



DAILY PRESS

Thursday, April 7, 2011

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FEDERAL SHUTDOWN NEARS

STILL NO DEAL

Congress' leaders report progress; Obama calls for White House meeting

BY DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON • Time growing short, Congress' leaders reported progress Wednesday in talks to cut spending and avert a partial government shutdown that the White House warned would hit U.S. combat troops abroad and taxpayer refunds from the IRS at home.

President Barack Obama checked in separately by phone with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., then asked the two men to join him at the White House for an evening meeting. He acted after deciding "not enough progress had been made," said spokesman Jay Carney.

Determined to avoid political blame if a shutdown occurs, Boehner said the House would vote today on a one-week stopgap bill to keep the government open while cutting \$12 billion in spending and providing the Pentagon with enough money to stay open until the Sept. 30 end of the bud-



PRESIDENT OBAMA
"You have to make compromises as a family. That's what we are, the American family. That's what people want to see: results. You deserve no less than that."

JOHN BOEHNER
"I think we've made some progress. But we're not finished, not by a long shot."
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

HARRY REID
"We meet them halfway, they say no. We meet them more than halfway, they still say no. We meet them all the way, they still say no. If Republicans were really worried about keeping the government running, all they would have to do is say yes."

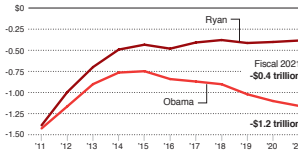
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

MORE BUDGET STORIES ON PAGE 7

GOP targets \$5 trillion in budget cuts

Republicans controlling the House have fashioned plans to slash federal spending by about \$5 trillion over the upcoming decade, blending unprecedented spending cuts with a fundamental restructuring of taxpayer-financed health care for the elderly and poor.

Projected changes in federal budget deficit, in trillions:
Under budget proposals by President Barack Obama and House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan



SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office; House Budget Committee AP

SEE SHUTDOWN • PAGE 7

NWS: High winds, rain, snow possible

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The National Weather Service on Wednesday issued a high wind warning for Apple and Lucerne valleys, as well as a winter weather advisory for the entire Victor Valley.

The NWS warns of high winds from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. today in the Apple Valley-Lucerne Valley area, with sustained winds of 30 to 40 mph and possible gusts of up to 70 mph. The strongest winds are expected this afternoon and evening.

The winter weather advisory will be in effect from 8 p.m. today to 5 p.m. Friday. Snow is expected in the mountains and upper deserts, with an inch of snowfall possible at 3,500 feet. Elevations above 4,000 feet could get 2 to 4 inches, and those above 5,000 feet could be hit by 5 to 10 inches.

Motorists are warned of possible slippery roads, downed tree branches or power lines, difficulty driving high-profile vehicles and low visibility due to snow or dust. According to the NWS, sustained wind of 40 mph or gusts of 58 mph or more can cause property damage.

FAMILY HELPS SAVE LIVES



RESCUERS: Left to right, Kenneth Bowler, 28, Emilio Thompson, 18, Dallas Burreas, 52, Josh Vasquez, 14, Ryan Thompson, 17, and Thomas Vasquez, 61, responded to the scene of a head-on crash Saturday. They helped free three of the four trapped passengers.

Vehicles crash near their Victorville residence

BY BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA
STAFF WRITER
VICTORVILLE • Krystina Spencer and her family were having a good time hanging out early Saturday morning when they heard a large explosion. "We just heard a crash and ran outside," the 21-year-old said. The family was not pre-

pared for what they saw. Two vehicles had crashed head-on and burst into flames on Village Drive near Vasquez Street at about 12:15 a.m. Saturday. "We could see there were people inside and that's when my stepdad and my cousin started trying to pull the people out of

SEE FAMILY • PAGE 8



HEADING TO PRISON: Matthew Linderman is led away into custody after being sentenced Wednesday to 20 years in prison for soliciting sexual favors as a San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputy.

Ex-deputy sentenced to 20 years for soliciting sexual favors

BY TOMOYA SHIMURA
STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE • An ex-Victorville sheriff's deputy was sentenced to 20 years in prison Wednesday morning for soliciting bribes and sexual favors in exchange for reduced charges.

Victorville Superior Court Judge Jules Fleuret sentenced Matthew Linderman, 34, to the maximum prison term under the law.

Because Linderman is eligible for half-time credits, he could get out in 10 years if he's not disciplined in prison. He will have to register as a sex offender when he gets released.

His hands and ankles cuffed, Linderman appeared in court wearing a protective custody jumpsuit with stubble on his face. Before Fleuret pronounced

VIDEO ON THE WEB
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>>>FINDER

HIGH DESERT

County may build La Mesa/Nisqualli interchange

Page B1

SPORTS

Cougars shut down 'Rabbits in baseball

APPLE VALLEY • The Granite Hills baseball team holds Victor Valley to one hit in a Desert Sky League win.

C1

WEATHER > Page D6

High 57
Low 34

HIGH WINDS

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INDEX

- Business **C8** Lottery **A2**
- Classifieds **E2** Movies **D3**
- Comics **D4** Obituaries **B2**
- Crossword **D5** Scoreboard **C5**
- Dear Abby **D5** Sports **C1**
- Editorials **B4** Weather **D6**
- High Desert **B1**

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Page edited by Mike Lamb

EX-DEPUTY: Jury found Linderman guilty on 15 of 24 counts

FROM PAGE 1
his judgment, a victim's advocate read two impact statement letters on behalf of the victims. One of the victims expressed her distrust toward law enforcement officers in addition to the stress and pain she suffered from the crime.

"Every time I see a police officer, my heart (begins) to race. Do they know who I am? Were they the defendant's friends and are they going to harass me?" she wrote. "Or the biggest question is, 'Have they seen my provocative photos?' Or better yet, 'Who has seen my photos? Did the defendant put them on the internet? Is everybody that has access to the Internet forever able to view them?'"

In March, a jury found

Linderman guilty on 15 of 24 counts and at least one count for 10 of the 11 alleged victims.

Between May 2005 and July 2007, Linderman arrested some of the victims and asked them to show their breasts and took their naked photos in his patrol car and office, the prosecution said.

Michael Schwartz, Linderman's attorney, asked the judge Wednesday for a mitigated sentence because the defendant didn't have a prior criminal record and was a good police officer before the offense, providing service to the community.

"This is somebody who can, when he gets out of prison, still be productive," Schwartz said.

But Fleuret said Linderman took advantage of the vulnerable victims and inflicted emotional damage.

The judge added Linderman's act undermines the foundation of American democracy, in which the government operates under the law to protect its citizens.

The ex-deputy was found guilty of 10 felony counts of asking for bribes, one felony count of sexual battery by restraint and one felony count of oral copulation under color of authority.

He was also convicted of three misdemeanor counts of soliciting another to engage in lewd conduct.

Linderman had worked for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for nine years until he resigned following the investigation of the case.

"Being a deputy was my whole life," Linderman told his probation officer after the conviction. The defendant broke down and cried during the interview, the probation officer's report states.

"I'm ashamed and embarrassed of my behavior," he said, according to the report.

Linderman got married to a sheriff's jail employee, but their relationship began to suffer from differing work schedules, he told the probation officer.

"I was hungry for attention," Linderman said, according to the probation officer's report.

The defendant said his relationship with his female co-workers became "inappropriate," according to the report.

He flirted with coworkers and people would send him nude photos, the report states. It was the social culture of his station, Linderman told the probation officer.

Linderman said he was worried his father may die before he's released from

prison. Ron Linderman, the father, was present in court every day during the month-long trial.

"I'm not saying he's innocent. He's done something he shouldn't have done. But they came on him too hard," Ron Linderman said after the sentencing as he broke down in tears. "He's not an animal. He's my kid."

Tomoya Shimura may be reached at (760) 955-5368 or tshimura@VVDailyPress.com.

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FAMILY: Crash victim pulled out of burning vehicle

FROM PAGE 1
there," she said.

Spencer's brother, Emilio Thompson, was also at the scene of the horrific crash that claimed the life of a young man.

"At first I was just trying to get my sister out of the way," Thompson said. "I never thought I was going to get involved like that but when I saw my cousin Kenny and my stepdad trying to help I just started trying to get the doors open."

After pulling two people from a Toyota Corolla, the cousins went to the Ford Focus and noticed a young man and woman in the front seats. They were hurt and the flames were quickly spreading.

Neighbor Josh Vasquez, 14, and his father were on the phone with a 911 dispatcher, Thompson and Kenneth Bowler tried to pull open the passenger-side door.

"It wasn't moving at all," Thompson said. Then after his stepfather, Dallas Burress, doused the burning vehicle with a fire extinguisher, the door popped open.

"The girl's dad came by and some of the guy's friends," Thompson recalled, speaking then in a softer voice. "They all said he was a really nice guy. I think he was."

A large memorial was set up for the young man near the crash site. Religious candles, cards and stuffed animals marked the location where the victim, known only as Richard, died.

The family hopes to meet with the young man's father soon.

"My heart goes out to his family. The girl is pretty bad off but she should be OK. My family is excited about that," Spencer said. "This is

her wrists nearly to her shoulder came off with them.

Unfortunately, the Samaritans were unable to help the woman's friend.

"The way the cars were we couldn't get to his door," Thompson said. "We tried and it was stuck."

While San Bernardino County Fire officials said they usually do not recommend people put themselves in harm's way, fire spokesman Ryan Beckers said if it wasn't for the work of the family members, there may have been more fatalities.

"So the fact that they had the presence of mind to grab a fire extinguisher and help their fellow neighbors should be commended," Beckers said. "Because of what they did, that allowed us to come in and fight the fire and treat the patients."

That night, the family was given a small glimpse into some of the lives of the people they helped save and of the man who perished.

"The girl's dad came by and some of the guy's friends," Thompson recalled, speaking then in a softer voice. "They all said he was a really nice guy. I think he was."

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The family hopes to meet with the young man's father soon.

"My heart goes out to his family. The girl is pretty bad off but she should be OK. My family is excited about that," Spencer said. "This is

something I have never seen before and I hope I don't see it again."

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Major Accident Investigation Team is investigating the incident. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident is asked to contact Deputy James Snow at the Victorville station at (760) 241-2911 or call WeTip at (800) 78-CRIME.

David Pardo also contributed to this report.

Beatriz E. Valenzuela may be reached at (760) 951-6276 or at bValenzuela@VVDailyPress.com.

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McCain assures Republicans Obama is beatable in 2012

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU
WASHINGTON • As President Barack Obama ramps up his re-election campaign, the man he defeated to win the office in 2008 says the Republican Party has a simple case to make in the effort to unseat him.

"He promised change and we really didn't see change," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., told reporters Wednesday. "When you look at his

campaign promises ... the reality has not lived up to his vision as he articulated last time for America."

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