

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Runaway Toyota Prius Sparks Investigation

EL CAJON, Calif. (AP) — A Toyota Prius that sped out of control on a California freeway was towed to a dealership Tuesday while federal and company inspectors converged on the car to determine whether a stuck gas pedal was to blame.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sent two investigators to examine the car after Monday's incident, said Olivia Alair, a spokeswoman for the Department of Transportation, which oversees NHTSA. Toyota Motor Corp. spokesman Brian Lyons said the automaker is sending three of its own technicians to investigate.

James Sikes, 61, of Jacumba, told authorities that the accelerator malfunctioned Monday as he drove his Prius on Interstate 8 in San Diego County. The car reached 94 mph during the 20 minutes before a California Highway Patrol officer helped get the Prius driver to slow down and turn off the engine.

Janitor Kills Supervisor, Himself In Shooting

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio State University janitor who was about to lose his job walked into a maintenance building for his early morning shift Tuesday and shot two supervisors, killing one of them and fatally shooting himself. No students were hurt.

Nathaniel Brown, 51, arrived for work at the nation's largest university dressed in dark clothing, a hooded sweat shirt and a backpack. He then opened fire in an office suite using two handguns, campus Police Chief Paul Denton said.

Brown spent five years in prison in the 1970s and '80s for receiving stolen property but lied about it on his job application, records show. It wasn't immediately clear whether Ohio State had done the required background check on him.

Ohio State released documents from Brown's personnel file showing that supervisors complained he was tardy, slept on the job and had problems following instructions. The university sent him a letter March 2 informing him that his employment was to end Saturday.

About a half-dozen other employees were in the building when the shooting began, Denton said. He described the shooting as work-related but didn't describe a motive.

Biden Condemns New Israeli Settlement Plan

JERUSALEM (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden condemned an Israeli plan to build hundreds of homes in disputed east Jerusalem on Tuesday, casting a cloud over a high-profile visit that had been aimed at repairing ties with the Jewish state and kickstarting Mideast peace talks.

Israel's Interior Ministry said late Tuesday that it had approved construction of 1,600 new apartments, an embarrassing setback for Biden after a day of warm meetings with top Israeli officials.

Although ministry officials said the announcement was procedural and unconnected to the visit, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was blindsided and tried to contain the damage at a late-night dinner with Biden.

Nonetheless, Biden issued a harshly worded statement after the dinner, saying its timing was especially troubling by coming on the eve of a new round of U.S.-mediated peace talks.

Woman Charged With Recruiting Jihadists

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A suburban Philadelphia woman who called herself JihadJane online has been charged with using the Internet to recruit jihadist fighters and help terrorists overseas. Authorities say the case shows how terror groups are looking to recruit Americans to help carry out their goals.

A federal indictment charges Colleen R. LaRose with agreeing to kill a Swedish citizen on orders from the terrorists and traveling to Europe to carry out the killing. It doesn't say whether the Swede was killed.

A U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity says LaRose targeted a Swedish cartoonist and discussed her plans with at least one person apprehended in Ireland on Tuesday. The official wasn't authorized to discuss details of the investigation.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

Obama: 'Bounty Hunters' To Cut Fraud

Announcement Comes As Major Advertising Campaign Against Reform Introduced

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Tuesday he'll bring in high-tech bounty hunters to help root out health care fraud, grabbing a populist idea with bipartisan backing in his final push to overhaul the system.

The White House announcement came as Obama prepared to travel to Missouri on Wednesday, taking his closing argument to the nation's heartland. The trip will be his second public appearance this week to rally support and fire up nervous Democrats.

The White House released details of the anti-fraud plan hours after a fresh challenge to the administration from major business groups that unveiled a multimillion-dollar ad campaign arguing that under Obama's plan "health care costs will go even higher, making a bad economy worse."

The ad buy, costing between \$4 million and \$10 million, will start Wednesday on national cable TV outlets. Later in the week, the campaign shifts to 17 states home to moderate and conservative Democrats. Their votes are critical to Obama's endgame for passing legislation to expand coverage to millions who now lack it and revamp the health insurance system.

Republicans are playing on House Democrats' suspicions of their Senate colleagues, arguing that Senate Democrats may not hold up their end of the bargain and the votes will be politically damaging for Democrats in November.

On Capitol Hill, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and other senior administration officials met with House and Senate Democratic leaders, who have struggled to secure the votes for the stalled health care legislation.

The two-step approach now being pursued calls for the House to approve a Senate-passed bill from last year, despite House Democrats' opposition to several of its provisions. Both chambers then would follow by approving a companion measure to make changes in that first bill.

"We're going to get it done as soon as possible," Emanuel told reporters after the meeting.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said he expects the House to act by March 18, the day Obama leaves for an overseas trip. That timetable would be tough to meet, and congressional leaders told Emanuel on Tuesday that they don't need deadlines handed down from the White House, according to Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who chairs the Energy and Commerce Committee and attended Tuesday's meeting.

Republicans are playing on House Democrats' suspicions of their Senate colleagues, arguing that Senate Democrats may not hold up their end of the bargain and the votes will be politically damaging for Democrats in November.

Waste and fraud are pervasive

problems for Medicare and Medicaid, the giant government health insurance programs for seniors and low-income people. Improper payments — in the wrong amounts, to the wrong person or for the wrong reason — totaled an estimated \$54 billion in 2009. They range from simple errors such as duplicate billing to elaborate schemes operated by fraudsters peddling everything from wheelchairs to hospice care.

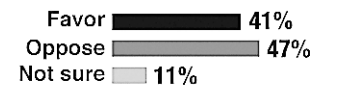
The bounty hunters in this case would be private auditors armed with sophisticated computer programs to scan Medicare and Medicaid billing data for patterns of bogus claims. The auditors would get to keep part of any funds they recover for the government. The White House said a pilot program run by Medicare in California, New York and Texas recouped \$900 million for taxpayers from 2005-2008.

The presidential memorandum Obama signed Tuesday directs Cabinet secretaries and agency heads throughout the government to intensify their use of private auditors under current legal authority. Obama also announced his support for a bipartisan bill that would expand the ways government agencies can pay for such audits using recovered funds. Among its cosponsors is Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Obama's GOP opponent in the 2008 presidential race.

In favor of health care overhaul

When asked why they opposed health care legislation, more than a third said it was because the proposals didn't go far enough. A closer look at who is in favor:

In general
Do you favor or oppose the health care reform proposals now being discussed?

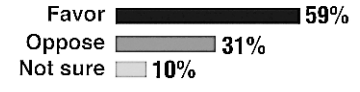


Of those who are opposed
Favor reform, but think current proposals don't go far enough 37%

Oppose reform and think current proposals go too far 54%

Not sure 10%

The total in favor
Adding those who don't think the proposals go far enough to the "favor" column



NOTE: Figures don't total 100 percent due to rounding.
Source: Ipsos-McClatchy poll of 1,078 adults, Feb. 26-28, 2010; margin of error: +/-2.9 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treble © 2010 MCT

Washington D.C. Begins Marrying Same-Sex Couples

WASHINGTON (AP) — One bride wore a black suit, the other had on a white one with rhinestones. They walked down the aisle to Billy Joel's "Just the Way You Are" and kissed after the pastor pronounced them "legally married."

The Rev. Darlene Garner, 61, and the Rev. Candy Holmes, 53, were among the first same-sex couples to marry in Washington on Tuesday, when the district became the sixth place in the country to conduct the unions.

"You have been in love, and you have recognized it all along. But today, the love that you have recognized in your heart is recognized by the District of Columbia," the Rev. Dwayne Johnson told the couple.

"Equality and justice for all now includes us," Garner said after the ceremony.

Both she and Holmes are leaders in the Metropolitan Community Churches, a group of Christian churches that primarily serve the gay and lesbian community.

The district joins Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont as places that issue same-sex couples marriage licenses.

Garner and Holmes were one of three couples married at the office of the Human Rights Campaign, which does advocacy work on gay, lesbian and transgender issues. In the other ceremonies, Reggie Stanley and Rocky Galloway married and then carried their 16-month-old twin daughters down the aisle, and Angelisa Young and Sinjioya Townsend hugged and smiled after being declared "partners in life this day and for always."

All of us have responsibilities to ensure the success of this joint endeavor," said the Rev. David North, who married Townsend and Young. He asked guests to "respect the life path that they choose together" and "commit to loving them."

"I accept this charge," the guests responded.

About 100 guests stayed for the three ceremonies. A cellist played, arrangements of yellow chrysanthemums, roses and carnations flanked the stage, and cream and gray programs announced the couples' names along with "Congratulations to the couples on this historic day."

About 150 couples were eligible to pick up marriage licenses after applying last week. Many of them stood in line March 3 at the marriage bureau of the district's Moultrie Courthouse for four or more hours. Like all couples, they had to wait three business days for their licenses to be processed.

By the time the marriage bureau closed Tuesday, 42 couples had returned to pick up their licenses. At least a dozen couples married and returned the licenses the same day. Couples do have 10 days to return their licenses after they have been married, so more couples may have actually tied the knot.



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at: www.kidscoop.com

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MARCH 8 - 12 IS NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION WEEK

Young Journalist Gets Star Treatment

In 2009, Veronica Talbert won the Free Lance-Star's Hometown Heroes essay contest and then went on to become the National Writing Contest Winner! Winning meant she had the opportunity to select and interview a National Difference Maker. Below is part of her article. To read her interview with Clinton Anderson, visit www.kidscoop.com/kids.

My Big Day

By Veronica Talbert

I chose to interview Clinton Anderson, a professional Australian horse who makes a difference to horses and their owners.

On July 8, 2009 I attended Clinton Anderson's Wahl Walkabout Tour. Afterwards I conducted my interview.

When I walked in, I was told to sit in the VIP section. When we got there, the whole front row had signs that said "Seating for Veronica Talbert and Family."

After Anderson introduced himself to the audience, he

introduced me to everyone! Later during the day, people on my accomplishment. I was really, really embarrassed, but also quite

Next, Clinton brought out a mustang and a pen used to train a horse. He first showed the crowd how to gain the of the horse and then how to catch the animal with a halter.

After that, Clinton brought in a "troubled" horse named Kid. Clinton demonstrated his on the spooked horse. First, he desensitized the horse to

scary" objects. He let the horse see and smell those things, and then started moving them around Kid's body. He repeated this until Kid was so familiar with the objects, he barely recognized that they were there.

Lastly, Clinton brought out his gorgeous horse, Diez, to show some pro riding. Clinton kept to music with Diez. It looked like they were dancing.

After the show it was time for the biggest part of the day — my interview with horse trainer Clinton Anderson.

Read Veronica's article. Then, decide where each of these missing words belongs.

PROUD	RESERVED	TRAINER	METHOD
TIME	CONGRATULATED	RESPECT	

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Students use reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of texts.

Help this horse find the haystack.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Students use reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of texts.

Connect the dots to find out which unusual animal is actually a relative of the horse.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Eye-hand coordination.

Find the two identical horses.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read for a purpose.

Animals in the News

Find and list 10 animals mentioned in today's paper. Next to each animal, write one word that conveys the reason it is in the newspaper.

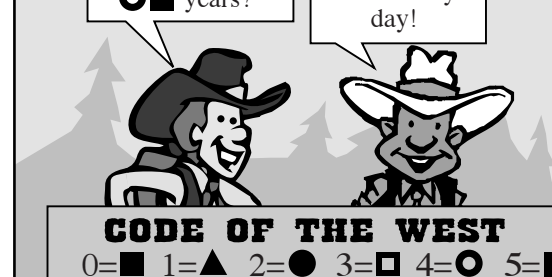
Example: DOG: hero

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read for a purpose.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Did you know horses live about years?

Horses only sleep about hours every day!



CODE OF THE WEST

0=■ 1=▲ 2=● 3=□ 4=○ 5=||

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

WINNER DIFFERENCE INTERVIEW NATIONAL SIGNS FAMILIAR RESPECT TRAIN SPOOKED METHOD GAIN TOUR CONVEY BARELY CARS

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

D	O	H	T	E	M	S	B	I	S
T	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	P
O	C	V	G	G	E	R	T	O	
U	A	E	N	A	W	A	E	E	O
R	R	S	P	I	I	L	R	K	
R	S	O	N	S	N	N	Y	V	E
E	C	N	E	R	E	F	F	I	D
Y	E	V	N	O	C	R	I	E	C
R	A	I	L	I	M	A	F	W	A

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

www.kidscoop.com

Instead of Steeds

Long ago, people used to ride horses for transportation. Today, people drive cars and ride bicycles. Look through the newspaper for other things that have replaced horses.

Standards Link: History: Understand differences in the methods of travel from various times in human history.

Write On!

Lullaby

Make up a lullaby poem or song. Or, tell us what is your favorite lullaby and why.

Send your story to:
Press & Dakotan
c/o Noelle Schlechter
319 Walnut Street
Yankton, SD 57078
605-665-7811, ext 112

Deadline: April 4 Published: Week of May 2
Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

Sweet Talk

Mattilynn Reiner, Grade 3, Tripp-Delmont School

I sweet-talked my brother and sister into feeding the sheep. It took my brother an hour to do it so my mom made me go check on him, but I made my sister do it. I told her I would give her four hundred dollars. But I didn't. My sister went out and stayed too. So I went out, and found them riding the sheep. They're four years old and they're riding sheep. I took them to the house and gave them a quarter and they thought it was four hundred dollars. But it wasn't!

Taylor Van Pelt, Grade 3, Tripp-Delmont School

I have sweet-talked my brother Logan into cleaning my room so he could play with my Littlest Pet Shops. I also have sweet-talked my sister McKenzie into putting my laundry away for a dollar. I have also sweet-talked my sister Jaden into doing the dishes so she can play my MP3! My sweet-talks are like bribes but that is how I sweet-talk.

Talitha Greaver, Language Arts/Period 6

Once, I talked my older sister into cleaning our room and putting away the laundry by herself. I was an expert at playing a computer game. I was so good I could get on the high score list. I held first, second, and fourth. My sister tried to get on the list, but she couldn't. "Well," I told my sister, "I'll get your name on the high score list. But, you'll have to do my chores." She did her chores, and I played and got her 5th on the high score list. She was delighted, and so was I.

Alicia Gregoire

For my sweet talk, I get my brothers to go get me little things. Like one time I had my brother get me a water. Another time I made him get me the remote. He also gave me the computer. I also made him get me a blanket when I was cold or a pillow. He got me some food when I was hungry. That is who I sweet talk and what they get me.