

## GOP Unveils Budget Plans In Face Of Obama Opposition

BY ANDREW TAYLOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans controlling Congress Wednesday unveiled a budget plan for the upcoming year and beyond, setting up a confrontation with President Barack Obama over his signature health care law and his vow to boost spending on domestic programs like transportation and education.

House-Senate negotiators on the sweeping — but nonbinding — budget plan sealed agreement Wednesday. The 10-year balanced budget plan calls upon lawmakers to repeal Obama's health care law while enacting major curbs on safety net programs like Medicaid and food stamps. It would cut future-year budgets for domestic agencies below already tight spending "caps" that the White House vows to dismantle.

Separately, the House took up a normally bipartisan bill funding veterans' programs, but the measure ran into unusual opposition from Democrats despite increases of almost 6 percent above current levels for the Department of Veterans Affairs. A vote is slated for Thursday.

The White House promises to veto the veterans' bill in protest of unrelated GOP plans to boost the Pentagon's budget while ignoring pleas to increase domestic programs.

The broader 10-year budget plan promised to cut federal spending projected at almost \$50 trillion over the coming decade by more than \$5 trillion, with the bulk of the cuts coming from federal health care programs. The measure would pave the way to finally deliver a bill to repeal "Obamacare" to the president's desk under special budget rules.

Democrats say the cuts are unfairly tilted against the poor and middle class and that repealing the health care law would take medical care away from about 27 million people. The measure cuts across a wide swath of domestic programs, including Pell grants and student loans, tax credits for the poor, and Medicaid, which provides assisted-living care for millions of frail elderly people.

"This budget tells our children that their education isn't a priority. It makes it harder for their parents to put food on the table and own a home. It throws millions of Americans off of their affordable health care plans," said Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., top Democrat on the Budget Committee. "Simply put, it is a short-sighted plan that makes it harder for families to achieve the American dream."

# Aid Arrives In Nepal's Remote Villages

BY KATY DAIGLE AND JOHNSON LAI  
Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — The first supplies of food aid began reaching remote, earthquake-shattered mountain villages in Nepal on Wednesday, while thousands clamored to board buses out of Kathmandu, either to check on rural relatives or for fear of spending yet another night in the damaged capital.

Frustration over the slow delivery of humanitarian aid boiled over in a protest in the city, with about 200 people facing off with police and blocking traffic.

The protest was comparatively small and no demonstrators were detained. But it reflected growing anger over bottlenecks that delayed much-needed relief four days after the powerful earthquake that killed more than 5,000 people, injured twice that many and left tens of thousands homeless. Police, meanwhile, arrested dozens of people on suspicion of looting or causing panic by spreading rumors of another big quake.

Helicopters finally brought food, temporary shelter and other aid to hamlets north of Kathmandu in the mountainous Gorkha District near the epicenter of Saturday's 7.8-magnitude quake. Entire clusters of homes there were reduced to piles of stone and splintered wood. Women greeted the delivery with repeated cries of "We are hungry!"

While the death toll in the village of Gumda was low — only five people were killed and 20 were injured among 1,300 residents — most had lost their homes and desperately needed temporary shelter, along with the 40-kilogram (90-pound) sacks of rice that were delivered Wednesday. Adding to residents' misery was the rain that has fallen periodically since the quake and hampered helicopter aid flights.



IVAN CASTANEIRA/ZUMA PRESS/TNS  
**Workers dig through the debris of fallen buildings on April 28, 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The death toll from a powerful earthquake in Nepal climbed to 4,555 and a total of 8,299 others were injured, Nepal Police said in a statement on Tuesday.**

The U.N. World Food Program warned that it will take time for food and other supplies to reach more remote communities that have been cut off by landslides.

"More helicopters, more personnel and certainly more relief supplies, including medical teams, shelter, tents, water and sanitation and food, are obviously needed," said the program's Geoff Pinnock, who was coordinating the flights.

With more than 8 million Nepalese affected by the earthquake, including 1.4 million who need immediate food assistance, Pinnock said the effort would continue for months.

President Barack Obama called Prime Minister Sushil Koirala and discussed U.S. military and civilian efforts already underway to help Nepal, the White House said.

Police said the official death toll in Nepal had reached 5,266 as of late Wednesday. That figure did not include the 19 people killed at Mount Everest — five foreign climbers and

14 Nepalese Sherpa guides — when the quake unleashed an avalanche at base camp.

At least 210 foreign trekkers and residents stranded in the Lantang area north of Kathmandu had been rescued, government administrator Gautam Rimal said. The area, which borders Tibet, is popular with tourists.

In Kathmandu, where most buildings were spared complete collapse, many residents — fearing aftershocks — continued to camp in parks and other open spaces.

But people were starting to leave tent cities like those in Kathmandu's Tudikhel area. Anop Bhattachan and more than two dozen relatives have been sleeping on the field since Saturday, but he said they now want to get out of the city.

Thousands waited at bus stations in Kathmandu, hoping to reach their hometowns in rural areas. Some wanted to check on the fate of family and loved ones in the quake, while

others were fearful of more aftershocks in the city.

"I am hoping to get on a bus, any bus heading out of Kathmandu. I am too scared to be staying in Kathmandu," said Raja Gurung, who wanted to get to his home in western Nepal. "The house near my rented apartment collapsed. It was horrible. I have not gone indoors in many days. I would rather leave than live a life of fear in Kathmandu."

Despite Wednesday's small protest, there were signs that life was inching back to normal in the capital. Banks opened for a few hours and refilled their ATMs with cash, some shops reopened and vendors returned to the streets.

Even though Nabin and Laxmi Shrestha remained frightened about aftershocks, the husband and wife have reopened their tea shop.

"I'm scared, but people are hungry. We need to feed them," Laxmi Shrestha said.

Planes carrying food and other supplies have been steadily arriving at Kathmandu's small airport, but the aid distribution process remains fairly chaotic, with Nepalese officials having difficulty directing the flow of emergency supplies.

A man who was freed after being trapped for 82 hours in a collapsed hotel gave details of his ordeal, saying he drank his own urine to survive.

"I had some hope, but by yesterday I'd given up," Rishi Khanal told The Associated Press from his hospital bed Wednesday. "My nails went all white and my lips cracked ... I was sure no one was coming for me. I was certain I was going to die."

The 27-year-old Khanal, whose foot was crushed under the debris, said he was surrounded by bodies and kept banging on the rubble until a French rescue team pulled him out. "I am thankful," he said.

## FAA Chief: Gyrocopter 'Indistinguishable' From Birds

BY MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A small gyrocopter that flew through miles of the nation's most restricted airspace before landing at the U.S. Capitol was "indistinguishable" from other non-aircraft such as a flock of birds, a kite or a balloon, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration said Wednesday.

FAA Administrator Michael Huerta told a House committee that the slow-moving gyrocopter appeared as an "irregular symbol" on radar monitored by air traffic controllers. Huerta and other officials said the small, unidentified object did not pose an apparent threat before landing on the Capitol's West Lawn April 15.

Forensic analysis conducted later identified a slow-moving object that traveled about 70 miles from Gettysburg, Pa., to the U.S. Capitol. Officials now believe that was the gyrocopter. A dot representing the gyrocopter "appeared only intermittently throughout the flight," Huerta said.

Navy Adm. William Gortney, commander of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, said small aircraft such as gyrocopters represent a "technical and operational challenge" for the military to detect and defend against.

The gyrocopter incident

"has further confirmed the need to continue to improve our ability to identify low-altitude and slow-speed aerial vehicles" operating in the skies above the nation's capital, Gortney told the House Oversight Committee.

Capitol Police Chief Kim Dine said police were contacted just before 1 p.m. EDT by an employee of the *Tampa Bay Times*, who said a local man was flying a gyrocopter to the Capitol as a form of protest. No time or date information was provided regarding the flight, Dine said.

The newspaper employee later identified the pilot as Douglas Hughes and said that Hughes told the newspaper he had received permission for the flight from the U.S. Secret Service and Capitol Police, Dine said. No such permission was granted by either agency, he added.

The newspaper employee said Hughes was providing a live feed of the flight on his website, but officials were unable to find the feed if it existed, Dine said.

At 1:21 p.m., just before the landing, a reporter approached a Capitol police officer and asked if he had seen a "helicopter" yet, Dine testified. He was told no.

The vehicle landed at 1:23 p.m.

"The extremely short time frame" between a lockdown order issued after the gyrocopter was identified

and the vehicle's landing made it impossible to notify members of Congress in advance, Dine said.

Paul Irving, the House Sergeant at Arms, said he has ordered Dine to use an official notification system to alert lawmakers, staff and visitors of "events that could potentially be a threat" to the Capitol.

Capitol police notified senators but not House members of the lockdown, Irving said. "I have ordered the chief never to allow this

to happen again," he said.

Hughes, 61, of Florida, was arrested upon landing and charged with violating restricted airspace and operating an unregistered aircraft. His next court appearance is May 8.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the Oversight panel, has said that Hughes is "lucky to be alive" and "should have been blown out of the air."

A combination of "lack of communication and some human error" by

Capitol police and other officials allowed Hughes to steer his tiny aircraft across 30 miles of restricted airspace to within a few hundred feet of the Capitol before landing on the West Lawn, Chaffetz said after a closed-door briefing last week.

Chaffetz and other lawmakers want security officials to explain how they determined that the gyrocopter piloted by Hughes did not pose a threat.

## #FillitForQuinn



STORM

**Quinn Pesicka  
Benefit & Silent Auction  
Friday, May 8, 2015**

Quinn Pesicka is a 4th grader at Pettigrew Elementary, Sioux Falls, but also attended JFK Elementary for grades K-3. She has battled cancer twice in her life, and this benefit is to support her, and her family. Quinn's mom, Kate (Heine) grew up in Yankton and teaches math at Roosevelt High School.

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!

1. Purchase tickets to The Sioux Falls Storm VS Green Bay Blizzard IFL game. Tickets are \$10 each, and The Storm will donate \$5 of every ticket sold to Quinn and her family. Purchase tickets by contacting Jim Loria, Sioux Falls Storm, at 605.610.5902 or jim@siouxfallstorm.com
2. Pledge to donate \$50 or more for every Storm touchdown at the game.
3. Make a donation to the Quinn Pesicka Foundation. Please drop off at Roosevelt High School, donations will also be taken at the game or drop off/mail to Home Federal Bank, 2100 Broadway Ave, Yankton, SD 57078 or any Home Federal Location.
4. Bid on Silent Auction Items at the Storm game. Bidding will begin at 6:00pm, and end at the start of the 3rd quarter.

\*Silent Auction Item – a few examples, but there is NO limit on items  
Pheasant Hunting Package  
College Game Day Tickets  
Fun in the Sun Theme – pool tickets, ice cream, beach towels, etc.  
Pamper Mom Package – massage, facial, shopping  
Movie Night – Best Buy, Century Theater, Candy and Popcorn

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