



jimdealshouses.ca
417-CASH(2274)
 FOR CASH Same Day
 Any Area or condition

Edmonton NEWS BREAK



GEM-GALLERY
 JEWELLERS & GOLDSMITHS
 Franklin's Inn Location
 Main Lobby 467-3005
 Serving Sherwood Park for 20 Years

Published By **NEWS COMMUNICATIONS** since 1977 **EDMONTON** Thursday February 02, 2012

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Wednesday that The United States and NATO will end their combat mission in Afghanistan next year, transitioning primarily to a training role in which Afghan security forces will take the lead. Afghanistan's security force exceeds 305,000 and is headed toward 352,000 this year. At the same time, the U.S. will be withdrawing forces throughout 2012, with the goal of reducing U.S. troop strength to 68,000 by year's end from more than 100,000. There will also be 38,000 troops from other NATO countries. The transition comes a year before the 2014 deadline to end the war in Afghanistan that had been set by the Obama administration.

* The U.N Security Council is considering the most important resolution yet on the rule of terror that Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad has unleashed on his people. The resolution, proposed by Morocco calls for al-Assad to leave power as the first step of a transition toward democracy.

* Egypt's parliament has scheduled a special session today to probe the causes of a riot at a soccer game that left more than 70 people dead and 1,000 injured. Officials in Port Said, where the violence occurred on Wednesday, raised the death toll to 73 after fans of rival soccer teams rushed the field, hurling stones and sticks at each other and sparking a stampede. Witnesses said most of the deaths appeared to have occurred in a stampede.

* The death toll from a cold snap across eastern Europe rose to 79 on Wednesday and emergency crews worked overtime as temperatures sank to -32.5 C. Some villages have had no electricity for two days and crews were working around-the-clock trying to fix power lines. Ukraine alone reported 43 deaths, mostly of homeless people. Authorities have deployed over 1,730 heating

shelters across the country and handed out hot tea, coffee and food. Hospitals were told not to discharge homeless patients to protect them from the cold.

* The special court investigating the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri said Wednesday it will try four Hezbollah members indicted in the case in absentia. The Netherlands-based Special Tribunal for Lebanon did not say when the trial will start. Hariri was killed along with 22 others by a suicide truck bomb on Feb. 14, 2005. The suspects were indicted last year, but Hezbollah has refused to arrest them and send them for trial at the UN tribunal.

* A Canadian woman jailed in Mexico on suspicion of leading a conspiracy to smuggle members of slain Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's family into the country says she has been tortured and abused during nearly three months in custody. A Mexican judge Tuesday night ordered Vanier and three co-accused remain in jail for up to 10 more days while authorities decide whether they should be charged.

* WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange appeared at the UK Supreme Court on Wednesday to fight his extradition to Sweden. He is wanted in Sweden to answer questions around allegations that he sexually assaulted two women in 2010. Assange has not been charged with a crime and has denied wrongdoing. He lost a court battle last November against extradition, but was granted an appeal. The prosecution is expected to make its case at the Supreme Court today. A decision is not expected for weeks.

* The Holy Grail of Internet IPOs is here. Facebook filed Wednesday to raise \$5 billion in an initial public offering. In 2011, Facebook earned \$1 billion on sales of \$3.7 billion. As of December 31, Facebook had 845 million monthly active users.

NATIONAL NEWS

The brother of a woman who was killed in an LRT station, execution-style took the stand in Colton Ferguson's first-degree murder trial Wednesday. Travis Thurier, told court his sister, Heather Rae Thurier, 23, approached a man at the Stadium LRT Station asking for a cigarette. Thurier says the man flashed a gang sign and said, "Do you know who I am and what I could do to you?" Heather apparently threw some spare change from her hand and onto the floor. He then saw the man pull out a sawed-off rifle from his backpack. Moments later, she was shot in head.

* An Edmonton man is facing charges after police found and seized more than 80 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop in the Jasper area Tuesday. Thanh Chi Huynh, 41, has been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking. He is scheduled to appear in Jasper court on Feb. 9.

* Quebec Senator Pierre Boisvenu has apologized from controversial comments he made Wednesday about having ropes in the jail cells of convicted killers. Questioned by reporters on his position on capital punishment, Boisvenu said "I think that every murderer should have a rope in his cell and he can decide on his own life. But I'm against the death penalty."

* Edmonton residents should see some relief on their next electricity bill. Epcor's rate for February is dropping to 13.9 cents a kilowatt hour from 15 cents in January. Epcor says the March bill should be even lower.

* As of the afternoon of Jan. 31, Edmonton police have had no new murders to investigate. By this time last year, there had been four homicides.

* A 22 per cent increase in sales propelled Chrysler Canada into top spot in January, displacing Ford. The automaker said Wednesday it sold 16,584 vehicles last month in its best January since 2002. Ford Canada sales also grew, by five per

For subscription or ad information call 1-800-503-4563

cent compared with the same month a year earlier, to 14,978. Honda Canada reported a whopping 127 per cent increase over last January's sales, with a total 9,168 Honda and Acura vehicles sold. Toyota Canada, which has been struggling with supply issues since the Japanese earthquake last March, saw an 18 per cent increase.

* The TSX gained 65 points Wednesday to 12,517. The Canadian dollar rose to USD\$1.002 while March oil slipped 15-cents to USD\$97.46 a barrel.

BEEF BREAK

Why wasn't the 17 year old who was texting when she struck a pedestrian in a crosswalk charged with dangerous driving under the Criminal Code of Canada? A few months in the slammer sends a better message than a \$172 fine. Comments: beefbreak@bellyyellow.com

On This Day in History

1942 - Vancouver BC - Ottawa proclaims western British Columbia a 'protected area' under wartime regulations, and orders Japanese nationals moved inland for security reasons; within weeks, the government includes second and third generation Canadians of Japanese origin under the edict; they are treated as aliens and deprived of their property.

Today's Pop Quiz:
 What fraternal order is the IOOF?
Yesterday's Quiz:
 What Japanese athletes grapple for the Emperors Cup?
 A. Sumo wrestlers

Weather
 Today: sunny, H 0
 Tomorrow: sunny, H 5

NEWS BREAK ON-LINE:
www.cywebp.com/edmonton.cfm

RENT TO OWN

Payments cheaper than rent

1 & 2 Bedroom Condominiums
 2 & 3 Bedroom Houses

447 - R7E3N6 T8

Upcoming Shows!

 **Mike Dambra**
 February 2-4

Gabriel Rutedge
 February 9-11

Book On Line www.LAUGHINTHEPARK.CA
780 417 9777
 Chippewa & Blackfoot Rd., Sherwood Park

Join us for a Culinary Journey accompanied by Live Music...The NOLA EXPERIENCE!


 CREOLE KITCHEN & MUSIC HOUSE
 ...the new evolution of Supper Club

www.experienzenola.com

11802 - 124 Street, Edmonton 780-451-1390

Book Your Corporate Functions

locations in Edmonton
 Sherwood Park & Morinville
 Fully licensed for groups 10 - 400

Your Choice:
 Menu, Live Music
 Live Comedy,
 Karaoke, Limo Service

Call 780 418-3895