

Greece Fends Off Bankruptcy; Nation Protests

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece fended off a bankruptcy that threatened to roil global financial markets, approving severe spending cuts and tax increases Wednesday in the face of violent protests by Greeks who say they have suffered enough.

The package of austerity measures would keep bailout money flowing to Greece from the rest of the world. It would free \$17 billion in fresh loans, although the money will only be enough to see the nation through September.

Investors around the world cheered the news, but protesters, fighting tear gas, hurled whatever they could find at riot police and tried to blockade the Parliament building.

"This is bad. The country will be sold for a piece of bread," said insurer Dimitris Kostopoulos. "There were many other more appropriate alternatives to this. Parliament has once again betrayed us."

Public sector salaries and pensions have been cut in the past year, and unemployment is above 16 percent. By comparison, it is about 9 percent in the United States.

Cities Hope To Push 2010 Census Counts Up

WASHINGTON (AP) — With jobs and federal aid at stake, U.S. cities are lining up to contest their 2010 census counts as too low. A decade ago, there were 1,200 challenges filed by cities, towns and counties. The U.S. Conference of Mayors is predicting a big jump in that number, due in part to tighter budgets that make local officials more sensitive to potential drop-offs in federal money for Medicaid and other programs.

Nearly \$450 billion in federal aid is distributed to states based on population each year, or roughly \$1,500 per person.

Cities have two years to contest their counts under the Census Bureau's appeals process, which began this month.

"Along with federal funds, there's a psychological impact when a city loses population, because people and businesses want to be in a vibrant region where things are growing and happening," Cincinnati mayor Mark Mallory, who chairs the U.S. mayors' task force on the census, said in an interview.

Scholars Say 2,000-Year-Old Box Is Genuine

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli scholars have confirmed the authenticity of a 2,000-year-old burial box that appears to bear the name of a relative of the high priest Caiaphas mentioned in the New Testament, the Israel Antiquities Authority said Wednesday.

The find offers support for the existence of the biblical Caiaphas, who appears in the New Testament as a temple priest and an adversary of Jesus who played a key role in his crucifixion.

The ossuary — a stone chest used to store bones — is decorated with the stylized shapes of flowers and bears an inscription with the name "Miriam daughter of Yeshua son of Caiaphas, priest of Maaziah from Beth Imri."

The ossuary was seized from tomb robbers three years ago, the government antiquities body said in a statement. Because it "was not found in a controlled archaeological excavation and because of its special scientific importance," the statement said, it has been undergoing lab tests since then.

The tests, which used powerful microscopes to inspect layers of buildup on the box and inscription, were carried out by two scholars, one from Tel Aviv University and the other from Bar Ilan University, the statement said. The research indicated that the inscription is "genuine and ancient."

Rhode Island Senate Passes Civil Unions Bill

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The Rhode Island Senate has approved a bill that would allow same-sex couples to enter into civil unions, a measure that Gov. Lincoln Chafee says he's inclined to sign.

State senators voted 21-16 Wednesday evening to endorse the bill. The legislation, which already has passed the state House, allows gay couples to enter into civil unions that offer the same rights and benefits given to married couples under Rhode Island law.

It is now headed to Chafee's desk for his signature. Several gay marriage advocacy groups have urged Chafee to veto it because of what they call overly broad exemptions that would allow religious institutions to ignore rights given through civil unions. The measure would, for instance, let religious hospitals refuse a civil union spouse the right to make emergency medical decisions.

White Buffalo Calf Named Lightning Medicine

GREENVILLE, Texas (AP) — A rare white buffalo calf regarded as sacred by Lakota Sioux tradition has officially been named at a ceremony drawing about 2,000 people to a northeast Texas ranch.

The crowd gathered Wednesday in Greenville in honor of the calf called Lightning Medicine Cloud.

Herd owner Arby Little Soldier says the calf was born May 12 during a thunderstorm. The name is also a tribute to the first known white buffalo in Texas born in 1933.

Lakota Sioux tradition holds that Whope, the goddess of peace, once appeared in the form of a white buffalo calf. Little Soldier says the buffalo represents hope for all nations and races.

Greenville is about 50 miles northeast of Dallas.

Teacher

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sister is a nurse, my other sister became a secretary, and I wanted to be a teacher. So that's how that happened."

After graduating from Yankton High School in 1966, Tereshinski attended Yankton College. It was there that her ideas about her career path were confirmed.

"We were given an opportunity at Yankton College to observe students, and I loved it right away when we went out and did our student teaching," she said. "I knew it was where I belonged. I just knew it was for me."

Following her college graduation, Tereshinski began teaching in 1970 for the Yankton School District, where she's remained ever since.

"I've been teaching in Yankton the whole time, and I wouldn't change it for the world," she said. "I love it."

She said the thing that sets the Yankton district apart is the attitude of its residents.

"The students are so willing to learn, and the community wants their children to do so well. And we've always been a progressive community, and I think that's why foreign language has done so well here," she said. "We have a good system here in Yankton, and I think our graduates are proof of that."

Tereshinski said a lot has changed during her 41 years in education.

"The students now are so used to having instant gratification. They can find the answer by going to their iPhone or their Droid," she said. "But the teacher is still a necessity in my opinion. I

think the communication has to be there. You have to have the give and take."

Because of the shift in mindset, Tereshinski said sometimes she must try a variety of options to get through to a student.

"Whether that student is an audio learner, visual learner or tactile learner, you have to be able to try any method to try to reach that student," she said. "Sometimes it just takes patience."

While her students might continue to change, Tereshinski hopes to keep her occupation constant.

"I've loved doing it for 41 years, and I wish I could teach another 41," she said. "I plan on teaching for as long as I can."

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Obama Rebukes GOP On Debt Talks

BY BEN FELLER
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a blistering rebuke of Republicans, President Barack Obama on Wednesday pressed lawmakers to accept tax increases as part of a deal to cut the nation's deficits and avoid a crippling government default. "Let's get it done," Obama challenged, chiding Congress for frequent absences from Washington.

Senators from Obama's own Democratic Party quickly said they'd consider canceling next week's July 4 recess to work on a possible agreement, and as the day went on senators said they assumed they would stay.

In a White House news conference, Obama offered one fresh wrinkle to try to give the economy and pessimistic voters a lift, calling on Congress to pass a one-year extension of the Social Security payroll tax cut that employees got this year. But he used most of the hour-long session to try to sway public opinion his way on the debt debate consuming Washington.

Obama accused Republicans of intransigence over tax hikes, comparing their leaders to procrastinating children and painting them as putting millionaires, oil companies and jet owners ahead of needy students. One Democratic official said that in talks to date, the administration was seeking roughly \$400 billion in higher tax revenue over the next decade.

Responding quickly to the news conference,



Obama

the Republican House Speaker, Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, shot back that the president was ignoring reality.

"His administration has been burying our kids and grandkids in new debt and offered no plan to rein in spending," Boehner said as the day's events seemed only to entrench both sides. "The president is sorely mistaken if he believes a bill to raise the debt ceiling and raise taxes would pass the House. The votes simply aren't there."

Obama insisted he wouldn't support a deal to cut the deficit unless it includes higher tax revenue, not just spending cuts. Republicans have refused to consider that. The stalemate threatens to derail an extension of the nation's \$14.3 trillion debt limit, which in turn could lead the government into an unprecedented default.

"They need to do their job," Obama said of Republicans. "Now's the time to go ahead and make the tough choices."

Professing optimism — but with a bite — the president said, "Call me naive, but my expectation is that leaders are going to lead."

Obama's aggressive response came with the country souring on the recovery, the Republican presidential contenders taking aim at his economic record and GOP leaders in Congress challenging him to show more leader-

ship in the debt talks. His re-election hinges on the economy, and Obama is trying to restore a sense of public confidence.

The Treasury Department says the government is on pace to begin failing to pay its bills by Aug. 2 unless Congress votes to allow the limit on federal debt to rise.

Obama declared that is a "hard deadline" and warned that waiting too long could spook capital markets and prompt investors to bail. Here, too, he tried to put heat on Congress by saying lawmakers should cancel any plans to take days off in July if they can't make substantial progress by the end of this week.

Democratic Senate leaders met later with Obama at the White House and sent word they were considering canceling next week's scheduled recess.

"I think we are going to be here" next week, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., said. "No announcement has been made, but to me it's pretty clear."

Conrad said he would unveil a Senate Democratic budget that Democratic senators on his panel signed off on Wednesday. He said there would not be a vote on the plan.

Before that, Republican Rand Paul of Kentucky said that if the Democrats keep the Senate schedule "they are running from this debate." And Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said, "The fact that anyone would even consider recessing at this point in time is absurd."

Cincinnati Federal Appeals Court Upholds Health Overhaul

CINCINNATI (AP) — In the first ruling by a federal appeals court on President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, a panel in Cincinnati handed the administration a victory Wednesday by agreeing that the government can require a minimum amount of insurance for Americans.

A Republican-appointed judge joined with a Democratic appointee for the 2-1 majority in another milestone for Obama's hotly debated signature domestic initiative — the first time a Republican federal court appointee has affirmed the merits of the law.

The White House and Justice Department hailed the panel's affirmation of an earlier ruling by a federal court in Michigan;

opponents of the law said challenges will continue to the U.S. Supreme Court.

At issue is a conservative law center's lawsuit arguing on behalf of plaintiffs that potentially requiring them to buy insurance or face penalties could subject them to financial hardship. The suit warns that the law is too broad and could lead to more federal mandates.

The Thomas More Law Center, based in Ann Arbor, Mich., argued before the panel that the law was unconstitutional and that Congress overstepped its powers.

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL



Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann stopped in Lexington, South Carolina, to greet supporters.

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