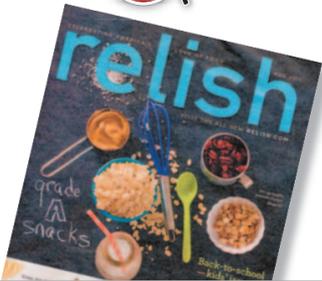


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## DEBT CEILING

# Obama: It's a deal

Congressional leaders will present the plan to their caucuses; and votes to avoid default could come as early as today

By **CARL HULSE** AND **HELENE COOPER**  
*The New York Times*

WASHINGTON — President Obama and congressional leaders of both parties said late Sunday that they had agreed to a framework for a budget deal that would cut trillions of dollars in federal spending over the next decade and clear the way for an increase in the government's borrowing limit.

With the health of the fragile economy hanging in the balance and financial markets watching closely, the leaders said they would present the compromise to their caucuses

this morning in hopes of enacting it before a Tuesday deadline to avert default.

Even as the president was speaking from the White House on Sunday night, Speaker John Boehner was on a conference call with House Republicans, trying to sell them on the proposal he had signed off on only minutes before.

Since he is likely to lose the most conservative elements of the caucus, Boehner faces the task of framing the pact as friendly enough to Republican principles to win over a significant group of his rank-and-file without alienating Democrats he will need to push it over the top.

Obama, in a hastily called appearance with reporters that ended a day of uncertainty, said that the compromise would "allow us to avoid default and end the crisis that Washington imposed on the rest of America."

"It ensures also that we will not face this same kind of crisis again in six months, or eight months, or 12 months," he said. "And it will begin to lift the cloud of debt and the cloud of uncertainty that hangs over our economy."

Just before Obama spoke on television, the two Senate leaders, Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell, took the floor to endorse the pact as well.

"I am relieved to say that leaders from both parties have come



CAROLYN KASTER/The Associated Press

President Obama speaks from the White House about a deal being reached to raise the debt limit.

Turn to **CONGRESS**, Page A5

## WOOD SCULPTURES



IVAR VONG/The Register-Guard

**Tyler Strauslin (left)** and his father, Kevin, carve sculptures with their chain saws in their shop off Highway 99 near Clear Lake Road on Tuesday. The two Eugene men have each won chain saw wood carving competitions. Tyler says he hopes to be able to create such art for the rest of his life.



LEFTERIS PITRAKIS/The Associated Press

Norwegian flags are among flower tributes at an Oslo church.

## 'Christian terrorist' or unfair stereotype?

Westerners struggle with characterizing Norway's mass slaying suspect

By **JESSE WASHINGTON**  
*The Associated Press*

When the "enemy" is different, an outsider, it's easier to draw quick conclusions, to develop stereotypes. It's simply human nature: There is "us," and there is "them." But what happens when the enemy looks like us — from the same tradition and belief system?

That is the conundrum in the case of Norway and Anders Behring Breivik, who is being called a "Christian extremist" or "Christian terrorist."

As westerners wrestle with such characterizations of the Oslo mass murder suspect, the question arises: Nearly a decade after the Sept. 11 attacks created a widespread suspicion of Muslims based on the actions of a fanatical few, is this what it's like to walk a mile in

Turn to **TERRORISM**, Page A5

# CARVING ARTISTS

Dad, son ply dream jobs — using chain saws to create art

By **MARK BAKER**  
*The Register-Guard*

**C**all it art with a buzz. And plenty of sawdust. Father-and-son chain saw carving team Kevin and Tyler Strauslin of Eugene say they have found their dream jobs, making works of art out of chunks of sitka spruce, Western red cedar and Douglas fir, and whatever other masses of dead trees come their way.

"I tell my boy, 'We just gotta keep carving every day,'" Kevin Strauslin says, watching Tyler, 19, work away in their Highway 99 shop just north of Jerry's Home Improvement Center.

And now, the Strauslins are not only making money selling their pieces, they are both champion chain saw

carving artists.

Tyler won the semi-pro division contest over Father's Day weekend at the 13th annual Oregon Divisional Chain Saw Sculpting Championships in Reedsport.

Kevin Strauslin took first place on July 17 at the annual Logs to Frogs chain saw carving competition in Milton-Freewater, with his piece of an American Indian doing a rain dance.

"It's just a lot of fun doing what we do," Kevin says. "I never had this opportunity doing drywall. I finally find out late in life what I'm supposed to be doing. It's kind of neat."

Kevin Strauslin, 52, was a drywaller — installing plasterboard panels for walls and ceilings in homes and businesses — for about 30 years, pretty much ever since graduating from high



One of Tyler Strauslin's finished pieces.

school in Southern California. Then one day, in the spring of 2008, he was driving back from a job

Turn to **CARVERS**, Page A5

### IN THE NEWS

#### NATION

**An Iranian court is expected to issue a verdict this week in the case of former Lane County resident Josh Fattal and his friend Shane Bauer/A3**

#### CITY/REGION

**The Eugene Celebration parade will take a somewhat different route this year to avoid LCC's downtown construction project/B1**

#### CITY/REGION

**The Salt Creek Tunnel on Highway 58 east of Oakridge was closed for hours late Saturday and early Sunday after a fiery pileup/B2**

#### COMING UP >>

**Hiking in Eastern Oregon's Wallowa Mountains trades grueling backpacking for magnificent alpine vistas/Tuesday in Oregon Life**



#### QUOTABLE

"These horses can be worth \$1 million one day, and be dog food the next."  
— Ferronato Shen discusses the former show horses that are living out their lives at a Junction City equestrian center/B1



# Congress: Plan cuts \$2.4 trillion

Continued from Page A1

together for the sake of our economy to reach a historic, bipartisan compromise that ends this dangerous standoff," said Reid, the majority leader.

However, at least one major hurdle remains. Late Sunday, Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) told CNN's Wolf Blitzer that he will filibuster the vote today, which will require 60 votes to break.

The tentative agreement calls for at least \$2.4 trillion in spending cuts over 10 years, a new congressional committee to recommend a deficit-reduction proposal by Thanksgiving, and a two-step increase in the debt ceiling.

The announcement concluded a tumultuous 24 hours that saw hopes rise Saturday night over the prospects of a deal that might have concluded the budget stalemate. By Sunday, worry set in again as lawmakers and White House officials struggled to hammer out the fine points of an agreement that must clear a Senate controlled by Democrats as well as by the Republican House.

If the deal clears Congress, with its new special joint committee to explore deficit reduction, it will ensure that the size and scope of the federal government and the tension between spending and taxes will remain front and center in the Washington debate headed into the 2012 election.

Markets reacted favorably to the announcement. Asian markets jumped on news of the deal. The Nikkei was up nearly 2 percent in early trading; the dollar rose against the Japanese yen.

Obama tempered his comments by noting that "there are still some very important votes to be taken" and that winning House approval would be a particular challenge.

On the conference call, Boehner sought to portray the new agreement as one heavily tilted toward the Republican call for no new revenue, and he said it met the goal of instituting cuts greater than the amount of the debt limit increase. In a presentation, he said the pact would prevent a "job-killing default" — a warning to lawmakers that failure to raise the limit could add to the bleak employment picture.

"Our framework is now on the table that will end this crisis in a manner that meets our principles of smaller government," said Boehner, who said he hoped to get the legislation onto the House floor as quickly as possible. Participants on the call, which lasted about an hour, said that the tone was cordial and that lawmakers expressed less resistance than had been anticipated.

At the same time, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the former speaker and current Democratic leader, was noncommittal about the plan, suggesting that Democrats might not rally behind it. "I look forward to reviewing the legislation with my caucus to see what level of support we can provide," she said in a written statement.

Senior White House officials said



HARRY HAMBURG/The Associated Press

**Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., (center) is all smiles as he walks to the Senate floor to announce that a deal has been reached on the debt ceiling. "I think I can say with a high degree of confidence that there is now a framework to review that will ensure significant cuts in Washington spending," he said.**

they were hopeful that congressional leaders from both sides would manage to sell the deal to their parties. While "there are some Democrats who simply don't believe in the necessity of deficit reduction," one administration official said, "most do. I think it's important as a party to show Americans that we're serious about deficit reduction."

The Senate seemed an easier sell. Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., said that from the terms of the deal described to him, "I think I will be satisfied and supportive." After years of work, he noted, Congress has become "serious about cuts in spending." As conversations flowed between the White House and Capitol Hill early Sunday, Reid publicly embraced the compromise that would tie deep spending cuts to a debt ceiling increase even though some Democrats believed the White House has given too much ground to McConnell and Boehner.

While lawmakers awaited word of an agreement, talks dragged on. Congressional and administration officials attributed the delay to efforts by Boehner, R-Ohio, to limit immediate reductions in the Pentagon budget and better protect it from future cuts in order to cement votes from defense hawks. He needs those votes to win approval of the plan in the House.

Officials said Boehner ultimately did not gain much and that the dispute was settled through an agreement to expand the definition of "security-related" spending to include departments beyond the Pentagon, spreading out potential cuts to the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies.

The tense, last-minute negotiations were taking place against a backdrop of uncertainty, with a looming threat of a costly downgrade of the nation's credit rating and with investors worried about the global economic impact of a possible default. The political stakes were unusually high as well, with leaders in both parties staking out positions that may well be central to their re-election chances in 2012.

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Referring to the tortuous negotiations, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said: "Sausage making is not pretty. But the sausage we have, I think, is a very different sausage from when we started."

She noted that the proposed caps on federal spending, combined with creation of a new evenly divided panel to cut the deficit further, could fundamentally change federal finances.

Not everyone was pleased with the deal. "It may be the best we can do," said Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, the senior Republican on the Budget Committee. "But I do not think it's enough."

With the talks appearing to make progress, the Senate blocked a Democratic proposal for a debt limit increase on a 50-49 vote, falling 10 votes short of the 60 required to limit debate.

The plan that ultimately won the support of congressional leaders was described by officials briefed on its outline. They said the debt limit would be increased by \$900 billion in the first installment, subject to a congressional vote of disapproval that Obama would be able to veto. To prevent a default, \$400 billion would be added immediately.

A second increase of \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion would be available subject to a second vote of disapproval by Congress. At the same time, a new joint congressional committee would be created to find cuts roughly matching the increase in the debt limit.

If the evenly divided committee failed to agree on a plan, Congress would either have to approve a balanced budget agreement to the Constitution or accept an across-the-board cut in spending in line with the committee's goal, with 50 percent of the savings coming from the Pentagon beginning in 2013. Medicare would also sustain cuts, though the reductions would be capped; Social Security and other programs would be exempt.

# Terrorism: Violent perceptions disputed

Continued from Page A1

the shoes of stereotype? "Absolutely," said Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor of Mother Beth African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. "It clearly puts us in a position where we can't simply say that extreme and violent behavior associated with a religious belief is somehow restricted to Muslim extremists."

"It speaks to cultural assumptions, how we are able to understand something when it (comes from) us," Tyler said. "When one of us does something terrible, we know that's not how we all think, yet we can't see that with other people."

Psychologists say stereotypes come from a deeply human impulse to categorize other people, usually into groups of "us" and "them."

"Our brains are wired that way," said Cheryl Dickter, a psychology professor at the College of William & Mary who studies stereotypes and prejudice.

When Dickter examined brain waves, she found that people process information and pictures about their "us" group differently compared with information about "them" groups. People remembered information better when it reinforced stereotypes of other groups, she said, and when information didn't fit their stereotype, it was often explained or forgotten.

"That's how stereotypes get maintained in the face of all this (contradictory) information," Dickter said.

So during the first reports that someone had detonated a car bomb and then opened fire at a youth camp in Norway, many assumptions clicked into place.

"In all likelihood the attack was launched by part of the jihadist hydra," Thomas Joscelyn, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, wrote within hours on the Weekly Standard website.

The massacre was actually committed, police say, by a blond Norwegian whose photo would not seem out of place in an American college directory. As Breivik's 1,500-page manifesto emerged, calling for violence to rid Europe of non-Christians and those he deemed traitors to Christian Europe, some

seized on the religious aspect of his delusions.

Mark Juergensmeyer, editor of the book "Global Religions: An Introduction" and a sociology professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, wrote an essay likening Breivik to Timothy McVeigh, the American who killed 168 people in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. It was the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil until Sept. 11.

McVeigh and Breivik were both "good-looking young Caucasians, self-enlisted soldiers in an imagined cosmic war to save Christendom ... and both were Christian terrorists," Juergensmeyer wrote.

In a column for Salon.com, Alex Pareene said Breivik is not an American-style evangelical, but he listed other connections to Christianity. "All of this says 'Christian terrorist,'" Pareene wrote.

Such claims drew strong resistance. "Breivik is not a Christian. That's impossible. No one believing in Jesus commits mass murder," Bill O'Reilly said on his Fox News show.

That makes sense to Joyce Dubensky, CEO of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding. She said it also makes sense that "millions of Muslims say Osama bin Laden is not a Muslim, that no one who believes in the prophet Muhammad commits mass murder."

People have a hard time seeing extremism in their own religion.

For Christians who think of their faith as preaching peace, how to explain the faith-sanctioned killing of the Crusades? For Muslims, what about the thousands of jihadists now following violent interpretations of Islam?

Some Christians say they do know the Muslim teachings, and that they are the problem. "There is a lot of text to justify the link between Islam and terrorism," said Michael Youssef, founder of the Evangelical-Anglican Church of the Apostles in Atlanta.

Many Islamic scholars say violent interpretations are wrong, and Youssef acknowledges that. However, "If your role model is Jesus, then nonviolence will be the way you change things. If your role model is somebody who waged war and killed people, then you say, 'I can do that,'" said Youssef.

# Carvers: Wood bears along highway caught Kevin's eye

Continued from Page A1

in Junction City, driving south on Highway 99, when he noticed the bear wood carvings off to the side of the road.

Curious, he pulled in.

Neal Davis, a full-time saw filer with Weyerhaeuser's Lebanon mill and now a friend of Strauslin's, was doing his part-time thing, using chain saws to carve all sorts of creations at the business he called Fuzzy Bighead.

Strauslin, who used to just do chisel carvings, said he tried to carve something, turtles he believes, with a chain saw a few years earlier with his brother-in-law, but it didn't go so well.

"It kicked like a mule," he said of the chain saw. After that, "I thought chain saw carvers were crazy."

But that day at Davis' place, where Davis rented space in a warehouse building alongside Holiday Pools & Spas before it went out of business, Strauslin took a stab at carving something out of a panel of wood.

He made a salmon.

Davis thought it was good.

"Once he picked up a chain saw, he was a natural," Davis says.

A few months later, Davis offered him a job. And a few months after that, Strauslin took over renting the space, and now owns the business known as Oregon 3D Art.

Today, chain saw carving is not only Kevin Strauslin's life, but his son's life, too.

"I always thought that it would be cool to be a sculptor," says Tyler Strauslin, a 2010 graduate of the Eugene School District's Opportunity Center. But it also sounded like hard work, taking chisels and mallets to giant pieces of clay. But when his father started getting into chain saw carving, entering his first competition at the annual Reedsport show in 2009 and finishing fourth

in the semi-pro division, Tyler watched and began to think he could do it, too.

After a year or so of trying, Tyler entered the semi-pro competition in Reedsport last year and did as well as his father did in 2009, finishing fourth with a carving of an osprey catching a fish, a piece he recently sold for \$600. That was good enough to beat his dad, who took fifth last year with his carving of a mountain lion.

This year, Kevin Strauslin entered in the pro division, and placed 13th out of 31 carvers, two who came from as far away as Denmark and Australia. Tyler stuck with the semi-pro division, and beat out 12 other carvers from Oregon, Washington and California with his carving of an American Indian navigating river rapids in a canoe.

"I just wanted to do such a good piece that I couldn't lose," Tyler says. After seeing the competition in 2010, he knew what he was up against, he says. The Strauslins say Tyler is the youngest to ever win the semi-pro competition in the 13-year history of the Reedsport show. And now, he, too, will carve among the pros next year.

"He's getting so good at it," Kevin Strauslin says, watching Tyler work on a custom-ordered piece called "Wedding Bears."

After a couple of years of Tyler watching over his father's shoulder, it's now Kevin Strauslin who often finds himself looking over his son's shoulder and saying, "How'd he do that?"

When you first pick up a chain saw and try and carve something with it, you have no idea what the saw can do, Tyler says. Like anything, it comes with time and practice, he says.

The Strauslins use sanders and grinders and chisels, many of them tools they got from Davis, to refine their work.

What began as something of a hobby has now turned into a way

to make a living during some of the toughest economic times in recent history.

Kevin Strauslin says he made \$21,000 selling his carvings in 2009. Last year, he made \$38,000. And this year, he's hoping to double that but will be more than happy just to top \$50,000 in sales.

"If I can make over \$50,000 (a year) I'll be doing alright," he says. A sign in the middle of his shop says, "Carve or Starve."

Kevin Strauslin's biggest payday yet came at the Milton-Freewater competition a couple of weeks ago. He got \$1,000 for first place, also won the competition's "Wow Award" — the piece that draws the most attention — for the second straight year, and sold his rain-dancing sculpture to one of the show's organizers for \$1,800.

"Then it rained for the first time in Milton-Freewater in seven years," Strauslin says, exaggerating just a tad but referring to the typically bone-dry summers in Eastern Oregon. "It was the weirdest thing."

When he quit his drywalling job three years ago to start carving full time, Strauslin says his wife, Sue, was skeptical that he could make a living at it. Something about "when pigs fly..." he recalls. So he carved a flying pig, and made a planter out of it.

Oregon 3D Art has everything from bird feeders for \$9.95 to a bed frame for \$950.

There are "Go Ducks" and "Go Beavers" plaques, too.

"It's kind of funny how fast it's come together," Kevin Strauslin says. Tyler, who won \$350 for his first place showing in the Reedsport competition, plus a \$400 chain saw, says he has found his calling. He insists there's nothing else he wants to do and says he'll be a chain-saw carver "forever."

Thus the sign among the bears and frogs, the salmon and eagles, and other creatures in front of the shop that says: "Carver 4 Life."

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