

NEWS/OBITUARIES

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Climate bill sets stage for debate

Three senators join forces on measure to cut emissions

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Potential presidential rivals John McCain and Barack Obama are joining with newly independent Sen. Joe Lieberman on a plan they say would reduce annual global-warming gases by two-thirds by mid-century.

Their bill, announced Friday, is intended to cut the heat-trapping emissions by 2 percent a year. It is sure to produce a contentious debate on climate control in the new Democratic-run Congress and draw strong opposition from the White House and industry.

Sens. McCain, R-Ariz., Obama, D-Ill., and Lieberman, the Connecticut independent, are calling for mandatory caps on greenhouse emissions for power plants, industry and oil refineries. Their plan would require releases of heat-trapping gases to return to 2004 levels by 2012 and to 1990 levels by 2020.

Carbon dioxide, produced from the burning of fossil fuels, is the primary greenhouse gas. U.S. emissions of this gas have increased an average of about 1 percent year since 1990.

Under the proposed legislation, greenhouse gas emissions would be cut from 6,100 metric tons of carbon equivalent in 2004 to about 2,100 metric tons in 2050, according to a fact sheet describing the legislation.

As a compromise, the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee is preparing a more modest bill that would slow the growth of greenhouse gases. Under the proposal by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., annual emissions would continue to increase until 2030 and then perhaps decline.

McCain and Lieberman offered a climate bill two years ago, as did Bingaman. The McCain-Lieberman legislation was defeated in the GOP-controlled Senate; Bingaman withdrew his after it became clear he lacked the votes for passage.

Since then, lawmakers have become increasingly convinced that Congress must do something to address the threat of global warming.

Scientific evidence has pointed to a warming of the earth because of pollution, and 2006 was reported as the warmest on record in the United States, according to the National Climatic Data Center.

"With each passing year, the consequences of federal inaction on reducing greenhouse gas emissions become more devastating for our children and grandchildren, and the range of solutions grows smaller," Obama said in a statement Thursday.

Bingaman, however, said he was looking for a compromise with better prospects for approval.

"I am committed to developing bipartisan climate change legislation that can pass the Congress this year," Bingaman said.

President Bush has opposed regulating carbon dioxide, contending it would cost too much and hurt economic growth. He has turned to a plan of voluntary emissions reductions through increased energy conservation and use of non-fossil fuels by industry.

Those measures are well on their way to slowing the growth of greenhouse gases, the administration says.

Lieberman insisted their bill "solves the global warming problem without weakening the nation's economic position or imposing hardship on its citizens."



LIEBERMAN



McCAIN



OBAMA

WEATHER

An arctic blast
Cold snap grips much of United States

Lowe's employees Robert Truitt and Sheila Bullard load 20 bags of ice salt for a customer as weather conditions turned sour with a steady sleet making for slick conditions in Enid, Okla., on Friday. Freezing rain iced Oklahoma roads, closing schools and airports.

FORECAST

While much of the country will be gripped by a cold snap this weekend along with predicted ice storms, central Indiana likely won't see frigid temperatures until next week.



Today

High: 43 Low: 33



Sunday

High: 46 Low: 34



Monday

High: 38 Low: 23

By JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TULSA, Okla.

Freezing rain fell in the nation's midsection Friday, and temperatures plunged from Minnesota to Las Vegas as a storm rolled in that could leave several states coated in ice.

At least two deaths have been blamed on the storm, some schools closed early Friday, and dozens of flights were delayed.

"It could definitely be a paralyzing storm. This is going to be a long-term event," said Max Blood, a senior forecaster with the National Weather Service in Tulsa, where at least two airlines, Southwest and Atlantic Southeast, canceled all afternoon flights.

Several inches of ice was expected in parts of Kansas by the end of the weekend. A 16-year-old boy riding to school Friday was killed in the Kansas City, Mo., suburb of Lee's Summit when the pickup truck he was in slid on ice and overturned, police said.

In Oklahoma City, a lumber truck flipped on an icy Interstate 44 exit ramp Friday, killing the driver, the state highway patrol said.

Utility crews were bracing for another round of bad weather as they worked to restore power to irrigation systems, stock wells and oil wells, which sustained significant damage during back-to-back blizzards a few weeks ago. In the Oklahoma Panhandle, power was restored late Thursday to the final 15 homes hit previously, Tri-County Electric Cooperative reported.



Steam rises from manhole covers as Brian McConnell walks to work in the cold on Friday in downtown Denver.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation crews and city crews were in the field Friday working to prevent icing on bridges and overpasses, which are typically the first portions of roadway to freeze over.

In Tulsa, 50 spreaders loaded with salt and sand were prepared to hit the streets by late Friday.

"The way it looks, we'll be running all weekend, maybe longer," said Dan Crossland, the city's street maintenance supervisor.

Forecasters warned for freezing temperatures and up to 2 inches of snow in southern Nevada.

In Minnesota, the temperature dropped to 24 below zero around dawn Friday in Hallock, in the state's northwestern corner, the National Weather Service said. Winds up to 25 mph made it feel closer to 40 below zero in much of western Minnesota.

Bilingual ability may delay dementia

By OLIVER MOORE
TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL

Researchers have linked knowledge of more than one language to a significant delay in the onset of dementia symptoms.

Fluency in two or more languages may be able to stave off cognitive decline because of the mental agility required to juggle them in day-to-day life, principal investigator Ellen Bialystok said.

"How you learn the language probably doesn't make much difference; how good your grammar is probably doesn't matter," she said. "What matters is that you have to manage two complete language systems at once."

Dr. Bialystok, an associate scientist at the Rotman Research Institute of the Baycrest Center for Geriatric Care in Toronto, said that the results of the study were not completely a surprise. But they were more dramatic than she had anticipated.

"It's not like it stops dementia, but ... it's deferred. That, in and of itself, is hugely important."

Fergus Craik
Neuropsychologist on recent findings that knowing more than one language can delay the onset of dementia

"It's a much larger effect than I expected," she said. "You do research because you hope that your ideas are right. But I am always surprised; I always have the 'wow' reaction. And in this case the results were so clear."

Looking at 184 Toronto-area people, the research team found striking differences in the appearance of dementia, which refers to mental decline beyond the normal effects of aging.

Among the unilingual people studied, dementia began to appear

in men at an average age of 70.8 and in women at 71.9. But among those who knew two or more languages, dementia did not begin to appear in men until an average age of 76.1 and in women until 75.1.

Comparing the groups as a whole, the difference in the onset of dementia was 4.1 years.

The findings extend previous research that has appeared to show the benefits of crossword puzzles and other mental workouts.

"It's another example of the effects of lifestyle on cognitive decline," said Fergus Craik, an expert on age-related changes in memory processes who was part of Bialystok's research team.

"It's not like it stops dementia, but ... it's deferred," the neuropsychologist added. "That, in and of itself, is hugely important."

The investigators believe that their findings are not a function of cultural differences, immigration history, education, occupation or other factors.

Indianapolis
Anna "Babe" Baron, 85
Elsewhere
Edward E. Callihan, 91

INDIANAPOLIS

Anna 'Babe' Baron

Anna "Babe" Baron, 85, of Indianapolis, passed away Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007.

She was born Feb. 23, 1921, in Indianapolis. Her parents were Jacob and Elizabeth Schnepf.

Anna retired from Bessire and Co. in 1983. She was a member of St. John United Church of Christ.

Her husband, Martin G. Baron Sr., preceded her in death.

Survivors include her four children, Marty Baron, Elizabeth Williamson, Janette Patterson and Sandy Thompson; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Monday at G.H. Herrmann Madison Avenue Funeral Home, 5141 Madison Ave., in Indianapolis, with calling there from 11 a.m. until service time. She will be laid to rest in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.



BARON

LACEY, Wash.

Edward E. Callihan

Edward E. Callihan, 91, died Jan. 2, 2007, at his residence in Lacey, Wash. He was a former resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include his wife, Cleo Callihan; a daughter, Katie Hensley of Greenwood; a stepdaughter, Cori McAllister of Portland, Ore.; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Lynn Riley.

There will be no services. Funeral Alternatives of Washington is handling arrangements.

Information: www.funeralalternatives.org

Obituary policy

The Daily Journal will publish free death notices for Johnson County area residents, former residents and close relatives of area residents.

A free death notice contains basic information, including details about visitation and services, memorial contributions and some survivors.

The Daily Journal takes obituary information from funeral homes.

The deadline for submitting obituaries to the Daily Journal is 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Sundays, the deadline is 1 p.m.

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IN LOVING MEMORY
RHONDA McCUBBINS
JAN. 14, 1957 - JAN. 13, 2005

We thought of you with love today,
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday,
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name.

Now all we have is memories
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake
With which will never part.
God has you in his keeping,
We have you in our heart.

MISS YOU & LOVE YOU
FOREVER
MOM, B.D., &
ALL YOUR FAMILY

In Loving Memory Of
Richard A. Martin
April 23, 1934 - January 14, 2002

Although 5 years have now gone by since you left us, not a day passes that we do not think of you. We miss you terribly, especially at this time of year and the holiday season just past which you so enjoyed. You will always be in our hearts with lots of good memories.

Love, Wife Janet, Daughter Tammy, Son Greg, Wife & 2 Boys, Son Brad, Wife & 2 Girls, Daughter Karen Smyth, Husband & 2 Boys