

Bachmann, Pawlenty Make Gains

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are starting to pay more attention to the candidates who hope to take on President Barack Obama next year, and so far that's been a good thing for Michele Bachmann and Tim Pawlenty. Not for Newt Gingrich.

Overall, a new Associated Press-GfK poll shows, Republicans are giving the field of challengers a so-so assessment as interest in the race increases. And, with growing doubts among Americans that Obama deserves re-election, Democratic interest in the GOP field is significant, too.

Bachmann, a three-term congresswoman supported by many tea party members, enjoyed a big boost in her favorability rating among Republicans after she turned in a smooth debate performance this month and joined the presidential race.

Former Minnesota Gov. Pawlenty also made progress with Republicans, particularly among tea party supporters. GOP field leader Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, held steady in the eyes of Republicans — but gained no ground — with the formal launch of his campaign. Former House Speaker Gingrich, who announced his campaign five weeks ago, was heading in the wrong direction.

The Georgian's favorability rating among Republicans plunged in one month from 61 percent to 43 percent as his campaign was plagued by massive staff defections, abysmal fund-raising and reports that he and his wife had racked up huge bills at luxury jeweler Tiffany's.

Obama Criticized For Withdrawal Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top military officer and its top diplomat made clear Thursday that President Barack Obama rejected the advice of his generals in choosing a quicker path to winding down the war in Afghanistan.

The Obama troop withdrawal plan, widely interpreted as marking the beginning of the end of the U.S. combat role in Afghanistan, drew criticism from both sides of the political aisle on Capitol Hill. Some Republicans decried it as undercutting the military mission at a critical stage of the war, while many Democrats called it too timid.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., took a swipe at Obama from the Senate floor, questioning the timing of his troop pullout plan.

"Just when they are one year away from turning over a battered and broken enemy in both southern and eastern Afghanistan to our Afghan partners — the president has now decided to deny them the forces that our commanders believe they need to accomplish their objective," McCain said.

Obama announced Wednesday night that he will pull 10,000 troops from Afghanistan by December and another 23,000 by the end of next summer.

Mob Boss Captured After 16 Years On The Run

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — As the FBI chased leads on two continents, Boston mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger lived nearly all of his 16 years on the lam in this quiet seaside city, passing himself off as just another elderly retiree, albeit one who kept a .357 Magnum and more than 100 rounds of ammunition in his modest apartment.

Bulger — the FBI's most-wanted man and a feared underworld figure linked to 19 murders — was captured Wednesday after one of the biggest manhunts in U.S. history. His undoing may have been his impeccably groomed girlfriend.

Earlier this week, after years of frustration, the FBI put out a series of daytime TV announcements with photos of Bulger's blond-haired live-in companion, Catherine Greig. The announcements pointed out that Greig was known to frequent beauty salons and have her teeth cleaned once a month.

Two days later, the campaign produced a tip that led agents to the two-bedroom apartment three blocks from the Pacific Ocean where Bulger, 81, and Greig, 60, lived, authorities said. The FBI would not give any details about the tip.

The boss of South Boston's vicious Winter Hill Gang was lured outside the building and captured without resistance. Greig was also arrested.

Glaxo Settles Bad Drug Claim For Over \$40M

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The American subsidiary of a major British drug maker, GlaxoSmithKline LLC, has agreed to pay more than \$40 million to 37 states and Washington, D.C., to settle complaints that it made and sold adulterated drugs.

The company and several states' attorneys general announced the settlement Thursday. The state complaints came after GlaxoSmithKline agreed last year to pay \$750 million to settle federal claims related to faulty manufacturing processes at its plant in Cidra, Puerto Rico. The company has since sold the plant.

Federal prosecutors claimed the affected drugs, made between 2001 and 2005, include a drug used by cancer patients and drugs used to treat depression and diabetes.

Other states involved include Massachusetts, where the federal claims were brought, as well as California, Illinois and Florida.

OBITUARIES

Gloria Jean Arens Schroer

LONGVIEW, Texas — A loving and dedicated wife, mother and friend will be greatly missed by all who knew her unending kindness. Gloria passed away at home June 22, 2011 surrounded by her family after a two year battle against cancer. She was born on August 31, 1947 in Yankton, SD to Henry and Marcella Arens and was raised on her family's farm in Hartington, NE.

She graduated from Cedar Catholic High School in 1965. She married Douglas Schroer on December 4, 1971 and enjoyed 39 years of love and laughter with her best friend.

Her most important job was being a supportive wife and raising her four children whom she never failed - always encouraging, always patient, always proud.

Outside her home, she worked as a telephone operator, in a bank, and for State Farm Insurance for 23 years, including Rick Grisham State Farm in Longview.

Through the years she lived in Yankton, SD; Lincoln, NE; Beatrice, NE; Chicago, IL; Woodward, OK; Dumas, TX and finally in

Longview, TX, making many dear friends along the way and always taking an active role in church.

Gloria was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Longview and the Longview Women's Tennis Association. She loved to walk through the neighborhood for her daily rosary and to talk with the neighbors. Her other hobbies included fishing, playing cards, traveling, doing her daily crossword puzzle, sewing and embroidering dishtowels and dishrags she gave as presents each Christmas.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and one sister, Lynne Konz;

Those left to cherish her memory are her husband Douglas John Schroer of Longview, TX; her children and their spouses, Daniel Lee and Darcy Schroer of Frisco, TX, Leslie Lynn and Jeff Zinger of Frankston, TX, Brenda Renee Schroer of Dallas, TX, and Bradley Alan Schroer of Keller, TX; her grandchildren, Katherine Elizabeth Schroer, and Abigail Marcella Schroer, both of Frisco, TX; her sisters and their husbands, Joyce Keel of Lincoln, NE, Mary Rose Johnson of Yankton, SD, Susan and Rich Robinson of Lincoln, NE, Helen and Ed Bottolfsen of Hartington, NE, and

Doris and Duane Feilmeier of Hartington, NE; her brothers and their wives, Charles and Jolene Arens of Hartington, NE, and Steve and wife Deb Arens of Lincoln, NE; her in-laws, Richard and Barbara Schroer of Tustin, CA; Roger and Carol Schroer of Hastings, NE; Sue and Ray Friedl of Conway, SC; Sally and Mike Davenport of Danville, KY; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 27, 2011 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Longview with Father Gavin Vaverek officiating. Services are under the direction of Rader Funeral Home of Longview. A Rosary will be recited Sunday evening at 6 p.m. at the funeral home followed by visitation until 8 p.m.

The family requests having masses said at your local church for Gloria or memorial donations made to Beacon Hospice at Margaret's House, 5016 Gilmer Rd., Longview, TX 75604.

A memorial guestbook may be signed online at www.raderfh.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 24, 2011

Edward Schnaidt

MENNO — Edward J. "Jim" Schnaidt, 88 passed away peacefully Thursday, June 23, 2011 at the Menno-Olivet Care Center in Menno. Funeral services will be held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Menno on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Burial will be at the Menno Cemetery with Military Graveside Rites by Rames-Bender America Legion Post 152. Visitations will be from 1-8 p.m. on Monday at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church. Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno is in handling arrangements.

A.C. Kenyon Cull

A.C. Kenyon Cull, age 90, of Yankton died Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at Avera Sacred Heart Hos-

pital in Yankton.

Memorial services are 2 p.m., on July 2, 2011 at Christ Episcopal Church in Yankton with Reverend James Pearson officiating. There will be a gathering of family and friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are under the di-

rection of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Memorials may be made to Christ Episcopal Church in Yankton.

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

Republicans Exit Budget Talks

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Republicans pulled out of debt-reduction talks led by Vice President Joe Biden with a flourish on Thursday, blaming Democrats for demanding tax increases as part of a deal rather than accepting more than \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicare and other government programs.

"Let me be clear: Tax hikes are off the table," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Boehner spoke shortly after the House GOP second-in-command, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, announced he would not attend a planned negotiating session and said it is "time for President Obama to speak clearly and resolve the tax issue."

White House spokesman Jay Carney quickly obliged, while announcing that the talks were "in abeyance." He said Obama supports a "balanced approach" to debt reduction.

"I would point that the president supports a balanced approach," Carney said. "He does not support an approach that provides for a \$200,000 tax cut for millionaires and billionaires paid for by a \$6,000 a year hike in expenses and costs for seniors."

Numerous officials have said in recent days that Obama and Boehner would soon take a more public role in the negotiations, as time grows short for confronting politically vexing questions over taxes and Medicare and other benefit programs.

As a result, it appeared that the day's events marked an eruption of political maneuvering rather than a blow-up that would jeopardize the success of negotiations.

"The goal of these talks was to report our findings back to our respective leaders," Biden said in a statement. "The next phase is in the hands of those leaders, who need to determine the scope of an agreement that can tackle the problem and attract bipartisan support. For now the talks are in abeyance as we await that guidance."

In general, the negotiations are aimed at producing legislation to cut future deficits while simultaneously lifting the \$1.3 trillion limit on Treasury borrowing.

Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner has said that without an increase in the debt limit by Aug. 2, the United States faces a first-ever default, with potentially catastrophic consequences for the economy.

Carney told reporters that Boehner had met unannounced with Obama at the White

House Wednesday evening. The meeting was at the president's initiative, and the first known encounter between the two men since their widely publicized round of golf last weekend.

Nor was it likely Democrats were taken by surprise by the day's events, since Cantor informed Biden of his plans before making any public announcement.

Adding to the intrigue, one GOP leadership aide said Cantor did not inform Boehner of his plan to withdraw from the talks until shortly before he did so. Nor was Cantor aware of Boehner's trip to the White House the evening before, this aide said.

For his part, Cantor said the secretive Biden-led talks had "established a blueprint" for agreement on significant cuts in spending, but had reached an impasse because of the Democratic demand for taxes.

Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the other Republican participant, also said he would not attend the scheduled session, and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell spoke in unusually biting terms of Democratic demands for new government spending as part of a debt-reduction deal.

"What planet are they on?" McConnell wondered aloud.

Countries Plan Biggest Release Of Reserve Oil

BY JONATHAN FAHEY AND CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writers

NEW YORK — The United States and other nations that depend on oil imports will release and sell 60 million barrels of crude from emergency stocks in an effort to ease the strain of high oil prices on the global economy.

The release by the International Energy Agency, a group of more than two dozen countries, covers only what the world uses roughly every 16 hours. But it was enough to send oil prices lower, at least for the moment.

In addition to helping the struggling economies of the U.S. and Europe, analysts said the move was meant as a rebuke to OPEC, which has refused to increase oil production to bring down prices.

It will be the largest sale of crude ever from world strategic reserves and only the third since the IEA was formed in 1974 after the Arab oil embargo. The IEA released oil in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina and in 1990 and 1991 after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Half the oil will come from reserves in the U.S. Refiners who turn crude into gasoline will be able to bid on the extra oil and have it shipped to them from the salt caverns along the Gulf Coast where it is stored.

The IEA said high oil demand and shortfalls of oil production caused by unrest in the Middle East and North Africa threatened to "undermine the fragile global economic recovery."

The uprising in Libya has taken 1.5 million barrels of oil per day off of the market — half a million barrels less than will be released each day by the IEA.

The price of oil rose to nearly \$114 per barrel in at the end of April, the highest since the summer of 2008, but since then has fallen considerably. Analysts questioned how much relief the move would provide the economy, and for how long.

One analyst, Andrew Lipow, said the timing of the announcement, a day after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke delivered a negative outlook on the economy, suggests that industrialized countries are grasping for solutions. He said Americans should expect the price of gasoline to fall, but not dramatically, in coming weeks.

"Fifteen or 20 cents a gallon of relief is not enough to make people feel good about their job prospects or losses on the stock market or our general economic slowdown," he said.

The IEA and the White House said they were acting to increase the supply of oil available during the peak summer driving season.

"We are taking this action in response to the ongoing loss of crude oil due to supply disruptions in Libya and other countries and their impact on the global economic recovery," Energy Secretary Steven Chu said.

Gas prices have already fallen for 20 days in a row. They were down another penny Wednesday, to a nationwide average of \$3.61 per gallon, according to the AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report. That's about 21 cents lower than a month ago.

The timing of the release brought criticism from business groups and Republican lawmakers, who accused President Barack Obama of playing politics with the country's oil reserves, which are intended to address emergencies.

Pressure On Obama As N.Y. Considers Gay Marriage

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's "evolving" stance on gay marriage was headed for a high-profile test Thursday as he prepared for his first-ever fundraiser for gay donors just as New York lawmakers maneuvered toward a historic vote legalizing gay nuptials.

The outcome of the negotiations in Albany, the state capital, remained uncertain, but the vote could occur just hours before Obama's event Thursday evening in New York City.

The coincidence of timing and place was shining an unavoidable spotlight on the piece of Obama's

record that causes greatest consternation for the gay community: his failure to endorse gay marriage.

Activists announced plans to protest outside Thursday's gala at a Manhattan Sheraton, where as many as 600 guests were paying up to \$35,800 each to attend Obama's first fundraiser geared specifically toward the gay community.

Activists say Obama got off to a slow start as president on their priority issues, but he won many over by repealing the ban on gays serving openly in the military and by instructing the Justice Department to stop defending in court a federal law defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

His stance on gay marriage remains a sore spot. The president

endorses civil unions but not marriages for gay and lesbian couples, although he's also said his views on the issue are evolving — as are the country's as a whole.

Despite that evolution, the president did not plan to announce a new stance Thursday on gay marriage, said spokesman Jay Carney. But Carney said Obama did plan to address the developments in Albany, which could make New York the sixth and largest state to legalize same-sex marriage — a momentous development for the president's Thursday night audience of gay and gay-friendly supporters.

"He will mention it and I think make the point as he always has that he believes that this is some-

thing that states should be able to decide," Carney told reporters traveling with Obama to New York Thursday aboard Air Force One.

"He's not going to make any new declarations of position," Carney said.

Even so, given the nuances of the president's stance, his words were certain to be carefully parsed.

"I do not think that he is going to articulate a new position on Thursday, but I do think that the timing of what we think will be a big win in New York ... does up the pressure on him to do something and might just create enough of a political magic moment to bring about a surprise," said Richard Socharides, head of the advocacy group EqualityMatters.

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