

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Israel Unveils New Long-Range Drone Fleet

TEL NOF AIR FORCE BASE, Israel (AP) — Israel's air force on Sunday introduced a fleet of huge pilotless planes that can remain in the air for a full day and could fly as far as the Persian Gulf, putting rival Iran within its range.

The Heron TP drones have a wingspan of 86 feet (26 meters), making them the size of Boeing 737 passenger jets and the largest unmanned aircraft in Israel's military. The planes can fly at least 20 consecutive hours and are primarily used for surveillance and carrying diverse payloads.

At the fleet's inauguration ceremony at a sprawling air base in central Israel, the drone dwarfed an F-15 fighter jet parked beside it. The unmanned plane resembles its predecessor, the Heron, but can fly higher, reaching an altitude of more than 40,000 feet (12,000 meters), and remain in the air longer.

"With the inauguration of the Heron TP, we are realizing the air force's dream," said Brig. Gen. Amikam Norkin, commander of the base that will operate the drones. "The Heron TP is a technological and operational breakthrough."

The commander of Israel's air force, Maj. Gen. Ido Nehushtan, said the aircraft "has the potential to be able to conduct new missions down the line as they become relevant."

Authorities Charge Suspects In Texas Fires

TYLER, Texas (AP) — Federal authorities say they have charged two suspects in a series of church fires in Texas.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spokesman Tom Crowley says 19-year-old Jason Robert Bourque and 21-year-old Daniel George McAllister have been charged Sunday with five counts of felony arson in connection with fires at churches in Smith County, east Texas.

Authorities believe at least 11 blazes at churches in Texas since the start of the year have been set intentionally.

Crowley says he has no information on attorneys for the suspects.

Girls Crossing Fla. Bridge Killed By Train

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP) — Three teenage girls were joking around and taking pictures on a narrow bridge when they were hit by a train, killing them as a friend watched helplessly, police and a witness said Sunday.

The girls and the fourth teenager, a boy, had been hanging out in Melbourne's downtown area — known for its shops and nightclubs — when they decided to cross the trestle around 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Lt. Curtis Barger said. Their parents had dropped them off at a mall, and then they took a bus downtown where they were "just goofing off," he said.

The boy yelled for the girls to run when he saw the train approach, then told them to jump, Barger said. Crane Creek, about 20 feet below the bridge, is slow-moving and about 10 feet deep. The girls did not have enough time.

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AFGHANISTAN

Sweep Aims At Pocket Of Resistance

BY TONY PERRY AND LAURA KING

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Backed by fighter jets and attack helicopters, U.S. Marines and Afghan troops closed in on an insurgent-ridden sector of Marja on Sunday, the ninth day of a coalition bid to wrest control of the southern Afghan town from the Taliban.

The fighting, concentrated in northwestern Marja, took place amid what NATO called "determined resistance" from holdout fighters in various locations in and around the town. Advancing coalition troops faced a continuing threat from small-arms fire and improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, the Western military said in a statement.

"We're still pushing through the city," said Lt. Josh Diddams, a Marine spokesman. Some of the remaining pockets of insurgents consist of only a handful of fighters, but at least 40 — a relatively large concentration — are thought to be holed up in the town's northwestern quarter, the Associated Press reported.

NATO said Sunday another service member

was killed in connection with the offensive, bringing the number of Western troop fatalities to 13. At least eight were Marines.

The battle of Marja is the largest coalition assault since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that toppled the Taliban. NATO commanders want to break the insurgents' grip on the town and its environs as part of a larger effort to establish government authority for the first time in years in a strategic swath of troubled Helmand province.

NATO said the operation remained "on track," although commanders conceded last week that clearing operations will take a month or more, somewhat longer than originally envisioned.

In coming days, however, the coalition expects the town will be secure enough to bring in a newly appointed Afghan governor, marking a symbolic shift away from the military confrontation and toward job creation, school openings and the setting up of other long-absent public services.

The military said in a statement that route clearance — ridding the roads of one buried

bomb after another — was improving freedom of movement for local people. Many Marja residents have been pinned down in their homes for days by the fighting or have fled to other parts of the province.

Shops are slowly reopening as well, field commanders and local officials said.

Although the Marja offensive is concentrated in the district of Nad Ali, where the town is located, related operations are taking place across Helmand, the insurgency's traditional heartland.

NATO forces on Sunday reported the capture of a Taliban commander and another insurgent in a shootout in Kajaki district, in the east of Helmand, which left one of the suspects wounded. Both of the men arrested Friday were thought to have helped plant IEDs and plan attacks.

In another operation last week that was tied to the Marja offensive, coalition forces in Sangin district, also in Helmand's east, captured three Taliban fighters and seized nearly 150 detonators for use in bombmaking.

Obama To Propose Limits On Insurance Rates

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will propose giving federal authorities the power to limit rate hikes by health insurance companies — part of a new health care overhaul plan he will unveil Monday in a last-ditch bid to salvage his signature issue.

The proposal would give the federal Health and Human Services Department — in conjunction with state authorities — the power to deny egregious premium increases, roll them back, or demand rebates for consumers, said a White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity because details have not yet been officially released.

Recent premium hikes of as much as 39 percent sought by Anthem Blue Cross in California have given Obama a new argument for his

sweeping health care remake, stalled in Congress since Democrats lost their 60th Senate seat in a special election last month in Massachusetts.

The proposal for tighter oversight of insurers, modeled on legislation proposed by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., will be part of a sweeping overhaul plan which the White House plans to post on its Web site at 10 a.m. Monday, ahead of a health care summit with congressional leaders of both parties on Thursday.

The broader plan, likely to be opposed by the GOP, is expected to require most Americans to carry health insurance coverage, with federal subsidies to help many afford the premiums. Hewing close to a stalled Senate bill, it would bar insurance companies from denying coverage to people with medical problems or charging them more. The expected price tag is around \$1 trillion over 10 years.

The summit at Blair House, the White House guest residence, will be televised live on C-SPAN and perhaps on cable news networks. It represents a risky and unusual gamble by the administration that Obama can save his embattled overhaul through persuasion — on live TV.

It was forced on the administration by the Senate special election victory of Massachusetts Republican Scott Brown in January. He captured the seat long held by Democrat Edward M. Kennedy, who died last year. Brown's victory reduced the Democrats' majority in the Senate to 59 votes, one shy of the number needed to knock down Republican delaying tactics.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Sunday he would participate, but insisted Obama and congressional Democrats would be wrong to push the bills they wrote in the House and Senate.

OBITUARIES

Dale Spencer

Dale Spencer, age 83, of Yankton, and formerly of Crofton, NE died Friday, February 19, 2010 at the Human Services Center, Yankton, SD.

Following Dale's wishes there will be no formal services; however, burial of the cremated remains will take place this spring at the Laurel Hills Cemetery, Neligh, NE.

Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

Dale was born March 2, 1926 to Carl and Leota (Kirk) Spencer at Neligh, NE. He grew up in the Neligh and Clearwater, NE area. He attended grade school at school district #67 Clearwater and attended high school at Neligh, NE. After high school he married Jacquelyn Peterson and shortly thereafter he went to service in



Spencer

WWII in 1943. He served until 1946 in the European Theater in the 9th Infantry Division. After the service he returned and worked for the National Cash and Registry Company. In 1949 he married Darlene Hall of Arlington, IA at Waterloo, IA. To this union were born one son Dana and five daughters Carla, Cheryl, Kim, Lynne, and Kelly. In 1980 he married Charlotte Land at Mitchell, SD. In 1990 he retired from the state of South Dakota Corrections where he finished his employment.

Dale is survived by his wife Charlotte Spencer of Yankton, SD, Sister Marjorie Smith and Brother Lyle (Vi) Spencer both of Neligh,

NE and several nieces and nephews. Six children Dana (Judy) Spencer of Hastings, NE, Carla (George) Psinas of Pekin, IL, Cheryl (Bill) Ballard of Peachland, NC, Kim (Dave) Myers of Rogers, AR, Lynne (Frank) Meyers of Hastings, NE, and Kelly (Dave) Logan of Hudson, FL. 13 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his one daughter, parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, brother-in-law, father and mother-in-law, two sisters-in-law.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 22, 2010



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Delores Williams

Delores A. Williams, age 75, of Yankton, died on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton.

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton with Rev. Mark Lichter officiating. Private family inurnment will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Yankton.

Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Monday, February 22, 2009 at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton with a 7:00 p.m. rosary followed by a 7:30 p.m. Scripture service. Visitation will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Delores Ann was born to William and Katherine (Klein) Wuestewald on December 30, 1934 in Yankton, SD. She married Alvin D. Williams.



Williams

Delores worked at many different jobs from the Box Factory to the Yankton School District.

One of her passions was her vegetable garden, which she shared with the community. She was known for her ability to remember everything and everyone who touched her life.

The true meaning of life to her was spending time with her children and grandchildren. Anyone who knew Delores could count on a helping hand from her. Delores was not just a friend, but a mother to everyone. Her love will be missed.

Delores' memory will be cherished by her children: Ronald (Sue) Williams of Woodinville, WA, Jordan (Deb) Williams of San

Antonio, TX, Steve Williams of Yankton, SD, Dianne Rose of Sacramento, CA, Roger (Linda) Williams of Beaverton, OR, Terry Williams of Yankton, SD, Michael Williams of Yankton, SD and Wanda Odell of Council Bluffs, IA; 10 grandchildren and a brother, Danny (Margaret) Wuestewald of Utica, SD.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Alvin. The family requests that memorials be directed to Roger Williams, 293, Northwest 140th Place, Beaverton, OR 97006 or williams293140@msn.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 22, 2010



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Robert Barnes

VERMILLION — Robert R. Barnes, 75, of Vermillion, SD passed away Thursday, February 18, 2010 after a courageous battle resulting from complications of surgery.

Bob was born 02-18-35 to Harold and Ethel (Mayers) Barnes in Gilman, IA. Bob played basketball, the clarinet and harmonica and was on the student newspaper board. He was senior class king and graduated from Gilman High School in 1953. He was a 1959 graduate of Iowa State with a BS degree.

Bob was Assistant Computer Center Director at Iowa State, and later became a Comptroller at Stevens College in Columbia, Missouri. Bob was the long time Comptroller at the University of South Dakota retiring in 1994. He often said he left the "A team" for the next Comptroller. Bob worked for Dakota Realty for several years and finished out his career at a fun job at Ace Hardware in Vermillion. He always maintained that "a man can never have too many tools."

Bob married Gloria (Baldwin) Barnes on April 24, 1981 in Vermillion. Bob was very proud of all the children and grandchildren. He often said the best job he ever had was being a Grandpa.

Bob volunteered at the grandchildren's pre-school in Vermillion and also the grade school. He told Mark Upward that if he would pass him then he would not have to come back another year. He took the older grandchildren in Vermillion to school and picked them up until they could drive themselves. Bob was a Cub Scout leader when Michael was young. Bob attended St. Agnes Church and loved the Children's mass on Friday mornings. He was a member of Jaycees, Lions, Clay County Historical Society, Friends of the Library, Shrine to Music Museum and local supporter of sports. He loved to attend the grandchildren's school programs. Bob had coffee twice daily at Pump N Stuff and said he and his friends solved a lot of world problems this way.

Bob enjoyed doing carpenter work, plumbing and his favorite electrical work. He and Gloria had fun putting their stamp on the homes they lived in.

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Bob is survived by his wife Gloria of Vermillion, son Eric (Susan) Barnes of Mosinee, WI, daughter Laura Tibbe of Greeley, CO. Step-children: Susan Stach (Larry Hudson) of Vermillion, Sheri (Eric) of Farmington, MN, and Michael (Stacey) Stach, US Army serving in Iraq. Grandchildren: Bobbi and Mollie Greenfield, Luci Hudson, Zachary and Annabelle Speckan, Ryder Stach, Ashton Bush and Bill Morehouse.

Preceding him in death were his parents, a daughter Lesli and a sister Betty.

Memorials have been established at the USD Foundation for students in financial need and St. Agnes School.

Funeral services will be 11:30 a.m. Thursday, February 25, at the St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion, with burial of ashes at a later date.

Visitation will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24 with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. all at the church.

For online condolences and obituary please visit hansenfuneralhome.com.

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Seana Head

VERMILLION — Seana Head, 61, of Vermillion died Sunday (Feb. 21, 2010) at Sanford Vermillion Care Center, Vermillion.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Iverson-Siecke-Kober Funeral Home, Vermillion.

Daryl 'Red' Lamprecht

BLOOMFIELD, Neb. — Daryl W. "Red" Lamprecht, 57, of Bloomfield, Neb., died Saturday

(Feb. 20, 2010) at the Bloomfield Good Samaritan Center.

Funeral services are at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bloomfield, with the Rev. Tim Koester officiating. Burial is in the Bloomfield City Cemetery.

Visitation is 7-9 p.m. at the church. Brockhaus Funeral Home, Bloomfield, is in charge of arrangements.

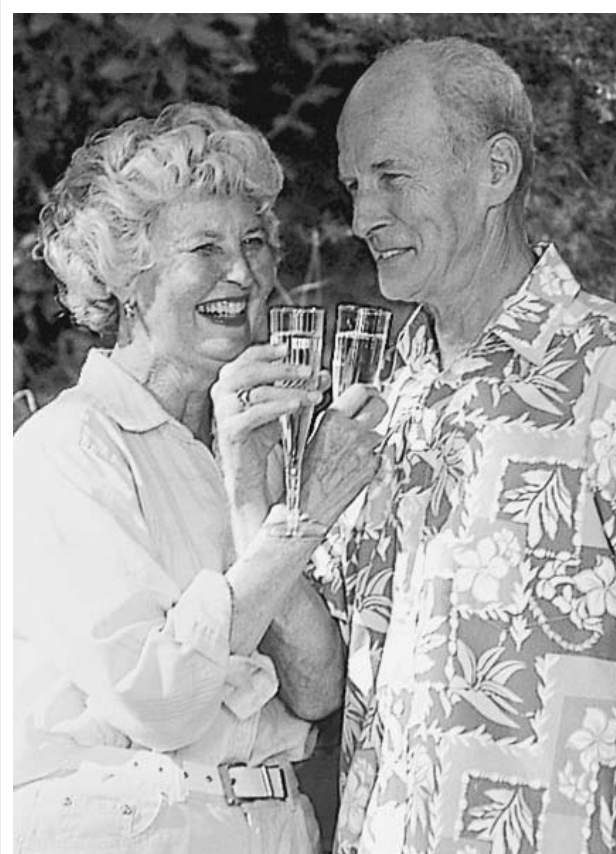
Margaret Woodhouse

TYNDALL — Margaret Woodhouse, 98 of Tyndall and formerly of Yankton died Sunday (Feb. 21, 2010) at the Tyndall Good Samaritan Center.

Arrangements are pending under the care of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

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Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Howard E. Kuhlmann
who passed away on
February 22 2009

Truman Nelson
who passed away on
February 22, 2009

Shirley Nappin
who passed away on
February 23, 2009

Elwin E. Oswald
who passed away on
February 24, 2009

Ervin George Syrovatka
who passed away on
February 24, 2009

Gerald Lindstrom
who passed away on
February 24, 2009

Mary Ann Kostel
who passed away on
February 27, 2009

Clarence Winkelman
who passed away on
February 28, 2009

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Caring and serving families with compassion and trust.

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