



## National news in brief

Tuesday, June 26, 2012 12:00 am

### **Final steel beam lifted at 4 World Trade Center**

A final steel beam was lifted Monday atop a new World Trade Center skyscraper — the first expected to open at the site next year since the twin towers were decimated on 9/11.

With BeBe Winans singing "God Bless America," workers raised their hardhats in tribute as the mammoth beam rose slowly into the Manhattan sky, swaying from a steel rope hoisted by a crane. A U.S. flag attached to the bottom of the beam fluttered above several hundred spectators at the topping-off ceremony.

**Tropical storm soaks Florida's Gulf Coast** • Tropical Storm Debby raked the Tampa Bay area with high wind and heavy rain Monday in a drenching that could top 2 feet over the next few days and trigger widespread flooding.

At least one person was killed Sunday by a tornado spun off by Debby in Florida, and Alabama authorities searched for a man who disappeared in the rough surf.

An estimated 35,000 homes and businesses lost electricity. But as of midafternoon, the slow-moving storm had caused only scattered damage. The storm continued Monday night to churn slowly toward Florida's Gulf Coast, putting Central Florida counties in its projected path.

**Teacher, students arrested in hazing** • Police said Monday that they have arrested a masonry teacher and four students as they investigate allegations of brutal hazing at a summer school in Southern California.

Three boys were attacked in separate incidents in the classroom of teacher Emmanuel De La Rosa at A.B. Miller High School, Fontana, Calif., police Sgt. Robert Morris said. One 18-year-old student — Fernando Salgado — is being investigated for child cruelty, assault with intent to commit mayhem or rape and attempted sodomy. De La Rosa, 27, may have directed the students to carry out one of the assaults, Morris said.

**Maryland man convicted in renewable energy scheme** • A Maryland man accused of selling millions of dollars in fraudulent renewable energy credits was convicted Monday on all 42 counts against him, including money laundering, wire fraud and violations of the Clean Air act. Rodney Hailey was accused of selling \$9.1 million in credits for biodiesel fuel his company didn't produce.

**Facebook names first woman to board** • Facebook's No. 2 executive, Sheryl Sandberg, has become the first woman on the social-networking company's board of directors. She is also the first Facebook executive other than founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg on the board. Sandberg, 42, was lured from Google in 2008 to become Facebook's chief operating officer. She has been largely responsible for building the company's advertising business and also often serves as Facebook's public face.

**Jesse Jackson Jr. on medical leave** • U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.'s office disclosed Monday that the veteran Democratic congressman has been on medical leave from Congress for the past two weeks and is being treated for exhaustion.

**Jury awards over \$950 million to Liberty Media** • A federal jury awarded \$956 million on Monday to U.S. media group Liberty Media after concluding that the French entertainment group Vivendi deceived it in a decade-old deal involving the USA Networks.

**Kochs, Cato Institute ready to end lawsuits** • The Cato Institute and billionaire shareholders Charles and David Koch announced Monday that they are close to settling two lawsuits brought by the prominent political donor brothers in their native Kansas over the ownership of the libertarian-leaning think tank based in Washington. The Koch brothers, known nationally for supporting conservative causes and candidates, are longtime shareholders in the institute.

They filed their lawsuits earlier this year in Kansas, arguing that it has jurisdiction because the institute lists an office in the Kansas City suburb of Johnson County.