

### Obama Streamlines Process For Inventors

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — President Barack Obama signed into law Friday a major overhaul of the nation's patent system to ease the way for inventors to bring their products to market. "We can't afford to drag our feet any longer," he said.

Passed in a rare display of congressional bipartisanship, the America Invents Act is the first significant change in patent law since 1952. It has been hailed as a milestone that will spur innovation and create jobs.

The bill is meant to ensure that the patent office, now facing a backlog of 1.2 million pending patents, has the money to expedite the application process. It now takes an average of three years to get a patent approved. More than 700,000 applications have yet to be reviewed.

"Somewhere in that stack of applications could be the next technological breakthrough, the next miracle drug," Obama said. "We should be making it easier and faster to turn new ideas into jobs."

The president signed the bill after touring Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va., where he examined student projects, including a wheelchair that responds to brain waves. Obama at one point had to step aside as he admired the technological displays. "I don't want a robot to run over me," he said.

### Palestinian Prez To Ask For UN Membership

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — The Palestinian president said Friday he would ask the U.N. Security Council next week to endorse his people's decades-long quest for statehood but emphasized that he did not seek to isolate or delegitimize Israel.

Mahmoud Abbas' plan to seek full membership at United Nations and bypass negotiations with Israel sets the stage for a diplomatic confrontation with Israel and the United States, which has indicated it would veto the measure in the Security Council.

Abbas appeared to leave himself some wiggle room in his address to the Palestinian people before departing for the annual U.N. General Assembly session in New York next week, saying he did not rule out other, unspecified options. Those could include seeking a lesser, "nonmember state" observer status from the General Assembly, a more easily obtainable goal.

He also acknowledged that his U.N. move would not end the Israeli occupation and cautioned against outside hopes.

"We don't want to raise expectations by saying we are going to come back with full independence," Abbas said in an address to Palestinian leaders. He said he was going to the United Nations to "ask the world to shoulder its responsibilities" by backing the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

### 3 Dead, 56 Injured In Reno Air Show Crash

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A vintage World War II-era fighter plane plunged into the grandstands Friday during a popular annual air show, killing at least three people, injuring more than 50 spectators and creating a horrific scene strewn with body parts and smoking debris.

The plane, flown by an 80-year-old pilot, spiraled suddenly out of control and appeared to disintegrate upon impact. Bloodied bodies were spread across the area as people tended to the victims and ambulances rushed to the scene.

Maureen Higgins of Alabama, who has been coming to the show for 16 years, said the pilot was on his third lap when he lost control.

She was sitting about 30 yards away from the crash and watched in horror as the man in front of her started bleeding after a piece of debris hit him in the head.

"I saw body parts and gore like you wouldn't believe it. I'm talking an arm, a leg," Higgins said. "The alive people were missing body parts. I am not kidding you. It was gore. Unbelievable gore."

Among the dead was pilot Jimmy Leeward, 80, of Ocala, Fla., who flew the P-51 Mustang named the "Galloping Ghost," according to Mike Houghton, president and CEO of Reno Air Races.

Renown Medical Center spokeswoman Kathy Carter confirmed that two others died, but did not provide their identities.

# Gadhafi Loyalists Beat Back Assault

BY RYAN LUCAS AND HADEEL AL-SHALCHI  
Associated Press

SIRTE, Libya — Moammar Gadhafi's fighters beat back an attempt by Libya's new government Friday to crush remnants of the old regime, forcing revolutionary troops into retreat in the mountains and turning Gadhafi's seaside hometown into an urban battlefield of snipers firing from mosques and heavy weapons rattling main boulevards.

The tough defense of the holdout towns of Sirte and Bani Walid displayed the firepower and resolve of the Gadhafi followers and suggested Libya's new rulers may not easily break the back of regime holdouts. It also raised fears the country could face a protracted insurgency of the sort that has played out in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The Gadhafi loyalists have so many weapons," cried Maab Fatel, a 28-year-old revolutionary fighter on the front lines in the mountain enclave of Bani Walid, 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli.

"This battle is really crazy," Fatel said, his uniform splattered with blood from carrying a wounded comrade.

Revolutionary forces began the day by streaming into Bani Walid but pulled back after intense fighting failed to dislodge pro-Gadhafi

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MAAB FATEL

snipers and gunners from strategic positions. The two sides traded relentless mortar and rocket fire across a 500-yard-wide desert valley called Wadi Zeitoun that divides the town between north and south.

Mohamed Bendalla, a doctor at a field hospital in nearby Wishtata, said at least six rebels were killed and more than 50 were wounded.

Inside the town, a radio station believed linked to one of Gadhafi's main propagandists kept up a steady stream of appeals to fight and rants that demonized the revolutionaries as traitors who did not honor Islamic values.

"These revolutionaries are fighting to drink and do drugs all the time and be like the West, dance all night," the announcer claimed. "We are a traditional tribal society that refuses such things and must fight it."

Ahmed Omar Bani, a military spokesman for Libya's transitional government, dismissed such allegations, saying the revolutionary forces' only goal was "to liberate our people."

# Bachmann Lashes White House Over Solyndra

MICHAEL R. BLOOD  
AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES — Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann accused the Obama administration Friday of abusing its power by steering a \$535 million government loan to a now-bankrupt solar energy manufacturer.

The Minnesota congresswoman said the soured deal with Fremont, Calif.-based Solyndra Inc. amounted to "crony capitalism," and predicted President Barack Obama's jobs bill would open the way for more suspect spending.

The Treasury Department announced Thursday it launched an investigation into the Solyndra deal, the first renewable-energy manufacturer to receive a loan guarantee under the federal stimulus law. The White House, since signing off on the loan in 2009, has frequently touted Solyndra as a model for its clean energy program.

But the company has since laid off more than 1,000 people and filed for bankruptcy. Solyndra executives raised more than \$100,000 for Obama and Democrats.

Vice President Joe Biden came out and he said that Solyndra is exactly what the stimulus was designed to do. Those were his words," Bachmann said at a rally that attracted about 200 people in Costa Mesa, part of a two-day campaign swing in California.

"They ran out of money by September. What a deal. And so president Obama said 'You've got to pass my jobs bill,' so we can have more of the same? Wow. That's inspiring," she said.

Bachmann's appearance came during a string of events and fundraisers, as she tries to



Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann greets a small crowd of supporters at a campaign at the Orange County Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa, California, Friday, September 16.

regain her stride in a GOP presidential contest dominated by Rick Perry and Mitt Romney.

"She's struggling for survival," said Republican National Committeeman Shawn Steel, who is not aligned with any candidate. "Right now, it's a two-person race."

In addition to the rally, her agenda Friday includes an appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and a speech before hundreds of

party activists in downtown Los Angeles at a state Republican convention.

Bachmann was lifted earlier this summer by a victory in the closely watched Ames, Iowa, straw poll — an early gauge of candidate strength — but she's trying to reverse a slide since the Texas governor entered the campaign and replaced her as a leading contender for the nomination.

# U.N. Approves Libya Seat For Former Rebels

BY EDITH M. LEDERER  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations gave strong backing to Libya's former rebels Friday, handing their National Transitional Council the country's U.N. seat and then lifting and modifying some sanctions imposed on Moammar Gadhafi's regime.

The General Assembly's vote to accept the credentials of the National Transitional Council, which led the rebellion that ousted Gadhafi, gave its representative the right to speak at the United Nations. Libya's former deputy ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi, who early on denounced Gadhafi and backed the rebels, addressed the Security Council hours later.

"Today is undoubtedly a decisive, historic day in the life of the Libyan people," Dabbashi said. "It is an indication that dictatorship has fallen, a period of terror, of denial of freedom, and of violation of human rights has now come to an end for the Libyan people."

"The fact that the National Transitional Council today takes Libya's seat at these United Nations indicates that a new page has been opened in history of the Libyan people — a page that has been marked by the blood of Libya's sons," he said.

Dabbashi spoke after the Security Council unanimously approved a resolution establishing a new U.N. mission in Libya in re-

sponse to a request from the NTC for help in establishing the new government.

The resolution also unfreezes assets of two Libyan oil companies, lifts a ban on flights by Libyan aircraft and modifies an arms embargo to allow Libyan authorities now controlling the country to buy arms "intended solely for security or disarmament assistance."

Under the resolution, the no-fly zone imposed in March after Gadhafi launched his crackdown on regime opponents will remain

in place but be kept under review.

The resolution lifts the asset freeze on the Libyan National Oil Corporation and Zueitina Oil Company and modifies the asset freeze on the Central Bank of Libya, the Libyan Foreign Bank, the Libyan Investment Authority and the Libyan Africa Investment Portfolio. But the Security Council retained the asset freeze and travel ban against Gadhafi and key family members and regime supporters.

The resolution establishes a

United Nations Support Mission in Libya for an initial period of three months with a mandate to assist the new government in restoring security and the rule of law, promoting national reconciliation and embarking on the process of writing a constitution and preparing for elections. The NTC did not request any U.N. peacekeeping troops.

The NTC easily won support in the General Assembly earlier Friday to take the Libyan seat held by Gadhafi's government for the past 42 years.

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- Top drawings selected will be printed on Christmas cards. The cards will be sold with proceeds going to our Newspapers In Education Program
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- Child's first name and age will be printed on the back of the Christmas Card.

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Holiday Card Contest  
319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078  
Any questions contact Noelle at 665-7811 ext. 112

Please write child's first name, age, phone number and school on back of drawing.

Entry deadline September 30, 2011.  
Press & Dakotan staff will judge drawings.

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