

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

### Big Box Brought In To Deal With Gulf Disaster

ON THE GULF OF MEXICO (AP) — Workers gathered to begin lowering a giant concrete-and-steel box over the blown-out oil well at the bottom of the sea Thursday in a risky and untested bid to capture most of the gushing crude and avert a wider environmental disaster.

"We haven't done this before. It's very complex and we can't guarantee it," BP spokesman David Nicholas warned.

The 100-ton containment vessel is designed to collect as much as 85 percent of the oil spewing into the Gulf and funnel it up to a tanker. It could take several hours to lower it into place by crane, after which a steel pipe will be installed between the top of the box and the tanker. The whole structure could be operating by Sunday.

The technology has been used a few times in shallow waters, but never at such extreme depths — 5,000 feet down, where the water pressure is enough to crush a submarine.

The box — which looks a lot like a peaked, 40-foot-high out-house, especially on the inside, with its rough timber framing — must be accurately positioned over the well, or it could damage the leaking pipe and make the problem worse.

### Cash for Caulkers: House Passes \$5.7B Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeowners could collect thousands of dollars in Cash for Caulkers rebates for renovating their homes with better insulation and energy-saving windows and doors under a new economic stimulus bill the House passed Thursday.

The Home Star bill, passed 246-161, would authorize \$5.7 billion over two years for a program that supporters — mostly Democrats — said would have the added benefits of invigorating the slumping construction industry and making the earth a little cleaner.

"Home Star is that solid investment that's going to achieve that hat trick of energy savings for the homeowner, of moving toward a cleaner environment and of creating jobs here at home," said bill sponsor Peter Welch, D-Vt.

Republicans overwhelmingly opposed the bill, and they were able to attach a condition that it would be terminated if Democrats do not come up with a way to pay for it.

The measure has come to be dubbed Cash for Caulkers, a take-off on the popular 2009 Cash for Clunkers initiative that rewarded people for replacing gas-guzzling vehicles with more fuel-efficient models.

### Neanderthal Genes Shared With Humans

WASHINGTON (AP) — We have met Neanderthal and he is us — at least a little. The most detailed look yet at the Neanderthal genome helps answer one of the most debated questions in anthropology: Did Neanderthals and modern humans mate?

The answer is yes, there is at least some cave man biology in most of us. Between 1 percent and 4 percent of genes in people from Europe and Asia trace back to Neanderthals.

"They live on, a little bit," says Svante Paabo of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

Researchers led by Paabo, Richard E. Green of the University of California, Santa Cruz, and David Reich of Harvard Medical School compared the genetic material collected from the bones of three Neanderthals with that from five modern humans.

Their findings, reported in Friday's edition of the journal Science, show a relationship between Neanderthals and modern people outside Africa, Paabo said.

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# Bus Bomb Scare Stages Standoff In NH

BY KATHY MCCORMACK  
Associated Press Writer

PORTSMOUTH, New Hampshire — Authorities remained in a standoff with a man on a Maine-to-New York Greyhound bus Thursday, hours after a passenger called 911 to report an explosive device on board.

The other 16 passengers and the driver safely got off the bus, which was parked in downtown Portsmouth, surrounded by a bomb squad and sharpshooters, including one in an armored vehicle. Some of those passengers finally resumed their trip on a replacement bus just before 8 p.m., more than an hour after the original bus had been scheduled to arrive in New York City.

Police kept the curious at a distance and gave little information of what was happening on the bus. They said they established a way to communicate with the remaining passenger but wouldn't give details. They said only that he was wearing camouflage pants.

The 911 call came after the bus arrived in the seaside city of Portsmouth around 11:30 a.m. and was "based on someone's observations," police Capt. Mike Schwartz said. He had not heard of any threat being made, and

it was unclear which passenger made the call.

The driver "received a report of suspicious activity" while making the routine stop on the trip from Bangor to New York City and followed his training to secure the bus and notify police. Greyhound spokeswoman Maureen Richmond said.

The driver parked the bus and got out, but the passengers remained on board for more than two hours while police surrounded it and cleared the area of people.

Sixteen passengers left the bus separated by a couple of minutes each and carried no purses or bags. Most held their hands aloft as they passed officers with their weapons drawn.

Passengers were screened individually when they got off the bus — much like an airport security check — and were to be taken to the Portsmouth police station. None appeared to be injured as they left the bus; Schwartz said one was taken to a hospital because of a medical condition.

Some of the passengers decided against resuming their trip and were picked up at the police station. Greyhound said it would

arrange to reunite passengers with their luggage and personal items they were forced to leave behind.

Joe Law, of Hudson, N.H., said he was walking toward his parked car when he saw the bus pull over. Law said the driver got off, ran to the back of the bus and pulled part of its back door down. He said the driver appeared to do something to disable the bus, then yelled, "get away from the bus," before running down the street.

Gov. John Lynch was in the state's emergency operations center monitoring the situation.

The state police explosives disposal unit and the FBI were on the scene, and restrictions were put on air travel in the area, which kept television helicopters from flying overhead at closer than 3,000 feet.

The bus was parked with its flashers on, between a municipal parking garage and the Hilton Garden Inn. The hotel, garage and other area businesses had been evacuated, and streets were closed.

A bus from Boston was being sent to Maine so the passengers could continue their trip, Richmond said.

## E. coli-Tainted Lettuce Sickens 19 In OH, NY, MI

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — An E. coli outbreak possibly linked to tainted lettuce has sickened at least 19 people in Ohio, New York and Michigan, including students on three college campuses, prompting a recall throughout much of the country.

Freshway Foods of Sidney, Ohio, said it was recalling romaine lettuce sold under the Freshway and Imperial Sysco brands in 23 states and the District of Columbia because of a possible link to E. coli.

Twelve of those sickened were hospitalized, three of them with life-threatening symptoms, the Food and Drug Administration said. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said it was looking at 10 other cases probably linked to the outbreak.

College students at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Ohio State in Columbus and Daemen College in Amherst, N.Y., are among those affected, according to local health departments in those states.

The FDA is focusing its investigation on lettuce grown in Arizona as a possible source for the outbreak, according to two people who have been briefed by the agency. Donna Rosenbaum, director of the food safety advocacy group Safe Tables Our Priority and one of those briefed, said the agency held a phone call with public health advocates Thursday.

Rosenbaum and other public health advocates have long been pushing for stronger food safety laws. The House passed a bill last year that would give the agency much more authority to police food production, but the Senate has not acted on it.

## CHURCH

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John's will observe the next year, said the Rev. Steve Weisplennig, associate pastor.

"We are taking the approach that Pastor Dave is our personal missionary to Afghanistan through the military," Weisplennig said. "With that in mind, we've focused on the mission of the church for this upcoming year."

Gunderson's departure comes at a critical time for St. John's. The church sustained \$2 million arson damage just prior to Palm Sunday 2009. The parishioners held worship services for a year at Mount Marty College in Yankton before returning to their sanctuary this past Easter.

Surviving the fire and its aftermath has prepared St. John's members well for losing its senior pastor to deployment, Gunderson said.

"The people are more resilient (after the fire). They can handle many things," he said. "As for myself, my military experience helped me handle the fire and moving from one place to another. In the military, you always have to pick up and move."

Weisplennig agreed that the parishioners are more prepared for the year ahead.

"Lately, they have been more willing to take on some more things that they hadn't considered before," he said. "People have stepped up their leadership and are more willing to be involved."

In Gunderson's absence, St. John's will have the services of a retired pastor, the Rev. Jim

Mueller, and seminary graduate Jacob Bobby, who is working on his doctorate at the University of South Dakota.

Gunderson will know at least one familiar face during his deployment, as Yankton banker Kevin DeLong is also serving on the mission.

Gunderson believes his years of National Guard experience will serve him well in the upcoming mission. "I'm not gifted to speak in a foreign language, but I talk military," he said with a grin.

The 196th's activation ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Elmen Center on the Augustana College campus in Sioux Falls. Gunderson will lead his final St. John's service on Sunday, followed by a reception and potluck dinner. He will deploy Monday to Fort Hood, Texas, for a month before shipping to Afghanistan.

As a chaplain, Gunderson won't carry weapons. He will receive the protection of chaplain assistants who also provide ministry.

"We (chaplains) are the real non-combatants. We believe in a power greater than weapons or rifles," Gunderson said. "The chaplains normally don't go into the heat of battle. They will work out of a battalion aid station. That's where they care for the wounded and honor the dead."

Besides leading worship services, Gunderson will counsel soldiers and other chaplains. War places tremendous stress not only on the soldiers but on their families, he said.

"I have talked to the chaplain that I am replacing, and he has been dealing with people who have marriage problems," he said. "If there are problems with marriages, it intensifies

even while the soldier is gone."

The current chaplain is also counseling soldiers with suicidal feelings, Gunderson said, noting the military is taking the problem very seriously. "We have lost more people to suicide in a month than to combat," he said.

Gunderson brings many blessings to the upcoming mission and will remain in the congregation's prayers, Weisplennig said.

"I think it's just a joyful spirit that is one of (Gunderson's) greatest gifts. I also think it's his willingness to listen and take the time to care for the soldiers," Weisplennig said. "He likes to share a verse from Romans, that we are to weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice. That has been the focus of his entire ministry."

Gunderson said he feels a sense of peace as he prepares for his departure to Afghanistan.

"The timing is right for my deployment. My kids are grown and on their own," he said. "I am going so someone with small children doesn't have to leave."

One tell-tale sign shows Gunderson is ready for whatever awaits him in the year ahead.

"My wife says that I had a certain glimmer in my eye when I came to Yankton (for my ministry)," the pastor said. "She can see that glimmer again as I get ready for this mission."

## OBITUARIES

### Ronald Svatos

LAKE ANDES — Ronald George "R.G." Svatos, Sr., died on May 6, 2010 at Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls due to a battle with cancer.

Memorial service will be Saturday, May 8, 2010 at First Lutheran Church in Lake Andes at 11:00 a.m. with lunch to follow in the church basement. Arrangements by Koehn Bros. Funeral Home in Lake Andes.

Ronald George Svatos, Sr. was born on October 22, 1948 in Lake Andes, SD to Albert and Rose (Chytka) Svatos. He grew up on the family farm around the Svatos Bay Area. He attended country grade school and graduated in 1966 from Andes Central High School in Lake Andes. He married Peggy Hubbell on March 27, 1970. They had five children together. R.G. owned and operated the Ravinia Grain Elevator from the late 70's to the early 80's. In 1984, he was employed by the city of Lake Andes as a police officer. He married Suesette Lee. He was later the Chief of Police. On February 14, 2006 he married Beverly Scott. They owned and operated the River Hills Motel in Lake Andes. After years of service in law enforcement R.G. was employed by Charles Mix County as Civil Defense Director. R.G.

enjoyed deer and turkey hunting. He loved fishing and boating with his family on the river. He had a green thumb for gardening. Anyone who saw his gardens could tell by the variety of vegetables and fruit trees arranged in neat and tidy rows and he enjoyed sharing his bounty with others. He died on May 6, 2010 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls at the age of 61.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly of Lake Andes, SD; stepson, Mike Scott of Sioux Falls, SD; 5 children: Misty (Harlen) of Lake Andes, SD; Mabelle (Domingo) of Yankton, SD; Rachelle (Adrain) of Sioux Falls, SD; Ronald Jr. (Angie) of Dell Rapids, SD; and Kristina of Sioux Falls, SD; 13 grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter; 2 brothers: Lee (Janie) of Manhattan, KS and Tom (Rita) of Lake Andes, SD; 3 step-sisters; many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends; and special friends, Magi and Peanut.

He was preceded in death by his parents and step-mother, Clara.

Please, no plants, all gift donations were requested by R.G. to be donated to the Ronald Svatos and Mark Megenhausen Organ Donor fund.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
May 7, 2010

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