

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

### Hurricane Karl Weakens As It Hits Land

VERACRUZ, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Karl smashed into Mexico's Gulf Coast on Friday, creating havoc in the major port city of Veracruz and forcing the country to shut down its only nuclear power plant and its central Gulf Coast oil platforms.

Karl's eye had passed Veracruz by early afternoon and sustained winds dropped to 90 mph (150 kph) as it headed southwest toward central Mexico, according to U.S. Hurricane Center. It had sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph) when it hit land at midday about 10 miles (15 kilometers) northwest of the city.

The storm caused widespread damage, knocking down hundreds of trees, billboards and power poles and upending cars, said Veracruz civil protection chief Isidro Cano Luna. Eighty percent of the city was without electricity. Cano said there had not been a storm like it since Hurricane Janet in September 1955.

### Pope Pushes On Despite Alleged Terror Plot

LONDON (AP) — Police raided a garbage depot and arrested street cleaners in a suspected terror plot against Pope Benedict XVI on Friday. Undeterred, the pontiff stuck to his message, reaching across Britain's religious and secular divide to demand a greater role for faith in public life.

Despite the six arrests, the pope did not alter a schedule rich in symbolism in this officially Protestant country with a history of anti-Catholicism: He prayed with the Archbishop of Canterbury and became the first pope to worship in Westminster Abbey.

Benedict also addressed political, cultural and business leaders in Westminster Hall, for centuries the center of British political life, asserting "the legitimate role of religion in the public square."

Among those in attendance were Tony Blair — a prominent convert to Catholicism — as well as former prime ministers Margaret Thatcher, John Major and Gordon Brown.

Faith, the pope said, "is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation."

### Dem's Hope Angry Voters Won't Turn To GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — With just six weeks to avoid a possible election catastrophe, Democrats are trying to limit the damage with a closing argument that's more plea than platform: We know you voters are furious with us, but just let us explain why the Republicans would be worse.

The strategy requires an autumn influx of voters willing to view the election as a choice between two imperfect parties — and imperfect candidates on each ballot line — rather than as a chance to slap the Washington establishment that the public seems to dislike so deeply.

But the Democrats admit the Republicans have a big emotional advantage with voters who are fed up with high unemployment, soaring deficits and what many see as an arrogant Congress and administration that rammed a revolutionary health care plan down their throats.

If voters keep burning with the throw-the-bums-out fever that animated so many primaries, Democrats would be likely to lose more than 40 House seats, costing them the majority and positioning Republicans to block virtually any Obama initiatives in the next two years. Losing the Senate majority, which would require a 10-seat Republican gain, is less likely.

Democratic candidates want to convince these voters that no matter how much they hate the status quo, they would be worse off under a Republican Party that hasn't learned from its mistakes and is lurching ever harder to the right.

### 2 Charged In Developing Nukes In Venezuela

WASHINGTON (AP) — A scientist and his wife who both once worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory were arrested Friday after an FBI sting operation and charged with conspiring to help develop a nuclear weapon for Venezuela.

After their arrest, the two appeared in federal court in Albuquerque, N.M.

They were accused of dealing with an FBI undercover agent posing as a Venezuelan agent. The government did not allege that Venezuela or anyone working for it sought U.S. secrets.

The pair were indicted for allegedly communicating classified nuclear weapons data to a person they believed to be a Venezuelan government official.

Accused in a 22-count indictment are Pedro Leonardo Mascheroni, 75, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Argentina, and Marjorie Roxby Mascheroni, 67, a U.S. citizen. Both were formerly contract employees at Los Alamos.

### Rocket Hits Kabul On Afghan Voting Day

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Police say a rocket struck Kabul about three hours before citizens planned to head to the polls to vote in Afghanistan's parliamentary elections.

Afghan police officer Mohammad Abraham says the rocket landed around 4 a.m. in the yard of Afghanistan's state-owned television station. It's a couple of blocks from the presidential palace, NATO headquarters and the U.S. Embassy.

The rocket was an apparent warning from insurgents trying to scare people from going to the polls. About 2,500 candidates are vying for 249 seats in the parliament.

The Taliban have written threats on leaflets passed out at mosques, whispered them in villages and posted Internet messages saying those who cast ballots should be prepared to be attacked.

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## Wis. Prosecutor Says He'll Get Therapy For 'Sexting' Client

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A Wisconsin district attorney said Friday he'll get therapy and consider taking time off work but won't resign despite the growing calls for him to step down over sexually-tinted text messages he sent to a domestic abuse victim.

At a news conference Friday, Calumet County District Attorney Ken Kratz offered a "sincere and heartfelt apology" to the woman and his family for his lack of judgment.

"This behavior showed a lack of respect, not only for my position but for the young woman that was involved," he said from the courthouse in Chilton in remarks carried live by Wisconsin television stations.

But Kratz left without taking questions after reading a four-minute statement, and did not respond to increasing calls for his resignation. He said only he would consider taking personal time off work as the court calendar will allow as he gets psychotherapy treatment.

## Muslim Summit Planned Over NYC Islamic Center

BY DAVID B. CARUSO  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Some Muslims who were initially indifferent about a proposed Islamic center near the World Trade Center site are now rallying around the plan, partly in response to a sense that their faith is under assault.

A summit of U.S. Muslim organizations is planned for Saturday and Sunday in New York City to address both the project and a rise in anti-Muslim sentiments and rhetoric that has accompanied the debate over the project.

It has yet to be seen whether the group will emerge with a firm stand on the proposed community center, dubbed Park51. The primary purpose of the two-day meeting is to talk about ways to combat religious bigotry.

But Shaik Ubaid of the Islamic Leadership Council of Metropolitan New York, one of the groups organizing the gathering, said he has a growing sense that the project is being embraced by American Muslims and Muslim groups after some initial trepidation.

"Once it became a rallying cry for extremists, we had no choice but to stand with Feisal Rauf," he said, referring to the New York City imam who has been leading the drive for the center.

Groups scheduled to participate in the summit include the Islamic Society of North America, the Islamic Circle of North America, the Muslim

Alliance of North America and the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Gauging support for the center among U.S. Muslims is difficult. As a group, they are diverse, ranging from blacks who found the faith during the civil rights movement to recent immigrants hailing from opposite ends of the globe. They rarely speak with one voice.

Yet after a pastor in Florida injected himself into the debate by threatening to burn copies of the Quran, U.S. Muslims stirred. "I think most Muslims outside New York City are more concerned about the backlash than the actual center, which most of them will never directly benefit from," said Shahed Amanullah, the editor-in-chief of the website almuslim.com and a group of other Islam-themed sites.

"Grass-roots support is indeed building," he said, "but that is probably more due to the pushback against the general hostile climate."

The center's location two blocks from ground zero has upset some relatives of Sept. 11 victims and stirred nationwide debate and angry demands that it be moved. Critics say the site of mass murder by Islamic extremists is no place for an Islamic institution.

Rauf has called for the 13-story Islamic center to be open to people of all faiths, while his co-leader of the project, Manhattan real estate developer Sharif El-Gamal, has stressed its non-religious aspects, which

include a health club and culinary school.

The weekend summit comes as some supporters of the center have encouraged its organizers to include prayer space for Jews, Christians and other religious groups as a way of countering critics who say it will be a monument to Islamic supremacy.

Julie Menin, the chairwoman of the Manhattan community board that endorsed the project months ago, said she is scheduled to meet with Rauf to discuss the interfaith possibility in the coming weeks.

"They had always talked about giving the center an interfaith concept," she said, "like having classes in Buddhism."

"It's one thing to have panel discussions, but if you really want to bring these factions together ... have a nondenominational interfaith space, like the chapel at the Pentagon, where local rabbis and priests could hold services on different days of the week."

There has always been some interfaith support for the center.

Its backers modeled their concept for the center after the city's two popular Jewish community centers and consulted at length with the managers to learn how to make their model work downtown, and reached out to some neighborhood politicians for support.

There was much less outreach to Muslims, Ubaid said.

Rauf, he said, may have been a regular talking head for the national news media on Muslim

world affairs, but among New York City imams he was something of an outsider, Ubaid said.

"He was not that involved with the local Muslim community," Ubaid said. He said that included a general failure to round up support for the center before going public with his plans. "Had we consulted us, we probably would have told him, gently, no."

Even after the proposal became public, there was a hesitation by some Muslim groups to quickly endorse the idea, in part because of questions about its feasibility.

Questions about the project's finances have indeed lingered. The investment partnership that owns the property, led by El-Gamal, quickly fell more than \$224,000 behind on its property taxes this summer.

The city's finance department confirmed Friday that El-Gamal had begun resolving that debt Wednesday, turning over a check for a little more than \$35,000 and signing on to an eight-installment payment plan to pay the rest.

El-Gamal said in a statement that the failure to pay was due to a dispute with the city over the assessed value of the property — an appeal that is still pending.

Rauf and his wife, Daisy Khan, have also been sued by a small city in New Jersey over the conditions in two apartment buildings they own there. Khan said in court papers filed Thursday that repairs are under way.

## Authorities: 2 Tornadoes Struck NYC During Storm

BY VERENA DOBNIK AND SARA KUGLER FRAZIER  
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — The storm that churned through New York City spawned two destructive tornadoes and a fierce microburst with wind speeds up to 125 mph that barreled across a large swath of Brooklyn and Queens, authorities said Friday.

The storm on Thursday evening toppled trees, peeled away roofs and killed a woman in a car who had just swapped seats with her husband.

The fury of wind and rain that pummeled the area was New York City's ninth and tenth tornado since 1950, the National Weather Service said Friday night.

Kyle Struckmann, a meteorologist with the agency, said it was amazing that only one person died.

"It's practically a miracle considering the population that was affected by this," he said.

One of the tornadoes struck Brooklyn about 5:33 p.m. Thursday, with winds up to 80 miles per hour, and carved its way northeast from the Park Slope section, Struckmann said. The second one hit Queens, with winds up to 100 miles per hour, beginning in the Flushing section and lifting one mile north of Bayside.

It was that second twister that snapped trees and scattered them like bowling pins, downing power lines and crushing vehi-

cles, including a car in Queens where Iline Levakis was killed, according to the National Weather Service. She was in the parked car with her husband, Billy Levakis. The couple, from Pennsylvania, had just switched seats in the car, said a former business partner, Peter Markos. He survived.

But it was the microburst that packed the biggest punch with its winds up to 125 miles per hour, and that stretched 8-miles-long and 5-miles-wide, he said. It started in the Middle Village section of Queens and ended in Forest Hills.

City officials said the twister hopped across New York Harbor from Staten Island and barreled uninterrupted from Park Slope in Brooklyn all the way the Bayside neighborhood in Queens. A microburst is an intense gust of wind that pours down from a storm.

The storm was part of a line that rippled across much of the Northeast before completing its run in New York City during the Thursday evening rush hour in a matter of minutes. It caught nearly everyone off guard, including commuters heading home and parents picking up children from after-school activities.

"There are lots of stories of people who came very close to being hit by a big tree and killed, but fortunately there was only one," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Friday. "And that one was really tragic."

Investigators on Friday had

mapped out the width and intensity of the storm to determine whether a tornado touched down, said Struckmann. The probe included surveying the aftermath by helicopter.

Stunned residents sifted through the debris Friday, and utility crews worked to restore power in blacked-out neighborhoods. The number of customers without power peaked at 37,000, but that gradually improved Friday. About 14,000 customers, mostly in Queens, had no power late Friday.

Consolidated Edison said it expects to restore power to most customers by Saturday night, and all service by Sunday night.

On a badly hit Brooklyn block of 1890s brownstones in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, the storm swept away parts of rooftops on at least six homes.

One four-story rowhouse was so waterlogged that walls were marked Friday with large black Xs — meaning they were to be torn down. In the yard behind, debris lay piled up, including parts of the roof, a crushed garbage can and a whole tree that landed there from two houses away.

"Just look at this," said owner Babe Hatcher, standing in the backyard.

Pointing at the top floor, he said: "No one can sleep up there; there's no ceiling. You can see the sky."

Department of Buildings Commissioner Robert Limandri said the city had received more

than 60 reports of buildings with possible structural damage. Officials had ordered residents out of some of the worst-hit homes in Brooklyn.

The city parks department said it was still assessing the tree damage and cautioned that cleanup would likely go on for days. The parks commissioner warned pedestrians to be careful walking under trees that might have broken branches.

All over the city, witnesses compared stories of what they had seen — street signs uprooted, storefront windows blown out, thick tree trunks snapped in half, a parked van lifted a foot into the air.

"A huge tree limb, like 25 feet long, flew right up the street, up the hill and stopped in the middle of the air 50 feet up in this intersection and started spinning," said Steve Carlisle, 54. "It was like a poltergeist."

"Then all the garbage cans went up in the air and this spinning tree hits one of them like it was a bat on a ball. The can was launched way, way over there," he said, pointing at a building about 120 feet away where a metal garbage can lay flattened.

Ruby Ellis was doing dishes when the storm wailed over her house and yanked on the roof. "The wind was holding my ceiling up in the air. It was like a wave; it went up and fell back down," Ellis said. "After the roof went up, then all the rain came down and I had a flood."



## Some Risks Are Worth Taking. Your Health Isn't One Of Them.

Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers, accounting for 40 to 50 percent of all cancer cases diagnosed each year. While some forms of skin cancer are more dangerous than others, early detection and prompt treatment of any malignant area is of the utmost importance.

Causes and risk factors for skin cancer include fair skin tone, frequent exposure to ultraviolet rays, family history and age. Symptoms may appear as spots; irregular moles; bumps; discoloration; sores; or scaly, reddish, bleeding or oozing skin.

The American Cancer Society recommends a skin examination every three years between the ages of 20 and 40, with annual exams after age 40. They also suggest performing a monthly self-examination in front of a full-length mirror, checking all areas of the body including palms, soles, back of the torso and back of the legs.

### Concerned about skin cancer?

Dr. Lisa Miller will present a free seminar on preventative measures and the detection and treatment of skin cancer on **Monday, September 27th, 7:00pm** at Lewis & Clark Specialty Hospital



Dr. Lisa Miller  
Yankton Surgical Associates



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