

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Official: 3rd Party Could Oversee Spills

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal official running the BP oil spill response proposed Monday having a third party from the oil industry represent polluters to correct perceptions that the company responsible in such disasters is in charge of cleaning up the mess.

Incident Commander Thad Allen told a panel appointed by President Barack Obama to investigate the oil spill that BP in no way tried to short-change costs, even though the public and politicians thought the company did. He proposed that someone from the oil industry could represent the polluter in future spills, instead of the company at fault, and eliminate the "the perception that the responsible party is intimately involved in the response," which he said raises questions about who is in charge.

Pakistan: NATO Airstrikes Aimed At Militants

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Pakistan disputed NATO's claim Monday that its forces have the right of hot pursuit across the Afghan border after coalition helicopters launched airstrikes that killed more than 50 militants who had escaped into Pakistan following an attack on an Afghan security post.

Pakistan said it had strongly protested to NATO over the airstrikes, which a coalition spokesman justified on grounds of "self-defense." Pakistan is sensitive about attacks on its territory, but U.S. officials have said they have the right to cross a few miles (kilometers) into Pakistani airspace if they are attacked and in hot pursuit of a target. Pakistan denied Monday such an understanding exists.

North Korea: Kim's Son Has Rank Of General

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Il promoted Kim Jong Un to the rank of general in the Korean People's Army, the state news agency reported, the clearest signal yet that the younger Kim is on track to succeed his father in ruling the impoverished country.

Kim Jong Il issued an order handing six people — including son Kim Jong Un — the rank of general, the Korean Central News Agency reported in a dispatch published early Tuesday, though dated Monday. Also promoted was Kim Kyong Hui, which is the name of Kim Jong Il's sister. Her name was listed ahead of Kim Jong Un's in the report.

California Heat Wave Bakes Downtown L.A.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A blistering fall heat wave sent temperatures to an all-time record high of 113 degrees in downtown Los Angeles on Monday and roasted even coastal cities in triple digits.

The city of Los Angeles opened cooling centers for citizens while firefighters were on alert for wildfires, but there was little wind amid the onslaught of dry heat.

Downtown hit 113 degrees for a few minutes at about 12:15 p.m., breaking the old all-time record of 112 degrees set on June 26, 1990, said Stuart Seto, a weather specialist at the National Weather Service office in Oxnard. Temperature records for downtown date to 1877.

'Titanic' Co-Star Gloria Stuart Dies At 100

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gloria Stuart, the 1930s Hollywood beauty who gave up acting for 30 years and later became the oldest Academy Award acting nominee as the spunky survivor in "Titanic," has died. She was 100.

Stuart died in her sleep Sunday night at her Los Angeles home, her grandson Benjamin Stuart Thompson said Monday.

In her youth, Stuart was a blond beauty who starred in B pictures as well as some higher-profile ones such as "The Invisible Man," Busby Berkeley's "Gold Diggers of 1935" and two Shirley Temple movies, "Poor Little Rich Girl" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." But by the mid-1940s she had retired.

Stuart co-starred as Rose Calvert, the 101-year-old survivor played by Kate Winslet as a young woman. Both earned Oscar nominations, Winslet as best actress and Stuart as supporting actress.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

Obama Wants Longer School Years

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Barely into the new school year, President Barack Obama issued a tough-love message to students and teachers on Monday: Their year in the classroom should be longer, and poorly performing teachers should get out.

American students are falling behind their foreign counterparts, especially in math and science, and that's got to change, Obama said. Seeking to revive a sense of urgency that education reform may have lost amid the recession's focus on the economy, Obama declared that the future of the country is at stake.

"Whether jobs are created here, high-end jobs that support families and support the future of the American people, is going to depend on whether or not we can do something about these schools," the president said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show.

U.S. schools through high school offer an average of 180 instruction days per year, according to the Education Commission of the States, compared to an average of 197 days for lower grades and 196 days for upper grades in countries with

the best student achievement levels, including Japan, South Korea, Germany and New Zealand.

"That month makes a difference," the president said. "It means that kids are losing a lot of what they learn during the school year during the summer. It's especially severe for poorer kids who may not see as many books in the house during the summers, aren't getting as many educational opportunities."

Obama said teachers and their profession should be more highly honored — as in China and some other countries, he said — and he said he wanted to work with the teachers' unions. But he also said that unions should not defend a status quo in which one-third of children are dropping out. He challenged them not to be resistant to change.

And the president endorsed the firing of teachers who, once given the chance and the help to improve, are still falling short.

"We have got to identify teachers who are doing well. Teachers who are not doing well, we have got to give them the support and the training to do well. And if some teachers aren't doing a good job, they've got to go," Obama said.

They're goals the president has articulated in

the past, but his ability to see them realized is limited. States set the minimum length of school years, and although there's experimentation in some places, there's not been wholesale change since Obama issued the same challenge for more classroom time at the start of the past school year.

One issue is money, and although the president said that lengthening school years would be "money well spent," that doesn't mean cash-strapped states and districts can afford it.

"It comes down to the old bugaboo, resources. It costs money to keep kids in school," said Mayor Scott Smith of Mesa, Ariz. "Everyone believes we can achieve greater things if we have a longer school year. The question is how do you pay for it?"

One model is Massachusetts, where the state issues grants to districts that set out clear plans on how they would use the money to constructively lengthen instructional class time, said Kathy Christie, chief of staff at the Education Commission of the States. Obama's Education Department already is using competitions among states for curriculum grant money through its "Race to the Top" initiative.

UN 'Disappointed' At Israeli Settlement Activity

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reminded Israel on Monday that the building of settlements on occupied territory was illegal, and said he was "disappointed" by the government's failure to extend its partial ban on further West Bank construction.

The expiry on Sunday of the Israeli construction restrictions has threatened to scuttle Mideast peace negotiations, just weeks after they were launched in early September with great fanfare at the White House.

Palestinians regard settlement building as a major obstacle to peacemaking and have threatened to walk out of negotiations if the building restarts after the moratorium officially expired at midnight Sunday.

Last week, the "Quartet" of Mideast peacemakers urged Israel to extend the moratorium.

A statement released by Ban's spokesman Martin Nesirky said the secretary-general was "disappointed that no such decision has been taken and (is) concerned at provocative actions taking place on the ground."

Ban reiterated that "settlement activity is illegal under international law," and urged the Jewish state to fulfill its obligation to freeze further construction.

The Obama administration, which dispatched special Middle East envoy George Mitchell to the region in an urgent bid to salvage the stalled negotiations, used language similar to Ban's.

"We are disappointed but we remain focused on our long-term objective and will be talking to the parties about the implications of the Israeli decision," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said.

Other ministers attending the session expressed frustration.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who presided over the Security Council, said for the negotiations to continue, both sides needed to show good intentions and the settlement activities were contrary to that.

"I remain very concerned that talks could falter on this issue and I call on Prime Minister Netanyahu and his Government to show leadership to resolve this so the parties can focus on the real challenges ahead," said Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague.

President Inks \$30B Small Business Lending Package

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scoring a prized political victory five weeks before the Nov. 2 elections, President Barack Obama on Monday signed a bill to help small businesses expand and hire by cutting their taxes and creating a \$30 billion loan fund.

Obama said the incentives will help small businesses right away. But any hiring may not be enough to help some Democrats ahead of crucial midterm elections in which voters are expected to vent their frustrations over a slow-growing economy and near-10 percent unemployment.

The bill had been delayed for months, blocked in the Senate by Republicans. Most in the GOP objected to the loan fund, comparing it to the 2008 financial industry bailout and arguing that it would encourage banks to make loans to risky borrowers. Two GOP senators, George Voinovich of Ohio and George LeMieux of Florida, helped Democrats break the filibuster this month — and the bill passed.

Obama said small businesses are "the anchors of our Main Streets," creating most of the jobs in the country.

"It was critical that we cut

taxes and make more loans available to entrepreneurs," he said before signing the bill in the East Room of the White House.

"Today, after a long and tough fight, I am signing a small business jobs bill that does exactly that."

The bill creates a \$30 billion government fund to help encourage lending to small businesses, many of which have been having difficulty securing bank loans and credit. The fund will be available to community banks, which could use the money to leverage billions more in loans.

The legislation also includes about \$12 billion in tax breaks for small business — eight separate tax cuts that take effect Monday. One such provision increases to \$500,000 the amount of investments that businesses would be allowed to write off this year and next.

The measure also gives a boost to some Small Business Administration loan programs.

The new law follows earlier administration efforts to help small businesses, including eight different tax cuts as well as a temporary payroll tax holiday for companies that hire people off the unemployment lines.

OBITUARIES

Eunice Sage

NIOBRARA, Neb. — Funeral services for Eunice Sage, age 87, of Niobrara will be Tuesday September 28, at 10:30 a.m. at Niobrara Lutheran Church. Pastor Kelley Pedersen will officiate with burial in L'Eau Qui Court Cemetery at Niobrara.

Visitation will be Monday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Brockhaus Funeral Home in Niobrara.

Eunice died Friday September 24, at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital at Yankton, SD.

Eunice M. (Cornish) Sage, daughter of Howard and Dorothy (Johnson) Cornish, was born on December 27, 1922 at Crofton, Nebraska. She attended country school in the Crofton area. On January 26, 1946, she was married to Ernest Sage in Hartington, NE. Four children were born to them, Gary, Greg, Kelly, and Douglas. After Eunice and Ernest were married they lived on a farm near Bloomfield and later moved to Niobrara, where she lived until the time of her death. Eunice was a member of Niobrara Lutheran Church, VFW Ladies Auxiliary, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary serving as a Gold Star Mother and a member of the Frank E. Evans Association.

She is survived by her son, Doug, and his wife Robin Sage of Brush, CO; grandchildren, Kelly

Joe, Sidney, Morgan, Casey Lane, Gregory Jr., and Sara; great-grandchild, Natasha; sisters, Janice Bloomquist of Bloomfield and Jackie Fritz of Center; brothers, Glen Cornish of Bloomfield and Harold Cornish of Fort Worth, TX; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; sons, Gary, Greg and Kelly Joe; brother, Wilber Cornish; sisters, Irene Moeller, Merle Moeller, Elizabeth Sage, and Bessie Johnson.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 28, 2010

Stella Skogen

IRENE — Stella Skogen, 86, of Irene, SD died Sunday, September 26, 2010 at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Viborg, SD.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, September 29th at 2:00 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church in Irene. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery at Irene.

Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Wednesday.

Stella Irene (Larson) Skogen was the only daughter born to Alfred and Caroline Larson on March 5, 1925 in Carthage, SD joining their family of 6 sons. Her family later moved to the Volin area where she was confirmed at Trondhjem Lutheran Church. On July 6, 1947 she married Guy Skogen and they made their

home in Irene. Guy and Stella owned Skogen's IGA store in Irene for a number of years. Guy preceded her in death in 1990. Stella was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Marsha Skogen, Irene; two grandsons, Justin and Sarah Skogen, Sioux Falls; and Seth and Jennifer Skogen, Brookings; 3 great granddaughters, Mara, Brynn and Avery Skogen, Sioux Falls; brother and sister-in-law Louis and Alice Larson, Yankton. Stella was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and 5 brothers, Joe, Ralph, Adolph, Ernest and Bervin.

For obituary and online condolences, please visit hansenfuneralhome.com

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 28, 2010

James 'Baldy' Teusink Sr.

James Harold "Baldy" Teusink Sr., 81, of Yankton died Monday, (Sept. 27, 2010) at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton. Burial will be in the Yankton City Cemetery.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the funeral on Friday.

To post an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Johanna Jerke

TABOR — Johanna Jerke, 87, of Tabor died Monday (Sept. 27, 2010) at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Funeral services are pending under the care of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton.

Helmuth Batterman

TRIPP — Funeral services for Helmuth R. "Howie" Batterman, 80, of Tripp, SD will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29 at the First American Lutheran Church in Tripp with Rev. Wayne Huber officiating. Interment will follow in Gracehill Cemetery, Tripp.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with the family present to greet visitors from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp.

Howie passed away on Sunday, September 26, 2010 at

the Good Samaritan Society of Tripp.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.goglinfh.com.

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