

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

Netanyahu Says Israel, U.S. 'Friends'

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's leader tried to play down tensions with the U.S. on Sunday after a rocky meeting at the White House last week, saying that relations with Washington remain solid. In his first public comments on the matter, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet that Israel and the U.S. can work out their differences. "The relationship between Israel and the U.S. is one between allies and friends, and it's a relationship based on years of tradition," Netanyahu said. "Even if there are disagreements, these are disagreements between friends, and that's how they will stay." The U.S. has criticized Israeli construction in east Jerusalem — the section of the holy city claimed by the Palestinians. It has asked Israel for gestures toward the Palestinians to help relaunch peace talks, which were about to start earlier this month when the latest spat over settlements broke out. The planned negotiations were thrown into doubt after Israel announced plans to build 1,600 new apartments for Jews in east Jerusalem. Israel made the announcement while Vice President Joe Biden was visiting, drawing sharp condemnations from Washington and calls to cancel the construction plans.

More Than 7,000 Protest Violence In Mexico

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — More than 7,000 people have gathered in the northern Mexico city of Monterrey to protest a wave of violence that has affected the country's third largest city in recent weeks. Most of the protesters wore white at a rally in Monterrey's main park and some released white balloons and a white dove as signs of peace. Nuevo Leon state Gov. Rodrigo Medina led the protesters on a brief walk through Fundidora Park. His border state has seen a surge in violence that authorities blame on a turf war between the Gulf drug cartel and the Zetas, the cartel's former hit men. Hours before the rally Sunday, two soldiers and a civilian were wounded in a shootout between troops and gunmen in Monterrey.

Death Of CIA Detainee Offers Cautionary Tale

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than seven years ago, a suspected Afghan militant was brought to a dimly lit CIA compound northeast of the airport in Kabul. The CIA called it the Salt Pit. Inmates knew it as the dark prison. Inside a chilly cell, the man was shackled and left half-naked. He was found dead, exposed to the cold, in the early hours of Nov. 20, 2002. The Salt Pit death was the only fatality known to have occurred inside the secret prison network the CIA operated abroad after the Sept. 11 attacks. The death had strong repercussions inside the CIA. It helped lead to a review that uncovered abuses in detention and interrogation procedures, and forced the agency to change those procedures. Little has emerged about the Afghan's death, which the Justice Department is investigating. The Associated Press has learned the dead man's name, as well as new details about his capture in Pakistan and his Afghan imprisonment. The man was Gul Rahman, a suspected militant captured on Oct. 29, 2002, a U.S. official familiar with the case confirmed. The official said Rahman was taken during an operation against Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin, an insurgent group headed by Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and allied with al-Qaida.

Newly-Insured Expected To Strain Docs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Better beat the crowd and find a doctor. Primary care physicians already are in short supply in parts of the country, and the landmark health overhaul that will bring them millions more newly insured patients in the next few years promises extra strain. The new law goes beyond offering coverage to the uninsured, with steps to improve the quality of care for the average person and help keep us well instead of today's seek-care-after-you-re-sick culture. To benefit, you'll need a regular health provider. Yet recently published reports predict a shortfall of roughly 40,000 primary care doctors over the next decade, a field losing out to the better pay, better hours and higher profile of many other specialties. Provisions in the new law aim to start reversing that tide, from bonus payments for certain physicians to expanded community health centers that will pick up some of the slack. ■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

Gun Charges After FBI Raids In Midwest

BY MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press Writer

ADRIAN, Mich. — The FBI said Sunday that agents conducted weekend raids in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio and arrested at least three people, and a militia leader in Michigan said the target of at least one of the raids was a Christian militia group. Federal warrants were sealed, but a federal law enforcement official speaking on condition of anonymity said some of those arrested face gun charges and officials are pursuing other suspects. FBI spokeswoman Sandra Berchold said there had been activity in two southeast Michigan counties near the Ohio state line. She wouldn't say whether they were tied to the raids in the other states. FBI spokesman Scott Wilson in Cleveland said agents arrested two people Saturday after raids in two Ohio towns. A third arrest made in northeast Illinois on Sunday stemmed from a raid Saturday just over the border in northwest Indiana, both part of an ongoing investigation led by the FBI in Michigan, according to a statement from agents in Illinois. George Ponce, 18, who works at a pizzeria next door to a home raided in Hammond, Ind., said he and a few co-workers stepped outside for a break Saturday night and saw a swarm of law enforcement. "I heard a yell, 'Get back inside!' and saw a squad member pointing a rifle at us," Ponce said. "They told us the bomb squad was going in, sweeping the house looking for bombs." He said another agent was in the bushes near the house, and law enforcement vehicles were

"all over." He estimated that agents took more than two dozen guns from the house. Michael Lackomar, a spokesman for the Southeast Michigan Volunteer Militia, said one of his team leaders got a frantic phone call Saturday evening from members of Hutaree, a Christian militia group, who said their property in southwest Michigan was being raided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "They said they were under attack by the ATF and wanted a place to hide," Lackomar said. "My team leader said, 'no thanks.'" The team leader was cooperating with the FBI on Sunday, Lackomar said. He said SMVM wasn't affiliated with Hutaree, which states on its Web site to be "prepared to defend all those who belong to Christ and save those who aren't."

"We believe that one day, as prophecy says, there will be an Anti-Christ," the group's Web site said. "Jesus wanted us to be ready to defend ourselves using the sword and stay alive using equipment." An e-mail sent to the group by The Associated Press wasn't returned Sunday, and phone numbers for the group's leadership were not immediately available. Berchold, the FBI spokeswoman in Michigan, said she couldn't confirm if the raids were connected to Hutaree. Lackomar said none of the raids focused on his group. Lackomar said about eight to 10 members of Hutaree trained with SMVM twice in the past three years. SMVM holds monthly training sessions focusing on survival training and shooting practice, Lackomar said.

Lawyer Has Long Pursued Church

BY PATRICK CONDON
Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Jeff Anderson has filed thousands of lawsuits alleging sex abuse by priests and won tens of millions of dollars for his clients, but he has had a bigger goal in mind for nearly two decades. He wants to bring his career-long legal crusade against misconduct in the Roman Catholic Church right to the top. He would love to question Pope Benedict XVI himself under oath. Though that is extremely unlikely given that the pope is a head of state, documents Anderson has unearthed have the potential to take a scandal that has plagued dozens of dioceses around the world and place it at the doorstep of Vatican leadership. The documents, which became publicly known in the past week after Anderson shared them with *The New York Times*, show that a Vatican office led by the pope, then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, halted a church trial against a Wisconsin priest accused of molesting some 200 boys at a school for the deaf. "This is a tipping point," Anderson said. He found the documents in handling one of the dozens of lawsuits he has pending against various church officials, and hopes to use them to bolster a separate federal lawsuit against the Vatican itself. Since 1983, Anderson and the five other attorneys at his downtown St. Paul firm have sued thousands of Catholic priests, bishops, and dioceses over allegations of sexual abuse by priests and other church leaders.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 29
• **BOOK FAIR**
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Benedictine Center Lobby
(605) 668-8310

March 30
• **NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY**

• **BOOK FAIR**
7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Benedictine Center Lobby
(605) 668-8310

April 3
• **EASTER EGG HUNT**
10 a.m.
Avera Yankton Care Center
Open to children 5 years and under.
(605) 668-8800

April 5
• **FREE HEARING AID TEST DRIVE**
Avera Yankton Ear, Nose & Throat
Free hearing screening and fitting for appropriate hearing aids to "test drive" for two weeks. For more information, call (605) 665-6820

April 6
• **"ROSES ... JUST BECAUSE" PICK UP**
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Benedictine Center Lobby
(605) 668-8310

• **FREE HEARING AID TEST DRIVE**
Free hearing screening and fitting for appropriate hearing aids to "test drive" for two weeks. For more information, call (605) 665-6820

April 12
• **DIABETES AREA SUPPORT GROUP**
1 p.m.
Benedictine Center Conference Room
Everyone is welcome.
(605) 668-8279

• **AMBASSADORS' MEETING**
eSTROKE PRESENTATION
12 - 1 p.m.
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Professional Office Pavilion Conference Room
To become an Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Ambassador, please call (605) 668-8104

April 13
• **INFANT MESSAGE CLASS**
6 - 8 p.m.
Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Professional Office Pavilion Conference Room
\$10/couple, limited to 10 people. Basic infant massage techniques will be taught to aid in childhood problems such as colic, constipation and sleep. Adults only. To register call (605) 668-8376 or (605) 668-8357.

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