

## Congress Approves Free Trade With S. Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress has approved a free trade agreement with South Korea, the world's 13th largest economy and the U.S.' seventh largest trading partner.

The House and Senate voted in quick succession Wednesday to approve the agreement. The two chambers also were voting to approve free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama.

The U.S. and South Korea had nearly \$80 billion in trade last year, with South Korea commanding a \$10 billion surplus. The Obama administration predicts that by lowering tariffs on U.S. goods sold in South Korea the agreement will nearly erase that trade gap and support 70,000 American jobs.

The agreement was signed during the last Bush presidency, but President Barack Obama did not submit it to Congress until after renegotiating to get better access for U.S. autos in Korea.

## U.S. Foreclosure Activity Rose In Third Quarter

RealtyTrac Inc. says the number of U.S. homes receiving a first-time default notice jumped 14 percent in the third quarter versus the previous three months.

The increase is the latest sign that banks are moving more aggressively against borrowers who have fallen behind on mortgage payments. Foreclosure activity began slowing a year ago after problems surfaced with the way many lenders were handling foreclosure paperwork.

In the third quarter, it took an average of 11.2 months for a home to go from receiving an initial default notice to being foreclosed by a lender.

## Second Woman Dies After NYC Chopper Crash

NEW YORK (AP) — A woman who was hospitalized after a helicopter crashed into New York City's East River has become the second person to die from the accident.

A hospital spokeswoman on Wednesday confirmed the death of 43-year-old Helen Tamaki, of New Zealand. Tamaki had been in critical condition after the crash.

Bellevue Hospital Center spokeswoman Francis Arscott says Tamaki died Tuesday night from injuries suffered in the crash.

The cause of death will be determined by the city's medical examiner.

The helicopter was carrying four passengers and a pilot when it crashed shortly after takeoff Oct. 4, killing a woman celebrating her 40th birthday. Besides Tamaki, one other passenger was seriously injured. The pilot and the fourth passenger were unharmed.

## Jury Awards \$104M In Vegas Hepatitis Case

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Nevada jury has found drug companies liable for \$104 million in damages in a third product liability lawsuit stemming from a hepatitis C outbreak four years ago at Las Vegas outpatient colonoscopy clinics.

A Clark County District Court civil jury on Wednesday awarded \$90 million to 71-year-old Michael Washington and his wife, Josephine Washington, in their lawsuit against Teva Parenteral Medicines Inc. and Baxter Healthcare Corp. The same jury on Monday awarded \$14 million in compensatory damages to the couple.

Officials with Israel-based Teva and Deerfield, Ill.-based Baxter didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

Teva and Baxter are appealing a \$500 million jury awarded last year to plaintiffs in a similar case.

# Official: No Confirmation Gadhafi Son Caught

BY KIM GAMEL AND  
RAMI AL-SHAHEIBI  
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — A Libyan spokesman said Wednesday that revolutionary forces have captured some fighters close to one of Moammar Gadhafi's sons in the fugitive leader's hometown but that he has no information that the son himself has been seized. Jalal el-Gallal, a spokesman for the National Transitional Council in the eastern city of Benghazi, said his office has called commanders in the besieged city of Sirte and "so far as we are concerned there is no confirmation that Mutassim Gadhafi has been captured."

He was commenting on reports that the son had been seized, which prompted heavy celebratory gunfire in Tripoli and the eastern city of Benghazi.

Anti-Gadhafi fighters have been closing in on armed supporters of the fugitive leader in Sirte, the most important of two major cities yet to be cleared of loyalists

more than two months after the fall of Tripoli. Libyan officials have said they believe Mutassim Gadhafi and other high-level former regime figures are hiding in Sirte and that is the reason for the fierce resistance.

Mutassim was Libya's national security adviser and had a strong role in the military and security forces under his father's regime.

Libya's de facto leader, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, said earlier Wednesday he expected to declare total victory in less than a week, which would pave the way for a new interim government to be named to guide the oil-rich North African nation to elections within eight months.

Gadhafi is still on the run and his supporters also hold the desert enclave of Bani Walid. But the transitional leadership says Sirte's capture will give them full control of the country's ports and harbors, allowing them to move forward with efforts to restore normalcy and establish a democracy.

The International Committee of

the Red Cross warned that thousands of civilians were still trapped inside Sirte without sufficient food, clean water and other basic necessities. Red Cross staff evacuated 25 war-wounded and other patients, including a newborn baby in its incubator, from the main Ibn Sina hospital in the coastal city on Monday and Tuesday. Few doctors or nurses remained, the Red Cross said in a statement.

The hospital has been partly destroyed and is no longer functional, he added.

Most families have fled the fighting, but a few remain, either because they are fighting revolutionary forces or had no choice.

NTC officials promised to arrange to have his father evacuated, giving Ali a chance to leave with the rest of his family. He said he would make a decision in coming days.

He called on all parties to take all possible precautions to spare civilians.

More than 20,000 people, among them many women, children and elderly people, have so

far left their homes in Sirte. In addition, dozens of people have been arrested in recent days.

Amnesty International, meanwhile, called on Libyan authorities to immediately halt random detentions and prisoner abuse as it released a report alleging that captured soldiers and suspected loyalists from Gadhafi's regime are being beaten and sometimes tortured in custody.

The human rights advocacy group visited 11 detention facilities in and around Tripoli and the nearby city of Zawiyah between Aug. 18, shortly before the Libyan capital fell to revolutionary forces, and Sept. 21. The report was based on interviews with about 300 prisoners.

Researchers found a wooden stick, rope and a rubber hose "of the kind that could be used to beat detainees, including on the soles of their feet." They also heard the sound of whipping and screams from a cell in one detention center, and guards admitted they beat detainees to extract confessions, the report said.

## Bill

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jobs package get a re-vote.

Obama, in his first, combative appearance since Republicans and a two Democrats filibustered his jobs plan to death, promised to keep the pressure on Congress.

"Now a lot of folks in Washington and the media will look at last night's vote and say, 'Well, that's it. Let's move on to the next fight.' But I've got news for them: Not this time. Not with so many Americans out of work," he said at a White House event Wednesday recognizing Latino contributions to American history. "Not with so many folks in

your communities hurting. We will not take no for an answer."

The White House is using the jobs issue as a political sword as the 2012 campaign heats up. But it will take a more bipartisan approach to actually deliver results sought by an angry public hit with 9.1 percent unemployment.

Leaders of the GOP-controlled House have signaled they support tax cuts for small businesses and changes to jobless insurance to allow states to use unemployment funds for on-the-job training. And they've indicated they'll be willing to accept an extension of cuts to the Social Security payroll tax.

But stimulus-style spending is a nonstarter with the tea party-infused House and is a longshot in the Senate as well.

Senate Democrats started sort-

ing through the options at a closed-door meeting Wednesday, but it's just the start of a difficult process of trying to actually advance legislation rather than air political differences.

One option, backed by No. 3 Senate Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York, is to marry a tax holiday for corporations to repatriate overseas profits back to the U.S. with an Obama-backed proposal to establish a national infrastructure bank. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., is pressing to extend payroll tax cuts. And many Democrats back infrastructure initiatives like road and bridge construction and money to rebuild schools.

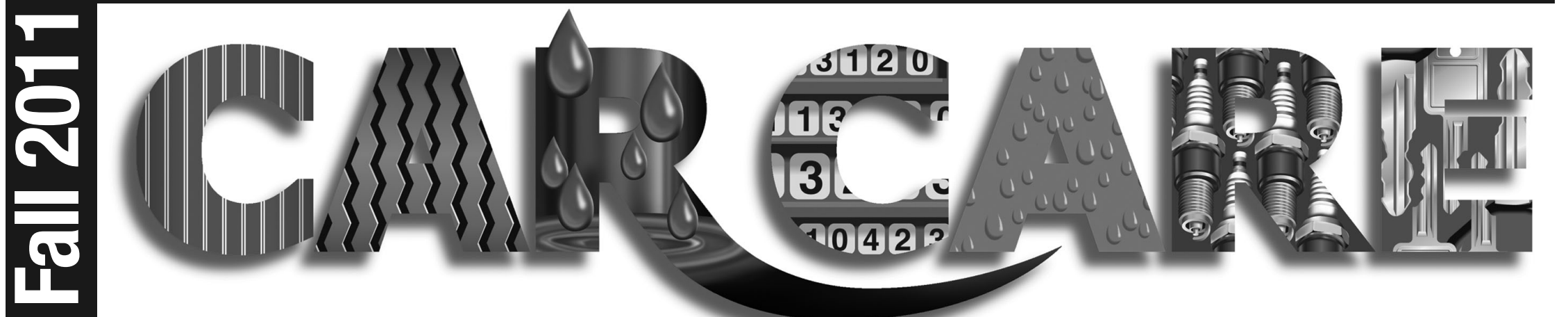
Obama's plan died in the Senate even though he had been campaigning for it across the country for weeks. Republicans were opposed to its stimulus-style spending and its tax surcharge for the

very wealthy.

As lawmakers and the White House try to find the way ahead, a congressional "supercommittee" is working to come up with \$1.2 trillion or more in deficit savings, some of which both Democrats and Republicans may want to claim for jobs initiatives.

"There are government actions that we can take. We may take some of these on a bipartisan basis before the end of the year," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said. "Some of them are probably going to be considered by the Joint Select Committee."

The supercommittee, however, is struggling to come up with a package of spending cuts. It may not meet its goal, much less have excess savings to "pay for" jobs initiatives.



# Perform Routine Maintenance To Protect Your Vehicle Investment And Add Years To Its Life

(MS) -- Most people today are interested in saving money. With an economy that hasn't fully rebounded and economic uncertainty still looming, the search is on for ways to stretch money further. Unfortunately, some motorists think that skimping on routine vehicle maintenance is an easy way to save a few dollars. While this might work in the short term, failure to properly maintain a vehicle will almost certainly come back to haunt you down the road. The experts at AMSOIL INC., the industry leader in synthetic motor oil, urge drivers to protect their vehicle investments by practicing continued maintenance of their cars and trucks for reliable performance and retained value. Many are aware of the old adage, "You have to spend money to make money." When it comes to vehicle maintenance, drivers should spend money to save money, since failing to maintain a vehicle can cause its resale value to plummet. Routine maintenance such as tire rotation and oil changes can prevent costly repairs to the engine and transmission, among other things. A car is a long-term investment and the better drivers treat their vehicles, the better those vehicles will treat them

in return.

- Don't skimp on necessities. It's best to replace a timing belt, spark plugs and tires on schedule, rather than risk inconvenient vehicle breakdowns and the need for costly repairs in the near future. Staying on top of monitoring worn auto parts both big and small will result in less wear and tear, helping the vehicle retain its resale value.
- Follow guidelines for oil changes. Motor oil is the lifeblood of your vehicle's engine, and it's best to adhere to oil change schedules set by either the vehicle or lubricant manufacturer. This will ensure the vehicle is adequately lubricated and running as efficiently as possible. When selecting motor oil consider synthetic lubricants, which greatly enhance

a vehicle's performance. The uniform molecular structure of synthetic oil helps engines operate more efficiently by reducing friction and wear, while improving performance in extreme temperatures. Premium synthetic motor oils also have the ability to improve fuel economy and are better for the environment because they require fewer changes.

- When cold weather arrives have antifreeze performance checked. Your mechanic should be happy to check antifreeze levels for free. When a hydrometer shows it can no longer withstand temperatures of 30 degrees or lower, the antifreeze should be replaced. This typically occurs every two years. It's also a good idea to occasionally turn on the air conditioner in the

car during the winter, just to ensure it stays lubricated.

- Keep tires properly inflated. Fluctuations in temperature can mean fluctuations in the inflation level of tires as well. Tires that are not properly inflated can lead to poor fuel efficiency and premature wear. It's a good idea to get in the habit of checking the PSI level at least once a month.
- Use well-tested products. There are shelves and shelves of products at auto parts stores and big box retailers. It pays to do your research into the products professionals recommend. Since the early 1970s, AMSOIL has been an industry leader in synthetic motor oil and garners the testimonials of top auto racers, automotive enthusiasts and regular drivers worldwide. More

information is available at [www.amsoil.com](http://www.amsoil.com).

- Set up a maintenance schedule and document maintenance. Whenever you do routine vehicle maintenance or have significant work done, keep good records. Keeping

track of maintenance can be useful to show how well you cared for the car and increase its resale value when it comes that time.

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