

Hello and welcome to KPLY Joplin. You're listening to the News Roundup, and I'm Anjali Fernandes. Our top stories for today: turmoil in the Middle East, a snow storm strikes the Northeast, and today's sports and weather updates.

First, we'll go around the world in 80 seconds:

- In Iran, the government made clear it has no interest in direct talks until the U.S. eases sanctions that have been squeezing Iran's economy. But the Obama administration isn't budging and says the ball is in the Iranians' court. Suspicion that Iran wants to make a nuclear weapon is fueling the sanctions, along with veiled threats of U.S. or Israeli military action if those sanctions fail.
- Moving to northern Africa, in Tunisia, police and mourners clashed at the mass funeral on Friday of secular opposition leader Chokri Belaid, whose assassination has plunged Tunisia deeper into political crisis. at least 50,000 people turned out to honor Belaid in his home district of Jebel al-Jaloud, chanting anti-Islamist and anti-government slogans. Police have used tear gas and clashed with young men outside the cemetery.
- On the other side of the globe, a powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the Solomon Islands today. There were no immediate reports of

a tsunami, but the quake comes just two days after an 8.0 magnitude earthquake struck the same region, triggering a tsunami and killing five people.

In national news:

- A winter storm named Nemo is poised to dump up to 2 feet of snow from New York City to Boston and beyond. Residents are scrambling to stock up on food and water and road crews have readied salt and sand. Forecasters warn this could be one for the record books.
- In southern California, a manhunt is underway for a former Los Angeles Police Department officer considered armed and extremely dangerous. Christopher Dorner is suspected of killing three people. Dorner was fired from the force in 2008 and vowed revenge.
- On Capitol Hill, as senators questioned John Brennan, the nominee to head the CIA, one of the recurring themes was the broader impact of the lethal drone strikes. Brennan insisted that it was always preferable to capture and question terrorists to gather intelligence, and he said lethal strikes were taken as a last resort.

And coming closer to home:

- **Joplin Mayor Melodee Colbert Kean has been named to a state commission that will study early voting. The goal of the group will be to evaluate the most efficient, fair and secure ways to cast ballots.**
- **The candidates have been chosen for a special election in April to fill Missouri's vacant 157th House District seat from Lawrence County. Lawrence County Republicans on Tuesday nominated Mike Moon, a rural farmer, as their candidate for the April 2 special election. Democrats have nominated Charles Dake, a Mount Vernon veterinarian. The district leans heavily Republican.**
- **Sterilization practices at the John Cochran VA Medical Center are once again under fire. All operating rooms have been shut down after stains were found on surgical instruments. This magnifies a series of safety errors involving the clinic over the past year.**

We'll be right back after a word from our sponsor, but stay tuned to the News Roundup. Coming up, the latest in sports and weather.

(Insert commercial.)

Welcome back to the News Roundup, on KPLY Joplin. .

In sports:

- **We finally know the cause of the power outage at the Super Bowl: Sunday's mishap has been traced to an electrical relay device, according to the Superdome's electrical company. he power failure at**

Sunday's big game cut lights to about half of the stadium for 33 minutes, halting play between the Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers. The device has been removed and is now being reviewed.

- And in baseball, after years of delays, work on Ballpark Village in St. Louis is finally underway. The St. Louis Cardinals broke ground Friday on the \$100 million first phase of the project that will be developed on the site of the old Busch Stadium.
- And in high school sports, our very own Joplin Eaglestook on the Kickapoo boys' basketball team. The Eagles started to mount a comeback in the fourth quarter, but ended the rally 35-59. This week, they take on Glendale at a home game.
- In basketball, the rivalry between the Celtics and Lakers keeps rolling even if they no longer dominate the NBA. And it last night's game, that brought some extra satisfaction to Boston after a rousing 116 to 95 win. Paul Pierce led a rout of Los Angeles with 24 points, leading the Celtics to their sixth straight victory.

In our weather forecast, the current temperature is around 35 degrees. Tomorrow, expect rain with a high of 55 and a low of 41. The precipitation will continue through the weekend, with clear skies the rest of the week.

Thank you for tuning in to the News Roundup on KPLY Joplin. Stay tuned for all your news needs. I'm Anjali Fernandes, signing off.

**Ian Miller
Radio
GSL Workshop**

**Good morning, Greater St. Louis. It's Saturday, September 11, 2010,
the time is _ : __, and here are today's headlines:**

- **DEMONSTRATORS SET FIRE TO INDIAN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**
- **OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE CAUSE OF DEVASTATING BAY AREA FIRES**
- **AND FLORIDA AUTHORITIES BLOW UP A SUSPICIOUS STUFFED ANIMAL**

I'm Ian Miller and you're listening to the KMER morning update.

In our top story,

Hundreds of demonstrators in Indian Kashmir attacked a police post and set fire to government offices this morning, while thousands more across the Himalayan region held marches protesting Hindu Indian rule in the largely Muslim region. Such clashes have appeared almost daily in the region for the past three months, with at least sixty-nine people killed thus far. Despite demands for Kashmir's independence, the Indian government has made no response.

In other international news

Yesterday, Iranian officials abruptly cancelled the release of an American woman held captive for more than year. Sarah Shourd, taken captive with two fellow hikers in July, 2009, was slated to return home today, but yesterday the Iranian Labour News Agency announced that Shourds' return was not approved by the judiciary and would have to await the quote "completion of the due process."

In national news

Four victims have been identified in the aftermath of large-scale fires in San Francisco. The flames were triggered Thursday night by the explosion of a natural gas pipe three feet below ground, and continued to blaze throughout the day on Friday. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the blast, and natural gas officials throughout the country have responded by reexamining their own workings.

Today marks the ninth anniversary of the 2001 World Trade Center attacks. Although the day is usually reflective and free of political struggles, the recent controversy over ground zero mosque plans has inspired protests in New York. In a radio address this morning, President Obama called for peace, urging Americans that "we do not allow ourselves to be defined by fear, but by the hopes we have for our families, for our nation, and for a brighter future."

We now take a moment of silence to commemorate the victims of the September 11th attacks.

In regional news,

The St. Louis Art Fair opened yesterday in the streets of Clayton, and will continue through tomorrow afternoon, showcasing the work of one-hundred-and-eighty artists as well as culinary samplings and performances from around the St. Louis area. The Fair is open until 10-o'clock tonight, and admission is free.

A mother of three has been charged with assault and endangering the welfare of a child after scalding her 2-year-old daughter in a bathtub full of hot water, according to St. Louis police. County police Officer Rick Eckhard claims that the scalding was an act of anger on behalf of the 22-year-old-mother. The child lost consciousness immediately after the incident, and is now being treated for first and second-degree burns.

And now for a word from our sponsors:

Now through September 26th at the Fabulous Fox Theatre, Dreamworks Theatricals presents SHREK: THE MUSICAL!!! Come join Shrek, Donkey and the gang as they venture out the swamp and into adventure! Full of all-new songs, great dancing and breathtaking scenery, SHREK THE MUSICAL is part romance, part twisted fairy tale and all irreverent fun for everyone! Tickets are available NOW at the Fox box office, through www.metrotix.com or by phone at (314) 524-1111. [Special discount for girl scout groups of ten or more].

In Sports

- Venus Williams suffered a disappointing loss yesterday in the U.S. Open semifinal. With gusts of wind upsetting her game, Williams double-faulted twice in a row during a key second-set tiebreaker against Kim Clijsters, and ultimately lost the match. However, she is not planning on retiring soon. "I definitely feel like I'll be back next year," she explained. "As long as I'm striking the ball well, I'm going to keep going."
- The St. Louis Cardinals lost 8-to-6 against the Atlanta Braves last night, after winning 11-to-4 the night before. The Cardinals take on the Braves for the third game of the series today at 3:10, with Jake Westbrook pitching on the starting lineup.

And on a more *explosive* note

Authorities in Orange County, Florida found a “suspicious” toy pony abandoned outside an elementary school earlier this week. Students and staff at Waterbridge Elementary were placed on lockdown while inspection of the FurReal pony took place. A robot inspected the animal before deputies placed a pack of explosives nearby and blew the animal up. The toy was ultimately deemed “non-threatening.”

And now for the Weather Report

This morning the sky is overcast

and temperatures are in the low seventies.

This afternoon we’ll be greeting quite a few clouds,

but by this evening they should all clear away,

with temperatures in the mid seventies throughout the night.

Tomorrow, the high is 82 degrees,

with a day that is dry and sunny – a perfect Sunday afternoon.

This has been the KMER morning update. I’m Ian Miller, and have a peaceful day.