

2010 Legal and Public Notices  
FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with South Dakota Codified Laws 21-49-25, and pursuant to a Judgment dated the 20th day of March, 2012, that a sale of certain mortgaged premises described as follows:

Lot 10, Block 2, Flax Field Estates, Yankton County, South Dakota, as per plat recorded in Book S15, page 53,

shall be made by public sale to the highest bidder on the 1st day of May, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the front door of the Yankton County Courthouse, Yankton, South Dakota.

The name of the mortgagor is Lisa R. Davis and the mortgage was given to First National Bank South Dakota and assigned to the South Dakota Housing Development Authority of Pierre, South Dakota. The amount due, pursuant to the Judgment, is \$80,195.12. The date of the mortgage is 1st day of December, 2003, and the mortgage was recorded in the Office of the Yankton County Register of Deeds on the 3rd day of December, 2003, at 4:10 p.m., in Book 443, page 204. **The sale is subject to the 2011 real property taxes due and payable in 2012, and any special assessments due and owing.**

Dated at Yankton, South Dakota, this 2nd day of April, 2012.

JAMES C. VLAHAKIS  
SHERIFF OF  
YANKTON COUNTY

Robert E. Hayes  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith, L.L.P.  
c/o South Dakota Housing Development Authority  
3060 E. Elizabeth Street,  
P. O. Box 1237  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-1237

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# Scandals Hamper Obama's Message

**BY JIM KUHNHENN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It isn't Mitt Romney who's giving Barack Obama fits as the president pivots to re-election mode. It's those federal bureaucrats carousing in Las Vegas, the Secret Service consorting with Colombian prostitutes and U.S. soldiers posing with bloody enemy corpses.

The scandals are taking a toll. They are distracting embarrassments that are dominating public attention while Obama seeks to focus on difficulties abroad and jobs at home. And they are giving Republicans an opportunity to question his competence and leadership, an opening for Romney in a race so close that any advantage might make a difference.

Even if the Democratic president escapes being defined by these flare-ups, they still feed a story line that can erode public confidence in Washington institutions, fuel a perception of federal excess and frustrate Obama's argument that government can be a force for good.

The White House response has been textbook — a mix of outrage and deflection. "The president has been crystal clear since he was a candidate about the stan-

dards that he insists be met by those who work for the federal government and on behalf of the American people and for the American people," says White House spokesman Jay Carney.

But taken altogether, the events have overwhelmed the president's agenda. The Secret Service scandal broke while Obama was in Cartagena last weekend for a Summit of the Americas with more than 30 Western hemisphere leaders. Back home the headlines and the news anchors were hardly focusing on the summit, instead playing up the fact that 11 Secret Service agents and uniformed officers had been sent home on accusations of misconduct.

By the time the president got home, General Services Administration officials were appearing before congressional committees about a lavish Las Vegas conference and junkets to resorts, and more evidence of excess was beginning to emerge. Obama's attempts to draw attention to his efforts against oil market manipulation on Tuesday and to help the economy on Wednesday were drowned out by further Secret Service revelations and by the publication of gruesome photos depicting GIs with the bodies of Afghan insurgents.

"Even though you may not be losing

ground because it's not the White House taking the hits, you're no longer gaining ground because the White House doesn't get its message out," said Ari Fleischer a former spokesman for President George W. Bush.

Obama quickly tried to put distance between himself and the accounts of misbehavior. White House spokesmen avoided getting into specifics, instead citing investigations under way and referring reporters to the Secret Service or the GSA or the Pentagon.

"If it's at an agency, White Houses do their best to keep it arms' length and let the agency take the hits and deal with it," Fleischer said. "I think that's what's going on here."

Yet, the president can't turn his back on the problems, either, and is ultimately held responsible for restoring the reputations of troubled agencies.

"Part of the president's job is to protect the institutions of government," said Paul Light, an expert on government bureaucracies and professor of public service at New York University. "He is administrator in chief whether he likes it or not."

Some Republicans were folding the Secret Service and GSA episodes together with Solyndra, a solar firm that received a half-billion dollar federal loan and was touted by the

Obama administration before declaring bankruptcy last year.

"Presidents are to be held responsible," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said Thursday. "They also need to be responsible for insisting that from the top to the lowest employee that not one single dollar will be wasted in this government," he added. "I don't sense that this president has shown that kind of managerial leadership."

What's more, each of the recent events also works in its own corrosive way.

The GSA's \$823,000 Las Vegas conference, complete with gourmet food, clown and mind reader, have given Republicans ammunition to attack government bloat. And for that, there is a ready audience.

"If he could see what I see on a daily basis, how some of the money is being spent, he would want to throw up," said Linda Heck, a Ford Motor Co. retiree protesting in Elyria, Ohio, Wednesday not far from where Obama was speaking to a community college crowd.

"I'm sitting in focus groups right this minute where it just came up," said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman. "It's an example — talking about the GSA — of what's wrong with government. It gives them some ammunition and something to talk about."

## WATCHING THE WEATHER



TRAVIS HEYING/WICHITA EAGLE/MCT  
A storm chaser photographs a rotating thunderstorm just east of Pretty Prairie, Kansas, April 14, 2012.

## 2 Years Later, Fish Sick Near BP Oil Spill Site

**BY CAIN BURDEAU**  
Associated Press

BARATARIA BAY, La. — Open sores. Parasitic infections. Chewed-up-looking fins. Gashes. Mysterious black streaks. Two years after the drilling-rig explosion that touched off the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, scientists are beginning to suspect that fish in the Gulf of Mexico are suffering the effects of the petroleum.

The evidence is nowhere near conclusive. But if those suspicions prove correct, it could mean that the environmental damage to the Gulf from the BP disaster is still unfolding and the picture isn't as rosy as it might have seemed just a year ago.

And the damage may extend well beyond fish. In the past year, research has emerged showing deep-water coral, seaweed beds, dolphins, mangroves and other species of plants and animals are suffering.

"There is lots of circumstantial evidence that something is still awry," said Christopher D'Elia, dean of Louisiana State Univer-

sity's School of the Coast and Environment. "On the whole, it is not as much environmental damage as originally projected. Doesn't mean there is none."

Reports of strange things with fish began emerging when fishermen returned to the Gulf weeks after BP's gushing oil well was capped during the summer of 2010. They started catching grouper and red snapper with large open sores and strange black streaks, lesions they said they had never seen. They promptly blamed the spill.

The illnesses are not believed to pose any health threat to humans. But the problems could be devastating to some prized types of fish and to the people who make their living catching them.

There's no saying for sure what's causing the diseases in what is still a relatively small percentage of the fish. The Gulf is assaulted with all kinds of contaminants every day. Moreover, scientists have no baseline data on sick fish in the Gulf from before the spill. The first comprehensive research may be years from publication.

Still, it's clear to fishermen and researchers alike that something's amiss.

— A recent batch of test results revealed the presence of oil in the bile extracted from fish caught in August 2011, nearly 15 months after the well blew out on April 20, 2010, in a disaster that killed 11 men.

"Bile tells you what a fish's last meal was," said Steve Murawski, a marine biologist with the University of South Florida and former chief science adviser for the National Marine Fisheries Service. "There was as late as August of last year an oil source out there that some of those animals were consuming."

Bile in red snapper, yellow-edge grouper and a few other species contained on average 125 parts per million of naphthalene, a compound in crude oil, Murawski said. Scientists expect to find almost none of the substance in fish captured in the open ocean.

— Last summer, a federally funded team of scientists conducted what experts say is the most extensive study yet of sick fish in shallow and deep Gulf wa-

ters. Over seven cruises in July and August, the scientists caught about 4,000 fish, from Florida's Dry Tortugas to Louisiana.

About 3 percent of the fish had gashes, ulcers and parasites symptomatic of environmental contamination, according to Murawski, the lead researcher. The number of sick fish rose as scientists moved west away from the relatively clean waters of Florida, and also as they pushed into deeper waters off Alabama, Mississippi and especially Louisiana, near where the Deepwater Horizon rig sank.

About 10 percent of mud-dwelling tile fish caught in the DeSoto Canyon, to the northeast of the well, showed signs of sickness.

"The closer to the oil rig, the higher the frequency was" of sick fish, Murawski said.

Past studies off the Atlantic Seaboard found about 1 percent of fish suffering from diseases, Murawski said. But he said that figure cannot really be used for comparisons with the Gulf, whose warmer waters serve as an incubator for bacteria and parasites that can cause lesions and other illnesses.

## GOP Muscles Tax Cut Through Divided House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans rammed an election-year, \$46 billion tax cut for most of America's employers through the House on Thursday, ignoring a White House veto threat in a debate both parties used to show voters how they would bolster the economy.

The near party-line 235-173 vote moved the bill to the Senate, where Democrats controlling the chamber are sure to ignore it. But the measure's inevitable demise was secondary to the chance it gave each side to offer its prescriptions for creating jobs, echoing the battle that seems certain to dominate this fall's contest for the White House between President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney.

"This is straight-up something to help small businesses keep more of their money while they're having so much difficulty keeping the lights on, and instead giving them the ability to grow," said House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., the measure's sponsor.

"This is not about mom and pop," said Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich. "It's about popping the cork for wealthy taxpayers."

Eighteen Democrats and 10 Republicans defected from their party's positions on the bill.

## Rubio Insists Romney Has Other Choices For VP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Marco Rubio insists he'll say "thanks, but no thanks" to the vice presidential spot on the Republican ticket but suggests that anything's possible in 2016 and beyond.

"I am really committed to doing a good job in the Senate," the Florida Republican told a dozen-plus reporters Thursday. "If I do a good job in the Senate, three, four, five, six years from now, I'll have a different opportunity ... to do things inside of government and outside of government."

The Cuban-American and freshman lawmaker has frequently been mentioned as a potential running mate for likely GOP nominee Mitt Romney — and a surefire way for the Republican Party to improve its abysmal standing with Hispanic voters. A Pew Research Center survey out Tuesday showed President Barack Obama with an overwhelming advantage over Romney among Hispanic registered voters, 67-27 percent.

All the vice presidential talk may have tripped up Rubio. Earlier Thursday, he referred to himself as vice president at a forum sponsored by National Journal, saying, "If I have done a good job as vice president ..." He quickly corrected himself by replacing vice president with senator.

It was unclear whether the slip was intentional.

## Norway Killer Played Video Game To Help Aim

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Anders Behring Breivik knew it would take practice to be able to slaughter dozens of people before being shot by police. In a chilling account, the far-right fanatic claimed Thursday that he sharpened his aim by playing the video game "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare" for hours on end.

Breivik told an Oslo court he also took steroids to build physical strength and meditated to "de-emotionalize" himself before the bombing and shooting rampage that left 77 people dead. He figured he had no more than a 5 percent chance of not being killed by police.

His lack of remorse and matter-of-fact description of weapons and tactics — he even considered using a flame thrower — were deeply disturbing to families of the victims, most of whom were teenagers.

"They perceive him as evil and dangerous and reopening wounds," said Mette Yvonne Larsen, a lawyer representing the bereaved.

## Investigators Hunt For Clues In Disappearance

NEW YORK (AP) — Police officers and FBI agents began tearing apart a New York City basement Thursday as part of a decades-old investigation into the disappearance of 6-year-old Etan Patz, whose case made a generation of parents afraid to send their children out alone.

Etan vanished without a trace on May 25, 1979, after leaving his family's Manhattan apartment for a short walk to catch a school bus. It was the first time his parents had let him go off to school alone.

The building being searched sits about a block from where the family lived, in the borough's SoHo section, and is along the route that the boy would have taken on his walk to the bus stop.

## Clinton Urges Tougher U.N. Pressure On Syria

**BY ANNE GEARAN AND JAMEY KEATAN**  
Associated Press

PARIS — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Thursday for the U.N. Security Council to adopt an arms embargo and other tough measures against Syria to try to halt 13 months of bloodshed, but she acknowledged such diplomatic actions would likely be vetoed.

Clinton's comments to Western and Arab diplomats from the so-called "Friends of Syria" group came as the head of the United Nations accused Syrian President Bashar Assad of failing to honor a peace plan that went into effect a week ago.

In a transcript of her remarks on the State Department's website, Clinton stopped short of calling for outside military intervention in Syria — something there is little to no foreign appetite for — but said it was time to impose more consequential measures on Assad's regime.

"We have to keep Assad off balance by leaving options on the table," she told the gathering of 16 top diplomats.

Clinton's address suggested the U.S. wanted the "Friends of Syria" group to more actively consider contingency plans if the peace plan by U.N. and Arab League envoy Kofi Annan fell apart. Although U.S. policy has



Clinton

amounted to an acknowledgment that Assad is unlikely to be dislodged, the U.N. resolution Clinton seeks could strengthen Syrian rebels fighting his regime.

"We need to start moving very vigorously in the Security Council for a Chapter 7 sanctions resolution, including travel, financial sanctions, an arms embargo, and the pressure that will give us on the regime to push for compliance with Kofi Annan's six-point plan," Clinton said, referring to a resolution under the U.N. Charter that would be militarily enforceable.

Any attempt to push for U.N. sanctions on Syria would likely meet resistance from Syrian allies Russia and China, which hold vetoes in the Security Council. Moscow and Beijing have already twice shielded Syria from U.N. sanctions over Assad's crack-down on a popular uprising that is estimated to have left 9,000 people dead and led refugees to pour into neighboring countries.

Clinton said she'd laid out the case for Security Council action earlier Thursday to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, whom she said "has recognized that we are not in a static situa-

tion but a deteriorating one."

At the Paris meeting, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the "Friends of Syria" group believes Annan's plan is the "last chance" for Syria to avoid civil war. But he didn't rule out the possibility of tougher action at the Security Council, including "in the direction that Madame

Clinton indicated."

The prospect of military action, however faint, remained in some minds in Paris. Foreign Minister Saad-Eddine El-Othmani of Morocco, whose country holds a Security Council seat, said: "We hope the Kofi Annan plan works to avoid this (possible) military intervention."

River City Cheer Team Placements

Cheer Sign-up & Evaluation  
@ Summit Center Gymnastics Room  
1801 Summit St.

\*Wed. April 18th 7:30-9pm  
\*Sun. April 22nd 2:15-6pm  
Mon. April 23 6pm-9pm

\*Parent meeting @ 7:00  
\*Parent meeting @ 1:30

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\$10 for attending one or all sessions

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**will be on hand to answer questions**  
**about the new league and switch to tackle**