

Man Sentenced To Life In Giffords Shooting

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, partially blind, her right arm paralyzed and limp, came face to face Thursday with the man who tried to kill her last year, standing beside her husband as he spoke of her struggles to recover from being shot in the head.

"Her life has been forever changed. Plans she had for our family and her career have been immeasurably altered," said astronaut Mark Kelly, both he and his wife staring at the shooter inside a packed courtroom. "Every day is a continuous struggle to do those things she once was so good at."

Jared Lee Loughner, 24, was then ordered to serve seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years in federal prison for the January 2011 shooting rampage that killed six people and wounded 13 others, including Giffords, outside a grocery store in Tucson, Ariz.

Loughner pleaded guilty under an agreement that guarantees he will spend the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole. He avoids a federal death sentence, and local prosecutors said Thursday they would not seek state charges.

One by one, survivors of the attack at a Giffords political event approached the courtroom podium to address Loughner, each turning toward him where he sat stoic and emotionless at a table with his attorneys.

Claims About Flood-Damaged Cars Not True

DETROIT (AP) — In the days since Superstorm Sandy, an alarming prediction has flashed across the Internet: Hundreds of thousands of flood-damaged vehicles will inundate the nation's used-car market, and buyers might not be told which cars have been ruined.

Not true, according to insurance-claims data reviewed by The Associated Press. The actual number of affected vehicles is far smaller, and some of those cars will be repaired and kept by their owners. The dire predictions are being spread by a company that sells vehicle title and repair histories and by the largest group representing American car dealers.

They claim the number of cars marred by Sandy could be larger than when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005 and damaged more than 600,000 vehicles. But an AP analysis of claims data supplied by major insurance companies shows the total number of damaged cars is a fraction of that.

The companies — State Farm, Progressive, New Jersey Manufacturers and Nationwide — have received about 31,000 car-damage claims.

"It's not anything near what we're talking about in the Katrina situation," said James Appleton, president of the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers, a statewide association of more than 500 dealers.

GOP-Leaning Outside Groups Ponder Future

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican-leaning independent groups were supposed to be a key to victory for Mitt Romney. But they ended up being among the big losers of the presidential race, spending an eye-popping \$380 million on ads to oust President Barack Obama only to come up woefully short.

Unleashed by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, which allowed wealthy individuals and corporations to spend freely to influence elections, these super political action committees and other groups played a big role in GOP victories in 2010 — only to fall down badly two years later in their first national electoral test. Republican losses from the top of the ticket on down are forcing the groups' leaders to re-examine their strategy and determine how best to spend their donors' money going forward.

Among those feeling the sting of defeat: —American Crossroads and its nonprofit arm, Crossroads GPS. Together, the two groups spent \$180 million on ads to oust Obama.

The Crossroads organization, cofounded by former President George W. Bush's longtime political counselor Karl Rove, also spent \$76 million on ads to help Republicans running in competitive Senate seats, but the GOP lost five of seven of those races. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce spent \$33 million on ads for losing Republican Senate candidates.

Villagers Mourn Family Dead In Guatemalan Quake

SAN CRISTOBAL CUCHO, Guatemala (AP) — The 10 members of the Vasquez family were found together under the rubble of the rock quarry that had been their livelihood, some in a desperate final embrace, others clinging to the faintest of dying pulses.

As Guatemalans sought Thursday to pick up the pieces after a 7.4-magnitude quake, one family's tragic story came to symbolize the horror of a disaster that killed at least 52 people, and left thousands of others huddling in the cold shadows of cracked adobe buildings, most without electricity or water.

On Thursday, neighbors came to pay their respects. They filed past 10 wooden caskets in the Vasquez family living room, and contemplated the unspeakable future that awaits the family's only surviving son. Justo Vasquez, his wife Ofelia Gomez, six children and two nephews died in the rubble.

Only the oldest son, Ivan, 19, survived. He had stayed in the house when the rest of his family went to the quarry, taking care of some last-minute details to receive his accounting degree — the first in his family to have a professional career. His father had been saving for a party to celebrate his Nov. 23 graduation.

"He died working," said Antonia Lopez, a sister-in-law of Justo Vasquez. "He was fighting for his kids."

Congress: Fiscal Cliff Cuts Would Mean Recession

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Austere "fiscal cliff" tax increases and spending cuts set for the end of the year would send the economy back into recession and cause a spike in the jobless rate to 9.1 percent if lame-duck lawmakers and the White House can't head them off, congressional budget experts said in a dire analysis Thursday.

The tax and spending changes, which Congress will dig into next week, would cut the federal deficit by \$503 billion through next September, said the Congressional Budget Office report. But the adjustments also would cause the economy to shrink by 0.5 percent next year.

The analysis assumes there is a protracted impasse in Washington and the government falls off the "cliff" for the entire year, which most Capitol-watchers now think is unlikely. All sides want to avoid the severe automatic changes, which are a one-two punch of expiring tax cuts and major across-the-board spending cuts to the Pentagon and domestic programs. It is the looming punishment for previous failures of a bitterly divided Congress and White House to deal with the government's spiraling debt or overhaul its unwieldy tax code.

The report, updating an analysis from last May, comes as a newly re-elected President Barack Obama and Congress seek ways to avert or at least ease possible damage from the scheduled changes. All sides are promising cooperation, but many difficult decisions await and the politics of raising tax revenue and cutting federal benefits programs is exceedingly tricky.

The new study estimates that the nation's gross domestic product would grow by 2.2 percent next year if the Bush-era tax rates were extended and would expand by almost 3 percent if Obama's 2 percentage point payroll tax cut and current jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed are extended.

The largest component of the changes — dubbed a "fiscal cliff"

as an indication they should be avoided if possible — comes with the expiration of tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 and extended two years ago after Obama's drubbing in the 2010 midterm elections. Extending the full range of Bush tax cuts would cost the government \$330 billion through the September end of the 2013 budget year.

Republicans want to temporarily renew all of the Bush tax cuts, but Obama wants to hike the top two income tax rates to Clinton-era levels. The top tax rate is now 35 percent; Obama would raise that to 39.6 percent. If the rival sides can't enact a bargain by January, the full menu of tax cuts would expire.

The spending cuts would be imposed as a consequence of the failure of last year's deficit-reduc-

tion "supercommittee" to reach agreement. There are other elements, chiefly a 2 percentage point cut in payroll taxes orchestrated by Obama and unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless that would disappear.

Extending the payroll tax relief and renewing the long-term unemployment benefits would add another \$108 billion to the deficit through September. It's unclear whether lawmakers will seek to avert that in the upcoming deal-making.

Tax cuts set to expire

If Congress and President Barack Obama fail to act before the so-called fiscal cliff in January, the changes could jolt the economy and raise tax bills. The tax changes could cost almost \$3,500 per household.

Change	Billions added to the 2013 federal budget	Percentage change in effective tax rate
2003 cuts for high-income earners expire	\$8.20	0.2%
Affordable Care Act creates new taxes	24.00	0.3
2009 stimulus-related cuts expire	27.20	0.2
Estate tax exemption drops	31.20	0.2
Alternative minimum tax affects more people	40.20	0.4
2001 cuts for high earners expire	44.20	0.5
Short-term tax breaks routinely extended by Congress expire	74.50	0.5
Payroll tax cuts expire	115.20	1.0
Remainder of "Bush-era cuts" expire	171.20	1.6
Total	\$535.90 billion	4.9%

Source: Tax Policy Center
Graphic: Chicago Tribune © 2012 MCT



The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in October 2012:

AALIYAH	BRYCEN	ELIZABETH	KENDRICK	MEMORI
ADRIAN	CARTER	EMMA	KENNADY	MESSIAH
ALEK	CARTYR	GABRIEL	LENDAN	NARIAH
ALEXIS	CHESNEY	GAGE	LEONDIS	OLIVER
AMELIA	CHEYANNE	HAYDEN	LILLY	ROSTON
ANGEL	CHLOE	KAEL	LOGAN	SHAUN
ANNASTIN	COOPER	KAITLYN	LUCAS	SOPHIA
AUBREY	COOPER	KAMI	LUNA	SOTA
BREANNA	DESMOND	KATLYN	MAESA	SYDNEY
BROOKLYNN	DYLAN	KEILANI	MANUS	TATEWIN
BRYANT	EASTON	KEIRSTIN	MAXWELL	ZAYD

Avera
Sacred Heart Hospital

www.AveraSacredHeart.com

Iran Bans 'Luxury' Imports In Effort To Boost Sanctions-Hit Economy

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's sanctions-fighting "resistance economy" suddenly got a lot leaner, less flashy and perhaps a bit more uncomfortable.

The Islamic Republic announced Thursday a ban on imports of 75 so-called luxury products — ranging from high-end cars to coffee to toilet paper — part of efforts to promote domestic products and stem the outflow of dollars and other foreign currency as Western economic pressures increasingly choke off Iran's commerce and critical oil revenue.

HyVee
EMPLOYEE OWNED

Holiday Show

Saturday, Nov. 10 • 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
(located at South end of store)

Make your holiday hosting easy on yourself with our delicious and beautifully presented party platters. From main courses, side dishes, dessert to holiday decor, we can help you make it an affair to remember!

KYNT
AM 1450

MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS
MONDAY-FRIDAY

Friday, November 9
7:40 am SD Magazine
(Bernie Hunhoff)
8:15 am Dakota Dance
(Linda Haar)