

**Gov. Freed More Than 2,000 Jailed Immigrants**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department released from its jails more than 2,000 illegal immigrants facing deportation in recent weeks due to looming budget cuts and planned to release 3,000 more during March, *The Associated Press* has learned.

The newly disclosed figures, cited in internal budget documents reviewed by the AP, are significantly higher than the “few hundred” illegal immigrants the Obama administration acknowledged this week had been released under the budget-savings process.

The government documents show that immigrations and Customs Enforcement released roughly 1,000 illegal immigrants from its jails around the U.S. each week since at least Feb. 15. The agency’s field offices have reported more than 2,000 immigrants released before intense criticism this week led to a temporary shutdown of the plan, according to the documents.

The states where immigrants were released include Arizona, California, Georgia and Texas.

The White House has said it was not consulted about the releases, and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has acknowledged they occurred in a manner she regrets. White House spokesman Jay Carney on Wednesday said the government had released “a few hundred” of the roughly 30,000 illegal immigrants held in federal detention pending deportation proceedings. Carney said the immigrants released were “low-risk, noncriminal detainees,” and the decision was made by career ICE officials.

**Syrian Rebel Chief Said US Aid Won’t Help**

BEIRUT (AP) — The head of Syria’s rebels said Friday that the food and medical supplies the United States plans to give his fighters for the first time won’t bring them any closer to defeating President Bashar Assad’s forces in the country’s civil war.

“We don’t want food and drink, and we don’t want bandages. When we’re wounded, we want to die. The only thing we want is weapons,” Gen. Salim Idris, chief of staff of the opposition’s Supreme Military Council, told *The Associated Press* by telephone.

The former brigadier in Assad’s army warned that the world’s failure to provide heavier arms is only prolonging the nearly 2-year-old uprising that has killed an estimated 70,000 people.

In what was described as a significant policy shift, the Obama administration said Thursday it was giving an additional \$60 million in assistance to Syria’s political opposition and said it would, for the first time, provide non-lethal aid directly to rebels battling to topple Assad.

The move was announced by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at an international conference on Syria in Rome. In the coming days, several European nations are expected to take similar steps in working with the military wing of the opposition to increase pressure on Assad to step down and pave the way for a democratic transition.

**Fla. Man Swallowed By Sinkhole Feared Dead**

SEFFNER, Fla. (AP) — A sinkhole 20 feet across and 20 feet deep opened up under a man’s bedroom and swallowed him up without a trace, taking his bed, TV set and dresser, too, as he screamed for help.

Jeff Bush, 37, was presumed dead after the concrete floor caved in about 11 p.m. Thursday as everyone in the house was turning in for the night. It gave way with a loud crash that brought his brother running.

Jeremy Bush said he jumped into the hole but couldn’t see his brother and had to be rescued himself by a sheriff’s deputy who reached out and pulled him to safety as the ground crumbled around him.

“The floor was still giving in and the dirt was still going down, but I didn’t care. I wanted to save my brother,” Jeremy Bush, 36, said through tears Friday in a neighbor’s yard. “But I just couldn’t do nothing.”

He added: “I could swear I heard him hollering my name to help him.”

**Theater Shooting Suspect May Plead Insanity**

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — Lawyers for Colorado theater shooting suspect James Holmes have for the first time confirmed they are considering entering a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity on behalf of their client.

But they say in a motion made public Friday that Holmes shouldn’t have to enter a plea until the judge rules on whether Colorado’s insanity law is unconstitutional.

They say the law is unfair to defendants who invoke it because it requires the disclosure of potentially incriminating mental health records, while those who simply plead not guilty are not required to turn over evidence.

The 25-year-old Holmes is charged with going on a rampage in July at a suburban Denver movie theater that killed 12 people and injured 70. Holmes is scheduled to enter a plea March 12.

**Judge: Insurer Not Obligated To Cover Sandusky**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A federal judge says the insurance carrier for the children’s charity founded by former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky doesn’t have to cover him for acts of abuse.

U.S. District Judge Yvette Kane’s Friday ruling says Sandusky wasn’t acting as an employee or executive of The Second Mile when he molested boys. She says Sandusky’s behavior was personal. She sided with New Jersey-based Federal Insurance Co.

Sandusky was convicted of abusing 10 boys and faces multiple lawsuits. Prosecutors say he found victims through his charity. He was sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison but is appealing.

Sandusky’s appellate lawyer Norris Gelman says he’s sticking with his client but “without money it’s going to be a little tough.”

Messages left for Federal Insurance attorneys haven’t been returned.

**Gridlock: No Budgeting At Budget Cuts Loom**

BY DAVID ESPO  
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Gridlocked once more, President Barack Obama and Republican congressional leaders refused to budge in their budget standoff Friday as \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts bore down on individual Americans and the nation’s still-recovering economy. “None of this is necessary,” said the president after a sterile White House meeting that portended a long standoff.



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT  
**President Barack Obama speaks to the media after Friday’s sequester meeting at the White House, March 1, 2013 in Washington, D.C.**

Obama formally enacted the reductions a few hours before the midnight deadline required by law. Yet their impact had been felt thousands of miles away well before then. In Seattle, the King County Housing Authority announced it had stopped issuing housing vouchers under a federal program that benefits “elderly or disabled households, veterans, and families with children.”

The president met with top lawmakers for less than an hour at the White House, then sought repeatedly to fix the blame on Republicans for the broad spending reductions and any damage that they inflict. “They’ve allowed these cuts to happen because they refuse to budge on closing a single wasteful loophole to help reduce the deficit,” he said, renewing his demand for a comprehensive deficit-cutting deal that includes higher taxes.

Republicans said they wanted deficit cuts, too, but not tax increases. “The president got his tax hikes on Jan. 1,” House Speaker John Boehner told reporters, a reference to a \$600 billion increase on higher wage earners that cleared Congress on the first day of the year. Now, he said after the meeting, it is time take on “the spending problem here in Washington.”

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky was equally emphatic. “I will not be part of any back-room deal, and I will absolutely not agree to increase taxes,” he vowed in a written statement.

At the same time they clashed, Obama and Republicans appeared determined to contain their disagreement.

Boehner said the House will pass legislation next week to extend routine funding for government agencies beyond the current March 27 expiration. “I’m hopeful that we won’t have to deal with the threat of a government shutdown while we’re dealing with the sequester at the same time,” he said, referring to the new cuts by their Washington-speak name.

Obama said he, too, wanted to keep the two issues separate.

Under the law, Obama had until midnight to formally order the cuts. Barring a quick deal in the next week or so to call them off, the impact eventually is likely to be felt in all reaches of the country.

**Farm Bill Would Save Less Than Once Thought**

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Farm bills passed by the Senate and a House committee last year would save far less money than previously thought, according to a new estimate released Friday.

A report from the Congressional Budget Office says a Senate-passed farm bill would save \$1.3 billion annually, as opposed to the \$2.3 billion per year in savings estimated last year. A bill passed by the House Agriculture Committee would save \$2.7 billion a year instead of \$3.5 billion.

While the amounts may seem small in comparison to the bills’ \$100 billion-a-year cost, the estimates are another roadblock for the embattled legislation and the farm-state lawmakers who have fruitlessly tried to convince House leadership to move forward on it.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, R-Okla., and Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., made in favor of passage is that the bill would save taxpayers money over time.

The farm bill sets policy for farm subsidies, programs to protect environmentally-sensitive land, rural development and food stamps. Food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, make up roughly 80 percent of the legislation’s cost.

The normally reliable farm-state coalition in Congress fell apart in 2012 as agricultural issues fell by the wayside in an election year. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack blamed the lack of a farm bill on rural America’s declining population and lost clout. A booming agricultural economy also played a part as farmers weren’t clamoring for a new bill or changing farm policy.

The farm bills passed by the Senate in June and by the House Agriculture Committee in July died at the end of last year’s congressional session after Republican House leadership said they did not have the votes to pass it. The most recent farm law, passed in 2008, expired in September and was extended until September 2013 as part of the New Year’s agreement on the so-called fiscal cliff. Farm-state leaders will have to write a new bill this year but have not yet started that process or said how they plan to go about it.

President Barack Obama has expressed general support for a new farm bill but it wasn’t among his priorities in the State of the Union address.

The budget office said it lowered the estimates because savings in cuts to the food stamp program were lower than previously thought. The estimates also changed because of fluctuating crop prices.

The report did not alter estimates for savings generated from eliminating a controversial crop subsidy called direct payments. The subsidies, which are paid to landholders whether they farm or not, cost \$5 billion a year. Those subsidies would have been eliminated in both bills, with some of the savings directed toward new subsidy programs. Senate Democrats have also proposed using that savings to avert across-the-board government cuts that kicked in Friday.

A spokesman for the Senate Agriculture Committee said it is not unusual for the Congressional Budget Office to adjust its calculations and that the revised estimates wouldn’t derail efforts to pass a farm bill.

“The committee will be able to achieve the savings needed once it passes the new version of the farm bill,” said Ben Becker, a spokesman for Stabenow.

**OBITUARIES**

**Rita Arens**

Rita Ann Arens, 82, of Fordyce, Neb., died on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Golden Living Center in Hartington, Nebraska.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Constance with Father David Fulton officiating. Burial will be in St. Joseph’s Cemetery in Constance.

Visitation will be on Sunday from 2-5 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 3:30 p.m. at the church. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Monday at the church. The Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington is handling



Arens

the arrangements. To view the video tribute or to send online condolences, please visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Rita was born on February 10, 1931 at Fordyce to Joseph and Helen (Stevens) Hofmaier. She grew up and lived all of her life on the same farm southwest of Fordyce. She attended Lammers Ranch School and spent her early adult years caring for her parents, particularly her mother. She married Jerome G. Arens on January 31, 1967 at Constance. After her marriage she devoted her life to

care for her husband and children. She had been a resident of the Golden Living Center since September of 2012.

Rita was a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church and Guild and was very active in parish activities. She was a member of the Christian Mothers. She enjoyed making pies and cookies, tending to her garden and canning the produce. She liked to quilt, sew and crochet. Her greatest joy came from spending time with her family.

Rita is survived by 3 children, Vernon of Fordyce; Irene Vaughn and her husband Vince and their 3 sons, Zachary Robert, Dominic Jerome and Luke Anthony all of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Barb

Arens and Chuck Compton of Omaha.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Jerome, on December 15, 1998 at the age of 75, a brother, Roman Hofmaier and a sister, Irene Hofmaier.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
March 2, 2013



**Sister Peter Dangel**

Sister Peter Dangel, 96, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, died February 27, 2013 at Mother Joseph Manor.

The Resurrection Liturgy for Sister Peter will be Monday, March 4, 2013 at 11 a.m., in Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Presentation Convent, Aberdeen, SD. A wake service will be Sunday, March 3 at 7 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Father David Roehrich, will be celebrant and homilist.

Burial will be at the Sacred Heart Cemetery with Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 S Main Street, in charge of arrangements.

Bertha Dangel was born on June 21, 1916 at Freeman, SD to Katherine (Bauer) and John Dan-



Dangel

gel. She received her elementary education in a country school until the seventh grade and then went to St. Mary’s School in Marion, SD for the eighth grade. She graduated from Hurley High School in 1935. She taught

rural schools from 1936-1942 and worked as a sales clerk in Yankton before entering Presentation Convent on January 6, 1950. She made her first profession of vows on August 10, 1952.

Sister Peter attended Presentation Junior College and Yankton College. She received a Bachelor of

Science Degree in Education from Northern State University in 1966. She ministered in the various diocesan schools in Jefferson, Mitchell, Bridgewater, Milbank, Madison, Sioux Falls and Aberdeen, SD and Anoka, MN (1952-1985). She worked as a volunteer at McKennan Hospital from 1985-1995 before retiring to the Motherhouse in Aberdeen in 1995. She resided at Mother Joseph Manor

from November 2011 until her death.

Sister Peter is survived by her community of Presentation Sisters and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, Katherine and John, four sisters: Mary, Katherine, Sister Agnes (Tarcisus) PBVM, and Loretta, and four brothers: John, Frank, Art and Albert.

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**Rita Arens**  
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