



THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

See Mardi Gras photos on 1C, 5C and online

The Burlington Free Press

Sunday, February 28, 2010 ••• A Local Custom · Serving Vermont for 183 years · www.burlingtonfreepress.com \$1.75

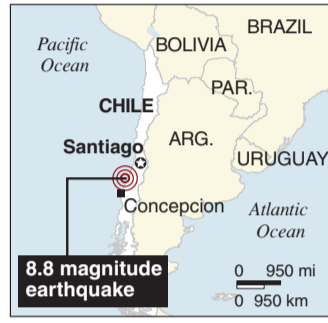


ROBERT BUKATY, The Associated Press
A fan watches the men's gold medal curling match Saturday between Canada and Norway at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in British Columbia. The nation's athletes discovered what Americans have long been chided for doing: Enjoying the heck out of winning.

8.8 quake hits Chile

Powerful temblor unleashes tsunami threat across Pacific

By Roberto Candia and Eva Vergara
The Associated Press



TALCA, Chile — One of the largest earthquakes ever recorded tore apart houses, bridges and highways in central Chile on Saturday and sent a tsunami racing halfway around the world. Chileans near the epicenter were tossed about as if shaken by a giant, and authorities said at least 214 people were dead.

The magnitude-8.8 quake was felt as far away as Sao Paulo in Brazil — 1,800 miles to the east. The full extent of damage remained unclear as dozens of aftershocks — one nearly as powerful as Haiti's devastating Jan. 12 earthquake — shuddered across the disaster-prone Andean nation.

President Michelle Bachelet declared a "state of catastrophe" in central Chile but said the government had not asked for assistance from other countries. If it does, President Barack Obama said, the United States "will be there." Around the world, leaders echoed his sentiment.

In Chile, newly built apartment buildings slumped and fell. Flames devoured a prison. Millions of people fled into streets darkened by the failure of power

SOURCE: ESRI AP
■ Tsunami misses Hawaii, heads for Japan, 6A

lines. The collapse of bridges tossed and crushed cars and trucks, and complicated efforts to reach quake-damaged areas by road.

At least 214 people were killed and 15 were missing Saturday evening, Bachelet said in a national address on television. She said 1.5 million people had been affected, and officials in her administration said 500,000 homes were severely damaged.

In Talca, 65 miles from the epicenter, people sleeping in bed suddenly felt like they were flying through major airplane turbulence as their belongings cascaded around them from the shuddering walls at 3:34 a.m. (1:34 a.m. EST).

See **QUAKE, 5A**

POLITELY, CANADA KICKED BUTT

By Patrick Garrity
Free Press Staff Writer

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — A Winter Olympiad that spent its early days in need of a hero now can take its pick as it comes to a close. Most of the choices wear red — and gold.

The Vancouver Winter Games are one epic hockey game shy of over, and after some wobbly first steps, they found their footing by following Canadian Olympians to the top step of the medals podium. Americans will leave town with the most Olympic medals, but Canada won the gold rush.

Northern neighbors mined for medals and came up covered in gold

The home team's athletes failed to win a solitary gold medal in two previous Olympic Games on Canadian soil. Going into today's men's hockey final, Canada has won 13 gold medals here.

Make no mistake; winning has

Commentary

become very important to our friendly neighbors to the north. The hosts say please and thank you and do not cross streets against the lights, and they have worn a welcoming smile throughout these Games. But they spent the past two weeks politely trying to kick butt — all the better if the behind was American.

Canada has discovered what Americans have long known and have been chided for: Chasing medals is intoxicating; winning is addictive. Not winning? Not as fun.

The look on Jen Heil's face the first day of competition said as much. She had just been bumped to second by Norwich's Hannah Kearney in women's moguls. Heil did her best to play the graceful runner-up, but her reddened eyes and sad stare said something else.

A few days later, Canadian Melissa Hollingsworth blubbered an apology for finishing fifth in skeleton. "I feel like I've let my entire country down," she said.

Canadian athletes are not

See **CANADA, 4A**

Vermonters Hannah Teter (left) and Kelly Clark (right) flank gold medalist Torah Bright of Australia at the women's snowboard half-pipe medal ceremony Feb. 18.



MARCIO SANCHEZ, The Associated Press



SEBASTIAN MARTINEZ, The Associated Press
A woman and a dog sit in front a quake-damaged house in Talca, Chile, after an 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country early Saturday.

GREEN MOUNTAIN

Effect of lawn chemicals

There's a growing concern in some circles that lawn chemicals, singly or together, can affect human health, particularly children's health. Now, Burlington is seeking volunteers who are willing to swear off the stew of man-made chemicals they feed their lawns as part of a demonstration of chemical-free routes to growing grass.

In a companion essay, Melinda Moulton shares the story of her autistic grandson and the results of her research into whether human-produced toxins might be the cause.

Find this and more in Green Mountain, **Page 1D**.

BHS confronts dirty, drunken dancing

Administrators try to walk line between safety, student respect

By Matt Ryan
Free Press Staff Writer

Burlington High School senior Theresa Strenio said she has no qualms about blowing into a tube before prom to prove her sobriety.

"It's going to be five seconds when we're in the door," said Strenio, who also serves as student coun-

cil president. "It definitely does hurt the mood a little bit, but after the Winter Ball, it's something they have to do to keep parents off their backs and to keep kids safe."

Administrators began reviewing school procedures after the Holiday Winter Ball in December, during which Burlington police detained 10 students involved in a drinking incident. The students faced three- to five-day suspensions, along with drug and alcohol counseling.

Besides curbing alcohol use, the school has a new interest: nipping the "degrading" trend in dancing.

"The vast majority of our students at our dances are doing everything right," principal Amy Mellencamp said last week.

Regardless, even sober students can expect to be randomly breath-tested before and during the Spirit Dance in March and the prom in May. In addition to asking Burlington police to test students for alcohol, Mellencamp has charged administrators and chaperones with trying to defuse "dirty" dancing.

"We'll learn from this," Mellen-

See **DANCE, 5A**

Vermonters in action today

Former University of Vermont great **Tim Thomas** and his American teammates try go knock off Canada for the men's hockey gold medal 50 years to the day since the U.S. beat the Canadians for gold at the Squaw Valley Games.

2010 WINTER OLYMPICS VANCOUVER
Patrick Garrity reports from the Games
WWW.BURLINGTONFREEPRESS.COM/VANCOUVER2010
More Olympics coverage, 4A, 1B, 7B

Quote of the day

"I have to check the list first. It's not just about coming down. It's about coming down and beating some people."

Ghanian skier **Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong**, "the Snow Leopard," when asked if his Olympic dream had been fulfilled by skiing a slalom run.

Go figure

40,000

Number of people scheduled to fly out of Vancouver International Airport on Monday.



WEATHER
Hi: 36 Low: 29
Chance of snow showers.

INDEX
Vol. 183, No. 59
(c) 2010 The Burlington Free Press

Advice.....4T	Green Mtn. 1D	Opinion..... 6C
Autos 15F	Horoscope.....5T	Outdoors 9C
Crossword4T	Jobs..... 1G	Realty 1F
Deaths..... 4C	Living 1T	Sports 1B
Forum 7C	Movies 2C	Vermont 1C



For up-to-the-minute news, sports and entertainment, go to www.burlingtonfreepress.com