

Sandusky Backs Out Of Hearing On Charges

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP) — Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky stunned a packed courtroom and backed out of a preliminary hearing at the last minute Tuesday, avoiding a face-to-face confrontation with accusers who his lawyer said were just trying to cash in by making up stories of child sex abuse.

Sandusky pleaded not guilty and vowed afterward to “stay the course, to fight for four quarters.”

His lawyer, Joe Amendola, then took the defense to the courtroom steps and spoke before dozens of news cameras for an hour, saying some of the 10 men who accuse Sandusky of molesting them as children were only out to profit from civil lawsuits against the coach and Penn State.

A prosecutor said about 11 witnesses, most of them alleged victims, were ready to testify at the hearing.

An attorney for one called Sandusky a “coward” for not hearing his accusers’ testimony and derided the arguments that they were out for money, saying many were too old to sue Sandusky under Pennsylvania’s statute of limitations.

Gingrich Pledges To Stay Relentlessly Positive

ATLANTA (AP) — Newt Gingrich is pledging to stay relentlessly positive in his quest for the White House. Except when he’s not.

Trying to make over his image as the angry, bomb-throwing leader of the Republican revolution of the 1990s, the former House speaker has adopted a sunnier persona these days and is playing up his credentials as a grandfather, husband and historian.

On Tuesday, he urged supporters to refrain from attacking his opponents and eschewed negative ads.

But old habits die hard.

When chief rival Mitt Romney cast Gingrich as a lifelong Washington insider at a weekend debate in Iowa, Gingrich had this snarky comeback: “The only reason you didn’t become a career politician is because you lost to Teddy Kennedy in 1994.”

Rutan, Allen Plan Biggest Plane Ever

SEATTLE (AP) — Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen and aerospace pioneer Burt Rutan are building the world’s biggest plane to help launch cargo and astronauts into space, in the latest of several ventures fueled by technology tycoons clamoring to write America’s next chapter in spaceflight.

Their plans, unveiled Tuesday, call for a twin-fuselage aircraft with wings longer than a football field to carry a rocket high into the atmosphere and drop it, avoiding the need for a launch pad and the expense of additional rocket fuel.

Allen, who teamed up with Rutan in 2004 to send the first privately financed, manned spacecraft into space, said his new project would “keep America at the forefront of space exploration” and give a new generation of children something to dream about.

“We have plenty and many challenges ahead of us,” he said at a news conference.

Allen and Rutan join a field crowded with Silicon Valley veterans who grew up on “Star Trek” and now want to fill a void created with the retirement of NASA’s space shuttle. Several companies are competing to develop spacecraft to deliver cargo and astronauts to the International Space Station.

‘Survivor’ Winner Hatch Seeks New Series

NEWPORT, R.I. (AP) — Reality star Richard Hatch, who was freed this week from prison on a tax evasion sentence tied to his \$1 million “Survivor” winnings, said Tuesday that he is hoping for a new reality show about his relationship with the children conceived from his sperm donations.

Hatch, 50, was released Monday from prison for violating the terms of his supervised release in the long-running case. Hatch maintains his innocence and says he does not owe money to the Internal Revenue Service.

“Here I am, subjected to something that can only be described as institutionalized bullying,” said Hatch, who spent nine months in prisons in five states.

Hatch won the inaugural season of the show in 2000. He was convicted in 2006 of two counts of attempted tax evasion and one count of signing a false tax return. He was released from prison in 2009 but ordered to return after a federal judge ruled he failed to file amended income tax returns for 2000 and 2001.

Shortly before returning to prison in March, Hatch, who lives in Rhode Island, said he met a 22-year-old biological son who is living in New Jersey. Hatch said he met the man, whom he identified only as Devin, through the Sibling Donor Registry, which helps connect donors and children. They took a DNA test to confirm their genetic ties, he said.

Alexander Graham Bell Recordings Played

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alexander Graham Bell foresaw many things, including that people could someday talk over a telephone. But the inventor certainly never could have anticipated that his audio-recording experiments in a Washington, D.C., lab could be recovered 130 years later and played for a gathering of scientists, curators and journalists.

“To be or not to be...” a man’s voice can be heard saying in one recording as it was played on a computer at the Library of Congress on Tuesday. The speaker from the 1880s recites a portion of Hamlet’s Soliloquy as a green wax disc crackles to life from computer speakers.

The early audio recordings — which revealed recitations of Shakespeare, numbers and other familiar lines — had been packed away and deemed obsolete at the Smithsonian Institution for more than a century. But new technology has allowed them to be recovered and played.

The technology reads the sound from tiny grooves with light and a 3D camera.

The recordings offer a glimpse into the dawn of the information age, when inventors were scrambling to make new discoveries and secure patents for the first telephones and phonographs, even early fiber optics.

A second recording, on a copper negative disc, played back Tuesday reveals a trill of the tongue and someone reciting the numbers 1-2-3-4-5-6.

A third recording catches perhaps the first sound of disappointment as Bell’s recording device seemed to hit a technical glitch.

“Mary had a little lamb and its fleece was white as snow,” a voice says. “Everywhere that Mary went — Oh no!”

House Backs Bill To Speed Oil Pipeline

BY MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sensing a political opening, House Republicans on Tuesday approved a plan that links speedy approval of an oil pipeline from Canada to a measure renewing a payroll tax cut.

The vote sets up a showdown with President Barack Obama, who has threatened to veto the bill. The White House says the bill “plays politics” with what should be its main goal: cutting taxes for the middle class.

Republicans said the proposed Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to Texas would help the president achieve his top priority — creating jobs — without costing a dime of taxpayer money. Obama’s opposition shows he does not mean what he says when he calls jobs his top priority, GOP lawmakers said.

“The American people want jobs,” said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. “This is as close to a shovel-ready project as you’re ever going to see. This is exactly the description of the kind of jobs plans that the presi-

dent says he wants to enact.”

The House approved the bill, 234-193, Tuesday night. Ten Democrats joined 224 Republicans in backing the bill.

The measure would require approval of the \$7 billion project within two months unless Obama declares it is not in the national interest.

The Obama administration said last month it was postponing a decision on the pipeline until after next year’s election. Officials said the delay is needed to study routes that avoid environmentally sensitive areas of Nebraska.

The 1,700-mile pipeline would carry oil from western Canada to refineries in Texas, passing through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.

The project’s developer, Calgary-based TransCanada, says the pipeline could create as many as 20,000 jobs, including 13,000 during construction and 7,000 manufacturing jobs.

Opponents call those figures wildly inflated and say the project could create as few as 2,500 construction job and fewer than 1,000 permanent jobs. The State Department, in an

analysis released this summer, said the pipeline would create up to 6,000 jobs during construction, including Keystone employees, contractors and construction and environmental inspection staff.

The State Department has authority over the project because it crosses an international border.

The administration warned on Monday that congressional interference in the approval process would likely lead to a rejection of the pipeline.

Republicans said such threats ignored reality.

“Canada is going to develop this no matter what, and that oil is either going to come — a million barrels a day — to the United States, or it’s going to go to a place like China. We want it here,” said Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Democrats said the pipeline provision did not belong in the bill. Among other provisions, the bill would extend benefits for the long-term unemployed.

SHINY SURPLUS



Brent Davis, an employee of The Coin Cradle in Kennewick, Washington, holds a coin featuring President Garfield. With more than a billion of the sequential presidential dollar-coins going unused by the public and piling up at bank vaults across the country, the Obama administration announced Tuesday, December 13, 2011, that it would all but halt the production of the coins for circulation.

BOB BRAWDY/TRI-CITY HERALD/MCT

Obama Administration To Cut Production Of Dollar Coins

BY ROB HOTAKAINEN

© 2011, McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The federal government has too much money on its hands.

That may be surprising, especially since the government is flat broke, with a \$15 trillion national debt.

But it’s also awash in shiny one-dollar coins, with more than a billion of them going unused by the public and piling up at bank vaults across the country.

To deal with the excess, the Obama administration announced Tuesday that it would all but halt production of its special presidential dollar coins for general circulation.

The decision came after the Federal Reserve told Congress earlier this year that it wanted to spend \$650,000 to build a storage facility at its bank in Dallas to store all of the surplus coins in one place. And it planned to spend another \$3 million to transport all of the surplus coins to the new warehouse.

Administration officials said the move would save the government \$50 million annually for the next several years.

“We simply shouldn’t be wasting taxpayer money on money that taxpayers aren’t using,” said Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.

Members of Congress were trying to intervene, with Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., introducing a bill that would have forced the U.S. Mint to reduce production. Smith said he was pleased that the president and his administration “have seen the waste in this program” and reacted to it.

“We don’t use dollar coins,” Smith said. “It’s funny — you go to Europe, and you’ve got the euro and you’ve got the pound, but in America, people just don’t walk around carrying coins the way they do in Europe. It’s a cultural thing.”

The beginning of the surplus dates back to 2005, when President George W. Bush signed the Presidential \$1 Coin Act, which required the U.S. Mint to issue new coins to honor deceased presidents each year, regardless of demand. The government tried to force circulation of the coins by requiring their use by federal agencies and the U.S. Postal Service.

Despite the efforts, nearly 1.4 billion excess dollar coins sat untouched in vaults, enough to meet expected demand for more than 10 years. And the Mint planned to produce another 1.6 billion dollar coins in the next five years.

The plan to stop production was made by Vice President Joe Biden as part of the administra-

tion’s “Campaign to Cut Waste.” Biden said the Mint was only halfway through its production cycle, still making coins to honor presidents from the 1800s.

“And as it will shock you all, the call for Chester A. Arthur coins is not there,” Biden told members of the Cabinet.

While the government will stop producing most of the coins, it won’t stop the debate over whether U.S. citizens should stop using the one-dollar bill.

A report by the Government Accountability Office in March of this year found that replacing the one-dollar bill with the one-dollar coin would save the government about \$5.5 billion over 30 years.

That’s mainly because the coins are so much more durable than bills. But polls have consistently found that Americans favor the dollar bill.

Attack In Belgian City Leaves 5 Dead

BY RAF CASERT

Associated Press

LIEGE, Belgium — Summoned for questioning by Belgian police, a man with a history of weapons and drug offenses left home armed with hand grenades, a revolver and an assault rifle. Stopping at a central square filled with holiday shoppers, he lobbed three grenades into the crowd, then opened fire.

Four people were killed, including an 18-month-old toddler, and 122 were wounded in the assault Tuesday that brought tragedy to the pre-Christmas season of students reveling in exam results and preschoolers enchanted by brightly lit trees and holiday stalls.

Authorities said the shooter also died, but they were at a loss to explain the reason for the onslaught. The prime minister said it was not related to terrorism.

In a second burst of deadly violence in Western Europe on Tuesday — attacks rare for the continent — a man shot and killed two Senegalese vendors at a market in Italy.

The midday attack in the eastern Belgian city of Liege sent hundreds of panicked shoppers stampeding down the cobbled streets of the old city, fleeing explosions and bullets.

Belgian authorities identified the shooter as Nordine Amrani, a 33-year-old Liege resident who had done jail time for offenses involving guns and drugs, and had been called in for questioning Tuesday in a sexual abuse case.

Officials said Amrani left his home with a backpack, armed with hand grenades, a revolver and an FAL assault rifle. He walked alone to the busy Place Saint-Lambert, the central entry point to downtown shopping streets, then climbed onto an overpass that gave him an ideal view of the square, which was bedecked with a huge Christmas tree and crowded with shoppers.

From there, Amrani lobbed three hand grenades toward a central bus stop, which serves 1,800 buses a day, and opened fire. The explosions sent shards of glass from the bus shelter across a wide area.

2012 Lang Calendars
are available!

209 West 3rd • Downtown
668-0622

Monta's
Farming & Florals
"always lovely"

Lowest Prices Guaranteed

FREE ESTIMATES
on **LENNOX** Heating & Cooling Systems

Innovation never felt so good.™

Larry's HEATING & COOLING
920 Broadway • 665-9461

Need a Stocking Stuffer?

ONLY 75¢ each

LIMITED QUANTITIES!

Reader Submitted 2012 Photo Calendar

E-mail classifieds@yankton.net to reserve yours today!

PRESS&DAKOTAN
319 Walnut, Yankton, SD • 605-665-7811

Purchase

Holiday Greeting Cards

designed by local children to support

Newspapers In Education

Share the warmth of the holidays with these unique full color cards!

\$12.00 tax included
for a package of 12

PRESS&DAKOTAN
These wonderful cards can be purchased during business hours at 319 Walnut, Yankton, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm or call 665-7811, 1-800-743-2968

nje
Newspapers In Education