

Ellsworth Flights Resuming After B-1B Crash

BY DIRK LAMMERS
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — Flights were resuming out of Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota on Thursday, three days after a B-1B bomber crashed in a remote area of southeastern Montana, an Air Force official said.

Two pilots and two weapons system officers safely ejected Monday morning before the South Dakota-based bomber crashed near Broadus, Mont.

Col. Kevin Kennedy, commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, said the base temporarily shut down flights until maintenance and operations group commanders could ensure Kennedy that it was safe to resume normal flying operations. Kennedy said he made the decision Thursday that flights would

recommence that day.

Col. Brooks McFarland, commander of the 28th Maintenance Group, said the cause of the crash remains under investigation. He said crews at Ellsworth have carefully inspected all of the B-1Bs for airworthiness before releasing them to fly.

"B-1s have continued their missions elsewhere, and I have been in contact with the maintenance leadership of those units," McFarland said in a statement. "With no evidence of fleet-wide problems, it is important that we resume flying and keep proficient at our primary mission."

The last time a B-1B was destroyed in a crash was on Dec. 12, 2001, when a bomber involved in the war in Afghanistan slammed into the Indian

Ocean near the island of Diego Garcia. In April 2008, an Ellsworth B-1B bomber caught fire after landing at al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

Aerial photos of Monday's crash site show a massive charred area of prairie land void of recognizable aircraft parts. Some people who live near the remote locale say the plane broke apart in midair, scattering debris over several miles.

The crew members were taken to Rapid City-area hospitals. They are instructor pilot Maj. Frank Biancardi II, of Methuen, Mass.; instructor pilot Capt. Curtis Michael, of Albion, Neb.; instructor weapons systems officer Capt. Brandon Packard, of Ashland, Ky.; and instructor weapons systems officer Capt. Chad Nishizuka, of Kailua, Hawaii.

Neb. Police: Suspect Called Detective

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A man accused of killing his girlfriend and dumping her body in an open grave spoke to an Omaha police detective just hours before the killing, a report says.

Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer confirmed to the *Omaha World-Herald* that 19-year-old Mikael Loyd called homicide detective Teresa Negron on Aug. 14 after he was released from a mental health assessment center. Loyd had been held in emergency protective custody at the center for nearly a week based on statements Loyd had made that led police to think he was mentally ill and dangerous.

Police are trying to determine why Loyd was not arrested following his release on a misdemeanor warrant accusing him of assaulting his girlfriend, 19-year-old Melissa Rodriguez. Police have said Loyd strangled Rodriguez hours later and dumped her body in a freshly dug cemetery grave.

News of Loyd's call came after police issued a statement Wednesday saying the center's staff did not inform police that Loyd had been released, as requested. Schmaderer confirmed the newspaper's account. He said Negron then called the mental health center to verify that Loyd had left and then called Loyd's mother in North Carolina.

Police have said Loyd earlier threatened to kill his mother, because he believes she is responsible for his father's 1995 shooting death.

Omaha Police declined in a news release Thursday to provide further details or answer questions about why Loyd was not arrested immediately after police learned of his release. The police department "has released as many details as possible in this case, without compromising the investigation," the release said.

Loyd is being held without bail on a charge of first-degree murder in Rodriguez's death.

Former S.D. Chief Loses Murder Appeal

PIERRE (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says former Highmore Police Chief Ken Huber has lost a legal challenge to his conviction for first-degree murder in the shooting death of his wife.

Huber was first convicted of murder in 2008 in the death of his wife, Pam. The South Dakota Supreme Court overturned that conviction, but Huber was convicted of first-degree murder in a second trial held in 2011.

In an appeal in circuit court, Huber argued evidence presented at his second trial was unfair and his two defense attorneys were ineffective.

Circuit Judge John Brown of Pierre ruled he could find no fault with the evidence or the performance of Huber's lawyers. Huber contends his pistol fired accidentally when he moved it from a bedroom dresser to a gun safe.

Driver Dies After NE Nebraska Collision

O'NEILL, Neb. (AP) — A 75-year-old driver has died after a collision near O'Neill in northern Nebraska.

The Holt County Sheriff's Office says the accident occurred Wednesday afternoon, less than a mile east of O'Neill.

The office says Thomas Schneider halted at a stop sign and then turned east onto Nebraska Highway 108. But he apparently turned too wide and went into the oncoming lane. His vehicle struck a westbound vehicle driven by 52-year-old Gerald Kemp, of Niobrara.

Schneider was pronounced at the scene. The Sheriff's Office says Kemp suffered no visible injuries.

S.D. Has Surveyed 240,000 Acres For Pine Beetles

PIERRE (AP) — More than 240,000 acres in South Dakota's Black Hills have been surveyed for mountain pine beetles infestations since the state launched an effort to fight the beetles two years ago, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Thursday.

As a result of the surveys, crews have treated 335,000 trees. Nearly 200,000 trees have been cut down on private land, and 135,000 trees have been cut in Custer State Park and other state lands.

Daugaard said the effort is aimed at slowing the epidemic that kills trees.

"We have not yet 'beat the beetles,' but we will continue working to protect the Black Hills," the governor said in a written statement.

Landowners can sign up through Sept. 13 for the 2013-2014 season of surveying and marking infested trees. After crews identify and mark infested trees, landowners are responsible for treating infested trees.

Nebraska

Aid, Outreach Credited For College Boost

BY GRANT SCHULTE
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — An effort to increase financial aid and outreach programs for Nebraska high school students has helped increase the numbers of those pursuing a two- or four-year degree, college administrators said Thursday.

Administrators from the University of Nebraska and the state's colleges said a grant program aimed at high schools has allowed more of the state's students to make campus visits.

The University of Nebraska and state and community colleges also pointed to offer tuition assistance and a two-year tuition freeze approved by the state this year.

Nearly 65 percent of Nebraska high school students went to college in fall 2006, with the state ranking 19th nationally. Nebraska climbed to 7th place in 2010, with nearly 70 percent of high

school students enrolling in college, according to the newest available data in a 2013 report from Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

"A key factor in sustaining and improving this ranking is for students to visit a college or colleges of their choice," Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman said during a news conference at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "The likelihood of a student attending college increases dramatically if that student has made at least one college visit."

The effort is part of the Nebraska P-16 Initiative, a joint effort of 27 business, government and education groups to improve student achievement. The University of Nebraska has maintained below-average tuition compared to peer institutions, and took \$10.4 million from its operating budget in 2011 to pay for need-based financial aid.

Earlier this year, lawmakers approved \$62.1 million in Heineman's proposed budget for a two-year tuition freeze at the University of Nebraska. The budget also included \$6.2 million for the Nebraska State College System.

University of Nebraska President J.B. Milliken said students weigh a combination of factors, including affordability and financial, when selecting a college.

"These are critical questions that families have to grapple with when visiting colleges," he said.

The campus visits are particularly important for students who may have little to no familiarity with higher education, said Jacques Carter, the president at Doane College in Crete.

"It is especially important for first-generation college students who might have uncertainty about whether they can attain a college degree," Carter said.

OBITUARIES

Gerald 'Jerry' Weber

Gerald Alvin "Jerry" Weber, age 72 of Gayville passed away unexpectedly at his residence on August 9, 2013.

Memorial services will be 2 p.m. Monday, August 26, 2013 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton with Rev. Ralph Egbert officiating. The family invites everyone to refreshments immediately following the service.

Burial of Jerry's cremated remains will be in the Garden of Memories later. Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Jerry was born March 9, 1941 on the family farm north of Lesterville to Alvin and Florence (Mutschelknaus) Weber. Jerry was baptized and confirmed at Petersburg Congregational Church, rural Lesterville. The oldest of three; he attended Northstar Country School and graduated from Scotland High School in 1959.

After attending South Dakota School of Mines, Jerry married Twila Jerke in Scotland. To this union four children were born: Jeffery, Todd, Jason, and Alison. The couple lived in Estherville, IA, where Jerry worked as a sales representative for Golden Sun Feeds. The family returned to Lesterville in 1970, where Jerry farmed and joined his father in the family business, Weber Grain and Feed.

Jerry was a member and taught Sunday school at Zion Lutheran Church, Scotland SD. He also served on the Scotland School Board and was a member of the Lesterville Athletic Association. After moving to



Weber

Gayville, Jerry was a member of Gayville Lutheran Church.

Jerry had a great love for sports at all levels but particularly local sports.

One of those sports being baseball, Jerry grew up playing baseball in Lesterville and spent several years managing Lesterville's amateur team, the Lesterville Broncs.

While living in Gayville he enjoyed gardening, having his morning coffee and visiting with friends. However, most of all, his family was what he enjoyed and treasured most. Whether it was ice cream or a donut with sprinkles, Grandpa Jerry never showed up empty-handed.

Jerry is survived by his four children: Jeff Weber of Dallas, TX, Todd (Julie) Weber of Corvallis, OR, Jason (Joni) Weber of Shawnee, KS and Alison (Torrey) Sundall of Sioux Falls, SD; seven grandchildren: Zachary, Elias, Christopher, Sophia, Max, Easton and Griffynn; his former wife, Twila of Sioux Falls, SD; his sister, Cheryl McDonnell of Sioux Falls, SD; his sister-in-law, Carol Weber of Grapevine, TX and seven nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alvin in 1988, his brother, John in 2007 and his mother, Florence in 2012.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
August 23, 2013



David Albers

David Dennis Albers, age 64, of Yankton, South Dakota died suddenly on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fordyce, Nebraska with the Reverend David Fulton officiating. Burial will be at St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Fordyce.

Visitation will be on Friday at church from 5-8:00 p.m. with a Vigil Service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue on Saturday at church one hour prior to services.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

Pallbearers will be Doyle Becker, Tom Becker, Rob Bock, Kenneth Eickhoff, Steve Keiser, Robert Plath, Duane Potts and Frank Potts.

David Dennis Albers was born on May 7, 1949 in



Albers

Yankton, SD to Ralph and LaVerne C. (Wieseler) Albers. He grew up in Fordyce and attended high school in Fordyce

his freshman and sophomore year. He graduated from Hartington Cedar Catholic High School in 1968. David then served in the U. S. Army from February 1970 until October of 1971. After his discharge he attended and graduated from Wayne State College with a business degree. He then graduated from Nevada University in Las Vegas with a bachelor's degree in Hotel Administration. David worked for the Tollman-Hundley Hotels Inc. and received an award as the General Manager of the Year. He remained in Hotel management and moved to Yankton, SD in 1999 to raise his two daughters. David then managed convenience stores. On April 30, 2006 he purchased the convenience

store in Crofton, NE along with one in Creighton and Allen, NE. David owned and operated the Chief Bar in Hartington.

David liked snow skiing, baseball, any college sports, mowing and being active in supporting the local communities. He was a member of the Crofton American Legion Post #128.

David is survived by his two daughters, Jessica Maria Albers of Yankton, SD, Nicole Maria Albers of Lincoln, NE; sister Judy and her husband Bob Plath of Omaha, NE; brother Randy Albers of Hayward, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ralph and LaVerne Albers; and two brothers Robert and Richard Albers.

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Verletta Wittmeier

Funeral services for Verletta H. Wittmeier, 85, of Lincoln, NE and formerly of Tripp will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 26 at Friedens Reformed Church in Tripp with Rev. Greg Way officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. prayer service at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp.

Verletta passed away on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at her daughter's residence in Lincoln.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.



Need help putting the pieces back together?

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Sarah M. Meyer 10:30 AM, Friday Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Hartington

Jean Breckenridge 2:00 PM, Friday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton

David Dennis Albers 10:30 AM, Saturday St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Fordyce

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