

**Mobster Testifies In Knox Trial In Italy**

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — A mobster has testified in Amanda Knox's third trial in Italy, saying the U.S. student didn't kill her British roommate and that it was his brother who did it.

Luciano Aviello's testimony Friday at an appeals court marks the latest flip-flop by the convicted Mafioso.

Aviello testified previously that his brother killed Meredith Kercher in 2007, but later recanted. Neither the defense nor the prosecution view Aviello's testimony as reliable, but Italy's highest court said it should be revisited at the new appeals trial.

Knox and co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito were convicted in the murder, and then acquitted on appeal in 2011. Knox, who went home a free woman after her acquittal, hasn't returned to Italy for her third trial.

**4 Dead In Northern Ariz. Plane Crash**

PAULDEN, Ariz. (AP) — Four people were killed Friday in the fiery crash of a small plane near the northern Arizona town of Paulden, authorities said.

The twin-engine Cessna 340 was flying from Bullhead City in northwestern Arizona and was apparently headed to the Prescott Airport when it went down about 12:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Gunsite Ranch west of Paulden, according to Yavapai County Sheriff's Department.

Witnesses reported seeing the plane either clip some trees or a radio tower on the Gunsite grounds and then explode into flames when it struck the ground.

Sheriff's officials said the plane's passengers were expected to be at the Gunsite firearms training academy later Friday and it was unclear why the aircraft was flying over the site.

The Cessna 340 can hold six people, but authorities said it appeared the pilot and three passengers died in the crash and there were no survivors.

The identities of the four were being withheld until the names can be confirmed and their relatives notified, Sheriff's spokesman Dwight D'Evelyn said.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board will be investigating the cause of the crash.

**Navy Mulls Redesign Of DC building**

NEW YORK (AP) — The Navy is considering an extensive redesign of the Washington Navy Yard building where 12 workers were gunned down last month.

A contract for repairs to Navy Yard Building 197 directs the contractor to create "a different sense of place" to soften the impact on returning occupants.

The Navy says it hasn't decided whether Naval Sea Systems Command will still be headquartered in the five-story, red brick building damaged by the shootings on Sept. 16.

Bethesda, Md., consultant Rich Harwood helped Newtown, Conn., devise a proposal to demolish the elementary school where 26 people were killed in a shooting last December, and to build a new school nearby.

He says the Navy's decision isn't about a building, but about whether people are ready to move from trauma and despair to healing and hope.

**Ohio School, ACLU Settle Suit**

JACKSON, Ohio (AP) — A middle school in Ohio will be forced to permanently remove a portrait of Jesus from its school grounds and pay nearly \$100,000 after reaching a settlement Friday with two groups, including the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The settlement requires the Jackson City School District in southern Ohio to pay the ACLU and Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation damages and legal fees totaling \$95,000.

The two sides had a tentative agreement months ago that bogged down in more legal filings after the two groups said the school district continued to keep the Jesus portrait, and displayed it on the school lawn during a prayer meeting. Court filings show the portrait was also visible to those entering an art-storage area.

"All of this was unnecessary," said James Hardiman, legal director for ACLU of Ohio. "The law is pretty clear ... the display of this particular kind of religious artifact (in a public school) is unconstitutional."

He said U.S. District Judge Algenon Marbley in Columbus accepted the settlement Friday.

Superintendent Phil Howard said in a statement that the district's attorneys believed settling was the "best case scenario" at this point because legal fees were "mounting by the day."

He said the district's insurance will pay the nearly \$95,000 and taxpayers will not be liable for the damages and legal fees.

**Quick End To Shutdown Remote**

BY DAVID ESPO  
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Prospects for a swift end to the 4-day-old partial government shutdown all but vanished Friday as lawmakers squabbled into the weekend and increasingly shifted their focus to a mid-month deadline for averting a threatened first-ever default.

"This isn't some damn game," said House Speaker John Boehner, as the White House and Democrats held their position of agreeing to negotiate only after the government is reopened and the \$16.7 trillion debt limit raised.

House Republicans appeared to be shifting their demands, de-emphasizing their previous insistence on defunding the health care overhaul in exchange for re-opening the government. Instead, they ramped up calls for cuts in federal benefit programs and future deficits, items that Boehner has said repeatedly will be part of any talks on debt limit legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., also said the two issues were linked. "We not only have a shutdown but we have the full faith and credit of our nation before us in a week or ten days," he said.

Reid and other Democrats blocked numerous attempts by Sen. Ted Cruz, a leading architect of the "defund Obamacare" strategy, to approve House-passed bills reopening portions of the government.

The Texas Republican said repeatedly Obama and Democrats were to blame for the impasse.

But Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., likened the Republican strategy to "smashing a piece of crockery with a hammer, gluing two or three bits back together today, a couple more tomorrow, and two or three more the day after that."

For all the rhetoric, there was no evident urgency about ending the partial shutdown before the weekend.

The Republican-controlled House arranged to vote on legislation providing funds for disaster assistance, then for the Women's, Infants and Children nutrition program.

Saturday's agenda called for passing a bill to assure post-shutdown pay for an



OLIVIER DOULIEREY/ABACA PRESS/MCT  
People hold signs at a rally sponsored by the Congressional Progressive Caucus outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. Today marks the fourth day of the government shutdown as Republicans and Democrats remain gridlocked over funding the federal government.

estimated 800,000 furloughed federal employees off the job since mid-day Tuesday, then turning off the lights on the House floor until Monday night to allow lawmakers to fly home for two days.

After issuing a string of veto threats against GOP spending bills, the White House did not object to the one to assure pay for furloughed employees.

There was no doubt about the political underpinnings of the struggle. Democrats and most Republicans have assumed the GOP would be hurt by a shutdown, citing the impact of the last episode, in 1996.

But Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said of Democrats, "I don't think they've poll tested 'we won't negotiate. I think it's awful for them to say that over and over again.'" His words recorded on videotape, he said, "I think if we keep saying we wanted to defund it (the new health care law), we fought for that and now we're willing to compromise on this we're going to win this, I think."

The shutdown caused the White House to scrub a presidential trip to Asia,

and the Bureau of Labor Statistics delayed its customary monthly report on joblessness as impacts of the partial shutdown spread.

According to warnings by the administration and Wall Street, failure to raise the debt limit, by contrast, had the potential to destabilize financial markets and inflict harm on the economy quickly.

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew has said that unless Congress acts, the government will be unable to pay all its debts and will run the risk of default. He has urged lawmakers to act by Oct. 17.

Debt limit bills typically pass first in the House, then move to the Senate. So far, neither Boehner nor the rest of the leadership has said when they expect to draft and have a vote on one. More than a week ago, they circulated a list of items that might be included— calls for higher Medicare costs for better-off seniors, a wholesale easing of environmental regulations and approval of the Keystone Pipeline among them.

**Feds Set Repairs On Glitchy Website**

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bedeviled by technology glitches that frustrated millions of consumers, the Obama administration is taking down its health overhaul website for repairs this weekend.

Enrollment functions of the healthcare.gov site will be unavailable during off-peak hours, the Health and Human Services Department said Friday. The department did not release a schedule for hours of operation, but an HHS spokeswoman said the site would be taken down at 1 a.m. EDT each night for a few hours.

The website will remain open for general information.

Technology problems overwhelmed the launch of new health insurance markets Tuesday, embarrassing the administration just when the health care law known as "Obamacare" was supposed

to be introduced to average consumers.

"Americans have seen once again that Obamacare is not ready for prime time," Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the No. 2 House Republican, said in a statement. "A dysfunctional website is the least of that law's problems."

An effort by congressional Republicans to defund or delay the health care law led to an impasse with Democrats over passing a budget bill. Without funding authority, the government partially shut down Tuesday.

The administration is putting the best face on the situation, noting the unexpectedly strong interest from millions of consumers. "Americans are excited to look at their options for health coverage, with record demand in the first days of the marketplaces," said the release announcing the planned fixes.

The statement was headlined: "Health Insurance Marketplace Open for Business - Week One Success."

The state-level markets were designed to be the gateway to health insurance for people who don't have access to coverage on the job. Middle-class consumers will be able to buy government-subsidized private plans, while the poor and near-poor will be steered to Medicaid in states agreeing to expand the program.

Federal and state websites experienced problems this week. Some states, including Maryland, have also announced they are scheduling repairs.

Credit card companies, banks and other online service providers regularly take down websites for repairs. That may also become a feature of the new insurance program.

The federal site, which serves 36 states, drew millions of users, an indication of strong consumer interest. Yet many people were unable to get on the site and others encountered glitches that prevented them from successfully completing

their applications.

Many encountered a screen that told them to wait, and they did, sometimes for hours. Refreshing the screen only sent them to the back of the line.

Quite a few got hung up trying to create security questions to protect their accounts. The drop-down menus providing the questions would not populate. As a result, consumers could not advance through the application process and learn if they were eligible for a tax credit to help pay premiums, much less pick a plan.

Some who did make it through were timed out because they took too long comparing plans.

At the end of the first day at most a handful of people had managed to successfully enroll through the federal site.

However, by Friday, enrollments seemed to be picking up — though not yet at desired levels. The administration is not releasing numbers.

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