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Select a budget: Monday, May 3, 2010 Go

BC-MCT-NEWS-BJT — wire editors (6050 words)

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
News Budget for Monday, May 3, 2010

Updated at 11:40 p.m. EDT (0340 UTC).

Adds MICHELLEOBAMA-MOTHERSDAY:TB, CARTER:MM, DISNEY-TOWER:OS, SCOTUS-STEVENS:TB, OILSPILL-SEAFOOD:WA, OILSPILL-FISHING:BI, NYCARBOMB-SECURITY:ND, OILSPILL-LOOP:FL, SOLDIERS-YOUTUBE:CH, NYCARBOMB-CONN:ND
Updates NYCARBOMB:ND

Additional news stories appear on the MCT-NEWSFEATURES-BJT.

TOP STORIES

British oil company says it is 'absolutely responsible' for stopping leak

OILSPILL:LA—The giant British oil company BP LLC, whose deep-water well is gushing thousands of gallons of oil daily into the Gulf of Mexico, said Monday that it was "absolutely responsible" for stopping the leak, cleaning up the oil on the water's surface and any resulting environmental damage.

"This not our accident, but it's our responsibility," BP's chief executive, Tony Hayward, said in a round of news media appearances. "And where there are legitimate claims for business interruption, we will make them good.

1150 (with trims) by Ashley Powers, Louis Sahagun and Jim Tankersley in Venice, La. MOVED

TEXT | HTML | PHOTOS | GRAPHICS

Also moving as:

OILSPILL:WA—1200 (with trims) by Curtis Morgan, Anita Lee and Steve Rothaus in Gulfport, Miss. MOVED

TEXT | HTML | PHOTOS | GRAPHICS

Authorities seeking Pakistani man who recently bought Pathfinder, sources say

NYCARBOMB-IST-LEDE:ND—Federal authorities Monday night were seeking to arrest a Connecticut resident who recently returned from his native Pakistan and paid cash for a Nissan Pathfinder later equipped to explode in Times Square, sources told Newsday on Monday.

The Pakistani connection reported by sources provides possible evidence that the botched bombing in the heart of New York City has international ties. The man was reportedly identified with the help of fingerprint evidence found inside the Nissan, according to an official who has been briefed by investigators.

850 in New York. MOVED

TEXT | HTML

Also moving as:

NYCARBOMB-IST-LEDE:LA—950 (with trims) by Tina Susman and Geraldine Baum in New York. MOVED

TEXT | HTML

Taliban's claim of responsibility for N.Y. bomb attempt is met with skepticism

PAKISTAN-TALIBAN:LA—Pakistani Taliban videos claiming responsibility for a car bomb found in downtown New York during the weekend and vowing to strike American cities with suicide attacks were greeted with skepticism by analysts Monday, who said the militant group lacks the capability and reach to carry out such missions in the U.S.

A 71-second video posted on the Internet claimed that the Pakistani Taliban planned an attack in Times Square in retaliation for the U.S. drone missile strike that killed the insurgent group's leader, Baitullah Mahsud, last August.

New York police have said there is no evidence to support the Pakistani Taliban's claim of responsibility for a sport-utility vehicle found in Times Square on Saturday carrying materials including plastic cans filled with gasoline, M-88 firecrackers, three propane tanks, wires and two alarm clocks.

750 (with trims) by Alex Rodriguez and Laura King in Islamabad. MOVED

TEXT | HTML

Also moving as:

PAKISTAN-TALIBAN:WA—850 (with trims) by Saeed Shah and Warren P. Strobel in Islamabad, Pakistan. (CANADA OUT) MOVED

TEXT | HTML

United and Continental join forces in \$3 billion merger

UNITED-CONTINENTAL:TB—United Airlines and Continental Airlines announced early Monday morning they were combining operations in a \$3-billion merger, forming the world's largest airline.

The deal is the culmination of a lengthy search by United CEO Glenn Tilton for a partner that would bolster his carrier's

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Threatened business

Half the total value of the U.S. oyster crop and most of the value of the shrimp crop were produced the Gulf of Mexico. Origin of U.S. oyster and shrimp landings, 2008.



© 2010 MCT Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Graphic: Jay Lee, Los Angeles Times

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global network and promote consolidation in a fragmented industry plagued by chronic losses.

The combined airline would have annual revenue of \$29 billion, based on 2009 results, and hold an unrestricted cash balance of about \$7.4 billion. The carriers said in a press release Monday they expected to complete the transaction in the fourth quarter of 2010.

550 by Julie Johnsson in Chicago. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [GRAPHIC](#)

Also moving as:

[UNITED-CONTINENTAL:LA](#)—900 (with trims) by W.J. Hennigan. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Merger is ultimate triumph for United's oft-reviled CEO

[UNITED-CONTINENTAL-TILTON:TB](#)—Even by the airline industry's operatic standards, Glenn Tilton's eight-year stewardship of United Airlines has been extraordinary.

When he arrived in 2002, fresh from a long career at Texaco, wags chided him as an outsider, saying he would never survive. Wall Street badgered, customers howled and merger partners balked. Chicago-based United limped through a succession of bruising external crises stretching from the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to the Great Recession and lost a staggering \$11.7 billion under his watch.

But on Monday, Tilton, 62, is enjoying the last laugh as United and Continental announced a merger that will make the one-time oilman the chairman of the world's largest airline.

1650 (with trims) by Michael Oneal and Julie Johnsson in Chicago. MOVED

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Left out of the M&A party, US Airways sees options narrow

[UNITED-CONTINENTAL-USAIR:PH](#)—Now that United and Continental Airlines hope to tie the knot in a stock deal worth almost \$3.2 billion, what lies ahead for US Airways?

Another attempt at consolidation, possibly with American Airlines?

An alliance with another carrier to sell seats on each other's planes to attract more passengers, especially business fliers?

The new United-Continental, with expected annual revenues of \$29 billion, based in Chicago and serving 144 million passengers a year, will put pressure on American and US Airways — the last two remaining "legacy" network carriers — to seek alliances or a merger.

But many analysts do not see a logical or easy fit for US Airways and expect it to remain a stand-alone carrier in the near term.

800 (with trims) by Linda Loyd in Philadelphia. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Also moving as:

[UNITED-CONTINENTAL-USAIR:TB](#)—500 by Wailin Wong in Chicago. MOVED

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OIL SPILL

Dispersants play rerouting role in Gulf of Mexico oil spill

[OILSPILL-DISPERSANTS:LA](#)—The oil dispersants being used in the gulf spill may help destroy the oil a little faster, but their primary purpose is to alter its destination so that the oil stays in the deep ocean rather than reaching the shore.

Scientists don't know much about the oil's ultimate effect in the deeps, but most agree that it will have a much larger biological effect if it reaches the coast, which is teeming with wildlife.

700 by Thomas H. Maugh II in Los Angeles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Fishing ban is a taste of what is to come for Gulf residents

[OILSPILL-FISHING:MI](#)—Paul Redman Sr. has made a living off the water since he was a teenager, first as a crabber then as a commercial fisherman.

The captain had just returned from a six-day trip where he brought back 2,100 pounds of reef fish, when the rig in the Gulf of Mexico collapsed, causing a massive oil spill that has come to haunt this part of Florida.

With a 10-day federal ban on recreational and commercial fishing, Redman is out of business for now, just as the season begins. From Pensacola Beach to Panama City, the sting of a massive oil spill almost 100 miles away made landfall, restricting fishing in federal waters from the mouth of the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle.

1100 (with trims) by Audra D.S. Burch and Joseph Goodman in Perdido Key, Fla. MOVED

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Also moving as:

[OILSPILL-FISHING:BI](#)—600 by Michael Newsom in D'Iberville, Miss. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Gulf's seafood producers contemplate shortages

[OILSPILL-SEAFOOD:WA](#)—As catastrophic as the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill appears, it's still too early to calculate the potential effect it will have on seafood supplies and prices.

With fishing closed for at least 10 days from the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle in response to a gusher of oil pouring out of a BP oil rig, seafood producers and restaurant owners nationwide are worried about shortages.

Fishermen in the potential path of the oil are preparing for the worst.

700 (with trims) by Steve Campbell. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

OSHA approves 4-hour training program for oil-spill volunteers

[OILSPILL-VOLUNTEERS:BI](#)—The head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration said Monday that his agency and three others have given their blessing to a condensed, four-hour training program for volunteers who want to deal with oil-contamination cleanup.

Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor over OSHA, said the agencies worked with BP all day Monday in Houma, La., applying lessons they learned from the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska, Hurricane Katrina and 9/11 to come up with the best training program for this spill.

400 by Karen Nelson in Biloxi, Miss. MOVED

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Coast guard promises residents notification before oil hits Mississippi coastline

[OIL SPILL-MISSISSIPPI:BI](#)—Responders hope calmer seas Tuesday will allow them to disperse and skim off oil that continues to pump into the Gulf of Mexico from the destroyed Deepwater Horizon oil rig.

British Petroleum also hoped to place the first of three containment units over leaks in 5,000 feet of pipe that crimped and twisted when the oil rig sank April 22 following an explosion.

The Coast Guard assured local officials Monday that residents will have 72 hours to 96 hours notice before any oil hits the Mississippi Coastline.

600 (with trims) by Anita Lee in Biloxi, Miss. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Oil weaves through Mississippi's Chandeleur Islands

[OIL SPILL-MISSISSIPPI-ISLANDS:BI](#)—The barrier islands off South Mississippi are the last line of defense against an approaching hurricane and now are tangling with the oil slick that is between 35 miles and 55 miles off the coast.

On a 90-minute flight that left Apollo Aviation in Gulfport, Miss., on Monday afternoon, the oil slick from the Deepwater Horizon spill was clearly visible within the Chandeleur islands. Small patches of what appeared to be rust-colored oil were even closer, in the channel between Cat Island and Ship Island, 11 miles south of Gulfport, Miss.

300 by Mary Perez in Gulfport, Miss. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Obama press secretary peppered with questions on U.S. role in cleanup

[OIL SPILL-WHITEHOUSE:LA](#)—Even as the oil continues its course to the shores along the Gulf of Mexico, the political questions about the disaster continue to grow.

Perhaps the most important question — certainly as far as the Obama administration is concerned — is what is the difference between the role of the federal government and that of oil company BP?

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs took a stab at explaining it again at his briefing Monday.

“They’re responsible, we have oversight,” Gibbs insisted to reporters. He again quoted Interior Secretary Ken Salazar’s colorful description that the federal government’s “job is to keep the boot on the neck of” BP to ensure that it meets its obligations.

That may sound simple, but the devil is in the details. Who exactly is doing what, reporters repeatedly questioned.

500 by Michael Muskal in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Florida governor extends state of emergency to 13 more counties

[OIL SPILL-FLORIDA:BR](#)—Florida Gov. Charlie Crist Monday extended his state of emergency order to 13 more counties, running the total to 19, as a spreading oil slick in the gulf threatened Florida’s coast.

Meanwhile, Suzi Fox, director of Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch and Shorebird Protection, said she and 50 volunteers were in a holding pattern until more exact information about the spill’s path is available.

700 by Sara Kennedy in Manatee, Fla. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Oil spill already hurting Panhandle’s tourist-based economy

[OIL SPILL-FLORIDA-TOURISM:OS](#)—The huge oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico remained well away from Florida’s Panhandle on Monday, but the region’s tourism-based economy already is taking a hit that many fear will be worse than Hurricane Ivan in 2004 or the recent global recession.

“We are used to disasters, but this is epic,” said Julian MacQueen, chief executive officer of Innisfree Hotels, which owns a Hilton in Pensacola Beach and three other hotels in the area. He figures that as many as 40 percent of his reservations will be canceled once authorities put Florida on notice that oil is expected to hit shore within three days.

1250 (with trims) by Kevin Spear and Sara Clarke in Pensacola Beach, Fla. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Florida’s Loop Current could intersect with oil slick, scientists say

[OIL SPILL-LOOP:FL](#)—Outer bands of the powerful Loop Current moved north to within 31 miles of the destroyed wellhead, spewing thousands of barrels a day. If the current reaches the spill, it could drag the slick south to the Florida Keys within days, and push it north to Broward and Palm Beach counties in a week to two weeks, marine scientists said.

“If it continues to move in that direction, and there is no reason why it shouldn’t, the Loop Current could very well be at the wellhead,” said Bob Weisberg, who is using satellite images to track the slick at the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida. “So there is a strong likelihood that at some point in the future oil will be entrained into the Loop Current.”

1100 (with trims) by David Fleshler and William E. Gibson in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Schwarzenegger won’t support offshore drilling project near Santa Barbara

[OIL SPILL-CALIFORNIA:SA](#)—California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger withdrew his support Monday for a new oil drilling project off the Santa Barbara coast in the wake of a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Republican governor for two years had pushed the Tranquillon Ridge project as a way to raise money for California’s strapped budget.

In his January plan, Schwarzenegger projected an advance of \$100 million and then \$1.8 billion over 14 years by allowing Houston-based Plains Exploration and Production Co., or PXP, to drill into California waters from an existing oil platform in federal territory.

He had a change of heart over the weekend.

550 by Kevin Yamamura in Sacramento, Calif. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

California parks could take a hit if offshore drilling plan is abandoned

[OIL SPILL-CALIFORNIA-PARKS:SJ](#)—The catastrophic oil slick spreading through the Gulf of Mexico has claimed another victim: Cash for California’s strapped parks system.

Painting a grim picture of the spill’s devastation, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Monday backed away from a contentious drilling proposal off the coast of Southern California that officials hoped would raise \$1.8 billion for state parks over the next 14 years.

The decision means the governor must find \$100 million for parks in this year’s budget and \$119 million more in the 2010-11 budget, adding additional pain to California’s \$18.6 billion budget deficit.

900 by Denis C. Theriault in Sacramento, Calif. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#) | [GRAPHICS](#)

Company hopes it can help with oil spill

[OILSPILL-COMPANY:BH](#)—As the U.S. government and BP try to avert an environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and the nearby shorelines, a Washington state company is making preparations in case it gets the call.

In recent years Absorption Corp. has been focused on making animal bedding products. But early on in its history it developed a product that is ideal for liquid spill control, particularly oil, said Doug Ellis, president of the company located north of Seattle.

400 by Dave Gallagher in Ferndale, Wash. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

WASHINGTON

Immigrant's family can't sue doctors for untreated tumor, Supreme Court rules

[SCOTUS-IMMIGRANT:TBW](#)—The family of a Los Angeles-area immigrant who languished in federal detention for 10 months while a cancerous growth went untreated despite his pleas for help cannot sue government doctors for medical neglect, the Supreme Court ruled Monday.

The case of Francisco Castaneda had gained the attention of a judge in Los Angeles who called it shocking and “beyond cruel and unusual punishment.”

But in a 9-0 opinion written by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the high court said federal law permits claims against the U.S. government, but not against the employees of the Public Health Service.

650 by David G. Savage in Washington. DIVERSITY. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Stevens remembers watching the Babe call his shot

[SCOTUS-STEVENS:TB](#)—In one of his last public speeches before retiring, Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens on Monday bypassed talk of the court's deep ideological divide and the battle to replace him and instead talked to a Chicago legal group about his beloved Cubs.

The Chicago native recalled one of his most precious boyhood memories of watching Babe Ruth hit his famous “called shot” for the New York Yankees in the 1932 World Series with the Cubs.

Stevens said he had long told people about witnessing Ruth's home run fly over the Wrigley Field scoreboard but then was corrected by a young lawyer a few years ago who said his grandfather had actually caught the home run in the left field bleachers. He said he started to doubt his memory until he had a law clerk research the matter. He discovered that Ruth had hit two home runs that day and that he was right.

650 by Bob Sexter and Ameet Sachdev in Chicago. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Supreme Court closes front entrance to public for security reasons

[SCOTUS-ENTRANCE:TBW](#)—The Supreme Court announced Monday it was closing its grand front entrance to the arriving public, prompting dissents from two justices who said the open front door was a powerful symbol of equal justice for all.

Starting Tuesday, visitors will not be permitted to walk up the marble steps to enter the building under the facade that says “Equal Justice Under Law.”

Instead, for security reasons, they will be required to enter a side entrance and go through screening devices. This change, several years in the making, had been recommended as a security precaution.

250 by David G. Savage in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Also moving as;

[SCOTUS-ENTRANCE:WA](#)—600 (with trims) by Michael Doyle in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Congress, where 44 percent are millionaires, freezes pay

[CONGRESS-PAYRAISE:WA](#)—Facing election-year pressure to keep a lid on their salaries, lawmakers in Congress have agreed quietly not to increase their pay next year.

As a result, most members of Congress next year will receive \$174,000 in 2011 under legislation awaiting President Barack Obama's signature, the same amount they're getting this year.

Under the law that governs congressional pay, senators and representatives were due to get an automatic cost of living increase on Jan. 1, probably an extra \$1,600 or 0.9 percent, unless they voted beforehand to turn it down.

550 (with trims) by David Lightman in Washington. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Michelle Obama to mark Mother's Day with White House tea

[MICHELLEOBAMA-MOTHERSDAY:TB](#)—First lady Michelle Obama will mark Mother's Day and celebrate notable grandmothers, mothers and daughters at a White House tea on Friday.

Guests will include former first lady Rosalynn Carter and her granddaughter, Sarah Carter; Tricia Nixon Cox, the daughter of President Richard Nixon; and Susan and Anne Eisenhower, the granddaughters of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, according to the White House Press Office.

100 by Katherine Skiba in Washington. DIVERSITY. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

UNITED STATES

At least 22 killed as Southeast floods

[WEA-FLOODING:LA](#)—Thousands of people were flooded out of their homes and businesses in Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi on Monday as rivers and streams overflowed their banks, blocking major highways and leaving at least 22 people dead.

Authorities feared the death toll could rise once floodwaters recede.

In Tennessee, state rescue teams and Coast Guard crews plucked people from flooded homes and hotels. Volunteers used canoes, motor boats and Jet Skis to reach stranded people, and helicopters rescued some residents from rooftops of homes cut off by roiling brown waters.

550 by David Zucchino in Raleigh, N.C. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Judge orders release of 9 Hutaree militia**

[FBIRAIDS:DE](#)—A federal judge in Detroit Monday ordered the release of nine members of a Lenawee County Christian militia group freed on bond over the objections of federal prosecutors.

U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts said federal prosecutors failed to convince her that the defendants must be jailed until trial.

450 by David Ashenfelter in Detroit. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Bombing attempt has New York seeking more security funds**

[NYCARBOMB-SECURITY:ND](#)—Since 9/11, the New York City metro area has received about \$2 billion in federal anti-terrorism funding, but the Times Square bombing attempt has New York officials calling for even more homeland security money to prevent another terrorist attack.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., Monday called for “hundreds of millions of dollars” to be spent immediately on developing explosive detection devices and technology that, he said, could be installed at major bridges, tunnels, highway toll plazas and other key transportation hubs.

550 by Thomas Maier in New York. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Connecticut auto parts store finds unwanted role in car bomb plot**

[NYCARBOMB-CONN:ND](#)—Somewhere on the road to Times Square, the plot to explode a car bomb in the crossroads of the world passed through Kramer’s Used Auto Parts, a weedy junkyard in an industrial zone of this suburb of Bridgeport.

“Things like that can happen in this world,” said mechanic Rich King, squatted down next to a beat-up Toyota Camry. He discussed the license plate reportedly stolen from a Ford truck on the lot that turned up on the Nissan Pathfinder set to explode in Times Square on Saturday night.

Ringed by a chain-link fence, the lot has dozens of cars in various states of disrepair, a wandering black cat and piles of engine blocks. Only a few of the cars on the lot appeared to have any plates to steal.

350 by John Riley in Stratford, Conn. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**U.S. medic testifies he found teen chained to door at Afghan base**

[GUANTANAMO-1ST-LEDE:WA](#)—A former U.S. Army combat medic testified Monday that he once found Canadian teen captive Omar Khadr chained by the arms to the door of a 5-foot-square cage at a U.S. lockup in Afghanistan, hooded and weeping.

The medic, identified in court only as Mr. M, said Khadr’s wrists were chained just above eye-level, but were slack enough to allow Khadr’s feet to touch the floor. He could not remember whether Khadr’s feet were also shackled.

Pentagon prosecutors called M, who treated Khadr’s injuries twice daily in Afghanistan until Khadr was transferred to Guantanamo, to defend Khadr’s treatment as humane. M’s testimony, however, was the first by a government witness to corroborate a portion of an affidavit Khadr drew up describing abusive treatment.

750 (with trims) by Carol Rosenberg in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Carter says U.S. needs more equitable position toward Palestinians**

[CARTER:MM](#)—Former President Jimmy Carter concurred with Gen. David Petraeus’ recent linkage of U.S. security interests in the Middle East and U.S. policies in the region that tilt toward Israel.

Carter, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has been outspoken in speeches and books about the need for the U.S. to adopt a more equitable position toward the Palestinians if there’s ever to be peace in the Middle East.

According to Foreign Policy magazine and other sources, Petraeus sent a slide show to the Joint Chiefs reporting that “there was a growing perception among Arab leaders that the U.S. was incapable of standing up to Israel.”

“His (Petraeus) primary concern was that the United States was neglecting Palestinians’ basic rights,” Carter told the Merced Sun-Star in an interview.

600 (with trims) by Mike Tharp in Merced, Calif. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**S.C. governor cleared of criminal conduct**

[SCGOV:CS](#)—South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster has cleared Gov. Mark Sanford of any criminal conduct for two trips to South America to meet his Argentine lover and, also, his use of state aircraft, upgraded airfare and campaign money.

McMaster, a Republican candidate for governor, said Monday that the “evidence does not support, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the governor knowingly, willfully and intentionally set out to break state law.”

150 by John O’Connor in Columbia, S.C. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [ARCHIVE PHOTOS](#)**Jury rules for Disney in Tower of Terror case**

[DISNEY-LAWSUIT:OS](#)—An Orange County jury decided Monday that there was nothing unsafe about Walt Disney World’s Twilight Zone Tower of Terror ride, ending a lawsuit brought by a Philadelphia man who claimed it caused his stroke in 1998.

Concluding a three-week trial in Circuit Court, the three-woman, three-man jury deliberated about three hours Monday before agreeing with the Walt Disney World Co., that the ride is not dangerous, and Disney was not negligent in providing it as an attraction.

450 by Scott Powers in Orlando, Fla. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Woman arrested after four stabbed at Target in Los Angeles**

[TARGET-STABBINGS:CC](#)—A woman was arrested after she allegedly stabbed four people inside a West Hollywood Target store Monday afternoon, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

200 by Roman Gokhman in Walnut Creek, Calif. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)**Priest abuse files remain secret**

[RELIG-PRIESTS-ABUSE:LA](#)—Three years after the Los Angeles Archdiocese agreed to the largest priest abuse

settlement in U.S. history, a key element of that agreement — public release of accused priests' personnel files — remains unfulfilled with no clear outlook on when the documents may be disclosed.

For many who believed that church authorities had ignored or downplayed their accounts of abuse, release of the documents rivaled monetary compensation as the central part of the \$660-million settlement agreement in 2007.

"People want to be believed, they want their truths to be known and validated," said Carlos Perez-Carrillo, 44, who said he was molested by a consecrated brother who later became a priest.

But Perez-Carrillo and the hundreds of others who sued have little ability to speed the process, and the other parties to the case have conflicting priorities.

1200 (with trims) by Victoria Kim in Los Angeles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

California lawmakers consider bill that offers eco-friendly cremation

[CALIF-CREMATATION:LA](#)—California funeral directors are eager to start offering clients a natural and greener way to dispose of their loved ones' remains, but they need a change in state law first.

Funeral homes and crematoria want to use a liquid chemical process to dissolve bodies instead of cremating them with fire.

"It's green. It's clean. It's environmentally friendly and it reduces the carbon footprint," said state Assemblyman Jeff Miller, a Republican, who authored legislation to make the so-called bio-cremation method legal.

800 by Marc Lifsher in Sacramento, Calif. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Remains of airman killed in Vietnam War finally coming home

[AIRMAN-REMAINS:FL](#)—With only two weeks left in his Vietnam War combat mission, Air Force Sgt. James Harold Alley sent a letter to his family in Plantation, Fla., promising to see them soon.

"When you turn around, turn around slowly," wrote the 22-year-old Stranahan High School graduate. "I might be there."

More than 38 years later, the remains of Sgt. Alley — killed in April 1972 after he volunteered to help rescue a jet pilot shot down by the North Vietnamese — will finally come home.

"Now we know where he's at," said B.R. Alley, James Alley's uncle and a retired Manatee County sheriff's deputy. "He'll be buried between his granddad and his dad."

800 (with trims) by Mike Clary in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Supreme Court won't hear British woman's appeal, clearing way for her execution

[TEXAS-DEATHROW-BRITON:LA](#)—The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to review the death sentence of a Caribbean-born woman convicted of murder in Texas, clearing the way for the first execution of a British woman in 55 years.

British officials and pro bono attorneys had appealed to the justices to order a new trial for Linda Carty, citing what they said were gross errors by her court-appointed attorney during the 2001 trial in which prosecutors alleged Carty killed her neighbor to steal her newborn son.

Britain's consul general in Houston, Paul Lynch, said Carty would have been provided a more effective lawyer and British government support during her trial had Texas authorities informed Carty of her right to consult with British diplomats.

250 by Carol J. Williams in Los Angeles. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Judge: Villegas incompetent to stand trial in Rothstein law partner's murder

[LAWYER-MURDER:FL](#)—The man charged with killing one of Scott Rothstein's law partners has been declared incompetent to stand trial for the high-profile slaying.

Tony Villegas' first-degree murder case has come to a halt after a Broward judge's ruling that he is unfit to proceed because of mental illness.

Villegas, 46, is accused of strangling attorney Melissa Britt Lewis on March 5, 2008, and then dumping her body in a Plantation canal. Lewis, 39, had been best friends with Villegas' former wife, Debra Villegas.

550 by Jon Burstein in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Naked man atop Fort Worth billboard comes down

[NAKEDSIGNGUY:FT](#)—A looming rain storm did what negotiations could not do for nearly four hours.

As clouds darkened overhead Monday afternoon, a man in his early 20s, who alternately trudged or crawled nude across the top a Fort Worth billboard, finally accommodated police and firefighters assembled below him.

He slid down the structure's ladder shortly after 3:30 p.m. CDT and was taken into custody by police officers.

900 (with trims) by Bill Miller in Fort Worth, Texas. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTO](#)

Actress Lynn Redgrave has died at 67

[REDGRAVE-OBIT:LA](#)—Lynn Redgrave, a member of the distinguished British acting family who became an overnight sensation playing the title character in the 1966 film "Georgy Girl," and later achieved acclaim on stage as both an actress and a writer, has died. She was 67.

Redgrave died Sunday with her children at her side at her home in Kent, Conn., said her publicist, Rick Miramontez.

1000 (with trims) by Dennis McLellan. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#) | [PHOTOS](#)

Virginia Ohlson, international leader in nursing field, dies at 95

[OHLSON-OBIT:TB](#)—Virginia M. Ohlson helped resurrect the nursing profession and establish public health principles in Japan after World War II, and she was part of a team that studied the effects of the atomic bomb on the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Ohlson went on to become an influential teacher and administrator at the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Nursing.

Ohlson, 95, died of natural causes on Saturday, April 10.

600 by Trevor Jensen in Chicago. MOVED

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Army blesses a war-zone lip-sync

[SOLDIERS-YOUTUBE:CH](#)—Fort Bragg soldiers whose goofy war-zone remake of a Lady Gaga video went viral over the weekend and soared to more than 3 million hits on YouTube have won a thumbs up from the brass.

“The brigade command team is happy to see that they also still have a good sense of humor and that morale is high,” said Maj. Michelle Baldanza, a spokeswoman in Afghanistan for the division’s 4th Brigade Combat Team via e-mail from Kandahar Air Field.

The soldiers have a challenging mission there, and they were just having a good time and “blowing off some steam in their downtime,” Baldanza said.

350 by Jay Price in Charlotte, N.C. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

THE WORLD

Clinton, Ahmadinejad clash over Iran’s nuclear enrichment plans

[NUCLEAR-CONFERENCE-1ST-LEDE:WA](#)—Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Monday demanded strong U.N. sanctions against Iran for defying demands to halt its enrichment of uranium after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad insisted there was no “credible proof” his regime is seeking nuclear weapons.

The public clash over the aims of Iran’s nuclear program dominated the opening day of a major U.N. review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the 40-year-old pact underpinning the global system to curb the spread of nuclear arms.

1000 (with trims) by Jonathan S. Landay in United Nations. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Also moving as:

[NUCLEAR-CONFERENCE-1ST-LEDE:TBW](#)—650 by Paul Richter and Julian E. Barnes in United Nations. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Surviving Mumbai attacker is convicted of murder

[TERROR-INDIA:LA](#)—The lone surviving member of the November 2008 attack in Mumbai that killed 166 people was convicted Monday on 86 counts, including murder, conspiracy and waging war against India, while two alleged Indian accomplices were acquitted.

The guilty verdict against Pakistan national Ajmal Amir Kasab, 22, was expected. Kasab was seen by several witnesses and recorded on closed-circuit video attacking the Mumbai railway station with a serene smirk on his face that prompted Indian media to dub him the “smiling assassin.”

450 by Mark Magnier in New Delhi. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Iraqi election recount begins; criticism quickly follows

[IRAQ-ELECTIONS:LA](#)—Iraqi election officials on Monday launched a recount of votes cast in Baghdad during March elections but almost immediately drew fire from a key supporter of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, whose party initially requested the second tally. The dispute further dimmed prospects for the quick formation of a new government.

Iraq’s independent election commission said it would take “two weeks or even three” to finish the recount.

Iraqis and Western observers fear stretching out the formation of the new government could further deteriorate security and endanger a plan to pull about 50,000 American troops out of the country by September.

550 by Borzou Daragahi in Baghdad. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

North Korean leader in China seeking cash, clout

[NKOREA-CHINA:LA](#)—North Korea’s reclusive leader Kim Jong Il arrived Monday in China, making a rare trip outside his hermit kingdom in search of money and support from his country’s last political patron.

In keeping with Kim’s anachronistic style, the Chinese government maintained a media blackout on the visit (in contrast to the many photographs published of French President Nicolas Sarkozy and even more of his model wife, Carla Bruni, during a visit last week).

850 by Barbara Demick and John M. Glionna in Beijing. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

SCIENCE, MEDICINE, ENVIRONMENT

Human growth hormone found to improve sprint capacity, study finds

[SCI-GROWTHHORMONE:LA](#)—Injections of human growth hormone can improve sprint capacity enough to turn the last-place finisher in the Olympic 100-meter-dash into the gold-medal winner, according to a study released Monday.

Sprint capacity improved for both men and women, according to the study. Combining growth hormone with testosterone injections in men doubled the improvement in sprinting.

“This is helpful in showing those skeptics out there who say it doesn’t help performance that they’re wrong,” said David Howman, director general of the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency, which funded the study.

700 by Shari Roan in Los Angeles. [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Investors unswayed by Children’s Tylenol recall, but parents worry

[MED-CHILDRENSTYLENOL-OA:PH](#)—Parents and investors may both be worried by this weekend’s recall of dozens of versions of Children’s Tylenol and several other infants’ and children’s medications made by Johnson & Johnson’s McNeil Consumer Healthcare division.

Three days after the Friday-night recall, the market appeared to reflect little concern. But parents voiced fears to pediatricians and pharmacists, and asked questions about the affected products.

Here are answers to some key questions.

750 by Jeff Gelles in Philadelphia. (Moved as a business story.) [MOVED](#)

[TEXT](#) | [HTML](#)

Opponents work to suspend California’s global warming law

[ENV-CALIFORNIA-WARMING:SI](#)—Setting up what is expected to be a multimillion-dollar political battle between oil companies and Silicon Valley tech leaders, opponents of California’s landmark global warming law turned in about 800,000 signatures Monday for a November ballot measure to suspend the law.

Opponents of the law, known as AB 32, say it will cost California jobs during a bad economy by increasing the price for fuels such as gasoline, and electricity bills. Supporters say the law — the latest example of California leading the rest of the nation on environmental reform — already is helping the state’s green tech and renewable energy industries by driving demand for cleaner energy.

850 (with trims) by Paul Rogers in San Jose, Calif. [MOVED](#)

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