

### Knox Leaves Prison, Due To Leave Italy

PERUGIA, Italy (AP) — Witnesses say Amanda Knox has left prison after her 2009 conviction for killing her British roommate was thrown out on appeal. Italian lawmaker Rocco Girlanda, who has spearheaded Knox's case and is close to the American, says she and her family will leave Italy on Tuesday aboard a commercial flight from Rome. A convoy of cars was seen leaving Perugia's Campagne prison about 90 minutes after the verdict was handed down, and witnesses reported seeing Knox in one of the cars.

### Dead Scientist Wins Nobel For Medical Work

NEW YORK (AP) — Ralph Steinman, a pioneer in understanding how cells fight disease, tried to help his own immune system thwart his pancreatic cancer. Steinman survived until Friday. Three days later, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine. The Nobel committee, unaware of his death, announced the award Monday in Stockholm. Steinman's employer, Rockefeller University in New York, learned of his death after the Nobel announcement. Steinman's wife, Claudia, said the family had planned to disclose his death Monday — only to discover an email to his cellphone from the Nobel committee.

### Obama Waits For GOP Candidate To Emerge

WASHINGTON (AP) — Maybe even more than the Republicans, President Barack Obama is looking forward to the GOP picking a candidate to challenge him. For now and months to come, Obama is an incumbent with no specific rival, a campaigner against various forces but not one in particular. He is running against a staggering economy. And Congress. And himself — that history-making version of Obama that many voters remember from 2008. The longer it takes for Republicans to rally around a nominee, the more the election remains a referendum on Obama and jobs. That's not what the White House and his campaign eagerly want: a clear choice between the president and another candidate who holds starkly different views about how to improve the economy.

### Syria: Activists Say Regime Detains Thousands

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian troops going house to house have detained more than 3,000 people in the past three days in the rebellious town of Rastan, which saw some of the worst fighting of the 6-month-old uprising recently, activists said Monday. Over the past week, the military fought hundreds of army defectors who sided with anti-regime protesters in Rastan. The fighting demonstrated the increasingly militarized nature of the uprising and heightened fears that Syria may be sliding toward civil war. The activist group Local Coordination Committees said fighting in the town has now stopped after the military operation that left dozens dead. The group and a Rastan-based activist confirmed about 3,000 in the town of 70,000 had been detained. The activist told The Associated Press by telephone that the detainees are being held at a cement factory, as well as some schools and the Sports Club, a massive, four-story compound.

### ESPN Pulls Intro After Williams' Comments

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) — ESPN pulled Hank Williams Jr.'s classic intro song from its broadcast of Monday night's NFL game after the country singer famous for the line "Are you ready for some football?" used an analogy to Adolf Hitler in discussing President Barack Obama. In an interview Monday morning on Fox News' "Fox & Friends," Williams, unprompted, said of Obama's outing on the links with House Speaker John Boehner: "It'd be like Hitler playing golf with (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu." Asked to clarify, Williams said, "They're the enemy," adding that by "they" he meant Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. Anchor Gretchen Carlson later said to him, "You used the name of one of the most hated people in all of the world to describe, I think, the president." Williams replied, "Well, that is true. But I'm telling you like it is."

# Anti-Wall St. Protests Spread

BY CHRIS HAWLEY  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Protests against Wall Street spread across the country Monday as demonstrators marched on Federal Reserve banks and camped out in parks from Los Angeles to Portland, Maine, in a show of anger over the wobbly economy and what they see as corporate greed. In Manhattan, hundreds of protesters dressed as corporate zombies in white face paint lurched past the New York Stock Exchange clutching fistfuls of fake money. In Chicago, demonstrators pounded drums in the city's financial district. Others pitched tents or waved protest signs at passing cars in Boston, St. Louis and Kansas City, Mo. The arrests of 700 protesters on the Brooklyn Bridge over the weekend galvanized a slice of discontented America, from college students worried about their job prospects to middle-age workers who have been recently laid off. Some protesters likened themselves to the tea party movement — but with a liberal bent — or to the Arab Spring demonstrators who brought down their rulers in the Middle East. "I've felt this way for a long time. I've really just kind of been waiting for a movement to come along that I thought would last and have some resonance within the community," said Steven

Harris, a laid-off truck driver in Kansas City. Harris and about 20 other people were camped out in a park across the street from the Kansas City Federal Reserve building, their site strewn with sleeping bags, clothes and handmade signs. Some passing drivers honked in support. The Occupy Wall Street protests started on Sept. 17 with a few dozen demonstrators who tried to pitch tents in front of the New York Stock Exchange. Since then, hundreds have set up camp in a park nearby and have become increasingly organized, lining up medical aid and legal help and printing their own newspaper, the Occupied Wall Street Journal. About 100 demonstrators were arrested on Sept. 24 and some were pepper-sprayed. On Saturday police arrested 700 on charges of disorderly conduct and blocking a public street as they tried to march over the Brooklyn Bridge. Police said they took five more protesters into custody on Monday, though it was unclear whether they had been charged with any crime. Wiljago Cook, of Oakland, Calif., who joined the New York protest on the first day, said she was shocked by the arrests. "Exposing police brutality wasn't even really on my agenda, but my eyes have been opened," she said. She vowed to stay in New York "as long as it seems useful." City bus drivers sued the New York Police De-

partment on Monday for commandeering their buses and making them drive to the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday to pick up detained protesters. "We're down with these protesters. We support the notion that rich folk are not paying their fair share," said Transport Workers Union President John Samuelson. "Our bus operators are not going to be pressed into service to arrest protesters anywhere." The city's Law Department said the NYPD's actions were proper. On Monday, the zombies stayed on the sidewalks as they wound through Manhattan's financial district chanting, "How to fix the deficit: End the war, tax the rich!" They lurched along with their arms in front of them. Some yelled, "I smell money!" Reaction was mixed from passers-by. Roland Klingman, who works in the financial industry and was wearing a suit as he walked through a raucous crowd of protesters, said he could sympathize with the anti-Wall Street message. "I don't think it's directed personally at everyone who works down here," Klingman said. "If they believe everyone down here contributes to policy decisions, it's a serious misunderstanding." Another man in a suit yelled at the protesters, "Go back to work!" He declined to be interviewed.

# Chemical Mixing Sparks Texas Plant Fire

BY JAMIE STENGLE  
Associated Press

WAXAHACHIE, Texas — A fire sparked as workers mixed chemicals at a plant south of Dallas shot massive plumes of black smoke and bright orange flames into the sky Monday, forcing schoolchildren and residents to evacuate or take cover indoors to avoid possible exposure to dangerous gases. Flames engulfed a large complex at a Magnablend Inc. facility in Waxahachie. The fast-moving blaze overwhelmed a sprinkler system and consumed a fire truck, but no injuries were reported from the fire or resulting smoke. Waxahachie Fire Chief David Hudgins said it wasn't immediately clear what chemicals were involved in sparking the fire. About 1,000 residents who had been evacuated were allowed to return to their homes early Monday evening, said Waxahachie Fire Department spokeswoman Amy Hollywood. Waxahachie, 30 miles south of Dallas, has about 25,000 residents. The blaze was 95 percent under control by early Monday evening, Hollywood said. In a statement, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it



LARA SOLT/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT  
The remains of a charred fire truck, bottom left, are sprayed with water after it caught fire during a massive industrial fire at Magnablend, a chemical processing plant, in Waxahachie, Texas, Monday.

has monitored air quality both on the ground and through a specially equipped airplane that made several passes through the smoke plume caused by the blaze and officials have not found elevated levels of toxic chemicals. The EPA said it "will continue to conduct ground level air monitoring." Magnablend spokesman Donald Golden told WFAA-TV that 25 to 30

employees who were inside the plant's 100,000-square-foot warehouse evacuated safely when the fire broke out before 11 a.m. Golden said the company manufactures about 200 products, including some that are hazardous when ignited. Authorities had ordered residents closest to the plant to evacuate, while others were advised to

stay inside with doors and windows shut. Jessenia Colin, an assistant general manager at a nearby Hampton Inn and Suites, said hotel staff members turned off air vents so smoke and chemicals didn't enter the rooms. As they waited for news and watched the smoke billow, staff covered their mouths to protect against the heavy chemical smell that hung in the air. "It smells like a whole bunch of chemicals, like wrappers burning," Colin said. "It's making everyone's heads hurt." Stephanie Otto said she was preparing her new restaurant for a Tuesday opening about a quarter-mile from the plant when she heard sirens and walked outside to see a "huge plume." She said she could hear what sounded like gun shots for about 15 minutes, and there was a strong smell of ammonia. "It was huge," Otto said. "It looked like an atomic bomb went off." Ellis County emergency management officials had issued a mandatory evacuation order for an apartment complex, an elementary school and a junior college. Sheriff's officials had urged residents not to drive toward the area of the fire.



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