

Big stretch awaits NU

Huskers cruise past Islanders as Big Ten slate looms. **SPORTS, B1**



Wintry weekend

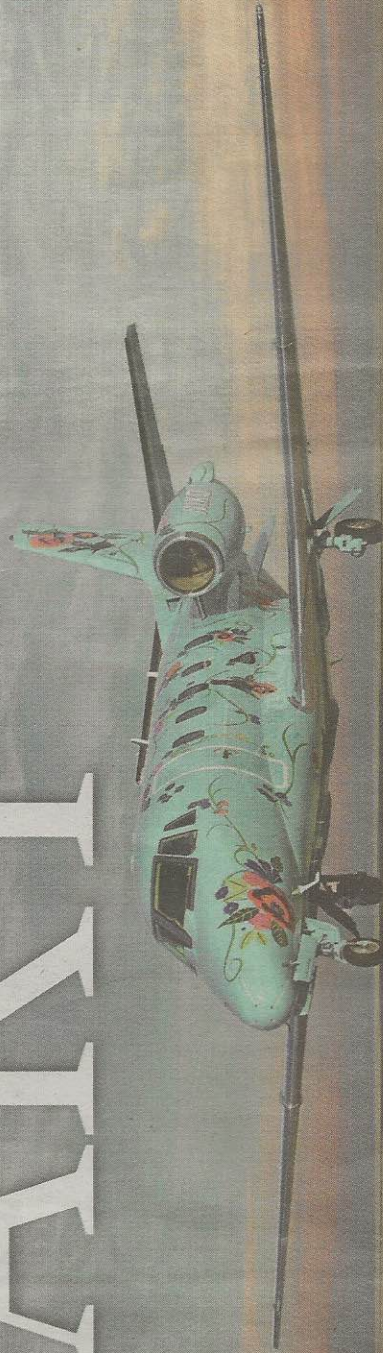
Snow, high winds hammer state. **LOCAL, A3**

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AIRBORNE



"Ravens & Roses," Duncan Aviation's flying artwork, taxis on the Lincoln Municipal Airport runway.

DUNCAN AVIATION PHOTOS

US strikes back after death of contractor

Forces target militia sites in Iraq, Syria

ELLEN KNICKMEYER AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. has carried out military strikes in Iraq and Syria targeting a militia blamed for a rocket attack that killed an American contractor, a Defense Department spokesman said Sunday.

U.S. forces conducted "precision defensive strikes" against five sites of Kataeb Hezbollah, or Hezbollah Brigades, an Iran-backed Iraqi militia, spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said in a statement.

The U.S. blamed the militia for a rocket barrage Friday that killed a U.S. defense contractor at a military compound near

Duncan Aviation jet turned into a flying painting

L. KENT WOLGAMOTT
Lincoln Journal Star

It's a bird. It's a plane. It's a flying work of art.

It's called "Ravens & Roses," and it's a Citation 560XLS covered inside and out with the work of Nancy Friedemann-Sanchez, an award-winning Colombian-American artist who lives in Lincoln.

The imagery on the sky-blue jet and embroidered on the seats inside — the black birds and flowers of the title, vines, smaller colonial flowers — is linked with Friedemann-Sanchez's ongoing work, examining Spanish colonialism, Asian influence in Latin America and migration through a feminist lens.

That connection with her imagery takes the design, mirrored on each side of the plane, from decoration into the realm of art.

"It's art," said Karen Duncan, who, with her husband, Duncan Aviation Chairman Emeritus Robert Duncan, commissioned Friedemann-Sanchez's work. "It's work by a serious artist. It could be called a painting or a sculpture. But it is art."

The commission grew out of a visit by the Duncans to Friedemann-Sanchez's west Lincoln studio.

"She had a table filled with flowers,"



The nose of "Ravens & Roses" shows one of the roses designed by artist Nancy Friedemann-Sanchez, that gives the Citation 560XLS its name.

Duncan said. "I said, 'Those flowers are so beautiful; we ought to put flowers all over it.' She started to cry."

"Karen said, 'We'd love to have you design one of our planes. We love your flowers, and we'd love to have you doing it,'" Friedemann-Sanchez said. "I teared up a little. I was completely shocked and delighted."

That was about two years ago. Then Duncan Aviation purchased the 560 XLS just over a year ago, and work began in earnest.

Using 10-foot-long sheets of paper — the plane is 52-feet long — Friedemann-Sanchez combined painting and

Kirkuk, in northern Iraq. Officials said attackers fired as many as 30 rockets in Friday's assault.

The Defense Department said the U.S. hit three of the militia's sites in Iraq and two in Syria, including weapon depots and the militia's command and control bases.

The strikes were carried out by U.S. Air Force F-15 Strike Eagles, said a U.S. official who was not authorized to publicly discuss details of the attacks. At the ammunition storage facilities that were struck, significant secondary explosions were observed.

Hoffman said the U.S. attacks would limit the militia's ability to carry out future strikes against Americans and their Iraqi allies.

Iraq's Joint Operations Command said in a statement that three U.S. airstrikes on Sunday evening Iraq time hit the headquarters of the Hezbollah Brigades at the Iraq-Syria border, killing four fighters.

Iraq's Hezbollah Brigades, a separate force from the Lebanese group Hezbollah, operate under

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