

US Airman Comments On Attack

PARIS (AP) — Three American travelers say they relied on gut instinct and a close bond forged over years of friendship as they took down a heavily armed man on a passenger train speeding through Belgium.

U.S. Airman Spencer Stone, recounting for the first time on Sunday how a likely catastrophe was averted two days earlier, said the gunman, an assault rifle strapped to his bare chest, seemed like he was “ready to fight to the end.” But he added, “So were we.”

Without a note of bravado but a huge dose of humility, the three described Friday’s drama on an Amsterdam-to-Paris fast train.

His arm in a sling, Stone, 23, said he was coming out of a deep sleep when the gunman appeared.

One of his friends, Alek Skarlatos, a 22-year-old National Guardsman recently back from Afghanistan, “just hit me on the shoulder and said ‘Let’s go.’”

Carter's Cancer Fight Has New Meaning

PLAINS, Ga. (AP) — The Sunday school lesson was familiar: When your burden grows heavy, ask God for strength. But the message carried a more powerful and personal meaning than usual because of who delivered it: Jimmy Carter.

The 90-year-old former president taught Sunday school in his hometown for the first time since he disclosed on Thursday that his cancer had spread to his brain.

With easygoing humor and his usual toothy smile, Carter gave two back-to-back Bible lessons to unusually large crowds totaling more than 700 people — some of whom had traveled hundreds of miles — just three days after undergoing radiation treatment.

He spent less than five minutes recapping his illness before saying, “That’s enough of that subject” and beginning the lesson on faith, love and relationships.

Carter said he and his wife of 69 years, Rosalynn, resolved never go to sleep without settling their differences.

UAE Frees Hostage Held By Al-Qaida

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates said Sunday that its military freed a British hostage who was kidnapped 18 months ago by al-Qaida in Yemen, which has expanded its reach amid fighting between Shiite rebels and their opponents.

A statement carried by the UAE’s official WAM news agency identified the British hostage as Robert Douglas Semple, after initially referring to him as Douglas Robert Semple. It said Semple, 64, had been working as a petroleum engineer in the Yemeni province of Hadramawt when he was kidnapped in February 2014. The statement did not say where Semple had been held in Yemen or provide any details on the rescue.

Yemeni security officials contacted by The Associated Press said they were not aware of any Yemeni forces assisting in the operation and did not have details about how Semple was released, suggesting his handover may have been negotiated among local tribesmen before the involvement of Emirati forces.

Al-Qaida’s Yemen branch, known as al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, has been consolidating its control in Hadramawt, the country’s largest province, where Semple was kidnapped. The group captured a large weapons depot, an airport, an oil terminal and the area’s main military base in April, and it controls the provincial capital, Mukalla.

On Saturday, Yemeni security officials told The Associated Press that al-Qaida militants also seized control of areas in and around the southern port city of Aden, where the rebels had recently been driven out by an array of fighters backed by Saudi-led airstrikes.

Reid Going To Support Iran Deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid on Sunday threw his full support behind President Barack Obama’s nuclear agreement with Iran, saying “it is the best path to stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.”

“I strongly support the historic agreement and will do everything in my power to ensure that it stands,” said Reid, D-Nev., in a news release.

Reid is the 27th Senate Democrat to back the deal and the highest ranking in the Senate. His support will make it difficult for opponents to muster the veto-proof numbers needed in the Senate, and therefore, in Congress to scuttle the agreement.

Republicans and the Israeli government furiously oppose the deal signed by the U.S., Iran and five world powers, which seeks to keep Iran from building a nuclear bomb in exchange for billions in international sanctions relief. They say Obama’s agreement makes too many concessions to Iran and could actually enable that country to become a nuclear-armed state.

But it is looking less and less likely that opponents can garner sufficient support. Congress plans a vote next month on a resolution disapproving of the deal, which Obama has threatened to veto. Opponents would then need two-thirds majorities in the House and the Senate to override.

Hunger For The Comforts Of Tradition

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — I’m normally not much of a meal planner but I know what I’m going to have for lunch one week from Monday.

Red beans and rice. On Monday. It’s a tradition bordering on the cliché in New Orleans, but I’ve grown to embrace such customs more readily in the last decade, even those that seem a little clichéd.

Parades snarling traffic? No problem. People getting tears in their eyes when they hear Louis Armstrong sing “Do You Know What it Means?” I understand.

Ten years ago next Monday, the storm was two days’ past. Whole neighborhoods had all but disappeared under water that was still flowing in through failed levees. Thousands were stranded. No power. No running water. Food and drink in short supply.

Lives were being lost and ways of life were in danger.

Thousands Of Migrants Board Trains

GEVVELIJA, Macedonia (AP) — Thousands of beleaguered migrants — mostly Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans fleeing bloody conflicts — crammed into trains and buses in Macedonia that brought them one step closer to the European Union on Sunday, a day after they stormed past police trying to block them from entering the country from Greece.

On Saturday, about 2,000 rain-soaked migrants rushed past baton-wielding Macedonian officers, who had been sealing the border for three days. Police fired stun grenades and dozens of people were injured as the migrants leapt over barbed wire or ran across a field not protected by the fence to enter Macedonia.

After the incident, police decided to allow migrants to cross the border freely again from Greece, which is also overwhelmed by the human tide. Police officials said that the blockade was imposed to try and stem the overflow of people that had caused chaotic scenes at a railway station in the Macedonian town of Gevgelija as thousands tried to secure places on overcrowded trains.

On Sunday, the migrants — many with children and babies — orderly boarded trains and buses that took them to the border with Serbia before heading farther north toward EU-member Hungary, which is building a razor wire fence on its frontier to prevent them from entering. If they manage to enter Hungary, the migrants could travel freely across the borders of most of the 28 EU-member states.

The more than 5,000 migrants who reached Serbia overnight faced an overcrowded refugee center where they have to apply for asylum — the paper that allows them three days to reach Hungary. State Serbian TV said that a woman gave birth overnight inside the center and that many people are sick and injured from Saturday’s clashes.

Juror Issued Challenge During Talks In Officer’s Trial

BY TOM FOREMAN JR.
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A juror who heard evidence in the trial of a white North Carolina police officer said he challenged his colleagues to determine what an unarmed black man did to lead the defendant to fatally shoot him.

“I wrote on the board: ‘What did Jonathan Ferrell do, and I underlined “do,” to warrant death: 10 shots.’ I had done this because there was nothing that I had seen in the weeks preceding that showed me what he had done,” said juror Moses Wilson, who was one of the jurors who chose to convict Officer Randall Kerrick of voluntary manslaughter.

“And I said that if anyone can show me what he did, I might change my vote — which is going to be for conviction — to acquittal, and every day, that was my challenge,” he said.

After four days of deliberations, the jury was deadlocked, 7-5 on an initial vote and 8-4 on the succeeding three votes. And when Judge Robert C. Ervin asked the jury foreman last Friday if further deliberations would resolve the impasse, the response was no. Ervin then declared a mistrial — a move that sparked protests outside the courthouse and elsewhere. At least two people were arrested.

Wilson said when he first went into deliberations, he didn’t know how he was going to vote. From there, he decided to review his notes and form his opinion.

While the military veteran — Wilson served two tours of Vietnam — and former Boston constable thought the prosecution’s case should have stood, Wilson said he was particularly upset with the defense’s presentation, which he said put Ferrell on trial.

“It became, not what he did, or what they did to him, but more, what he didn’t do, what he should have known what to do, so that the police would not either



JEFF SINER/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/TNS

A protester, center, tells Charlotte-Mecklenburg police that she was pushed on a sidewalk while leading a procession on Saturday, Aug. 22. Protesters marched on Friday evening and Saturday, protesting that after four days of deliberations, a mistrial was declared when the jury was unable to resolve a deadlock in the case of Randall Kerrick. Kerrick, a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer, is accused of killing an unarmed man, Jonathan Ferrell, in a struggle two years ago.

beat him silly or shoot him,” Wilson said.

Kerrick, who is suspended without pay from the force, fired 12 shots at Ferrell, hitting him 10 times. Prosecutors said nonlethal force should have been used to subdue Ferrell, a former Florida A&M football player, in September 2013. Two officers with Kerrick didn’t fire their guns. One of those officers did use a Taser.

But Kerrick’s attorneys said the officer feared for his life when he shot and killed Ferrell while responding to a breaking-and-entering call.

Wilson pointed to the three elements of voluntary manslaughter described to the jury by Ervin, including whether Ker-

rick exceeded matching the threat to him by something far more excessive than what was needed to end the threat.

“That’s where we had our problems,” he said.

He said the entire incident amounted to “a night of mistakes” on both sides, but he said the most egregious was that Kerrick didn’t do what he was supposed to do as a police officer.

“You are not the judge. You are not the jury,” he said. “You’re the person who comes to investigate and decide whether a person should be arrested and sent elsewhere.”

Islamic State Destroys Temple At Syria’s Palmyra

BY BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Islamic State militants have destroyed a temple at Syria’s ancient ruins of Palmyra, activists said Sunday, realizing the worst fears archaeologists had for the 2,000-year-old Roman-era city after the extremists seized it and beheaded a local scholar.

Palmyra, one of the Middle East’s most spectacular archaeological sites and a UNESCO

World Heritage site, sits near the modern Syrian city of the same name. Activists said the militants used explosives to blow up the Baalshamin Temple on its grounds, the blast so powerful it also damaged some of the Roman columns around it.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Sunday night that the temple was blown up a month ago. Turkey-based activist Osama al-Khatib, who is origi-

nally from Palmyra, said the temple was blown up Sunday. Both said the extremists used a large amount of explosives to destroy it.

Both activists relied on information for those still in Palmyra and the discrepancy in their accounts could not be immediately reconciled, though such contradictory information is common in Syria’s long civil war.

The fate of the nearby Temple of Bel, dedicated to the

Semitic god Bel, was not immediately known. Islamic State group supporters on social media also did not immediately mention the temple’s destruction.

The Sunni extremists, who have imposed a violent interpretation of Islamic law across their self-declared “caliphate” in territory they control in Syria and Iraq, claim ancient relics promote idolatry and say they are destroying them as part of their purge of paganism.

RBD

From Page 1

Nelson purchased the DUKW online about 18 months ago, and has been using it in parades since.

“A lot of people like seeing them come down the street,” he noted.

The DUKW was especially impressive as it doubled as a truck and a boat.

“It was meant for pulling up alongside ships and collecting injured soldiers to take to shore. Cargo was also transported this way,” Nelson said.

The DUKW he owns is 70 years old. “When some people have a midlife crisis, they usually get a motorcycle or a corvette. I got a DUKW,” he laughed.

The Riverboat Days Summer Art Festival, sponsored by Yankton Area Arts, is known for boasting talented vendors from far and wide and this year wasn’t any different.

Vendors at the river or at Yankton’s area mall, were met with many customers.

MARK LEVSEN, OF WEBSTER

Mark Levens has been attending Riverboat Days for five years, and it appeared his work was picking up in popularity.

An expert woodcarver, Levens specializes in creating crosses out of tree bark and carving Bible verses into the smoothed-over wood.

The crosses were a recent development.

“When I came the first year, I did more wildlife artwork,” Levens explained. “As the years have passed, I’ve gone into the Christian art, so the crosses are the main thing I do.”

It’s rewarding work.

“I love the Lord, so carving the Bible verses is very meaningful to me,” said Levens. “I enjoy when people take them home and tell me they put them on their wall.”

Levens also does special requests for people who have a favorite Bible verse.

LAVERN DIRKX’S, OF CARROLL, IOWA

Among the wooden crosses and other carved religious memorabilia, crosses and letters made out of cut-up books could be found at Carroll, Iowa artist LaVern Dirkx’s tent. The idea for these came from, oddly enough, school.

After the school in Dirkx’s town decided to give away many of its books, he decided to experiment and see what could be made with them.

Crosses and letters were the answers. After four years of selling these, it’s clear they’re here to stay.

“I experiment with all different kinds of books,” said Dirkx. “The public basically tells you what is popular with what they buy. They determine what books I should be making.”

This art has proven so popular that others have picked up on it, but Dirkx isn’t worried about being outdone.

“The prices of those are double, triple the prices of mine, and the quality isn’t as good,” he said.

Dirkx’s next public event will be at the Sioux City Convention Center the weekend before Thanksgiving.

GEMZ & JEWELZ, OF LINCOLN, NEB.

Jewelry is a popular sale item among Riverboat Days and Gemz & Jewelz, a stamped jewelry shop with keepsake tags, was one of many.

It was the sixth year owner Wendy O’Brien has participated in the Yankton festival, and it was another year of successful sales.

“My favorite part is making the custom pieces for the moms and grandmas,” said O’Brien.

She runs the business full-time and averages 50 showings a year in 13 states.

RANDY & MARY ERB, OF ROYAL, NEB.

Well-crafted and oftentimes cute wood carved yard art could be found at Randy and Mary Erb’s tent, boasting impressive artwork ranging from bears holding welcome signs to a simple dolphin.

The Erbs, from Royal, Neb., typically sell their artwork off the front porch of their bait shop.

Randy has been selling his work at Riverboat Days since 1999.

“I carve just about anything people want,” he said. “It’s fun to get together with all the people we’ve met over the years.”

The location doesn’t hurt business either.

“Riverboat Days always draws a really nice crowd,” Mary said. “It’s a nice atmosphere too, and a beautiful place.”

JAVY PRENDES, OF LINCOLN, NEB.

Though in business for 35 years, it was Javy Prendes’ first time at Riverboat Days.

“It’s been going pretty well,” the Lincoln man said. “It’s a gorgeous location and the people are really friendly.”

PrenDES specializes in making puppets and marionettes, though the former are a recent addition.

“I’ve been making puppets since high school, but we started the business mostly with marionettes,” said Prendes. “I fought them (the puppets) for a long time because they’re a lot of work and you don’t make much money off of them.”

PrenDES eventually changed his mind “because I was bored doing the same thing” and now carries a large selection of puppets designed as animals ranging from dogs to dragons.

GENE & COLLEEN KOELZER, OF CORNING, KANSAS

Gene Koelzer comes from a family of third-generation bee keepers whose bee population covers 30-50 miles of land. Though his family has kept a stand at the Yankton Mall for Riverboat Days the past 10 years, it was his first time there.

“There’s a lot of nice people and other good craft vendors too,” he noted.

The Koelzer Bee Farm sells honey and skin products made from it. The products come in various forms of lip balm, shea lotion bars and soap.

“One of the best things about this is that it’s all natural,” said Koelzer’s wife,

Colleen. “There’s no chemical added to it, so it’s a very healthy product. We want to make sure the customers are happy and provide a product that really does what we say it will do.”

MIKE & ANGIE ARMSTRONG, OF ELKHORN, NEB.

Creativity is valued at any Riverboat Days venue, and MAAC WINDCHIMES of Elkhorn, Neb. successfully accomplished that.

Owners Mike and Angie Armstrong create windchimes made from various figurines ranging from Disney to sports themes.

“It’s fun when people see them,” said Mike. “They’ve never seen these kind before and like them. Sometimes they give us ideas and ask if we can make certain ones.”

ECHO PETERSEN & KELLY NIELSON, YANKTON

Several of the businesses at Riverboat sold a variety of things, and All Decked Out was no exception.

In addition to selling scarves and snap charms, the business sold a full line of natural soaps and oils that appeared to be their best seller.

Echo Petersen and her daughter, Kelly Nielson, became involved with the business three years prior. After sampling the company’s products, they decided to join and have run their business in Yankton since then.

“We are independent. We choose what we sell and what we don’t,” said Petersen. Participating in the business gives both women business experience.

“When Kelly was struggling to find a job, we decided to set her up in this business and let her be her own boss,” Petersen said.

Petersen considers the job fun work. “I enjoy coming out and seeing new people,” she said. “Christmas is coming and that’s a great season to get into.”

The 2015 Riverboat Days Parade was held Saturday morning. The float winners in the various categories were as follows:

Non-Profit:

1. Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce
2. United Way
3. Avera Sacred Heart
4. Elks
5. B-Battery 1-147th Field Artillery

Commercial:

1. Future Look
2. Rounding 3rd Bar & Grill
3. Rupiper Tours

Vehicles:

1. Yankton Antique Auto Association
2. Robert Nissen
3. Denis Foken

Yankton Area Arts

1. RBrooke Designs/Best of Show/Finest Artist
2. Barnwood Trays/Best of Show/Selected Craftsman

Follow @ReillyBiel on Twitter.