

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Obama Signs Extension Of Jobless Benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal checks could begin flowing again as early as next week to millions of jobless people who lost up to seven weeks of unemployment benefits in a congressional stand-off.

President Barack Obama on Thursday signed into law a restoration of benefits for people who have been out of work for six months or more. Congress approved the measure earlier in the day. The move ended an interruption that cut off payments averaging about \$300 a week to 2 1/2 million people who have been unable to find work in the aftermath of the nation's long and deep recession.

At stake are up to 73 weeks of federally financed benefits for people who have exhausted their 26 weeks of state jobless benefits. About half of the approximately 5 million people in the program have had their benefits cut off since its authorization expired June 2.

They are eligible for lump-sum retroactive payments that are typically delivered directly to their bank accounts or credited to state-issued debit cards. Many states have encouraged beneficiaries to keep updating their paperwork in hopes of speeding payments once the program was restored.

In states like Pennsylvania and New York, the back payments should go out next week, officials said. In others, like Nevada and North Carolina, it may take a few weeks for all of those eligible to receive benefits.

Judge Hears Arguments Over Immigration

PHOENIX (AP) — A judge held two hearings in a courtroom packed with spectators and top Arizona officials Thursday on whether the state's new immigration law should take effect amid a flurry of legal challenges against the crackdown.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer attended the second hearing, as did the U.S. Attorney for Arizona, Dennis Burke.

Judge Susan Bolton did not issue a ruling at the end of the first hearing. The afternoon hearing focused on the U.S. Justice Department requesting a preliminary injunction blocking key sections of the law from taking effect next week.

During the morning hearing, Bolton told lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union that she's required to consider blocking only parts of the law, not the entire statute as they had requested. She said the law has a section allowing parts to still take effect even if other parts are struck down.

ACLU attorney Omar Jadwat said the law's provisions are supposed to work together to achieve a goal of prodding illegal immigrants to leave the state. He called it unconstitutional and dangerous.

Sherrod Gets 'I'm sorry' From The President

WASHINGTON (AP) — Flooded with apologies from everywhere, Shirley Sherrod got the biggest "I'm sorry" of all Thursday — from a contrite President Barack Obama, who personally appealed to the ousted worker to come back.

Sherrod, who was forced to resign on Monday because of racial comments she made at an NAACP gathering, was asked by Obama to rejoin the federal government and transform "this misfortune" into a chance to use her life experiences to help people, said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs.

Obama had stayed out of the public brouhaha that followed Sherrod's ouster from the Agriculture Department after a conservative blog posted a clip of the black woman's comments and portrayed her as racist. Once it became clear that the speech in question was advocating racial reconciliation, not racism, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack apologized to her and offered her a new job Wednesday. Gibbs also apologized publicly "for the entire administration."

Thursday morning, Obama spoke by phone with Sherrod and said he hoped she would accept Agriculture's offer of a new position, Gibbs said. He added that Obama thought Sherrod was "very gracious." Sherrod said she hadn't decided whether she would accept the invitation to come back, but she did accept the apologies.

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Senate Dem's Abandon Cap-And-Trade Energy Bill

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats on Thursday gave up plans to attempt to pass an energy-global warming bill that caps greenhouse gases, abandoning a priority of President Barack Obama.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said no Republican was willing to back a comprehensive energy bill, a development he called "terribly disappointing."

Democrats have been trying for more than a year to pass a plan that charges power plants and other large polluters for their heat-trapping carbon emissions, which contribute to global warming. The House voted 219-212 last year for a "cap and trade" plan featuring economic incentives to reduce heat-trapping gases from power plants, vehicles and other sources.

Republicans slammed the bill as a "national energy tax" and jobs killer, arguing that the costs would be passed on to consumers in the form of higher electricity bills and fuel costs that would lead more manufacturers to take their factories offshore. Moderate House Democrats who voted for the bill, particularly freshmen from Republican-leaning districts, are among the GOP's top takeover targets in the November election.

In recent weeks, Senate Democrats floated a more modest approach that would limit the carbon tax to the electricity sector. That

plan, which drew support from the White House and words of encouragement from Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, was never formally proposed. But it, too, failed to attract the 60 votes needed to advance it in the 100-member Senate.

Instead, Reid and other Democrats said they would focus on a narrower bill that responds to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and improves energy efficiency.

"We've always known from Day One that to pass comprehensive energy reform you've got to have 60 votes," Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said at a Capitol news conference with Reid and White House energy adviser Carol Browner. "As we stand here today we don't have one Republican vote."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., had been negotiating with Kerry and Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., for months, but Graham withdrew his support in May, saying it was impossible to pass the legislation because of disagreements over offshore drilling and efforts by Democratic leaders to focus on an immigration reform bill first.

Browner said Obama continues to support a comprehensive bill that includes a cap on carbon emissions but that the president supports Reid's decision to go forward with a narrower bill. For Obama the effort ranked behind only overhauling the nation's health care system and its financial regulations on his list of priorities.

Reid said the new bill will likely focus on holding oil giant BP PLC responsible for the Gulf spill, as well as ways to improve energy

efficiency, boost incentives for natural gas vehicles and increase spending on land and water conservation.

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., said he was frustrated that Senate leaders were giving up on the carbon tax — at least for now. "But we still have time this summer to keep working and lining up votes — in September as well. And we just have to keep working," Casey said.

A bill focused on the Gulf oil spill "is probably the best we can do now," Casey said, but added that he and others would continue to work for a comprehensive approach.

Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., who opposed the planned carbon tax, said he thought he could support the more limited energy package, but he said he wanted to see the details. Nelson said Reid and Kerry were wise to withdraw the carbon tax, which many environmental groups say is the best way to combat global climate change.

"It takes 60 votes. And if you can't get 60 votes for a package, there's no reason to bring it to the floor," Nelson said.

David Hawkins, director of climate programs at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said Reid had delivered bad news to the American people. He called climate change a "real and present danger" that Congress needs to address after the August recess.

"Don't fail us," Hawkins said, addressing his remarks to lawmakers. "Don't fail our children."

Feds Work To Put Price Tag On Oil Spill Damage

BY MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press Writer

BAY RONQUILLE, La. — The marsh is soaked with oil and the grass is dying. It's a common sight on the Gulf coast these days, and it's nothing new for Robert Nailon.

The BP-hired environmental consultant kneels as he has done many times on the Louisiana coast, assessing the damage in a task now taking on new importance as the world's attention turns from the ubiquitous images of gushing oil to the daunting task of restoration.

He dips his hand, covered in a blue rubber glove, into the muddy ground. It comes up streaked brown with crude. "You've got sheen throughout," he says, and calls out his findings to a government scientist: Oil covers about 95 percent of the grass, reaching about 15 feet inland.

Both men nod, agreeing to add this stretch to the growing and painstaking census of the dead from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. About 40 BP-government teams are cataloguing seemingly

everything touched by the oil, from poisoned plankton and fish to lost marshes and stained beaches.

BP PLC will eventually be given two options: Restore everything itself, or pay the government to do it. Before a final bill is written, however, those tallying the damage must still account for things they can't see — from contaminated fish eggs that never hatch to impacts that may take years to show.

Some experts worry BP could exploit the uncertainty to minimize its responsibility. "If you end up with a bunch of dead fish five years from now, it becomes very hard to prove BP killed them," said Mark Davis, director of Tulane University's Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy.

BP spokesman John Curry declined to detail any potential challenges his company might make regarding wildlife and habitat claims.

"We're not trying to run and hide from the situation," he said. "Bottom line is we want to know exactly what the impact is, too." So far, about 4,000 birds,

more than 700 sea turtles, dozens of dolphins and one whale have been found dead, or alive but oiled. Oil has hit some 600 miles of shoreline and at least 44,000 square miles of the Gulf. The count doesn't include the hundreds of oiled birds left in the wild to avoid disturbing their nesting grounds.

Pinpointing damage beneath the Gulf's surface, however, is turning into an even bigger problem. "It's a 3-D challenge," said Tom Brosnan, chief of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's assessment and restoration division. "It's not just on the shoreline, it's at depth, down to 5,000 feet in the Gulf."

The government is deploying remotely operated submarines to get snapshots of what is happening in the deep, as well as collecting water samples to assess the populations of plankton and other small organisms.

Computers will use the information gathered to produce estimates of how many plankton, fish or shrimp are killed based in part on how much

habitat is ruined.

Gauging the consequences could take years and require some calculated guesswork to account for wildlife that dies or suffers unseen.

Federal officials haven't said whether they've assigned a cost to everything.

In some cases, however, arriving at a cost can be as straightforward as similar efforts during the 11 million-gallon Exxon Valdez spill in 1989 in Alaska. The state priced each seagull at \$167, eagles at \$22,000, harbor seals at \$700 and killer whales at \$300,000.

The scope of the latest census is enormous — the Gulf spill has so far unleashed between 91 and 179 million gallons of oil — and the cost of that tally will likely prove expensive in itself.

In the case of the Valdez, \$125 million has been spent on scientific research since the spill in Prince William Sound, said Stan Senner, Alaska's restoration program manager following the spill and now director of science for the Ocean Conservancy.

OBITUARIES

Sydney Hansen

Sydney Hansen, age 79 of Yankton passed away on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at his residence.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 26, 2010 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton with Rev. Dave Wildermuth officiating. Burial will be in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, rural Utica.

Visitations will be from 6-8 p.m. Sunday, July 25, 2010 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton with a 7:00 p.m. prayer service. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Matthew Neisen, Nicholas Neisen, James Hansen, Kenneth Hansen, Walter Hansen, Mark Gleich, Michael Bornitz and Joe Diliger. Sydney was born January 20, 1931 at Snippen farm in rural Yankton County to William McKinley and Anne Marie Louise (Geraldson) Hansen. After graduating from Yankton High School in 1949, Syd spent several years working on the family farm before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force with his brother, Jack, in 1951. The brothers were aircontrol tower operators at Yokota Tower in Japan and members of the 1954-1 AASC detachment during the Korean War.

On May 29, 1957, Syd married Rosalie Hollman at Bethlehem



Hansen

Lutheran Church. Syd also attended Southern State at Springfield and Yankton College in 1958-59. Syd and Rosalie spent the early years of their marriage between Yankton and California, settling permanently in Yankton in 1965. It was in California that Syd began his career in transmissions. Syd had his first shop in Yankton on Broadway in 1965, and bought Syd's Salvage in 1968, which he operated until 2002. Syd and Rosalie also ran the Westside Raceway racetrack from 1969-70.

Syd was a stubborn man, but with a generous heart that touched countless people. He didn't have an enemy in the world. The word "Stranger" was not in his vocabulary, nor was the word "Can't". He had a strong work ethic and was always positive. Syd loved animals and customers at the shop were often greeted by one or two "bow-wows" or even sometimes a bird! Syd loved music and would sit down at any piano or pick up an accordion and play by ear with no sheet music. He played in several bands throughout his lifetime with family members and friends and later enjoyed Karaoke at family get-togethers. Syd had been a member of

the Yankton VFW and Moose.

Left to continue on his memory are his four children, Laurie Neisen of Spearfish, SD, Steven Hansen, Holly Hansen and Deena Hansen, all of Yankton and Janel Hansen, Sioux City, IA; three grand-children, Matthew Neisen, Whitney Neisen and Nicholas Neisen, all of Spearfish, SD; brothers Ronald Hansen of Sioux Falls, SD, James (Judy) Hansen, Kenny Hansen both of Yankton, SD; sisters Betty (Bill) Cullen of Yankton, SD and Connie Bornitz of Sioux Falls, SD; sister-in-law Cynthia Hansen of Sioux Falls, SD; many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and nephews.

Syd was preceded in death by his wife, Rosalie, grandparents, parents, and brothers John and Gerald (Jack) Hansen.

The mold was broken when they made Syd and his memory will carry on amongst those who knew him and anyone in the community that ever met him. Please bring your memories of him to share to the visitation, or on his Facebook page if you are unable to attend. And as Duke would say, "Keep Smiling"

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 23, 2010

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Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Bernard Petersen

Bernard "Bob" Petersen, age 80, of Yankton, South Dakota died Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 24, 2010 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton with Reverend David Wildermuth officiating. Inurnment will be in the Cedar Hills Cemetery in Castle Rock, Colorado.

Visitation is from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

Bob was born May 7, 1930 in Bonesteel, South Dakota to Henry and Jennie (Dedricksen) Petersen. He grew up in Hartington, Nebraska where he attended Paragon Country School and graduated from Hartington High School in 1947. Bob then enlisted in the United States Navy. He served one year in active duty and the joined the



Petersen

reserves. On September 23, 1951, Bob married Marilyn Lundholm. They moved to California and he operated several gas stations before working for the accounting firm, E.K. Williams for over 20 years. He was career oriented and moved his way up through the company. His job moved him to Colorado and then Pennsylvania. In 1977, Bob moved back to Castle Rock, Colorado and he started his own bookkeeping firm, retiring in the late 1980's. Marilyn passed away in 1996 and Bob met Leona Potts in 1999. They were married on January 28, 2000 and then lived in Yankton and would spend the winters in Mesa, Arizona. Bob was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and the Yankton Elks Lodge. He loved to play golf and cards and also enjoyed reading and doing crossword puzzles. When he

was younger, Bob loved water-skiing and coaching little league sports.

Survivors include his wife, Leona Petersen of Yankton; three children: John (Nancy) Petersen of Castle Rock, CO, Kristine Mattson of Denver, CO and Jim (Darlene) Petersen of Charleston, SC; nine grandchildren; one great grandson; two brothers, Melvin Petersen of Texas and Pete (Berle) Petersen of Yankton; and 15 step children and their spouses and families.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Marilyn Petersen; son, Jeffrey Petersen and an infant sister.

To post an online sympathy message, please visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
July 23, 2010

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
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Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Loren Archambeau, Sr.

LAKE ANDES — Loren Archambeau Sr., 61, died Wednesday (July 21, 2010) at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls.

Funeral services are at noon Monday at his home in rural Lake Andes. Burial will be in St. Phillip's Episcopal Cemetery, Lake Andes, with military honors. Wake services began Thursday at his home. Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, is in charge of arrangements.

Herbert Van Kley

COLUMBUS, Neb. — Herbert A. Van Kley, 65, of Columbus, Neb., died Wednesday (July 21, 2010) at the Thayer County Health Services in Hebron, Neb.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Gass Haney Funeral Home, Columbus, Neb., with the Rev. Patrick Sparring officiating. Interment will be in the Columbus Cemetery. Visitation is 4-7 p.m. today (Friday) at the funeral home, and

on Saturday one hour prior to the service. Memorials are suggested at the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to www.gasshaney.com

IN REMEMBRANCE

Robert "Bob" Marchand
2:00 PM, Friday
Christ Episcopal Church
Yankton

Bernard "Bob" Petersen
10:30 AM, Saturday
Trinity Lutheran Church
Yankton

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Get to the Bottom of Problem Pain

Diabetics... are your shoes a pain in the foot — shoes that cause painful corns, calluses, or sores. Foot pain relief is here... we carry Doctor Comfort Shoes in a variety of sizes and fashionable styles. Check with us to see how to qualify for new shoes in your insurance plan.

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