

Cerberus To Sell Maker Of Gun Used In Shooting

The company that makes one of the weapons used to kill elementary school children in Connecticut is being put up for sale by its owner, which called Friday's tragedy a "watershed event" in the debate over gun control.

The private-equity group Cerberus Capital Management said Tuesday it will sell its controlling stake in Freedom Group International, the maker of Bushmaster rifles. Investors also continued to bail out of other gunmakers while the retailer Dick's Sporting Goods said it would stop selling military-style rifles.

The activity comes as the political winds appear to be shifting. Some Republicans now say they're willing to discuss the issue of gun control — along with mental health issues and violent video games.

Cerberus cobbled Freedom Group together by buying Bushmaster, Remington, and other well-known gun brands starting in 2006. On Friday, a gunman using what is believed to have been a Bushmaster military-style rifle killed 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history.

"It is apparent that the Sandy Hook tragedy was a watershed event that has raised the national debate on gun control to an unprecedented level," Cerberus wrote in announcing the planned sale. Cerberus owned 95 percent of Freedom Group, according to a year-end 2011 filing for the gunmaker on its website.

NRA Ends Silence On School Shooting

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Rifle Association is breaking its silence four days after a school shooting in Newtown, Conn., where 26 were killed, including 20 children.

The nation's largest gun rights organization made its first public statements Tuesday after a self-imposed media blackout that left many wondering how it would respond to the killings. In its statement, the group said its members were, quoting, "shocked, saddened and heartbroken by the news of the horrific and senseless murders."

The group also said it wanted to give families time to mourn before making its first public statements. The organization pledged "to help to make sure this never happens again" and has scheduled a news conference for Friday.

NBC's Crew Safe In Turkey After Abduction

BEIRUT (AP) — NBC's chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel said Tuesday he and members of his network crew escaped unharmed after five days of captivity in Syria, where more than a dozen pro-regime gunmen dragged them from their car, killed one of their rebel escorts and subjected them to mock executions.

Appearing on NBC's "Today" show, an unshaven Engel said he and his team escaped during a firefight Monday night between their captors and rebels at a checkpoint. They crossed into Turkey on Tuesday.

NBC did not say how many people were kidnapped with Engel, although two other men, producer Ghazi Balkiz and photographer John Kooistra, appeared with him on the "Today" show. It was not confirmed whether everyone was accounted for.

Engel said he believes the kidnapers were a Shiite militia group loyal to the Syrian government, which has lost control over swaths of the country's north and is increasingly on the defensive in a civil war that has killed 40,000 people since March 2011.

"They kept us blindfolded, bound," said the 39-year-old Engel, who speaks and reads Arabic. "We weren't physically beaten or tortured. A lot of psychological torture, threats of being killed. They made us choose which one of us would be shot first and when we refused, there were mock shootings," he added.

OBITUARIES

Arthur Matson

Arthur James Matson of Hetland, South Dakota, passed away in Northfield, Minnesota, on Thursday, December 13, 2012, just shy of his 90th birthday. He died after a one-week illness with his family at his side.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Myron and Guline Matson, step-mother Jessie Matson, infant daughter, Gloria Matson, former wife, Ruth Matson, and companion, Ardyce Samp.

He is survived by his loving family: daughter, Kristine Matson, of Northfield, MN; granddaughter, Jessica Fairbanks, and her husband, Blaise Sopwink, of Washburn, WI; daughter, Diane Matson, and her husband, Mark Vanney, and their daughters, Kathryn, Laura, and Michelle, of St. Paul, MN; son, Paul Matson, and his wife, Gilda Lorensen, and their daughter, Rosa, of Portland, OR; and brother, Maurice Matson, and his wife, Shirley Matson, of Arlington, SD.

Arthur was born on December 18, 1922, on his family's farm near Hetland, South Dakota. He grew up during the Depression, working hard on the farm but also enjoying the companionship of his brother and cousins, tending to farm animals, riding ponies across the dry lake bottom, and playing basketball. He and his family were members of Lake Whitewood Lutheran Church. His childhood was saddened by the early death of his mother when he was twelve years old. He graduated from Hetland High School in 1940 and from South Dakota State College in 1947. He enlisted as an officer in the United States



Matson

Army Air Force and trained as a navigator. He proudly served his country from 1943 to 1945. On December 28, 1953, he married Ruth Monson. Their young family moved from Lake Preston, South Dakota to Ames, Iowa, where he earned his Ph. D. in agricultural economics from Iowa State University in 1964.

During his career, Arthur taught economics at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD; Yankton College in Yankton, SD; and Westmar College in LeMars, IA. He served on the Yankton City Commission, and was elected mayor for a term. He enjoyed trips with his family to Norway and Civil War battlefields. In his later years, Arthur lived in Flandreau, SD, and pursued an interest in history with his cherished companion, Ardyce Samp.

Arthur was a farmer, teacher, friend to many, and life-long academic who always enjoyed learning new things. He truly excelled at being a father. His children and grandchildren appreciated his patience, acceptance of others, and, above all, kindness in all circumstances.

His family wishes to thank the Riverview Manor in Flandreau, SD and the Northfield Hospital Long-Term Care Center for their loving care of Arthur.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 22 at Lake Whitewood Lutheran Church in Arlington, SD. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. Burial will take place in the church cemetery with full military honors. The funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m. with the Reverend Dave Schoeld officiating.

Funeral arrangements are by the Bierman Funeral Home of Northfield.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 19, 2012

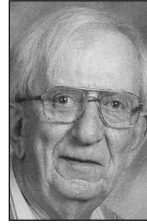
John Cimburek

Funeral Mass for John W. Cimburek, 82 of Claire City, SD will be on Friday, December 21, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Catholic Church, Veblen, SD with the Rev. Fr. Joseph Hitpas, OMI celebrant. Organist will be Vivian Monson. Pallbearers will be Ron Haaland, Lee Vrchota, Keith Guy, Travis Bergeson, Patrick Cimburek, and Robert Burns. Honorary Pallbearers will be all of John's grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Interment will be in St. Matthew's Catholic Cemetery, Veblen, SD, with Military Rites by Eddie Robertson American Legion Post #76.

There will be visitation on Thursday, at St. John's Catholic Church from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m.

The Cahill Funeral Chapel, Sisseton, SD is in charge of arrangements.

John Wenzel Cimburek was born on January 14, 1930 near Veblen, SD to Frank and Margaret (Vrchota) Cimburek. He attended school in Veblen and worked at Benid's Gamble Store and then at Benid Chevrolet after graduation. In December of 1950 he began work for Thorp Hereford Farms until August of 1951, when he was drafted into the army. He served his country from 1951 until 1953 where he spent 18 months in Japan. John was awarded the Army Occupation Medal (Japan). After his discharge he attended SDSU from 1953 until 1957. John taught the Veterans Agriculture Program at Waubay, SD from 1957 until 1960 and



Cimburek

then he began farming and farmed from 1960 until 1976. John then went to work for Horton Industries at Britton, SD from 1976 to 1995. John was married to Beverly Karnof on March 20, 1976 at Sisseton, SD. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, reading, cooking and especially enjoyed making soup. John passed away on December 16, 2012 at Essentia Health, Fargo, ND.

John is survived by his wife, Beverly of Claire City, SD; five children, James (Kari) Cimburek of Yankton, SD, Justin (Erin Pierce) Cimburek of Veblen, SD, Jessica (Dwayne) Pavelka of Verdigre, NE, Jennifer (Kevyn Schultz) Cimburek of Veblen, SD, and Joshua Cimburek of Claire City, SD; one brother Henry Cimburek of Upton, WY; one sister-in-law Patricia Cimburek of Columbus, NE; five grandchildren, Mathew, Seth, Brooke, Mason, and Brandon; and several nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Charley and Frank; and two sisters-in-law Minneva and Evelyn.

For John's obituary and on-line registry please visit www.cahillfuneralhome.com.

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Sharon Amell

Funeral services for Sharon Amell, 69, of Ravinia are at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, 2012, at the Wagner Community Church, Wagner. Burial is in Lakeview Cemetery, Lake Andes.

Visitation is at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, with the family present from 5 until 7 PM on Thursday.

Sharon died Monday, Dec. 17, 2012.

Elmer Koth

Funeral services for Elmer R. Koth, 88, of Tripp will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 22 at Frieden's Reformed Church in Tripp with Rev. Greg Way officiating. Burial will follow in Frieden's Reformed Cemetery, Tripp.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 3:00 p.m. until a 7:00 p.m. prayer service at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tripp. Visitation will resume on Saturday one hour prior to the service at the church.

Elmer died on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at Avera St.

Benedict Health Center in Parkston.
Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Goglin Funeral Home
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp

www.goglinfh.com

Carol Thornton

Carol Lois Thornton, 58, of Sioux Falls died Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, at the Dougherty Hospice House, Sioux Falls.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. today (Wednesday) at the YST Boys & Girls Club Gym, Marty. Burial is in the Episcopal Cemetery in Greenwood.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner, is in charge of arrangements.

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New Year's Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closing at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31.

The following deadlines will apply:
Wednesday, January 2 newspaper 5 p.m., Thursday, December 27
Out On The Town will run Monday, Dec. 31 & Thursday, Jan. 3 —
Deadline Wednesday, December 26, 5 p.m.

There will be no newspaper on Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

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A police officer keeps vigil as students are dropped off at the Newtown Middle School as classes resume in Newtown, Connecticut, Tuesday, December 18, 2012. Newtown's public schools opened for the first time since last week's shooting, but with police stationed at entrances both to reassure parents and pupils.

cause that's the only way we're going to do it," said 17-year-old P.J. Hickey, a senior at Newtown High School. "Nobody can do this alone."

Still, he noted: "There's going to be no joy in school. It really doesn't feel like Christmas anymore."

At St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Newtown, back-to-back funerals were held for first-graders James Mattioli and Jessica Rekos,

the third and fourth so far and the first of eight to be held in the coming days at the church. Memorial services and wakes were also held for some of the adult victims.

As mourners gathered outside, a motorcade led by police motorcycles arrived for the funeral of little James, who especially loved recess and math and who was described by his family as a "numbers guy"

who couldn't wait until he was old enough to order a foot-long Subway sandwich.

Traffic in front of the church slowed to a crawl as police directed vehicles into the parking lot. A school bus carrying elementary students got stuck in traffic, and the children, pressing their faces into the windows, sadly watched as the mourners assembled.

Inside the church, James' mother stood and remembered him.

"It was very somber, it was very sad, it was very moving," said Clare Savarese, who taught the boy in preschool and recalled him as "a lovely little boy, a sweet little angel."

The service had not concluded when mourners began arriving for the funeral of Jessica, who loved horses and was counting the years until she turned 10, when her family had promised her a horse of her own. For Christmas, she had asked Santa for new cowgirl boots and hat.

"We are devastated, and our hearts are with the other families who are grieving as we are," her parents, Rich and Krista Rekos, said in a statement.

Fiscal Cliff Talks Hit A Lull With Boehner's 'Plan B'

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just two weeks from an economy-threatening deadline, fiscal cliff talks hit a lull Tuesday as House Speaker John Boehner announced that Republicans would also march ahead with their own tax plan on a separate track from the one he's been pursuing with President Barack Obama.

The White House and leading congressional Democrats immediately rejected Boehner's "Plan B," which would extend soon-to-expire Bush-era tax cuts for everyone making less than \$1 million but would not address huge across-the-board spending cuts that are set to strike the Pentagon and domestic programs next year.

"Everyone should understand Boehner's proposal will not pass the Senate," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Boehner's surprise move came after significant progress over the past several days in talks with Obama — talks that produced movement on tax rate hikes that have proven deeply unsettling to GOP conservatives and on cuts to Social Security benefits that have incensed liberal Democrats.

Just Monday, Obama offered concessions, including a plan to raise top tax rates on households earning more than \$400,000 instead of the \$250,000 threshold he had campaigned on. And the two sides had inched closer on the total amount of tax revenue

required to seal the agreement. Obama now would settle for \$1.2 trillion over the coming decade while Boehner is offering \$1 trillion.

By contrast, protecting income below \$1 million from a hike in the top tax rate from 35 percent to 39.6 percent would raise only \$269 billion over the coming decade.

But the outlines of a possible Obama-Boehner agreement appeared to have shaky support at best from Boehner's leadership team and outright opposition from key Republicans like vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan, R-Wis., a House GOP aide said.

That aide spoke only on condition of anonymity because the aide was not authorized to dis-

cuss the situation publicly.

Though Obama spokesman Jay Carney had nothing good to say about Boehner's new option, he said, "The president is willing to continue to work with Republicans" toward a broader agreement.

The narrower Plan B faced plenty of opposition. Democrats announced they would oppose it, and many conservative Republicans continued to resist any vote that might be interpreted as raising taxes. Republicans were refining the measure Tuesday in hopes of building support among the GOP rank and file, but passing the measure exclusively with GOP votes could prove difficult.

"I think it's a terrible idea," said Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho. "For a lot of reasons."