# the world

#### Release Of 'Angola Three' Inmate Blocked

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La. (AP) — A federal court Friday blocked the release of Albert Woodfox, the last incarcerated member of a group of Louisiana prisoners known as the Angola Three, and raised doubts as to whether Woodfox will avoid a third trial in the 1972 slaying of a prison guard.

Woodfox must now remain behind bars until at least late August, when the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hears arguments on the state's appeal of an judge's order denying a third effort to make a conviction stand in the stabbing death of Brent Miller.

In a blow to his defense, the appellate panel's unanimous ruling suggested that Louisiana might be able to try Woodfox again after all, despite the earlier judge's conclusion that it would be impossible to guarantee a fair trial, given that 43 years have passed, key witnesses have died and there is no physical evidence linking Woodfox to the crime.

Louisiana "has made a strong showing that it is likely to succeed on the merits of the appeal," the panel wrote. "No showing has been made that any state retrial (or any appeal) will be improperly handled."

The decision caps a tumultuous week in a decades-long case that has focused international attention on the use of solitary confinement in American prisons.

#### **Leader Of NAACP Chapter Investigated**

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Rachel Dolezal leads the Spokane chapter of the NAACP, teaches African studies to college students and sits on a police oversight commission.

But the 37-year-old artist and activist with dark curly hair and light-brown skin now finds herself at the center of a furor over racial identity after family members said she has falsely portrayed herself as black for years when she is actually white. As proof, they produced pictures of her as a blonde, blue-eyed child.

The city is also investigating whether she lied about her ethnicity when she applied to be on the police board. And police on Friday said they were suspending investigations into racial harassment complaints filed by Dolezal, including one from earlier this year in which she said she received hate mail at her office.

The NAACP issued a statement Friday supporting Dolezal, who has been a longtime figure in Spokane's human-rights community.

"One's racial identity is not a qualifying criteria or disqualifying standard for NAACP leadership," the group said. "In every corner of this country, the NAACP remains committed to securing political, educational and economic justice for all people."

#### **HRC Woos Party With Steps To The Left**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Union members broke into cheers when Hillary Rodham Clinton said she supported their efforts to create a \$15-an-hour national minimum wage.

"Thank you for giving me this chance to tell you all how much I support your movement," she told a conference organized by the Service Employees International Union. "I want to fight with you every day."

Clinton's words last weekend weren't quite the endorsement they may have seemed. The next day, her campaign clarified her remarks, saying while Clinton supported the general push for higher wages, she wasn't backing the more contentious \$15 hourly minimum.

In the eight weeks since she announced her presidential bid, Clinton has moved cautiously to the left. She's wooing the liberal wing of her party with strong stances on issues like immigration, where there's broad national support for the Democratic position.

But at the same time, Clinton is staying silent or speaking with care on more controversial topics, as she did on the minimum wage. The carefully crafted policy two-step reflects a strategic decision by her campaign to motivate Democratic activists skeptical of her commitment to their cause, without alienating more moderate voters open to her candidacy.

### **Iowa Republicans Ending Straw Poll**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Iowa Republican straw poll, once a staple campaign event for GOP presidential candidates, is vanishing because of waning interest from 2016 hopefuls.

The governing board for the Republican Party of Iowa voted unanimously during a private conference call Friday to drop the event, said state GOP Chairman Jeff Kaufmann. It was scheduled to be held in the central Iowa city of Boone on August 8.

Republican officials wanted to make sure negativity surrounding the straw poll didn't hurt Iowa's traditional place in holding the first votes of the presidential nomination contest, with its leadoff caucuses. Kaufmann said he was particularly concerned that GOP candidates were feeling unnecessary pressure to participate in the event.

"You spend more time gaming your own candidates rather than worrying about Hillary Clinton," he said, referring to the Democratic Party's front-runner for the presidential nomination. "That's not how a first-in-the-nation state acts. A first-in-the-nation state has to roll out the welcome mat."

Since 1979, the straw poll has been held every summer before a contested presidential caucus and grew from a county fundraiser to a splashy event where candidates spent lavishly to bus in and entertain supporters. While the carnival-like event is beloved by lowa's political activists, critics say it has become a costly sideshow, and many candidates fear the humiliation of a poor showing.

### **Prosecutor of Freed Inmate Loses License**

 $\mbox{HOUSTON}$  (AP) — A former Texas prosecutor has been stripped of his law license after a panel of the State Bar of Texas determined he withheld evidence and used false testimony to win a capital murder conviction against a now-exonerated death row inmate.

A three-member evidentiary panel of the legal agency ordered Thursday the disbarment of Charles Sebesta, who spent 25 years as district attorney in Burleson and Washington counties, after finding he committed professional misconduct in his prosecution of accused murderer Anthony Graves.



The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be publishing a special edition on Saturday, July 4, 2015.

This 4th of July edition will feature special stories about the history of Independence Day as well as memories from readers about some of their favorite July 4 experiences.

Advertising deadline for this issue will be Monday, June 29, 2015

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# Obama's Trade Bill Faces Close Vote In The Capitol

BY CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Led by union-backed Democrats, the House delivered a stinging blow to President Barack Obama on Friday and left his ambitious global trade agenda

in serious doubt.
Republican leaders, who generally support Obama's trade objectives, signaled they might try to revive the package as early as next week. But that could require the shifting of at least 90 votes within either or both parties, a heavy lift.

Friday's setback was deep and personal for Obama, who made a surprise, last-minute trip to the Capitol to ask House Democrats to back him.

Not only did they reject him by the dozens, they were led by party leader Nancy Pelosi of California, who has often expressed deep admiration for the president. She joined in a tactic that even some Democrats called devious and cynical: voting against a favorite job-retraining program in order to imperil the trade package's main component: "fast track" negotiating authority for Obama.

Hours earlier, Obama had specifically asked Democrats not to do that. But in a crowded House chamber, Pelosi urged her colleagues to ignore him.

"Slow down the fast track to get a better deal for the American people," she said, drawing praise from labor unions, liberals and others who say free-trade deals send U.S. jobs abroad. Pelosi added possible new burdens to the legislative package, saying new highway funding and "environmental justice" should be linked to its passage if it's revived.

In a statement, Obama said



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/TNS

President Barack Obama and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, right, leave the Gabriel Zimmerman room after a meeting with members of the House Democratic caucus to discuss his trade agenda on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on Friday.

the job retraining program "would give roughly 100,000 American workers access to vital support each year," and he urged the House to pass it as soon as possible and send the entire trade package for him to sign.

Other presidents have had fast track authority, which lets them propose trade agreements that Congress can ratify or reject but not amend. The administration currently is trying to conclude negotiations with 11 Pacific-rim countries including Japan and Canada. Other trade agreements could

One possible route for protrade forces in Congress is to send revised legislation back to the Senate. But senators approved the larger package only narrowly last month after intense battles, and the White House desperately wants to avoid giving opponents there another chance to strangle the legislation.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Friday's vote showed congressional support for fast track, and "our work is not done yet." As for Democrats rejecting the retraining program, he said, the administration will contend "they have registered their objections to (fast track) and it didn't work." Earnest said the administration will urge Democrats to "support a policy that they have strongly supported in the

Friday's crucial vote came when 144 House Democrats joined 158 Republicans to reject extension of Trade Adjustment Assistance, or TAA. The program, which helps workers who lose their jobs to international trade, has long been a priority for Democrats and unions.

But the Senate had tied it to the broader fast track negotiating authority for the president, which House Democrats overwhelmingly oppose. Egged on by the AFL-CIO, Pelosi and others, the vast majority of House Democrats voted against the retraining program as a means to scuttle the entire package.

Moments later, the House did vote, 219-211, to endorse the fast track portion of the package, but that could go nowhere without the first part. Only 28 Democrats joined 191 Republicans in voting for it. Voting no were 54 Republicans and 157 Democrats.

# **Prison Worker Accused Of Aiding Escapees**

BY JOHN KEKIS AND DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

DANNEMORA, N.Y. — A worker at an upstate New York maximum-security prison has been arrested on charges she helped two convicted killers escape, state

police said Friday.
Fifty-one-year-old Joyce Mitchell was arrested and will be arraigned on the felony charge of first-degree promoting prison contraband and misdemeanor count of fourth-degree criminal facilita-

tion, authorities said.

Mitchell is accused of befriending inmates David Sweat and Richard Matt at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora and giving them contraband.

District Attorney Andrew Wylie said earlier the contraband didn't include power tools used by the men as they cut holes in their cell walls and a steam pipe to escape through a manhole last weekend.

Wylie would not elaborate on the charges Friday as more than 800 law enforcement officers continued to search for the escapees, concentrating in a rural area around the prison in the Adirondacks near the Canadian border. Earlier residents reported seeing two men jumping a stone wall outside Dannemora.

"We're coming for you, and we will not stop until you are caught," state police Maj. Charles Guess said in addressing the escapees as he headed a news conference after Mitchell's arrest.

Guess said officers were getting closer with every step they take on the ground and in the investigation. Though searchers were contending with bad weather so

were Sweat and Matt, the major said.
"They've got to be cold, wet, tired and hungry" if they haven't escaped the area or found shelter, Guess said.

Mitchell's family has said she wouldn't have helped the convicts break out.

An instructor in the tailor shop where

the men worked, Mitchell is also suspected of agreeing to be a getaway driver but didn't show up, leaving the men on foot early Saturday morning.

Mitchell has a job with a yearly sal-

Mitchell has a job with a yearly salary of \$57,697, overseeing inmates who sew clothes and learn to repair sewing machines at the prison. Amid the criminal case, she was suspended without pay.

Within the past year, officials looked into whether Mitchell had improper ties to the 34-year-old Sweat, who was serving a life sentence for killing a sheriff's deputy, Wylie said. He gave no details on the nature of the suspected relationship.

The investigation didn't turn up anything solid enough to warrant disciplinary charges against her, the district attorney said.

Matt was serving 25 years to life for the 1997 kidnap, torture and hacksaw dismemberment of Matt's 76-year-old former boss, whose body was found in pieces in a river.



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