

Obama Pledges Unshakeable Support To Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — Eager to reassure an anxious ally, President Barack Obama on Wednesday affirmed Israel's sovereign right to defend itself from any threat and vowed to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. He said containment of a nuclear-armed Iran was not an option and said the United States would do whatever it takes to prevent Iran from getting "the world's worst weapons."

Meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his first visit to the Jewish state as president, Obama offered his personal commitment that the U.S. would stand by Israel in any circumstances that required it to act to protect its people. He said the U.S. and Israel would start talks soon on a new, 10-year security co-operation package to replace one that expires in 2017.

Obama also pledged to investigate whether chemical weapons were used this week in neighboring Syria's 2-year-old civil war, something he said would be a "game-changer" for current U.S. policy. In addition, he said he would continue to urge Israel and the Palestinians to relaunch the moribund peace process.

Speaking at a joint news conference, Obama and Netanyahu, who have sparred on numerous occasions in the past, presented a united front on Iran.

They stressed repeatedly that all options — including military ones — are on the table to keep Iran from acquiring an atomic weapon if the diplomatic track fails. And they brushed aside apparent differences over when the Iranian nuclear program might reach the point that military action is required.

Marines Killed In Nevada Had Ave. Age Of 22

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP) — They're called "leathernecks" or "Devil Dogs," but some of the Marines killed in a desert training accident this week were just a year or so out of high school, their boyish faces not yet weathered by life's hardships.

Just 19, Pfc. Josh Martino of Dubois, Pa., had already spent nearly half his young life dreaming of becoming one of "the few, the proud." He had joined in July and was hoping to marry his fiancée later this year before being deployed to Afghanistan, his mother said.

"Since he was probably 8 years old he wanted to be a Marine," Karen Perry said Wednesday after meeting with military officials to start planning her son's funeral. "That's all he wanted to do."

Lance Cpl. Josh Taylor, 21, also seemed to have been born for the Corps. The Marietta, Ohio, native had talked about being a Marine since he was about 5, said his grandfather, Larry Stephens. Josh, too, was planning for a wedding, scheduled for May.

Both young men were among seven members of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force killed late Monday when a mortar shell exploded in its firing tube during an exercise at Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada. Eight men were injured, some severely.

Cypriot Officials: Plan B To Be Unveiled Thursday

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Cyprus' government has drawn up a new plan to raise funds needed for the country to secure a crucial international bailout, three top government officials said Wednesday.

The new bill could be voted on as early as Thursday evening, one of the officials said.

Parliament had resoundingly rejected the previous plan, which involved seizing up to 10 percent of people's bank deposits.

The rejection threw Cyprus' entire bailout into question, raising the possibility that the country's banks could collapse, the government would be unable to pay its bills and Cyprus could be forced out of the euro.

The officials said the new "Plan B" includes some Russian assistance and a smaller bank deposit tax. Parliament is expected to vote on the new bill Thursday.

Colo. Gov. Signs Landmark Gun Control Bills

DENVER (AP) — The governor of Colorado signed bills Wednesday that put sweeping new restrictions on sales of firearms and ammunition in a state with a pioneer tradition of gun ownership and self-reliance.

The bills thrust Colorado into the national spotlight as a potential test of how far the country might be willing to go with new gun restrictions after the horror of mass killings at an Aurora movie theater and a Connecticut elementary school.

The approval by Gov. John Hickenlooper came exactly eight months after dozens of people were shot at the theater, and the day after the executive director of the state Corrections Department was shot and killed at his home.

The bills require background checks for private and online gun sales and ban ammunition magazines that hold more than 15 rounds.

Two ballot measures have already been proposed to try to undo the restrictions.

Fed Says It Will Stick With Aggressive Stimulus

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve on Wednesday stood by its efforts to keep borrowing costs at record lows, saying it isn't yet convinced that the U.S. economy's growth can accelerate without significant help from the central bank.

It wants to see sustained improvement. Fed officials reinforced their plan to keep short-term interest rates at rock-bottom levels at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent.

An unemployment rate of 6.5 percent is a threshold, not a "trigger," for a possible rate increase, Chairman Ben Bernanke said.

"We are seeing improvement," he said. "One thing we would need is to see this is not temporary improvement."

The Fed will continue buying \$85 billion a month in bonds indefinitely to keep long-term borrowing costs down. Bernanke said the Fed might vary the size of its monthly purchases depending on whether the job market improves and by how much.

The unemployment rate has fallen to a four-year low of 7.7 percent, among many signs of a healthier economy.

Investors seemed pleased with the Fed's decision to maintain its low-rate policies for now. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up about 56 points, having risen slightly after the Fed's statement was released.

The Fed's statement took note of the global stresses that have been intensified by turmoil in Cyprus, which is trying to stave off financial ruin. No longer does the Fed statement say, as it did in January, that "strains in global financial markets have eased somewhat."

Bernanke was asked at a news conference whether the flare-up in Cyprus signals that the U.S. financial system might be more vulnerable than bank "stress tests" have shown. He sought

to downplay the dangers posed by the tiny Mediterranean nation.

"At this point," Bernanke said, he sees no major risks to the American financial system or economy.

In its statement, the Fed noted that the U.S. job market has improved, consumer spending and business investment have increased and the housing market has strengthened. But its latest economic forecasts, also released Wednesday, show that the Fed still doesn't expect unemployment to reach 6.5 percent until 2015.

The Fed also cautioned that government spending cuts and tax increases could slow the economy. It predicts that growth won't exceed 2.8 percent this year, slightly lower than its December forecast of 3 percent.

A total of 13 Fed officials still think the first rate increase won't occur until 2015, the same number that thought so in December. One Fed official thinks the first boost in the short-term lending rate won't occur until 2016.

The statement was approved on an 11-1 vote.

Esther George, president of the Kansas City regional Fed bank, dissented for a second straight meeting. She reiterated her concerns that the Fed's aggressive stimulus could heighten the risk of inflation and financial instability — a concern shared by other critics.

Some economists say they fear the Fed has pumped so much money into the financial system that it could eventually ignite inflation, fuel speculative asset bubbles or destabilize markets once the Fed has to start raising rates or unloading its record \$3 trillion investment portfolio.

And while the Fed's low interest-rate policies are intended to boost borrowing, spending and stock prices, they also hurt millions of retirees and others who depend on income from savings.

Out On The Town

Friday Lenten FISH FRY

Serving 5-9pm

Every Friday During Lent

Featuring All You Can Eat

Alaskan Pollock, Catfish, Popcorn Shrimp, Popcorn Chicken, Potatoes & Salad Bar.

(No Chicken Buffet on Wednesday Nights During Lent)

Joe's Substation

Rural Lesterville • 605-364-7414

Try Out Our Seafood Buffet Even If It's...
"Just For The Halibut"

ALL YOU CAN EAT

"Bigger & Better" Seafood Buffet

Every Friday During Lent from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Large Salad Bar, 5 Kinds of Seafood, Potatoes, Soup, Debbie's Delicious Deviled Eggs, Vegetables & Dessert Bar.

So get off your BASS and load up all the little SHRIMPS and head on over to...

WIEBELHAUS RECREATION in Crofton, NE 402-388-4640

CJ's At The Lake

OPEN ALL YEAR!

Cjathelake.com for menu's, events & bands • 402-388-4267

Weigan Rd., NE side of the lake • 10 miles north of Crofton • 11 miles southwest of Yankton

GREAT FOOD...FANTASTIC VIEW...AWESOME WILD ANIMAL DISPLAY!

MON.-WEDNESDAY: 14 Oz. Prime Rib w/ Salad Bar **\$12.95**

TUESDAY: Taco **99¢** **THURSDAY:** Burgers **\$1.25**

FRIDAY: Fish & Shrimp Fry **SATURDAY:** Prime Rib & Ribs

SUNDAY MORNING BUFFET till 12PM...IT'S DELICIOUS:

C.J.'s Eggs, Sausage, waffles, french toast, bacon, biscuits & gravy

SUNDAY NIGHT: 3 pc. Chicken with Salad Bar **\$9.95**

OPEN HOUSE GRAND OPENING

Saturday March 23 • Noon - ?

South Yankton Across from Bruno's

Food & Refreshments will be served.

Quality Well Service LLC

FARM - RESIDENTIAL - SALES - SERVICE

24/7 Well Service

Jeremy 402-841-0535 **Sam 605-660-7798**

"We'll save you more than just a drop in the bucket!"

Make plans to join us for **EASTER BRUNCH!**

Sunday, March 31 • 10AM - 2PM

Enjoy breakfast and lunch selections, Minervas signature salads, chef-inspired entrées including chef carved roast sirloin with gorgonzola cream sauce, honey baked ham and citrus glazed salmon, with side accompaniments, plus delicious desserts.

Reservations recommended for parties of 5 or more.

Call 605.664.2244 to reserve your table

Minervas

1607 E Hwy 50 • Yankton, SD • minervas.net

CHINA TOWN RESTAURANT

2007 Broadway, Yankton - 605-260-1688

Open 11am-3pm, 4pm-9pm

All You Can Eat Lunch Buffet 11am-3pm \$5.99

All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet 4pm-9pm \$7.45

All Day Dinner Buffet on Saturday & Sunday

Crab Legs & Sushi Every Night All Day on Weekends

Express Delivery Available

(City of Yankton) \$15 minimum for FREE Delivery

SEAFOOD SPECTACULAR

Mouthwatering Seafood Entrees Served Thursday, Friday & Saturday

The Argo

Open Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. at 5:30

1-402-388-2400

CROFTON, NE

www.theargohotel.com

MARCH 22, 23, 24 THE CROODS

Fri. 7:30PM • Sat. 7:30PM • Sun. 4PM

Students \$2.00 Adults \$5.00

Idle Hour Theatre

Tripp, SD

VFW Post 791 209 Cedar

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Every Monday In March

Pinochle Tournament starting at 7pm

Players Needed

Wednesday & Sunday

5-7pm Cooks Choice

Thursday

6-7pm - Domestic Beers **\$1.50**

5-7pm - Hamburger/ Pizza Burger & Fries **\$5.00**

Friday

Karaoke with Papa Ray

8:30pm-12:30am

Baked Chicken

Serving 5:30-8:00

Saturday Entertainment

No Band

Regular Menu 5:30-8:00

Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm

Sunday at 6:30pm

Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30

Chislic Served Last Wednesday of Month

GREAT PARKS OF THE NORTHWEST JULY 5-11, 2013

ONLY \$1189 from OMAHA, LINCOLN, NORFOLK & FREMONT

Per Person dbl. occ.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- Grand Tetons • Yellowstone
- Glacier Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada
- Black Hills • Deluxe Motor Coach • 10 Meals • 6 Nights
- Deadwood, SD and Spearfish Canyon
- Big Horn Mountains • Jackson Hole, WY • Old Faithful
- Waterton National Park • Professionally escorted
- "Sun Road" in Glacier National Park, MT

COUPON SENIOR DISCOUNT (55 & OVER)

\$100 Discount

\$1089 DBL. Occ.

\$1319 Single

MUST BE REDEEMED BY 6-5-13

1-800-806-7944 (for complete brochure)

MOOSTASH JOE TOURS www.mjtours.com

WIN ME ON MARCH 23

WIN!

2013 FORD FOCUS SE

EARN ENTRIES THRU MAR. 23

CASH & FREELAPY GIVEAWAYS!

GRAND OPENING! CELEBRATION

ALL NEW CASINO

- 400 PLUS VEGAS STYLE MACHINES
- LUXURY HOTEL AND EVENT HALL
- RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE
- SMOKERS WELCOME • OPEN 24/7

FREE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FRIDAYS IN MARCH!

Ohia CASINO • RESORT

Wicked winnings

WIN BIG IN THE CASINO & ONLINE

ENTER ONLINE TO WIN WEEKLY CASH PRIZES: MARCH 8-28

FACEBOOK.COM/CADILLACKJACKGAMES

WIN CASH PRIZES IN THE CASINO

MARCH 20 - 21 **\$100** 7pm, 8pm & 9pm

MARCH 20 **\$500** 10pm

MARCH 21 **\$1000** 10pm

VIEW OFFICIAL RULES ONLINE

CACTUS FLATS - MAR 22 - 7PM

LONESOME WALKER - MAR 29 - 8PM

21+ • Four Winds Event Center

7 MILES EAST OF NIOBRARA, NE

402.857.3860 • OHIACASINO.COM

Save The Date...

celebrate women 2013

Six Words of Survival

perseverance • faith • desire • confidence • determination • attitude

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Riverfront Event Center, Historic Downtown Yankton

Doors Open 4:30pm

Dinner Served 5:00-7:00pm

Booths Open 4:30-7:00pm

Speaker 7:30pm at Dakota Theatre

Advance Tickets: Only \$20

Available at Hy-Vee and the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan until April 14

presented by...

her-voice

Experience... the Difference!

FIRST DAKOTA NATIONAL BANK

HyVee EMPLOYEE OWNED

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC®, P.C.