

Lawyer: Captain Placed Under House Arrest

ROME (AP) — An Italian coast guard official vehemently demanded that the captain go back to his crippled cruise ship to oversee its evacuation, but the captain repeatedly resisted, according to a shocking audiotape made public Tuesday.

Prosecutors have accused Capt. Francesco Schettino of manslaughter, causing a shipwreck and abandoning his vessel before all passengers were evacuated during the grounding of the Costa Concordia cruise ship off the Tuscan coast on Friday night.

After Schettino was interrogated by prosecutors for three hours Tuesday, a judge in Grosseto, Tuscany, ruled that the captain, who had been detained a few hours after he allegedly abandoned the Concordia, should be released from jail and confined to his home near Naples under house arrest, his lawyer, Bruno Leporatti, told reporters outside the courthouse.

Prosecutors wanted him kept in Grosseto's prison, and Leporatti had asked that he be freed.

The death toll from the tragedy nearly doubled to 11 on Tuesday when divers extracted the bodies of four men and one woman from the ship's wreckage. The victims were in their 50s or 60s and each wore the orange vest that passengers use, indicating they were apparently passengers and not crew members, said a Coast Guard spokesman, Cmdr. Filippo Marini. Their nationalities were not immediately determined.

Wisconsin Gov. Recall Petitions Are Filed

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Opponents of Wisconsin's Republican Gov. Scott Walker submitted nearly twice as many signatures Tuesday as required to force a recall election, but still face the challenge of transforming public outrage over his moves against unions into actual votes to oust him from office.

If Walker is worried, he's not showing it: As the petitions were delivered to election officials, Walker was out of state raising money to defend himself and the agenda that has made him a national conservative hero.

The 1 million signatures that United Wisconsin, the coalition that spearheaded the effort along with the Democratic Party, said were collected far exceeds the 540,208 needed and amounts to 23 percent of the state's eligible voters.

Walker was elected in 2010 as part of a national Republican tide, and quickly angered unions and others with aggressive moves that included effectively ending collective bargaining rights for nearly all public workers.

Recall circulators in neon vests who were turning in the petitions Tuesday surrounded a U-Haul truck filled with boxes of documents. The group held hands and formed a line leading toward the office of the Government Accountability Board, as some protesters yelled anti-Walker chants. The boxes inside the office full of petitions targeting Walker were stacked five high and 11 rows deep.

Marine Veteran Charged With Four Murders

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A 23-year-old Iraq War veteran charged with the stabbing deaths of four homeless men in a rampage that terrorized Southern California had selected additional victims, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Former Marine Itzcoatl Ocampo chose the final victim because the man appeared in a news article about police warning homeless men to be careful, Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said.

All four victims were stalked and the killer looked for the right opportunity to execute them, he said. At least three of the victims were stabbed more than 40 times.

The district attorney said a panel will be convened to decide whether to seek the death penalty.

The charges include special allegations of multiple murders and lying in wait and use of a deadly weapon. The minimum sentence if convicted is life in prison without parole.

Navy Gives Its Highest Honor To Calif. Family

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP) — A Marine who died from a roadside bomb in Afghanistan was awarded the highest honor given to members of the Corps for his heroic actions as he hurled his body into a fellow serviceman and warned the rest of the his squad of the blast.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said Tuesday that 20-year-old Lance Cpl. Donald Hogan is "now part of Marine lore along with the great heroes of the Corps" as he presented the fallen hero's parents with the Navy Cross. He said his actions placed him among the "bravest and finest" in the Marines.

Mabus spoke in front of new barracks at Camp Pendleton that will be named after Hogan, who was from nearby San Clemente, Calif. The barracks will house troops wounded in the war and those resting. There will be enough rooms to house more than 1,000 Marines.

Hogan was killed in 2009 in Helmand province in Afghanistan while on patrol. The rifleman had volunteered to wear a metal detector that day and help look for explosive devices.

He spotted a kite string on the road go taut in Taliban territory, a sign that a roadside bomb was about to go off. He flew into action, hurling his body into a fellow Marine and then running to the road to yell a warning to the rest of his squad before the blast killed him.

Feds: Syndrome Has Killed At Least 5.7M Bats

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Scientists studying white nose syndrome in bats estimate the fungal ailment has killed at least 5.7 million bats in 16 states and Canada, providing alarming new numbers about the scope of its decimation.

First detected in a cave west of Albany in 2006, white nose has spread to 16 states from the Northeast to the South and as far west as Kentucky. It also has been detected in four Canadian provinces.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday released the new estimate.

Researchers say bats provide tremendous value to the U.S. economy as natural pest control for farms and forests, while playing an essential role in helping control insects that can spread disease to people.

Martian Rocks Found On Earth Confirmed

WASHINGTON (AP) — They came from Mars, not in peace, but in pieces. Scientists are confirming that 15 pounds of rock collected recently in Morocco fell to Earth from Mars during a meteorite shower last July.

This is only the fifth time in history scientists have chemically confirmed Martian meteorites that people witnessed falling. The fireball was spotted in the sky six months ago, but the rocks weren't discovered on the ground in North Africa until the end of December.

This is an important and unique opportunity for scientists trying to learn about Mars' potential for life. So far, no NASA or Russian spacecraft has returned bits of Mars, so the only samples scientists can examine are those that come here in a meteorite shower.

Scientists and collectors are ecstatic, and already the rocks are fetching big bucks because they are among the rarest things on Earth — rarer even than gold. The biggest rock weighs over 2 pounds.

"It's Christmas in January," said former NASA sciences chief Alan Stern, director of the Florida Space Institute at the University of Central Florida. "It's nice to have Mars sending samples to Earth, particularly when our pockets are too empty to go get them ourselves."

Yahoo Co-Founder Resigns From Firm's Board

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo co-founder Jerry Yang is leaving the struggling company as it tries to revive its revenue growth and win over disgruntled shareholders under a new leader.

The surprise departure, announced Tuesday, comes just two weeks after Yahoo Inc. hired former PayPal executive Scott Thompson as its CEO.

Yang, 43, endorsed Thompson in his resignation from Yahoo's board of directors. He had been on Yahoo's board since the company's 1995 inception.

"My time at Yahoo, from its founding to the present, has encompassed some of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of my life," Yang wrote in his letter to Yahoo Chairman Roy Bostock. "However, the time has come for me to pursue other interests outside of Yahoo."

Yang is also stepping down from the boards of China's Alibaba Group and Yahoo Japan. Yahoo is negotiating to sell its stakes in both of the Asian companies as part of its efforts to placate investors.

Decision 2012

S.C. Battleground Gets Testy

BY KASIE HUNT AND THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

FLORENCE, S.C. — Seeking to protect his standing here, Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney on Tuesday assailed challenger Rick Santorum's record on voting rights for felons, an issue that resonates strongly with conservatives. Santorum accused the former Massachusetts governor of promoting lies about him as the two intensified their dispute from the previous night's GOP debate.

Romney tried to tamp down another contentious, lingering issue by offering a snippet of his personal tax picture while saying he wouldn't publicly release his tax return until April. The multimillionaire former businessman said he pays an income tax rate close to 15 percent — well below the 35 percent applied to the nation's top earners — because his income mostly comes from investments.

Romney, hoping a strong and third straight

win in Saturday's South Carolina primary will all but lock up the nomination, made a point Tuesday of answering criticism from Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator trying to unite conservative voters to block Romney's path.

"We have a candidate who's not going to stand up and tell the truth," Santorum told reporters in Charleston, complaining that Romney refuses to condemn misleading TV ads. "That leads to real serious questions about whether that man can be trusted to tell the truth on a variety of things."

Romney's other three challengers tried a host of different attacks in hopes of knocking him off stride in the debate. They kept the spotlight on his wealth and business dealings by pressing him to release his income tax returns before this weekend's vote.



Santorum

Romney told reporters Tuesday that he would release his 2011 tax return in April.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich suggested Romney wouldn't delay releasing his tax information if he had nothing to hide and that the delay wouldn't sit well with voters in this month's primaries. "What is he saying to the people of South Carolina?" Gingrich said Tuesday. "You're not important enough for me to release my taxes? Nor are the people of Florida?"

Romney also came under heavy pressure in the debate on the issue of his job-creation record at his former private equity firm Bain Capital, and his evolving views on abortion. Blamed for the tide of negative commercials, Romney stressed the independence of the super PACs that have been running ads in his behalf against Santorum and Gingrich.

On Tuesday, Santorum said that by refusing to condemn the ads, Romney "supports lies, promotes lies and stands behind those lies."



A man is arrested for assaulting a police officer as hundreds of members of the "Occupy" movement from across the country participate in the Occupy Congress rally on Capitol Hill, calling on lawmakers to have a greater focus on alleviating income inequalities Tuesday in Washington.

Several Hundred Occupy Protesters Rally At The Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several hundred protesters affiliated with the Occupy Wall Street movement converged on the West Lawn of the Capitol Tuesday to decry the influence of corporate money in politics and voice myriad other grievances.

Organizers had touted the rally, known as Occupy Congress, as the largest national gathering of Occupy protesters to date and secured a permit that would have allowed up to 10,000 people to participate. By mid-afternoon, the protest appeared to have fallen far short of those goals.

Still, participants said they were optimistic about the strength of the Occupy movement, which began in September when protesters pitched tents in a lower Manhattan park. The movement has since spread to dozens of cities, including Washington. While many cities have moved to evict the protesters, the National Park Service has allowed encampments to remain in two public squares near the White House.

"I'm encouraged," said Jon Wynn, 63, of Snow Camp, N.C., who traveled to Washington to attend the protest and visit friends. "There's energy here, even if there's not a whole lot of people."

The protest comes amid numerous polls that show 84 percent of Americans disapprove of the job Congress is doing, near an all-time low.

While the rally was mostly peaceful, there were some scuffles between police and protesters along walkways leading to the Capitol. By mid-afternoon Tuesday, four people had been arrested — U.S. Capitol Police said — one for allegedly assaulting a police officer and three accused of crossing a police line.

The Occupy movement includes activists who want to change government from within and anarchists who oppose all government. Tension between the two camps was evident at Tuesday's gathering, where some taunted police while others participated in earnest group discussions about how to influence their elected representatives.

Later Tuesday, small groups of protesters entered House office buildings in a bid to meet with individual members of Congress. Participants later in the evening marched to the Supreme Court and the White House.

It was not clear whether the two-out-of-town protesters would swell the ranks of the two Occupy encampments in Washington. Late Tuesday, a House oversight subcommittee announced that it would hold a hearing next week on why the protesters have been allowed to remain in McPherson Square — which city officials say is infested with rats — despite a ban on camping on park service property.

OBITUARIES

William 'Bill' Cuka

RAPID CITY — William H. "Bill" Cuka, 89, Rapid City died Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at Golden Living Center-Black Hills.



Cuka

On June 4, 1922, Bill was born on the family homestead northeast of Tyndall, SD, to Frank and Pauline (Varilek) Cuka. In later years he farmed south of Wagner, SD, until he volunteered for WWII. SSGT Cuka served as a squad leader with the 185th Infantry in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre. His campaigns included GO 33WD, 45 Bismarck, Archipelago, Southern Philippines, and Luzon. He was awarded the Lapel Button, Expert Infantry Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star Arrowhead.

He was separated from service at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and then bought his own farm south of Wagner, SD, in 1950 before marrying Irene Kostel on September 18, 1951 at the Assumption Catholic Church in Dante, SD.

To this union were born Richard (Marcia) Cuka, Rapid City; Theresa (Bill) Snyder, North Charleston, SC; Deborah Chancellor, Woodlawn, TN; Lawrence (Sylvia) Cuka, Rapid City; Carol Wallace and Nancy Woodson. Bill is blessed with nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Bill's occupation always centered around the farming industry until he decided to retire at the age of 85. Mr. Cuka is a member of the VFW of Wagner, SD, The Church of Saint Therese-The Little Flower, and the Knights of Columbus. He will be especially remembered for his devotion to Jesus, whom he be-

lieves carried him safely through WWII. His greatest joys are fishing, feeding God's birds, helping family and strangers, and his faithful dog, Rusty.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Richard; an infant sister, his daughters, Carol Wallace and Nancy Woodson, and his grandson, Matthew Wallace.

Bill's family extends our deepest appreciation to the office of Dr. Steven Stocks and the staff at Golden Living Center for their loving care.

Visitation was from 5-7 p.m. Monday, January 16 at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home, 2700 Jackson Boulevard, Rapid City with a Christian Wake Service and Rosary at 7 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 17 at St. Therese Church-The Little Flower, 532 Adam Street, Rapid City with Rev. Father Bill Zandri officiating.

Burial was at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Rapid City with military honors provided by Rush-

more VFW Post #1273 and South Dakota National Guard.

In lieu of flowers a memorial will be established to the Wounded Warriors Project.

An online guestbook may be signed at www.osheimschmidt.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
January 18, 2012

Bernice Miller

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Bernice E. Miller, 95, of Hartington, Neb., died Monday, Jan. 16, 2012, at the Autumn Winds Assisted Living facility, Hartington, Neb.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hartington, with the Rev. Jeffrey Loseke officiating. Burial will be at the St. Michael's Cemetery in Hartington.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Wednes-

day, with a vigil service at 7 p.m. followed by a P.E.O. service, at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington. Visitation will continue on Thursday at church one hour prior to services.

Marilyn Dangel

Marilyn A. Dangel, 85, of Yankton, died Monday, Jan. 16, 2012, at the Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with Fr. Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Friday at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a rosary at 7 p.m. and a Scripture service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

KYNT
AM 1450
MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY
Wednesday, January 18
7:40 a.m. Mount Marty College
Dr. Joseph Benoit
8:20 a.m. Hy-Vee Chef Staci
Thursday, January 19
7:40 a.m. Ykn Conv/Vis Bureau
(Lisa Chamber)
8:20 a.m. Ykn Chamber
(Carmen Schramm)

Tonight All-You-Can-Eat
5-9 pm **Steak Tips** \$10.25
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Bernice E. Miller
Thursday, 10:30 AM
Holy Family Catholic Church
Hartington
WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. 605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com
WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC. Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton 402-254-6547