

OBITUARIES

**RENFRED D.
(RANDY) RUIZ**

MONTANA | Renfred. D. (Randy) Ruiz, age 55, of Montana died unexpectedly at home on May 19, 2008.

He was born on July 7, 1952 in Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii, the son of Alfred Ruiz and Anastasia Feliciano-Ruiz. He left his home of Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii at the age of 18 to join the Armed Forces where he served his country for four years.

He was retired from the Steuben County Public Works where he was a heavy equipment operator for many years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, coaching softball and driving his "Hawaii 5-0" race car at the former Dundee Raceway. After returning to his childhood home of Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii he enjoyed hunting in the mountains, relaxing on the beach with his wife and three dogs and working on his home.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Ruiz of Rochester; one daughter, Leilani Ruiz of Savona; step-children, Pam Farrell and Jim Farrell, both of Rochester; father, Alfred (Doris) Ruiz of Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii; brothers, Maurice (Kim) Ruiz of California and Ricky Ruiz of Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii; sisters, Dianna (Lewellyn) Young and Ginger Lee Ruiz both of Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii. As well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his mother Anastasia Feliciano-Ruiz.

Friends and family gathered for a memorial service at 12:30 p.m. June 14 at the Savona Federated Church. Immediately following the service friends and family gathered at the Savona Firehall. In lieu of flowers in Randy's name may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, PO Box 96280, Washington, DC 20090-628.

**RUTH CHRISTINA
REYNOLDS**

HORSEHEADS, NY | Ruth Christina Reynolds, age 86, of 3005 Watkins Road, Horseheads and formerly of Corning, died peacefully on Sunday, June 8, 2008 at Corning Hospital.

Ruth was born in the Town of Corning on February 2, 1922, the daughter of Louis and Susie (Landis) Walker. She was the wife of Charles Robert Reynolds, who predeceased her on August 31, 1958.

Ruth attended Corning Free Academy and had been employed as a waitress at the Stanton Hotel of Corning, retiring in the early 1980's. She volunteered at the Corning Senior Center, and enjoyed watching championship wrestling and daily soap operas. She liked being out of doors and visiting with her family and friends. Ruth was a member of the Hospital Chapters and a longtime volunteer at Corning Hospital with 2,575 hours of faithful service. Ruth was a longtime member of the Corning Moose.

She is survived by her one daughter: Susan (Matthew) R. Cook of Horseheads, NY; one son: Darrell Reynolds of Addison, NY; one sister: Eva Tice of Horseheads, NY; one brother: Leo (Margaret) Walker of Gibson, NY; son: Gary (Kathy) Reynolds of Horseheads, NY; six grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; six nieces; and four nephews.

Ruth was predeceased by a sister, Margaret Dodson.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, June 12th from 10am - 1:00pm at Phillips Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 17 W. Pulteney St., Corning, NY where the funeral will be held at the conclusion of calling hours with Pastor Michael Cook officiating. Burial will be in Hope Cemetery, Corning.

Army eyes Seneca depot for training

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROMULUS | After an eight-year absence, the Army could soon return to the former Seneca Army Depot in upstate New York to train troops.

Officials at the U.S. Army's Fort Drum in northern New York are finalizing a lease with Seneca County officials to use about 3,000 acres of the 10,600-acre former weapons storage and disposal facility.

Currently, county and military officials are accepting public comment on the Army's request until June 29, said Patricia Jones, executive director of the Seneca County Economic Development Corp., which has approved the plan. An environmental assessment determined there would be no significant impact from the Army's use of the depot, she said.

"It's not exactly an economic development project but it will be nice having the soldiers on the depot again," said Jones, who worked as a

civilian at the depot before she became the county's base reuse coordinator.

Tucked between Cayuga and Seneca lakes in upstate New York's Finger Lakes region, the 10,587-acre army depot opened in 1941. For more than 50 years, the depot was used to store and dispose of military explosives, including nuclear bomb materials. It ceased most operations in 1993 and officially closed in 2000.

The depot is now home to a state maximum-security prison, a residential center for troubled youth, the county's jail and its law enforcement training center as well as other light industry and business.

Lt. Col. John Penree, senior planning and operations officer at Fort Drum, said the 10th Mountain Division has asked to use the depot for training up to 1,500 soldiers in two- to 21-day sessions as many as 10 times a year. Penree said state officials first

contacted the Army in October 2004 about using the depot for training.

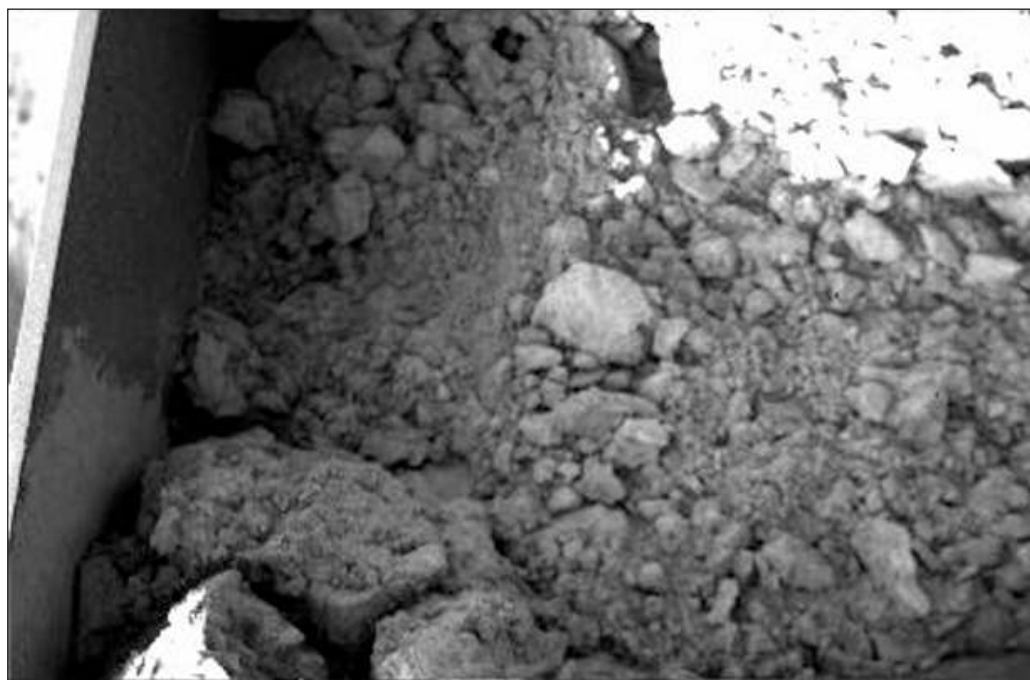
The training area will be in the depot's 7,000-acre conservation area and include the depot's former airfield, a large portion of the bunker area and warehouse space.

Only wheeled vehicles will be used at the depot. No heavy equipment or tracked vehicles will be used, he said. Training will include weapon exercises using blanks and the use of helicopters and vehicle convoys to ferry soldiers the 100 miles between Fort Drum and depot, Penree said.

Fort Drum — which sprawls over more than 107,000 acres — has about 50,000 acres for training its soldiers. However, Fort Drum also is used annually for training by about 80,000 National Guardsmen in units from across the Northeast.

The additional training area provides the Army with more planning flexibility, Penree said.

NOT GIVING UP



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo acquired by NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander's Robotic Arm Camera, shows material from the Martian surface captured by the robotic arm scoop on the 14th Martian day of the mission.

Scientists troubleshoot lander, still hope for some dirt on Mars

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES | Scientists troubleshooting the Phoenix lander said Monday they will try one last shake to get a scoopful of Martian dirt inside a tiny oven in hopes of jump-starting their study of Mars' north pole region.

Phoenix's first science experiment to heat the permafrost soil was delayed after it was discovered that virtually none of it passed through a screen to reach a miniature oven, one of eight aboard the spacecraft that will heat soil and sniff the resulting vapors for signs of life-friendly elements.

"This soil is very cohe-

sive and it's very hard for it to get through the screen," said mission scientist William Boynton of the University of Arizona in Tucson, who is in charge of the oven experiment.

If shaking the oven doesn't work, scientists will try sprinkling dirt through the opening of a new oven or using the lander's 8-foot robotic arm to grind up the dirt first.

It's the biggest challenge faced by Phoenix so far since landing in the Martian arctic on May 25 on a three-month mission to study whether the environment could be habitable for alien life.

Boynton said he was initially more concerned that

the robot wouldn't collect enough soil, not its density.

"To be honest, we never thought it would be working so well that we'd have to worry about a riches of just too much," he said. "Now that we see the nature of that soil ... we really are much better off with very small amounts of soil."

Phoenix's single-use ovens are among several instruments that will probe whether the Martian northern plain has the chemical building blocks of life. The lander cannot directly detect fossils or living things.

In the meantime, Phoenix grabbed another scoopful of soil and planned to deliver it to its microscope later this week.

Gates recommends Schwartz as next Air Force chief of staff

BY ROBERT BURNS AND
LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press Writers

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VA. | Defense Secretary Robert Gates launched the Air Force in a new direction Monday by announcing an unusual choice as the service's next uniformed chief and by declaring an immediate halt to personnel reductions that he said had put the Air Force under too much wartime strain.

Before flying here to explain his moves to airmen and their commanders, Gates recommended that President Bush nominate Gen. Norton Schwartz, a 35-year veteran with a background in Air Force special operations, as the new Air Force chief of staff, replacing Gen. Michael Moseley, who has been sacked.

In a sweeping shake up, Gates also formally sent former

Air Force official Michael Donley's name to the White House to be the next secretary of the beleaguered service. Bush quickly announced he would nominate Donley, and designated him as acting secretary until he is confirmed by the Senate.

Gates said Donley and Schwartz were coming in at an important time in the history of the Air Force.

"General Schwartz's unique set of experiences and accomplishments make him the right officer at this time to lead the Air Force," Gates told an audience of several hundred servicemen and Air Force civilians.

Gates announced on Thursday that he was removing Moseley from the chief's job and Wynne as its top civilian to hold them accountable for failing to fully correct an erosion of nuclear-related performance standards, a concern linked to the cross-country flight last

August of a B-52 carrying armed nuclear weapons.

Gates said he felt compelled to sweep out the current Air Force leadership to halt a long-term drift in the service's focus. But he also made a point of praising the Air Force's contributions to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Your contributions have made a lifesaving difference to those fighting on the ground," Gates said.

He noted that the Air Force has been engaged in combat continuously for 17 years, beginning with the 1991 Gulf War and including years of flying combat missions in "no fly" zones over northern and southern Iraq.

"Your families have also borne this burden, and the Air Force has its own fallen heroes — often struck down while serving on the ground alongside our soldiers and Marines," Gates said.

DEATH NOTICES

Ervin R.L. Ames

CORNING | Ervin R.L. Ames of Avoca died Monday, June 9, 2008 at Corning Hospital, following a short illness.

He was a cook at Smokey's Restaurant in Kanona.

Survivors include his mother Ellen May and seven brothers and sisters.

Calling hours are 6-8 p.m. today at Avoca Funeral Home, 22 N. Main St., Avoca.

Services will be held there at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Burial will be in Nondaga Cemetery, Bath.

**Betty H.
Cunningham**

MONTOUR FALLS | Betty H. Cunningham, 82, formerly of Level Acres Drive, Horseheads, died Sunday, June 8, 2008 at Seneca View Nursing Facility.

She worked as a pediatric aide at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira.

Survivors include two sons, Gregory Cunningham of Spring City, Tenn., Glen Cunningham of Horseheads; a daughter, Cora Lee Brown of Beaver Dams; a brother, George Huyler; four sisters, Virginia Bastian, Jane Grafius, Charlotte Elliott, Corinne Luce.

Calling hours are 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Barber Funeral Home, South Main Street, Horseheads.

Services will be held there at 10 a.m. Thursday, the Rev. Bern Lytle officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira.

Sarah B. Fairchild

ELMIRA HEIGHTS | Sarah B. Fairchild, 78, of Elmira Heights, died Sunday, June 8, 2008 at home.

Survivors include two sons, Charles Goodwin of New Orleans, La., and Devin Fairchild of Elmira Heights; three daughters, Deb Hess of Beaver Dams, Roseann Champluvier of Campbell and Pam Cleveland of Elmira Heights; five sisters, Pauline Crum, Florence Harriger, Marion Osgood, Hazel Cornett and Catherine Parker; three brothers, Harry Lewis, Jack Lewis and Lester Lewis.

Calling hours are 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Barber Funeral Home, 413 S. Main St., Horseheads.

Services will be held there at 10 a.m. Friday, the Rev. Patrick Holder officiating.

Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery

Eleanor R. Grover

HORSEHEADS | Eleanor R. Woodford Grover, 77, of Horseheads, died Sunday, June 8, 2008 at Bethany Manor.

She was a retired employee of the *Elmira Star-Gazette*.

Survivors include a brother, Rudolph Mead of Horseheads; a sister, Wilma Jean Wiltzie of Earlville.

Calling hours are 1-2 p.m. Wednesday at Lynch Funeral Home.

Services will be held there at the conclusion of calling hours at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Burial will be in Cayuta Cemetery, Cayuta.

West joins Newsweek's top high schools list

THE LEADER STAFF

PAINTED POST | Corning West High School has joined East High on Newsweek magazine's list of the top 1,300 high schools in the country.

School officials said after it was announced last month East High made Newsweek's list, they believed West High should have also been included based on the magazine's criteria.

Officials worked with Newsweek staff to submit data on West High. Once the data was analyzed, West High was ranked 1,164 on the list.

Due to further analysis, East High slipped in the rankings from 1,039 to 1,088. Both schools are in the top 5 percent of high schools in the country.

According to Newsweek,

public schools were ranked according to a ratio that included the number of advanced placement, International Baccalaureate and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at the school. That number was divided by the number of graduating seniors.

"It was our belief all along that we have equity between our two high schools and the list did not make sense having only one of our schools listed," Superintendent Mike Ginals said. "We found out Newsweek welcomed input from schools who believed they were left off the list, so we got down to business to gather the data, submitted it and waited to see what would happen."

For more information about the Newsweek list, visit www.newsweek.com/id/39380

Kuhl demands action on high gas prices

THE LEADER STAFF

WASHINGTON | The average national price of a gallon of gas exceed \$4 Monday, prompting U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr. to call for congressional action.

Kuhl, R-Hammondsport, criticized the Democrat-led Congress to move on legislation that encourages more oil production, use of alternative fuels and provides protection for consumers.

"Sadly for everyone, the Democratic leadership has sat idly by and watched the prices skyrocket out of control," Kuhl said Monday.

The average price of a gal-

lon of regular unleaded gas has jumped \$1.71 since January 2007.

Kuhl said House Republicans have offered an action plan — called the Republican Energy Agenda — to help stabilize gas prices. The plan recommends the 18-cent federal gas tax be suspended for the summer and all taxpayer-funded earmarks be suspended to ensure that the Highway Trust Fund remains intact.

Also, the Republicans encourage oil drilling in Alaska and offshore, extracting oil from shale deposits and further promoting the use of alternative fuels.

BATTLE

Continued from 3A

Brennan is barred from voting during committee meetings but is authorized to vote on issues before the full Legislature.

"I never intentionally misled the public," Brennan said. "In the future, I will be clearer

... not once did I maliciously malign my colleagues."

Chairman Cornelius Milliken said he wouldn't again add the issue to any Legislature agenda unless new and important information arises.

"As of now ... the subject is closed," Milliken said.

**Bob Rolfe is
The Insider**
Monday & Friday, 4A.

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