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News Digest



ST. ALBANS, N.Y. (AP) — There were no hard hats or bulldozers at the demolition of St. Hatfield's century-old barn. Huffing, puffing and kicking like mad, 30 karate students did the job.

The demolition began Saturday with a shriek from a karate instructor and a cheer from three dozen townspeople gathered for the show.

Clad in white, the first shift of students kicked out some of the inside walls of the two-story carriage barn. Three hours and several shifts later, only a pile of splintered lumber remained.

GM gears up for fight

WENTZVILLE, Mo. (UPI) — General Motors President Elliott M. Estes said Sunday the automaker is committed to producing a high-velocity, economical car to fight imports and will invest \$40 billion to retool its plants to do so.

Oil price hikes around bend

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — A new round of oil price increases, the fourth since December, will begin this week, driving up gasoline and heating fuel costs once again, industry sources said Sunday.

Tuesday, the sources said Kuwait, Venezuela, Iraq and Libya will hike prices on a range of from 28 cents to \$2.20 per barrel.

Police units rush to island

VILA, New Hebrides (AP) — New Hebrides police units rushed by air and sea Sunday to the South Pacific archipelago's Malekula island amid fears that a new secessionist revolt was being prepared. It would be the fourth reported rebellion against the government in the past month.

The island chain, 800 miles east of Australia, has been ruled jointly by France and Britain for most of this century but is due to gain independence July 30.

Nation's first hospice dedicated

BRANFORD, Conn. (UPI) — The Connecticut Hospice Sunday dedicated the nation's first facility specifically designed to meet the needs of the terminally ill and their families, calling it a milestone in meaningful health care.

The 44-bed facility, which will serve all of Connecticut, is for terminally ill patients who can no longer be cared for at home.

Soviets launch space freighter

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union launched a space freighter Sunday to take fresh supplies to the two cosmonauts now completing their third month aboard the orbiting space laboratory Salyut-6, the official news agency Tass reported.

Cosmonauts Leonid Popov and Valery Rymyn have been orbiting earth in the station since April 9, conducting scientific experiments.

Sunny, hot, humid

LINCOLN: Sunny, hot and humid Monday, highs in low to mid 80s. Partly cloudy Monday night, and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows 65 to 70. Winds southerly 5 to 15 mph.

More weather, Page 18

Today's Chuckle

Marriage is like a midnight phone call. You get a ring and then you wake up.

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Killing heat wave fuels infernos

Associated Press

A punishing heat wave blamed for at least 20 deaths cooled the Southwest in three-day temperatures for another day Sunday, fueling infernos in the woodlands, bucking highways and killing millions of chickens.

In Texas, where 20 people have died as a result of the heat, the mercury shot past 100 for the seventh straight day in several cities. Many residents of Dallas turned garden hoses on their roofs to assist stricken air conditioners.

Flames cracked out of control across tens of thousands of acres of under-forest and brushland in Colorado and Arizona.

A highway "blew up" Saturday in Oklahoma. Chickens were dying in over-heated coops in Arkansas.

"It's just hellishly hot out there," said a

spokesman for 400 firefighters battling a fire that had consumed a strip of brushland 2½ miles wide and 3 miles long in the Texas National Forest, about 40 miles northeast of Phoenix, Ariz.

In Oklahoma, where the brutal heat resulted in four deaths, officials said a portion of Interstate 40 exploded as it expanded in the sun, leaving large chunks of concrete in the road eight miles east of Okemah.

"It just blew up, just like a stick of dynamite was under it — it's dangerous," said Lt. Ray Can at Oklahoma Highway Patrol headquarters at McAlester.

Two families from Wichita, Kan., escaped serious injury Saturday afternoon when their motor home burst into flames as they drove off Interstate 35 in south Oklahoma City. Fire offi-

cials said the 105-degree temperatures ignited propane gas in a storage tank.

Texas medical examiners said that of the 23 victims in that state, only six died of heat stroke. But they said the unusually high temperatures may have played a part in the other deaths.

A 49-year-old woman was found dead of a heart ailment Sunday in her staff, enclosed bedroom, and a 6-month-old child died of apparently heat-related causes Saturday, Dallas County medical examiners said.

Dallas Power & Light officials said at least 15 of them have died since the heat wave started last Monday even in homes with no air conditioning. They estimate 20 percent of Dallas homes are without air conditioning.

The mercury hit 112 Sunday afternoon in

Wichita Falls, Texas, breaking a daily record in that city for the sixth day in a row. The previous record for June 29 was 106, set in 1954.

In Arkansas, one man whose body temperature doctors said was 104, died of cardiac arrest shortly after he was taken to the hospital.

Arkansas agriculture officials also said the heat wave has cost poultry farmers \$5 million so far. Don Allen, executive vice president of the Arkansas Poultry Federation, said 2.2 million broilers and 165,000 broiler hens have succumbed to heat near the 100-degree mark.

In Colorado, where the state's worst forest fire on record was still out of control after consuming more than 5,000 acres, Gov. Richard Lamm Sunday issued a ban on all open flames and prohibited smoking in most of the state's woodlands.

Trial threat hits hostage

Associated Press

An American hostage accused of seducing an Iranian woman who later was hanged by her brother will be put on trial even if Parliament decides to release the 31 other hostages, an Iranian official said Sunday.

Alli Akbar Parvaneh, a Justice Ministry adviser, said in a telephone interview that Marjaneh Staff Sgt. Michael Mueller, 28, of Long City, Neb., would be tried on charges of having an illegal sexual affair.

In another development Sunday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Barbara Timm, mother of 29-year-old hostage Marjaneh Sgt. Kevin Hermeling, had been denied a visa to visit her son. No reason was given, but a ministry spokesman said Mrs. Timm's lawyer, Carl McAfee, would be allowed to visit Tehran if he wished to do so without his client.

But Mrs. Timm, of Oak Creek, Wis., and McAfee left Paris where they had hoped to obtain Iranian visas and flew to Washington Sunday.

Mrs. Timm declined to speak with reporters at Washington's Dulles Airport. McAfee learned the State Department for the failure of the trip, saying the travel permit granted by the department contained "restrictions and restraints we feel would hamper and destroy" their efforts to work toward the release of the hostages.

The State Department has barred Americans from traveling to Iran, but granted Mrs. Timm a travel permit on "humanitarian grounds."

Meanwhile, Hajjajollah Hassan Khashani, a member of Parliament, said in an address to his hometown constituents, "I'm cannot keep the American hostages indefinitely. It is not possible."

Iranian, Khashani's personal delegate to the Political and Ideological Bureau of the Iranian armed forces, said, "the problem has become complicated now. That is to say that the United States does not attach any value on the life of the hostages," who Sunday spent their 28th day in captivity.

Moeller is accused of seducing a 29-year-old Iranian woman, identified only as Mary A., whose brother hanged her in March after she told him she was five months pregnant. Having sexual relations with an unmarried woman is a crime in Iran and can bring a jail term of up to 10 years.

According to Tehran newspapers, the Marine had acknowledged knowing the woman as one of many who used to visit the American Embassy to practice English, before Islamic militants took the compound over on Nov. 4.

"He denied the charge, but I have enough evidence to send him to court," Parvaneh said.

Iranian authorities have said they discovered the life of the woman's duties recording her husband's involvement with Moeller, an embassy guard.

"If the parliament releases the Americans," Parvaneh said, "we will keep Moeller to try him for committing a sexual crime."

There was no immediate reaction from Washington, or comment from Moeller's family, which moved to Carthageville, Mo. after he was assigned to Tehran.

In another development Sunday, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said the former slash of Iran, hospitalized in Cairo Friday with a fever possibly brought on by pneumonia, had improved greatly but might have to undergo another "minor" operation.



The couple exchanged wedding vows on a pontoon boat at Branched Oak.

Barefoot bride, groom exchange vows

By Lynn Hawkins

Star Staff Writer

The bride and groom were blue — blue swimming suits and turquoise cloths that — and the bride carried blue plastic roses.

As the couple and minister pulled across Branched Oak lake on a borrowed plastic duffel-covered pontoon boat, the assembled guests shouted "Woe Lee!" The "sisterhood" shouted out "The Wedding March" as a disco beat over the loudspeakers mounted atop the couple's honeymoon cottage, a battered yellow school bus.

After Robert Hawley and Kathleen Pavlik of Lincoln exchanged vows Saturday afternoon in what the Rev. Earl Schuff of the First German Evangelical Church called "a beautiful special place," the best man said:

a firefighter, both hoked and whistled.

Neither the bride or groom's smiling parents ever turned their heads or their jaws to watch any part of the ceremony.

"That's all we are shocked," said the mother of the groom, Mrs. Frank Hawley of Omaha.

"My daughter suggested we wear swimming suits," added Edna Eziz of Beatrice, the white-haired mother of the bride (wearing a red, white and blue print blouse and navy slacks).

But the rest of the crowd, mostly members of the Eastern Nebraska Sailing Association and the Associated Master Barbers and Beauticians, were loudly enthusiastic about the ceremony.

"I just flipped me out!" cooed one balding guest.

"What a Quinky Dink!" responded another spectator in brown swim trunks and a patterned tie over bare chest. However, he was outbreathed by the music organizer who wore a formal blue ruffe, black bow tie and cuffs — without the shirt.

In spite of the casual setting, the minister stressed the sanctity of the ceremony.

"This is a good, I think people have the right to celebrate in a place they feel comfortable," Schuff said. "God's power is not limited to a church building."

The couple had invited all wedding guests to bring tents and make a weekend of the occasion.

The newweds planned to end the day aboard their tall-masted boat, while white sails streamed, sailing off into the Nebraska sunset.

Budget office: Fewer city positions

By Bob Reeves

Star Staff Writer

The city of Lincoln is spending more for salaries, but has fewer budgeted positions than it has five years ago, according to the city budget office.

During the five years Mayor Helen Bosalis has been in office, the number of authorized full-time equivalent positions supported by city tax funds has declined from 1,400 in fiscal 1975 to 1,380 in the current year.

During the same period, however, the cost of salaries for these same workers rose from \$18,708,711 in 1975-76 to \$24,647,167 budgeted for the current year.

Budget Officer Bill Giovanni said. However, the percent of the tax-supported, budgeted, spent, or salaries is slightly lower this year than it was five years ago.

In 1975-76, 67.85 percent of each taxpayer's dollar went for salaries, but City Councilman Joe Hampton disputes his claim.

Last week, he showed the Chamber of Commerce statistics that the city's per capita income had increased in total percentage between

Sept. 1, 1977 and Sept. 1, 1979.

Hampton didn't get his figures from budget documents, but from city Personnel Department records. According to the personnel figures, in 1977 there were 1,746 employees in city government, excluding Municipal Court, Lincoln General Hospital, and Lincoln Electric System; in 1979, there were 1,875.

On Sept. 1, 1979, according to the same source, there were 1,794 employees on board, but on Sept. 1, 1978 there were 1,874.

Jim Swan, chief of the classification and pay division of the city Personnel Department, explained that the figures Hampton

was using are merely a "head count" of employees on those specific dates, and have no relationship to the amount of money budgeted for salaries.

Also, the figures quoted by Hampton include a large number of employees whose salaries are not paid from tax funds.

Hampton told The Star, however, that he still feels his figures are significant. "You can manage those figures all you want... but there are only two things you ought to look at: the total number of employees and the total dollar cost," both of which, he points out, are higher than when the mayor took office.

Guatney still prime suspect in several slayings, ruled out in others

By Paula Dittick

Star Staff Writer

William Guatney is no longer a suspect in the slayings of several youths but remains a prime suspect in other slayings besides the deaths of two Lincoln boys at the 1973 Nebraska State Fair.

Guatney's arrest last August in Peoria, Ill., ended a lengthy police investigation involving several agencies. At the time he was listed as a suspect in slayings at a dorm slayings.

Last week, Guatney was ruled innocent to stand trial for murder in the 1973 slaying deaths of Jacob Surber, 18, and Joe Bittner, 13.

According to a summary of medical records introduced during that Lancaster County District Court hearing, Guatney was hospitalized when at least three of the deaths occurred. And officials investigating two slayings elsewhere have said they don't consider Guatney a prime suspect in those slayings.

On May 30, 1978 in Chandler, Ariz., three boys were stabbed, laid on railroad tracks and decapitated after a train ran over the bodies at about midnight.

Hitchhiker Police Capt. D.M. Groves said it was unlikely that Guatney was involved because the murders had to have a vehicle.

"He looked at him several times many years ago," but he had not listed him in the area at the time, Groves concluded.

Although Lincoln police suggested Guatney as a suspect in the Chandler slayings after his arrest, a

Mexico, Mo., Community Mental Health Center listed Guatney as a patient from May 28 until July 2, 1978.

Maricopa County Investigator Bert Andrews told The Star recently that Guatney "never was a suspect, just an investigative lead," which has since been deemed inactive for the yet unsolved deaths of the three boys.

Guatney's possible involvement in the 1973 slaying of a 16-year-old Hutchinson, Kan., girl and the 1973 death of a Rock Island, Ill., boy also has been ruled out.

Kelly Albright was abducted from her home despite the presence of other children in Sept. 14, 1978. She was stabbed and her body discovered several miles away.

Hitchhiker Police Capt. D.M. Groves said it was unlikely that Guatney was involved because the murders had to have a vehicle.

"He looked at him several times many years ago," but he had not listed him in the area at the time, Groves concluded.

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FBI officials reported closing their files four years ago on Jeff Ramsey, an 11-year-old runaway carrier, whose nude and strangled body was discovered in the Mississippi River.

Ramsey disappeared from Annapolis Island, a federal military reserve, and the FBI investigated the case. FBI investigator Charles Smith was quoted in a Killeen, Ill., Daily Dispatch story as closing his file in 1976.

The man believed to have committed the crime is the prime suspect in local residents' "committed suicide," Smith was quoted as saying. Unavailable for comment last week, Smith said in the article that "to a large degree, I'm satisfied we had the right man." The prime suspect, who was released for his last day in prison, sent the Ramsey family letters about the slaying.

The family responded through newspaper ads asking the man to seek help. He responded with a final letter which Young quoted as saying: "I'll ever have the urge to kill, I'll kill myself before I do this again."

Guatney is still a suspect in the 1974 slaying of Omaha Jay Durnil, 11, although he was listed as a patient at a V.A. Hospital in Leavenworth, Kan., at the time.

Durnil was reported missing on April 29 and his body was found 12 days later in the Missouri River

with his hands tied. He died of a blow to the head with a flat blunt instrument.

Douglas County Sheriff's Capt. Tom Dempsey said investigators believe Guatney was absent despite hospital records that he was at the center from April 18 until May 14.

Dempsey and investigators had talked with Guatney's doctor and learned that he was missing for several days according to medication records. The doctor also reported that Guatney returned to the center with an infected insect bite, Dempsey said.

Dempsey said his office continued to "pursue two or three other suspects," but he said everything on them is negative.

Meanwhile, three counts of first-degree murder remain pending against Guatney, and he remains the prime suspect in at least two other cases.

Lancaster County Deputy Attorney Robert Gibson said that if Guatney is ever brought to trial in Lincoln, the prosecution may try to introduce evidence indicating his involvement in similar slayings elsewhere.

In particular, Gibson said he might introduce information concerning slayings in Lincoln, Kan., as well as Peoria and Normal, Ill.

Peoria prosecutors have filed a first-degree murder charge against Guatney for the May 1979 slaying of Jack Harnish, Jr., 12.

Harnish's decomposed body was discovered in a creek about 30 miles southwest of Topeka two weeks after he disappeared from a bowling alley there.

Mark Helmig, 8, of Peoria, Ill., disappeared from a 4½-acre lot on June 16, 1978. His body was discovered 22 days later in a boxcar in Peoria, Ill., with his hands tied. He had been strangled and placed in the boxcar when it was located near his home and the stockyards.

Peoria Police Investigator Jim Conover said he learned of Guatney's name through a phone call from Lincoln police in September 1978.

Peoria State's Attorney Bruce Black cited a "lack of sufficient evidence" as the reason for not filing charges.

Both Helmig and Conover confirmed that they were not looking for any other suspects.

Guatney is also the only suspect for the July 4, 1978 slaying of Normal, Ill., resident Marty Lancaster, according to Normal police detective Dan Sadler.

Lancaster, 14, died of a fracture to his skull and was found with his hands tied. He disappeared on the last day of a home show.

Sadler said Guatney had been in Normal many times and was familiar with the area although local police had no records on Guatney until investigations were advised of his possible involvement in similar slayings elsewhere.