

## NYC Protesters Suspicious Of 'Park Cleanup'

NEW YORK (AP) — The owner of the private park where Wall Street protesters are camped out gave them notice Thursday that after it power-washes the space it will begin enforcing regulations, which prohibit everything from lying down on benches to storing personal property on the ground.

The protesters' response was to plan a demonstration for an hour before they are supposed to evacuate Zuccotti Park while it is cleaned with power washers Friday morning. They believe the effort is an attempt to end the protest, which triggered a movement against unequal distribution of wealth that has spread across the globe.

Protest spokesman Patrick Bruner sent an email to supporters Thursday asking them to join the protesters at 6 a.m. Friday to "defend the occupation from eviction."

The owner, Brookfield Properties, earlier handed out a notice to protesters saying they would be allowed back in the park after the cleanup if they abide by park regulations.

The notice lists regulations including no tents, no tarps or sleeping bags on the ground, no lying on benches and no storage of personal property on the ground. All those practices have been common at the park, where protesters have lived, slept and eaten for nearly a month.

## Wife Claimed Murder Suspect Hubby Unstable

SEAL BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The ex-wife of the man suspected of killing eight people in a shooting rampage at a hair salon claimed in court papers filed this year that he was mentally unstable and had threatened to kill himself or someone else at least once.

Michelle Fournier Dekraai made the allegations in May in a filing related to her long-running, bitter custody battle with Scott Dekraai over their 7-year-old son.

There was no sign that she had filed a restraining order, but a relative of Scott Dekraai said Michelle told her that he had walked into the Meritage Salon as recently as two months ago and threatened to kill Michelle and her co-workers.

Police say Scott Dekraai opened fire Wednesday afternoon in the salon, where his ex-wife worked, and was arrested soon after. On Tuesday he had been in court for a hearing related to the custody dispute.

Police have not released information about the victims and it's unclear if Dekraai's ex-wife is among them, but witnesses say she was at the salon when the gunman barged in and began shooting.

## 2007 Killer Faces Possible Death Sentence

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — A man was convicted Thursday of murdering a woman and her two daughters in a gruesome 2007 home invasion in which family members were tied up, molested, doused in gas and left to die in a fire. He now faces a possible death sentence.

Joshua Komisarjevsky, whose accomplice is already on Connecticut's death row, stood and faced jurors as they declared him guilty of all 17 charges he faced, including capital felony killing, kidnapping and sexual assault. After the verdict was read he sat back in his chair, rocked slightly back and forth and glanced briefly at the jury. He yawned as he was led out of the courtroom.

The only survivor of the attack, Dr. William Petit, bit his lip and closed his eyes as the verdict was read.

"I thought from the beginning that he was a lying sociopathic personality and probably at this moment he doesn't think he is guilty of anything," he told reporters outside the courthouse.

The New Haven Superior Court jury deliberated for about eight hours over two days before delivering a verdict and will decide later whether Komisarjevsky, 31, should be executed or sentenced to life in prison. The penalty phase will conclude the second and final trial in a case that unsettled suburb dwellers across the country and bolstered efforts to retain the death penalty in Connecticut.

## Possible Earliest Picasso Studio Found

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers in South Africa have discovered what may have been the world's earliest artist's studio. A 100,000-year-old workshop used to mix and store the reddish pigment ochre has been discovered in Blombos Cave on the rugged southern coast near Cape Town. At the same site, scientists have found some of the earliest sharp stone tools, as well as evidence of fishing.

The latest find is reported in Friday's edition of the journal *Science*. It includes pieces of ochre, grinding bowls, shells for storage and bone and charcoal to mix with the pigment.

Lead researcher Christopher Henshilwood of the University of Bergen, Norway, said the find represents an important benchmark in the evolution of complex human mental processes.

The ochre could have been used for painting, decoration and skin protection, according to the researchers.

The discovery shows that even at that time "humans had the conceptual ability to source, combine and store substances that were then possibly used to enhance their social practices."

## Obama: Iranian Gov. Must Be Accountable

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Thursday that officials at the "highest levels" of the Iranian government must be held accountable for a brazen and bizarre plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States on American soil, insisting leaders of the world will believe the U.S. case without dispute once they absorb the details.

U.S. officials, meanwhile, confirmed the Obama administration has had direct contact with Iran over the allegations. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, met with Iranian officials at Iran's mission to the U.N. on Wednesday — a highly unusual contact for two countries that do not have diplomatic relations.

Obama would not say whether Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, or its president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, knew of the alleged plan. Yet he called it part of a pattern of "dangerous and reckless behavior" by the Iranian government and said people within that government were aware of a murder-for-hire plot.

The U.S. considers it an attempted act of terrorism.

"We believe that even if at the highest levels there was not detailed operational knowledge, there has to be accountability with respect to anybody in the Iranian government engaging in this kind of activity," Obama said in a news conference tied to the state visit of South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

# Southern Drought Hampers Wildlife Reproduction

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — In a 30-mile area of the Texas Panhandle, biologists found 76 white-tailed deer — but zero babies. Not far away, they located only three quail on a stretch of road where they would see 15 in a normal year. In South Texas, a biologist reports a lack of water on some ranches is "killing deer like flies" and says he discovered more than 20 dead adult deer on one ranch.

And this is only the first glimpse at the harm one of the worst droughts in Texas history is causing to the state's wildlife.

The Associated Press obtained preliminary data from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department that comes from statewide wildlife surveys the agency performs annually of deer, pronghorn antelope, quail, turkey and other animals. The data has not yet been compiled into a statewide overview, but so far confirms scientists' suspicions that the drought has hampered wildlife reproduction.

"It's having a major impact on a lot of the critters," said Trey Barron, a regulatory biologist in Amarillo for the parks and wildlife department. "If the drought continues for much longer, we will

start seeing impacts on the adult population."

Deer, antelope and quail historically bounce back after severe weather, but the longer it lasts the more difficult that becomes.

And the Lone Star State no longer has the millions of acres of undisturbed habitat it once did, biologists say. Today, cities, towns, ranches, farms, electrical lines, fences, highways and other human interventions have fragmented the landscape, making it more difficult for animals to recover from a devastating drought.

Take bobwhite quail — a round, 10-inch long game bird. Their numbers are down in nearly every part of the state, except for one stretch of South Texas where Gulf Coast humidity provided enough moisture for them to forage and nest.

But in the northeastern Panhandle and north-central Texas, the quail numbers are at record lows, with only five counted in some areas, compared to 21 usually. In the Hill Country, surveyors found one quail in a 20-mile radius, compared to an average of more than five. And scaled quail in far West Texas — the Trans Pecos region — are down to six compared to an average of more than 16.

"We're seeing a total lack of re-

production by quail," said Robert Perez, the game bird program leader for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Quail are generally resilient, Perez said, and reproduce quickly. The species has recovered from previous droughts, including the historic dry spell that swept through the state in the 1950s and has been the benchmark since then for drought and water issues.

Perez notes, however, that quail no longer have as many wide-open spaces to call home as they did in the mid-20th century. Now, a drought can completely wipe out the bird in some places, such as around Dallas and Houston where the population has been declining for decades.

The drought could be especially devastating for antelope. In the Trans-Pecos area, the animals have been struggling with a parasite that has significantly reduced their reproduction and survival for several years, biologists said. The drought could be a harsh blow to that population.

Barron said antelopes in his northeastern Panhandle region were surveyed in June and July. Of 100 does, researchers are only seeing about 16 fawns — compared to an average of 35 during the past five years. He now fears

for the adult antelope, deer and mule deer.

"Bucks ... use large amounts of energy during the rut — breeding season — and require an adequate food supply in order for them to recover after the rut is over," Barron said in an email. "Some bucks may not recover this year if it remains dry. The does are already in survival mode and that is why we have the poor fawn crops. If the drought continues, some will likely not survive through next summer."

Alan Cain, the agency's white-tailed deer program leader, gathers and analyzes statewide information to get an idea of how the 4 million deer are faring. Even before seeing all the data, he knows reproduction is down, though deer on ranches where the land has been properly managed and there is adequate surface water are doing better.

In some parts of the state, such as the Hill Country, even ash juniper — a drought resistant brush — is dying, so deer are struggling to find food. An email Cain received from a biologist in South Texas says that in some areas "deer are dying left and right," and on ranches where surface water has disappeared the lack of water is "killing deer like flies."

# House Votes To Stop Health Care Law Abortions

BY JIM ABRAMS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday returned to an abortion issue that nearly sank President Barack Obama's health care law last year with legislation that bars an insurance plan regulated under the new law from covering abortion if any of its customers receive federal subsidies.

Providers that offer abortion coverage would have to set up identical plans without abortion coverage to participate in the health insurance exchanges to be set up under the new law.

The legislation, which passed 251-172, is unlikely to be considered by the Democratic-led Senate and faces a veto threat from President Barack Obama. But it gives House Republicans, focused this year on cutting spending and reducing the size of the federal government, a chance to reaffirm their credentials on social conservative issues. Democrats chided Republicans for wasting time better spent on promoting job growth.

Supporters of the bill, including author Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., say they are trying to close loopholes in the health care act that could lead to violations of the longstanding prohibition of the federal funding of abortion.

Opponents warn that millions of middle- and low-income women who receive partial subsidies to buy insurance would be denied

abortion coverage. They said most providers were unlikely to set up two separate plans, one with abortion coverage.

The legislation also strengthens conscience protections for anti-abortion health care providers. Again there is divergence between bill supporters saying they are merely clarifying existing law and opponents saying it will lead to hospitals denying emergency care to pregnant women.

The legislation revives the debate that almost scuttled the health care act. Former Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., leading a rebellion of anti-abortion Democrats, joined Pitts in pushing through an amendment that imposed tight restrictions on abortions in the proposed government-run insurance plan. When the Senate wouldn't go along, Stupak got Obama to sign an executive order reaffirming the Hyde Amendment, a 1976 provision named after the late Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., that bans all federal funds for abortion except in cases of rape, incest and when the life of the mother is at risk.

Pitts argued that the executive order can be rescinded at any time and the new health care act is not bound to follow the Hyde Amendment. As a result, said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., the law, "when phased in fully in 2014 will open up the floodgates of public funding for abortion in a myriad of programs."

But the White House, in issuing its veto threat, said the health care law preserves the ban on federal funding and the legislation "intrudes on women's reproductive freedom and access to health care and unnecessarily restricts the private insurance choices that women and their families have today."

Under the law, federally subsidized health care plans can offer abortion coverage but they have to set up separate accounts to segregate federal funds from funds that can be used for abortion coverage.

Pitts said these are nothing more than "accounting gimmicks" that won't stop taxpayer money from being used to fund abortions.

Democratic opponents were particularly upset about the conscience clause, saying it would lead to pregnant women being denied emergency treatment. "When the Republicans vote for this bill today they will be voting to say women can die on the floor and health care providers don't have to intervene," said Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

"This bill is putting the religious leaders' views right there in the surgery room," said Jon O'Brien, president of Catholics for Choice.

They said it would override the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, which requires that all people have access to emergency services.

# Woman Kills Pregnant Mother To Steal Fetus

BY DINESH RAMDE  
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee woman accused of killing a pregnant mother and slicing out the fetus in hopes of passing the baby off as her own had miscarried twice in the past four years, her boyfriend told investigators in a report released Thursday.

Jose R. Chaidez-Montenegro, 30, told authorities he and his girlfriend had been together for four years and had been trying to have a baby. He said 33-year-old Annette Morales-Rodriguez miscarried twice, once in the early stages of the pregnancy and once after about five months.

Morales-Rodriguez is charged in the deaths last week of the young mother and the baby. She faces a maximum penalty of two life sentences.

Prosecutors say Morales-Rodriguez was desperate to give her boyfriend a son, but after she was unable to conceive she lied and told him she was pregnant. She planned to "find a pregnant woman and take the baby and make it hers," the criminal complaint said.

She is accused of killing 23-year-old Maritza Ramirez-Cruz. Prosecutors say the suspect lured the young mother of three into her car Thursday, took her to the suspect's home, beat her with a baseball bat and cut her full-term fetus from her womb. The mother and baby both died.

Morales-Rodriguez was being held on \$1 million bail. Her public defender did not immediately return a message Thursday.

The boyfriend and Morales-Rodriguez were informed about six months ago that she was pregnant, according to the report re-

leased by the Milwaukee County medical examiner's office. He said he wanted to know the gender and approximate due date but his girlfriend never could seem to find out the information.

However, the suspect told investigators she didn't know she was pregnant. Morales-Rodriguez, who has three children between the ages of 6 and 13, also denied any previous miscarriages, according to the report.

Funerals for Ramirez-Cruz and the baby, who would have been named Yadier Omar, are scheduled for Friday.

The victim's husband, Christian Mercado, has said the killer took away a good wife, a dear friend and a caring mother of three. His sister-in-law translated for Mercado, a Spanish-speaker who brought his family to Wisconsin from Arecibo, Puerto Rico in the last year or so.

"We were hoping to grow old together, raise our kids together, watch them grow up," said Mercado, 28, his sister-in-law translating his Spanish. "Now, the family ... I don't know what to tell you."

**B & E Custom Structures, LLC**  
Licensed & Insured Contractor.  
Locally Owned. Canton, SD.

- Roof Replacement
- Steel & Asphalt Shingles
- Siding
- Gutters & Fascia
- Windows
- Decks & Garages
- Additions
- Re-models

*We are dedicated to providing you with superior workmanship, best in class products and exceptional customer service. We would be happy to give you local references from any of our satisfied customers!*

**Call Us For All Your Storm Damage Repair!**  
**605-351-0303**

**FREE ESTIMATES! Call Bob at 605-351-0303**

WINE TASTING GREAT FOOD LIVE MUSIC SILENT AUCTION SPECIALTY COFFEES

SOLD OUT

simply d'VINE

WINE TASTING EVENT

FOOD & WINE TASTING EVENT

**Avera**  
Sacred Heart Foundation

Benefiting Avera Sacred Heart Cancer Center

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2011**

**7:00 PM – 10:00 P.M.** Doors open at 6:30p.m.

AVERA PROFESSIONAL OFFICE PAVILION & EDUCATION CENTER  
LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF THE AVERA SACRED HEART CAMPUS

Tickets are \$50 per person (non-refundable or replaceable)

Available by calling 668-8310, or online at  
www.averasacredheartfoundation.com.  
Must be 21 to attend.

## Time for Seasonal Flu Shots

Walk-in Flu Shots at Yankton Medical Clinic. No appointment necessary.  
The cost will be \$32.00. We accept Medicare assignment – Medicare patients please bring Medicare numbers. We will also file to private insurance.

### FLU SHOT CLINIC

Available to persons 6 months and older.

**October 17th**  
**8:00AM – 5:00PM**

**YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C.**  
1104 West 8th Street • Yankton, SD 57078  
**605-665-7841 • www.yanktonmedicalclinic.com**