

NATION/WORLD DIGEST

FBI: 6 Accused In Human Trafficking Charge

HONOLULU (AP) — Six recruiters were accused Thursday of luring 400 laborers from Thailand to the United States and forcing them to work, according to a federal indictment that the FBI called the largest human trafficking case ever charged in U.S. history.

The indictment alleges that the scheme was orchestrated by four employees of labor recruiting company Global Horizons Manpower Inc. and two Thailand-based recruiters. It said the recruiters lured the workers with false promises of lucrative jobs, then confiscated their passports, failed to honor their employment contracts and threatened to deport them.

Once the Thai laborers arrived in the United States starting in May 2004, they were put to work and have since been sent to sites in states including Hawaii, Washington, California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah, according to attorneys and advocates.

Israel, Palestinians Agree On Peace Outline

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an early sign of promise, Israeli and Palestinian leaders pledged Thursday in a cordial first round of talks to keep meeting at regular intervals, aiming to nail down a framework for overcoming deep disputes and achieving lasting peace within a year.

As their facilitator-in-chief, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to rise above the suspicion and skepticism that has blocked peace efforts for decades. "By being here today, you each have taken an important step toward freeing your peoples from the shackles of a history we cannot change," she said.

East Coast Braces For A Pounding From Earl

BUXTON, N.C. (AP) — The last ferry left for the mainland and coastal residents hunkered down at home as Hurricane Earl closed in with 115 mph winds Thursday on North Carolina's dangerously exposed Outer Banks, the first and potentially most destructive stop on the storm's projected journey up the Eastern Seaboard.

The hurricane's leading edge brought on-and-off light rain in the afternoon to the long ribbon of barrier islands, which were expected to get the brunt of the storm around midnight.

Earl's arrival could mark the start of at least 24 hours of stormy, windy weather along the East Coast. During its march up the Atlantic, it could snarl travelers' Labor Day weekend plans and strike a second forceful blow to the vacation homes and cottages on Long Island, Nantucket Island and Cape Cod.

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Oil Platform Explodes Off La. Coast; Crew Rescued

BY ALAN SAYRE
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — An oil platform exploded and burned off the Louisiana coast Thursday, the second such disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in less than five months. This time, the Coast Guard said there was no leak, and no one was killed.

The Coast Guard initially reported that an oil sheen a mile long and 100 feet wide had begun to spread from the site of the blast, about 200 miles west of the source of BP's massive spill. But hours later, Coast Guard Cmdr. Cheri Ben-Iesau said crews were unable to find any spill.

The company that owns the platform, Houston-based Mariner Energy, did not know what caused the explosion.

Mariner officials said there were seven active production wells on the platform, and they were shut down shortly before the fire broke out.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said the company told him the fire began in 100 barrels of light oil condensate, but officials did not know yet what sparked the flames.

The Coast Guard said Mariner Energy reported the oil sheen. In a public statement, the company said an initial flyover did not show any oil.

Photos from the scene

showed at least five ships floating near the platform. Three of them were shooting great plumes of water onto the machinery. Light smoke could be seen drifting across the deep blue waters of the gulf.

By late afternoon, the fire on the platform was out.

The platform is in about 340 feet of water and about 100 miles south of Louisiana's Vermilion Bay. Its location is considered shallow water, much less than the approximately 5,000 feet where BP's well spewed oil and gas for three months after the April rig explosion that killed 11 workers.

Responding to any oil spill in shallow water would be much

easier than in deep water, where crews depend on remote-operated vehicles to access equipment on the sea floor.

A Homeland Security update obtained by The Associated Press said the platform was producing 58,800 gallons of oil and 900,000 cubic feet of gas per day. The platform can store 4,200 gallons of oil.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the administration has "response assets ready for deployment should we receive reports of pollution in the water."

All 13 of the platform's crew members were rescued from the water. They were found huddled together in life jackets.

More Dems Buck Plan For Tax Increases For Rich

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Congress seems increasingly reluctant to let taxes go up, even on wealthier Americans.

Worried about the fragile economy and their own upcoming elections, a growing number of Democrats are joining the rock-solid Republican opposition to President Barack Obama's plans to let some of the Bush administration's tax cuts expire.

Democratic leaders in Congress still back Obama, but the willingness to raise taxes is waning among the rank and file as the stagnant economy threatens the party's majority in the House and Senate.

"In my view this is no time to do anything that could be jarring

to a fragile recovery," said Rep. Gerry Connolly of Virginia, a first-term Democrat.

The pushback on tax increases comes as lawmakers and the Obama administration consider ways to boost the economy and increase the speed of an anemic recovery. Along with tax cuts for middle- and low-income families, Obama said this week that he would soon be proposing new measures to grow the economy and encourage hiring, including additional business tax cuts.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Thursday that there wouldn't be another big stimulus bill, but he declined to say what options Obama's economic team was considering, including whether a temporary payroll tax holiday for business-

ness was on the table. The White House has said it was open to that idea in the past.

The most sweeping tax cuts in a generation are due to expire in January, and that's setting up a showdown when lawmakers return from their summer vacations this month. By waiting to act on the tax cuts until just before congressional elections in November, Democratic leaders have raised the stakes, politically and for taxpayers.

If Congress fails to act — a possibility given the gridlock that has gripped the Senate — workers at every income level would face significant tax increases next year.

Taxpayers making between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year would get hit with an average income

tax increase of \$923 next year. Those making between \$50,000 and \$75,000 would face an average increase of \$1,126, according to estimates by the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation.

Obama wants to make the tax cuts permanent for middle- and low-income families while allowing them to expire for individuals making more than \$200,000 and married couples making more than \$250,000.

Republicans want to make all the tax cuts permanent, adding nearly \$4 trillion to the national debt over the next decade. Most Democrats in Congress support Obama's plan, but a growing number have come out in favor of extending all the reductions for a year or two, leaving the outcome very much in doubt.

OBITUARIES

Phyllis Somsen

ESTELLINE — Phyllis Somsen passed away on September 1, 2010 at the Estelline Care Center. Visitation will be in the Geise Funeral Chapel at Castlewood, South Dakota on Friday, September 3, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be at First Presbyterian Church in Castlewood, South Dakota at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 4, 2010.

Phyllis Somsen was born November 27, 1927 in Hamlin County to William and Minnie (Bleeker) Van Stryland. She



Somsen

received her early education at Hamlin County #4 country school and graduated from Castlewood High School in 1949.

She married Harold "Shorty" Somsen on June 2, 1949 at the Bemis Christian Reformed church. After their marriage, they moved to a farm in Hidewood Township in Deuel county and returned to Hamlin county in 1957. She was a farming

partner with her husband, and after his death, on Larry for thirty years. She moved to Castlewood in 1979 with her two youngest sons and worked for the Castlewood School food service until her retirement in 1995. Harold passed away in October of 1975 creating her greatest challenge and accomplishment of raising her seven children.

She was a lifelong member of Bemis Christian Reformed Church until it closed in 2004. She then joined First Presbyterian Church in Castlewood.

Phyllis was an avid Minnesota

Twins and Castlewood Warriors fan and cherished her information sessions with her morning coffee group. Known for her cookies and cooking ability no one left her house hungry. She enjoyed traveling with numerous bus tours and remained friends with many of the participants.

Grateful for having shared her life are one daughter, Laura (Brad) Bass, Stow, OH, and six sons, Lowell (Karen) Somsen, Pierre; Dan (Barb) Somsen, Yankton; Larry (Marlene) Somsen, De Smet; Leon Somsen, Yankton; Jerry (Kari Bartling)

Somsen, Webster; and Russ (Chelle) Somsen, Pierre; 24 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two sisters, Dorothy (Ken) Vanden Brink, Orange City, IA and Mavis (Walter) Poelstra, Hayti; and three sisters-in-law, Gladys Haug, Estelline; Violet Somsen, Estelline; and Donna (Robert) Raasch, Castlewood and a host of other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her parents.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
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Michael Hays

BURBANK — Michael Hays, 43, of Burbank died Thursday (Sept. 2, 2010) at Sanford USD Medical Center, Sioux Falls.

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

Mariann Pinkelman

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Mariann A. Pinkelman, 55 of Hartington, Neb., died at her residence Thursday (Sept. 2, 2010).

Funeral services are pending at Wintz Funeral Home, Hartington.

Dennis Brosz

MITCHELL — Dennis Dale Brosz, age 66 of Mitchell, SD and formerly of Tripp, SD, passed away early Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, Mitchell, SD.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 4, 2010 at the Mitchell Congregational UCC. Mitchell, SD with Rev. Kristi McLaughlin officiating. Burial will be in the Friedens Reformed Cemetery, Tripp, SD at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Visitations will be Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Mitchell Congregational UCC with the family present at 7:00 p.m., and then one hour prior to the service at the church. Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, is assisting with service details.

Pallbearers will be David Miller, Dennis Kaus, Doug Fuerst, Bob Just, Maynard Hieb, and James Nelson.

Dennis was born May 16, 1944 in Parkston, SD to Herbold and Edna (Hoffman) Brosz. He grew up on a farm in Hutchinson County. Dennis lived in Redfield, SD for 21 years before moving to Mitchell, SD in 1982. Dennis enjoyed the opportunities provided by LifeQuest to enrich his life by helping him achieve his goals. He felt comfortable surrounded by meaningful and trusted relationships. Attendance at church, music concerts, sports events, spending time with family, and eating



Brosz

out were important to Dennis. Friends included him on many occasions such as fishing trips, visiting the SD State Fair, attending basketball and baseball games, and participating in parades. Dennis enjoyed selling raffle tickets for sporting events and passing out bulletins at church. He did numerous jobs at LifeQuest and looked forward to stocking shelves at Walgreens.

Dennis is survived by his sisters, Jeanus (Jack) Koenig of Chagrin Falls, OH and Marley Ann (Paul) Opsahl of Yankton, SD. Nephews John (Judy) Koenig of Pleasanton, CA, Robert (Casey) Koenig of Toledo, Stanley (deceased) (Emmy) Koenig of Mentor, OH, Kevin (Lisa) Opsahl of Yankton, SD; Nieces Lori (Nenod) Marjanovic of Lakewood, OH and Kimberly (Richard Evnen) Heier of Lincoln, NE. He was preceded in death by his parents and one nephew Stanley Koenig.

Memorials are directed to LifeQuest; 804 N. Mentzer Street; Mitchell, SD 57301.

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September 3, 2010



Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

S. Vera Heintz

S. Vera Heintz OSB, 94, died Wednesday, September 1, 2010 in the Care Center at Sacred Heart Monastery.

A wake will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, September 3 and the Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, September 4 at 10:30 a.m. in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel, Yankton.

Wintz & Ray Funeral Home, Yankton, is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Heintz was born October 24, 1915 to Adam and Susan (Hartman) Heintz on the family farm near Bowdle, SD. She was oldest of eight children. She attended school in Bowdle, Hosmer, Aberdeen and a country school near Bowdle. In 1936, due to the depression, her parents and other siblings moved to Washington State in search of employment.

Mary entered Sacred Heart Monastery on July 14, 1933, was invested as a novice the following year receiving the name, Vera, and made first profession on June 24, 1935. She then began a 59-year ministry in elementary education in Nebraska, Colorado, North and South Dakota, with her most recent mission being at Holy Trinity Grade School in Hartington, NE where she taught and then served as a teacher aide from 1982-1994. Following her retire-



Heintz

ment from teaching she returned to the monastery and assisted with chapel and monastery duties. She celebrated her 75th jubilee of profession on July 30, 2010.

S. Vera was a prayerful, quiet and humble woman who loved teaching and each of the students who came into her life. She missed being close to her biological family after their move to Washington, and looked forward to her vacations spent with them. She also loved reading to sisters in the Care Center who could no longer see.

S. Vera is survived by her Benedictine community; three sisters: Genevieve Cox, Pauline Johnson and Joy Foy of Washington State; one brother, George Heintz of California, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and one sister.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 3, 2010



Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com



It's Simple!

Draw A Holiday Scene On 8.5"x11" White Paper and Submit It To The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

- Top drawings selected will be printed on Christmas cards. The cards will be sold with proceeds going to our Newspapers In Education Program
- The winners will be featured with their picture and first name in the Press & Dakotan and will receive a full package of the Christmas cards.
- Child's first name and age will be printed on the back of the Christmas Card.

Mail or bring to:

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan
Holiday Card Contest
319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078

Any questions contact Noelle at 665-7811 ext. 112

Please write child's first name, age, phone number and school on back of drawing.

Entry deadline September 30, 2010.
Press & Dakotan staff will judge drawings.



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IN REMEMBRANCE

Jerry Cwach

10:30 AM, Friday
St. Benedict Catholic Church
Yankton

Keith Schulte

10:30 AM, Saturday
Holy Family (Immaculate Conception)
Catholic Church
St. Helena

Agnes I. Tuttle

11:00 AM, Saturday
Trinity Lutheran Church
Hartington

Sister Vera Heintz

10:30 AM, Saturday
Bishop Marty Chapel
Yankton



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