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"Forgotten men of USS Indianapolis remembered".

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She's excited about trip to Europe, next season



President responds to wife's interview
He says rough childhood no excuse for infidelity



Noisemakers!
Your guide to Drum Corps competition, State Fair



WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1999

MADISON, WISCONSIN

U.S. set to buy some of its debt

Treasury takes advantage of lower interest rate

By Gregg Fields
Knight Ridder Newspapers

For the first time in nearly three decades, the federal government is buying back some of its debt — which is likely to be good news for the nation's next generation of borrowers.

The U.S. Treasury, flush with cash because of the long-winded economic expansion, said Wednesday it plans to buy long-term debt sold years ago when interest rates were relatively high. Those purchases will be financed with new debt, which is being sold at lower rates.

It's a governmental variation of a move millions of households make each year, when they pay off a mortgage with a new one at a lower rate, or transfer deposits from one credit card to another that charges less interest.

The move comes at a time when Congress and the White House are locked in a duel over what to do with the federal government's growing surplus. Congress has pressed for deep tax cuts while the White House has pressed for lighter tax cuts in favor of debt reduction.

There are, however, a couple of key differences to the homeowner refinancing analogy. Most notable is the sheer magnitude of the numbers involved. The federal government has \$3.6 trillion in publicly traded debt outstanding.

Most of that was sold to finance years of large federal deficits in the 1970s and 1980s. But today, Washington is running a budget surplus, allowing it to pay off old debts.

Federal debt won't be wiped out. In fact, many economists think it would be a bad idea to eliminate all federal debt. That's partly because U.S. debt tends to be a barometer for credit markets worldwide, acting as a no-risk credit instrument whose rates help determine borrowing costs for banks and other governments.

The federal debt has been shrinking as old bond issues mature and the borrowing needs of the government have shrunk.

The Treasury is forecasting it will reduce its publicly held debt by \$87 billion in the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30. The government has retired about \$112 billion in publicly traded debt since May 1998.

As part of a proposed plan announced Wednesday, the government said it was also considering cutting back the number of times each year it sells debt. The reason: It no longer needs the cash.

The notion of a federal government aggressively reducing its debt was unthinkable even a few years ago.

Economists said refinancing higher-cost debt should have several positive effects.

"The first benefit would be in interest savings to the government, which goes directly to the taxpayer," said Dave Orr, economist for First Union.

Secondly, "we don't have to rely as much on foreign financing of debt," he said, which reduces the need to hike up interest rates in order to attract buyers for U.S. securities.

Finally, it is a signal that all borrowers can expect steady-to-lower interest rates in the future. The reason: When the government is borrowing heavily, it tends to crowd out the rest of the credit market. The result is there's less money available to lend to private borrowers.

"It's freeing up capital for private use, which is generally more productive than government," Orr said.

It isn't exactly clear how the plan would work. The proposal will be published in the Federal Register today, to be followed by a 60-day comment period.

For most of the 54 years that have passed since the tragedy of the USS Indianapolis, Florian Stamm has been silent. With the memory of hundreds of his crew mates in his heart, he now shares his story.



Florian Stamm of Mount Horeb vividly recalls the night of July 30, 1945, when he survived the sinking of the USS Indianapolis.

Forgotten men of USS Indianapolis remembered

MOUNT HOREB — Fifty-four years ago this week, Florian Stamm and about 900 other crew members of the USS Indianapolis were truly the country's forgotten men.

For four blazingly hot days and five teeth-rattling cold nights following the sinking of the heavy cruiser by a Japanese torpedo, they bobbed in the Pacific, as sharks circled and their comrades screamed. Some went mad from thirst, others were pulled under by the sharks. But the men were sure they were just about to be rescued.

Tragically, the U.S. Navy, through a series of mix-ups, had forgotten the ship, which had just completed the top-secret mission of delivering the materials for the atomic bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. By the time a Navy bomber pilot chanced across the

survivors 4½ days later, just 317 were still alive.

"Another day and there wouldn't have been anyone left," said Stamm, 74, who grew up in Adams County and is now a retired electrician living in Mount Horeb. "I don't remember the last day."

Counting the approximately 300 who went down with the ship, the sinking of the Indianapolis was the second biggest naval tragedy of World War II, second only to Pearl Harbor. But its timing, days before the bombing of Japan, caused the Navy to hush up the disaster until victory was declared weeks later.

Stamm, who still bears scars on his legs from the disaster, was discharged in California, and hitchhiked home with \$8 in his pocket. After that, he got married, raised six children, and rarely talked about what

Please see STAMM, Page 3A



Sailor Florian Stamm, 20, a year before his ship, the USS Indianapolis, went down.

Story by **SUSAN LAMPERT SMITH**

Photos by **JOSEPH W. JACKSON III**

Wisconsin State Journal

■ Demonstration planned at Tenney Park/3A

Court rejects Scouts' gay ban

Price of bigotry enormous, New Jersey chief justice says

By Robert Hanley
New York Times

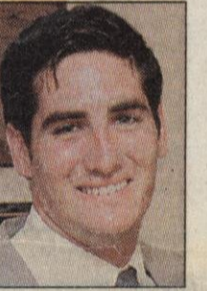
TRENTON, N.J. — Equating the Boy Scouts of America with public accommodations such as restaurants, libraries, schools and theaters, the New Jersey Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that the organization's 1990 expulsion of a gay assistant scoutmaster violated the state's anti-discrimination law.

In a 7-0 decision, the court first rejected the Boy Scouts' arguments that it is a private organization and that its decision to remove the assistant scoutmaster, James Dale, was protected by the First Amendment. The court also dismissed the Scouts' contention that homosexuality is immoral, comparing that argument with discrimination against women and blacks.

After concluding that Dale's dismissal was "based little more than prejudice," Chief Justice Deborah Poritz declared: "The sad truth is that excluded groups and individuals have been prevented from full participation in the social, economic and political life of our country. The human price of this bigotry has been enormous. At a most fundamental level, adherence to the principle of equality demands that our legal system protect the victim of invidious discrimination."

In a separate opinion, Justice Alan Handler, the court's staunchest liberal, said he agreed with much of his colleagues' legal reasoning. Then Handler, who is retiring after this term, concluded his 44-page opinion with something of a sociological and philosophical lecture.

"One particular stereotype that we renounce today is that homosexuals are inherently immoral," Handler wrote. "That myth is repudiated by decades



Dale

Please see SCOUTS, Page 3A

INDEX

Autos 1D
Bridge 4E
Business 1F
Classifieds 2D
Comics 2E
Crossword 4E
Daybreak 1E
Landers 4E
Local news 1B
Lotteries 2B
Movies Rhythm
Mutuals 5F
Nation 2A
Obituaries 12A
Opinion 15A

People 8A
Records 2B
Scoreboard 5C
Sports 1C
State legals 2B
Stocks 6F
TV/Radio 3E
Wisconsin 3B
World 11A



MADISON FORECAST
Today: A p.m. thunderstorm. High 80. Winds: NW 7-12 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 60.
Details/back page



Backstreet Boys to play Kohl

State Journal staff

The Backstreet Boys have dominated the charts throughout the world and gone multiplatinum in 16 countries. Now they are coming to your back yard.

Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on Aug. 14 for the Backstreet Boys' 7:30 p.m. Nov. 3 concert at the Kohl Center.

Tickets are \$38.50 and \$29.50. They will be sold at the Kohl Center box office and through Ticketmaster outlets at 255-4646 or on-line at www.ticketmaster.com.

Sheryl Brown, special projects and marketing manager for the Kohl Center, says the center will open a parent waiting room for the concert at about 7 p.m. Parents would not be able to see the concert from there.

For parents who might not be as familiar with the band as their teen and pre-teen children, the Backstreet Boys feature friendly pop-rock beats and ballads.

Doctor group marriage on the rocks?

UW Medical Foundation seeks options if merger fails

By Patricia Simms
Health reporter

The UW Medical Foundation recently asked for a back-up plan in case the 18-month-old merger between its academic doctors and the former Physicians Plus group collapses, documents reveal.

In addition, Physicians Plus Division leaders recently reported that:

■ Physicians Plus Division doctors lost about \$3 million in extra pay they expected to receive this summer because of a decline in net revenue.

■ Physicians Plus Insurance Corp., a managed-care company owned partly by Physicians Plus doctors and Meriter Health Services, is expected to bring in \$4.5 million less in net revenue this year than last year.

Physicians Plus Division chairman Laurence Rothstein wrote his colleagues June 23 and said the division's uncollected bills increased by more than \$5.2 million since the merger.

"The increase in accounts receivable has the potential to create a hardship for PPD profitability and threaten PPD physician compensation," he said.

Rothstein said Wednesday that accounts receivable were "moving in the right direction" and would be fine by the end of the year.

But a June 30 quarterly payment expected by PPD doctors as part of the merger agreement was canceled. "No more quarterly compensation supplement checks will be distributed," he wrote.

The foundation has been trying for almost two years to complete a merger between the 560 doctors practicing through the UW-Madison Medical School and Physicians Plus Medical Group (PPMG), a private practice with 230 doctors.

The coupling and uncoupling of doctors groups reflects the complexity of the business of medicine. The fallout affects people's ability to choose specific doctors.

Last month, in an effort to get this stalled merger moving, UWMF board member Fritz Wenzel took over leadership of the transition, and the UWMF board imposed a 90-day deadline on working through issues.

Shortly before that announcement, however, the board asked for details on the cost of unraveling the two doctors' groups. "It is important that people realize that a certain amount of planning is taking place in the event that integration efforts are not successful," Rothstein's memo said.

Rothstein said UWMF leaders had called for "a complete analysis of the implications of unwinding this merger of PPMG and UWMF."

"This analysis has been started and is being developed," he wrote.

But Rothstein said Wednesday that no such analysis had been started. "That sort of direction is not one in which UW Health is engaged at this time," he said. "We've committed to a process to bring this integration to closure."

For its part, Meriter is wooing unhappy PPD doctors. "... Meriter stands ready to work with you and provide viable options should your negotiation process prove unsuccessful," Meriter President Terri Potter wrote doctors July 6.

Scouts

Continued from Page 1A

of social science data that convincingly establish that being homosexual does not, in itself, derogate from one's ability to participate in and contribute responsibly and positively to society. In short, a lesbian and gay person, merely because he or she is a homosexual, is no more or less likely to be moral than a person who is heterosexual."

The case of Dale, now 29, is the second to have reached a state's highest court. But the New Jersey result is the opposite of the outcome of the earlier case. In March 1998, the California Supreme Court ruled that the Scouts could expel homosexuals. That court held that the Boy Scouts were a private organization not covered by California's civil rights law and that the organization had constitu-

tional rights of freedom of association and freedom of expression to expel homosexuals.

Paul Stevenson, a spokesman for the Boy Scouts of America, expressed disappointment with the New Jersey ruling and said the group planned to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The Boy Scouts of America is a private organization with the right to set our membership and leadership standards," said Stevenson. He argued that New Jersey's anti-discrimination law did not supersede the organization's First Amendment rights of association.

Gov. Christie Whitman applauded the ruling during a public appearance in Bergen County. She said she did not believe in discrimination "in any form" and said a person's sexual orientation were private matters. "If the troop leader is a good leader, there's no reason to worry about his sexual preferences," said Whitman.

Dale, who was an assistant scoutmaster at Troop 73 in Matawan when he was expelled, said he was elated. "The Supreme Court of New Jersey is wonderful," he said, as he appeared with his lawyer at the headquarters of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in Manhattan. "This is what scouting taught me: Goodness will prevail."

The lawyer, Evan Wolfson, called the ruling "a strong, clear powerful decision by one of the nation's most respected state supreme courts."

Dale, who lives in Manhattan and helps arrange health fairs for people with AIDS, said he wants to return to scouting. The ruling ordered his reinstatement and instructed a lower New Jersey court to take up his request for compensatory and punitive damages against the Boy Scouts.

Dale joined scouting in 1978 at

age 8, obtained more than 25 merit badges and scouting's highest rank and honor — Eagle Scout — and eventually became assistant scoutmaster. The Boy Scouts considered him an exemplary member, the ruling said.

But in July 1990, his photograph appeared in a local newspaper, identifying him as co-president of the Gay/Lesbian Alliance at Rutgers University. Soon afterward, the Scouts sent him a letter, informing him of his expulsion and saying that the Scouts' standards for leadership forbade membership to homosexuals.

Wednesday's decision said Dale asked various Scout executives for a copy of the standards of leadership but was never given one. In late 1990, the organization's lawyers told him that the Boy Scouts "does not admit avowed homosexuals to membership." He began his legal fight soon afterward.

During court arguments over nine years, the Scouts argued that the organization believed homosexuality was immoral and that belief was both explicit and implicit in the Scout Oath that a scout is "morally straight" and in the Scout Law that a scout is "clean."

The court disagreed with that argument in its 89-page ruling.

In finding that the Scouts were a "public accommodation" as defined by the state's anti-discrimination law and not a "selective" private organization, Chief Justice Poritz wrote that Congress had chartered the organization, that 87 million boys and men had joined scouting since its inception in 1910, and that churches and police and fire departments routinely sponsor local troops.

"Most important," she wrote, "it is clear that Boy Scouts does not limit its membership to individuals who belong to a particular religion or subscribe to a specific set of moral beliefs."

Stamm

Continued from Page 1A

happened to those aboard the USS Indianapolis.

But now, more than a half century later, the 86 men still alive find themselves the toast of a new generation.

Stamm and fellow Wisconsin Indianapolis survivors — Melvin Jacob, Madison; Norman Krueger, Portage; and Robert Witzig, Fenimore — just returned from the reunion held every two years in Indianapolis, Ind., on the anniversary of the ship's sinking.

There, they were serenaded by a choir of fifth-graders from Talmadge, Neb., who wrote a song "Big Ship Going Down" with the help of visiting songwriter Larry Long. They were inspired by a talk given by a local Indianapolis survivor.

The veterans were also addressed by another member of the younger generation: Hunter Scott of Pensacola, Fla., now 14. He first learned of the Indianapolis legend when the horror movie, "Jaws," was rereleased. In the movie, the character Quint talks of his hatred of sharks and tells the tale of the Indianapolis.

As Scott started researching the disaster, he became convinced ship Capt. Charles McVay III was wrongly court-martialed for the sinking. His crusade to clear McVay — who committed suicide in 1968 — has led to bills being introduced in Congress and to national media attention, including a spot on ABC's "20/20" in July.

Like other Indianapolis survivors, Stamm, who testified at the court-martial in 1945, believes McVay should be cleared and is pleased Scott has taken up the cause in Congress.

"If it wasn't for him, they wouldn't be doing anything," he said.

Stamm's own children have taken an interest in the history their dad never talked much about. His daughter, Sharon Stamm of McFarland, and sons Dave of Madison, and Terry of Ridgeway, went to the 1999 convention with Stamm and his wife, Mary. Terry Stamm sports an "Indy Son" bumper sticker on his car.

There's even a group for children of the Indianapolis, called "Second Watch."



Sinking of the Indianapolis

WSJ graphic

FACTS ABOUT THE USS INDIANAPOLIS

■ The heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis was commissioned in November 1932. It first saw World War II combat in February 1942 and later became the flagship for the 5th Fleet in the South Pacific. It received 10 battle stars for action in numerous engagements.

■ Soon after delivering key parts for the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, the Indianapolis was hit by two torpedoes from a Japanese submarine at 12:14 a.m. on July 30, 1945. The ship sank in 12 minutes.

■ Of a crew of 1,197, some 320 went down with the ship, and only 316 survived five days without food, water or lifeboats in the shark-infested waters of the Philippine Sea.

Peace event to be held at Tenney Park

A peace demonstration will be held Friday night at Tenney Park in Madison to commemorate Japanese victims of World War II bombings and other military actions.

At dusk, organizers will light lanterns and set them afloat on the Tenney Park lagoon. Activities also include decorating the lanterns, folding peace cranes and letter writing.

Veterans of the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars will also speak. Organizers plan to call for the end of economic sanctions placed by the United States and other Western-aligned countries against Iraq. Friday marks the ninth anniversary of the imposition of the sanctions, organizers said.

"The work for peace is often the struggle of memory against forgetting," said Bonnie Black, co-chairwoman of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice.

Similar "Lanterns for Peace" activities are planned in several Wisconsin communities, including Milwaukee.

The event is organized by the Dane County Peace Coalition.

— Phil McDade

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

Find Good Sam Club at goodsamclub.com

In Wednesday's paper, an incorrect World Wide Web site was given for the Good Sam Club. The correct address is goodsamclub.com.

The Wisconsin State Journal strives to be accurate and fair. If you find an error or other problem, please call the appropriate reporter at (608) 252-6100; the section editor (phone numbers appear atop section front pages); Cliff Behnke, the managing editor, (608) 252-6105; or Paul Fanlund, the assistant managing editor, (608) 252-6115.

149

countdown to 2000



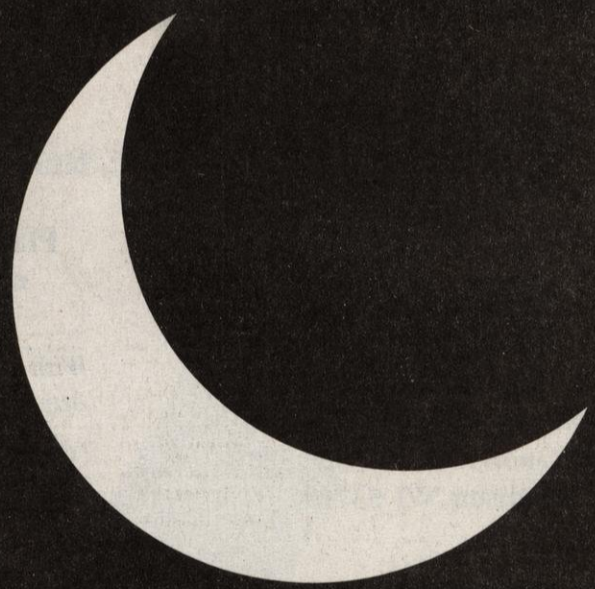
Celebrate 2000

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:

August 5, 1391

Hundreds of Jews are killed in Barcelona in anti-Semitic riots sparked by Ferrant Martinez, the temporary administrator of the diocese of Seville.

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"I can remember guys saying they were going to get a cold drink," Stamm said. "They'd swim off by themselves and you'd never see them again."

Stamm remembers little of the last day and the rescue, except that his kapok life vest was giving out after days in the water, leaving him to float with just his nose above water.

After the bomber pilot sent out an alert, a second pilot landed his PBV search plane on the open water and began hauling men aboard to save them from the sharks, eventually arranging 56 men on the small plane's wings and inside, as they awaited for rescue ships to arrive.

"Some of them started to fight (the rescuers) because they thought it was the (Japanese) coming to get them," he said.

Once aboard, rescuers doused Stamm with fuel to remove his coating of oil. He spent the next few weeks in hospitals, being treated for salt water ulcers and a throat condition.

Meanwhile, the search for blame had begun. According to a report by the Indianapolis survivors organization, the Indianapolis was a "high profile ship," and many prominent families had lobbied to have sons aboard. (The ship had ferried President Franklin Roosevelt on official trips and had an illustrious war record.)

Stamm went to Washington in late 1945, to testify in the trial of Capt. McVay, who was charged with failing to give the "abandon ship" order soon enough and failing to follow a "zig-zag" course. Stamm testified he didn't hear an order but said it was a ridiculous charge since the explosion knocked out the ship's power,

making announcements impossible. Like most of the survivors and modern historians, Stamm felt McVay's conviction on the second charge was a travesty, making a single man responsible for the Navy's mistakes in failing to rescue the men.

"He got a lot of hate mail from the families of those who died," Stamm said of McVay, whom he met after the court-martial.

But McVay was greeted with open arms by the survivors when he attended reunions in 1960 and 1965. In 1968, McVay dressed in full uniform and shot himself in the head. Today, his sons attend the reunions.

In 1995, the Indianapolis survivors had achieved their goal of dedicating a monument to the ship and its crew in downtown Indianapolis. Their second goal, clearing their captain's name, will require Congress to pass bills that have been introduced on the issue. Stamm urged anyone interested to write to Wisconsin representatives on behalf of Senate Joint Resolution 26 and House Joint Resolution 48.

He's also somewhat amazed that 54 years later so many people want to hear the story of the Indianapolis. He recently wore his "Indianapolis Survivor" shirt into a bar in California and was immediately surrounded.

"They all knew about it and wanted to talk about it," he said, sounding amazed.

The forgotten men of the Indianapolis are forgotten no longer.

For more on the Indianapolis, see the memorial Internet site: www.ussindianapolis.org.

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