

## Lynch Nominated For Attorney General

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a second trail-blazing pick for the nation's top law enforcement officer, President Barack Obama intends to nominate a federal prosecutor in New York to become the next attorney general and the first black woman to lead the Justice Department.

Obama's spokesman said Friday that he will announce his selection of Loretta Lynch from the White House on Saturday. If confirmed by the Senate, she would replace Eric Holder, who announced his resignation in September after serving as the nation's first black attorney general.

Lynch, 55, is the U.S. attorney for Eastern New York, which covers Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Long Island, a position she also held under President Bill Clinton.

"Ms. Lynch is a strong, independent prosecutor who has twice led one of the most important U.S. attorney's offices in the country," Obama press secretary Josh Earnest said in a statement.

Obama had planned to wait until after a trip to Asia next week to announce the choice but then moved up the decision after news organizations began reporting that she was his choice.

## Man Charged With Murdering A Family

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — A business associate of a Southern California man who vanished with his wife and two young sons in 2010 was charged with four counts of murder, and authorities said Friday they believe the family was bludgeoned to death before their bodies were buried in the desert.

Charles "Chase" Merritt, 57, of Homeland made a brief court appearance on four counts of murder in the deaths of Joseph McStay, 40, his wife, Summer, 43, and their sons, 4-year-old Gianni and 3-year-old Joseph.

Merritt did not enter a plea and was due back in court next week. He has previous felony convictions for grand theft and burglary in Los Angeles County, court records show.

His attorney, Robert Ponce, did not immediately return a call or email.

Investigators believe the family members were killed in their home in the San Diego County community of Fallbrook on Feb. 4, 2010, and were victims of blunt-force trauma, said San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahon.

## Saudi Council Recommends Ban Lift

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — It's only for women over 30, who must be off the road by 8 p.m. and cannot wear makeup behind the wheel. But it's still a startling shift.

The Saudi king's advisory council has recommended that the government lift its ban on female drivers, a member of the council told The Associated Press Friday.

The Shura Council's recommendations are not obligatory on the government, but simply making the recommendation was a major step after years of the kingdom staunchly rejecting any review of the ban.

There have been small but increasingly bold protests by women who took to their cars over the past year. The driving ban, which is unique in the world, is imposed because the kingdom's ultraconservative Muslim clerics say "licentiousness" will spread if women drive.

The council member said the Shura Council made the recommendations in a secret, closed session held in the past month. The member spoke on condition of anonymity because the recommendations had not been made public.

## Lost Famed WWII Pilot Honored

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) — A World War II pilot whose lost plane has become the target of a stepped-up U.S. recovery effort in Greenland was honored Friday by the Coast Guard Academy, which commended him for heroism shown during daring rescue missions on the frozen tundra before the one that killed him in 1942.

The pilot, Lt. John Pritchard, was inducted into the Hall of Heroes at the academy in New London, where he graduated in 1938.

"John was a very friendly, caring person," said his sister, 91-year-old Nancy Pritchard Morgan, who received an ovation from cadets in dress blue uniforms at the ceremony. "He loved his family, he loved the Coast Guard, he loved flying, he loved life. His actions on the Greenland ice cap read like his whole life."

Pritchard was trying to save a man left stranded on the tundra by the crash of a B-17 when his own single-engine Grumman Duck plane went down in whiteout conditions, killing a total of three U.S. service members.

Recently discovered evidence of the wreckage, which is now entombed in a glacier, has launched several recovery missions in recent years, including a mission to Greenland this summer by the Joint Personnel POW/MIA Accounting Command. The plane may hold the remains of the Coast Guard's last two MIA service members, Pritchard and his radioman, Petty Officer 1st Class Benjamin Bottoms.

## Obama Authorizes 1,500 Troops To Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama authorized on Friday a broad expansion of the U.S. military mission in Iraq that could boost the total number of American troops there to 3,100 and spread advisory teams and trainers across the country, including into Anbar province where fighting with Islamic State militants has been fierce.

The president's decision to escalate the U.S. effort in Iraq comes just three days after midterm elections that were bruising for Democrats and amid persistent arguments that more U.S. troops are needed to bolster the struggling Iraqi forces. In particular, the Iraqi government, members of Congress and others have called for troops in Anbar in western Iraq, where extremists have been slaughtering men, women and children.

Obama authorized the Pentagon to send up to 1,500 more troops to Iraq, adding to the 1,600 previously allowed. There are currently about 1,400 there.

The plans are all contingent on Congress approving his nearly \$5.6 billion request to fund the expanded mission. The troops will not be able to deploy until legislation passes and the president signs it.

Congress hopes to complete the defense policy bill in the post-election, pre-holiday session and will consider the Iraq funding along with the administration's request for billions more for military operations overseas. Lawmakers are still pressing the White House for additional details on how the money would be spent.

## Judge OKs Detroit's Bankruptcy Plan

DETROIT (AP) — A judge cleared Detroit to emerge from bankruptcy Friday, approving a hard-fought turnaround plan with a fervent plea to the people of this one-time industrial powerhouse to "move past your anger" and help fix the Motor City.

"What happened in Detroit must never happen again," federal Judge Steven Rhodes said in bringing the case to a close a relatively speedy 16 months after Detroit — the cradle of the auto industry — became the biggest city in U.S. history to file for bankruptcy.

The plan calls for cutting the pensions of 12,000 non-public safety retirees by 4.5 percent, erasing \$7 billion of debt and spending \$1.7 billion to demolish thousands of blighted buildings, make the city safer and improve long-neglected basic services.

Rhodes praised decisions that settled the most contentious issues in the case, including a deal to prevent the sale of world-class art at the Detroit Institute of Arts and a consensus that prevented pension cuts from getting even worse. He said the pension deal "borders on the miraculous," though he acknowledged the cuts could still cause severe misfortune for many who have been trying to get by on less than \$20,000 a year.

# Immigration Dispute Erupts

BY NEDRA PICKLER  
AND ERICA WERNER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A White House lunch aiming for cooperation boiled into a fresh dispute with newly empowered Republicans over immigration reform Friday, with GOP leaders warning President Barack Obama to his face not to take unilateral action. The president stood unflinchingly by his plan to act.

Republicans attending the postelection lunch at Obama's invitation said they asked him for more time to work on legislation, but the president said his patience was running out. He underscored his intent to act on his own by the end of the year if they don't approve legislation to ease deportations before then and send it to him to sign.

The Republicans' approach, three days after they resoundingly won control of the Senate in midterm elections, "seemed to fall on deaf ears," Sen. John Cornyn of Texas said in a telephone interview. "The president instead of being contrite or saying in effect to America, 'I hear you,' as a result of the referendum on his policies that drove this last election, he seems unmoved and even defiant."

"I don't know why he would want to sabotage his last two years as president by doing something this provocative," said Cornyn. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell earlier this week said the president's stance was "like waving a red flag in front of a bull."

Obama press secretary Josh Earnest said there was no reason that executive action on immigration should kill opportunities for the president and Republicans to find common ground.

"I could stand up here and say Republicans to vote once again for the 50th time to repeal the Affordable Care Act, that that's playing with



Supporters of immigration reform protest outside the White House Friday in Washington, D.C.

fire or waving a red flag in front of a bull. I'm not really sure what that means," Earnest said.

The White House said that Obama laid out three areas where he and Congress could work together before the end of the year — emergency funding to combat the Ebola outbreak, approval of a federal budget and quick action on spending to fight the Islamic State militant group.

House Speaker John Boehner's office said he told Obama he was ready to work with the president on a new authorization for military force against the IS group if the president worked to build bipartisan support. The White House announced soon after lunch ended that the U.S. was sending as many as 1,500 more troops to Iraq to serve as advisers, trainers and security personnel as part of the mission. Obama is also asking Congress for more than \$5 billion to help fund the fight.

Friday's two-hour meeting was tense at times, according to a senior House Republican aide. Senate

Democratic leader Harry Reid, about to lose his grip on the upper chamber, barely said a word, the aide said. The aide was not authorized to describe the back-and-forth publicly by name and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Publicly Obama's tone was more upbeat as he opened the gathering. He pledged to work on ending long-running partisan gridlock and to be open to Republican ideas. The president said the lunch was a chance to "explore where we can make progress" after Americans showed in the midterm elections that they wanted to see more accomplished in Washington.

"They'd like to see more cooperation," Obama said, sitting at the middle of 13 lawmakers in the Old Family Dining Room set with the Truman china. "And I think all of us have the responsibility, me in particular, to try to make that happen."

Reporters were ushered out before any lawmaker spoke or the lunch of sea bass was served. Republican descriptions of the meeting

were provided after they returned to Capitol Hill.

For the record, Boehner's office said he suggested that the president should back a Republican jobs bill as a starting place for bipartisan action.

Obama said at the start he was interested in "hearing and sharing ideas" for compromise on measures to boost the economy, then mentioned his personal priorities of college affordability and investment in road and building projects. He also touted improved monthly job growth numbers out Friday as evidence his economic policies are working, saying, "We're doing something right here."

Briefings on Ebola and the Islamic State from Pentagon officials dominated much of the meeting, and the immigration debate was said to have lasted about half an hour. Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said Republicans told Obama that any executive order, particularly on immigration but any issue, would be a "toxic decision."

## US Posts 9th Straight Month Of Solid Hiring, But Many Americans Don't Feel Benefits

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Healthy job growth in the United States has reached a level of consistency unseen in nearly two decades.

In the same week that voters signaled discontent with the U.S. economy, the government issued a report that showed employers have added at least 200,000 jobs for nine straight months — the longest such stretch since 1995.

Combine it with an unemployment rate that has slid to 5.8 percent — the lowest since 2008 — and the picture that emerged Friday was of a job market gaining increasing distance from the recession that officially ended nearly 5 1/2 years ago.

The job gain for October was a solid 214,000, on top of a combined 31,000 more in August and September than the government had previously estimated.

The steady improvement contrasts with the struggles of economies overseas, a key reason the Federal Reserve is withdrawing its stimulus just as other central banks ramp up theirs. This week, for example, the European Central Bank opened the door wider for further help for a eurozone economy that may be on the brink of another recession.

The U.S. job market is hardly without its own weaknesses. Americans' average hourly pay rose only slightly last month, a negative note in an otherwise solid report. Stagnant wages have been a chronic weakness in the job market since the recession ended.

Voters listed the economy as their top concern in Tuesday's elections, and the sluggish pace of pay growth was a likely factor. Average hourly pay rose 3 cents in October to \$24.57. That's just 2 percent above the average wage 12 months earlier and barely ahead of a 1.7 percent inflation rate.

Some economists say, though, that they're seeing early signs of rising pay, especially as more jobs emerge in higher-paying sectors. If so, more workers could begin to enjoy thicker

paychecks in coming months. A broad measure of pay and fringe benefits, which captures bonus pay that the jobs report's gauges miss, has risen in the past six months at its fastest pace since 2008.

"We think that there is plenty of evidence to suggest that ... wage growth is accelerating," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics.

The U.S. unemployment rate fell in October even as more Americans began looking for work. That suggests that more out-of-work people were encouraged by the

brightening jobs picture. "This was a great month for the American labor market," said James Marple, an economist at TD Bank. "The U.S. job engine is not just chugging along, it is gaining speed."

Pay gains in some industries are outpacing the national average. For workers in the hotel, restaurant and entertainment industry, hourly pay has risen 3.5 percent in the past year. Retail pay has risen 2.6 percent. So has construction pay.

And hiring has increased in middle- and higher-paying industries, a change from

earlier in the recovery when job creation. Job gains have picked up in construction, manufacturing, professional and business services, and government.

Sophia Koropecykj, an economist at Moody's Analytics, calculates that 34 percent of jobs gained in the July-September quarter were in mid-paying industries, up from just 21 percent a year ago. Higher-paying jobs made up 27 percent, up from 16 percent. Lower-paying jobs constituted 39 percent, down from 66 percent a year ago.

N O M I N A T E T H E 2 0 1 4

# Yankton Citizen Of The Year

NOMINATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Please Mail Your Nominations To:

Citizen Of The Year, Yankton Press & Dakotan

319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078

or visit [www.yankton.net/coy](http://www.yankton.net/coy)

My nomination for the 2014 Yankton Citizen of the Year is:

This person should be the Citizen of the Year because:

MY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
MY ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
MY PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_