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Deal near on big financial bailout plan

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is bringing presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain into negotiations on a \$700 billion rescue of Wall Street as Democrats and Republicans near agreement on a bailout plan with more protections for taxpayers and new help for distressed homeowners.

Senior lawmakers and Bush administration officials have cleared away key obstacles to a deal on the unprecedented rescue, agreeing to include widely supported limits on pay packages for executives whose companies benefit.

They're still wrangling over major elements, including how to phase in the eye-popping cost — a measure demanded by Democrats and some Republicans who want stronger congressional control over the bailout — without spooking markets. A plan to let the government take an ownership stake in troubled companies as part

of the rescue, rather than just buying bad debt, also was under intense negotiation.

A bipartisan meeting was set for Thursday to begin drafting a compromise, which top Democrats said they hoped could pass within days.

The core of the plan envisions the government buying up sour assets of shaky financial firms in a bid to keep them from going under and to stave off a potentially severe recession.

Even as political figures haggled over the shape and price of the bailout, new economic indicators showed that orders for big-ticket manufactured goods plunged in August by the largest amount in seven months and that new applications for unemployment benefits were at their highest level in seven years.

On Wall Street, stocks initially rose Thursday rose on optimism about the deal but a credit market squeeze remained as doubts about the proposed plan's effectiveness drove demand for short-term,

safe-haven assets.

Bush acknowledged in a prime-time television address Wednesday night that the bailout would be a "tough vote" for lawmakers.

But he said failing to approve it would risk dire consequences for the economy and most Americans.

"Without immediate action by Congress, America could slip into a financial panic, and a distressing scenario would unfold," Bush said as he worked to resurrect the unpopular bailout package. "Our entire economy is in danger."

Bush's warning came soon after he invited Obama and McCain, one of whom will inherit the economic mess in four months, as well as key congressional leaders to a White House meeting Thursday to work on a compromise.

With the administration's original proposal considered dead in Congress, House leaders said they were making progress toward revised legislation that could be

approved.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who has led negotiations with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson on the package, said that given the progress of the talks, the White House meeting was a distraction.

"We're going to have to interrupt a negotiating session tomorrow between the Democrats and Republicans on a bill where I think we are getting pretty close, and troop down to the White House for their photo op," said Frank, the House Financial Services Committee chairman. "I wish they'd checked with us."

Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke have been crisscrossing Capitol Hill in recent days, shuttling between public hearings on the proposal and private meetings with lawmakers, to sell the proposal.

Obama and McCain are calling for a bipartisan effort to deal with the crisis, little more than five weeks before national elections in which the economy has

emerged as the dominant theme.

"The plan that has been submitted to Congress by the Bush administration is flawed, but the effort to protect the American economy must not fail," they said in a joint statement Wednesday night. "This is a time to rise above politics for the good of the country. We cannot risk an economic catastrophe."

Presidential politics intruded, nonetheless, when McCain said earlier Wednesday he intended to return to Washington and was asking Obama to agree to delay their first debate, scheduled for Friday, to deal with the meltdown.

Obama said the debate should go ahead.

Lawmakers in both parties have objected strenuously to the rescue plan over the past two days, Republicans complaining about federal intervention in private business and Democrats pressing to tack on more conditions and help for beleaguered homeowners.

Boy Scouts raise money to rejuvenate programs

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press

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Boy Scouts officials says they have a chance to rejuvenate their venerable program in northwest Kansas, thanks to a \$25,000 grant from an area foundation, but there's a catch: They have to raise \$25,000 to match the grant.

The Coronado Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, based in Hays, wants to improve the quality of Scouting programs in six counties in northwest Kansas by hiring an organizer to live and work here, said Scout Executive Stacy Huff.

The council has set up a development fund for Thomas, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman, Wallace and Logan counties, Huff said, to raise money from organizations, individuals and foundations for the match.

Dr. Lynn Kreider, president of Colby Community College, and chairman of the fund, said "Maintaining high-quality Scout programs in our rural areas requires a higher-than-usual level of service because of the scant population and resources. How we react now will dictate what the legacy of Scouting will be like for future



The Coronado Area Council, Boy Scouts of America are working to revitalize Scouting programs in northwest Kansas like this cubmobile. The organization received a \$25,000 Challenge Grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to assist in their efforts. The Hansen Foundation will match the Council dollar for dollar up to \$25,000.

generations here."

Thanks to a grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation of Logan, the council is optimistic it will be

able to raise the money, Huff said, but that will require donations from many citizens.

Huff said the existing Scouting

programs in the six-county area are not raising enough money per scout.

"On average, it costs \$100 per

year to support a scout in our programs," Huff said. "We're currently raising \$25 per Scout per year in these six counties, and we believe through higher education and programs we'll see support increase."

Huff said he felt having quality programs in northwest Kansas was important.

"I think it's important for the youth of northwest Kansas to have the best Scouting program possible," he said, "because Scouting instills a sense of citizenship in their community that will carry on into their adult life."

If the council raises the matching \$25,000, it will be able to create the new position in January, Huff said. The new person will be someone living in the area he said. The person's responsibilities would include recruiting, training and working directly with volunteers to improve the quality of Scouting programs he said.

Today, the person responsible for overseeing programs in the six-county region lives in Hays. Huff said it's better to have a person who lives in the region running things because he will have knowledge about the needs of the people here that someone from the

outside wouldn't have access to.

Huff said with increased funding, they would be able to provide more training sessions for adult leaders, run day camps in all six counties, have two-day camp programs where Scouts from all the counties would come together and compete in activities that involved the use of scouting skills, and start programs to teach youth leadership through hands-on experience.

Huff said he felt Scouting programs in the six-county area would continue to suffer if the council doesn't reach its goal.

"Kids wouldn't get recruited, volunteers wouldn't get trained, and district wide programs wouldn't get organized," he said.

But he said he is confident the people here will support the project.

"Scouting values resonate well with this part of the country," he said.

The council hopes to match the grant from the Hansen Foundation by the end of the year and continue to raise up to \$100,000 to support projects through 2011, Huff said. The fund-raising task force will start soliciting donations in the coming weeks, he said.

Former Brewster woman turned author to talk at Booked for Lunch on Wednesday

Author Doris Johnson of Burlington, formerly of Brewster, will be the guest for the Booked for Lunch at noon on Wednesday at the Pioneer Memorial Library.

Johnson has written two different types of books, Gutsy Women, telling about women who have had extraordinary lives and a children's book The Cookie Crumb Trail.

Gutsy Women tells the stories of 16 incredible women who overcame adversity to lead successful lives. Five women from the Thomas and Sherman County area are featured in the book including Evelyn Hoyt Ward, Opal Imhof Reck, Minnie Belle Imhof Jones, Lucy Imhof, and Esther Imhof.



Johnson

The women featured in the book were not famous, but they led courageous lives and accomplished many things, book author Johnson said. Many of the women in the book grew up during the Great Depression when people were struggling everyday to put food on the table.

"Growing up during the Depression only heightened these women's desire to succeed against all odds," Johnson said.

Although the lifestyles of the women in the book are a lot different than the lifestyles of women today, many of the challenges they faced were similar to the challenges confronting today's women she said. These challenges include financial insecurity, family illness, loneliness, and the death of loved ones.

The Cookie Crumb Trail is a children's book Johnson's oldest grandson, Shane, inspired her to write. The story is about a boy

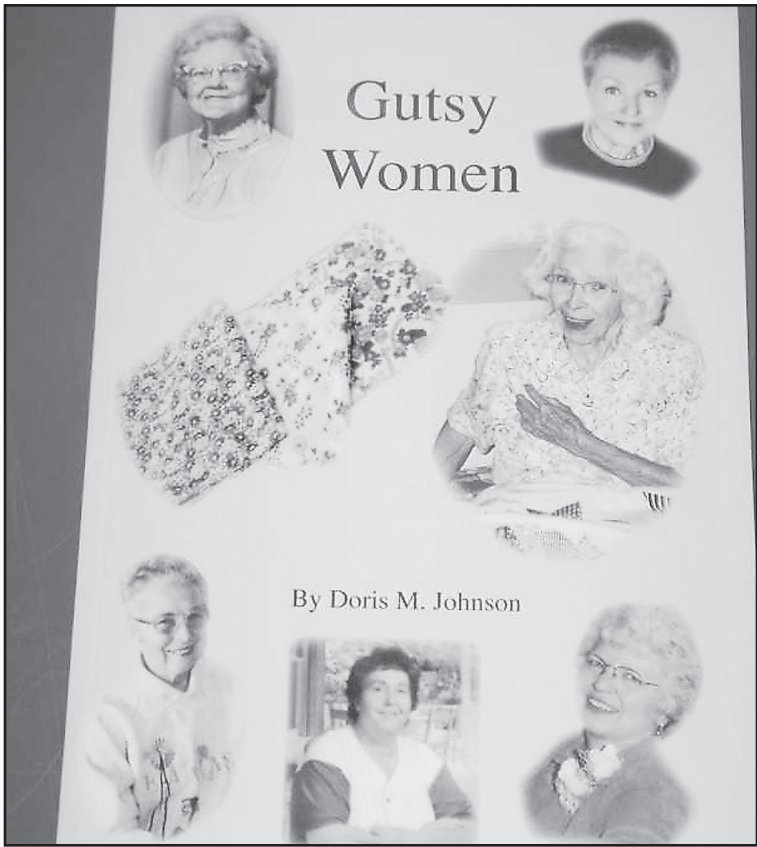
and his pet duckling who are flying to their Grandma's house.

When they arrive at the airport, they get into all sorts of mischief. The duo eventually gets to grandmas' thanks to luck and some creative problem solving.

Johnson also coauthored a book with her brother, Ray Imhof, entitled As I Remember It. The story is a memoir about their mother's life growing up in western Kansas in the early 1900's.

All three books can be purchased at the Prairie Museum in Colby and the Craft Peddler in Brewster. The books can be checked out at the Pioneer Memorial Library.

Johnson grew up on a farm northeast of Brewster. She graduated from Brewster High School and Kansas State University. She was a teacher before her retirement in 1998. She now spends her time writing books and playing with her grandchildren.



By Doris M. Johnson

Briefly

Fly-in breakfast planned Oct. 4

The Friends of the Colby Airport will hold a fly-in breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4. The Eagle Med King Air, a highway patrol helicopter, experimental aircraft, powered parachutes, antique aircraft and radio control aircraft are expected for the event and tandem skydiving will be available. Breakfast will be provided by the Boy Scouts and proceeds from the event will benefit youth groups and the airport. For information call Mark at 460-4438.

Dance team collecting cans

The Colby High School dance team plans an aluminum can drive Saturday at the Orscheln Farm and Home store on South Range to raise money for new uniforms. Bring your cans to the parking lot to help the students.

School group plans book fair

The Colby Grade School Parent-Teacher Organization will hold its annual Scholastic Book Fair from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. next Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, with the theme "Book Fair Safari - Soma! (Read!) Ota! (Dream!) Kua! (Grow!)" The fair offers new releases, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, adult books and current bestsellers.

Scouts support Red Cross effort

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross plans to observe National Preparedness Month by teaching citizens how to be ready for any disaster in four easy steps: Get a kit, make a plan, be informed and get involved. Activities will include a pancake breakfast fund raiser sponsored by the Boy Scouts at the Colby Community Building from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday

Trail ride set for Oct. 5

The Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site, near Studley on U.S. 24 in Sheridan County, plans a free trail ride from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5. No motorized vehicles will be allowed on the trail, but wagons and hikers are welcome. Bring your own horse. For questions, call (785) 627-5866.

Flu shots schedules

The Thomas County Health Department will be offering flu shots from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at the Senior Progress Center in Colby; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, at Golden Plains school in Rexford and 1:15-3 p.m. at the Rexford Red Barn; 8:30-10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the Meadowlark Manor in Colby, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Brewster school and 2:45-4 p.m. at the Brewster Senior Center; 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Fairview Estates in Colby, 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at

the Colby grade school and 11 a.m. to noon at the Colby High School.

Shots will be available at the health department from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 8, Wednesday, Oct. 22, Tuesday, Nov. 4, and Monday, Nov. 10, and from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, and Monday, Oct. 20.

The cost is \$25 and all clinics are walk in.

Program focuses on fiances

A 13-week program to help families handle their finances will be offered at the Colby Wesleyan Church. The classes, designed to teach people how to handle their money through common-sense principles and small-group accountability, will start at 9 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 5, taught by Dave Ramsey, a personal money management expert. Special rates are available online at www.daveramsey.com or by calling (888) 227-3223. Contact Kylee Philipp at (785) 460-8215 or bkphilipp@st-tel.net.

