Hamas Aims Rocket At Jerusalem

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas rocket squads aimed at Jerusalem for the first time Friday, along with commercial hub Tel Aviv, showing off their expanded reach as Israeli airstrikes pounded the Palestinian territory for a third day. Israel called up 16,000 reservists, moving a step closer to a possible ground offensive in the Palestinian territory.

the world

Air raid sirens sounded in the two cities which — unlike population centers in Israel's south — had not been exposed to rocket fire from Hamas-ruled Gaza before the current round of cross-border fighting. No injuries were reported, but Hamas' latest attempts to hit Israel's heartland could push Israel closer to sending ground troops into Gaza.

Over the past three days, Israel has relentlessly pounded suspected rocket launching sites and other Hamas targets in Gaza with scores of airstrikes, while Hamas has fired more than 450 rockets toward Israel. The overall death toll rose to 30 — 27 Palestinians and

The Islamic militant group was badly bruised during its last fullfledged confrontation with Israel four years ago that ended with an informal truce, although rocket fire and Israeli airstrikes on militant operations continued sporadically. The Islamic militant group appeared better prepared this time with a more powerful arsenal.

Just a few years ago, Palestinian rockets were limited to crude, homemade devices manufactured in Gaza. But in recent years, Hamas and other armed groups have smuggled in sophisticated, longer-range rockets from Iran and Libya, which has been flush with weapons since Moammar Gadhafi was ousted last year.

Leaders Confident In Deal To Avoid Fiscal Cliff

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders from both parties voiced fresh optimism Friday after meeting with newly re-elected President Barack Obama about avoiding year-end "fiscal cliff" tax increases and spending cuts that would hammer the middle class and risk plunging the economy into recession.

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio said Republicans are willing to consider increased revenue "as long as it is accompanied by spending cuts" as leaders in a divided government get to work on a possible deal after a fierce election campaign.

He presented a framework that one official said called for a deficit

down-payment of unspecified size by year's end, to be followed by comprehensive tax reform and an overhaul of Medicare and other benefit programs in 2013.

Democrats indicated some spending cuts would be fine with them. "I feel confident that a solution may be in sight," said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

The goal of the high-pressure talks to come is to produce a multitrillion-dollar deficit-reduction plan that can take the place of the across-the-board tax increases and spending cuts that are slated to take effect on Jan. 1.

Four Killed, 16 Injured In Parade Accident

MIDLAND. Texas (AP) — Cheered by a flag-waving crowd, the parade float carrying wounded military veterans was inching across the railroad tracks when the crossing gates started coming down. And then, seemingly out of nowhere, a freight train came bearing

down, its horn blaring.
Four veterans died in the Thursday collision, and sixteen other people were hurt. For some of the war heroes who managed to jump off the flatbed truck just in time, training and instinct kicked in: They rushed to aid their injured comrades.

"They are trained for tragedy," said Pam Shoemaker of Monroe, La., who was with her husband, a special operations veteran, on the float ahead of the one that was struck.

Shoemaker said there was no warning; she hadn't seen or heard the train until it was upon them. The couple jumped from their truck and ran toward the other one, knowing it would be hit in a matter of seconds because it was unable to move due to other floats in the

The crossing barriers had just started to come down, she said.

Obama Sets Sights On Asia Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is darting off to Southeast Asia to showcase a foreign policy achievement and reinforce the U.S. role as a counterweight to China.

Obama leaves Saturday for a four-day trip to Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia, his first trip abroad since June and his fourth to Asia, where he has been eager to expand the U.S. footprint. It's a brief break from dicey fiscal negotiations and a national security sex scandal that are competing with the glow of his re-election.

Freed from the constraints of campaigning, Obama is quickly re-esforeign policy credentials by being the first 0.5. president to visit Myanmar, also known as Burma, which was internationally shunned for decades and is now hailed for its steps to-

ward democratization. Obama is also attending the East Asia Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, eager to secure the U.S.'s place as a major player in a region that long has operated under China's influence. The trip underscores Obama's goal of establishing the United States as an Asian-Pacific power, a worldview defined by 21st-century geopolitics but also by Obama's personal identity as America's first Pacific president. Obama was born in Hawaii.

Press & Dakotan

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AND TOM MURPHY Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Twinkies

may not last forever after all. Hostess Brands Inc., the

maker of the spongy snack with a mysterious cream filling, said Friday it would shutter after years of struggling with management turmoil, rising labor costs and the ever-changing tastes of Americans even as its pantry of sugary cakes seemed suspended in time.

Some of Hostess beloved brands such as Ding Dongs and Ho Ho's likely will be snapped up by buyers and find a second life, but for now the company says its snack cakes should be on shelves for another week or so. The news stoked an outpouring of nostalgia around kitchen tables, water coolers and online as people relived childhood memories of their favorite Hostess goodies.

Customer streamed into the Wonder Hostess Bakery Outlet in a strip mall in Indianapolis Friday afternoon after they heard about the company's demise. Charles Selke, 42, pulled a pack of Zingers raspberry-flavored dessert cakes out of a plastic bag stuffed with treats as he left the store.

"How do these just disappear from your life?" he asked. "That's just not right, man. I'm loyal. I love these things, and I'm diabetic.'

After hearing the news on the radio Friday morning, Samantha Caldwell of Chicago took a detour on her way to work to stop at a CVS store for a package of Twinkies to have with her morning tea and got one for her 4year-old son as well.

"This way he can say, 'I had

one of those," Caldwell, 41, said. It's a sober end for a storied name. Hostess, whose roster of brands dates as far back as 1888, hadn't invested heavily in marketing or innovation in recent years as it struggled with debt

and management changes. As larger competitors inundated supermarket shelves with an array of new snacks and variations on popular brands, Hostess cakes seemed caught in a bygone time. The company took small stabs at keeping up with Americans' movement toward healthier foods, such as the introduction of its 100-calorie packs of cupcakes.

But the efforts did little to change its image as a purveyor of empty calories with a seemingly unlimited shelf life: Twinkies, for instance, have 150 calories and 4.5 grams of fat. A Ding Dong chocolate cake with filling has 368 calories and 19.4 grams of

CEO Gregory Rayburn, who was hired as a restructuring expert, said Friday that sales volume was flat to slightly down in recent years. He said the company booked about \$2.5 billion in revenue a year, with Twinkies alone generating \$68 million so far this year.

Hostess' problems ran far deeper than changing tastes, however. In January, the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for the second time in less than a decade. Its predecessor company, Interstate Bakeries, filed for bankruptcy protection in 2004 and changed its name to Hostess after emerging in 2009.

Hostess, based in Irving, Texas, said it was saddled with costs related to its unionized workforce. The company had

been contributing \$100 million a year in pension costs for workers; the new contract offer would've slashed that to \$25 million a vear, in addition to wage cuts and a 17 percent reduction in health benefits.

Management missteps were another problem. Hostess came under fire this spring after it was revealed that nearly a dozen executives received pay hikes of up to 80 percent last year even as the company was struggling. Although some of those executives later agree to reduced salaries, others — including former CEO Brian Driscoll — had left the company by the time the pay hikes came to light.

Then, last week, thousands of members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union went on strike after rejecting the company's latest contract offer. The bakers union represents about 30 percent of the company's workforce.

By that time, the company had reached a contract agreement with its largest union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which this week urged the bakery union to hold a secret ballot on whether to continue striking. Although many bakery workers decided to cross picket lines this week, Hostess said it wasn't enough to keep operations at normal levels.

The company filed a motion to liquidate Friday with U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The shuttering means the loss of about 18,500 jobs. Hostess said employees at its 33 factories were sent home and operations suspended. Its roughly 500 bakery outlet stores will stay open for several days to sell remaining products.

In a statement, the bakery

Hostess Reaches The End Of The Line cause the six management teams over the past eight years weren't able to make it profitable — not because workers didn't make

concessions. Despite a commitment from the company after the first bankruptcy that the resources derived from the workers' concessions would be plowed back into the company, this never materialized," the union

Ken Hall, general secretarytreasurer for the Teamsters, said his union members decided to make concessions after hiring consultants who found the company's financials were in a dire situation. But he said that he believed the company could've

survived. "Frankly it's tragic, particularly at this this time of year with the holidays around the corner," Hall said, noting that his 6,700 members at Hostess were now out of a job.

Kenneth McGregor, a shipper for Hostess in East Windsor, Conn., arrived at the plant Friday morning and said he was told he was laid off immediately.

In a statement on the company website, CEO Rayburn said there would be "severe limits" on the assistance the company could offer workers because of the bankruptcy. The liquidation hearing will go before a bankruptcy judge Monday afternoon; Rayburn said he's confident the judge will approve the motion.

The strike impacted us in terms of cash flow. The plants were operating well below 50 percent capacity and customers were not getting products," he said. "There's no other alternative.

Thefts

From Page 1

working in the Yankton County jail carport last month when 32-yearold inmate Kai Hansen opened a garage door and escaped. Thompson made no attempt to flee, Youngberg stated.

She asked Eng to give her client a suspended imposition of sentence so that he could obtain a GED, get a job and pay back his

"I truly believe he will be a good

probationer," Youngberg said. When Eng asked Thompson why he had committed the crimes, he said he didn't have a job, needed money and made bad

choices.

While sentencing Thompson, Eng acknowledged the difficult childhood he had endured. As a child, his family was homeless for a long period of time and Thompson did not attend school regularly

However, Eng said those circumstances cannot be an excuse for the crimes Thompson committed. In addition to the suspended

until the sixth grade.

imposition of sentence and proba-

tion, Eng said Thompson is to pay a \$1,000 fine and restitution to victims in an amount yet to be deter-

He is also to spend 180 days in jail. Eng gave Thompson credit for 60 days already spent in the Yankton County jail, and he will spend another 20 days there. During his five years on probation, Thompson will have to spend 20 days each July in jail.

Eng also required that Thompson obtain his GED within a year.

"I'm giving you an opportunity," he said. "I'm not excusing your behavior because it is inexcusable."

Thompson can do something about his future despite the past, Eng added.

This kind of mindset of taking something from someone else because I need something is not acceptable," he said. "I'm hoping you are not a thief and will not continue with this behavior into the fu-If Thompson violates his proba-

tion, he could be sentenced to 10 years in the state penitentiary in accordance with the Class 4 felony

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInland-Voyage

OBITUARIES

Orlein Hevle

Orlein M. Hevle, 89 of Yankton, died Friday, Nov. 16, 2012, at Avera Sister James Care Center,

Yankton. Memorial services are at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Dave Lund officiating. Burial of the cremated remains will be in the Garden of Memories, Yankton.

Visitation begins one hour prior to the service.

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

Charles Einrem

Charles Einrem, 76, of Springfield died Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012, at the Sister James Nursing Home, Yankton.

A memorial visitation will be held at 3-5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, at the Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Springfield, with the family present.

There will be no memorial service. A private family inurnment service will be held Tuesday.

Charlotte Buechler

be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 20 at the United Church of Christ in Scotland with Rev. Ron Schifely officiating. Interment will follow in Rosehill

from 3:00 p.m. until a 7:00 p.m. prayer service at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland.

Charlotte died on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at the Yankton Care Center.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

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7:40 am Yankton County Comm (Garry Moore)

(Chris Specht) Tuesday, November 20 7:40 am Yankton Area Foundation (Dr. Wayne Kindle) 8:20 am MMC Vespers (Kenneth Tice)

8:20 am Yankton School Board

8:45 am Dakota Museum (Crystal Nelson)

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Funeral services for Charlotte

Cemetery, Scotland. Visitation will be on Monday

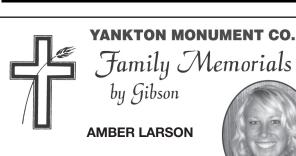
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Gone... but not forgotten In Our Heart Forever Patty Larsen Tyler & Lexie

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Love You Always! Steve & Kim Larsen Family

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