

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Medicare Trust Solvency Extended 12 Years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare is in better shape because of President Barack Obama's sweeping health care overhaul, and the hospital fund for the elderly will stay afloat a dozen years longer than earlier projected, trustees forecast Thursday. But that depends on cuts in care that the system's top analyst says are highly doubtful.

The annual report by the trustees who oversee Medicare and Social Security, led by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, gives backers of the new health care law evidence of a positive impact on government entitlement programs, but it also undercuts the findings with a host of caveats.

In what amounted to a dissenting opinion, top Medicare actuary Richard Foster warned that the report's financial projections "do not represent a reasonable expectation."

Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of health and human services and one of the trustees, said they were required to assume current law in making their projections, including a cut in Medicare payments to doctors. She, too, doubted the cuts would ever happen, "which is why we continue to provide cautionary notes" in the report.

The trustees projected the Medicare Hospital trust fund would be exhausted in 2029, or 12 years later than estimated last year.

Senate OKs \$26B Bill To Stop Layoffs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is moving rapidly just weeks before the start of the school year to speed billions of dollars in emergency education aid to states in hopes of reversing the layoffs of tens of thousands of teachers.

Some \$10 billion in aid to school districts is set to flow after a 61-39 Senate vote Thursday — to be followed quickly by a House vote next week — in hopes that it will come in time for many school districts to reconsider teacher layoffs.

Thursday's vote was a hard-earned but partial victory for Democrats and President Barack Obama. Advocates said it could save the jobs of up to 300,000 teachers, police and other public workers.

The measure would provide another \$16 billion to help states fund their Medicaid budgets — and therefore free money for other budget priorities such as avoiding tax increases and preserving the jobs of state employees. About three-fifths of state governments have already factored in the federal help when drawing up budgets for the ongoing fiscal year.

The vote caps months of effort by governors of both parties, public employee unions and others seeking to extend programs enacted in last year's economic stimulus law. That measure provided budget relief to states and local school districts hurt by slumping tax revenues as the U.S. economy has struggled to emerge from recession.

'Carrier-Killer' Missile Raises Concerns

ABOARD THE USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (AP) — Nothing projects U.S. global air and sea power more vividly than supercarriers. Bristling with fighter jets that can reach deep into even landlocked trouble zones, America's virtually invincible carrier fleet has long enforced its dominance of the high seas.

China may soon put an end to that. U.S. naval planners are scrambling to deal with what analysts say is a game-changing weapon being developed by China — an unprecedented carrier-killing missile called the Dong Feng 21D that could be launched from land with enough accuracy to penetrate the defenses of even the most advanced moving aircraft carrier at a distance of more than 1,500 kilometers (900 miles).

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14 Charged For Supporting Terrorist Group

BY PETE YOST AND AMY FORLITI
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — The government announced Thursday that it has charged 14 people as participants in "a deadly pipeline" to Somalia that routed money and fighters from the United States to the terrorist group al-Shabab.

The indictments unsealed in Minneapolis, San Diego and Mobile, Ala., reflect "a disturbing trend" of recruitment efforts targeting U.S. residents to become terrorists, Attorney General Eric Holder told a news conference. In one case, two women pleaded for money "to support violent jihad in Somalia," according to an indictment.

The attorney general credited Muslim community leaders in the United States for regularly denouncing terrorists and for providing critical assistance to law enforcement to help disrupt terrorist plots and combat radicalization. "We must ... work to prevent this type of radicalization from ever taking hold," Holder said.

Of the 14 people charged at least half are U.S. citizens and 12 of them are out of the country, including 10 men from

Minnesota who allegedly left to join al-Shabab. Seven of those 10 Minnesota men named in one of Thursday's indictments had been charged previously in the probe.

Al-Shabab is a Somali insurgent faction embracing a radical form of Islam similar to the harsh, conservative brand practiced by Afghanistan's Taliban regime. Its fighters, numbering several thousand strong, are battling Somalia's weakened government and have been branded a terrorist group with ties to al-Qaida by the U.S. and other Western countries.

Terrorist organizations such as al-Shabab continue to radicalize and recruit U.S. citizens and others to train and fight with them, said Sean Joyce, the FBI's executive assistant director for the national security branch.

One of two indictments issued in Minnesota alleges that two Somali women who were among those charged, and others, went door to door in Minneapolis; Rochester, Minn., and elsewhere in the U.S. and Canada to raise funds for al-Shabab's operations in Somalia. The indictment says the women — the only two people indicted Thursday who remain in the

United States — raised the money under false pretenses, claiming it would go to the poor and needy, and used phony names for recipients to conceal that the money was going to al-Shabab.

Omar Hammami, who is now known as Abu Mansour al-Amriki, or "the American," was charged in Mobile, Ala. He has become one of al-Shabab's most high-profile members. He appeared in a jihadist video in May 2009.

At the news conference, Holder said Hammami has appeared in several propaganda videos for al-Shabab and "has assumed an operational role in that organization."

Hammami grew up in the middle-class town of Daphne, Ala., and attended the University of South Alabama in Mobile, where he was president of the Muslim Student Association nine years ago. Hammami, 26, enrolled at the university in 2001 but left in 2002; school officials said they have been unaware of his whereabouts since then.

Hammami's father, Shafik, is an engineer with the state highway department who also has served as president of the Islamic Society of Mobile. Shafik

Hammami confirmed his relationship to Omar Hammami in e-mail exchanges with The Associated Press earlier this year but declined further comment.

In San Diego, prosecutors unsealed an indictment charging Jihad Serwan Mostafa, 28, with conspiring to provide material support to al-Shabab. Mostafa is believed to be in Somalia.

One of the Minnesota indictments alleges that the two women, Amina Farah Ali, 33, and Hawo Mohamed Hassan, 63, raised money by making direct appeals to people in teleconferences "in which they and other speakers encouraged financial contributions to support violent jihad in Somalia."

During one teleconference, the indictment says, Ali told others "to forget about the other charities" and focus on "the jihad."

The indictment says Ali and others sent the funds to al-Shabab through various hawalas, money transfer businesses that are a common source of financial transactions in the Islamic world. Ali is accused of sending \$8,608 to al-Shabab on 12 occasions between Sept. 17, 2008, through July 5, 2009.

ABS

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"I'm not signing it," Steffen said. "For them to say that they have communicated to us in writing — it hasn't happened. This is the only thing we've gotten."

Providers found themselves in a similar situation when they received letters informing them their contracts would be terminated.

"We weren't aware of any problems or anything that were going to bring this out," ABS Executive Director Gloria Pearson said last month. "It could have been handled better," Giese said.

Steffen said he knows of some parents who are moving to South Dakota so their children can continue to receive the same serv-

es. Area facilities in Nebraska can't replicate what ABS offers, he said.

"The experience they've got here is (not found) inside this industry anywhere, probably," he said. "I dare you to go find someplace in Nebraska that has people with 20-plus years of experience doing what they're doing."

"It's extremely frustrating, and I think it speaks volumes when you have people in Coleridge and Laurel who are 35 miles from (agencies in) Wayne and Norfolk, and they're coming at their own expense 50-some miles north every day. To me, that's pretty impressive," he said.

Unless further action is taken in the matter, the clients at ABS would be forced to find new services by Oct. 23. Those who utilize South Sioux City's Goodwill Industries would have until Aug. 30.

18 States Endure Heat Wave

BY HOLBROOK MOHR
Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Miss. — This heat wave isn't just stifling — it's deadly.

Extreme temperatures continued Thursday across a large swath of the country, killing more than a dozen people, at least two police dogs and likely contributing to the death of Franklin the rhinoceros at a Mississippi zoo. Arkansas fire departments were volunteering to hose down overheated cattle, and people as far north as Maine were trying to stay cool.

High school football teams and marching bands practiced indoors or canceled altogether. Tennessee election officials touted air-conditioned polling places as a way to bring in voters, and many cities set up cooling centers for those who needed a break from the sun.

Residents were encouraged to check on their neighbors, especially the elderly.

The scorching temperatures and high humidity made it feel like at least 100 degrees in many places, with heat advisories in effect for 18 states.

"This heat wears on everybody," said Sandy Shamburger, who runs Rankin Sod Farm in Brandon, Miss. "We rigged up lights on a sod harvester so we can work at night."

Still, not even nightfall brings much relief, with temperatures sometimes lingering in the 80s overnight.

In Columbia, S.C., 33-year-old Kylin Doster tried to stay under the shade of his umbrella stand as he hustled to serve up steaming hot dogs. He said he works from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Main Street, then sets up outside a biker bar north of town from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m.

OBITUARIES

Angela Kusters

Angela Lea Kusters, 27, of Yankton, S.D., was granted her angel wings on August 3, 2010, as a result of automobile/pedestrian accident in Yankton.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. August 7, 2010, at First Baptist Church in Vermillion, S.D., with Rev. Sandy Aakre officiating. Burial will follow in the Yankton Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. with a prayer service beginning at 7 p.m., August 6, 2010, at Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion, S.D.

Angela was born on August 16, 1982, in Vermillion, S.D. She married Noel Kusters on August 19, 2000, at First Baptist Church in Vermillion, S.D.

Her days were spent surrounded by family and friends that Angie had touched in many ways throughout her short, yet very memorable life.

Angie's life would seem too short to many, but those who were touched by her understood that the quality of existence far exceeds the quantity of time in which one lives. Her gentle smile and caring heart brought so much joy to our family. Angie



Kusters

gave us all such courage and hope and reminded us of the preciousness of life. She loved spending time with her family and friends and was the most loving mother to her four beautiful children.

Angie is survived by her loving husband and children, Noel Kusters, Kaylea (7), Nathaniel (5), Gavin (3), and Gracie (8 months); mother, Brenda Thompson (Lee) Happe of Volin, S.D., stepmother, Lois Donaldson of Volin and father, Mike Barta (Nicole) of Vermillion, S.D.; mother-in-law, Sharon Kusters; sisters Deonna Rupp (Marc), Darci Johnson (Sam), Kari Barta (Ross), Sunshine Roos (Frank), Laiken Barta; sister-in-law Noreen Olson (Jason); brothers Justin Thompson (Amy), Christopher Barta, Tom Sealey (Angie), and Daniel Sealey (Amanda); brother-in-law Neil Kusters; maternal grandparents Millard (Sonny) Thompson; paternal grandparents Dick and Marjean Barta, all of Vermillion; several uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and

nephews.

Angela was preceded in death by her grandmother, Deanna Thompson; great-grandmother Opal Johnson and great-grandfather, Alvin (Swede) Johnson, grandfather Kern Donaldson, Aunt Betty Thompson, sister-in-law Nicole Kusters and dear friend Waylon Madsen.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested. For obituary and online condolences, visit hansenfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 6, 2010

Merlin M. Jensen

Merlin M. Jensen, 91, of Yankton died Wednesday (Aug. 4, 2010) at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. today (Friday) at St. Benedict Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery with military graveside rites by Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791, Yankton.

Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church. Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, is in charge of arrangements.

ON THIS DATE

75 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1935

• Yankton was chosen today as the 1936 convention city of the South Dakota Department of the American Legion.

• B.D. Mintener, superintendent of the South Dakota Department of Justice, today ordered sheriffs and their deputies from seven counties into Sioux Falls for police duty in the Morrell packing plant strike. This action will bring a force of 50 law enforcement officers to preserve peace in the strike area where union workmen have been picketing for more than two weeks.

50 YEARS AGO

Saturday, Aug. 6, 1960

• All but three of the 58 rural schools in Yankton County operating in 1900-61 have contracted for teachers for the coming school year, it was reported today.

• Japan observed today the 15th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima with pleas for banning nuclear weapons.

25 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1985

• About 150 marijuana plants growing in two separate fields in South Dakota were seized Monday as part of a nationwide crackdown to eliminate the crops, investigators said.

• U.S. Rep. Tom Daschle says Democratic leaders have told him he might be able to get on the Senate agriculture and appropriations committees if he runs for the Senate next year and wins.

WATER

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it is fully operational, Larson said.

"We still need to clean and disinfect a 54-inch pipe and that's roughly \$2 million," he said. "The 2011 budget also has the meter houses to build. So to deliver the water to the members, no money in 2011 would go to the plant, but it does impact other projects to have the system operational by 2012."

Larson and some other members of the Lewis & Clark Water Project have already taken steps to get more money appropriated to it before the 2011 budget is approved by Congress.

Last week, Larson was in Washington and met with Ed Pastor, the chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriation. He also met with Minnesota Rep. Tim Walz and South Dakota Rep. Stephanie Herseht Sandlin.

Larson said Herseht Sandlin was extremely disappointed with how much money was appropriated to the Lewis & Clark Water Project in 2011.

One of the talking points of the meetings was to get Iowa and Minnesota, which are a part of the Lewis & Clark Water

Project, more involved.

"They have been supportive, but most of the heavy lifting has been done by the South Dakota delegation," Larson said. "Now that a lot of money will be spent in those two states, we want them to take an equal share, and they responded positively."

The group also decided they need to set up a meeting with the Office of Management and Budget on Capitol Hill. Larson said Herseht Sandlin and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar are working to set up the meeting and have it take place sometime in September. Larson said the purpose of the meeting will be to find out if this type of funding for the project will continue.

"Hopefully the meeting will take place to show the importance of an increase in the budget, and we also want to get a sense from them if this is what we can expect from now on," he said. "If it is what we can expect, then we would have to work on a plan B in order to get the project paid for sooner."

Woodrow Simek

SCOTLAND — Funeral services for Woodrow Simek, 93, of Scotland will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 7 at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland with Fr. Mathew Vazhappilly officiating. Interment will follow in St. George Catholic Cemetery, Scotland.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., with the family present to greet visitors from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., also at the funeral home. Woodrow passed away on

Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at the Good Samaritan Society of Scotland.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

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