

Zoom in on a corner of the world

> **Make international datelines** part of your local coverage for ethnic groups in your community

Every year thousands of people with Scandinavian heritage flock to Minot, N.D., for the Norsk Høstfest. Daily News Publisher Bart Leath had been looking for a way to use Member Choice and pitched a themed page of "Nordic News" to run during the festival.

Editor Bryan Obenchain set up AP Exchange searches for the five Scandinavian countries and told the designers to "run what you find." The staff found everything from day-to-day stories about Iceland's financial issues to royalty updates on the Norwegian princess visiting Africa. The searches made the project so manageable, a different copy editor built the page each night, Obenchain said.

Going forward, the Daily News expects to run Scandinavian briefs once or twice a week to satiate the high population of Scandinavians who have settled in the area.

"We wanted to give people news from back home while they were here, rather than going on the Internet to find it," Obenchain said.

> **View latest Member Choice news:** www.ap.org/choice

A6 Minot (N.D.) Daily News, Thursday, October 2, 2008

Nordic News



Swedish police arrest teen for YouTube threats

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Swedish police say they have arrested a 15-year-old boy after Florida police tipped them off about threats he allegedly posted on YouTube.

Police spokesman Anders Ahlqvist says the teen had posted comments saying he would emulate last week's attack at a school in Finland.

Ahlqvist says Florida police were informed of the posting by a local resident and traced it to Sweden.

He says Swedish police raided the boy's home Wednesday in Oxtelo, central Sweden, but did not find any weapons or indications he was planning an attack.

Ahlqvist says the boy was released after questioning but is still under suspicion of making unlawful threats.

Swedish finance minister urges U.S. financial deal

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Sweden's finance minister urged U.S. Congress to agree on a financial rescue plan saying the entire global financial system is at stake.

The U.S. House rejected a \$700 billion rescue package Monday to buy up bad debt from banks and unfreeze lending. The U.S. Senate votes on the plan Wednesday after leaders agreed to add tax breaks for businesses and the middle class and increase deposit insurance.

"The Americans have a big responsibility to make sure that they reach a political solution," Finance Minister Anders Borg told The Associated Press Wednesday.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen also urged action.

"There is no doubt that it would help a lot if the American lawmakers agreed, as quickly as possible, on an economical package that could stabilize the financial market in the United States," Rasmussen told reporters in Copenhagen.

NATO to buy, share big planes for airlift missions

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — In a NATO initiative, 12 nations signed a deal Wednesday to jointly buy and operate three giant transport planes to fill a shortfall that has dogged international missions from Afghanistan to Sudan.

Under the agreement, reached after two years of negotiations, they will jointly acquire three Boeing C-17s and place them at a new operating base in Hungary early next year under the command of a U.S. officer, said NATO spokesman James Appathurai.

The 10 NATO members that took part in Wednesday's deal are Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and the United States. Britain and Canada have separately acquired a total of 10 of the planes.

Two non-NATO countries — Sweden and Finland — also signed on.



'Alternative Nobels' announced

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — A U.S. journalist, a Swiss-born doctor and activists from India and Somalia were named on Wednesday as this year's winners of the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "alternative Nobel."

The sociologists will share a 2 million kronor (US\$290,000) cash award to be split in four parts. Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull founded the awards in 1980 to recognize work he felt was being ignored by the Nobel Prizes.



This undated image shows American journalist Amy Goodman.

American reporter Amy Goodman, founder and host of the syndicated radio and television program "Democracy Now!," was honored for "truly independent political journalism that brings to millions of people the alternative voices that are often excluded by mainstream media," the organizers said.

The group works to provide listeners with independent reports from around the world to portray the effects of U.S. foreign policy, featuring accounts from artists, activists, academics and analysts.

Goodman, born in 1957, was also one of about 800 demonstrators and journalists arrested during protests at a Republican National Convention in the U.S. in mid-September.

The jury also honored the founder of

medica mondiale, gynecologist Monika Hauser, for her work to help sexually abused women in world crisis zones.

Swiss-born Hauser holds an Italian passport and lives and works in Germany, they said.

Somali lawmaker Aisha Haji was honored for her efforts to promote peace in her homeland by "continuing to lead at great personal risk the female participation in the peace and reconciliation process," the organizers said.

Haji is also chairwoman of Save Somali Women and Children, which helps women get involved in politics.

The last part of the prize was shared by Indian couple Krishnammal and Sankaralingam Jagannathan for their efforts to promote social justice through their nonprofit organization Land for the Tillers' Freedom.

The group works to raise the social status of India's Dalit caste, also known as the "untouchables," and by helping redistribute land to poor, landless families.

The awards will be presented in a ceremony at the Swedish Parliament on Dec. 8, two days before the Nobel Prizes are handed out.

Norway to double renewable energy fund

LILLESTROEM, Norway (AP) — Norway will double its national research fund for renewable energy to 20 billion kroner (US\$3.4 billion) in next year's national budget, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said Wednesday.

Norway, a major oil and gas exporter, gets most of its own electricity from clean hydroelectric power.

"We will continue along this path of increased spending, ensuring that Norway remains among the top international producers of renewable energy," Stoltenberg told an international renewable energy forum.

"The world is facing a serious energy dilemma," he said. "Increased use of fossil energy is the main reason why global greenhouse gas emissions have increased so much over the last decades. On the other hand, increased energy use is also one of the main reasons why global welfare has increased so much."

The two-day meeting opened Wednesday in the town of Lillestrom, just north of Oslo. Topics covered included ways to save energy and new technologies.

Renewable energy, such as hydroelectric, wind, solar and alternative fuels, is critical for reducing emissions that threaten the planet through climate change, he told the First Scandinavian Renewable Energy Forum.

Erk Thorsen, head of the Norwegian solar company REC ASA, said the potential for solar power was enormous even though the technology lagged developments in wind power.

"If we could capture one-half hour of (the whole planet's) solar power it could power the world for a year," he said.

Yesterday's weather			
Copenhagen	58	50	Rain
Helsinki	54	31	Rain
Oslo	47	31	Rain
Reykjavik	41	31	Partly Cloudy
Stockholm	55	32	Rain

Agency confirms oil find off Norway in North Sea

OSLO, Norway (AP) — An appraisal well has confirmed that the so-called Jordrest prospect in the North Sea contains some 56-80 million barrels of oil, the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate announced Wednesday.

Project partner Revus Energy ASA was even more optimistic, estimating the size of the find at 87-140 million barrels of recoverable oil if projections for a so-far untested portion of the field prove correct.

Norway currently produces around 2 million barrels of oil per day.

"We are very encouraged by the results from the drilling," said Harald Valnes, chief executive of Revus. "Both wells have proven light oil in very good reservoir quality."

The petroleum directorate news release said the find by BG Norge ASA, an oil company operating the field on behalf of project partners, was drilled in the northern North Sea, about 28 miles north of StatoilHydro ASA's Snorre field.

The well just completed confirms the discover made by the wildcat well at the same field in August.



The Nordic News page attracted advertisers who hoped to catch people at the festival, and the publisher believes there's enough advertiser interest to expand the page into a daily tab during next year's festival.

"In the past we've covered the story here, but this is the first time we've gotten stories from their area. We were able to do it because of AP."

Bart Leath
Publisher
Minot, N.D., Daily News

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