

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Al-Qaida Seen Eyeing Less-Complex Attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ever since al-Qaida attacked the United States in 2001, U.S. authorities have worked to detect and prevent the next big terrorist strike.

But officials and counterterrorism experts say the Christmas airline plot and last November's shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, may have shown al-Qaida that smaller-scale attacks also can prove unsettling, without the complexity and risk of bigger attempts.

The Christmas Day attempt to bring down a Detroit-bound flight — allegedly by a young Nigerian man with explosives in his underwear — was not successful. The attempt, however, shook the government, set agencies against each other and led to months of political second-guessing.

Short of mass casualties, the attack produced the kind of reaction that al-Qaida desires.

Now it appears that the group, which has prided itself on its ideological purism, seems to be eyeing a more pragmatic and perhaps more dangerous shift in tactics. The emerging message appears to be that big successes are great, but sometimes simply trying can be just as good.

Americans' Net Worth Grows At End Of 2009

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are recovering their shrunken wealth — gradually.

Household net worth rose last quarter, mainly because the healing economy boosted stock portfolios. But the gain was slight. And it was less than in the previous two quarters.

The Federal Reserve said Thursday that net worth rose 1.3 percent in the fourth quarter to \$54.2 trillion. It marked the third straight quarter of gains. But economists say consumers would need a stronger and more prolonged increase in their wealth to persuade them to ratchet up spending.

Net worth had risen by a more robust 4.5 percent in the second quarter of 2009 and an even faster 5.5 percent in the third quarter. Net worth is the value of assets such as homes, checking accounts and investments minus debts like mortgages and credit cards.

Even with the gain, Americans' net worth would have to rise an additional 21 percent just to get back to its pre-recession peak of \$65.9 trillion. That illustrates Americans' vast loss of wealth from the worst downturn since the 1930s.

Court Upholds 'Under God' In Pledge, Money

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court in San Francisco upheld the use of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency, rejecting arguments on Thursday that the phrases violate the separation of church and state.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel rejected two legal challenges by Sacramento atheist Michael Newdow, who claimed the references to God disrespect his religious beliefs.

"The Pledge is constitutional," Judge Carlos Bea wrote for the majority in the 2-1 ruling. "The Pledge of Allegiance serves to unite our vast nation through the proud recitation of some of the ideals upon which our Republic was founded."

The same court ruled in Newdow's favor in 2002 after he sued his daughter's school district for having students recite the pledge at school.

That lawsuit reached the U.S. Supreme Court in 2004, but the high court ruled that Newdow lacked the legal standing to file the suit because he didn't have custody of his daughter, on whose behalf he brought the case.

Deal Could Pay \$657M To WTC Responders

NEW YORK (AP) — After years of fighting in court, lawyers representing the city, construction companies and more than 10,000 ground zero rescue and recovery workers have agreed to a settlement that could pay up to \$657.5 million to responders sickened by dust from the destroyed World Trade Center.

The settlement was announced Thursday evening by the WTC Captive Insurance Co., a special entity established to indemnify the city and its contractors against potential legal action as they moved to clean up the site after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

The deal, which still must be approved by a judge and the workers themselves, would make the city and other companies represented by the insurer liable for a minimum of \$575 million, with more money available to the sick if certain conditions are met.

Most if not all of the money would come out of a \$1 billion grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

FUNDS

From Page 1A

"HB 1245, that was passed two years ago, allowed us to be a new taxing entity when we expanded," he said. "At a public meeting, the board set its budget."

The JRWDD formerly consisted of Brown, Marshall, Spink, Beadle, Sanborn, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson and Yankton counties. Besides those counties, the district has now added all of Hand County and portions of Day, Miner and Aurora counties.

The board discussed whether it can continue to meet its share of matching funds, particularly for federal programs.

In some cases, the federal government picks up 90 percent of the match, which would be a huge loss of funds, Raschke said. He noted the district has a record of receiving \$5.71 in matching funds for every \$1 collected in taxes.

In one example, the district receives \$19 in matching funds for every \$1 it allocates for the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) program, Raschke said.

"We are partners with the state on TMDLs," Miller said. "Can we stay partners at the same level we are now? I doubt it."

The counties within the district also benefit from matching funds, Raschke said. Since 1994, Yankton County has received \$3.1 million in projects while paying \$1.2 million in taxes, he said.

The JRWDD board members expressed concern about Spink County's recent request for assistance with seven bridges.

"Once they see Spink County's request, what are other counties going to do?" asked board member Randy Stanley of Groton.

Board member Dave Bender of Menno agreed. "This will just open the floodgates, as soon as every county hears about this. Hutchinson County has bridges on the river," he said.

Other entities are also seeking JRWDD funds for other projects, Bender said. "I know Olivet is applying for a sewer project," he said.

Local entities need to realize they are still responsible for their share of projects, said board member Bob Rademacher of Huron.

"Even if we found the money, do these people realize they have to go with their half (of a 50-50 match)?" he asked.

The district must also decide how to proceed with its environmental impact study (EIS), Miller said. The options include moving forward with more funding, shelving further action until more federal matching funds arrive, or stopping the study altogether.

Dropping the study isn't an option, Raschke later told the Press & Dakotan.

"We can't have access to federal funding until our feasibility study is complete," he said. "The reason it's taking so long (to complete the study) is the federal portion of the 50-50 match. We are way ahead of the Corps in our funding. We may

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Dems Abandon Abortion Compromise

House Leaders Set To Prepare For Vote, But Need Additional, Unclear Support

BY CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — House Democratic leaders abandoned a long struggle to strike a compromise on abortion in their ranks, gambling Thursday that they can secure the support for President Barack Obama's sweeping health care legislation with show-down votes looming as early as next week.

In doing so, they are all but counting on a small but potentially decisive group whose views on abortion coverage have become the principal hang-up for Democrats fighting to achieve the biggest change in American health care in generations. Congressional leaders are hoping they can find enough support from other wavering Democrats to pass legislation that only cleared the House by five votes in an earlier incarnation.

The concession came as House and Senate Democrats attended lengthy meetings with a top White House aide, who tried to answer questions, resolve differences and calm nerves, especially for lawmakers expecting tough challenges in November. Participants said they generally embraced White House-brokered compromises on prescription drug benefits for the elderly and new taxes on generous insurance plans.

At stake is the president's call to expand

health care to some 30 million people who lack insurance and to prohibit insurance company practices such as denying coverage to people who have been sick. Almost every American would be affected by the legislation, which would change the ways many people receive and pay for health care, from the most routine checkup to the most expensive, lifesaving treatment. And most Americans would be required by law to get health insurance.

Republicans continued their fierce criticisms of the president's efforts, vowing to make Democrats pay dearly this fall if they don't back off from what they brand a government takeover of health care. But senior Democrats predicted they can convince their colleagues that doing nothing is the worst option of all, politically and substantively.

"The stars are aligning for victory on comprehensive health reform," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. "The end is in sight."

The end might be in sight, but the outcome remains uncertain. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., must round up at least 216 votes when the real nose-counting and arm-twisting begins in a few days, after final cost estimates arrive from the Congressional Budget Office. All House and Senate Republicans have vowed to oppose the legislation.

With Senate Democrats no longer able to block Republican filibusters, the strategy calls for House Democrats to embrace a health bill the Senate passed in December, despite their numerous objections.

Democratic senators in turn would promise to make changes, using "budget reconciliation" rules that bar filibusters for some, but not all, matters.

Republican and Democratic lawmakers quarreled Thursday over whether Obama must sign the Senate bill into law before Congress can make the changes, which Democrats see as crucial to making the overall package more politically palatable. Republicans plan to pounce on Democrats the instant the Senate bill becomes law, and House and Senate parliamentarians eventually may have to determine the allowable sequence of legislative actions.

Congressional Democrats appeared to agree with the White House on Thursday on a handful of issues. One would close a coverage gap in the Medicare prescription drug benefit, the so-called "doughnut hole" that has caused financial and emotional stress for numerous elderly Americans.

Another would impose a new excise tax, starting in 2018, on employer-provided health plans worth more than \$10,200 for individuals and \$27,500 for families. The Senate had wanted a stiffer tax on such "Cadillac plans," but the more labor-friendly House resisted.

Obama Backing Of Immigration Overhaul 'Unwavering'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Thursday assured immigration advocates frustrated by the wait for a promised overhaul of U.S. immigration laws that he remains committed to fixing a system he has said is broken.

What remains unclear is whether Congress will send him a bill this year.

Obama also met separately later in the day with Sens. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who gave the president an outline of a bill they are drafting. Obama said afterward in a statement that he "looked forward to reviewing their promising framework."

Obama said he told the senators and the advocacy groups that "my commitment to comprehensive immigration reform is unwavering, and that I will continue to be their partner in this important effort."

The immigration issue is an important one for Obama, who has promised to work to solve the problem. Hispanics voted heavily for Obama in the 2008 presidential election, making the difference in key states like Florida, and their votes will be critical in the November midterm elections when Obama and his fellow Democrats will be fighting

to maintain control of the House and Senate.

Latino voters who don't think progress is being made on the issue may not go to the polls.

Graham said he told Obama "in no uncertain terms" that the immigration effort could stall in Congress if the health care bill, which Republicans oppose, moves forward under a special process known as budget reconciliation that would limit the GOP's ability to derail the bill in the Senate.

"Using reconciliation to push health care through will make it

much harder for Congress to come together on a topic as important as immigration," Graham said.

Schumer said he and Graham asked Obama for help building support in the Senate for an immigration bill, and getting business and labor groups to agree on the future flow of lower-skilled labor.

The South Carolina Republican said Obama also promised to help resolve outstanding issues pertaining to "virtual fencing" along the border with Mexico to detect people try-

ing to enter the U.S. illegally, and creation of a temporary worker program that is satisfactory to business.

Another idea on the table is some type of high-tech Social Security card to keep illegal immigrants from getting jobs.

After meeting for more than an hour with Obama, immigration advocates told reporters they want Schumer and Graham to at least release their blueprint before a planned March 21 demonstration at the Capitol, with a bill introduced in the Senate soon after.

OBITUARIES

Marian Smithey

Marian Grace Rahn Smithey, age 90 of Yankton passed away on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, SD.

Memorial service will be 2:00 p.m. and visitation with family and refreshments will be 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 13, 2010 at Christ Episcopal Church, Yankton, with Rev. Jim Pearson officiating. Burial will be in Ponca, NE at a later date.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton is in charge of arrangements.

Marian was born to Lena (Barber) and Harold Rahn on May 31, 1919 on a farm in Ponca, NE. Her primary education was in a one-room country school. She boarded with a family in Ponca while attending and graduating high school. Marian attended Wayne State Teacher's College and received her Nebraska Teaching Certificate. Marian returned to the Ponca area and



Smithey

taught grades 1-8 in a one room school house in Dixon County.

She and George D. Smithey were married in Smith Center, KS on November 31, 1939. They eloped and kept their

marriage secret for over a year. In those days, married female teachers were not allowed to teach. They were married for 42 years.

They settled in Yankton, SD where they lived until 1957 when they moved to Sioux City, IA. They retired and returned to the Yankton area.

Marian was active in her church and was an avid bridge player, a hospital volunteer and a dedicated wife, mother and homemaker.

She loved the Lord and lived a Christian life. Marian is survived by daughter, Karen (Mrs. Allen) Schweighardt of Sioux Falls, SD,

Mary (Mrs. Jon) Phillips of Omaha, NE, son, Jerald (Lisa) Smithey of Iowa City, IA; 5 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. She is also survived by brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dorothy and Wayne Smithey of St. Petersburg, FL, and cousin, Bonnie (Mrs. John) Buhr of Ponca, NE.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George D. Smithey; son, George W. Smithey and brother, Marvin Rahn.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Christ Episcopal Church Pipe Organ Fund, 517 Douglas, Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
March 12, 2010

PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Martha Gordon

SIoux FALLS — Martha Gordon died Tuesday (March 9, 2010) at Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community, Sioux Falls.

A memorial service is at 11 a.m. Saturday at Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Dante. Burial is in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, rural Dante.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, is in charge of arrangements.

Henry Irving

LAKE ANDES — Henry Paul Irving, Jr., 59, of Lake Andes died Wednesday (March 10, 2010) at his home in Lake Andes.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m. Saturday at Cedar Presbyterian Church, rural Wagner. Burial is in the church cemetery.

Wake services are at the White Swan Community Center in Lake Andes.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Duane Mackey

VERMILLION — Duane Mackey, 71, of Vermillion died

Thursday (March 11, 2010) at Windcrest Assisted Living, Lincoln, Neb.

Arrangements are pending with Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Carol Wachendorf

1:00 PM, Friday
First United Methodist Church
Yankton

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644

WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME INC.
Hartington, Colorado, Crofton
402-254-6517



When you call during Business Hours... Talk to a person — Not a machine

We take a personal interest in answering your health questions and concerns... After hours, you can leave a message on a medicine refill request or question and we'll take care of it the next business day.



ROGER'S
FAMILY PHARMACY
"A tradition of trust"

218 West 4th Street • Yankton, SD 57078 • (605) 665-8042

WE SEE TO IT THAT
You've Got the Power!
HARRY LANE
Electrical Contractor
605-665-6612 or 661-1040
L&S
ELECTRIC
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REMODELING

It's not just a body shop, it's...
Justa's Body Shop
2806 Fox Run Pkwy
Yankton, SD 57078 • 665-3929

We guarantee that everything we do is done in a professional and hassle-free manner. We don't see our customers as customers. We see them as our friends. Stop by and see John at Justa's Body Shop for all your auto body and paint needs.

- Paintless Dent Repair
- Restoration Work
- Loaner Car Available
- Insurance Work
- Glass Installation
- Down Draft Bake Booth
- Frame Straightening
- Lifetime Paint Warranty

YOUR NEWS! THE PRESS & DAKOTAN