

# Ten dead after Israeli incursion into camp

**BUREIJ CAMP, Gaza Strip (AP)**—Israeli troops backed by tanks and helicopter gunships hunted a fugitive militant in a crowded refugee camp in the Gaza Strip early today, setting off chaotic gunbattles that killed 10 Palestinians, including two U.N. workers.

Men called through mosque loudspeakers for people join the battle against Israeli soldiers, who entered the camp just after midnight. Fighters who had been celebrating the Islamic festival of Eid el-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, poured into the dark streets. Gunbattles raged for three hours in the Bureij camp.

It was unclear how many of the dead were fighters. The military said a helicopter fired a missile into a street, killing five armed men from the violent Islamic Hamas movement. The camp mayor, Kamal Baghdadi, originally said a tank shell hit a building, killing seven people.

Ahmed Rabah, a doctor at the Al-Aqsa hospital in the nearby village of Deir el Balah, said nine people were killed and 11 were wounded. An official at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said a tenth person, a woman, died of injuries.

The U.N. agency helping Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said two of its staff members were among the dead: Osama Hassan Tahrawi, a 31-year-old school attendant, who was killed along with two of his brothers by a missile; and the woman who died from shrapnel injuries, Ahlam Riziq Kandil, a 31-year-old elementary school teacher.

Hassan Safi, 49, said he was in his home 300 yards away when an explosion rocked the neighborhood. He said he thought the blast was from a tank shell.

"I rushed with my sons to the place, which was all destroyed," Safi said. "I myself took out two people. The helicopter was firing with machine guns at us, making it difficult to move."

During the incursion, witnesses said troops surrounded the home of Jamal Ismail, a suicide bomber who blew himself up along with another man in an explosives-packed boat off the Gaza coast last month, wounding four Israeli soldiers in a nearby navy patrol.

The Israeli army called the camp "a base for hardcore terror groups" of the militant Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Popular Resistance Committee.

Brig. Gen. Israel Ziv said the operation targeted Aiman Shasniyeh, a local leader for the Popular Resistance Committee, who the military believes was behind a bomb attack on a heavily armored Merkava-3 tank that killed three soldiers in March.

Troops failed to find Shasniyeh but blew up his house. Soldiers arrested one of his brothers, along with another man wanted by Israeli intelligence, Ziv said.

It was Israel's second strike this week

in Gaza targeting militants allegedly involved in attacks on tanks that have killed seven Israeli soldiers this year.

On Wednesday, Israeli helicopters blasted a Palestinian government guardhouse in Gaza City with missiles, killing Mustafa Sabah, 35. According to sources in the Popular Resistance Committee, Sabah masterminded the attacks on the tanks and helped invent the powerful roadside bombs used.

Troops approaching Shasniyeh's house came under withering gunfire from nearby homes and on the street in what turned into a close-quarters gunbattle in the camp's narrow alley-

ways, said army spokeswoman, Capt. Sharon Feingold. One soldier was lightly wounded by gunfire, she said.

Helicopter gunships fired machine guns from above.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was outraged by the attack.

"Every day there is a new massacre," he told reporters outside of his office in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "Every day there is destruction. Every day there is more damage. Every day there are more arrests and every day there are more assassinations."

An aide to Arafat, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, said the Palestinians would

call on the United Nations Security Council to hold a special session on the violence and to consider sending international observers to the region.

Thousands turned out for funerals held at noon prayers today for those killed. The bodies, wrapped in white cloth or blankets, were carried through crowded streets in open coffins painted with the Palestinian flag. Armed militants wearing fatigues and ski masks fired automatic weapons into the air.

The deaths of the two U.N. staff members followed the shooting of U.N. aid worker Iain Hook two weeks ago by Israeli soldiers.

## Speaker to review open meeting law

**TOPEKA (AP)**—A House committee will examine the Kansas Open Meetings Act and how it applies to elected officials before they take office, incoming Speaker Doug Mays says.

Gov.-elect Kathleen Sebelius contends the law does not apply to her until she is inaugurated on Jan. 13. Attorney General Carla Stovall has agreed.

Fourteen news organizations, including The Associated Press, have sued Sebelius in Shawnee County District Court over her plan to hold some budget discussions in private. The news organizations argue the budget-cutting teams she has created must comply with the law before Sebelius is inaugurated.

Mays, R-Topeka, agreed Thursday

with Sebelius' interpretation but said he will have the House Ethics and Elections Committee consider changes. He said he's worried more about the local officials taking advantage of a loophole than state officials.

Sebelius said her teams want to meet privately so they can discuss government operations candidly before making recommendations.

Mays said: "I suppose I understand the logic behind it, but it still doesn't make it right."

The Open Meetings Act requires state and local government boards and commissions to discuss business and to vote in open sessions and to notify the public of meetings.

As an example of how the law might be abused under Sebelius' interpreta-

tion, Mays said newly elected members of school boards might discuss public business privately before being sworn in.

"There's room for abuse," Mays said. "Somewhere, sometime, that abuse will occur at some level."

Sebelius said in an interview that if legislators want to review the issue, "That's fine."

But she questioned how far they will want to go in applying the law to advisory groups formed by officials yet to take office.

"Interestingly enough, I haven't gotten a lot of feedback from the public that they are disturbed at all with this process," Sebelius said. "I think the feedback generally is extremely positive."

## Cessna to lay off 1,500 workers early next year

**WICHITA (AP)**—Cessna Aircraft Co. announced Thursday it will cut 1,500 jobs early next year because the aerospace industry has failed to rebound following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

All of the layoffs will be at Cessna's Wichita facility, which employs about 10,000 people, company spokeswoman Marilyn Richwine said.

The company does not yet know

which employees will be laid off, Richwine said, but 60-day notices will be issued during the next six weeks.

Richwine said the layoffs primarily would take place in the company's Citation jet business, where orders have slowed.

Cessna, which employs 12,000 people worldwide, cut 800 jobs in October — 400 through layoffs and 400 through incentives offered to employ-

ees who voluntarily quit or retired. The company warned workers Nov. 19 that more layoffs were coming because the business jet market had not recovered.

This has been a record year for Cessna, with 300 deliveries of its Citation business jet. But the company, which is a division of Providence, R.I.-based Textron, Inc., has said it expects that total to fall to 250 deliveries in 2003.

## Apollo 17 exhibit to include painting

**HUTCHINSON (AP)**—Astronaut Alan Bean's painting that depicts Gene Cernan repairing a lunar rover is part of an exhibit at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center that commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Apollo 17 mission.

Cernan, Ron Evans and Jack Schmitt embarked on Apollo 17 on Dec. 7, 1972. The fender on the lunar rover protected the astronauts from moon dust kicked up by the rover's wheels.

The painting, titled "Tender Loving Care," was commissioned by a Barry and Charlotte Schartz of Kingman after they met Bean, who paints space art as a hobby.

The painting, the lunar rover's dam-

aged fender and the lunar map book from which Cernan tore a page to make the repair will be displayed at the Cosmosphere starting Saturday. The exhibit will be shown through Jan. 10.

"What makes the Apollo 17 display rare is this may be the only opportunity for people to see these exhibits," said Karen Siebert, the Cosmosphere's marketing director. "Seeing a historical item like the lunar fender is fascinating."

Barry Schartz, a Goddard science teacher, was one of two Kansas residents chosen to participate in the 1985 Challenger project that allowed a teacher to fly into space. Christa McAuliffe, the teacher chosen, died

when the Challenger exploded in 1986.

"Having Barry participate was a really amazing thing that happened in our lives because we made so many friends," said Charlotte Schartz, Barry's wife and a science teacher in Kingman.

After meeting Bean, the Schartzes commissioned the painting, which has been displayed in the couple's home since 1995.

The Schartzes agreed to show the painting when the time was right for Cosmosphere officials.

"We've always thought it would be neat to loan our painting to the Cosmosphere so that we could share it with others," Schartz said.

## Trash plan may have hit a liability snag

**TRASH, from Page 1**

rived to talk about the trash system.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had not had time to present the newest figures to the other commissioners.

Reid had a copy of the latest proposal from U.S. Waste. The commissioners looked at the figures and felt the citizens of Goodland have been misled if they believe they will be able to put whatever they want into the trash stream.

Reid said the list from U.S. Waste Industries has a list of things that they will not accept and they are the same ones that are now being required to be sorted out by the county.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said that he had called Tom Job with the Kansas County Association Insurance

Pool, who had sent a fax saying that the state pool would not insure the trash trucks, and that the county could be jeopardizing its coverage if it takes over the service.

The commissioners called Job during the meeting to ask about the truck insurance and workman's compensation coverage for trash employees. Job said he thought the workers could be covered under the current policy as long as they are county employees.

He told the commissioners he thought it was a bad idea for the county to take over the trash pickup. He said the loss experience nationwide is very bad for trash pickup operations. If the county takes over the trash pickup operation and there are problems, the other members of the insurance pool could vote to


drop the county's coverage.

Rasure suggested the commissioners have a meeting with the economic development group and the city representatives to get questions answered.

Garcia said the first step might be for economic development members to meet with City Manager Ron Pickman and to ask the city commission to postpone any decision until these issues can be resolved.

County commissioners said they will discuss the trash collection at their meeting on Tuesday.

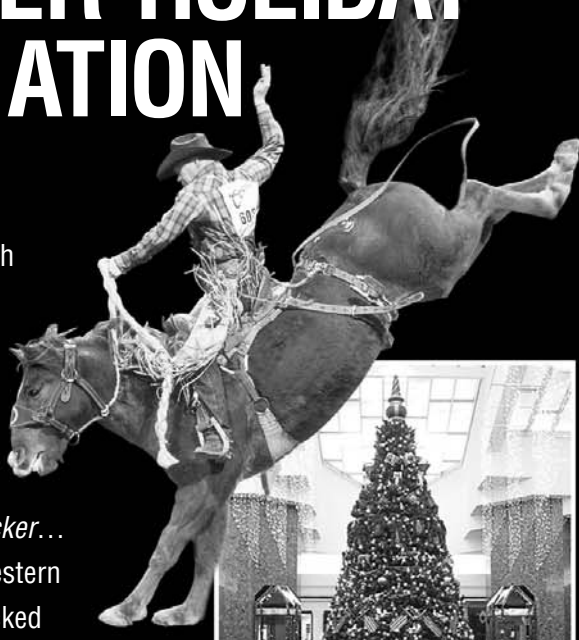

U.S. Waste is scheduled to present its newest proposal to the City Commission on Monday, Dec. 16. At the city commission meeting this Monday, Pickman said he has not seen the proposal yet.



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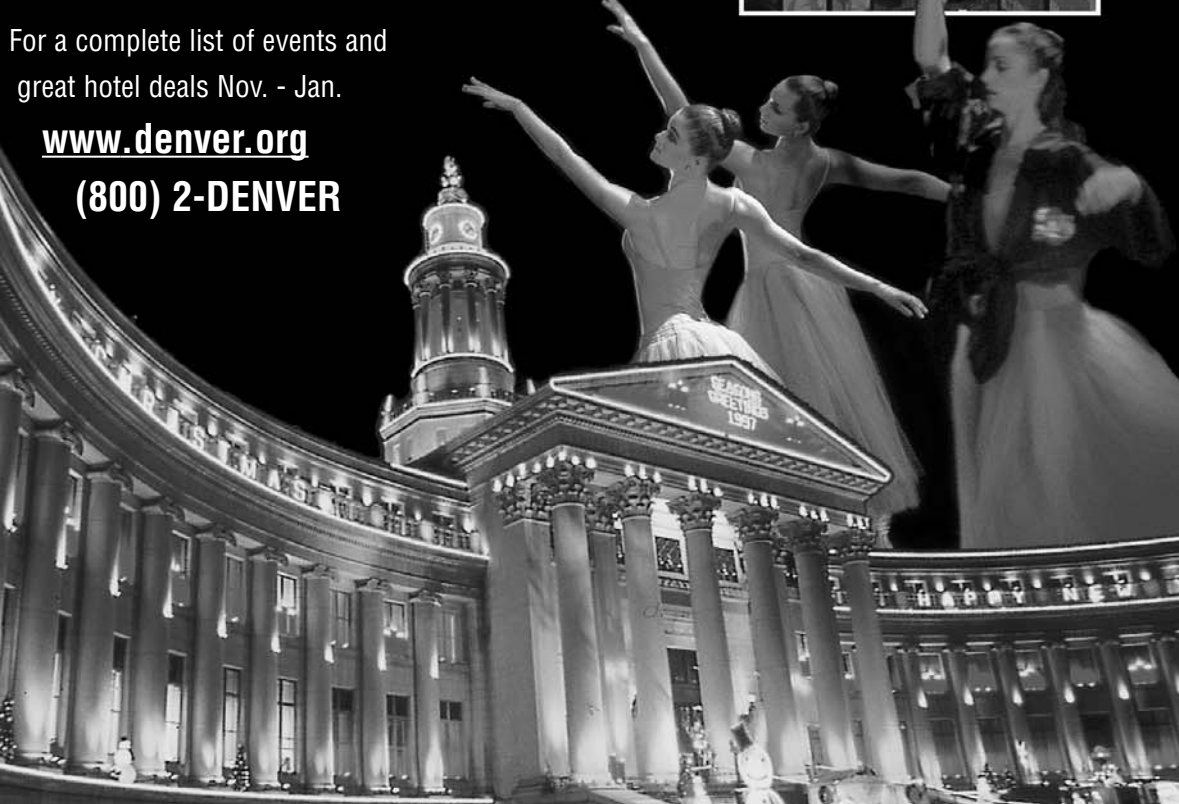
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# Season Greetings

Mr. Selby, Mr. Swager, Mr. Liess and the USD 352 Board of Education cordially invite all senior citizens of Sherman County to a happening at Goodland High School on **Wednesday, December 18, 2002.**

The members of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), National Honor Society (NHS), and Girl's Athletic Association (GAA) will serve as the Hosts and Hostesses. They will host a Christmas dinner with entertainment and door prizes.

Entertainment will begin at 11 a.m., and dinner will be served at noon.

Citizens attending need to enter through the south doors on 13th street.

**RSVP** before December 16th by calling 899-5656 or 899-2397. Please call if you need transportation. For those unable to make it to the school, meals will be delivered.

The purpose of the Christmas Senior Citizen's Dinner is to build better relationships between teenagers and senior citizens. We also want to give back to the citizens of Sherman County for their support for our schools.

**Valet parking will be available!**

