

FBI: No Explosives Found Aboard Plane In D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) — No explosives were found aboard a plane that landed in Washington Sunday after someone made a bomb threat at an airport ticket counter in Ohio, an FBI spokesman said.

Andrew Ames said no hazards were found aboard the plane that landed about 1 p.m. at Reagan National Airport. Authorities swept the plane for explosives including the luggage and interviewed the 44 passengers. The person who made the threat at the Dayton airport was taken into custody.

The threat shut down the airport for about 20 minutes. US Airways Flight 2596 was moved away from the gate after landing, the FBI said.

Airport operations were back to normal afternoon, although some US Airways flights were delayed because the affected flight was taken to an area used by the airline, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority spokeswoman Courtney Mickalonis.

The plane was close to Reagan National at the time the threat was received, so officials allowed it to proceed to Washington, FBI spokesman Andrew Ames said.

Some Methodist Pastors Ignore Church Ban

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A growing number of pastors in the United Methodist Church say they're no longer willing to obey a church rule that prohibits them from officiating at same-sex marriages, despite the potential threat of being disciplined or dismissed from the church.

In some parts of the U.S., Methodist pastors have been marrying same-sex couples or conducting blessing ceremonies for same-sex unions for years with little fanfare and no backlash from the denomination. Calls to overturn the rule have become increasingly vocal in recent weeks, ratcheting up the pressure for the Methodist church to join other mainline Protestant denominations that have become more accepting of openly gay leaders.

While trials of pastors who conduct same-gender ceremonies have only occurred once every several years, the threat is indeed real. The Rev. Amy DeLong of Osceola in western Wisconsin faces a three-day trial starting Tuesday in Kaukauna on two charges: violating a church prohibition on the ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" and marrying a lesbian couple.

The jury for the church trial will be selected from a pool of Wisconsin United Methodist clergy. A total of 13 clergy will be chosen to serve during the trial and penalty phase.

Will Apple Exec Transform JCP Shopping?

NEW YORK (AP) — Imagine the possibilities of J.C. Penney in the future: An iPad enables one shopper to mix and match shirts and slacks without having to undress. A teen sends a mobile photo of a skirt to her father, who pays for it without leaving home by using his smartphone.

Ron Johnson, the man who helped make Apple stores hip, will take over the CEO helm at J.C. Penney from Myron Ullman III in November. Johnson has declined to discuss his plans for the retailer other than to say he wants to "reimagine" the store. But industry watchers say they expect him to borrow from Apple's playbook to completely transform the retailer, increasing Penney's mobile and Web efforts and changing everything from the way customers pay for clothes to how employees are trained.

"Johnson's skill set matches Penney's need set: customer experience, branding and innovation," says Craig R. Johnson, president of retail consultant Customer Growth Partners. "If you can introduce one quarter of Apple's coolness, that will do a lot to make them a mall destination, instead of a mall seider."

With Johnson as Penney's CEO, the retailer is in an enviable position as other merchants have struggled to replicate Apple's excitement in its stores. During Johnson's 11 years at Apple as senior vice president of retail, Apple has grown to more than 300 stores in the U.S. and abroad and has become the gold standard among retailers looking to make their stores hip and exciting.

'Big Man' Clarence Clemons Remembered

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP) — Scores of fans gathered Sunday at a legendary rock club to mourn the death and celebrate the life and music of saxophonist Clarence Clemons.

The Stone Pony in Asbury Park was the place where Clemons, Bruce Springsteen and other E Street band mates got their musical starts. It opened its doors to a crowd of about 150 people, many adorned in Springsteen T-shirts.

A makeshift vigil was created at the club late Saturday as word spread of Clemons' death from complications of a stroke he had suffered about a week earlier at his home in Singer Island, Fla. By Sunday afternoon, the stage was adorned with Clemons photos.

Fans were lining up to snap pictures and leave flowers to honor Clemons. He was known as the Big Man, a nod to his physical size, stage presence and booming sax notes.

Within hours of Clemons' death on Saturday night, fans slowly began stopping by the club, which was hosting an unrelated act catering to a younger crowd. Flowers, a candle and a handwritten sign saying "RIP Big Man" soon sprouted outside the building, and more items were added throughout the night and on Sunday.

OBITUARIES

William (Bill) Johnson

Bill (William J.) Johnson, 68, made the Great Transition on June 15, 2011 following 10 months of chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer.



Johnson

He carries the love of his wife Cynda forward until the day they dance again. He is also survived by his children, Becky and Noel, for whom he never stopped dreaming; his granddaughter, Dakota, who embodies all the magic in life; his grandson, Tyler, whom he knew as a baby, and always held with love in his heart; his adored sister, Donna Johnson, the President of "The Don't Cry Committee"; his father, Ralph Johnson and brother, Scott Johnson; his beloved nieces and nephews, Jerry & Jerry Webber, Shawn Williams & Nicole Thompson, and Matthew; his incredible YHS "Class of '61" — you were his roots; his circle of close friends, his talented roster of artists, whose songs inspired him: especially MCC, Rosanne Cash, Patty Loveless, Charlie Daniels, Willie Nelson, George Jones, Merle Haggard, the Dixie Chicks and many, many others; his host of cousins, uncles and aunts, great nieces and nephews, who all adore him.

He called his relationships his greatest accomplishments, but those who loved him were so proud of his dynamic career. His creativity included the iconic logo for *Rolling Stone* magazine as well as *Music Row* magazine and his two Grammys for Rosanne Cash's "King's Record Shop" and The O'Kanes "Tired of the Runnin'". He contributed to many hit Music City albums including Rodney Crowell's "Diamonds & Dirt," Dolly Parton's "Eagle When She Flies" and the Dixie Chicks' "Wide Open Spaces" and "Fly." His early career was focused on *Rolling*

Stone Magazine in California, then moved to New York with *Rolling Stone*. He left *Rolling Stone* for CBS and then completed his career in Nashville with CBS/Sony Records. He left Sony in order to focus on his paintings.

He was proud to be a member of the Yankton High School Hall of Fame and to actively participate in the arts in Yankton, including helping create the logo for Yankton's 150th anniversary celebration.

If you want to make a tangible gift donation, please consider www.theestuary.org who helped him find peace and www.w-smith.org who ignites the musical gifts of children.

A celebration for Bill will be held June 26, 2011 at the WO Smith School of Music in Nashville.

In lieu of flowers, please share a dance with someone you love.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 20, 2011

Libya: 9 Civilians Die In Attack

NATO Acknowledges Airstrike Went Astray In Tripoli

BY ADAM SCHRECK AND HADEEL AL-SHALCHI
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libya's government said NATO warplanes struck a residential neighborhood in the capital Sunday and killed nine civilians, including two children. Hours later, NATO confirmed one of its airstrikes went astray.

The incident gave supporters of Moammar Gadhafi's regime a new rallying point against the international intervention in Libya's civil war. The foreign minister called for a "global jihad" on the West in response.

Early Sunday morning, journalists based in the Libyan capital were rushed by government officials to the damaged building, which appeared to have been partly under construction. Reporters were later escorted back to the site, where children's toys, teacups and dust-covered mattresses could be seen amid the rubble.

In a statement issued late Sunday at Brussels headquarters, the trans-Atlantic alliance said airstrikes were launched against a military missile site in Tripoli, but "it appears that one weapon did not strike the intended target and that there may have been a weapons system failure which may have caused a number of civilian casualties."

"NATO regrets the loss of innocent civilian

lives and takes great care in conducting strikes against a regime determined to use violence against its own citizens," said Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard, commander of the anti-Libya operation.

Foreign Minister Abdul-Ati al-Obeidi told reporters nine civilians, including two children, were killed in the explosion and said 18 people were wounded. He said the strike was a "deliberate attack on a civilian neighborhood," and follows other alleged targeting of nonmilitary targets such as a hotel, an oxygen factory and civilian vehicles.

It has not always been possible to independently verify the government's reports of strikes on nonmilitary targets since NATO began its air operations in March.

"The deliberate bombing ... is a direct call for all free peoples of the world and for all Muslims to initiate a global jihad against the oppressive, criminal West and never to allow such criminal organizations as NATO to decide the future of other independent and sovereign nations," al-Obeidi said. He did not take questions.

Journalists were shown the bodies of at least four people said to have been killed in the strike, including the two young children. Foreign reporters in Tripoli are not allowed to travel and report freely and are almost always

shadowed by government minders.

Salem Ali Garadi, 51, who said his brother and sister were among the victims, said five people were killed. There was no explanation for the discrepancy in death counts.

Before Sunday's alleged strike, Libya's Health Ministry said 856 civilians had been killed in NATO air attacks since they began in March. The figure could not be independently confirmed. Previous government tolls from individual strikes have proved exaggerated.

Alliance warplanes struck Tripoli again Sunday afternoon. Explosions could be heard in the city, and smoke could be seen rising over the southern part of the capital.

A coalition including France, Britain and the U.S. launched the first strikes against Gadhafi's forces under a U.N. resolution to protect civilians on March 19. NATO, joined by some Arab allies, assumed control of the air campaign over Libya on March 31.

While NATO warplanes have stepped up their campaign against Gadhafi's regime over the past week, fighting has intensified between rebels and government troops outside the port city of Misrata, the main rebel stronghold in western Libya.

For weeks, the rebels had been bottled up in the city, 125 miles (200 kilometers) east of Tripoli. The eastern third of the country is controlled by rebels from their de facto capital, Benghazi.

Winds Challenge Crews Battling Arizona, New Mexico Wildfires

BY BOB CHRISTIE AND WALTER BERRY
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Crews battled a pair of wildfires Sunday in the face of extremely high winds that officials feared could drive flames toward small towns in Arizona and New Mexico as firefighters tried to protect threatened homes.

The massive Wallow Fire that has been burning in eastern Arizona for three weeks breached a containment line along Highway 180 on Saturday and the homes of about 200 Luna residents remained under an evacuation order, with forecasts of 40- to 50-mph wind gusts renewing fire threats for the community.

Despite the evacuation order, about half of Luna's residents remained in town. They have been told to stay off the roads so they don't get in the way of fire crews, Catron County Undersheriff Ian Fletcher said. Few people went to a Red Cross shelter set up in Reserve, N.M.

"If the fire comes back around or things change where they have to get out, we still have an egress point, so we will still escort them out of town," Fletcher said. "We're expected high winds this afternoon — we're preparing for the worst and hoping for the best."

The Wallow Fire burning up much of Apache Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona is the largest of several wildfires burning in spots across the southwestern United States.

With summer rains still weeks away, forecasters said fire crews in much of Arizona and New Mexico would likely have little relief from the hot, windy weather that has dogged them for days.

Evacuation orders for Luna came on the same day that some other residents displaced by the fire that began May 29 were allowed to return home.

The Wallow blaze has consumed nearly 800 square miles, a little more than 511,000 acres, and more than 3,500 firefighters were trying to stop its advance. It is larger than a 2002 fire that burned 732 square miles and destroyed 491 buildings that had been the largest in state history. Despite its size, the latest fire has destroyed just 32 homes and four rental cabins. Containment rose to 44 percent Sunday.

In southern Arizona, a wildfire south of Sierra Vista jumped containment lines, prompting authorities to order new evacuations.

Fire spokesman Bill Paxton said Sunday afternoon that all pre-evacuation notices have been converted into mandatory evacuations.

The Monument fire has already forced nearly 7,000 people to flee 2,600 homes. At least 44 homes have already been lost.

The blaze has burned nearly 33 square miles or 21,000 acres since it broke out on June 12. On Sunday, about 1,000 firefighters were on the lines trying to make a stand in the face of fierce wind gusts that had limited the use of aircraft to fight the fire. Winds were blowing steadily at about 30 mph with gusts on the ridges of about 50 mph.

The blaze had remained 27 percent contained at about 21,000 acres, or nearly 33 square miles.

Residents of Alpine, Ariz., were allowed to return to their homes Saturday morning after being forced out by the Wallow Fire for

more than two weeks, but residents of the resort town of Greer still remained evacuated.

U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl, who owns a home in Greer, toured the fire area Saturday along with Sen. John McCain and Arizona congressmen Jeff Flake and Paul Gosar.

"Seeing a terrible fire like this is always a wakeup call," Flake, a Republican who represents Arizona's 6th district, said in a statement. "Our forest health policies need an overhaul. ... In the short term, we need to address regulations that hamper timber salvage in the burnt areas. In the long term, we need to enter into public-private partnerships in order to improve the health of these forests by thinning them."

Meanwhile, the remaining evacuations from a fire burning on both sides of the New Mexico-Colorado border were lifted Saturday morning for residents of communities outside of Raton, N.M.

Containment on the nearly 28,000-acre Track Fire jumped to 80 percent Sunday morning and fire officials said existing fire lines were holding despite strong winds in the area.

Investigators from New Mexico State Forestry and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway said Saturday that fire apparently was started June 12 by engine exhaust from an all-terrain vehicle.

They said the rider was trespassing onto land owned by BNSF railway through access from nearby private property. The Colfax County Sheriff's Department was seeking information on the person or persons riding or operating ATVs near the origin of the fire.

Another wildfire in Cochise County, Ariz., called the Horseshoe Two was 75 percent contained after charring about 210,000 acres — nearly 330 square miles.

Pentagon Chief Worries About Partisanship

WASHINGTON (AP) — After 40 years of working for presidents from both parties, Defense Secretary Robert Gates says he's



Gates

learned that it takes bipartisan support to succeed in national security and foreign affairs.

What worries Gates as he prepares to step down this month as Pentagon chief is how partisanship is seeping into those areas.

Gates says he's not sure what can be done about partisanship. He says maintaining a civil dialogue between the executive branch and the Congress can help.

President George W. Bush appointed Gates in 2006, and President Barack Obama persuaded him to stay on after taking office in 2009. He has been defense secretary for 4 1/2 years.

Gates spoke on "Fox News Sunday."

HONORING THEIR MEMORY
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Donald Sattler
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