stolen cash was placed. Bank surveillance photographs of the unidentified suspect were distributed to the media and posted online. Urmancheev is being held in a Los Angeles County jail facility awaiting prosecution by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. This investigation was conducted by detectives and agents with the Los Angeles Police Department and the FBI. The Santa Monica Police Department assisted during the investigation. Bank surveillance photographs of multiple serial bank robbers being sought by the FBI and law enforcement partners in Southern California can be found at www.labankrobbers.org.

-ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034t1B36 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Two People Sentenced for the Robbery of a Shelby County Bank -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Two People Sentenced for the Robbery of a Shelby County Bank -ST_TD- U.S. Attorney's Office February 3, 2014 Eastern District of Missouri ST. LOUIS, MO--Savannah Barger was sentenced today to 32 months in prison involving the armed-robbery of the Community State Bank in Clarence, Missouri, on January 17, 2013. Barger, 26, Atlanta, Missouri, previously pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bank robbery. Co-defendant Cody Barber 26, Centerville, Iowa; previously pled guilty to bank robbery and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. Cody Barber was sentenced last October to 97 months in prison. Both defendants appeared before United States District Judge Henry Autrey in St. Louis. This case was investigated by the Kirksville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Shelby County and Macon County Sheriff's Offices, and the Macon Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney John Bird handled the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

-ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034t2B37 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Waterbury Man Admits Producing Child Pornography -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Waterbury Man Admits Producing Child Pornography -ST_TD- U.S. Attorney's Office February 3, 2014 District of Connecticut (203) 821-3700 Deirdre M. Daly, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that Jesus F. Gonzalez, Sr., 37, of Waterbury, pleaded guilty today before U.S. District Judge Vanessa L. Bryant in Hartford to one count of production of child pornography. According to court documents and statements made in court, Gonzalez had sexual intercourse with a minor female

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victim on several occasions between approximately February 2012 and August 2012. On approximately August 9, 2012, Gonzalez used his cell phone to take multiple pictures of the victim, naked, in sexually explicit positions. Gonzalez then maintained the pictures on his phone. The victim was approximately 14 years old at the time the sexually explicit pictures were taken. Judge Bryant has scheduled sentencing for April 23, 2014, at which time Gonzalez faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years, a maximum term of imprisonment of 30 years, and a fine of up to \$250,000. Gonzalez has been detained in state custody since his arrest on August 11, 2012, on related state charges. This matter is being investigated by the Waterbury Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Connecticut Child Exploitation Task Force, which includes federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The Connecticut State's Attorney's Office in Waterbury also provided critical **assistance** in this investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Neeraj N. Patel. This prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood Initiative, which is aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit

www.justice.gov/psc. To report cases of child exploitation, please visit www.cybertipline.com. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034t3B38 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Local Woman Sentenced in Sex Trafficking Conspiracy -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Local Woman Sentenced in Sex Trafficking Conspiracy -ST_TD- U.S. Attorney's Office February **3**, 2014 Eastern District of Missouri ST. LOUIS, MO--Carla Mathews was sentenced to 10 years in prison involving a conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of two area women by force and intimidation. According to court documents, between 2010 and the October 2012, Carla Mathews and her co-defendant recruited and maintained women, physically assaulted them, and forced them to engage in prostitution in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Mathews took the women to various hotels for commercial sex dates and kept the money generated by the victims for herself. She confiscated their food-stamp identification (EBT) cards to control them and deprive them of food and drink as a method of control. Mathews also provided the victims with the drug MDMA and clothing in preparation for the commercial sex dates she arranged for them. Mathews, 27, Breckenridge Hills, Missouri, pled guilty last October to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion and appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Henry Autrey. Co-defendant Carl Mathews, 33, also of Breckenridge Hills, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in July 2013. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Investigations, and the Breckenridge Hills Police Department. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034t4B39 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Las Vegas Attorney Pleads Guilty to Role in Multi-Million-Dollar Fraud -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Las Vegas Attorney Pleads Guilty to Role in Multi-Million-Dollar Fraud -ST_TD- U.S. Department of Justice February **3**, 2014 Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007/TDD (202) 514-1888 A Las Vegas attorney pleaded guilty today for his role in multiple schemes to defraud his clients, to defraud the IRS, and to fraudulently gain control of condominium homeowners' associations (HOAs) in the Las Vegas area to ensure that the HOAs would steer business to a certain law firm and a certain construction company. Acting Assistant Attorney General Mythili Raman of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, Special Agent in Charge Laura Bucheit of the FBI's Las Vegas Field Office, Sheriff Doug Gillespie of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and Acting Special Agent in Charge Shea Jones of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI) made the announcement. Barry Levinson, 47, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge James C. Mahan in the District of Nevada to one count of conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud. Levinson is the 30th person to plead guilty in connection with the scheme to defraud HOAs in the Las Vegas area. Levinson simultaneously pleaded guilty to one count of tax evasion and one count of wire fraud, with the latter charge relating to his embezzlement of his legal clients' funds. Levinson admitted that from approximately August 2003 through February 2009, he participated in a scheme to control various HOA boards of directors so that the HOA boards would award the handling of construction-related lawsuits and remedial construction contracts to his law firm and construction company designated by Levinson's co-conspirators. This scheme was carried out in part by straw buyers who purchased properties in their names that were in reality paid for and controlled by other co-conspirators. According to plea documents, Levinson's co-conspirators managed and operated the payments associated with maintaining straw properties by running a so-called "Bill Pay Program," by which co-conspirators funded the properties through several limited liability companies at the direction of a co-conspirator. Many of the

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payments were wired from California to Nevada. Levinson admitted that he was hired to represent the Park Avenue condominium complex, but he treated a co-conspirator as his client rather than the HOA itself. Levinson also admitted that several of his co-conspirators rigged an HOA board election at Park Avenue. Levinson admitted that, after a lawsuit was filed by the homeowners and a special election master was designated for the make-up election, he attempted to bribe the special election master. Similarly, Levinson admitted that after a rigged election at the Pebble Creek HOA, the homeowners filed a recall petition. Levinson was hired as the HOA general counsel at the direction of a co-conspirator and took several steps to deter the recall election, including firing the property management company and filing a lawsuit to stop the recall election. Related to the tax evasion charge, Levinson admitted that he failed to file taxes for the 2005 to 2010 tax years and filed a false 2011 tax return. Levinson also admitted that he took affirmative steps to evade taxes for the tax years 2009, 2010 and 2011, including concealing cash earnings from the IRS and telling the IRS that his business was no longer operating. Finally, related to the wire fraud charge, Levinson admitted that between March 2010 and September 2011, he embezzled nearly \$180,000 from at least nine different minor personal injury clients. Levinson also admitted that he stole another \$65,000 from an individual for whom he was serving as an escrow agent. As part of the plea agreement, Levinson has agreed to be disbarred by the State Bar of Nevada. Levinson's sentencing is scheduled for May 5, 2014. The maximum sentence for conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud is 30 years in prison. The maximum sentence for attempting to evade or defeat federal taxes is five years in prison. The maximum penalty for wire fraud is 20 years in prison. The case is being investigated by the FBI, IRS-CI, and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Criminal Intelligence Section. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Chief Charles La Bella, Senior Deputy Chief for Litigation Kathleen McGovern, and Trial Attorneys Thomas B.W. Hall and Alison Anderson of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section. The department also thanks former Trial Attorneys Mary Ann McCarthy and Nicole Sprinzen for their efforts in prosecuting the case. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034t5B40 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Court Permanently Enjoins Georgia Tax Return Preparer and Her Company -ST_LP- Justice Department Press Releases Monday, February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Court Permanently Enjoins Georgia Tax Return Preparer and Her Company Stone Mountain, Ga., Return Preparer Allegedly Overstated Refunds Through Fabricated and Inflated Deductions and Credits A federal district judge in the Atlanta Division for the Northern District of Georgia permanently barred Joan Leger and her company from preparing federal income tax returns for others on Jan. 31, 2014, the Justice Department announced today. The judgment also requires Leger to send copies of the permanent injunction to her customers. Leger, who resides in Stone Mountain, Ga., is a paid tax preparer who does business through The 1804 Tax Group Inc. and Liberty Tax Service, and previously did business through J & Company. The complaint alleges that since 2009, Leger, through her companies, has prepared almost 6,000 tax returns. Leger allegedly understated her customers' tax liabilities and overstated their refunds by creating or inflating deductions, wages, income, expenses or credits in order to maximize the earned income tax credit, as well as wrongly claimed other credits and deductions. Leger's practices include fabricating losses for non-existent businesses or businesses not owned and operated by the taxpayer, falsely claiming unreimbursed business expenses and falsely claiming the educational tax credit. Altogether, the complaint alleges that Leger's activities may have resulted in a loss of more than \$2 million to the U.S. Treasury. Leger and The 1804 Tax Group consented to the entry of the injunction. Return preparer fraud is one of the IRS's Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2013 (<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Releases-the-Dirty-Dozen-Tax-Scams-for-2013>).

The Internal Revenue Service has tips for choosing a tax preparer: <http://www.irs.gov/Tax-Professionals/Choosing-a-Tax-Professional>. In the past decade, the Justice Department's Tax Division has obtained injunctions against hundreds of unscrupulous tax preparers. Information about these cases is available on the Justice Department website (<http://www.justice.gov/tax/taxpress2013.htm>). 14-113 Tax Division -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP2034t6B41 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department Criminal Division Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Leader of \$28.3 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme Pleads Guilty -ST_LP- Justice Department Criminal Division Press Releases Monday, February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Leader of \$28.3 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme Pleads Guilty A Florida man who had been the owner and operator of multiple physical therapy rehabilitation facilities pleaded guilty today for his role in organizing and leading a \$28.3 million Medicare fraud scheme involving physical and occupational therapy services. Acting Assistant Attorney General Mythili Raman of the Justice

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Department's Criminal Division, Acting U.S. Attorney A. Lee Bentley III of the Middle District of Florida, Special Agent in Charge Paul Wysopal of the FBI's Tampa Field Office and Special Agent in Charge Christopher B. Dennis of the U.S. Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) region including all of Florida made the announcement. Luis Duluc, 53, formerly of southwest Florida, pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida to conspiracy to commit health care fraud and making a false statement relating to health care matters. His sentencing date will be set by the court. He faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison. According to documents filed in the case, Duluc and his co-conspirators used various physical therapy clinics and other business entities throughout Florida and elsewhere to submit approximately \$28,347,065 in fraudulent reimbursement claims to Medicare from 2005 through 2009. Medicare paid approximately \$14,424,865 on those claims. Duluc was chairman and president of a Delaware holding company known as Ulysses Acquisitions Inc. Duluc and his co-conspirators used Ulysses Acquisitions to purchase comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs) and outpatient physical therapy providers (OPTs) including West Coast Rehab Inc. in Fort Myers, Fla.; Rehab Dynamics Inc. in Venice, Fla.; Polk Rehabilitation Inc. in Lake Wales, Fla.; and Renew Therapy Center of Port St. Lucie LLC in Port St. Lucie, Fla., in order to gain control of these clinics' Medicare provider numbers. Working with co-conspirators in Miami and elsewhere, Duluc obtained identifying information of Medicare beneficiaries by paying kickbacks and stealing beneficiaries' identifying information. Duluc and his co-conspirators also obtained unique identifying information of physicians. They then used this information to create and submit false claims to Medicare through the clinics Ulysses Acquisitions purchased. These claims sought reimbursement for therapy services that were not legitimately prescribed and not actually provided. The conspirators created and used false and forged patient records in an effort to conceal the fact that services had not actually been provided. Part of the conspiracy included what came to be known as the 80/20 deal, which Duluc developed and marketed. The 80/20 deal involved extensive kickback arrangements with co-conspirators who owned other therapy clinics that were used to further the overall fraud scheme. For example, Duluc and co-conspirators used the clinics they controlled to submit false reimbursement claims to Medicare on behalf of Miami-based therapy clinics such as Hallandale Rehabilitation Inc., Tropical Physical Therapy Corporation, American Wellness Centers Inc., and West Regional Center Inc. Duluc and co-conspirators would retain approximately 20 percent of the money Medicare paid on these claims and pay the other 80 per cent of the fraud proceeds to the co-conspirator clinic owners. When Duluc and his co-conspirators were done using the clinics they acquired through Ulysses Acquisitions, they engaged in sham sales of the clinics to nominee or straw owners, all of whom were recent immigrants to the United States who had no background or experience in the health care industry. Duluc did this in an effort to try to disassociate himself from the fraudulent operations of the rehabilitation facilities. This case is being investigated by the FBI and HHS-OIG and was brought as part of the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, under the supervision of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida. This case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorneys Christopher J. Hunter and Andrew H. Warren of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section and Assistant United States Attorney Simon A. Gaugush of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida. Since its inception in March 2007, the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, now operating in nine cities across the country, has charged more than 1,700 defendants who have collectively billed the Medicare program for more than \$5.5 billion. In addition, the HHS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, working in conjunction with the HHS-OIG, are taking steps to increase accountability and decrease the presence of fraudulent providers. To learn more about the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Team (HEAT), go to: <http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/> . # # # 14-112 Criminal Division -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC-DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID-DDJDP2034t7B42 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Leader of \$28.3 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme Pleads Guilty -ST_LP- Justice Department Press Releases Monday, February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Leader of \$28.3 Million Medicare Fraud Scheme Pleads Guilty A Florida man who had been the owner and operator of multiple physical therapy rehabilitation facilities pleaded guilty today for his role in organizing and leading a \$28.3 million Medicare fraud scheme involving physical and occupational therapy services. Acting Assistant Attorney General Mythili Raman of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, Acting U.S. Attorney A. Lee Bentley III of the Middle District of Florida, Special Agent in Charge Paul Wysopal of the FBI's Tampa Field Office and Special Agent in Charge Christopher B. Dennis of the U.S. Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) region including all of Florida made the announcement. Luis Duluc, 53, formerly of southwest Florida, pleaded guilty in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida to conspiracy to commit health care fraud and making a

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To learn more about the Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Team (HEAT), go to: <http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/> . # # # 14-112 Criminal Division -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A - ST_SC- DOJDOC -ST_SN- JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- DDJDP1314t8B43 -ST_PD- 20140131 -ST_SBJ- Justice Department FBI Press Releases -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Two Los Angeles Men Charged in \$33 Million Fraud Cause Sought -ST_LP- Justice Department FBI Press Releases Two Los Angeles Men Charged in \$33 Million Fraud Cause Sought -ST_TD- FBI Los Angeles January 31, 2014 Public Affairs Specialist Laura Eimiller (310) 996-3343 Two men who fled to Israel during a federal criminal investigation into their alleged criminal activity have been charged federally in connection with a \$33 million bank fraud. Aviv Mizrahi, aka Aviv Shoham Schwartz, 53; and Aryeh Greenes, 58, previous residents of the Fairfax District of Los Angeles, were charged Thursday in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in United States District Court in Los Angeles. The 34-count indictment charges the men with bank fraud and making false statements in loan applications. Mizrahi was previously charged with bank fraud in an indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in May 2012. According to the 34-count indictment, Mizrahi operated companies including New Electronic Inc. and Tech Club Inc. that operated as wholesalers of consumer electronics, including televisions and DVD players. Mizrahi also operated a retail store in Culver City known as Star Club. According to the indictment, Mizrahi and Greenes, the chief financial officer of New Electronic and Tech Club, used fake financial records over a four-year period to obtain a \$28 million line of credit from United Commercial Bank and a \$3 million line of credit from TomatoBank. Mizrahi allegedly used fake records to obtain another \$5 million line of credit from Security Pacific Bank. According to the indictment, the banks suffered

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more than \$33 million in losses due to the fraudulent scheme operated by Mizrahi and Greenes. Security Pacific Bank and United Commercial Bank failed and were placed into the hands of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The bank failures cost the FDIC losses in excess of \$1 billion. Following the 2012 indictment charging Mizrahi, the FBI posted his photograph and description at this link in order to generate tips as to his whereabouts: (). Mizrahi and Greenes, pictured below, are believed to have fled to Israel during the investigation. Aviv Mizrahi, aka Aviv Shoham Schwartz Photos, from left to right, taken in 2006, 2009, and 2009 Aryeh Greenes After fleeing to Israel, Mizrahi legally changed his name to "Aviv Shoham Schwartz." Both men are citizens of the United States. Mizrahi faces a maximum statutory sentence of 1,020 years in federal prison if convicted. Greenes faces a maximum statutory sentence of 330 years in federal prison if convicted. An indictment contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges in the indictment result from a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation-Office of the Inspector General. Media Contacts: FBI Los Angeles: 310-996-3343 Assistant U.S. Attorney Ruth C. Pinkel, Major Frauds Section: 213-894-6077 -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- DLD -ST_SN- LABOR DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- LBRBR2034t9B44 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Labor Department Document -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- LBR -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- \$900,000 in Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program grants announced by DOL -ST_LP- Labor Department Document VETS News Release: [02/03/2014] -ST_TD- Contact Name: Egan Reich Phone Number: (202) 693-4960 Release Number: 14-0151-NAT \$900,000 in Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program grants announced by US Labor Department WASHINGTON -- U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez today announced the awarding of two grants totaling \$900,000 to fund services provided by Veterans' Employment and Training Service. Grants of \$450,000 each were awarded to Advocates for Human Potential Inc. in Sudbury, Mass., and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in Washington, D.C. The grants are being awarded through the department's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program. "For our returning service members to experience homelessness or difficulty finding a civilian job is unacceptable. As President Obama emphasized in his State of the Union address, we must fulfill our commitment to these brave men and women," Secretary Perez said. "These federal grants will help local partners provide essential services to those who have served in America's armed forces that will ease their transition to civilian life." Advocates for Human Potential and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans each received grant funding to improve their delivery systems of services provided under existing HVRP grants, including grants that serve homeless female veterans and homeless veterans with families. The HVRP grants announced today include two cooperative agreements that will develop and maintain the National Veterans Technical **Assistance** Center. The center provides technical **assistance** to grantees, potential applicants and the public; researches grantee best practices; conducts employment-related research on homeless veterans; facilitates grantee training sessions and performs outreach to the employer community to increase job opportunities for homeless veterans. Grantees under the HVRP program network coordinate their efforts with various local, state and federal social service providers. More information on the Department of Labor's unemployment and re-employment programs for veterans can be found at <http://www.dol.gov/vets/>. For more information on HVRP grants, contact Cassandra Mitchell at 202-693-4570. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- NASD -ST_SN- NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION DOCUMENTS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- NSASA1244u7B45 -ST_PD- 20140124 -ST_SBJ- Goddard Spaceflight Center Releases and Information -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- NSA -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- NASA Spacecraft Take Aim At Nearby Supernova -ST_LP- Goddard Spaceflight Center Releases and Information An exceptionally close stellar explosion discovered on Jan. 21 has become the focus of observatories around and above the globe, including several NASA spacecraft. The blast, designated SN 2014J, occurred in the galaxy M82 and lies only about 12 million light-years away. This makes it the nearest optical supernova in two decades and potentially the closest type Ia supernova to occur during the life of currently operating space missions. -ST_TD- To make the most of the event, astronomers have planned observations with the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope and NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR), Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, and Swift missions. As befits its moniker, Swift was the first to take a look. On Jan. 22, just a day after the explosion was discovered, Swift's Ultraviolet/Optical Telescope (UVOT) captured the supernova and its host galaxy. Remarkably, SN 2014J can be seen on images taken up to a week before anyone noticed its presence. It was only when Steve Fossey and his students at the University of London Observatory imaged the galaxy during a brief workshop that the supernova came to light. "Finding and publicizing new supernova discoveries is often the weak link in obtaining rapid

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observations, but once we know about it, Swift frequently can observe a new object within hours," said Neil Gehrels, the mission's principal investigator at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Although the explosion is unusually close, the supernova's light is attenuated by thick dust clouds in its galaxy, which may slightly reduce its apparent peak brightness. "Interstellar dust preferentially scatters blue light, which is why Swift's UVOT sees SN 2014J brightly in visible and near-ultraviolet light but barely at all at mid-ultraviolet wavelengths," said Peter Brown, an astrophysicist at Texas A&M University who leads a team using Swift to obtain ultraviolet observations of supernovae. However, this super-close supernova provides astronomers with an important opportunity to study how interstellar dust affects its light. As a class, type Ia supernovae explode with remarkably similar intrinsic brightness, a property that makes them useful "standard candles" -- some say "standard bombs" -- for exploring the distant universe. Brown notes that X-rays have never been conclusively observed from a type Ia supernova, so a detection by Swift's X-ray Telescope, Chandra or NuSTAR would be significant, as would a Fermi detection of high-energy gamma rays. A type Ia supernova represents the total destruction of a white dwarf star by one of two possible scenarios. In one, the white dwarf orbits a normal star, pulls a stream of matter from it, and gains mass until it reaches a critical threshold and explodes. In the other, the blast arises when two white dwarfs in a binary system eventually spiral inward and collide. Either way, the explosion produces a superheated shell of plasma that expands outward into space at tens of millions of miles an hour. Short-lived radioactive elements formed during the blast keep the shell hot as it expands. The interplay between the shell's size, transparency and radioactive heating determines when the supernova reaches peak brightness. Astronomers expect SN 2014J to continue brightening into the first week of February, by which time it may be visible in binoculars. M82, also known as the Cigar Galaxy, is located in the constellation Ursa Major and is a popular target for small telescopes. M82 is undergoing a powerful episode of star formation that makes it many times brighter than our own Milky Way galaxy and accounts for its unusual and photogenic appearance. Francis Reddy NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (<http://www.nasa.gov/goddard>), Greenbelt, Md. Image Token: Image Token: Before and After Images: Caption:

These Swift UVOT images show M82 before (left) and after the new supernova (right). The pre-explosion view combines data taken between 2007 and 2013. The view showing SN 2014J (arrow) merges three exposures taken on Jan. 22, 2014. Mid-ultraviolet light is shown in blue, near-UV light in green, and visible light in red. The image is 17 arcminutes across, or slightly more than half the apparent diameter of a full moon. Image Credit: NASA/Swift/P. Brown, TAMU Image Token: -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- NASD -ST_SN- NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION DOCUMENTS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- NSASA2034u8B46 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Goddard Spaceflight Center Releases and Information -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- NSA -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- NASA Administrator Bolden, Senator Mikulski View Progress on James Webb Space Telescope -ST_LP- Goddard Spaceflight Center Releases and Information RELEASE 14-040 -ST_TD- NASA Administrator Bolden, Senator Mikulski View Progress on James Webb Space Telescope NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland congratulated the James Webb Space Telescope team Monday for the delivery of all flight instruments and primary mirrors to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Their comments came in a morning news conference at Goddard, where NASA's flagship science project will be assembled in preparation for launch in 2018. "The Hubble Space Telescope has already rewritten the science books. Going from Hubble to the James Webb Space Telescope is like going from a biplane to the jet engine," said Mikulski, Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee that funds NASA. "As Chairwoman, I've continued to fight for funds in the federal checkbook to keep the James Webb Space Telescope mission on track, supporting jobs today and jobs tomorrow at Goddard. NASA Goddard is home to leaders in Maryland's space and innovation economies, making discoveries that not only win Nobel Prizes, but create new products and jobs. The James Webb Space Telescope will keep us in the lead for astronomy for decades to come, spurring the innovation and technology that keep America's economy rolling." NASA's James Webb Space Telescope will be the most powerful space telescope ever built, capable of observing the most distant objects in the universe, providing images of the first galaxies formed, and observing unexplored planets around distant stars. A joint project of NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), Webb is the successor to the agency's Hubble Space Telescope. All 18 of Webb's primary mirror segments are now housed in the Goddard clean room. Its 1.3 million cubic feet of dust-free space make the clean room one of the world's largest. All four of Webb's science instruments are within feet of the mirrors. The telescope's mirror and instruments will capture images of the universe and break down the spectra of incoming light to analyze the properties of galaxies, stars, and the atmospheres of planets beyond our solar system. "The recent completion of the critical design review for Webb, and the delivery of all its instruments to Goddard,

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mark significant progress for this mission," said Bolden. "The design, build, delivery and testing of these components took meticulous planning and action here at Goddard and with teams across the country, as well as with our international partners. It's very exciting to see it all coming together on schedule. And I want to thank our good friend Senator Barbara Mikulski for her support. We wouldn't be here today without her championing of this critical capability for NASA. I know she understands just how important it is to continue to push the boundaries of what we can do in space." "This past year has been one of significant progress for the Webb telescope," said Goddard Director Chris Scolese during the news conference. "The NASA Goddard team is working tirelessly with our partners to keep the program on track as we develop this newest scientific tool to explore the universe." The news conference featured a video presentation hosted by Webb's deputy project manager and technical engineer, Paul Geithner, from inside the clean room. He explained how the 18 mirror segments will be coupled to form the massive space telescope's 21-foot-wide main mirror. This work, and the assembly of the rest of the telescope, will begin once the telescope structure arrives at Goddard. "Each of these instruments has a unique function to collect data about the universe," Geithner said, pointing to four science instruments that will be located inside the heart of the telescope. One of these instruments, the University of Arizona's Near-Infrared Camera, will be Webb's primary camera and will take images of the first stars and galaxies to form in the universe, along with many other astronomical targets. A second instrument, ESA's Near-Infrared Spectrograph (NIRSpec), will analyze the spectra and composition of as many as 100 objects at once. Airbus Defence and Space, formerly known as EADS/Astrium, built NIRSpec with components provided by Goddard. A third instrument, ESA's Mid-Infrared Instrument, has both a camera and a spectrograph, which sees light in the mid-infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum -- wavelengths longer than the human eye can see. This instrument was developed in collaboration with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. A fourth instrument, CSA's Fine Guidance Sensor and Near-infrared Imager and Slitless Spectrograph, will allow Webb to point precisely at its target in order to obtain high-quality images, and also will provide other valuable science modes for investigating both the distant universe and nearby exoplanets. Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems is building Webb's sunshield. Once in space, the sunshield will act as an umbrella to keep heat radiating from the sun and Earth from reaching scientific instruments that must stay cold to function properly. The Webb telescope will be fully assembled by 2016 and then moved to a clean room at NASA's Johnson Space Center for additional testing. For more information about the instruments and the Webb telescope, visit: <http://www.jwst.nasa.gov> and <http://www.nasa.gov/webb> -end- J.D. Harrington

Headquarters, Washington 202-358-5241 j.d.harrington@nasa.gov Lynn Chandler Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. 301-286-2806 lynn.chandler-1@nasa.gov To unsubscribe from the list, send an e-mail message with the subject line unsubscribe to hqnews-request@newsletters.nasa.gov?subject=unsubscribe Full Width Images Image Token: Side Images Image Token: -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- NASD -ST_SN- NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION DOCUMENTS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- NSASA2034u9B47 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Press Releases and Information -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- NSA -ST_IN- ISO -ST_HD- NASA Astronaut Shares Space Workouts, Joins Elite Athletes for Google+ Hangout -ST_LP- Press Releases and Information RELEASE 14-039 -ST_TD- NASA Astronaut Shares Space Workouts, Joins Elite Athletes for Google+ Hangout Seeking fitness inspiration? NASA astronauts Mike Hopkins and Rick Mastracchio, along with four fitness professionals and athletes, will share workout tips during a special Google+ Hangout from space at 12: 15 p.m. EST Thursday, Feb. 6. The Hangout can be seen live on NASA's Google+ page or on NASA Television. In addition to Hopkins and Mastracchio, participants are: -- Jeannette Epps, NASA astronaut -- Curt Tomasevich, U.S. Olympic bobsledder, participating from Sochi, Russia -- Rich Froning Jr., CrossFit Games Champion -- Jared Crick, Houston Texans professional football player -- Peter Moore, Men's Health magazine Hopkins, a lifelong fitness enthusiast, is sharing his workouts from space via the "Train Like an Astronaut" Facebook page and YouTube. Astronauts aboard the space station workout at least two hours a day in order to minimize bone and muscle loss -- an effect of extended time in a weightless environment. They have three different devices they can use to maintain fitness - a treadmill, a stationary bicycle and the Advanced Resistive Exercise Device (ARED). Hopkins plans to demonstrate the ARED from the Tranquility module during the Hangout. Hopkins grew up participating in several sports and was All-Big Ten Defensive Back and team captain for the University of Illinois football team. His other recreational interests include hockey, backpacking, snow skiing and running. He also is a fan of CrossFit training and weight lifting. A colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Hopkins launched to space on Sept. 25 aboard a Soyuz spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. He completed two spacewalks in December, working to replace a faulty ammonia tank on the space station's exterior. He will return to Earth at the conclusion of his first spaceflight mission in March.

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NASA's social media followers may submit questions on Twitter and Google+ before and during the Hangout using the hashtag #askNASA. To join the Hangout, visit: <https://plus.google.com/events/cpigjb8l5n1p9cjl98lueba0apc> To connect with Hopkins or Mastracchio on Twitter, follow: @AstroRllini and @AstroRM To view Hopkins workout video from space, visit: <http://youtu.be/EEQyybh617I> To view and share Hopkins and other astronaut workouts, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/trainastronaut> For Hopkins' astronaut biography, visit: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/hopkins-ms.html> To view the Hangout on NASA TV, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/nasatv> -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- RFEUR -ST_SN- RADIO FREE EUROPE DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- RFEURFE2034v2B48 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- News Stories and Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- Analysis: As **Protests** Continue, Attention Focuses On Ukraine's 'Thin Blue Line' -ST_LP- News Stories and Documents By Robert Coalson -ST_TD- February 3, 2014 One video purported to show a masked Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) officer in the Western region of Ivano-Frankivsk announcing his resignation and that of several of his officers. The video, which was released last week, claimed the unidentified man was a member of the SBU's elite Alpha special-operations unit. "Since we swore our oath to the Ukrainian people, we decided -- our entire subunit -- to submit our resignations," the man said. "We are not going to carry out criminal orders." Another video posted on January 30 purports to show a former officer of the Interior Ministry's special semimilitarized troops discussing widespread discontent among his former comrades facing the barricades in Kyiv. After weeks of mass demonstrations, videos like these -- and reports that pro-European protesters in Western Ukraine met only mild resistance when they occupied government buildings in 10 regions last week -- have raised questions about the possibility of splits in the country's law-enforcement and security services. If police begin refusing to obey the government's orders -- or if some line up with the demonstrators -- it would be a potentially decisive development in the ongoing standoff between President Viktor Yanukovich and opposition demonstrators. Ukraine isn't quite there yet, analysts say. The thousands of Berkut specialized crowd-control officers and Interior Ministry troops have been responding to orders -- pushing back protesters, dismantling barricades, and using nonlethal force as instructed. 'Not Particularly Human Or Subtle' According to Mark Galeotti, a professor at New York University and expert on security services in post-Soviet states, the Berkut, Ukraine's elite riot police, are almost a separate caste of people, selected and trained to emphasize obedience. "These are very different people," he says. "On the whole they are recruited from ex-military, especially paratroopers and such like. They have a very macho and actually quite insular culture. Although they haven't always been used effectively, in the main these are tough, professional, well-trained -- if not particularly humane or subtle -- elements." He adds that images of police being engulfed by flames from Molotov cocktails allegedly thrown by protesters make it hard for many front-line police to view the protesters as merely patriotic Ukrainians who have "taken another path." But the longer the crisis drags on, analysts say, the higher the likelihood that the loyalty of law-enforcement troops could bend, or break. Berkut officers, Galeotti notes, generally live and work in their communities and there is a real chance that officers could end up sympathizing with those on the other sides of the barricades. "There is always that possibility and I think this is one of the issues as the conflict flares up more, particularly outside of Kyiv," he says. "As you start going westward, the people in Berkut are going to be west Ukrainians, they may well see their relatives or their friends, or people they were at school with, in the crowds... Even if they are willing agents of the current regime, they nonetheless emotionally have ties with the sort of strand of opinion that says Ukraine should be part of Europe, that Ukraine should not be a Russian satrapy." In such situations, including the 1991 coup attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, one shouldn't expect open defections but rather "an unwillingness to get involved," Galeotti says. As the opposition becomes increasingly entrenched and sets up, for instance, parallel governing institutions, it becomes easier for officers to step aside. "If I was an officer in charge of a [Berkut] regiment in Lviv [in western Ukraine] and I could see that there were real signs that the tide was turning against the government, there arises that question of do you really want to be on trial in a few months' time after the regime has fallen for your actions," says Galeotti. "Again, I don't think that what we'll be seeing is necessarily defections but just simply an unwillingness to get involved." Beefing Up Security Perhaps mindful of this, the government appears to be taking measures to bolster its enforcers. Deputy Interior Minister Viktor Ratushnyak said last week that the cabinet had allocated additional funding to "staff up" law enforcement agencies. Analysts and opposition leaders fear that this means the government might add up to 45,000 additional police. However, Hennadiy Moskal, a parliamentarian with the opposition Batkivschyna faction and a former deputy interior minister, told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service that adding to the ranks of the Berkut is no simple matter -- since it involves fairly rigorous selection and at least six months of training. "Consequently, raising up a new Berkut officer is not just a matter of the stroke of a pen, or of

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demonstrating the political will, or anything like that," he said. If Yanukovich's government seeks to beef up security by calling on the military, it could bring about a crucial turning point, says Galeotti. "The military has very pointedly said 'we do not have a role in these kinds of operations,'" he says. "And if then the government started to say, 'we want you to go out and support the Berkut,' I wouldn't be surprised if -- especially in the west of the country -- we began to see not necessarily units siding with the protesters, but units refusing to obey their orders. And as soon as that happens, that is really the beginning of the end for a regime." RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service correspondent Tetyana Yarmoshchuk contributed to this report from Kyiv Copyright (c) 2011. RFE/RL, Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20036.

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a final deal between Iran and world powers was possible within six months. Zarif said on February 3 at the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin that such a deal could be done even earlier. Under an interim agreement between Tehran and the so-called P5+1 countries -- France, Britain, the United States, Russia, China, and Germany -- a 12-month deadline exists for an agreement. The next round of talks between Iran and the six powers is slated for February 18. The interim accord reached in November curbs uranium enrichment in Iran and opens up nuclear facilities to inspectors. U.S. officials confirmed on February 3 that Iran has received \$550 million in previously frozen funds -- the first tranche from a total of \$4.2 billion that Tehran will receive as part of the deal. Based on reporting by Interfax and AP Copyright (c) 2011. RFE/RL, Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20036. www.rferl.org -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- RFEUR -ST_SN- RADIO FREE EUROPE DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- RFEURFE2034v7B53 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- News Stories and Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- FDL -ST_HD- BOO: It's Scariest Than You Think -ST_LP- News Stories and Documents February 3, 2014 -ST_TD- Cash-strapped countries of the world have an option to alleviate their domestic energy shortages: BOO -- Build, Own, Operate. It comes with the promise of a better future but as is true of most things, it also comes with a price tag. In the case of Central Asia, the price for a BOO scheme is giving Russia the biggest strategic edge in the region. BOO is usually, though not always, seen in poorer countries. A private entity guarantees the funding and construction of a major project, then retains ownership and operates the completed project until the private entity regains all its investment, plus a profit. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have enormous hydropower potential but do not have the finances to take advantage of this resource. They have opted to allow foreign, state-owned companies to come and construct massive hydropower plants (HPP) on their territories. Leaders of the two countries promise their people -- who once again are facing heating and electricity shortages this winter -- that these projects mean an end to electricity rationing. And one day they might. But in Tajikistan it has not worked out that way just yet. The Russian company Unified Energy Systems (UES) built the 670-megawatt Sangtuda-1 HPP some 160 kilometers southwest of Dushanbe and the Iranian company Sangob constructed the 220-megawatt Sangtuda-2. UES spent some \$720 million and, though the total amount is not clear, Sangob has spent at least \$180 million. Sangtuda-1 is sort of "BOO light." The Russian government owns 66.39 percent of the hydro-plant, UES 14.92 percent, UES subsidiary Inter RAO 2.24 percent, and the Tajik government the remaining 16.45 percent. The plant has four units (which will be important to remember later on). The fourth and final unit was launched in May 2009. That same month, the plant's management warned Tajik authorities about an unpaid bill of some \$18 million. In February 2013, Sangtuda-1's management threatened to suspend operations over \$66 million in unpaid bills sparking a debate in the Tajik parliament as to whether Tajikistan had a right to use one generator since the government owned 16.45 percent of the HPP. Astronomical Sums By late July 2013, independent Tajik news agency Asia-Plus reported that the country's national power company, Bark-i Tojik, owed a combined \$100 million bill for electricity provided by the Sangtuda-1 and Sangtuda-2 HPPs. Tajikistan's state budget for 2014 comes to less than \$3 billion, so the state power company's debt represents an astronomical amount of money for the country. RFE/RL's Tajik Service, Radio Ozodi, reported in early January that Sangtuda-2 suspended power generation for "technical reasons" but an official at the Iranian Embassy in Dushanbe suggested that, if Tajikistan's debt to the power plant, reportedly somewhere between \$12 million and \$27.8 million, was paid, the problem could be resolved quickly. The Tajik news agency Ozodagon reported on January 30 that the Tajik Minister of Water and Energy Resources Usmonali Usmonov said the plant would resume operations after "technical inspections" were completed, but he did not say when that would be. Kyrgyzstan completed a deal in 2013 for Russia to build the Kambar-Ata-1 HPP, with a 2,000-megawatt capacity and estimated cost of some \$2 billion. The Russian company RusHydro is building the four generators for the HPP and Inter RAO, with a 75-percent stake in the project, will oversee operations. Inter RAO will maintain its 75-percent stake until the project breaks even, after which the Russian company and the Kyrgyz state will share the profits evenly. When the project will break even is difficult to say. Some Kyrgyz politicians, notably the head of the Ata-Meken party Omurbek Tekebaev, warned against the deal pointing to Tajikistan's circumstances and Kyrgyzstan's own disadvantageous situation with the Kumtor gold mine in the northern part of the country, where, again, a foreign (Canadian) partner is reaping the profits while Kyrgyzstan receives little. But after these projects are completed and, possibly decades in the future, when BOO becomes BOOT - Build, Own, Operate, Transfer - Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan should not only be able to provide electricity to their populations, they also should have large surpluses that they can export. (That's part of the CASA 1000 project and doesn't figure in this article.) Lord Of The Waters It has been noted that, for Russia, the HPP projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are of dubious

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business value. Some believe the Kremlin has political motives for getting involved in these projects, a way to bind Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan closer to Russia. That seems likely, but one could take this attempt at strengthening influence a bit farther. In Central Asia the ability to give water, or withhold it, even partially, is a huge edge. By owning and operating Sangtuda-1, on the Vakhsh River, a major tributary of the Amu-Darya, and Kambar-Ata-1, on the Naryn River, a major tributary of the Syr-Darya, Russia in effect has control over a large amount of water that pours into Central Asia's two largest rivers. In a largely arid region where nothing is as valuable as water, the implications for downstream countries seem obvious. One of those downstream countries, Uzbekistan, has been particularly resistant to Russian influence in the region since the collapse of the Soviet Union and several times since late 1991 has opposed Moscow's moves in Central Asia, at times trying to counter them by courting better ties with rival world powers, usually from the West. The Uzbek government has been loudly *protesting* large HPP projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on the grounds that these power plants and the reservoirs needed for them could disrupt water to Uzbekistan's agricultural fields. Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov went so far as to say that the misuse of the region's water supplies could be grounds for war. It's the kind of tough talk that the Kyrgyz and Tajik governments must take seriously, but not the Russian government. -- Bruce Pannier with contributions from Iskander Aliyev and Sojida Djakhfarova of RFE/RL's Tajik Service Copyright (c) 2011. RFE/RL, Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20036.

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STDP -ST_SN- STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- SDSDB2034r1B55 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Public Affairs Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- STDINTDEF -ST_HD- Gulf of Aden Counterterrorism Forum, February 3-5, 2014, Djibouti, Djibouti -ST_CT- Office of State Department Public Communication Division, 202-647-6575 -ST_LP- Public Affairs Documents -ST_TD- Gulf of Aden Counterterrorism Forum Media Note Office of the Spokesperson Washington, DC February 3, 2014 The Gulf of Aden Counterterrorism Forum is a regional forum that addresses counterterrorism issues, focusing on the transnational threat posed by al-Shabaab and al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). One of the main goals of the Forum is to build U.S. partner nation capacity to counter al-Shabaab and AQAP by linking law enforcement, justice, and security officials in Yemen with their counterparts in Somalia and Djibouti. The Forum aims to help identify the steps needed to enhance counterterrorism efforts and cooperation in the region and create a lasting dialogue between Somali, Yemeni, and Djiboutian officials. In April 2013, the Government of Yemen and U.S. Embassy Sanaa co-hosted the First Gulf of Aden Regional Counterterrorism Forum in Sanaa, Yemen. The first of its kind, the meeting brought Yemeni government and security officials from the ministerial and working levels together with their counterparts from Djibouti and Somalia. The participants discussed security challenges facing the region, including threats posed by terrorist groups such as AQAP and al-Shabaab; strengthening rule-of-law institutions while respecting human rights; anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism; border security; maritime security and piracy; and countering radicalization to violence and violent extremism. The second Gulf of Aden Counterterrorism Forum, co-hosted by the Government of Djibouti and U.S. Embassy Djibouti, begins on February 3, 2013 in Djibouti. Approximately 60 government officials from Yemen, Somalia, and Djibouti will participate in the three-day event, with U.S. Ambassador to Djibouti, Geeta Pasi, heading the U.S. delegation. Participants will discuss developments in the region since the first Forum occurred last April and focus on the role of law enforcement and the military in countering terrorism; strengthening rule-of-law institutions while respecting human rights; crisis response;

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information sharing; and border security. A third Forum will be held later in 2014. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- STDP -ST_SN- STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- SDSDB2034r2B56 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Public Affairs Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- STDINTDEF -ST_HD- Special Advisor for Children's Issues Travels to Haiti -ST_CT- Office of State Department Public Communication Division, 202-647-6575 -ST_LP- Public Affairs Documents -ST_TD- Special Advisor for Children's Issues Travels to Haiti Media Note Office of the Spokesperson Washington, DC February 3, 2014 Special Advisor for Children's Issues Ambassador Susan Jacobs will visit Haiti from February 3-6 to discuss the future of intercountry adoptions following Haiti's ratification of the Hague Adoption Convention. Ambassador Jacobs will join Joanna Ruppel, International Operations Division Chief, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to meet with government officials about Haiti's laws for implementing the Hague Adoption Convention and plans for the transition adoption cases. They will also discuss how the countries can partner together to promote ethical and transparent intercountry adoptions that are in the best interests of children. Ambassador Jacobs will also meet with nongovernmental organizations to discuss strengthening child protection systems. For more information about children's issues, please visit: ChildrensIssues.state.gov For updates on Special Advisor Jacobs' trip, follow her on Twitter: @ChildrensIssues For press inquiries please contact CAPRESSREQUESTS@state.gov or (202) 485-6150. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- STDP -ST_SN- STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- SDSDB2034r3B57 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Public Affairs Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- STDINTDEF -ST_HD- TechWomen Delegation in Rwanda To Expand Network of African Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fields -ST_CT- Office of State Department Public Communication Division, 202-647-6575 -ST_LP- Public Affairs Documents -ST_TD- TechWomen Delegation in Rwanda To Expand Network of African Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fields Media Note Office of the Spokesperson Washington, DC February 3, 2014 Fusing technology with efforts to empower women and girls, the U.S. Department of State announced today that a delegation of 30 U.S. TechWomen mentors is meeting in Rwanda February 2-7 to collaborate and connect through workshops and visits with local organizations. An innovative public-private partnership, TechWomen pairs emerging women leaders in technology from the Middle East and Africa with American women mentors from the greater Silicon Valley area. TechWomen, has brought almost 80 women from the Middle East and North Africa and the United States together for month-long mentorships. This year, TechWomen expanded to include women from sub-Saharan African countries. Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Evan Ryan will join the TechWomen for this first meeting in Sub-Saharan Africa. The U.S. TechWomen mentors traveling to Rwanda represent 23 companies in Silicon Valley and the Greater San Francisco Bay Area including: Blackberry, Calix, Citrix, Cisco, EMC, Ericsson, Fairrer Samani Group Ventures, Families Without Borders, Genentech, Intel Corp., Juniper Networks, Katy Dickinson Consulting, Law Offices of Patricia Bován, NestGSV, Nisum Technologies, Salesforce.com, Santa Clara University, Sf.citi, Shakour Marketing, Sun Run, Symantec, and Twitter. While in Rwanda, the TechWomen will meet with nonprofits, innovation centers, and girls' schools that focus on expanding technology networks and careers for women and girls in STEM fields. They will also meet with Rwandan Minister of Youth and Information & Communications Technologies (ICT), visit the University of Rwanda's College of Science and Technology, and attend a Science and Technology fair hosted by the U.S. Embassy Kigali. Stay tuned for updates by following @TechWomen or use #twrwanda on Twitter. To learn more, visit www.techwomen.org. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- STDP -ST_SN- STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- SDSDB2034r4B58 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Public Affairs Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- STDINTDEF -ST_HD- U.S. Department of State To Host Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Passport Agency in San Juan, Puerto Rico -ST_CT- Office of State Department Public Communication Division, 202-647-6575 -ST_LP- Public Affairs Documents -ST_TD- U.S. Department of State To Host Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Passport Agency in San Juan, Puerto Rico Media Note Office of the Spokesperson Washington, DC February 3, 2014 Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick F. Kennedy will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, February 5, at 10: 00 a.m. to mark the opening of a new U.S. Passport Agency in San Juan, Puerto Rico that serves U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Honorable David E. Bernier Rivera, Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Carlos Beltran of the New York Yankees will deliver remarks and participate in the ribbon-cutting. The agency, located at Centro Gubernamental Minillas, Torre Norte, Piso 9, issues U.S. passport books and passport cards onsite to U.S. citizens who are traveling internationally in less than two weeks

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or who need to obtain a foreign visa within four weeks. Travelers with urgent travel requirements may schedule an appointment at the San Juan Passport Agency by calling the National Passport Information Center toll free, at 1-877-487-2778 (Se Habla Espanol). Additional information about applying for a U.S. passport, including required documents and fees, is available at travel.state.gov. Media will have the opportunity to tour the facility and interview Under Secretary Kennedy along with additional U.S. Department of State officials. For press inquiries, contact Ivette Rodriguez, Customer Service Manager, San Juan Passport Agency, (305) 798-7688. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- STDP -ST_SN- STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- SDSDB2034r5B59 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- Public Affairs Documents -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- STDINTDEF -ST_HD- U.S. Department of State Releases Limits in the Seas Series -ST_CT- Office of State Department Public Communication Division, 202-647-6575 -ST_LP- Public Affairs Documents -ST_TD- U.S. Department of State Releases Limits in the Seas Series Media Note Office of the Spokesperson Washington, DC February 3, 2014 The Department of State has published four new editions to the Limits in the Seas series, a collection of studies that examines the maritime claims and boundaries of selected coastal States from a geographic and legal perspective. The Department of State began these studies in 1970 and has published 131 editions to date. The four studies published today focus on archipelagic claims made by the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, the Republic of Cabo Verde, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Each study analyzes a State's maritime claims and their conformity with international law, as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. These studies, and the rest of the series, are available to the public on the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs website at <http://www.state.gov/e/oes/ocns/opa/c16065.htm>. In the coming months, additional studies in the series will be published. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOA AV2034w3B60 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Obama to Visit Saudi Arabia in March -ST_LP- VOA English Service Obama to Visit Saudi Arabia in March -ST_TD- VOA News February 3, 2014 U.S. President Barack Obama is planning to visit Saudi Arabia in March, to talk with King Abdullah about security in the Middle East and contentious issues in the region. The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are long-time allies, but Riyadh lately has questioned American handling of the rebels' fight against the Syrian government, as well as U.S. and Western efforts to curb Iran's nuclear development program. White House spokesman Jay Carney on Monday said the two leaders will discuss a range of issues, but he emphasized the two countries' long-standing ties. "The president very much looks forward to the visit where all of those areas will be discussed in his meetings. And whatever differences we may have do not alter the fact that this is a very important and close partnership," said Carney. Obama is adding his visit to Saudi Arabia at the end of a previously announced trip to the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOA AV2034w4B61 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Analysts: UN-Cambodia Trial Agreement Positive Step -ST_LP- VOA English Service Analysts: UN-Cambodia Trial Agreement Positive Step -ST_TD- Sok Khemara (<http://www.voanews.com/author/22994.html>) February 3, 2014 A new commitment from the U.N. and Cambodia to continue their support for the Khmer Rouge genocide trials is being called a positive sign by analysis, including some who still have reservations about the likely outcome of the trials. In a meeting last week between the U.N.'s top legal diplomat, Miguel de Serpa Soares, and Cambodian Cabinet Minister Sok An, the two sides agreed to continue to fund the court and cooperate on conducting trials. The U.N.-backed court has faced ongoing financial woes in recent months as it seeks to conclude the initial trial of two aging Khmer Rouge leaders. The Cambodian side of the hybrid court has faced ongoing criticism of mismanagement, corruption and political interference. The court itself has handed down only one conviction since its inception in 2006. John Ciorciari, a professor of public policy at the University of Michigan and co-author of a new book, "Hybrid Justice," says the agreement should restore confidence from international donors and is a sign for the tribunal to move on to other cases. "The timing is perfect for both sides to cooperate now because there is something that both want and that is for the court's next phase of operation to go smoothly, the phase leading to the first verdict in case 002," he said. But Peter Maguire, author of "Facing Death in Cambodia," says that while the agreement is a positive development, he is cautious about the prospects for further trials because of the age of the elderly Khmer Rouge leaders. "I think it's a very positive thing and you know if the U.N. can move faster, they can at least complete parts of these trials within the lifetime of the defendants. As far as further trials, I am not optimistic," he said. Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, both in their 80s, are the only senior Khmer Rouge leaders alive and considered fit to stand trial. The first phase of

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the trial, dealing with the forced evacuation of Phnom Penh in April 1975, concluded in October. Both defendants deny the charges against them and a verdict is not expected until later this year. The scope of the second phase has not yet been determined. Youk Chhang, Executive Director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, said it is not clear how future cases will go forward. "The investigations seem to be getting very long and without a clear strategy to finish when," said Chhang. "That is the tricky part. Even though both sides are now in agreement to work together, this still remains to be worked out between the two parties. So I urged [the] two parties to quickly establish an exit strategy as soon as it can be done." Sum Rithy, one of the rare survivors from a notorious Khmer Rouge prison, says he still holds out hope that justice will be done. "As I have said for a long time, the process of trying Khmer Rouge leaders will not be inactive or die away," said Rithy. "The U.N. and Cambodia are making efforts to find justice for the victims of the Khmer Rouge regime." As many as two million Cambodians died from starvation, overwork and executions during the four-year rule of the Khmer Rouge, which attempted to create an agrarian communist utopia. The group's leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998 and co-founder Ieng Sary died earlier this year. Former Khmer Rouge prison chief Kaing Guek Eav, better known as "Duch," was sentenced last year to life in prison for his role in killing more than 14,000 while running the Tuol Sleng torture and execution center in Phnom Penh. This report was produced in collaboration with the VOA Khmer service. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOA/V2034w5B62 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- News Analysis: Attention Focuses On Ukraine's 'Thin Blue Line' -ST_LP- VOA English Service News Analysis: Attention Focuses On Ukraine's 'Thin Blue Line' -ST_TD- Robert Coalson, RFE/RL February 3, 2014 After weeks of **protests** and intermittent clashes between demonstrators and police in Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine, the country's police and security forces are stretched thin. It remains to be seen whether or not President Viktor Yanukovych can continue to count on their loyalty. One video purported to show a masked Ukrainian Security Service [SBU] officer in the Western region of Ivano-Frankivsk announcing his resignation and that of several of his officers. The video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X00LXxXT-c>), which was released last week, claimed the unidentified man was a member of the SBU's elite Alpha special-operations unit. Another video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=io1WPProkg8>) posted on January 30 purports to show a former officer of the Interior Ministry's special semi-militarized troops discussing widespread discontent among his former comrades facing the barricades in Kyiv. After weeks of mass demonstrations, videos like these - and reports that pro-European protesters in Western Ukraine met only mild resistance when they occupied government buildings in 10 regions last week - have raised questions about the possibility of splits in the country's law-enforcement and security services. If police begin refusing to obey the government's orders - or if some line up with the demonstrators - it would be a potentially decisive development in the ongoing standoff between President Viktor Yanukovych and opposition demonstrators. Ukraine isn't quite there yet, analysts say. The thousands of Berkut specialized crowd-control officers and Interior Ministry troops have been responding to orders - pushing back protesters, dismantling barricades, and using non-lethal force as instructed. Mark Galeotti, a professor at New York University and expert on security services in post-Soviet states, said the Berkut, Ukraine's elite riot police, are almost a separate caste of people, selected and trained to emphasize obedience. "These are very different people. On the whole they are recruited from ex-military, especially paratroopers and such like," said Galeotti. "They have a very macho and actually quite insular culture. Although they haven't always been used effectively, in the main these are tough, professional, well-trained - if not particularly humane or subtle - elements." He added that images of police being engulfed by flames from Molotov cocktails allegedly thrown by protesters make it hard for many front-line police to view the protesters as merely patriotic Ukrainians who have "taken another path." But the longer the crisis drags on analysts say, the higher the likelihood that the loyalty of law-enforcement troops could bend, or break. Berkut officers, Galeotti noted, generally live and work in their communities and it is a real possibility that officers could end up sympathizing with those on the other sides of the barricades. "There is always that possibility and I think this is one of the issues as the conflict flares up more, particularly outside of Kyiv. As you start going westward, the people in Berkut are going to be west Ukrainians, they may well see their relatives or their friends or people they were at school with in the crowds... and also, they are more likely to, even if they are willing agents of the current regime, they nonetheless emotionally have ties with the sort of strand of opinion that says Ukraine should be part of Europe, that Ukraine should not be a Russian satrapy." In such situations, including the 1991 coup attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, one shouldn't expect open defections but rather "an unwillingness to get involved," Galeotti says. As the opposition becomes increasingly entrenched and sets up, for instance, parallel governing institutions, it becomes easier for officers to step aside: "If I was an officer in charge of

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a [Berkut] regiment in Lviv [in western Ukraine] and I could see that there were real signs that the tide was turning against the government, there arises that question of do you really want to be on trial in a few months' time after the regime has fallen for your actions. Again, I don't think that what we'll be seeing is necessarily defections but just simply an unwillingness to get involved." Perhaps mindful of this, the government appears to be taking measures to bolster its enforcers. Deputy Interior Minister Viktor Ratushnyak said last week that the cabinet had allocated additional funding to "staff up" law enforcement agencies. "Today we are only speaking about the fact that the cabinet allocated financing for law enforcement agencies, which today are not completely staffed. We face a shortage of 14 percent," he said. Analysts and opposition leaders fear this means the government might add up to 45,000 additional police. However, Hennadiy Moskal, a parliamentarian with the opposition Batkivschyna faction and a former deputy interior minister, tells RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service that adding to the ranks of the Berkut is no simple matter - since it involves fairly rigorous selection and at least six months of training. "So raising up a new Berkut officer is not just a matter of the stroke of a pen, or of demonstrating the political will, or anything like that." If Yanukovych's government seeks to beef up security by calling on the military, it could bring about a crucial turning point, according to Galeotti. "The military has very pointedly said 'we do not have a role in these kinds of operations.' And if then the government started to say, 'we want you to go out and support the Berkut,' I wouldn't be surprised if - especially in the west of the country - we began to see not necessarily units siding with the protesters, but units refusing to obey their orders. And as soon as that happens, that is really the beginning of the end for a regime." RFE/RL Ukrainian Service correspondent Tetyana Yarmoshchuk contributed to this report from Kyiv. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOAAV2034w6B63 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Riek Machar Announces South Sudan 'Resistance' Movement -ST_LP- VOA English Service Riek Machar Announces South Sudan 'Resistance' Movement -ST_TD- John Tanza Last updated on: February 3, 2014 1: 54 PM South Sudan's former vice president says he has formed a "resistance" group that will fight the government to ensure democracy and good governance in the war-battered country. "We decided to organize a resistance against the regime," Machar told VOA in a telephone interview from an undisclosed location. "So, yes, if you heard troops in Upper Nile, in Jonglei, in Unity States, in Equatoria saying what I am saying, yes, we are now an organized resistance against the regime," said Machar. The resistance group, called the SPLM/SPLA -- an amalgam of the name of the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the South Sudanese army -- wants to see democracy, pluralism, free elections and good governance take hold in South Sudan, Machar said. Riek Machar announces South Sudan resistance movement (<http://www.voanews.com/audio/Audio/372288.html>) Machar went into hiding in mid-December when President Salva Kiir accused his former deputy of mounting a failed coup against him, which the government said kicked off weeks of bloodletting across the country. Machar has denied trying to oust the president in a coup. In his interview with VOA, he insisted that he and others in the ruling SPLM merely wanted to democratize the party. "The struggle in the SPLM is a struggle of people who want the SPLM to be a democratic movement," he said. Machar was fired from his post of vice president in July, when Kiir reshuffled his entire cabinet. Since then, the former vice president has been a vocal critic of Kiir, saying he has "dictatorial tendencies" and vowing to challenge him for the leadership of the SPLM ahead of general elections in 2015. But he said he did not launch his resistance movement in order to better position himself for a run for the presidency. Riek Machar on running for president of South Sudan (<http://www.voanews.com/audio/Audio/372306.html>) Machar invited the 11 SPLM leaders who were detained when the unrest broke out to join his resistance movement against Kiir. Seven of the 11 have been released, under the terms of a peace agreement signed 11 days ago by the two sides in South Sudan's conflict. But the government said it has enough evidence to charge the four other detainees and three more political leaders who fled when the fighting broke out -- including Machar -- with treason. Machar said that he wants an end to the fighting in South Sudan so that the country can focus on much-needed development. But Kiir has forced his hand, and is forcing war on the people, he said. "I myself am tired of war... I share the views of people who say, 'We do not want any more war. We want our people to reconcile. We want our people to develop and catch up with the rest of the world.' But Kiir Mayardit is forcing this on us... Therefore, the people have the right to resist," Machar told VOA. Riek Machar: "Kiir is forcing this on us." (<http://www.voanews.com/audio/Audio/372312.html>) Foreign observers have described the peace deal signed by the two warring sides as shaky, and a spokesman for Machar said Monday that government forces violated the agreement over the weekend when they attacked Machar's hometown in Unity state and other towns held by the anti-government forces. Talks to reconcile the warring factions in South Sudan are due to resume on February 7th. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA

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NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOAAV2034w7B64 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- St. Louis Inspires Aviation Innovation -ST_LP- VOA English Service St. Louis Inspires Aviation Innovation -ST_TD- Shelley Schlender February 3, 2014 ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - For nearly a century, entrepreneurs in the midwestern U.S. city of St. Louis, Missouri, have reached for the sky, backing two of the world's most famous flying contests. First, Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight in the 1920s. Then, in 1996, the XPRIZE, which led to the world's first private reusable manned spacecraft. Making dreams fly St. Louis entrepreneur Gregg Maryniak enjoys spending time at a mid-size airport watching single engine planes rumble into the sky. He says similar airplanes, and a book about them, ignited his passion for making dreams fly. "I read 'The Spirit of St. Louis,' and within a year, I was taking flying lessons," Maryniak said. "I was one of those kids that would spend all the money I would make pushing lawnmowers and doing various other odd jobs to pay for an hour of dual instruction in a plane." The book that supercharged Maryniak's ambition is about Charles Lindbergh. In 1927, the lanky young pilot entered a contest that promised \$25,000 to the first person to fly non-stop from New York to Paris. Many pilots had died attempting the 5,800-kilometer flight. Lindbergh's lack of connection with prestigious aviation efforts led journalists to call him "the flying fool." But financial backers from St. Louis believed in him. In their honor, Lindbergh named his plane "The Spirit of St. Louis" and won the prize. Modern aviation Maryniak says Lindbergh's success opened the door for modern aviation. "Within a year, the number of pilots in America triples, the number of airplanes quadruples," he said. "And the number of people buying tickets to go on commercial flights goes up 30 fold." That \$25,000 prize was a surprisingly small investment to spawn today's \$500 billion aviation industry. And Maryniak plays a big part in a futuristic wing of that industry. In the early 1990s, he and his friend, entrepreneur Peter Diamandis, proposed a new contest, to inspire private companies to develop better planes - for space. "Everybody knew, quote unquote - that only NASA and the Russians, at the time we announced the prize, could send people to space," Maryniak said. "We knew that wasn't true. In fact, we'd been stymied by people's beliefs that only governments could do this. We really wanted to change that." For start-up funds, Maryniak headed to where Lindbergh had gone 70 years earlier - St. Louis. "I think in most cities, we would have been launched into space by the toe of people's boots, but not here in St. Louis," said Maryniak. "We got the initial seed money that allowed us to start the foundation." Benefiting mankind The XPRIZE Foundation's mission is to create public competitions, designed to kickstart technologies that benefit mankind. In 1996, the head of NASA and 20 astronauts joined Diamandis as he stood beside St. Louis's landmark of soaring ambition - the 200 meter high Gateway Arch - and issued a challenge. "This \$10 million award will be going to the winner, which is the first team to do the following - to privately build a spaceship. Privately finance that ship. Carry three individuals, and do that twice inside of two weeks," Diamandis said. More than two dozen national and international teams entered that first XPRIZE competition. In 2004, the Scaled Composites company won with a plane named SpaceShipOne. Since then, many companies have designed better ways to fly people and cargo into space. Other XPRIZES have spurred innovations ranging from more fuel efficient cars to oil spill cleanups. A current prize challenges entrepreneurs to put robots on the moon. These days, the XPRIZE headquarters are in California, but Maryniak continues to live in the city that first believed in Lindbergh, and in the XPRIZE. "There's nothing special in the water in places like Silicon Valley or even St. Louis that makes entrepreneurship possible," he said. "I think it has to do with the spirit of the community." Maryniak travels frequently, looking for other communities ready to tackle possibilities just out of view, with an XPRIZE. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOAAV2034w8B65 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- Vietnam Curbing Traffic to Improve Safety, Air Quality -ST_LP- VOA English Service Vietnam Curbs Traffic to Improve Safety, Air Quality -ST_TD- Lien Hoang (<http://www.voanews.com/author/22589.html>) February 3, 2014 HO CHI MINH CITY - Vietnam is attempting to combat the traffic-related problems of crashes and smog. Traffic accidents are a leading killer here, especially among teenagers. Roughly 14,000 Vietnamese die each year after a crash, putting this nation of 90 million among the top 10 countries to suffer road-related deaths, according to Bloomberg Philanthropies. That figure could come down as Vietnam experiments with ways to get more vehicles off the road and more pollutants out of the air. The Ministry of Transport has introduced a raft of proposals, from restricting car access to downtown areas, to investing in more sidewalks and electric vehicles, to changing some school and work hours. That last option, which is meant to reduce traffic during peak hours, has already rolled out in parts of Hanoi, but would expand to Ho Chi Minh City. Each city has more than seven million residents. Trinh Van Chinh, a consultant for the transport ministry, said the change in hours is inconvenient but necessary. "We have to help people understand better that this problem is

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really urgent." Chinh said in an interview at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Transport, where he also teaches. Planners hope that by staggering business and school hours, they could cut traffic accidents by as much as 10 percent and cut traffic jams by 30 percent. Some have criticized and even poked fun at the policy. Unclogging congestion But Akira Hosomi, who is helping Vietnam build a metro system through the Japan International Consultants for Transportation, said the policy can succeed because he has seen similar ideas work elsewhere. He said that Singapore charges metro-goers less during non-peak hours in order to control congestion. Besides bringing the country's first subway system online in the next few years, the transport ministry wants to get more Vietnamese to use city buses. In its latest proposals, it suggesting lower fares and free parking at key transit points where commuters could hop onto buses. Signs have gone up around Ho Chi Minh City, urging residents to take the bus. This would require weaning drivers off the motorbike. In Vietnam, unlike more industrialized parts of Asia, the motorbike still rules the road. That means drivers here are more exposed to pollution, Hosomi said, not to mention collisions. "I think the air pollution in Vietnam, specifically Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, is getting more serious day by day," he said. Hosomi added that the wide availability of cheap fuel contributes to smog. So do four-wheel cars, which is why the government aims to limit them in city centers and charge drivers a fee to go downtown. Officials also want to promote electric vehicles. Car importers balk But Horst Herdtle said that shouldn't mean discouraging traditional cars. Herdtle is CEO of Euro Auto, which imports BMW cars to Vietnam. He said his cars meet such tough European emission standards before coming to Vietnam that "probably a water buffalo emits more harmful substances than a passenger car." The government will have an even tougher time controlling vehicles after 2018, when it'll have to forgo import duties for vehicles from within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The change is part of further regional integration, including an Asean Economic Community that kicks off in 2015. Vietnam halved the auto import taxes this year which used to mean a buyer paid as much as twice the sticker price of a car. At the same time, Vietnam has succeeded in some of its mass-media traffic campaigns. A push for drivers to wear helmets has resulted in a 90-percent compliance rate, according to the World Health Organization. Billboards remind drivers that "Safety comes first" or that this is the "Year of Traffic Safety." But environmentalist Phan Ha Vy said there aren't enough campaigns that look beyond safety to include the environment. "There's so much pollution because people aren't conscious about the environment," Vy said. VY lives in Ho Chi Minh City but grew up in Vung Tau, a beach town three hours southeast. She said the streets back home were far cleaner, less crowded; she was more likely to walk outside. Now she rides a motorbike. "Even if I go for a walk here, there's too much dust," she said. "So I really don't want to go out, it's hard to tolerate." Most Vietnamese deal with the pollution by donning masks. Many go for walks and exercise outside at the crack of dawn when there are fewer vehicles and the smog hasn't set in. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOA AV2034w9B66 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- US Soccer Team Focuses on World Cup -ST_LP- VOA English Service US Soccer Team Focuses on World Cup -ST_TD- Mike O'Sullivan February 3, 2014 CARSON, CALIFORNIA - The US men's soccer team opened its 2014 season with a 2 - 0 win over South Korea in a friendly match in California Saturday. Both teams are gearing up for the FIFA World Cup in Brazil in June. US fans were in a frenzy on each of two goals by Chris Wondolowski, who is known to his teammates as Wondo. The South Koreans remained scoreless, and US head coach Jurgen Klinsmann had praise for the forward from the San Jose Earthquakes. "Seeing Wondo start the year 2014 with two goals, it's awesome. It's awesome for him," said Klinsmann. Klinsmann said two weeks of training recently in Sao Paulo, Brazil, at one of the World Cup sites, and another week in California are paying off. For the US team, and World Cup competitor South Korea, the key to success is forging a unified team in the next four months. US defender Brad Evans of the Seattle Sounders says the competition is tough. "We've got Ghana, Portugal and Germany in our group alone. Those are some of the top teams in the world and you look at the home country, Brazil, who has probably the favorites to win at this point, being home and obviously a very good team. You look at Spain, who's historically been a very good team as well," said Evans. Evans says the immediate focus is Ghana, which the US will face in Brazil June 16th. US forward Landon Donovan of the LA Galaxy is a World Cup veteran who is ready for surprises. "I've played in three of these, and a lot of times the games that are, quote, easier on paper end up being harder and vice versa, so it's the best 32 teams in the world," said Donovan. South Korea will play a friendly match with Greece in Athens March 5th, and starts World Cup play June 17th in a game against Russia. As the teams prepare, the fans say they're ready. The US will play Ukraine next in a friendly match in Kharkiv, Ukraine, March 5th. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOA AV2034x1B67 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV-

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DEF -ST_HD- Two Killed in Moscow School Shooting -ST_LP- VOA English Service Two Killed in Moscow School Shooting -ST_TD- February 3, 2014 In an incident rare for Russia, a rifle-wielding Moscow high-school student shot and killed his geography teacher and a police officer and took more than 20 of his classmates hostage Monday. The student, identified as Sergei Gordeyev, shot and seriously wounded another police officer. Moscow police chief Anatoly Yakunin said the suspect surrendered and was taken into custody after his father talked to him, first by telephone and then in person. Russian Investigative Committee spokesman said Gordeyev, described as an excellent student, may have suffered an "emotional breakdown." President Vladimir Putin referred to the incident Monday, telling a meeting of a presidential council on culture and the arts in the northwestern Russian city Pskov that "the new generation of audiences needs to be raised with good artistic taste and the ability to understand and value the theatrical, dramatic and musical arts." "And if this was done as it should be in our country," Mr. Putin added, "then maybe there would not be tragedies like the tragedy in Moscow today." -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOA AV2034x2B68 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- S. Sudan Opposition Accuses Government of Deadly Weekend Attack -ST_LP- VOA English Service S. Sudan Opposition Accuses Government of Deadly Weekend Attack -ST_TD- Lucy Poni February 3, 2014 NAIROBI - South Sudanese opposition forces on Monday accused government troops of attacking the Unity state hometown of former vice president Riek Machar, who fled into hiding in December after President Salva Kiir accused him of triggering nearly six weeks of violence around the country. Lul Ruai Koang, a spokesman for Machar's Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army In Opposition, said government forces, together with rebels from Sudan, attacked Leer town over the weekend, and killed civilians as they tried to flee the fighting. "On Saturday, a combined force comprised of units from Justice and Equality Movement and South Sudan Liberation Army militias advanced on Leer in the afternoon," Koang told VOA. After opposition forces made what Koang called "a tactical withdrawal," the troops "entered Leer town and started burning down the... town and the surrounding villages," he said. "And, not only that, they went as far as hunting down women and children and the elderly who had gone to hide in the nearby bushes and swampy areas, and they started killing them," he added. Koang said he believes Leer was attacked because it is the hometown of Machar, who Kiir has accused of trying to oust him in December, setting off weeks of violence that claimed thousands of lives and displaced more than three-quarters of a million people. "There is no strategic, operation or tactical importance attached to Leer in terms of military perspective," Koang said. "It is a small town on the banks of the White Nile River. The only important thing is that it is the home of the vice president, and that's what the government is capitalizing on," he said. The anti-government side in South Sudan's recent conflict, which erupted on Dec. 15 when fighting broke out in Juba, also alleged that government forces attacked their positions in the Doliep Hills, south of the Upper Nile state capital, Malakal, and in another part of Unity state at the weekend. If confirmed, the attacks would violate a cessation of hostilities agreement signed nearly two weeks ago by the two sides. The agreement calls for fighting to halt immediately, for all foreign forces that were invited in to South Sudan to fight to be withdrawn, and for an end to attacks on women, children and the elderly. Koang accused the government of "intensifying the war" rather than ending the violence. "It is bringing in foreign fighters from Darfur, from Blue Nile, from Rwanda, from Congo and within a very short time we are going to have a regional war taking place in South Sudan," he said. Vice President James Wani Iga denied that the government had attacked opposition-held towns, saying, "We don't intend to fight. We are for the agreement which was signed and this is actually what we are abiding with." A team from the regional body that brokered the cessation of hostilities agreement, IGAD, arrived in Juba on Sunday to begin setting up bases to monitor the peace deal signed in Addis Ababa on Jan. 23. The head of the IGAD monitoring team, Ethiopian Major General Gebreegzabher Mebrahtu, was unable to confirm the opposition's claims of renewed fighting over the weekend. Charlton Doki and Andrew Green contributed to this report from Juba. -ST_END- -ST_START- -ST_ACT- A -ST_SC- VOA -ST_SN- VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS -ST_IP- FIN -ST_ID- VOA AV2034x3B69 -ST_PD- 20140203 -ST_SBJ- VOA English Service -ST_CY- Copyright (c) 2011 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc. -ST_GV- DEF -ST_HD- South Sudan's Machar Announces 'Resistance' Group -ST_LP- VOA English Service S. Sudan's Machar Unveils 'Resistance' Group -ST_TD- VOA News February 3, 2014 South Sudan's former vice president says he has formed a "resistance" group that will fight the government to ensure democracy and good governance in the war-battered country. South Sudan's government had accused Riek Machar of leading a coup attempt that set off weeks of deadly fighting between pro- and anti-government troops. In a telephone interview Monday with VOA's South Sudan in Focus program, Machar confirmed he is opposed to the government of President Salva Kiir. "We decided to organize a resistance against the regime. So yes, if you heard

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troops in Upper Nile, in Jonglei, in Unity States, in Equatoria, saying what I am saying, yes, we are now an organized resistance against the regime," said Machar. Machar said his group wants to see democracy, pluralism, free elections, and good governance take hold in South Sudan. Thousands are believed killed, and more than a half-million people have been driven from their homes by the fighting in South Sudan. A cease-fire signed by government and rebel delegations in Ethiopia 10 days ago has largely held, despite each side accusing the other of violations. More talks are scheduled to begin on February 7th. Machar is a political rival of the president, and has announced plans to challenge him in the next elections. Kiir fired him as vice president in July, about five months before the fighting began. -ST_END-

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