

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Congress rejects latest plan to protect Neah Bay from future oil spills



NEAH BAY, Wash. (AP) — The Makah Tribe says it won't give up on efforts to station a rescue tugboat at the entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca despite Congress' refusal to approve the plan.

The state Office of Marine Safety last year recommended putting a tugboat at Neah Bay to help reduce the chances of an oil spill off the northern end of the Olympic Peninsula.

A tug could rescue tankers if they lost power, ran aground or encountered bad weather.

"We feel the resources are going to be at risk, and it will probably take another catastrophic oil spill to bring this to people's attention again," said Vince Cooke, the tribe's hazardous materials coordinator.

The proposal was opposed by industries, including the Puget Sound Steamship Operators Association, as an unjustified expense.

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., endorsed the \$3.5 million tugboat proposal in Congress and it was included in a bill that lifts the ban on exporting crude oil from Alaska's North Slope.

The bill passed, but the tugboat provision was eliminated in favor of a 15-month Coast Guard study on how best to use private tugs to assist disabled tankers.

Cooke said he found the plan for a Coast Guard study frustrating because the Emergency Towing System Task Force already spent 11 months on studies to determine a tug was needed at Neah Bay.

The steamship operators association, which represents 47 major shipping lines that might have helped pay for the tug, called the idea "a solution looking for a problem."

The group contends that conditions in the strait do not justify the cost of putting a tug at Neah Bay.

Cooke said the Makahs will work to convince congressional staff members of the risks associated with a spill and the large numbers of vessels that pass through the strait.

Officials ignore Bosnians' protests concerning the Dayton treaty



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Dayton treaty on Bosnia is final, senior American officials said Sunday in rejecting demands from Bosnian Serbs that provisions relating to the future of Sarajevo be changed.

"We are not going to renegotiate this agreement," Defense Secretary William Perry said of the pact worked out last week in Dayton, Ohio, with the presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia.

Congressional Republicans have led the opposition to Clinton's plans to contribute 20,000 U.S. ground forces to a 60,000-member NATO peacekeeping force. Thousands of Bosnian Serbs in the capital of Sarajevo have protested the peace accord, which cedes control of their sector of the city to the Muslim-Croat federation. Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic said Sunday that "a new solution for Sarajevo must be found" and that in the meantime, Serbs would not withdraw their troops.

Whitewater investigations expand to include two Arkansas bankers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Whitewater prosecutors have expanded their investigation to examine donations two Arkansas bankers made to Bill Clinton's 1990 gubernatorial campaign. The bankers are waging a secret court battle to fight subpoenas for their records, according to lawyers.

In a step approved by a federal appeals court in late July, prosecutors are investigating whether \$7,000 from the families of Herby Branscum Jr. and Robert M. Hill came from federally insured funds at their bank, the lawyers said.

Attorneys for Branscum and Hill deny there was any misuse of bank funds.

The Whitewater investigation's original interest in Clinton's 1990 campaign focused on Bruce Lindsey, a longtime friend of the president who was the campaign treasurer then and now is a top White House aide.

Rebel jet bomb kills 35, wounds 140; government blames Islamic militia



KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Rebel jets bombed the Afghan capital Sunday, killing 35 people and wounding 140 others, a government spokesman and witnesses said. At least 20 of the injured were children.

The air raids, among the worst to hit Kabul in three years of civil war, destroyed several houses and other buildings in the city's western suburb of Wazir Akbar Khan.

The government blamed the Islamic Taliban militia, and accused Pakistan of aiding them.

"There is evidence that the Pakistan air force provided support for the Taliban's Russian-built planes," a Defense Ministry statement said.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani has repeatedly accused Pakistan of arming and fighting alongside Taliban guerrillas, who have captured more than a third of Afghanistan since joining the fighting late last year. Pakistan denies the charge.

The rebels, many of whom are former religious students, want to impose strict Islamic rule throughout Afghanistan.

Kabul government officials said in four separate air strikes Sunday Taliban pilots dropped a series of anti-personnel bombs, which fall by parachute and explode above the ground, scattering shrapnel.

The weapon is considered highly effective, but indiscriminately brutal, hitting anything and anyone in its path.

"Not only the Afghan state, but any human around the globe will condemn this brutal attack," said Defense Ministry spokesman Abdullah, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

Two regular bombs also rocked the city, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry told The Associated Press.

The Taliban has a number of fighter jets, but it is unclear how they were obtained or where the rebel pilots were trained.

Campus drop-box eases voting for students

By Ashley Bach
Student Activities Reporter

Student registered voters will have only to travel as far as the EMU to submit their mail-in ballots for next month's Senate primary and general election.

A ballot drop-box is currently located outside the ASUO office in EMU Suite 3, and ballots can be mailed without a stamp.

All ballots will be delivered to the Lane County Elections office.

Beginning in October, the ASUO worked with Lane County Elections to bring the voting station to campus.

"They were very enthusiastic about getting students involved with the voting process," said Matt Scotten, ASUO federal affairs coordinator.

Voters can deposit their ballots in the box any weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the primary election deadline Dec. 5. All voters who registered before the Nov. 14 deadline should have received ballots in the mail.

Voters can still turn in their ballots on campus even if they are registered in another district.

Another drop-box is planned for the Jan. 30 general election. The box will be available about two weeks before the deadline, and voters can register for the election until January 9.

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