

Alaska Researcher Placed On Leave

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A federal wildlife biologist whose observation that polar bears likely drowned in the Arctic helped galvanize the global warming movement during the last decade was placed on administrative leave while officials investigate scientific misconduct allegations.

While it wasn't clear what the exact allegations are, a government watchdog group representing Anchorage-based scientist Charles Monnett said investigators have focused on his 2006 journal article about the bears that garnered worldwide attention.

The group, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, filed a complaint on Monnett's behalf Thursday with the agency, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

BOEMRE told Monnett on July 18 that he was being put on leave, pending an investigation into "integrity issues." The investigator has not yet told him of the specific charges or questions related to the scientific integrity of his work, said Jeff Ruch, the watchdog group's executive director.

A BOEMRE spokeswoman, Melissa Schwartz, acknowledged there was an "ongoing internal investigation" but declined to get into specifics about it.

Libyan Rebel Council Says Commander Killed

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — The head of the Libyan rebel's armed forces and two of his aides were killed by gunmen Thursday, the head of the rebel leadership said.

The death of Abdel-Fattah Younis was announced at a press conference in the de facto rebel capital, Benghazi, by the head of the rebels' National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil. He told reporters that rebel security had arrested the head of the group behind the killing.

Rebel security had arrested Younis and two of his aides early Thursday from their operations room near the rebels' eastern front. Security officials said at the time that Younis was to be questioned about suspicions his family still had ties to Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

Younis was Gadhafi's interior minister before defecting to the rebels early in the uprising, which began in February.

Abdel-Jalil said that Younis had been summoned for questioning regarding "a military matter." He said Younis and his two aides were shot before they arrived for questioning.

J&J Reducing Maximum Tylenol Dose

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Johnson & Johnson said Thursday that it's reducing the maximum daily dose of its Extra Strength Tylenol pain reliever to lower risk of accidental overdose from acetaminophen, its active ingredient and the top cause of liver failure.

The company's McNeil Consumer Healthcare Division said the change affects Extra Strength Tylenol sold in the U.S. — one of many products in short supply in stores due to a string of recalls.

Starting sometime this fall, labels on Extra Strength Tylenol packages will now list the maximum daily dose as six pills, or a total of 3,000 milligrams, down from eight pills a day, or 4,000 milligrams.

Beginning next year, McNeil will also reduce the maximum daily dose for its Regular Strength Tylenol and other adult pain relievers containing acetaminophen, the most widely used pain killer in the country.

Besides Tylenol, acetaminophen is the active ingredient in the prescription painkillers Percocet and Vicodin and in some nonprescription pain relievers, including NyQuil and some Sudafed products. It's found in thousands of medicines taken for headaches, fever, sore throats and chronic pain.

But people taking multiple medicines at once don't always realize how much acetaminophen they are ingesting, partly because prescription drug labels often list it under the abbreviation "APAP."

Rev. Al Sharpton: Debt Fight About 'Your Mama'

BOSTON (AP) — The fight in Congress about raising the nation's debt limit isn't about President Barack Obama, but rather, "your mama," the Rev. Al Sharpton said Wednesday.

The New York-based civil rights activist told the National Urban League convention in Boston that efforts to drastically cut spending in exchange for raising the debt limit, as some House Republicans want, would put Social Security at risk.

"This is not about Obama. It's about your mama," Sharpton said to laughter and applause. "Social Security is about our mamas. And if Obama is a way to protect our mamas then I'm not ashamed to stand with Obama."

He urged advocates to change the conversation about the debt limit to one about creating more jobs, which are the convention's theme.

Former Officials: Al-Qaida Likely To Use WMD

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Two top former U.S. officials say a chemical or biological attack by al-Qaida and its offshoots remains a threat, even in the wake of the death of Osama bin Laden.

The retired director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Mike Leiter, told the Aspen Security Forum on Thursday that terrorists know that killing even a few Americans can cause almost as much chaos as the massive plots bin Laden backed.

Leiter says militants from Yemen or Somalia would likely use something simple, like the poison ricin, to kill only a handful but scare millions in the process.

Both Leiter and a former CIA deputy director, John McLaughlin, say the new leader of al-Qaida, Ayman al-Zawahiri, may copy his affiliates and launch smaller-scale plots.

Brazilian Man Mails Bones For Reburial

SAO PAULO (AP) — Police say a man used the postal service to mail the remains of his friend's son from Rio de Janeiro to northeastern Brazil for reburial.

Police spokeswoman Morgana Cruz says postal workers in the state of Ceara detected the bones when they did an X-ray scan of the box containing them.

Cruz says an exhumation order was inside the box together with the bones that belonged to a 22-year-old man who died four years ago. She did not know how he died.

She says the young man's parents had asked their friend in Rio de Janeiro to send their son's remains for reburial in the city of Vicoso.

She said no one was arrested because neither the sender nor the receiver knew that it's illegal in Brazil to use the postal service to mail human remains.

OBITUARIES

Jennifer Cowman

Jennifer Lynn Cowman, 28, of Yankton died unexpectedly at her home Wednesday, July 27, 2011.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Dave Wildermuth officiating. Bur-

ial will be in the Yankton Cemetery, Yankton.

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

Norway Attacks Stir Angst In Europe

BY KARL RITTER AND DON MELVIN
Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Norway casts it as the isolated act of a lone-wolf terrorist whose boasts of a far-flung network of anti-Muslim warriors were the fantasies of a deranged mind.

European officials at an emergency counter-terror meeting see a continent-wide threat from right-wing extremists amid mounting Islamophobia — and warn of possible copycats.

Two visions of the Norway atrocity emerged Thursday as Europe gropes for answers following the massacre that claimed 78 lives.

The twin attacks carried out by Anders Behring Breivik have stirred questions in Europe about whether authorities have neglected the threat of right-wing extremists in their push to crack down on Islamist terror groups after 9/11.

Security officials insist they have not, and statistics from the European police agency Europol show no surge in right-wing terror.

Still, many politicians saw the Norway attacks as a violent expression of a far-right populist movement that has swept anti-Muslim parties calling for strict immigration limits into parliaments across the continent.

At an emergency meeting in Brussels, European Union counterterrorism officials warned radicals who share Breivik's ideology might be tempted to follow his lead.

"Clearly, one major risk is that somebody may actually try to mount a similar attack as a copycat attack or as a way of showing support," said Tim Jones, principal adviser to the EU's counterterrorism coordinator. In September, EU interior ministers are to meet to discuss responses to the Norway massacre.

Across Europe, far-right groups were quick to distance themselves from the Norway attacker. Geert Wilders of the Netherlands' right-wing Party for Freedom tweeted: "Terrible attack in Oslo, many innocent victims of violent, sick mind."

But some political leaders in Holland, which like Norway has grappled with an increasingly fractious debate about Muslim integration, said firebrand anti-Islamic rhetoric can fire the mind of a man like Breivik, who referred to Wilders repeatedly in his sprawling manifesto.

"Wilders has now distanced himself," said Dutch Labor Party head Job Cohen. "But I think it's good to realize that your words do have an effect — and that goes for all politicians, including Wilders. They can influence people and play a role in all kinds of ways."

Ahead of Thursday's emergency counter-terror meeting, EU Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom spoke of a "huge lack of political leadership" in allowing right-wing sentiment to bleed into mainstream society.

"Blaming Islam or immigration for all sorts of

problems has become normal," Malmstrom told the Brussels-based European Voice newspaper. She cited a "permissive climate" in which such views "are no longer seen as extreme."

German Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich said Germany's intelligence agencies had far-right groups under "intensive" surveillance, but there was a greater risk in extremists like Breivik who operate alone and under the radar.

"Among the right extremists, we know of some who could be dangerous. But they're not the problem — those who we have an eye on — but rather those who radicalize in secret," he told the Rheinische Post.

European security officials, on high alert following the July 22 attacks against Norway's government and a Labor Party youth camp, say no information has emerged to support Breivik's claim of belonging to a shadowy group of modern-day crusaders against Islam, with cells all over Europe.

The head of Norwegian security service PST said the 32-year-old Breivik, most likely did it all on his own — concocting, planning, and executing the massacre with near-total precision, and without telling anyone else of his murderous designs.

"He's devoted his life to this mission, if you can call it a mission," PST director Janne Kristiansen told The Associated Press.

Bachmann: She, Not Husband, Running For Office

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Michele Bachmann steadfastly refused Thursday to answer questions about her family's business and finances, saying that she — not her husband — was the one seeking the White House.

The Minnesota Republican faced queries about Marcus Bachmann's Christian counseling clinic that attempts to convert gay patients as well as her own beliefs on sexuality during a luncheon at the National Press Club. With her husband sitting nearby, Bachmann said she expected scrutiny as a candidate but questions about her family were off-limits.

"I'm running for the presidency of the United States. My husband is not running for the presidency. Neither are my children. Neither is our business," she said.

"I am more than happy to stand for questions on running for the presidency of the United States," she continued. "I have no doubt that every jot and tittle of my life will be fully looked at and inspected prior to November of 2012."

Bachmann, who is campaigning hard ahead of next month's debate and straw poll in Iowa, has steadfastly refused to discuss the family's business that has faced criticism from gay rights groups. When asked to describe her beliefs on gay therapy, Michele Bachmann said she



Republican presidential candidate Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Thursday, July 28, 2011.

loved her husband of 32 years and then said her husband was not a campaign issue.

She also faced questions about her opposition to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The *Washington Post* reported this week that its analysis of her loan documents suggests her family used those federally subsidized programs in 2008.

"Unlike all of you, who I'm sure paid cash for your homes, there are people out there like myself who actually have to go to

a bank to get a mortgage. This is a problem: it's almost impossible to buy a home in this country today without the federal government being involved," she said.

"We need to get the federal government out of these programs."

Bachmann used her speech to discuss Congress' ongoing effort to increase the limit on the nation's credit card. She downplayed the catastrophic consequences predicted if lawmakers allow the United States to

default on its debts.

Bachmann, a darling of the libertarian tea party, has vowed to vote against any increase in the debt ceiling and called the deal being negotiated on Capitol Hill as one based on "illusory" and "counterfeit" savings. She said President Barack Obama has misled the American people on when the government would run out of borrowing authority and has employed "scare tactics" that have needlessly spooked Wall Street.

Army: AWOL Soldier Admits To Fort Hood Attack Plan

BY JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

KILLEEN, Texas — An AWOL soldier who had weapons stashed in a motel room near Fort Hood has admitted planning an attack on the Texas post, where 13 people died in 2009 in the worst mass shooting ever on a U.S. military installation, the Army said in an alert issued Thursday.

Pfc. Naser Abdo, a 21-year-old soldier granted conscientious objector status this year after he said his Muslim beliefs prevented him from fighting, was arrested Wednesday. Agents found firearms and "items that could be identified as bomb-making components, including gunpowder," in his motel room, according to FBI spokesman Erik Vasys.

The Army alert sent via email and obtained by The Associated Press says Killeen police arrested Abdo after a tip from the owners of a gun shop and that he "was in possession of a large quantity of ammunition, weapons and a bomb inside a backpack."

Upon questioning, the alert says, he admitted planning an attack on Fort Hood.

Officials have not offered details about Abdo's possible intentions. The infantry soldier from Fort Campbell, Ky., whose hometown is Garland, Texas, applied for conscientious objector status last year. A military review board recommended this spring that he

be separated from the Army.

The discharge was delayed after Abdo was charged with possessing child pornography. Fort Campbell civilian spokesman Bob Jenkins said Abdo "was fully aware that he was being investigated for possessing child pornography since November 2010." An Article 32 military hearing last month recommended he be court-martialed; he went absent without leave during the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Abdo told an AP reporter a week later that he was concerned about his safety and had considered purchasing a gun for protection, but had not yet done so.

The military's criminal investigation division, along with the federal Joint Terrorism Task Force, also investigated Abdo after he was flagged for making unspecified anti-American comments while taking a language class, according to a U.S. official briefed on the investigation.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, said neither the military nor the task force discovered anything at the time to indicate Abdo was planning an attack.

Abdo's arrest came after the owners of a local gun store — the same store where the 2009 Fort Hood shootings suspect Maj. Nidal Hasan bought a pistol used in the attack — called police, the Army's alert said.

Polygamist Leader Mute During Opening Statement

BY WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

SAN ANGELO, Texas — A Texas prosecutor told jurors Thursday he would present an audio recording of a polygamist sect leader raping a 12-year-old and other evidence showing the 55-year-old impregnated a 15-year-old girl during the man's sexual assault trial.

The trial began shortly after Warren Jeffs fired his high-powered defense team and a judge allowed the ecclesiastical head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to defend himself.

But when it came his turn to present an opening statement, Jeffs was mute, sitting silently in his courtroom seat.

Then, as the prosecutor continued to present his case, Jeffs stared off into space, appearing not to be paying attention to the proceedings.

"You've sat here now for an hour and not said a word," District Judge Barbara Walther said, then added his continued silence could have "a very bad result."

The silence was a sharp contrast to Jeffs' earlier behavior in court. Then, he spoke for more than 20 minutes, telling the judge he had spent extensive time training his lawyers, but they

weren't able to present "a pure defense." He then pleaded for more time to prepare the case by himself.

But Walther turned down that request. Jeffs has burned through seven attorneys in six months, and prosecutors complained his frequent switching of counsel was a delay tactic.

"Mr. Jeffs, the court is not going to recess these proceedings to let you go to law school," Walther said in deciding to start the trial as scheduled.

Jeffs' sect is an offshoot of mainstream Mormonism that believes polygamy brings exaltation in Heaven, and followers see him as God's spokesman on Earth. He is accused of sexually assaulting two underage girls at a remote compound in West Texas. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

The surreal day in court began with Jeffs addressing Walther in long and complicated sentences frequently punctuated by awkward pauses when he would stare intently at the floor.

"The condition of my present defense is such that I cannot use them," he said of his attorneys. "They, not having all needed understanding for my defense, which wants for representation by one who knows and understands the facts of these truths."

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