

Former Marine Charged In Deadly Shooting

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP) — A 25-year-old Iraq war veteran charged with murdering former Navy SEAL and “American Sniper” author Chris Kyle and his friend turned his gun onto the pair while they were at a Texas shooting range, authorities said Sunday.

Eddie Ray Routh of Lancaster was arraigned early Sunday on two counts of capital murder in the deaths of Kyle, 38, and Chad Littlefield, 35, at the shooting range about 50 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

Capt. Jason Upshaw with the Erath County Sheriff’s Office said Routh used a semi-automatic handgun, which authorities later found at his home. Upshaw said ballistics tests weren’t complete Sunday, but authorities believe the gun was used in the shootings. Upshaw declined to give any more details about the gun.

Routh has not made any comments indicating what his motive may have been, Upshaw said. Sheriff Tommy Bryant said Routh was unemployed and “may have been suffering from some type of mental illness from being in the military himself,” but he didn’t know if Routh was on any medication.

“I don’t know that we’ll ever know. He’s the only one that knows that,” Upshaw said.

Israeli Air Force Hits Syria, Targeting Weapons

MUNICH (AP) — Israel’s defense minister strongly signaled Sunday that his country was behind an airstrike in Syria last week, telling a high profile security conference that Israeli threats to take pre-emptive action against its enemies are not empty. “We mean it,” Ehud Barak declared.

Israel has not officially confirmed its planes attacked a site near Damascus, targeting ground-to-air missiles apparently heading for Lebanon, but its intentions have been beyond dispute. During the 22 months of civil war in Syria, Israeli leaders have repeatedly expressed concern that high-end weapons could fall into the hands of enemy Hezbollah, the powerful Lebanese militants.

For years, Israel has been charging that Syrian President Bashar Assad and Iran have been arming Hezbollah, which fought a month-long war against Israel in 2006.

U.S. officials say the target was a convoy of sophisticated Russian SA-17 anti-aircraft missiles. Deployed in Lebanon, they could have limited Israel’s ability to gather intelligence on its enemies from the air.

U.S. Fighting Drug Traffickers In Latin America

NEW YORK (AP) — The crew members aboard the *USS Underwood* could see through their night goggles what was happening on the fleeing go-fast boat: Someone was dumping bales.

When the Navy guided-missile frigate later dropped anchor in Panamanian waters on that sunny August morning, Ensign Clarissa Carpio, a 23-year-old from San Francisco, climbed into the inflatable dinghy with four unarmed sailors and two Coast Guard officers like herself, carrying light submarine guns. It was her first deployment, but Carpio was ready for combat.

Fighting drug traffickers was precisely what she’d trained for. In the most expensive initiative in Latin America since the Cold War, the U.S. has militarized the battle against the traffickers, spending more than \$20 billion in the past decade. U.S. Army troops, Air Force pilots and Navy ships outfitted with Coast Guard counternarcotics teams are routinely deployed to chase, track and capture drug smugglers.

French Launch Airstrikes In North Mali

GOSSII, Mali (AP) — French troops launched airstrikes on Islamic militant training camps and arms depots around Kidal and Tessalit in Mali’s far north, defense officials said Sunday, as the first supply convoy of food, fuel and parts to eastern Mali headed across the country.

French planes pounded extremist training camps as well as arms and fuel depots from Saturday night into the early hours of Sunday, according to French army Col. Thierry Burkhard.

“It was an important aerial operation to the north of the town Kidal and in the Tessalit region where we targeted logistical depots and Islamist training camps ... some 20 sites,” said Burkhard. He said there were 30 planes used in the operation including Mirage and Rafale jets.

The French intervened in Mali on Jan. 11 to stem the advance of the al-Qaida-linked fighters. Though they succeeded in ousting the rebels from the three main northern cities they occupied, including the fabled city of Timbuktu, Sunday’s aerial operation highlights that the French still see militants in the extreme northern area near the border with Algeria a threat.

Alabama Standoff Reaches Day Six

MIDLAND CITY, Ala. (AP) — As an Alabama standoff and hostage drama marked a sixth day Sunday, more details emerged about the suspect at the center, with neighbors and officials painting a picture of an isolated man estranged from his family.

Authorities say Jim Lee Dykes, 65 — a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War known as Jimmy to neighbors — gunned down a school bus driver and abducted a 5-year-old boy from the bus, taking him to an underground bunker on his rural property. The driver, 66-year-old Charles Albert Poland Jr., was to be buried Sunday.

Dykes, described as a loner who railed against the government, lives up a dirt road outside this tiny hamlet north of Dothan in the southeast corner of the state. His home is just off the main road north to the state capital of Montgomery, about 80 miles away.

The FBI said in a statement Sunday that authorities continue to have an open line of communication with Dykes and that they planned to deliver to the bunker additional comfort items such as food, toys and medicine. Officials also said Dykes was making the child as comfortable as possible.

Dykes grew up in the Dothan area. Mel Adams, a Midland City Council member who owns the lot where reporters are gathered, said he has known Dykes since they were ages 3 and 4.

Dozens Of Students Injured In Bus Crash

BOSTON (AP) — The scene could hardly have been more frightening for a Pennsylvania high school student just returning from a tour of Harvard University when the bus she was on slammed into an overpass, injuring dozens of passengers.

She did what most kids would do. She called her mother.

“She was screaming and crying and saying that the roof was caving in and that she couldn’t see anything, and she hit her head and she hurt her arm,” said Teresa Merri-gan, describing the call from her daughter Alana.

Alana and the 41 others on the Calvary Coach bus had just begun the hours-long journey back to the Philadelphia area late Saturday. The driver, Samuel J. Jackson, was trying to navigate Boston’s confusing maze of roads and rotaries, famously challenging to out-of-town-ers. He looked down at his GPS and looked back up and saw the bridge but was too close to avoid hitting it, Ray Talmadge, owner of the Philadelphia-based bus company, told WCAU-TV.

Thirty-five people were injured in the crash, Massachusetts state police said. One person was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries and three with serious injuries, the Boston Emergency Medical Services said.

Obama: Scouts Should Allow Gay Members

BY NEDRA PICKLER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Sunday that gays should be allowed in the Boy Scouts and women should be allowed in military combat roles, weighing in on two storied American institutions facing proposals to end long-held exclusions.

The president’s comments in a pre-Super Bowl interview on CBS come ahead of this week’s meeting of the Boy Scouts’ national executive board. A proposal to open up the Scouts’ membership to gays is expected to be discussed and possibly voted on at the gathering in Texas.

The Boy Scouts emphatically reaffirmed the no-gays policy just seven months ago, but announced last week they were considering changing the stance. Instead of mandatory exclusion of gays, the different religious and civic groups that sponsor Scout units would be able to decide for themselves how to address the issue — either maintaining the exclusion or opening up their membership.

The White House said in a statement last August that Obama opposed the gay ban. Obama, like presidents for the last century, serves as honorary president of the group. The president’s comment Sunday was his first since the group announced it was considering a policy change.

“My attitude is that gays and lesbians should have access and opportunity the same way everybody else does in every institution and walk of life,” Obama said. “The Scouts are a great institution that are promoting young people and exposing them to opportunities and leadership that will serve people for the rest of their lives. And I think nobody should be barred from that.”



Obama

Obama also had previously issued a statement supporting the Pentagon’s decision last month to open up front-line combat jobs to women, but the interview with CBS’ Scott Pelley included his first publicly spoken comments on the matter since the announcement. He said women are already serving in combat “as a practical matter.”

“When they’re in theater in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, they are vulnerable,” he said. “They are wounded, and they’ve been killed. And they have carried out their jobs with extraordinary patriotism and distinction.”

The policy change overturns a 1994 rule prohibiting women from being assigned to smaller ground combat units, and is expected to open up more than 230,000 combat positions that have been off limits to women.

Obama said he meets “extraordinary women in uniform who can do everything that a man can and more.” He gave the example of one of his military aides, who he estimated is only about 5 feet tall and 100 pounds.

“You put a 50-pound pack on her, and she can do things that you or me would keel over doing. And so the truth is that women are serving. They are taking great risks. What we should not do is somehow prevent them from advancing in an institution that we all revere.”

On the economy, Obama said although more revenue has to be raised to reduce the deficit, it can be done without raising income

Boehner Steadies GOP, Reframes Deficit Debate

BY CHARLES BABINGTON  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner has shored up his political clout after a shaky month, persuading his Republican caucus to pick its fights with Democrats more strategically.

His impressive rebound, aided by face-the-facts confrontations with colleagues, helped the government avoid a potential default on its financial obligations — for three months, at least.

It also reassured establishment Republicans who feared the House majority was becoming so unpredictable that it endangered the party.

But the patched-up GOP solidarity and Boehner’s ability to pass bills without Democrats’ help are certain to be tested again.

Surprising news this past week about a late-2012 economic slump might re-energize arguments over tax increases and impending spending cuts. An even bigger challenge will be the immigration overhaul proposals headed toward Congress.

The nation’s highest-ranking Republican, who recently confronted open talk of a possible overthrow, has calmed the waters remarkably, for now.

December was a grim time for Boehner. Rank-and-file Republicans forced him to withdraw in embarrassment from White House negotiations over the much-feared “fiscal cliff,” the combination of deep spending cuts and end-of-the year tax increases.

January was worse. Boehner, R-Ohio, twice had to rely on Democrats to pass major bills, and he watched a dozen fellow Republicans refuse to back his re-election as speaker.

Within days, however, he steadied his ship and persuaded his colleagues to go along with

his plans to be more strategic and patient.

The implications went beyond one politician’s fate. Financial markets and corporate planners were reassured when House Republicans agreed to postpone a showdown over the government’s borrowing capacity.

It marked a significant cooling off by GOP conservatives, many of whom had been saying President Barack Obama’s re-election meant little. Now they publicly were starting to accept the limits of minority party status in Washington.

“We’re too outnumbered to govern, to make policy,” said Rep. John Fleming, R-La., who had defied Boehner on votes earlier in January on the fiscal cliff and hurricane aid. “But we can make a serious impact on spending” by picking when and where to fight, Fleming said.

Republicans say Boehner’s biggest breakthrough came at a two-day House GOP retreat in Virginia. With his restless caucus shut away from distractions, he lined up speakers from inside and outside Congress to help explain what he saw as fiscal and political realities.

In a speech a few days later, Boehner summarized the case he made to his colleagues. In the upcoming debates over taxes and deficit spending, he said, Republicans must decide “where’s the ground that we fight on? Where’s the ground that we retreat on? Where are the smart fights?”

The decisions will come soon. Aside from big spending cuts scheduled to start March 1, lawmakers must choose whether to fund the government for another year. Some conservatives say they may temporarily shut down the government if Democrats don’t accept deep spending cuts and no new tax revenues.

Boehner, at least for a while, can bask in achievements that were far from certain just a short time ago.

Dozens of House Republicans who had once refused to increase the debt ceiling without corresponding spending cuts — a position Boehner had just abandoned — backed down after the House retreat. Republican campaign strategists fear severe setbacks if voters blame the party for a default on U.S. financial obligations.

The concessions also seem to have put the speaker back on track for passing major bills with solid GOP majorities.

Early in January, Boehner twice had to abandon the “majority of the majority” rule that has guided House speakers for years. That rule says that whenever possible, a speaker wants to avoid passing major legislation

that most of the speaker’s party members oppose.

But unyielding Republicans forced Boehner’s hand Jan. 1 on the fiscal cliff.

He had to rely chiefly on Democrats’ votes to enact an Obama-backed budget deal to avoid a tax increase on most Americans and instead raise them for the more affluent. Two weeks later, Boehner again had to accept most Republicans’ abandonment on a deficit-financed spending bill to help victims of Superstorm Sandy.

Perhaps Boehner’s darkest moment came on Dec. 20, when conservative colleagues rejected his counteroffer to Obama’s bid to raise taxes on the wealthy.

CROSSWORD  
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jack of office
  - 4 Lairs
  - 6 Penny
  - 10 Sofa
  - 11 Golden — (senior citizens)
  - 13 Bugs bugs him
  - 14 Des Moines native
  - 15 Catch in the act
  - 16 Paddle’s cousin
  - 18 Masseur’s workplace
  - 19 Old West outlaw
  - 22 Volleyball need
  - 23 Seep
  - 24 Tennis star
  - 27 Trifled (with)
  - 28 Poet Khayyám
  - 29 Butter square
  - 30 Old West outlaw
  - 35 First aid case
  - 36 Have lunch
  - 37 Sis’s sibling
  - 38 Select group
  - 40 Sad sack
  - 42 Home design
- DOWN**
- 1 Fragrance
  - 2 From the Arctic
  - 3 Cuban dance
  - 4 Top card
  - 5 Royal seats
  - 6 Capital on the Nile
  - 7 Sense of self
  - 8 “Extra!” caller
  - 9 Bar for swingers
  - 12 Caught
  - 17 Museum stuff
  - 20 Like neon
  - 21 Diner seating choice
  - 24 Hit with force
  - 25 Contacted online
  - 26 Wooden grid
  - 27 Was a rat

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Saturday’s answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to  
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2-4

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

B U R J Y J C C B C Y V O U V B Y P

Y V O W B Y P . B U R J Y J C C B C L J B Y P

Z Q J J O V U V T Y M O W B Y P .

— Z R V M U U J R R

Saturday’s Cryptoquote: THE ONLY REAL VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY CONSISTS NOT IN SEEKING NEW LANDSCAPES, BUT IN HAVING NEW EYES. — MARCEL PROUST

PRESS&DAKOTAN

2013 Beautiful Baby Contest

Chance To Win Prizes!

We will be featuring our annual “Beautiful Baby Contest” in print and online on **Wednesday, February 27, 2013.** If you or someone you know has a child we would love to include them in our feature!

To enter, simply submit your photo and entry form with a \$10 submission fee by **Monday, February 18.**

First place winners in the following categories will receive a framed winners print and prizes from the following sponsors: Photography by Jerry, LilyCrest and JCPenney.

- 1) 0-12 Months
- 2) 13-24 Months
- 3) 25 Months-3 Years
- 4) 4-7 Years
- 5) Multiple Births

**Beautiful Baby Contest 2013**

Category # \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Winners will be selected by the staff of Yankton Media Inc. Employees and family members of Yankton Media Inc. are ineligible to win.  
\*Submission of this form authorizes the publication of child’s photo in this contest in print and online at www.yankton.net.  
Submission fee (\$10) must accompany entry form to be valid.

Submit Entry To:  
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan  
319 Walnut Street  
Yankton, SD 57078

**Entry Deadline:  
Mon., Feb. 18, 2013**