

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Ala. Professor Indicted On Murder Charge

CANTON, Mass. (AP) — A biology professor charged with killing three of her colleagues at an Alabama university has been indicted in the 1986 shooting death of her brother in Massachusetts, prosecutors announced Wednesday.

Authorities had originally ruled that the shooting of Amy Bishop's brother was an accident, but they reopened the case after Bishop was charged in February with gunning down six of her colleagues at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, killing three.

Bishop, 45, is charged with first-degree murder in the death of her 18-year-old brother, Seth, Norfolk District Attorney William Keating said.

Keating said he did not understand why charges were never brought against Bishop.

"I can't give you any explanations, I can't give you excuses, because there are none," he said. "Jobs weren't done, responsibilities weren't met and justice wasn't served."

Defying Sanctions, Iran Plans More Reactors

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Defying week-old U.N. sanctions over its nuclear program, Iran promised to expand its atomic research Wednesday as its president vowed to punish the West and force it to "sit at the negotiating table like a polite child" before agreeing to further talks.

Tehran, which insists its nuclear work is peaceful, said it will build four new reactors for atomic medical research. The U.S. and some of its allies believe Iran is trying to develop nuclear weapons, and the Islamic Republic's plans to expand research could encourage calls in the West for more economic pressure against the country.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iran will not make "one iota of concessions." He said he will soon announce new conditions for talks with the West, but first he wants to punish world powers for imposing sanctions.

"You showed bad temper, reneged on your promise and again resorted to devilish manners," he said of those powers. "We set conditions (for talks) so that, God willing, you'll be punished a bit and sit at the negotiating table like a polite child," he told a crowd during a visit to the central Iranian town of Shahr-e-Kord. His speech was broadcast live on state TV.

The Obama administration took its first step in implementing new sanctions Wednesday, leveling penalties against additional individuals and institutions it says are helping Iran develop its nuclear and missile programs and evade international sanctions.

Poll Boosts Dem Hopes For Holding Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's encouraging news for Democrats battling to retain control of Congress in this fall's elections, with the party holding a slender edge in public trust for shepherding the economy and slightly more people saying their finances are healthy, according to a new poll.

The reeling economy remains people's top concern, according to an Associated Press-GfK Poll conducted earlier this month, making public attitudes about it crucial for both parties' hopes in November. The good news for Democrats: By a margin of 47 percent to 42 percent, people trust them more than Republicans to guide the economy, and 64 percent — slightly more than in April — say their household budgets are in good shape.

In addition, people want Democrats to win control of Congress by a 46 percent to 39 percent margin. That is the second straight month in which Democrats have held a delicate advantage on that question since April, when 44 percent preferred Republicans and 41 percent picked Democrats.

"When Clinton was in office, we were doing exceptionally well. Then Republicans got in office and we are where we are," said Daniel Lowery, 23, a warehouse worker from Fostoria, Ohio, who wants Democrats to continue leading the House and Senate.

Even so, there's plenty in the poll to encourage Republicans, and nothing that contradicts many analysts' views that the GOP has a solid shot of capturing majorities of one or both chambers of Congress.

Bernanke: Fed Is Beefing Up Bank Oversight

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is working to beef up oversight of financial companies to better protect the nation from another financial crisis in the future, Chairman Ben Bernanke said Wednesday.

The Fed chairman's comments come as Congress moves closer to sending President Barack Obama a final legislative package that revamps the nation's financial structure to prevent a replay of the recent financial crisis.

Bernanke welcomed key parts of that package in remarks prepared for delivery to a conference in New York. At the same time, though, Bernanke emphasized that the Fed is moving ahead on its own reforms.

For instance, the Fed is working to strengthen capital requirements for banks so that they'll have bigger and better cushions to protect against any potential losses. And, the Fed is collecting more information on linkages among financial companies to better identify potential channels of financial contagion.

One of the lessons learned from the crisis is that the Fed can't focus solely on the safety and soundness of individual banks, but rather on the health of the financial system as a whole, Bernanke said. The Fed has already moved to examinations that take this broader-picture approach.

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CHURCH

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immigrants brought the tradition with them. In Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, Midsummer is a national holiday celebrating the longer days of sunlight that are not present during the long, dark winters.

Events will begin at 2 p.m. Friday with a concert by Trio con Brio of Stockholm, Sweden. The trio played the festival two years ago and requested to return this year according to Johnson. The trio will again take the stage at 7 p.m. with the Turkey Creek Revival Band.

The trio features Carina Cederwall, flute and vocal; Jan Holmgren, oboe, English horn and vocal; and Stig Andersson, piano, arrangements and vocal. The three, all educated at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, range from classical music to well-known hymns via jazz, musicals and film music.

"Another traditional event that we enjoy during Midsommar is the Scandinavian ring dances around the Midsommar Pole," Johnson said. "Anyone who wants to be invited to participate, especially the children."

Children's events will be held

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BP To Put Up \$20B For Claims

Company Exec Apologizes To America For Oil Spill

BY MARGARET TALEV AND STEVEN THOMMA
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WASHINGTON — BP agreed Wednesday to set aside \$20 billion in a fund to pay damage claims stemming from the ongoing oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, and President Barack Obama staked his own reputation on the claims being paid.

"The people of the Gulf have my commitment that BP will meet its obligations to them," the president said after a four-hour meeting at the White House between company and administration officials.

"I'm absolutely confident BP will be able to meet its obligations to the Gulf Coast and to the American people," Obama added.

BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg offered an apology to all Americans as he emerged from the White House with Chief Executive Tony Hayward.

Svanberg said that "through our actions and commitments, we hope that over the long term that we will regain the trust that you have in us" and "we will live up to all our legitimate responsibilities."

The announcements followed an extraordinary meeting that took on the air of a summit, with lawyers for both sides negotiating in advance before Obama and his top advisers sat down across a long table from BP executives in the White House Roosevelt Room.

One such scripted moment worked out beforehand: that Obama would ask for, and get, a pledge from BP to set aside \$100 million in a separate fund to compensate oil rig workers left jobless by Obama's moratorium on some oil drilling in the Gulf, pending new safety reviews.

"He asked if there was something we could do as a voluntary gesture," said a BP adviser who spoke on condition of anonymity to talk freely



BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg leaves the White House after a meeting with U.S. President Obama Wednesday.

about the White House meeting. "I had discussed this previously with the White House counsel. ... Much of the work had been done before the meeting."

Another issue discussed at the White House session was the financial health of BP.

Both sides agreed that it was best that BP remain "a strong and viable company" so it can pay for all of the damages caused by the well blowout, the BP adviser said. "We know what it looks like when a company is driven into bankruptcy," the adviser said, adding that bankruptcy laws would put shrimpers fourth in line for claims, behind creditors, employees and the government.

"This is about accountability," Obama said after the meeting. "At the end of the day, that's

what every American wants and expects."

BP announced that it will suspend paying dividends to its shareholders for the rest of this year. The company last year made a profit of \$14 billion on sales of \$239 billion.

Obama said the \$20 billion commitment isn't a cap, and White House officials said that if the company's liability is determined to exceed that amount, claimants can seek additional funds from BP.

White House adviser Carol Browner also said that "nothing has been taken off the table" in terms of the Justice Department's ability to take action against the company, including possible criminal charges. Browner also said that no company officials requested immunity for their remarks in the closed-door meeting.

Jobless Aid Bill Hits Deficit Wall In Senate

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's plea for more stimulus spending as insurance against a double-dip recession hit a roadblock in the Senate on Wednesday, the victim of election-year anxiety over huge federal deficits.

A dozen Democrats joined Republicans on a key 52-45 test vote rejecting an Obama-endorsed, \$140 billion package of unemployment benefits, aid to states, business and family tax breaks and Medicare payments for doctors because it would swell the federal debt by \$80 billion.

The swing toward frugality runs counter to the advice of economists who support the bill's funding for additional jobless benefits and help to states to avoid layoffs of public service jobs. They fear that the economy could slip back into recession just as it's emerging from the biggest economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned last week that while lawmakers need to come up with a plan for tackling the nation's long-term deficit crisis, the U.S. recovery is still fragile. It's too early for large, immediate spending cuts, Bernanke said.

"We've got to do more to build on the existing jobs momentum and that's what these targeted measures are about," said White House economist Jared Bernstein.

The Senate earlier passed another version with even bigger deficits. But that was before tea



Thune

party-backed candidates running on anti-deficit, anti-big government platforms began knocking off more established politicians in spring primaries.

Despite the loss, Democratic leaders predicted serenely that a scaled-back version of the measure — extending unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless and providing \$24 billion in aid to the states — could pass, possibly as early as later this week, after relatively minor revisions.

"We need to change a few things," said Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Later Wednesday, Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., unveiled a new, slimmer version of the bill that he predicted would "provide a path forward."

But Republicans cautioned that the margin of Wednesday's vote was a bad sign for a bill that, even after revisions, would still likely add more than \$50 billion to deficits over the next decade. Democrats would need 60 votes, 15 more than they got Wednesday, to prevent Republicans from blocking the bill.

"All I can tell you is that consensus about borrowing, debt, spending is growing stronger in

our caucus and I think it is in the Democrats' as well," said Sen. John Thune, R-S.D.

Obama renewed his push for the measure last weekend, warning that "hundreds of thousands" of state and local government jobs could be lost without \$24 billion in Medicaid money to help states balance their budgets and \$23 billion more to prevent layoffs at local

school districts around the country.

The new version released Wednesday afternoon would roll back last year's \$25-a-week increase in unemployment checks and give doctors just a six-month reprieve from scheduled cuts in their Medicare payments instead of relief through 2011.



Capitol Centennial Art Show & Benefit Auction

Saturday, June 19, 2010
6:00 PM

Auction to be held at the Capitol Rotunda in Pierre
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26 of South Dakota's Finest Artists have created works of Art for the South Dakota Capitol Centennial Celebration



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Registration: **1:00PM**

Race: **2:00PM**

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To obtain a registration form or for more information call 402-667-2546. You can check us out online at www.yankton.net/cardboardboat

throughout the day. Also there will be food booths available.

"The Youth Food Stand, featuring pie, taverns and snacks, opens on the south lawn at 1 p.m.," Johnson said. "Children's activities begin at 5 p.m."

The smorgasbord is held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. featuring traditional Scandinavian treats including meatballs, potatis korv (potato sausage) and other tasty specialties and homemade pies. Tickets will be available at the door.

After the festival finishes

Friday night, the organizers invite you back Sunday for the 9 a.m. Midsommar Sunday worship.

Dalesburg Lutheran is located 12 miles north of Vermillion on University Road or 5.5 miles west of I-29, exit 38 (Volin). Because of possible road closures do to recent flooding, it is advised to check <http://www.safetravelusa.com/sd/> to verify the route you wish to take is open.

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