

### Successful Leukemia Treatment Raises Hopes

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists are reporting the first clear success with a new approach for treating leukemia — turning the patients' own blood cells into assassins that hunt and destroy their cancer cells. They've only done it in three patients so far, but the results were striking: Two appear cancer-free up to a year after treatment, and the third patient is improved but still has some cancer. Scientists are already preparing to try the same gene therapy technique for other kinds of cancer. "It worked great. We were surprised it worked as well as it did," said Dr. Carl June, a gene therapy expert at the University of Pennsylvania. "We're just a year out now. We need to find out how long these remissions last." He led the study, published Wednesday by two journals, New England Journal of Medicine and Science Translational Medicine. It involved three men with very advanced cases of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or CLL. The only hope for a cure now is bone marrow or stem cell transplants, which don't always work and carry a high risk of death.

### Cameron Vows 'Fightback' On Britain's Riots

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of extra police officers flooded the streets of London on Wednesday to deter rioters, and Prime Minister David Cameron warned that the government will take any necessary action to restore order and confidence to Britain's streets. Even as Cameron promised not to let a "culture of fear" take hold, tensions flared in Birmingham, where a murder probe was opened after three men were killed in a hit-and-run drive as they took to the streets to defend shops from looting. "We needed a fightback and a fightback is under way," Cameron said in a somber televised statement outside his Downing Street office after a meeting of the nation's crisis committee. As if to indicate his resolve, he underlined "nothing is off the table" — including water cannon, commonly used in Northern Ireland but never deployed in Britain. The number of arrests in London alone climbed to 805, with courts staffing around the clock to process alleged looters, vandals and thieves — including one as young as 11. Cameron has recalled Parliament from its summer recess for an emergency debate on the riots Thursday.

### Parched West Texas Builds Drinking Water Plant

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — In parched West Texas, it's often easier to drill for oil than to find new sources of water. So after years of diminishing water supplies made even worse by the second-most severe drought in state history, some communities are resorting to a plan that might have seemed absurd a generation ago: turning sewage into drinking water. Construction recently began on a \$13 million water-reclamation plant believed to be the first in Texas. And officials have worked to dispel any fears that people will be drinking their neighbors' urine, promising the system will yield clean, safe water. Some residents are prepared to put aside any squeamishness if it means having an abundant water supply. "Any water is good water, as far as I'm concerned," said Gary Fuqua, city manager in Big Spring, which will join the cities of Midland, Odessa and Stanton in using the water. When the water finally reaches the tap, Fuqua said, its origin is "something I wouldn't think about at all." Similar plants have been operating for years in Tucson, Ariz., parts of California and in other countries. Water experts predict other American cities will follow suit as they confront growing populations, drought and other issues.

### Police Retreat On War On Meth, Cite Costs

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Police and sheriff's departments in states that produce much of the nation's methamphetamine have made a sudden retreat in the war on meth, at times virtually abandoning pursuit of the drug because they can no longer afford to clean up the toxic waste generated by labs. Despite abundant evidence that the meth trade is flourishing, many law enforcement agencies have called off tactics that have been used for years to confront drug makers: sending agents undercover, conducting door-to-door investigations and setting up stakeouts at pharmacies to catch people buying large amounts of cold medicine.

# Military Killed Taliban Who Shot Helicopter

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR AND PAULINE JELINEK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — International forces killed the Taliban insurgents responsible for shooting down a U.S. helicopter and killing 38 U.S. and Afghan forces over the weekend, but they are still seeking the top insurgent leader they were going after in Saturday's mission, the top American commander in Afghanistan said Wednesday. Marine Corps Gen. John Allen told a Pentagon news conference that an F-16 airstrike Monday took out fewer than 10 insurgents involved in the attack on the Chinook helicopter. In a separate statement Wednesday, the military said the Monday strike killed Taliban leader Mullah Mohibullah and the insurgent who fired the rocket-propelled grenade at the helicopter. The military said intelligence gained on the ground provided a high degree of confidence that the insurgent who fired the grenade was the person killed. It did not provide further details. Allen defended the decision to send in the Chinook loaded with special operations forces to pursue insurgents escaping from the weekend firefight with Army Rangers in a dangerous region of Wardak province of eastern Afghanistan. "We've run more than a couple of thousand of these night operations over the last year, and this is the only occasion where this has occurred," said Allen. "The fact that we lost this aircraft is not ... a decision point as to whether we'll use this aircraft in the fu-

ture. It's not uncommon at all to use this aircraft on our special missions." While officials believe the helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade, Allen said the military's investigation into the crash will also review whether small arms fire or other causes contributed to the crash. Questions remain about why the troops were called in to aid other U.S. combatants engaged in a firefight, what they knew about the situation on the ground and what role the flight path or altitude may have played in the disastrous crash. Allen and other officials would not discuss the details of the probe, but it no doubt will include a look at the insurgent threat and the instructions given to the special operations team that crowded into a big Chinook helicopter as it raced to assist other U.S. forces. According to officials, the team included 17 SEALs, five Navy special operations troops who support the SEALs, three Air Force air-crews, a five-member Army air crew and a military dog, along with seven Afghan commandos and an Afghan interpreter. Gen. James Mattis, head of U.S. Central Command, appointed Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Colt to lead the investigation. Colt is deputy commander of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. The investigation comes as the remains of the troops killed in the crash were returned Tuesday in an operation shrouded in secrecy by a Defense Department that has refused so far to release the names of the fallen and denied media coverage of the arrival at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Two C-17 aircraft carrying the remains were met by President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, the Joint Chiefs chairman, Adm. Mike Mullen, and a number of other military leaders. The investigation will review a number of basic crash questions, which will probably rule out such factors as the weather, terrain and mechanical issues, since military officials believe the helicopter was shot down. It also will look at the flight of the Chinook as it moved into the fighting zone. Chinooks are heavy cargo helicopters that do not have the agility of smaller, more maneuverable aircraft. Meanwhile, the Pentagon said Wednesday that it will release the names of the troops killed — after days of debate and delay. The release had been in question because the dead were mostly covert special operations forces from the Navy and Air Force. Though some of their names had been made public by loved ones, the Special Operations Command asked the Pentagon not to release them, arguing it was a security risk. Pentagon spokesman Col. Dave Lapan said Wednesday Defense Secretary Leon Panetta considered the issue and decided to release the names. Lapan said the names should be made public within 24 hours. Obama and other officials at Dover boarded the two C-17 aircraft to pay tribute to the fallen troops and then watched as 30 transfer cases draped in American flags and eight draped in Afghan flags were taken off the planes. There were several additional transfer cases on the planes, also carrying unidentified remains from the crash.

# Debt Panel Picks Spark Some Pessimism

BY ALAN FRAM  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans named a mix of partisans and pragmatists on Wednesday to the new congressional committee charged with striking a debt-cutting compromise. While members of both parties expressed urgency over controlling surging budget shortfalls, others were pessimistic that the bipartisan panel would overcome deep political divides. With nine of the committee's 12 members selected, Washington began calculating whether the faltering economy and chaotic financial markets could spur the panel to produce a bipartisan plan trimming \$1.5 trillion from the government's debt over the coming decade. Failure — a real possibility, considering GOP opposition to tax increases and Democratic hostility to cuts in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits — would trigger automatic spending cuts in hundreds of defense

and domestic programs. "You wouldn't want to be in there while the 'Dirty Dozen' are up to their work, because, boy, I tell you, the hair and eyeballs will fly all over the floor," said former Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., who co-chaired a bipartisan deficit commission that recommended trillions in savings last year. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, named conservative Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, a rising force among House Republicans, as GOP co-chairman of the powerful new panel. Boehner also appointed House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp and House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton, a pair of veteran Michigan Republicans, to the committee. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., named confidante and No. 2 Senate GOP leader Jon Kyl of Arizona, tabbing a lawmaker who is retiring in 2013 and is a solid conservative. He also appointed GOP Sen. Pat

Toomey of Pennsylvania, elected last year with tea party backing, and fellow freshman Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, a former budget director and trade representative for President George W. Bush who is viewed as a possible vice presidential pick next year. On Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., chose Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who runs the Senate Democratic campaign arm, as Democratic co-chair of the debt committee. He also appointed 2004 Democratic presidential nominee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., a centrist who strayed to back Bush's 2001 tax cuts, to the new panel. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has yet to name her three members but is required to do so by next week. Boehner said his appointees are trusted leaders "who under-

stand the gravity of our debt crisis." He acknowledged the two sides' differences but said the committee provided an opportunity to "come together to do what's best for our country." At the White House, spokesman Jay Carney said President Barack Obama expects members of the committee to "act seriously." He reiterated Obama's call for "a balanced approach," which means a mix of spending cuts and revenue tax increases. Elsewhere around the capital, critics raised questions about whether the panel would succeed. They noted that none of the Senate's so-called Gang of Six, a bipartisan group of senators who proposed trillions in spending cuts and tax boosts this year, was named to the panel. And while Baucus, Camp and Hensarling were members of the bipartisan deficit commission that Simpson headed with Democrat Erskine Bowles, critics pointed out that all three had opposed that group's final recommendations.

### U.S. Troubled By Rising Anti-Americanism In Egypt

BY MATTHEW LEE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Wednesday expressed concern about a "creeping" trend of anti-American sentiment in Egypt, where it says it has noticed mounting attacks and criticism of U.S. aid and motives as the country transitions to democracy. The State Department said it has raised the matter with Egyptian officials. It complained that the criticism is "inaccurate" and "unfair" and that personal attacks lodged against Anne Patterson, the new U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, are "unacceptable." "With regard to this kind of anti-Americanism that's creeping into the Egyptian public discourse, we are concerned," department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters. "We've expressed these concerns to the Egyptian government. We think this kind of representation of the United States is not only inaccurate; it's unfair. We are very strong supporters of Egypt's transition to a democratic future, and we will continue to be there for Egypt." Nuland said Patterson "is one of our finest, most respected, most experienced ambassadors around the world. And she is in Egypt to represent U.S. policy and the American people's aspiration to support a strong, democratic, prosperous Egypt." U.S. officials said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton raised the matter with Egypt's

new intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Murad Muwafi, in a July 28 meeting in Washington. However, the trend has continued with some accusing Washington of interference and fanning instability since the ouster earlier this year of authoritarian President Hosni Mubarak, a longtime U.S. ally. During a July visit to Washington, Maj. Gen. Mohammed al-Assar, a member of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, criticized the United States for funding pro-democracy groups away from Egyptian government supervision. At a conference hosted by the U.S. Institute of Peace, al-Assar said that some countries including the United States have violated the Egyptian laws in their funding Egyptian NGOs and said

that Egyptians were opposed to "foreign interference," according to a statement by USIP posted on its website. He added, "It is a matter of sovereignty." Hours earlier on the same day, he met with a number of scholars at the headquarters of the Egyptian consulate. He reiterated same notion and said, "all foreign funding should be subject to scrutiny in Egypt." The July 31 issue of a state-run magazine featured a cover depicting Patterson as holding a burning wad of dollars to the wick of a bomb wrapped in an American flag. The headline read: "The ambassador from Hell who lit a fire in Tahrir," a reference to Cairo's Tahrir Square, which was the epicenter of the uprising that toppled Mubarak in February.

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### MORNING COFFEE WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

**Thursday, August 11**  
7:40 a.m. Carmen Schramm (Yankton Chamber)  
8:20 a.m. Lisa Scheve (Yankton Conv/Vis Bureau)

**Friday, August 12**  
7:40 a.m. Bernie Hunhoff (SD Magazine)  
8:20 a.m. Doug Hevle (Bullarama)