

Officials: 2 Killed In Massive Texas Wildfire

BASTROP, Texas (AP) — A massive wildfire that destroyed at least 600 homes in Central Texas has killed two people, authorities said Tuesday.

Bastrop County Sheriff Terry Pickering said he had no details about the victims, including when or how they died.

The fire was the largest of dozens burning throughout the drought-stricken state. It started Sunday near the town of Bastrop, about 25 miles south of Austin, and quickly spread, fanned in part by winds from Tropical Storm Lee, which dumped its rain on Gulf Coast states further east.

The state Forest Service said Tuesday morning that firefighters hadn't begun to contain the fire, which had destroyed about 600 homes and forced the evacuation of hundreds of others.

State emergency manager State emergency management chief Nim Kidd said it was the most destructive fire of the year in Texas, and that the number of homes destroyed would likely go up after the hardest-hit areas are assessed.

Rainy Remnants Of Tropical Storm Soak South

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — Disorganized yet deadly, the leftovers from Tropical Storm Lee spread farther inland Tuesday, soaking much of the East Coast. Areas still drying out from Irene were hit with more rain while farmers in the Southeast welcomed the wet weather.

Lee spawned tornadoes, flooded roads and homes, uprooted trees and knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people. Winds from the storm had fanned wildfires in Louisiana and Texas, though calmer air Tuesday was expected to help firefighters. Lee even kicked up tar balls on the Gulf Coast.

At least four people died in the storm.

Lee formed just off the Louisiana coast late last week and gained strength as it lingered in the Gulf for a couple of days. It dumped more than a foot of rain in New Orleans, testing the city's pump system for the first time in years.

The storm then trudged across Mississippi and Alabama. By Tuesday, it had collided with a cold front leaving much of the East Coast wet, with unseasonably cool temperatures.

At one point, flood watches and warnings were in effect from northeast Alabama through West Virginia to New England. Heavy rain bands scattered across the central Appalachians and Northeast.

The National Weather Service said 4 to 8 inches of rain were possible, with isolated downpours up to 10 inches.

USPS Goes To Congress To Discuss Options

WASHINGTON (AP) — Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe warned that the Postal Service is on "the brink of default" as he battles to keep his agency solvent.

Without legislation by Sept. 30, the agency "will default on a mandated \$5.5 billion payment to the Treasury," Donahoe told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Tuesday.

And with no congressional action, a year from now, next August or September, the post office could run out of money to pay salaries and contractors, hampering its ability to operate, Donahoe said.

"We do not want taxpayer money," Donahoe said, "We have got to get our finances in order."

Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., said: "We must act quickly. The U.S. Postal Service is not an 18th century relic, it is a 21st century national asset, but times are changing rapidly now and so, too, must the post office."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, noted that the post office supports a \$1.1 trillion mailing industry employing more than 8 million people in direct mail, periodicals, catalogs, financial services and other businesses.

N.H. Convict In Girl's Rape Gets 15-30 Years

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The 15-year-old New Hampshire girl was pregnant, scared and humiliated when she was made to stand before her Baptist church congregation 14 years ago and apologize for her immorality.

Tuesday, it was a former church member's turn to apologize before he was sentenced to 15-30 years in prison for forcible rape.

Ernest Willis, 52, of Gilford said he was "sorry and ashamed for this thoughtless act of sexual misconduct."

But in his lengthy statement he did not admit he forcibly raped the girl.

Listening via telephone from Arizona, victim Tina Anderson said she was "thrilled" with the sentence.

"It's a huge amount of vindication for me," Anderson, now 29, told The Associated Press. "I was never really believed, no matter how many times I said it was not consensual. Now it's been proven in a court of law that he's guilty and he's been given a significant sentence."

The AP typically does not identify victims of sexual assault, but Anderson asked that her name be used and has given numerous media interviews.

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Top Gadhafi Loyalists Flee To Niger

BY HADEEL AL-SHALCHI AND MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

TARHOUNA, Libya — Convoys of Moammar Gadhafi loyalists, including his security chief, fled across the Sahara into Niger on Tuesday in a move that Libya's former rebels hoped could help lead to the surrender of his last strongholds.

Still, efforts to negotiate the peaceful handover of one of the most crucial of those bastions, the city of Bani Walid, proved difficult.

Tribal elders from Bani Walid who met Tuesday with former rebels were confronted by angry residents of the city, including Gadhafi supporters, who fired in the air and sent them fleeing, mediators said. Many in Bani Walid remain deeply mistrustful of the forces that have seized power in Libya and are reluctant to accept their rule.

Some former rebels depicted the flight to Niger as a major exodus of Gadhafi's most hardcore backers. But confirmed information on the number and identity of those leaving was scarce as the convoy made its way across the vast swath of desert — over 1,000 miles — between populated areas on the two sides of the border.

Gadhafi himself is not in the convoys, the

U.S. State Department said.

As the first group of a dozen vehicles pulled into Niger's capital, Niamey, a customs official said it included Mansour Dao, Gadhafi's security chief and a key member of his inner circle, as well as around 12 other Gadhafi regime officials.

The official, Harouna Ide, told The Associated Press other Libyan convoys had passed through Agadez, a town about halfway between Niger's border with Libya and its capital in the far southwest.

The convoys included heavily armed contingents of Tuareg tribal fighters from Niger, who have long been enlisted as mercenaries for Gadhafi's regime, Niger officials said. A Gadhafi opponent said it was also carrying gold and cash belonging to the regime.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. has urged Niger to detain anyone who might be subject to prosecution in Libya, confiscate weapons and impound any state property such as money or jewels that were illegally taken out of the country.

Nuland said some senior members of the Gadhafi regime were in the fleeing group, but not Gadhafi or members of his family.

The West African nation of Burkina Faso,

which borders Niger, offered Gadhafi asylum last month, raising speculation the convoys were part of plan to arrange passage there for the ousted leader. But on Tuesday, Burkina Faso distanced itself from Gadhafi, indicating he would be arrested if he came there.

A significant move to escape by the top echelons of Gadhafi's military and security services could bring an important shift in Libya.

The Gadhafi opponents who toppled his regime by sweeping into Tripoli last month have been struggling to uproot the last bastions of his support, particularly in Bani Walid, Sirte and the southern city of Sabha. They say residents in those cities have been prevented from surrendering to the new post-Gadhafi rule because of former regime figures in their midst.

Hassan Droua, a representative of Sirte in the rebel's National Transitional Council, said he had reports from witnesses that a convoy of cars belonging to Gadhafi's son, Muatassim, was headed for the Niger border loaded with cash and gold from the city's Central Bank branch.

Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, the head of the NTC — the closest thing to a government in Libya now — warned that Bani Walid had until Friday to surrender or else the former rebel forces would move in.

Romney Jobs Plan: Cut Taxes, Slap China, Weaken Unions

BY KASIE HUNT
Associated Press

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Casting himself as America's CEO, Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney on Tuesday outlined a sweeping economic plan that would reduce regulations and taxes on companies, sanction China over its currency practices and weaken the clout of labor unions.

Trying to hold off surging rival Rick Perry, Romney traveled to economically suffering Nevada and stood inside a giant truck warehouse to deliver his multi-point plan designed to position him as the GOP contender with the most comprehensive approach to fixing the economy.

"This is a business plan for America," Romney told supporters as he promoted his plan as one designed to modernize an economy he says is still oriented toward earlier decades — and held up General Electric CEO Jack Welch and former Apple CEO Steve Jobs as "real deal" leaders in the U.S. economy.

It's a version of the economic pitch Romney has been making throughout the campaign so far — but it's now been sharpened to highlight how his private-sector record contrasts with Perry, the Texas governor, who has held elected office for more than two decades. In his speech Tuesday, Romney barely mentioned his own four years as governor of Massachusetts.

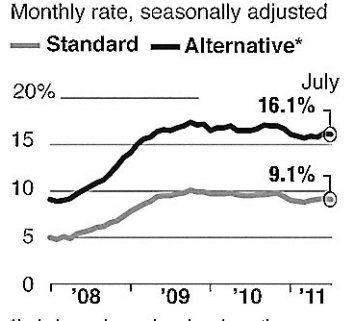
Perry's campaign sharply criticized Romney immediately after the address. "As governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney failed to create a pro-jobs environment," Perry spokesman Mark Miner said in a statement. When Romney was governor, Massachusetts ranked 47th out of 50 in job creation.

Romney's plan calls for reduc-

A bleak picture

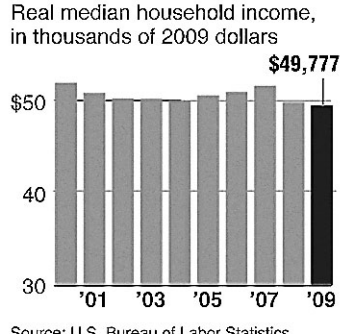
As the jobless rate stays stubbornly high and real wages drop, the president and GOP presidential hopefuls are talking jobs.

Jobless rate tops 16 percent when the underemployed are counted ...



*Includes underemployed workers, those marginally attached or working part time because they cannot find full-time work

... and median income is down when adjusted for inflation



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic Policy Institute
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2011 MCT

ing or eliminating several taxes, extracting more U.S. oil, coal and natural gas, expanding trade pacts and slashing federal spending. His campaign distributed the 160-page booklet, and Romney explained it in an at-times rambling speech delivered without prepared text or a teleprompter.

Authorities Probe Motive In Nevada IHOP Shooting

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — A gunman wielding an AK-47 opened fire on a table of uniformed National Guard members at an IHOP restaurant on Tuesday in an outburst of violence that killed four people, wounded eight others and put Nevada's capital city on high alert as the shooter unloaded his assault rifle in a bustling business district.

The shooter's motive was unclear, but family members said he had mental issues. He had never been in the military and had no known affiliation with anyone inside the restaurant.

Five Nevada National Guard troops sitting together at the back of the restaurant were shot — two of them fatally. Another woman was also killed, and the gunman, 32-year-old Eduardo Sencion of Carson City, shot himself in the head and died at a hospital.

Witnesses and authorities described a frantic scene, in which the shooter pulled into the large complex of retail stores and shops just before 9 a.m., got out of a blue minivan and immediately shot a man on a motorcycle.

Ralph Swagler said he grabbed his own weapon, but said it was too late to stop the shooter, who charged into the IHOP through the front doors.

"I wish I had shot at him but he was going in the IHOP," said Swagler, who owns Locals BBQ & Grill. "But when he came at me, when somebody is pointing an automatic weapon at you — you can't believe the firepower, the kind of rounds coming out of that weapon."

The gunman went all the way to the back of the restaurant to

the back area and opened fire, Carson City Sheriff Kenny Furlong said.

When he left the restaurant, he got back in his vehicle, driving around in circles and shooting into the nearby businesses, shattering the windows of a barbecue restaurant and an H&R Block and a casino across the street.

Officers arrived minutes later and found the suspect and the person who was on the motorcycle wounded and lying in the parking lot. The names of the victims, including two male Guard members who were killed, were not immediately released.

As the attack unfolded, Nevada officials worried about the violence being more widespread. They locked down the state Capitol and Supreme Court buildings for about 40 minutes, and put extra security in place at state and military buildings in northern Nevada.

"There were concerns at the onset, so we took certain steps to ensure we had the capability to embrace an even larger circumstance," Furlong said. "At this point in time it appears to be isolated to this parking lot."

As police interviewed dozens of witnesses after the shooting and kept the gathering crowd of media at bay, a body lay on the ground, covered with a white sheet except for the feet, clad in tan boots.

Sencion's family raised concerns about his mental health in interviews with investigators, Furlong said. Sencion worked at his family's business in South Lake Tahoe and had no criminal history. The minivan he drove to the shooting was registered to his brother.

OBITUARIES

Rosalyn Souhrada

Rosalyn M. "Rose" Souhrada, age 79 of Yankton, SD died Sunday, September 4, 2011 at the Dougherty Hospice House, Sioux Falls, SD.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Thursday, September 8, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. Dave Lund officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery, Yankton, SD.

Visitations will begin at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one prior to the service at the church.

Pallbearers will be Jason Silvernail, James Leyden, Brian Leyden, Richard Fitch, Chris Fitch, and Rick Haag.

Rosalyn was born on December 22, 1941 to Rudolph and Lilian (Erickson) Hagen in Canton, South Dakota. She was baptized on August 24, 1932 and confirmed on June 24, 1946 at the Canton Lutheran Church, Canton, SD. She married Clifford Daniels in 1949 and to this union six children were born: Margaret, Mike, Dean, June, Lauri, and Susan. Rose worked as a waitress at the Travelers Inn Café in Glenwood, MN. She raised her six children on her own. Rose moved her children back to Yankton where she was employed at Vogt's Dry Clean-



Souhrada

ers pressing wedding dresses. On September 20, 1997, she married David Souhrada in Lesterville, SD. She enjoyed embroidering, baking homemade bread and cookies.

Rose's memory will be cherished by her husband, David of Yankton; her children: Mike Daniels of Yankton, Dean (Donna) Daniels of Yankton, June (Dave) Fitch of Mission Hill, Lauri Leyden of Yankton, and Susan (Doug) Sherman of Yankton; 17 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren; her sister, Diane Shelton of California, and her brother, Roney Hagen of Texas and her nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her daughter, Margaret Kostel, granddaughter, Jessica Silvernail, brother, Roger Hagen and sister, Darlene Helm.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Thursday, September 8, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. Dave Lund officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery, Yankton, SD.

Visitations will be 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a Scripture service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Honorary Pallbearers: Roger Thompson, Chuck Beerman, Lionel Froseth, Jack Richardson, Gene Nelson, Ron and Jan Bertsch, Dean and Judy Specht, John and Sid Kruse, Iro and Suzanne Mogen, Gene Heine family, and the Dave Withrow family.

Mel was born in Huron, SD to John M. and Susie Decker Waldner. At six weeks of age his mother passed away and he was raised by

Melroy 'Mel' Waldner

Melroy J. "Mel" Waldner, age 69 of Yankton died Saturday evening September 3, 2011 at Avera Sister James Care Center Hospice.

Memorial services will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, September 9, 2011 at the United Church of Christ (Congregational), Yankton, with Rev. Joe Schulte and Rev. Paul Opsahl officiating. Burial of the cremated remains will be in the Yankton Cemetery, Yankton, SD.

Visitations will be 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a scripture service at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

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Waldner

his Aunt and Uncle Jacob K. and Katie Waldner and their children, Norma and Delmar. He attended Wheeler Country School in Beadle County, SD and Freeman Academy in Freeman, SD. Mel spent one year at Freeman Jr. College, and then graduated from Southern State Teachers college in Springfield, SD in 1964, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Industrial Technology and Math. He then taught for several years in Iowa before earning a masters degree from Iowa State University in 1972 in Educational Administration. In 1974, Mel graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with an Associates Degree in Educational Administration.

Mel was united in marriage to Lola Hasz Blount on December 5th, 1987 in South Sioux City NE at the Presbyterian Church. They started their life together in a new home in the bluff overlooking Homer, NE. He was superintendent for 28 years in Homer, NE be-

fore retiring in 2000. They moved to Yankton, SD in June of 2003. He was continually involved with many community and church organizations in each of the communities that he lived in. He was a member of the South Sioux City Presbyterian Church for 30 years and a member of the United Church of Christ in Yankton for the past 8 years. He dearly loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. Family gatherings, spending times with friends, golfing, playing cards and dominos, and watching the Nebraska Cornhuskers football and Minnesota Twins. Traveling with his wife Lola was his most cherished retirement activity.

He is survived by wife Lola, son Tim (Peg) Waldner and children (Braydan and Rhayna) of Pierce, NE, daughter Jill (Jim) Sharp and child (Tristen) of Dakota City, NE, step-children Jeff (Heather) Iliif and daughter (Maya) of West Virginia, Jay Blount and children (Michael and Kelsey) of Pierre, SD, Susan Jones and her children (Dennon and Ali) of Nederland, CO. Sisters and brothers: Alma Gross, Kathryn

Glanzer, John E. (Emma) Waldner, Bernice (Paul) Kleinsasser, Viola (Mike) Hofer, Naomi (Duane) Gross, Pearl Hofer, Norman (Marge) Waldner, Barbara (LeRoy) Gross, Bennie Waldner, Lucille Waldner, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Susie Waldner, Jacob and Katie Waldner, brothers Willis Waldner and Delmar Waldner, brothers-in-law Clarence Glanzer, Jim Gross, Jerane Hofer, and sister-in-law Josephine Waldner.

Memorials are directed to the Homer Community School Foundation, Homer, NE 68030 and United Church of Christ (Congregational) Religious Education, 218 W. 5th, Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 7, 2011

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Nellie Summerville

NEW BERLIN, Wis. — Nellie Summerville, 103, of New Berlin, Wis., died Saturday, Aug. 27, 2011, at the Seasons Hospice Center, Waukesha, Wis.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Platte, with the Rev. Daniel Daum officiating.

Memorials would be appreciated to Trinity Lutheran Church, Platte.