

Alaska Releases Thousands Of Palin's Emails

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Alaska officials on Friday released thousands of pages of Sarah Palin's emails, giving a glimpse of her time as governor, her struggles in dealing with gossip about her family and her rise to national prominence as the GOP vice presidential nominee.

Reporters and photographers crowded into a small office to pick up the six boxes of emails — 24,199 pages and weighing 250 pounds. Some carried the boxes down the stairs and others, wheeling them on dollies, scrambled to be the first ones to reach elevators.

Within minutes of the release, Palin tweeted a link to the website for "The Undeclared," a documentary about her time as governor and her entrance onto the national political stage.

Her supporters, meanwhile, encouraged everyone to read the messages.

"The thousands upon thousands of emails released today show a very engaged Governor Sarah Palin being the CEO of her state," said Tim Crawford, the treasurer of her political action committee, Sarah PAC. "The emails detail a Governor hard at work."

Multiple Factors Cloud GOP Presidential Picture

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newt Gingrich's campaign defections are just the latest tremor in a constantly shifting GOP presidential landscape that craves some steadiness as a big, early New Hampshire debate nears.

Rivals already were trying to poach Gingrich's donors and top supporters Friday, even as the former House speaker said he would keep campaigning despite the resignations of his top advisers and entire Iowa paid staff. Party insiders eyed the likely entry of Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota and a possible bid by Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Mitt Romney's decision to skip the Iowa straw poll in August, meanwhile, reinforced his image as a front-runner willing to pick his shots. And potential candidate Sarah Palin again lent a circus atmosphere to the entire GOP family — this time indirectly — when Alaska released thousands of pages of emails from her days as governor.

In short, it was a typical week in the GOP's free-wheeling nominating process. The field is anything but set, and there's no clear picture of who will emerge to challenge President Barack Obama in 2012.

Blast Kills Somalia Minister At His Home

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — An explosion Friday in the home of Somalia's interior minister killed him and a woman suspected of being a bomber as violent demonstrations swept the capital.

Security guards and soldiers opened fire on stone-throwing protesters angry at an agreement calling for the ouster of the country's popular prime minister, killing two people, an official and witnesses said.

Interior Minister Abdishakur Sheik Hassan, who also was minister for national security, died after shrapnel hit his legs and other parts of his body, said Ministry of Information spokesman Abdifatah Abdinur. He was earlier taken to a hospital in critical condition. Abdinur said a dead body of a female suspected to be the bomber was found in the home.

Mohamud Abdullahi Weheliye, a member of parliament and a relative of Hassan's, said the minister's niece carried out the attack and that she was "sent" by al-Shabab, an Islamist militia with ties to al-Qaida. The group has carried out suicide bombings in the past, including ones that targeted government officials. There was no immediate official confirmation of Weheliye's account.

Abdinur said officials were investigating to confirm it was a suicide attack in the two-story, gated building that is normally well protected. The explosion reportedly took place in the sitting room.

Gates Says NATO Outlook Dim

BY ROBERT BURNS
AND DESMOND BUTLER
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — In a stern rebuke, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates warned Friday that the future of the historic NATO military alliance is at risk because of European penny-pinching and distaste for front-line combat. The United States won't carry the alliance as a charity case, the outgoing Pentagon chief said.

Some NATO countries bristled, but Britain quickly and heartily agreed.

Gates' assessment that NATO could face "a dim if not dismal" future echoes long-standing concern of U.S. policymakers about European defense spending. But rarely, if ever, has it been stated so directly by such a powerful American figure, widely respected in the United States and internationally.

The remarks, at the close of Gates' final overseas trip, reflect a new reality of constrained American finances and a smaller global reach.

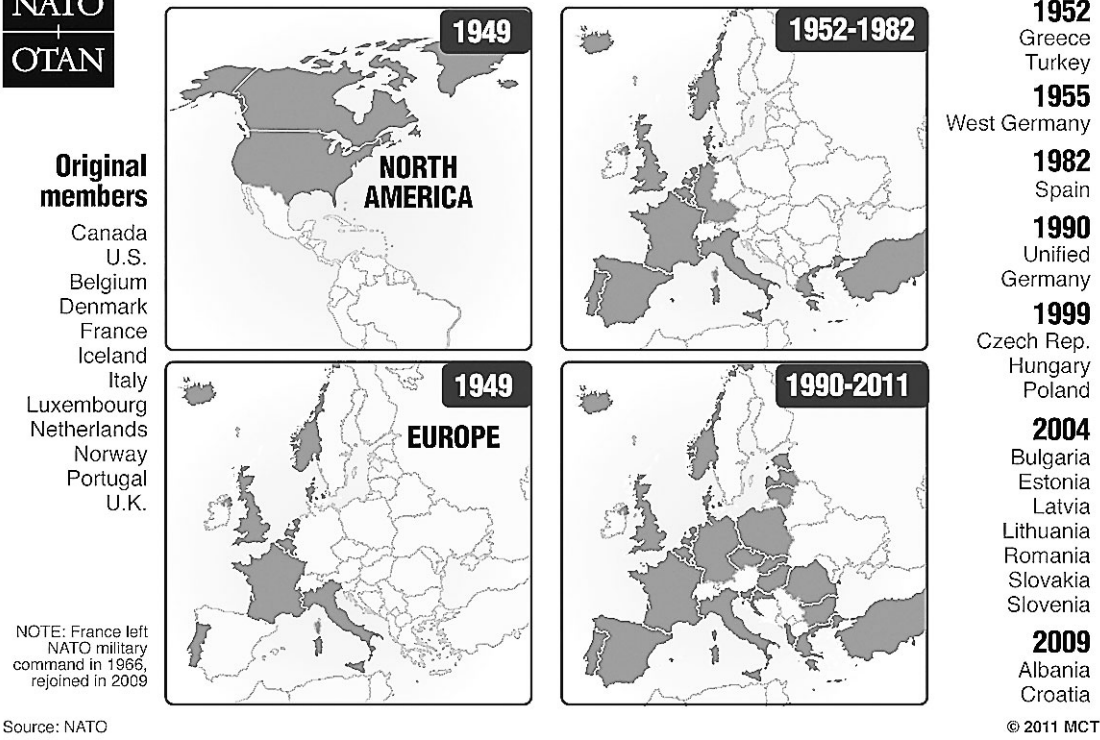
Earlier in the week Gates played "bad cop" to U.S. President Barack Obama's good, criticizing Germany's abstention from the air campaign in Libya two days after Obama lavished an award and fancy White House dinner on visiting Chancellor Angela Merkel.

But Gates spoke for the Obama administration, and his warning Friday was aimed



North American Treaty Organization

NATO, the world's largest peacetime military alliance, has grown from its original 12 members to a current membership of 28 nations.



squarely at Europe's priorities.

"The blunt reality is that there will be dwindling appetite and patience in the U.S. Congress, and in the American body politic writ large, to expend increasingly precious funds on behalf of nations that are apparently unwilling to devote the necessary resources or make the necessary changes to be serious and capable partners in their own defense," he said.

That assessment may cause Europeans to question the future of their defense relationship with the United States, on whom they have counted for a large measure of their security for six decades.

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The U.S. has been the brawn behind NATO since its birth in 1949. But the disparity between strength and allies' investment has only grown wider.

In a question-and-answer session after his speech, Gates, 67, said his generation's "emotional and historical attachment" to NATO is "aging out." He noted that he is about 20 years older than Obama, his boss.

Investigators Say Local Sprouts Caused Deadly E. Coli Outbreak

BY KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
AND DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BERLIN — After a month of searching and testing thousands of vegetables, simple detective work trumped science in the hunt for the source of the world's deadliest E. coli outbreak. The culprit: German-grown sprouts.

Health officials announced Friday that sprouts from a farm in

northern Germany caused the outbreak that has killed 31 people, sickened nearly 3,100 and prompted much of Europe to shun vegetables.

"It was like a crime thriller where you have to find the bad guy," said Helmut Tschiersky-Schoeneburg, head of Germany's consumer protection agency.

Health officials said they tracked the bacteria's path from hospital patients struggling with diarrhea and kidney failure, to the restaurant

where they had dined, to specific meals and ingredients they ate, and finally back to a single farm.

There are more questions to answer, including what contaminated the sprouts in the first place: Was it tainted seeds or water, or nearby animals? The answer is still elusive.

Still, it was little surprise that sprouts were the culprit. They have been blamed in past food poisoning cases, including in Michigan and Virginia in 2005 and a large outbreak in Japan in 1996 that killed 11

people and sickened more than 9,000.

While sprouts are full of protein and vitamins, their growing conditions and the fact that they are mostly eaten raw make them ideal transmitters of disease. They require 100-degree heat and humidity — precisely the same conditions E. coli needs to thrive. Sprouts have abundant surface area for bacteria to cling to — and washing won't help if the seeds themselves are contaminated.

MMC

From Page 1

on its building projects, Benoit said. The Marian Auditorium renovation is under way, with completion scheduled in time for fall classes and activities. In the longer term, the school plans to remodel current facilities for a new health care and science center.

The college wants to continue making use of Bishop Marty Chapel for religious and fine arts activities, Benoit said.

"The chapel is phenomenal, quite a place for a (musical) performance," he said. "It's a wonderful part of the campus."

In that respect, Benoit wants to continue the strong ties between MMC and Sacred Heart Monastery, which sponsors the college.

Benoit said he was impressed with the large number of student-athletes and wants to continue offering students a chance to compete while pursuing their degrees. MMC belongs to NAIA Division II and the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC).

Mount Marty has no plans to add football to its offerings, Benoit said. The Lancers are the lone GPAC member without the sport.

"(Football) is an expensive sport, and we don't see it as essential to the campus at this time," he said.

Benoit wants to continue Mount

Marty's strong regional basis for recruiting students but also wants to branch out to other parts of the nation.

He will also emphasize fund-raising, stressing its importance for the students and their needs. He will particularly reach out to new donors.

"So many contributors have never been asked. No one has said, 'Will you help us?'" he said. "As we articulate the needs of the campus, we will see if they want to invest in us. It's part of telling our story."

MAKING THE MOVE

Benoit credited interim president Carrol Krause and his secretary, Carla Eng, with easing the transition for the new president. The process includes closing out the current fiscal year and preparing for the new one.

As part of his outreach efforts, Benoit looks forward to the alumni reunion in July and the arrival of students for the fall semester.

In the meantime, he wants to introduce himself to local residents.

"I have an opportunity to start talking with people. I have a list of community leaders that I want to meet, including the mayor and other key officials," he said. "These are important relationships to establish for both the college and Yankton."

Benoit said he and his family — wife, Caprice, and 11-year-old daughter Adele — are already becoming more familiar with Yankton. Adele will attend Sacred Heart School as a sixth grader.

"Caprice and I have been to Yankton before. We like the area and think it has unique qualities," he said. "The more I know about the community, the more I can tell others what a wonderful place it is to live here."

Mount Marty's atmosphere and its Catholic values attracted Benoit as a applicant for the president's job.

"I wasn't looking for another job at the time. I wasn't thinking of moving," he said. "Then I became aware of the position and thought it was a good fit for me."

The MMC position also meshes well with his personal life.

"My family and I thought it was a good fit for us. The more I looked at it, the more attractive it became," he said. "This is an area and community we really like."

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Benoit grew up in Opelousas, La., a town of 14,000 people in the Cajun country of southwestern Louisiana.

"Yankton is like my hometown," he said. "It's a small town where people work together. And it's in one of the 10 most Catholic parts of the United States."

Like Yankton with Lewis and Clark, Opelousas was visited by explorers in its early history, Benoit said. The Louisiana town's claim to fame is the birthplace of Jim Bowie and where the first Bowie knife was forged.

Benoit completed his Ph.D. and undergraduate degree in Basic Medical Sciences at the University of South Alabama, and a B.S. in Biology/Chemistry at the University of

Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana-Lafayette).

Prior to his work in North Dakota, he served as Director of Graduate Studies and professor at the University of South Alabama, College of Medicine, Mobile, Ala.

As he prepares for the MMC presidency, Benoit makes the move between two very different educational settings.

UND, a state university, competes in NCAA Division I and enrolls about 14,000 students. According to its website, the UND graduate school offers more than 100 advanced degree and certificate programs across seven colleges and schools.

UND's mission includes research and economic development for serving the state, Benoit said.

At Mount Marty, he will lead a Catholic liberal arts college with around 1,000 students on its Yankton, Sioux Falls and Watertown campuses.

Despite the differences between the two schools, Benoit doesn't foresee a major adjustment.

"At UND, I ran a graduate school, which was complex. I am moving from a school with nearly 15,000 students and a large campus to here (at MMC), where you're leading the entire institution," he said.

"But the issues are all the same. At the end of the day, we all do the same thing, and that's educate the students."

MMC has developed an outstanding reputation in a number of areas, particularly the health professions, Benoit said.

"We have so many opportunities tied to our connection with Avera," he said, referring to the Catholic health network.

In that respect, MMC can train graduates able to adapt to the rapidly changing health care field, he said. That includes a holistic approach that cares for the mind and spirit as well as the body.

"It's part of the team approach, of caring for the whole person, which ties in with the Benedictine mission," he said.

MMC also holds the opportunity to expand in other areas, such as teacher education, Benoit said. However, he doesn't want to add programs merely for the sake of expanding the list.

"If we launch a new program, it would be because it flourishes and would be there for an extended period. We would need to have the resources already in place," he said.

"We won't introduce a program just because it's the 'flavor of the day' and then have it flounder. We added a major like forensic science because it fit our program."

The average person changes jobs five to seven times during a career, and MMC graduates will adapt well to a changing work scene, he said.

"We will turn out a well-educated person, but it's not just (about receiving) a transcript. It's about leaving an impact," he said.

"Our students will benefit from the Benedictine values, such as the awareness of God, lifelong learning and community service and caring."



Lewis & Clark Realty, Inc.

Downtown Office – 224 W. 3rd
605-665-9383



West Office – 801. Mariner Lane
605-665-2225

www.yanktonareahomes.com



Carol Breck
661-7653



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Lewis and Clark Realty, Inc. is proud to welcome Sandy Korkow to their sales team. Sandy has lived in Springfield for more than a decade, bringing her interests in Missouri River issues and local history.

With backgrounds in newspaper reporting and community development, Sandy will bring an honest and ethical approach to marketing or locating properties. She looks forward to visiting with



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