

Libyan Rebels Clash With Gadhafi Forces

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Rebels in Libya's western mountains said they have advanced and are battling Moammar Gadhafi's forces in a strategic town southwest of the capital, ramping up pressure against government troops on a second front.

The rebels' claim of an advance into the outskirts of the town of Bair al-Ghanam, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Tripoli, follows weeks of intense fighting in the Nafusa mountains in which opposition forces have slowly pushed Gadhafi troops back toward the capital.

Libya's rebels control the eastern third of the country and pockets, including a number of Nafusa mountain towns, in the west.

The bulk of the fighting in recent months has been focused on front lines to the east of Tripoli. But a push by rebels from the Nafusa mountains could force Gadhafi to commit more troops to the southern and western approaches to the capital.

A rebel military spokesman in the Nafusa mountains, Gomaa Ibrahim, said opposition fighters and government troops have been fighting since early Sunday on the periphery of Bair al-Ghanam.

Autopen Used To Sign For President Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's the open secret that nobody in government wants to talk about: That cherished presidential signature that's tucked away in a scrapbook or framed for all to see might never have passed under the president's hand.

For decades, presidents of both parties have let an autopen do some of the heavy lifting when it comes to scrawling their signatures. The machine was recently put to use signing a bill into law, apparently a first.

Overseas and out of reach when lawmakers passed an extension of certain provisions of the Patriot Act, President Barack Obama employed the autopen to sign it, a step the White House has been mum about ever since.

"I always heard the autopen was the second most guarded thing in the White House after the president," says Jack Shock, who had permission to wield former President Bill Clinton's autopen as his director of presidential letters and messages.

Jim Cicconi, who oversaw the use of autopens for President George H.W. Bush, recalls that the plastic signature templates for the machines — yes, there was more than one autopen — would wear out from repeated use.

Sect kills 25 In 3 Nigerian Bomb Attacks

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — Suspected members of an Islamic sect bombed three beer gardens in northeastern Nigeria, killing 25 people and wounding 12 others on Sunday, authorities said.

Police blamed the attack on a group known locally as Boko Haram, which earlier this month carried out an attack on the nations police headquarters.

Authorities said two men riding on a back of motorcycles threw bombs at beer gardens, which are popular nightspots for locals.

Boko Haram, whose name in the local Hausa language means "Western education is sacrilege," has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks in northeast Nigeria. Most attacks have occurred in the Boko Haram stronghold of Maiduguri, which is about 540 miles (872 kilometers) from Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

The group recently claimed responsibility for an attack that killed at least 22 people at the police headquarters in Abuja.

NYC Parade Becomes Gay Marriage Celebration

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the world's oldest and largest gay pride parades turned into a carnival-like celebration of same-sex marriage Sunday as hundreds of thousands of revelers rejoiced at New York's new law giving gay couples the same marital rights as everyone else.

This year, the revelry went beyond floats, music and dancing. It included wedding plans.

"We've been wanting to get married in Central Park for years, and now we got here just in time for history to be made," said Bryce Croft of Kettering, Ohio, who attended the parade with her partner, Stephanie Croft.

The two women are not yet legally married although they share the same name, and they are planning to move to New York and get married. They were in a restaurant when they learned that the same-sex marriage bill had passed.

"We cried over dinner, right into the mozzarella sticks," Stephanie Croft said.

OBITUARIES

Jean Denny

(January 1, 1958-June 25, 2011)

SANTEE, Neb. — Funeral services for Jean M. Denny, age 53 of Santee, NE, will be held Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at the Oyate Oyanke Community Center in Santee. Burial will be in the Episcopal Cemetery, Santee, NE.

Visitation will begin Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and continue until service time on Wednesday at the Oyate Oyanke Community Center in Santee, with wake services at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday June 26th, Monday June 27th, and Tuesday June 28th.

Pallbearers are Travis Thomas, Nate Sutta, Rick Heming, Rob Henry, Brett Heming, Bob Bickerstaff Sr., Bobby Bickerstaff Jr., and Harold Jones. Honorary Pallbearers are Cindy Minder, Lavonne Jones, Monica Kitto, Bea Canning, Yvonne Canby, Thelma Thomas, Tammi Sandoval, and Cynthia Redwing.

Jean Marie Denny entered in paradise on June 25, 2011.

Jean, daughter of Lorenzo and Katherine (Hagerman) Hoffman, was born January 1, 1958 at Omaha, NE. (First New Year's baby!)

She was married to Arthur (Butch) Denny. To this union five children were born to them: Millie (Warren), Teena (Rob), Yvonne (Bobby Jr.) Andrea (Nate) all of Santee, Valerie (TC) of Kearney, NE; and three adopted grandchildren, Brittany, Colton, and Arthur.

Butch and Jean moved to Santee from Omaha in 1984. She was employed at B & D for several years before the plant closed, Bloom N Egg Farm, and later was employed as a dental assistant at the Santee Clinic.

Jean loved her family and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. Before her illness she was very energetic and outgoing. She also loved cooking big meals and having family gatherings.

Jean is survived by her husband, eight children, 20 grandchildren, four sisters, one special brother, Bud; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, one sister, one nephew and one great grandson.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
June 27, 2011

HONORING THEIR MEMORY
Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Marilyn Jean Samp
who passed away on
June 27, 2010

Arthur Foxhoven
who passed away on
June 27, 2010

Pamela Hosmer
who passed away on
June 30 2010

Amanda Guthmiller
who passed away on
July 1, 2010

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.

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Justice: Court Fight Led To Choking

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court's liberal faction has accused a conservative justice of choking her during an argument in her office earlier this month — a charge he denied.

Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that Justice David Prosser put her in a chokehold during the dispute. She contacted the newspaper late Saturday after Prosser denied rumors about the altercation.

"The facts are that I was demanding that he get out of my office and he put his hands around my neck in anger in a chokehold," Bradley told the newspaper.

A message could not be left at her home listing, and her former campaign manager did not return a call from The Associated Press.

Wisconsin Public Radio and the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, quoting anonymous sources, first reported the argument occurred before the Supreme Court's decision earlier this month upholding Republican Gov. Scott Walker's bill eliminating most of public employees' collective bargaining rights. Prosser then released a statement denying the allegations.

"Once there's a proper review of the matter and the facts surrounding it are made clear, the anonymous claim made to the media will be proven false," he said. "Until then I will refrain from further public comment."

Prosser's spokesman Brian Nemoir declined to comment on Bradley's later state-

ment and told The Associated Press that Prosser probably wouldn't either. Other members of the court either did not return messages or declined to comment on the incident.

The argument took place June 13, the day before the court, in a 4-3 decision that included a blistering dissent, ruled that Dane County Circuit Judge Maryann Sumi overstepped her authority when she declared the polarizing union law void. While accounts differ, the justices were apparently discussing the decision and its timing.

Leaders in the Republican-controlled Legislature had pushed for a decision by June 14 because they were working on the state budget, and Walker's proposal depended on expected savings from the law. Along with limiting most public employees' bargaining rights, it requires them to pay 12 percent of their health insurance costs and 5.8 percent of their pension costs.

Tens of thousands of people gathered for weeks at the Capitol to protest the proposal after Walker unveiled in February. Once it passed, opponents began to focus on Prosser's re-election campaign in the hope that by replacing him with a liberal justice, they could get the court to overturn the legislation.

Prosser, who had been expected to walk away with the election, found himself in a tight race with liberal challenger JoAnne Kloppenburg. Initial results showed she had defeated Prosser by about 200 votes, and she declared

herself the winner the day after the election. Then a county clerk who once worked for Prosser announced she had failed to report 14,000 votes.

A bitter and nearly month-long recount ended with Prosser's re-election. He defeated Kloppenburg by about 7,000 votes.

The recount ended about three weeks before the Supreme Court issued its opinion in the union case. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, quoting an anonymous source, said the argument erupted after Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson said she didn't know whether the opinion would be released in June. Prosser allegedly questioned Abrahamson's leadership, leading Bradley to defend her.

Prosser and Abrahamson, another of the court's liberal minority, had had problems before. Prosser told the newspaper in March that he had used profanity in a meeting the month before and threatened to destroy Abrahamson.

Bradley sent all the justices an email after that meeting, saying Prosser's behavior was unacceptable. She said later that she considered making a report to law enforcement but decided against it.

The Center for Investigative Journalism reported the altercation between Prosser and Bradley had been brought to the attention of the Wisconsin Judicial Commission, which investigates allegations of misconduct involving judges. The commission's executive director, James Alexander, said he couldn't confirm nor deny an incident was under investigation.

Ind. Hoops Star In Drug-Induced Coma After Crash

BY RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana high school basketball standout who survived a plane crash that killed his father and stepmother is in a drug-induced coma as doctors monitor the badly injured 16-year-old's brain swelling, his father's business partner said Sunday.

Austin Hatch suffered brain bruising and swelling and deep facial cuts in Friday's crash that killed his father, Stephen Hatch, and stepmother, Kim, but has shown some hopeful signs at a northern Michigan hospital, said Dr. G. David Bojrab.

Friday's crash was the second one Austin has survived. A 2003 crash killed his mother and two siblings. His father was piloting both times. Austin, a high school junior from Fort Wayne, Ind., recently accepted a scholarship to attend and play basketball for the University of Michigan after graduation.

Bojrab said Austin's brain swelling was going down and he had been moving all four limbs when doctors reduced the coma-inducing drugs they placed him on after Friday's crash.

"He has bruising to the brain but there's no structural damage

as far as they can tell right now, so they're hoping that that's a good sign and he'll have a better recovery or a full recovery," he said.

A spokeswoman for the hospital in Traverse City, Mich., said the teen remained in critical condition Sunday.

A relative, Jason Bowersock of Fort Wayne, said Sunday evening that doctors planned to begin taking Austin off of the coma-inducing drugs on Monday afternoon, while closely monitoring his neurological signs as he regains consciousness.

"Everyone at this point remains very hopeful. All the doctors have been very positive and hopeful given his age and strength. All his other signs are great," he said.

Bowersock, who is married to the eldest of Kim Hatch's three children, Maria, said Stephen Hatch's parents and siblings and other relatives will be staying close to Austin's bedside in the coming days.

While both of Austin's parents, along with his stepmother, are now deceased, he said it's too early for relatives to speculate on the teen's future, including where he will live. But he said that's been on their minds.

"No one has even breathed a

word of discussing where Austin will reside. He's a very mature, bright 16-year-old kid and he has a great future ahead of him. And he'll certainly have some thoughts on that, too," Bowersock said. "We've just focused right now on Austin getting well."

Austin's basketball coach at Canterbury School said everyone at the private school in Fort Wayne, which has about 320 students, was stunned by the news of the deadly crash and praying that Austin survives. He said it's "unbelievable" the youngster is now the only survivor of his immediate family, aside from his three step-siblings.

"They're all gone," Kline said. "He's the only one left. What's the chance of that happening? A million to one, if that. It's just unbelievable."

Bojrab, who partnered with Stephen Hatch to open a pain-management clinic in Fort Wayne, said the Hatches were flying to their summer home on Walloon Lake in Michigan's Lower Peninsula when his single-engine plane flew into a garage near the Charlevoix Municipal Airport. It was the same lake home Stephen Hatch and the family were returning from nearly eight years ago when they crashed in Indiana.

Family friends who live on that same Michigan lake have been with Austin since shortly after the crash and his maternal grandparents have been with him since Saturday, Bojrab said. Hatch's paternal grandparents were on vacation in Spain celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with Stephen Hatch's brother and sister and their families, but they arrived back in the U.S. on Sunday, he said.

The National Transportation Safety Board had investigators at the crash site Saturday. NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway said he expected a preliminary report within 10 days and a final report determining a cause within 18 months.

Holloway said Sunday the wreckage was being moved to a hangar at the airport and the lead investigator expected to complete the onsite investigation within a few days. There was no immediate indication of what caused the crash, Holloway said.

Kline said Austin, who is 6-foot-6, 215 pounds, is a very strong physically and he hopes that his being in good condition helps him survive.

"He's just a strong guy, a strong kid. That's what saving him right now," he said.

Berm

From Page 1

visit was scheduled last week. On Sunday, he toured Nebraska's other nuclear power plant, which sits along the Missouri River near Brownville. Cooper nuclear power plant is about 75 miles south of Omaha and run by the Nebraska Public Power District.

Jaczko said he can't predict what the river will do this summer but that NPPD and OPDP seem to be taking appropriate steps to defend against flooding.

Jaczko spent much of his tour of Cooper asking NPPD officials

and the NRC's local inspectors questions about the plant and this year's flooding. He said his visit was designed to gather information.

NPPD officials have been monitoring river levels closely during the flooding, and they have already brought in more than 5,000 tons of sand to build barricades protecting the Cooper plant, the onsite power substations and the plant's access roads.

Accessing critical parts of the plant requires visitors to use ladders or steel stairs to climb over sandbag barriers both outside and inside the doors. When the Jaczko saw one of Cooper's two back-up diesel generators, he

had to climb over three different sandbag barriers to get there.

The Cooper plant remains dry because it sits at an elevation above the river level. The base of Cooper and its storage area for used nuclear fuel is 903 feet above sea level while on Sunday the river was just above 899 feet.

Cooper would be shut down if the river rose to 902 feet above sea level, but officials say that is unlikely.

"This plant is designed to deal with a flood much higher than we are seeing — 906 feet," Jaczko said.

Both nuclear plants issued flooding alerts earlier this month, although they were routine as the river's rise has been

expected. Cooper has been operating at full capacity.

Flooding remains a concern all along the Missouri because of massive amounts of water the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released from upstream reservoirs. The river is expected to rise as much as 5 to 7 feet above flood stage in much of Nebraska and Iowa and as much as 10 feet over flood stage in parts of Missouri.

The corps expects the river to remain high at least into August because of heavy spring rains in the upper Plains and substantial Rocky Mountain snowpack melting into the river basin.

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