

### Polygamist Convicted Of Child Sexual Assault

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — A Texas jury convicted polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs of child sexual assault Thursday in a case stemming from two young followers he took as brides in what his church calls "spiritual marriages."

The 55-year-old head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints stood stone-faced as the verdict was read.

Jeffs, who acted as his own attorney, faces up to life in prison. The jury went immediately into sentencing proceedings. They had deliberated on a verdict for more than three hours.

Prosecutors used DNA evidence to show Jeffs fathered a child with a 15-year-old girl and played an audio recording of what they said was him sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl. They also played audio recordings in which Jeffs was heard instructing young women on how to please him sexually.

Jeffs has claimed he was the victim of religious persecution. The FLDS, which has at least 10,000 members nationwide, is a radical offshoot of mainstream Mormonism. The church believes polygamy brings exaltation in heaven and that Jeffs is God's spokesman on earth.

### Va. Tech Searched After Report Of Gunman

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — A report of a possible gunman at Virginia Tech on Thursday set off the longest, most extensive lockdown and search on campus since the bloodbath four years ago that led the university to overhaul its emergency procedures.

No gunman was found, and the school gave the all-clear just before 3 p.m., about five hours after sirens began wailing and students and staff members started receiving warnings by phone, email and text message to lock themselves indoors. Alerts were also posted on the university's website and Twitter accounts.

Maddie Potter, a 19-year-old from Virginia Beach, holed up inside a campus wood shop, where she had been working on a class project. Staff members locked the doors and turned off the lights.

"I was pretty anxious. We had family friends who were up here when the shooting took place in 2007, so it was kind of surreal," she said. "I had my phone with me and I called both my parents."

The emergency was triggered by three teens who were attending a summer program on campus and told police they saw a man walking quickly across the grounds with what might have been a handgun covered by a cloth, authorities said.

### Defense Faces Potential For Deep Budget Cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon got nearly everything it asked for during a decade of two wars shadowed by the Sept. 11 terror attacks and the rise of al-Qaida. No more.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen acknowledged that reality Thursday, saying the military is resigned to budget cuts of around \$350 billion over a decade to meet the public clamor for reducing the nation's debt. But they quickly warned that more than doubling those cuts along the lines of the "doomsday mechanism" spelled out in the new debt-limit law would undermine the military.

"If it happened — and, God willing, that would not be the case — but if it did happen, it would result in a further round of very dangerous cuts across the board, defense cuts that I believe would do real damage to our security, our troops and their families, and our military's ability to protect the nation," Panetta told reporters at his first Pentagon news conference.

Mullen, who has said repeatedly that the debt is the greatest national security threat, said any cut on that order "jeopardizes our ability to deal with the other very real and very serious threats we face around the world."

Reflecting the widespread demand for fiscal austerity, the compromise debt deal struck by President Barack Obama and congressional leaders this week will slice \$350 billion from projected military spending over the next 10 years, and it leaves open the possibility of more than \$500 billion in additional reductions.

### Thousands Alleged Killed In Syrian Crackdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday accused the Syrian government of killing more than 2,000 of its own citizens during its ongoing brutal crackdown against opposition protesters as the Obama administration moved to further isolate President Bashar Assad and his inner circle.

The administration is unhappy with Assad's actions in trying to quell the five-month-old uprising.

"We think, to date, the government is responsible for the deaths of more than 2,000 people of all ages," Clinton said, repeating the administration's position that "Assad has lost his legitimacy to govern the Syrian people."

She said the U.S. would "continue to support the Syrians themselves in their efforts to begin a peaceful and orderly transition to democracy" and renewed calls for the international community to unify behind steps to isolate Assad and his regime.

Clinton's comments, made at a news conference with visiting Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird, came just hours after White House press secretary Jay Carney said Assad is "on his way out" and the administration hit a prominent pro-regime businessman and his firm with sanctions.

### Papers: Suspect Told NYC Police, 'I'm Famous'

NEW YORK (AP) — The man accused in the kidnapping and dismemberment killing of an 8-year-old New York City boy told detectives his victim put up a struggle and that afterward he was hearing voices telling him "to take his own life for what he did," according to court papers made public Thursday.

Police say Levi Aron made the remarks last month around the time he directed them to a trash bin where he dumped a red suitcase containing body parts. As the interrogation wore on, Aron told them, "I'm famous," the papers say.

The 35-year-old defendant also was asked if he knew anything about past sex crimes against children. The papers say he recounted how a man groped him on a subway train when he was a teenager.

"But I never did that to a child because I don't swing that way," he said.

The alleged statements, including a written confession, were turned over to the defense on Thursday at an arraignment where Aron pleaded not guilty. His lawyers also learned that a court-ordered psychiatric evaluation had found him competent to stand trial.

### Kraft Plans To Split Into Two Companies

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Kraft Foods Inc. said Thursday it plans to split into two publicly traded companies, with one focusing on its international snack brands like Trident gum and Cadbury chocolates and the other on its North American grocery business that includes Maxwell House coffee and Oscar Mayer meats.

Kraft is the latest in a string of U.S. companies including rival Sara Lee Corp. to separate its business to cater to different niche markets. As companies increasingly look for ways to drive growth during a difficult economic environment, there's been a major shift from thinking bigger is always better to sharpening their strategy on smaller businesses that focus on a group of brands.

"In general, it mirrors what we have seen from other consumer brands," said Morningstar analyst Erin Lash. "In terms of what it means for the industry, we have seen some businesses over the past several years, particularly food companies, become more focused brands."

The move surprised industry watchers because Kraft, the nation's largest food maker, had long touted its scale and reach as its strength. Kraft officials said Thursday that after several years of acquisitions, sales and other changes, it became clear that the company had built two "strong, but distinct, portfolios" and the next step is to recognize the separate priorities for each.

# Reid: FAA Compromise At Hand

BY JOAN LOWY  
Associated Press



Reid

WASHINGTON — Congress has reached a bipartisan compromise to end a two-week partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration that has idled tens of thousands of workers and cost the government about \$30 million a day in uncollected airline ticket taxes, Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said Thursday.

The deal would allow the Senate to approve a House bill extending the FAA's operating authority through mid-September, including a provision that eliminates \$16.5 million in air service subsidies to 13 rural communities. Passage of the bill is expected Friday.

Senators have scattered for their August recess, but the measure can be approved if leaders from both parties agree to adopt it by "unanimous consent."

Republicans had insisted on the subsidy cuts as their price for restoring the FAA to full operation. But the cuts may become moot.

The bill includes language that gives Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood the authority to continue subsidized service to the 13 communities if he decides it's necessary.

Democrats said they expect the administration to effectively waive or negate the cuts.

"I just know that the White House has provided assurances that they (the communities) will be held harmless," said a Senate Democratic leadership aide who asked not to be named because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the deal.

But Adam Jentleson, a spokesman for Reid, said that "only LaHood can decide how he will use his waiver authority."

If President Barack Obama signs the bill over the weekend, FAA employees could return to work and payments for airport construction projects would resume on Monday, transportation officials said.

The shutdown began when much of Washington was transfixed by the stalemate over raising the government's debt ceiling. During that time, the FAA furloughed 4,000 workers but kept air traffic controllers and most safety inspectors on the job. Forty airport safety inspectors worked without pay, picking up their own travel expenses. Some 70,000 workers on construction-re-

lated jobs on airport projects from Palm Springs, Calif., to New York City were idled as the FAA couldn't pay for the work.

But airline passengers in the busy travel season hardly noticed any changes. Airlines continued to work as normal, but they were no longer authorized to collect federal ticket taxes at a rate of \$30 million a day. For a few lucky ticket buyers, prices dropped. But for the vast majority, nothing changed because airlines raised their base prices to match the tax.

Some passengers will now be eligible for tax refunds if they bought their tickets before July 23 and their travel took place during the shutdown.

As the debt ceiling crisis passed and Congress headed home for its August recess without resolving the standoff, Obama spoke out Wednesday and LaHood urged Congress to return to deal with the issues. Obama expressed dismay that Congress would allow up to \$1.2 billion in tax revenue to go out the door — the amount that could have been lost by the time lawmakers return in September.

Reid announced the deal Thursday afternoon, saying it would put 74,000 transportation and construction workers back to work.



Two-year-old Habido Sharif Hassan lies severely malnourished inside a United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) hospital inside one of the three refugee camps, Camp IFO, just outside Dadaab, Kenya, recently.

# Clinton Urges Militants To Allow Famine Aid

BY MATTHEW LEE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton appealed Thursday for Islamic militants in Somalia to allow aid groups unrestricted access to areas of the country under their control to distribute food to hundreds of thousands of people threatened by famine. Clinton also announced that Jill Biden would lead a U.S. fact-finding mission to neighboring Kenya to inspect relief efforts.

Clinton said the militant group al-Shabab, which has ties to al-Qaida, had a humanitarian duty to stop blocking assistance to those desperately in need, particularly during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which began on Monday. Al-Shabab, which controls much of southern Somalia, insists there is no famine and has banned all aid groups but the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"It is particularly tragic that during the holy month of Ramadan al-Shabab are preventing assistance to the most vulnerable populations in Somalia, namely children, including infants, and girls and women who are attempting to bring themselves and those children to safety, to the potential of being fed before more deaths occur," Clinton said.

"I call on al-Shabab to allow assistance to be delivered in an absolutely unfettered way throughout the area that they currently control, so that as many lives as possible can be saved," she told reporters at a State Department news conference with visiting Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird.

Millions throughout East Africa have

been imperiled by a lengthy drought, which has led to famine in some areas. The U.S. estimates the drought and famine in Somalia have killed more than 29,000 children under the age of 5 in the last 90 days in southern Somalia alone. The U.N. says 640,000 Somali children are acutely malnourished, suggesting the death toll of small children will rise.

Earlier this week, the Obama administration said it would not enforce rules banning material support for terrorist organizations to assure relief groups that they will not be prosecuted if some of their assistance or cash ends up in al-Shabab's hands. Groups were concerned that paying tolls or taxes that al-Shabab often demands for access could place them in legal jeopardy in the U.S.

"We think unfortunately the situation calls for us to offer some room for more maneuverability in trying to get the food in," Clinton said. "At the end of the day the best way to get food into those areas is for al-Shabab to actually care about the people under their control."

For the administration to get a first-hand look at the situation, Clinton said Vice President Joe Biden's wife, Jill, would visit Kenya this weekend accompanied by the director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Raj Shah, and other officials.

They will be assessing immediate steps that can be taken to ease the suffering as well as looking at how to better "mitigate the long-term effects of prolonged drought and food shortages in the future," Clinton said.

The White House declined to provide additional details about Biden's trip.

## OBITUARIES

### Martin Nygaard

VIBORG — Martin Nygaard, 97, died Thursday, August 4, 2011 at the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home, Viborg.

Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, August 7, 2011 at the Bethany Lutheran Church, Hurley with burial in the church cemetery.

Visitation will begin at 4:00 p.m. Saturday at the church with family present from 6-8:00 p.m. Saturday evening.

Arrangements by Hofmeister-Jones Funeral Chapel, Hurley.

Martin Harold Nygaard was born on July 10, 1914 in Turner



Nygaard

County to August and Bertha (Clowning) Nygaard. On September 20, 1938 he was united in marriage to Lavonne J. Gossman at Revillo, SD. He was a lifelong resident of Turner County where he farmed and was involved in agriculture. He was a very active member of the Bethany Lutheran Church, Hurley and was a founding member of the pork producers association in Viborg. His wife Lavonne died in 1982.

Grateful for having shared his life are 2 sons, Ronald (Teresa), Davis, and Eldon (Sherry), Vermillion; a daughter, Joyce (Richard) Vasgaard, Centerville; a daughter in law, Diann Nygaard, Ft. Collins, CO; 8 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Lavonne, a son

Lowell, brothers Olaf and infant Victor, and sisters Agnes and Helen. www.hofmeisterjones.com  
Yankton Press & Dakotan  
August 5, 2011

### Franklin Hefner

COLERIDGE, Neb. — Franklin Hefner, 78 of Coleridge, Neb., died Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2011, at his residence.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m. Saturday at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Coleridge, with the Rev. Katherine Russell officiating. Bur-

ial will be in the Lawn Ridge Cemetery, Coleridge, with military services provided by the Coleridge American Legion Post 114 and the Belden American Legion Post 149.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m. today (Friday), with a prayer service at 7 p.m., at the church. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Saturday at the church.

Wintz Funeral Home, Coleridge, is in charge of arrangements.

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