News in 2 minutes

A quick read of today's top

YMCA shortens name, now only called 'the Y'

CHICAGO—The YMCA is now known officially as just "the Y."

The Chicago-based U.S. nonprofit announced Monday that it is changing both its logo and name to "the Y," marking its first branding change in 43 years. The switch comes after more than two years of research indicated many people don't understand what the group does. Officials with the Y say they hope the new logo will be more inviting.

The group's mission is to strengthen communities by focusing on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

The new name applies to the group nationally, but individual locations will still be referred to as YMCAs. The transition is already under way and should be completed within five years at locations in more than 10,000 communities across the country.

Polanski free, Swiss reject US request

BERN, Switzerland -Roman Polanski was declared a free man on Monday after Switzerland rejected a U.S. request to extradite him to be sentenced for having sex in 1977 with a 13year-old girl.

The Swiss government blamed the decision on U.S. authorities, saying they had failed to address defense arguments that the 76-year-old filmmaker had actually served his sentence before fleeing Los Angeles three decades ago.

Nine months after arresting Polanski, the Swiss Justice Ministry said U.S. officials should have backed up their request by providing confidential testimony about Polanski's sentencing procedure in L.A.

'Mr. Polanski can now move freely," Justice Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf declared. "He's a free man.'

The stunning decision could end the United States' long pursuit of Polanski. France, where he has spent much of his time, does not extradite its own citizens and Polanski has had little trouble traveling throughout Europe — even if he's stayed away from Britain.

BP works to put on a tighter-fitting cap

NEW ORLEANS Deep-sea robots swarmed around BP's ruptured oil well Monday in a delicately choreographed effort to attach a tighter-fitting cap that could finally stop crude from gushing into the Gulf of Mexico nearly three months into the crisis.

Video of the billowing brown oil leak showed glimpses of yellow equipment and swinging robot arms engaged in a project akin to building a giant Lego tower underwater.

BP officials said that the 18-foot-high, 150,000-pound metal cap should be attached on Monday but that they will have to test and monitor the equipment for two days to see if it can throttle the nation's worst offshore oil spill. Late Monday afternoon, the cap was being lowered into place and was just 40 feet away from the top of the well.

From the White House to Gulf Coast marinas and town halls, all eyes were on the slow, deliberate process a mile below the sea. President Barack Obama is getting repeated updates, his adviser David Axelrod said. Residents on the coast were skeptical, though, and know that even if the gusher is contained, the disaster will be far from over.

If the cap works, the blown-out well will still be leaking. But the newer, tighter cap will enable BP to capture all the oil and funnel it up to ships on the surface if necessary.

One of those ships began operating Monday and should be up to its capacity of collecting roughly 1 million gallons of oil a day within a few days.

— From wire reports

Somali group claims blasts

By Jason Straziuso and Max Delany Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda — East Africa saw the emergence of a new international terrorist group Monday, as Somalia's most danal-Qaida-linked gerous militia claimed responsibility for the twin bombings in Uganda that killed 74 people during the World

The claim by al-Shabab, whose fighters are trained by militant veterans of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, resets the security equation in East Africa and has broader implications worldwide. The group in the past has recruited Somali-Americans to carry out suicide bombings in Mogadishu.

Al-Shabab, an ultraconservative Islamic group that has drawn comparisons to the Taliban, has long threatened to attack outside of Somalia's borders, but the bombings late the group has done so.

We warned Uganda not said. to deploy troops to Somalia; they ignored us," said Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage, al-Shabab's spokesman. "We warned them to stop massacring our people, and they ignored that. The explosions in Kampala were only a minor message to them. ...



Sunday are the first time An American woman lies injured at the emergency ward at the Mulago hospital, Monday in Kampala, Uganda, after two explosions ripped through crowds watching the World Cup final in two places in Uganda's capital late Sunday, killing dozens of people, police

> where if Uganda does not African Union peacekeep- State Department has de- army spokesman for Uganwithdraw from our land."

Rage said a second counwith peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu — Burundi — could soon face attacks. Fighting in Mogadishu between militants and raises questions about lysts say. We will target them every- and Somali troops or its future plans. The U.S.

ers frequently kills civil-

The attacks outside Soous new step in al-Shabab's increasingly militant path

clared al-Shabab a terrorist organization. Other neighboring nations — Kenya, malia represent a danger- Djibouti and Ethiopia, along with Burundi — may also face new attacks, ana-

Despite the threats, the Kulaigye.

da — an overwhelmingly Christian nation — said the county would not withdraw. "Al-Shabab is the reason why we should stay in Somalia. We have to pacify Somalia." said Lt. Col. Felix

Castro suddenly back in view on Cuban TV

By Paul Haven Associated Press

HAVANA — Fidel Castro is striding back into the limelight after years behind first temporarily, than perthe scenes and out of view.

Days after being photographed in public for the brother Raul. Photos of the first time since he fell ill in 2006, the 83-year-old revolutionary leader was scheduled to make a highly promoted appearance on state television on Monday to discuss his concerns about the Middle East.

Castro's appearance on the Mesa Redonda — or Round Table — a daily talk show about current events in a front-page story in the Communist-party daily Granma.

not specify if the program would be broadcast live, and government officials contacted by The Associated Press had no comment. Castro also appeared in videotaped interviews with Cuban television in June famous brother's shadow.

and September 2007.

But appearances have been extremely rare since a serious illness in July 2006 forced him to step down manently — and hand power over to his younger elder Castro greeting workers at a science center were published in pro-government blogs and on state media over the weekend, the first time he has been photographed in public in that

Castro's sudden reemergence comes after the dramatic announcement last week that Cuba will free 52 that is usually transmitted political prisoners in the live on state media across next few months under a the island, was announced deal with the Roman Catholic Church.

While Cubans have become accustomed to read-The announcement did ing Castro's writings on world affairs in the local press, he has stayed largely out of the public eye since ceding power, helping Raul Castro solidify his place as the country's leader after a lifetime spent in his more

Fidel Castro, right, stands next to unidentified people during a visit to the National Center for Scientific Investigation in Havana on July 7, 2010.

Analysis: How 2 million lost jobless benefits

By Andrew Taylor Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Keeping unemployment benefits flowing for millions of workers whose jobs were eaten by the recession should have been a slam dunk in an election year.

But until this month, Senate Democrats have been unable to bring themselves to pass a simple bill that just does it. Instead they've demanded a series of unrelated and often controversial tax and spending add-ons that have enabled Republicans to mount successful fil-

Now that the legislation has been shorn of all the extras, the bill could win final passage soon. It can't come soon enough for more than 2 million people whose checks have been cut off in a fivemonth impasse in which there's plenty of blame to go around:

■ Democrats and their leaders made several decisions that in retrospect look like miscalculations, like pulling the rug out from under a bipartisan measure launched back in February and loading a subsequent bill with \$24 billion for governors — guaranteeing that most Republicans would vote against it.

■ Republican moderates voted one way in March to

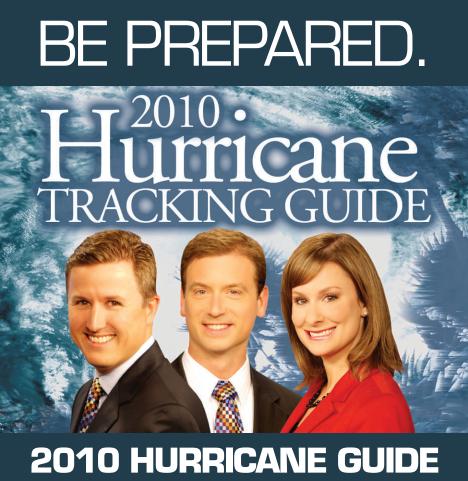
help the bill pass but changed their minds just weeks later, having gotten religion from GOP leaders and tea partiers on the budget

Little remembered amid the ongoing partisanship and recrimination is that iobless benefits also got sideswiped by President Barack Obama's health care over-

To reduce the health care bill's impact on the deficit, Democrats decided to close almost \$30 billion in tax loopholes. Until the final health care push, those revenues had been designated to cover the cost of extending other popular family and business tax breaks as part of a broad bipartisan jobless benefits package.

Besides the jobless aid, the measure contained a payroll tax holiday for businesses, tax breaks for business, health insurance subsidies and help for doctors facing a cut in their Medicaid payments. It had support from across the political spectrum, from Obama to conservative Senate Republicans.

Some liberals, however, balked at the deal, which was cut principally by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., and the committee's senior Republican, Sen. Grassley of Iowa. Charles



Protect your family and property and get informed on what to do when a hurricane approaches with the 2010 Hurricane Guide. A publication of The Morning News, WBTW News13, and SCNOW.com, the guide is filled with informative articles, important phone numbers and tracking maps to keep you informed and safe this season.

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