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Osama bin Laden killed in U.S. raid

By David Esposito and Kimberly Dozier

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Osama bin Laden, the face of global terrorism and architect of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, was killed in a firefight with elite American forces Monday, then quickly buried at sea in a stunning finale to a furtive decade on the run.

Long believed to be hiding in caves, bin Laden was tracked down in a costly, custom-built hideout not far from a Pakistani military academy. The stunning news of his death prompted relief and euphoria outside the White House and around the

globe, yet also deepening fears of terrorist reprisals against the United States and its allies.

"Justice has been done," President Barack Obama said late Sunday from the White House in an announcement that seemed sure to lift his own political standing.

The military operation took mere minutes, and there were no U.S. casualties.

U.S. Blackhawk helicopters ferried about two dozen troops from Navy SEAL Team Six, a top military counter-terrorism unit, into the compound identified by the CIA as bin Laden's hideout — and back out again in less than 40 minutes. Bin Laden was shot in the head, officials said, after he and his bodyguards resisted

the assault.

Three adult males were also killed in the raid, including one of bin Laden's sons, whom officials did not name. One of bin Laden's sons, Hamza, is a senior member of al-Qaida. U.S. officials also said one woman was killed when she was used as a shield by a male combatant, and two other women were injured.

The U.S. official who disclosed the burial at sea said it would have been difficult to find a country willing to accept the remains. Obama said the remains had been handled in accordance with Islamic custom, which requires speedy burial.

"I heard a thundering sound, followed by heavy firing. Then firing suddenly stopped. Then more thundering, then a big

blast," said Mohammad Haroon Rasheed, a resident of Abbottabad, Pakistan, after the choppers had swooped in and then out again.

Bin Laden's death marks a psychological triumph in a long struggle that began well before the Sept. 11 attacks. Al-Qaida was also blamed for the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa that killed 231 people and the 2000 attack on the USS Cole that killed 17 American sailors in Yemen, as well as countless other plots, some successful and some foiled.

"We have rid the world of the most infamous terrorist of our time," CIA director Leon Panetta declared to employees of the agency in a memo Monday morning.

He warned that "terrorists almost cer-

tainly will attempt to avenge" the killing of a man deemed uncatchable. "Bin Laden is dead. Al-Qaida is not," Panetta said.

Retaliatory attacks against the U.S. and Western targets could come from members of al-Qaida's core branch in the tribal areas of Pakistan, al-Qaida franchises in other countries, and radicalized individuals in the U.S. with al-Qaida sympathies, according to a Homeland Security Department intelligence alert issued Sunday and obtained by The Associated Press.

While the intelligence community does not have insight into current al-Qaida plotting, the department believes symbol-

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Proclaiming Arbor Day



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Tree Board members Kevin Juenemann (from left) and Jerry Arensdorf, Colby City Councilman Stan Schmidt, Colby Community College President Dr. Steve Vacik and Colby Mayor Gary Adrian presided over the Arbor Day celebration on Friday

at the college. Juenemann read a proclamation signed by Adrian and Arensdorf told the audience that the tree board recently planted several trees at the City of Colby ball fields and they plan to continue adding additional trees each year.

Lawmakers want even deeper cuts

By Kevin Bottrell

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As state legislators resume haggling over the state budget, three lawmakers are proposing even deeper cuts to public education.

The House and Senate have been in negotiations for a week, trying to reconcile their opposing bills into a cohesive budget to send to the governor. However, on Friday, Reps. Owen Donohoe of Shawnee, Anthony Brown of Eudora and Kasha Kelley of Arkansas City offered an amendment cutting an additional \$160 from base state aid.

The amendment, which has yet to be voted on, would cut \$138 million more, partly by dropping base state aid to \$3,602 per student. The Kansas National Education Association said base aid hasn't been that low since 1992.

Base state aid is at \$4,012 for this school year after budget cuts by the Legislature and then Gov. Mark Parkinson at last year's session and was expected to be cut again to \$3,762. It had been standing at \$4,433. State aid is also used to calculate other funding sent to schools by the state.

The three legislators, who sit on the House Appropriations Committee, made the proposal to increase the state's budget surplus at

the end of the year to about \$203 million. The proposal would also take money from the state prison system and disability services.

The House's current budget plan would leave a surplus of \$65.6 million. The Senate's plan would balance the budget, leaving no surplus.

The committee was set to vote on the measure today, but the Associated Press is reporting that many morning meetings were postponed so that legislators could attend the funeral of Rep. Rocky Fund of Hoyt, who died last week.

At a Colby School Board meeting in April, Colby Superintendent Terrel Harrison said she expected the final budget to be more in line with the House version, and has been planning accordingly. The administration was figuring on losing \$500,000 from this year's and next year's revenue.

Harrison said the district is looking for places to cut about \$284,000 from activities and academic programs both this year and next year and the rest from the general fund. These numbers reflected the House's current version of the budget, and if the committee's cuts go through, the district will lose even more.

The district has lost more than \$1 million since the 2008 recession.

Economy slowed by high gas prices

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Soaring gasoline and other fuel prices have pushed an inflation indicator to its highest ever level in a monthly survey in nine Midwestern and Plains states, further slowing the regional economy.

The overall Mid-America business conditions index dropped to 57.7 in April from 61.4 in March. The index remained in positive territory above 50, mainly because higher agricultural commodity prices improved the outlook for firms linked to the farm sector, said Creighton University Economics Professor Ernie Goss,

who oversees the survey.

But "we are beginning to see high energy prices cut into economic growth," Goss said.

The survey of supply managers and executives uses a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth in the next three to six months, while a score below 50 suggests a contracting economy.

States in the survey are Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Da-

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ASHLEY MOSER/Farmers and Merchants Bank
Farmers and Merchants Bank President Brent Wiedeman waited tables at the bank's dinner fund raiser Tuesday.

Dinner nets \$4,271 for school activities

The Celebrity Waiter Dinner, put on by Farmers and Merchants Bank on Tuesday, proved popular, bringing in \$4,271 in tips and donations for several Colby High School activities.

Bank Customer Service Representative Ashley Moser said the 10 percent of the tips — about \$185 each — will go to the cheerleading and dance teams. About \$3,901 will go to the athletics department. The districts' music department, who provided the entertainment, made more than \$300 in donations.

"I thought the entire event was a success," Moser said.

Throughout the evening, high school coaches spoke about budget cuts and the needs of their sports programs. The "celebrities" waiting tables included community members and parents of Colby students.

Luke and Jada Tubbs won the tips contest, making \$1,319 in tips. Rocking M Radio provided prizes including passes to the Country Stampede in Manhattan in June and tickets to a Kansas City Royals game.

Briefly

Support groups meeting now

The Al-Anon/Alateen Family Group is now meeting from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Colby United Methodist Church. It is a 12-step program for people dealing with alcohol or other addictions in the family. For information, call Jim Mardock at 460-2761.

Population discussion moved

Colby Community College's discussion on Dr. Patrick Carr's presentation on his book, "Hollowing out the Middle," has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Davis Library on campus. The discussion was postponed because of the lockdown April 14. For information, call Linda Davis-Stephens at 460-5528.

Get together and pray Thursday

There will be a praise and prayer rally for the National Day of Prayer at 7 p.m. next Thursday in the Little Theater at the Colby Community Build-

ing. Everyone is invited to the rally, which includes prayer time for local, state and national needs. For information, call Karen Merryman at 443-3715.

City clean up week is here

Colby and Thomas County are sponsoring a countywide Cleanup Week from today to Friday. Service clubs will clean parks or public places and city garbage crews will be on hand to handle any extra trash. Electronic waste should be taken to the recycling center. Anyone who wants to volunteer to help the elderly or infirm should call Anita Powell at 460-4420.

Meal, auction to benefit family

There will be a pancake feed, bake sale, silent auction and "slave" auction to benefit the family of Dalen Schlageck from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. Money raised will help the family with medical and funeral expenses. Thrivent Chapter Activity will match. For informa-

tion, Call Julie Ross at 443-1811.

City offers 3-on-3 basketball

The Colby Recreation Department will hold its first 3-on-3 Youth Basketball Tournament on Saturday. Deadline to register is Tuesday. Information and registration forms can be found at www.cityofcolby.com. For questions, call Recreation Director Stacy Lee at 460-4440.

Department to distribute food

The United States Department of Agriculture will distribute extra commodities from 1 to 2 p.m. next Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Commodities are given according to income guidelines and distribution is first-come, first-served. Participants are asked to not arrive before 12:30 p.m. Commodities include cereal, corn, peaches, canned beef, juice and cranberry sauce. For information, call the program office at 462-6744.

Diabetes class will be May 10

Citizens Medical Center Inc. will hold an diabetes class, "Continuing Your Journey with Diabetes," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 10, in the Citizens Medical Center conference room. This class is free for a limited time, but registration is required. For information or to register, call Courtney McCarty at 460-1237.

Selden car show coming in June

The Selden Community Foundation will have its 17th annual Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show starting at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 5. Admission is free. Classic motorcycles and small engines are welcome. Bring your own lawn chairs. For information call Judy Rogers at (785) 386-4231.



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