

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Japan Seals Off Zone Around Leaking Plant

FUTABA, Japan (AP) — Japan sealed off a wide area around a radiation-spewing nuclear power plant on Friday to prevent tens of thousands of residents from sneaking back to the homes they quickly evacuated, some with little more than a credit card and the clothes on their backs.

Fearing they might not see their homes again for months, evacuees raced into the deserted towns Thursday before the ban took effect to grab whatever belongings they could cram into their cars. "This is our last chance, but we aren't going to stay long. We are just getting what we need and getting out," said Kiyoshi Kitajima, an X-ray technician, who dashed to his hospital in Futaba, a town next door to the plant, to collect equipment before the order took effect at midnight.

Nearly 80,000 people were hurriedly evacuated from a 12-mile (20-kilometer) zone around the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant on March 12, after an earthquake and a tsunami destroyed its power and cooling systems. The order had no teeth, however, and people began increasingly returning to check on the remains of their lives. Some had stayed all along.

Syrian Activists Plan Largest Protests Yet

BEIRUT (AP) — Ahead of what could turn out to be a decisive day for Syria, protesters took credit Thursday for forcing President Bashar Assad to lift the country's 50-year state of emergency and brushed off his attempts to placate the monthlong uprising against his authoritarian regime.

Activists said they were planning the biggest protests to date Friday against Assad, who inherited power from his late father 11 years ago but has failed to deliver on early promises of sweeping reform. The uprising has posed the biggest challenge to the 40-year ruling dynasty of the Assad family.

The president has been trying to defuse the protests by launching a bloody crackdown along with a series of concessions, most recently lifting emergency laws that gave authorities almost boundless powers of surveillance and arrest.

He also has fulfilled a decades-old demand by granting citizenship to thousands among Syria's long-ostracized Kurdish minority, fired local officials, released detainees and formed a new government.

But many protesters said Assad does not deserve the credit.

Colo. Mall Fire Could Be Linked To Columbine

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Authorities reviewed security video Thursday from a Colorado mall where the discovery of a pipe bomb and two propane tanks after a fire raised concerns about a possible link to the Columbine High School attack.

The blaze coincided with the 12th anniversary of the deadly shooting two miles away.

"We're concerned about the date, the time, things of that nature, but we don't have anything solid that would indicate any link at all other than, certainly, circumstances," Jefferson County Sheriff Ted Mink said.

No arrests have been made, but dozens of law enforcement agents were scouring the video and following other leads to identify a man seen entering the mall through a side door not normally used by the public.

Ala. Lawmakers Apologize After 67 Years

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The Alabama Legislature has officially apologized to an elderly black woman who was raped nearly seven decades ago by a gang of white men as she walked home from church.

The Senate gave final approval Thursday on a voice vote to a resolution that expresses "deepest sympathy and deepest regrets" to Recy Taylor, now 91 and living in Florida. She told The Associated Press last year that she believes the men who attacked her in 1944 are dead but that she still wanted an apology from the state of Alabama.

The House approved the resolution last month. It now goes to Gov. Robert Bentley, who said Thursday he's not personally familiar with details of the case, but sees no reason why he wouldn't sign it.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

OBITUARIES

Richard Saylor

MEMNO — Richard B. Saylor, age 96 of Menno, SD passed away on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at the Scotland Good Samaritan Center, Scotland, SD. Funeral services will be at 10:30 AM, Saturday, April 23, 2011 at Peace Christian Reformed Church, Menno, with Rev. Joseph Brinks officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery. Visitations will begin at 3:00 PM, Friday, April 22, 2011 at Peace Christian Reformed Church, Menno with a 7:00 PM prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Richard Benjamin Saylor was born January 1, 1915 south of Menno to Henry and Elizabeth (Nee Schempp) Saylor. He was baptized by F.A. Rittershaus on April 18, 1915. As a young boy, he attended Klautd School until the 8th grade and on June 30, 1929, he was confirmed by Rev. John Bodeman at Salem Reformed Church in Menno. He was united in marriage to Ida Herr on January 16, 1941 by Rev. Walter Odenbach in Tripp, SD. Together they farmed and four children were born: Donald, Darlene, Donna Mae, and Marlys. Richard never missed a harvest until the fall of 2009 and he and Ida just celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on January 16, 2011. They enjoyed gathering with friends to play cards especially pinochle. Richard and Ida enjoyed traveling on bus tours but also trav-



Saylor

eled abroad to Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Netherlands. His grandchildren and great grandchildren were a joy in his life and the time he spent with them was treasured. He was very active in his church serving as an Elder, Deacon, and Sunday school teacher.

Those who will cherish his memory are his wife, Ida of Scotland Good Samaritan Center; Son, Donald (Barbara) Saylor of Menno, SD; Daughters: Darlene Rokusek of Scotland, SD and Marlys (Daniel) Haase of Scotland, SD; 11 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and a sister, Clara Bittner of Tyndall, SD and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Donna Mae, son-in-law, Robert Rokusek; brothers: Theodore, August, John, and Ruben Saylor; his sisters: Anna Delzer, Ida Saylor, Elsie Schnabel, and Esther Zeeb.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
April 22, 2011



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Obama OKs Drones In Libya

First U.S. Airstrikes Approved Since Control Given To NATO

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR AND ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has approved the use of armed drones in Libya, authorizing U.S. airstrikes on ground forces for the first time since America turned over control of the operation to NATO on April 4.

It also is the first time that drones will be used for airstrikes since the conflict began on March 19, although they have routinely been flying surveillance missions, Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters at a Pentagon briefing Thursday.

He said the U.S. will provide up to two 24-hour combat air patrols each day by the unmanned Predators.

Marine Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the drones can help counteract the pro-Gadhafi forces' tactic of traveling in civilian vehicles that make it difficult to distinguish them from rebel forces.

"What they will bring that is unique to the conflict is their ability to get down lower, therefore to be able to get better visibility on targets that have started to dig themselves into defensive positions," Cartwright said. "They are uniquely suited for urban areas."

He added, "It's very difficult to pick friend from foe. So a vehicle like the Predator that can get down lower and can get IDs better helps us."

Gates rejected the notion that the approval of drone strikes means that the U.S. will slowly get pulled back into a more active combat role, despite Obama's promise to merely provide support for NATO.

U.S. forces played a lead role in the early days of the conflict, launching an onslaught of cruise missiles and bombs on Gadhafi's surface-to-air missile sites and advancing regime troops.

But with American forces stretched by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the humanitarian operations in Japan, the Pentagon turned the mission over to NATO, saying it would only do limited airstrikes to take out air defenses. The U.S., said Obama, would no longer do airstrikes to protect the civilian population.

Gates said that bringing in the Predators will give NATO a critical capability that the U.S. can uniquely contribute.

"I think this is a very limited additional role on our part, but it does provide some additional capabilities to NATO," said Gates. "And if we can make a modest contribution with these armed Predators, we'll do it. ... I don't think any of us sees that as mission creep."

He said Obama has been clear that there will be no U.S. boots on the ground and that the main strike role would belong to the allies.

The first Predator mission since Obama's go-ahead was flown Thursday but the aircraft — armed with Hellfire missiles — turned back due to poor weather conditions without firing any of its munitions, Cartwright said.

Gates, who publicly expressed skepticism about getting involved militarily in Libya before Obama endorsed the limited intervention, said "the real work" of overthrowing Moammar Gadhafi will have to be done by the Libyans themselves.

While he acknowledged the conflict "is likely to take a while," Gates also said the

ongoing sanctions, arms embargo and NATO-led offensive have weakened Gadhafi's military and eaten away at his supplies and cash. Over the long term, Gates said, that will hurt the regime's ability to strike back at opposition forces, if they rise up again in other cities.

At the same time, however, Gates said the administration's decision to provide \$25 million in nonlethal military assistance to the rebels did not signal a deeper U.S. commitment to anti-Gadhafi forces whose makeup, objectives and motives are still not fully understood in Washington.

The aid, he said, is not high-end military equipment but rather a hodge-podge of things like uniforms and canteens.

"I'm not worried about our canteen technology falling into the wrong hands," he joked.

Asked how long he believes it will take the NATO-led air campaign to succeed, Gates replied, "The honest answer to that is, nobody knows."

In other comments, Gates did not rule out major military program cuts to meet Obama's goal to slash another \$400 billion from the country's national security spending over the next 12 years. But he laid out some programs he believes are vital, including the new Air Force refueling tanker and the replacement of some Navy ships.

"The worst of all possible worlds, in my view, is to give the entire Department of Defense a haircut — basically (saying) everybody is going to cut X percent," Gates said, adding that he's had one meeting with staff on the issue.

BP, Gulf Partners Sue Each Other

BY CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI — After being hammered for a year over the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, BP is going on the offensive with multibillion-dollar lawsuits seeking to shift at least part of the blame to those who owned the ill-fated rig or designed a failed safety device or supplied cement that didn't hold.

Those companies — Transocean, Cameron International and Halliburton — each filed lawsuits of their own, and it will now be up to the courts to divvy up fault.

BP, which has rebounded remarkably in the year since the April 20, 2010, disaster, will face an uphill battle in trying to shed the albatross of the Gulf oil spill. The lawsuits filed late Wednesday were likely just opening salvos in what's expected to become lengthy negotiations over assigning responsibility and, more importantly, liability. And experts said the companies in the end will most likely reach deals to divide the responsibility and costs.

But the perception that the companies were seeking to dodge blame did not sit well with many

of those most affected by the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

"On this end, they haven't taken care of us. I don't care who gets the blame," said Melissa Lacoste, working Thursday at her brother's shrimp business in Theriot, La. and voicing a familiar complaint about the slow process for getting compensated for spill-related losses. "I think it's all of them."

And Darryl Malek-Wiley, a field organizer for the Sierra Club, called BP's lawsuits a public relations ploy.

"I think BP has from day one thought more about its public image and PR than about doing what's right," he said.

In its lawsuits, BP sued rig-owner Transocean for more than \$40 billion because "every single safety system and device and well control procedure" failed on the Deepwater Horizon rig.

That's a remarkable figure because it more or less matches what BP estimates will be its entire liability for paying claims and cleaning up in the wake of the spill. However, its ultimate liability could be even higher, especially if its officials are found to be criminally negligent in pending trials and investigations.

BP contended that Cameron, maker of the blowout preventer that failed to do its job, produced an "unreasonably dangerous product."

And it said Halliburton's "unstable" cement job failed to block the spill that ultimately spewed 170 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico.

All three companies filed lawsuits on Wednesday, which was both the one-year anniversary of the spill and the deadline for filing such lawsuits. The offensive from BP comes as its survival as a company seems assured, with its stock now just 20 percent below its pre-spill value.

Transocean, which hopes to limit its liability to just \$27 million, called BP's lawsuit "desperate" and "unconscionable." It said BP jeopardized the rig through risky cost-saving moves. Cameron declined to comment on the case except to say BP was meeting its legal deadline. Halliburton, for its part, said its work on the Macondo well was performed "under BP's direction and according to their plan."

Despite the strong words, attorneys and other legal experts

said Thursday that the corporate claims and counterclaims likely will produce a settlement dividing blame among these major energy companies, which continue to work with each other all over the world. In fact, on March 1, Cameron announced a new global agreement with BP for undersea work, despite BP's criticism of its blowout preventer.

"They'll sit down and try to resolve it," said Tampa attorney Steve Yerrid, who advised former Florida Gov. Charlie Crist on issues relating to the Gulf oil spill. "These guys are in business together. There will be some division of responsibility, everyone has a percentage."

If an agreement is reached, it would pave the way for hundreds of lawsuits filed by fishermen, businesses, property owners and others to move forward more quickly, said Miami attorney Ervin Gonzalez, who represents plaintiffs in those cases and has a leadership role in the overall litigation.

"It's exactly what we want. We want cases decided. We want fault determined," Gonzalez said. "It gives us an opportunity to see how fault is going to be divvied up among the culprits."

Huckabee Slams Beck For 'Progressive' Claim

BY ANDREW DEMILLO

Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Mike Huckabee on Thursday criticized fellow Fox News Channel host Glenn Beck for calling the former governor and potential White House hopeful a "progressive" for supporting first lady Michelle Obama's anti-obesity efforts.

Beck on Tuesday referred to Huckabee as a "progressive," a term that Huckabee said Beck has likened to cancer and Nazis. Beck singled out Huckabee's support of the anti-obesity initiative.

"He is a progressive," Beck said. "Look at his record, he's a progressive."

Beck also called Huckabee someone who doesn't want to "disrupt big government."

"I think Mike Huckabee is a guy who's had Michelle Obama on and said 'you know what? I think your fat kid programs, they are great,'" Beck said.

Huckabee on Thursday pushed back against the comments, defending Obama's "Let's Move" initiative to curb childhood obesity and painting Beck as trying to portray that program as a big-government con-

spiracy. Huckabee interviewed the first lady on his show last year about the program.

"I'm no fan of her husband's policies for sure, but I have appreciated her efforts that Beck misrepresented — either out of ignorance or out of a deliberate attempt to distort them to create yet another 'boogey man' The first lady's approach is about personal responsibility, not the government literally taking candy from a baby's mouth," Huckabee said in a statement posted on his website Thursday morning. "He seems to fancy himself a prophet of sorts for his linking so many people and events together to describe a massive global conspiracy for pretty much everything."

Huckabee hosts a weekly talk show on Fox News. Beck also has a show on the channel that is to end later this year. Beck declined to comment on Huckabee's statement, a spokesman said.

Absolute Poker: Player Refunds Are Top Priority

LAS VEGAS (AP) — An offshore online poker operator facing shutdown because of federal charges of bank fraud and money laundering says it is reviewing options with lawyers before moving to refund balances to its players in the United States.

Absolute Poker said in a statement Thursday that its first priority is refunding money in accounts with its site and UB.com, which is on the same

network. Both domains were seized by the FBI on Friday after prosecutors in New York announced 11 indictments of executives and others tied to Absolute, PokerStars and Full Tilt Poker.

Absolute says it has retained law firm Black Rome LLP as counsel in the United States.

Absolute says lawyers have contacted prosecutors to work out an agreement to repay players.

If no two people are the same... Why should their funerals be?

A funeral service should reflect the taste and preferences of the person who dies. We will help you add your own personal touch.

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644

WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

Recognizing Administrative Professionals Day
Wednesday, April 27

Memo to Boss:
Let Our Design Team Personalize Your Assistants Thank You And Create Floral Art!

- Desktop arrangements — fresh or green plants
- Candy • Balloons • Snack Packs
- Dancing Gerber Bunches
- Coffee Break

Friend us on Facebook and learn how to win free merchandise!

Greenhouse Opening Soon!

Country Cupboard Floral & Gifts
2800 N. Broadway, Yankton • 260-2333

GOT NEWS?

Call The P&D
At 665-7811

Easter Sunday

Virginia Baked Ham
with Honey Mustard Glaze
served with
all the trimmings with
dessert included!

\$8.95
11am-2pm

Yesterday's Cafe
2216 Broadway • Yankton, SD • 665-4383