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Iran rescue try fails

AP photo

"Our nation needs a choice in November . . . . I want to offer that choice," the Illinois congressman says

Carter takes blame for ordering raid

WASHINGTON (AP) — A daring U.S. military effort to rescue American hostages held in Tehran was aborted in the Iranian desert because of "equipment failure," the White House said early today. Two planes involved in the rescue attempt collided on the ground and eight crewmen were killed, it said.

A statement read to reporters by White House press secretary Jody Powell said all Americans involved in the operation, including an unspecified number of injured, had been taken out of Iran. Powell said the injured persons are expected to recover.

President Carter, who ordered termination of the mission, "accepts full responsibility for the decision to attempt the rescue," Powell said.

There was no immediate reaction in Tehran to the U.S. rescue attempt.

The militants holding American hostages in Tehran since the U.S. Embassy there was seized Nov. 4 have threatened repeatedly to kill the hostages if there were a military attempt to rescue them.

The White House statement said, "The United States continues to hold the government of Iran responsible for the safety of the American hostages. The United States remains determined to obtain their safe release at the earliest possible time."

Powell said, "This mission was not motivated by hostility toward Iran or the Iranian people and there were no Iranian casualties."

The Moslem militants announced April 9 that they would burn the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and kill all the hostages if the United States attempted "even the smallest" military move against Iran.

On Nov. 27, barely three weeks after the takeover, the militants said they had planted mines throughout the embassy compound and

(See IRAN RESCUE, Page 7A)

Good Morning

Top of the News

Weather

Pack your sweaters. Today will be sunny, with noticeably warmer temperatures than earlier this week. The high is expected to be in the upper 70s with the low in the mid-40s. Yesterday's high and low were 66 and 41.

The Midwest's early summer came to an end, with Michigan reporting 3 inches of snow yesterday after having 88-degree temperatures earlier this week. Tornados were reported in the Texas Panhandle. Most of the Southwest had sunny skies with mild temperatures.

The national weather forecast for today calls for rain from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the East Coast. The Plains, the Rockies and the Southwest will have sunny skies.

Yesterday's national temperature extremes were 14 at Alpine and 96 at Laredo, Texas. Details on Page 4A.

News

Kid power. When Erickson Elementary School children discovered an eastside McDonald's restaurant didn't have a ramp for the handicapped, they took matters into their own hands. After receiving 40 letters from the youngsters, McDonald's manager Ron King had a ramp installed, and invited everyone to lunch. Page 1B.

Help for the Hunts. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul A. Volcker helped arrange up to $800 million in credit for the billionaire Hunt brothers of Texas to help them pay their silver-speculation debts, reports in Washington say. Page 16A.

'Junk' phone calls. Most unsolicited telephone calls are made within state boundaries and are therefore not subject to federal control, the Federal Communications Commission says as it ends a two-year study of the 7 million unwanted daily calls. Page 9A.

Parks chief fired. William J. Whalen is fired as director of the National Park Service by Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus. Whalen had drawn the wrath of Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., for his treatment of national-park concessionaires. Page 12A.

Cubans flood into U.S. Hundreds more Cuban refugees arrive in Florida by the "freedom float" flotilla as the State Department reassesses its stand against the migration. Page 2A.

Hard times for governments. Faced with shrinking tax revenues, budget limitations and inflation, state and local governments find themselves forced to cut their payrolls by cutting jobs. Page 2A.

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Anderson leaves GOP race, goes independent for 'unity'

By WARREN WEAVER Jr.
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WASHINGTON — John B. Anderson entered the 1980 race for the presidency as an independent candidate yesterday, promising to attract millions of new voters into the political process and raise issues that the major party contenders would avoid.

By dropping out of the Republican competition and proposing a well-financed national campaign on his own, Anderson injected an unpredictable new element into the likely contest between President Carter and Ronald Reagan, the leading candidates of their parties.

Even if Anderson does not reach his goal of carrying enough states to win the election, he could draw enough votes from either the Democrat or the Republican to elect the other. Or he could carry enough states to deprive any candidate of an electoral-vote majority and force the presidential choice into the House of Representatives.

Democratic leaders fear Anderson will divert enough liberal and moderate votes from the president to assure victory for Reagan. At the same time, Republicans believe he may weaken prospects for their candidates for Congress and state and local office.

If elected, Anderson promised a "national unity" administration composed of leaders of both parties, one that could work with a Republican or a Democratic Congress. He said he would consider "men and women of both parties and independents" when selecting his running mate later in the campaign.

First, the Illinois congressman said, a committee headed by David Garth, a New York media consultant, will study whether an independent candidacy is really practical — whether Anderson can have his name listed on enough state ballots to stand a real chance of winning the election, and whether he can raise enough money to conduct a national campaign.

Anderson seemed to have little doubt that this exploratory committee would give him a green light in a matter of a few weeks. Meanwhile, he scheduled the first trip of his new campaign, to New York City this weekend and West Virginia, Michigan and Massachusetts on three days next week.

The congressman denied repeatedly during a 17-minute formal statement and a brief news conference that he would be a "spoiler," a candidate more dedicated to defeating others than to winning himself. He also maintained that he is not attacking the two-party system or dividing the nation politically.

"If I thought for one moment I would be a divisive force, I would not be on this platform today," he said. Anderson supporters, who made up about half the audience of several hundred, applauded.

The hour-long ceremony in the ballroom of the National Press Club was, on the whole, subdued. Anderson received a standing ovation from his admirers when

(See ANDERSON, Page 3A)

Freeway plan is out, but could be revived

By STEVE MEISSNER
The Arizona Daily Star

The Rillito-Pantano Freeway has been dropped from a local long-range transportation plan, but it will remain on the drawing board.

On a motion by E.S. "Bud" Walker, chairman of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, the Regional Council of the Pima Association of Governments voted unanimously yesterday to delete the controversial freeway proposal from its regional transportation plan.

That plan is being updated, however, and PAG transportation planners yesterday unveiled five alternatives for handling area traffic — with the Rillito-Pantano freeway included in two of them.

The on-again, off-again proposal would roughly parallel the Rillito River and Pantano Wash from the northwest side to the southeast side of the metropolitan area. Its revival last year drew heavy public opposition, particularly from affluent foothills homeowners who saw it as a threat to their neighborhoods.

Walker said many of the voters who supported recent county road-bond issues saw those projects "as an alternative to a freeway through the middle of Tucson." Continuing to plan for the Rillito-Pantano right now "would be dishonest to those voters," he said.

But he quickly added that he may not be opposed to resurrecting the proposal if further study proves the freeway "to be a justifiable route."

The Rillito-Pantano proposal probably will eventually be reconsidered, transportation staffers told the Regional Council.

PAG transportation planner Tom Cooney said a year of exhaustive study into Pima County's future transportation needs led to the drafting of the five transportation options, including the two that contain the freeway proposal.

Other key features of the alternatives are the use of "grade-separated intersections (bantam interchanges)," extensive improvements in mass transit, and possibly some use of rail transit.

Bantam interchanges involve the construction of underpasses at key intersections that allow east-west traffic, for example, to move under north-south traffic, eliminating the need for traffic lights except for drivers making turns. Construction of an experimental bantam somewhere along Broadway was rejected in November by city voters.

Cooney said that if bantams are added at some major city intersections, some traffic lights could be eliminated, and traffic could move more smoothly without turning the streets into freeways.

The five alternatives are:

- An upgrading of some existing roads, plus some "committed" roads that are still in the planning stage. These include improvements to East Golf Links Road, South Alvernon Way and South Campbell Avenue, and the South Kolb Road extension through Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

A series of bantams would be added to major east-west roads such as Grant

(See FREEWAY, Page 4A)

Oxygen surfeit could damage 3 infants' eyes

By PAUL TURNER
The Arizona Daily Star

Three infants who were born prematurely face an increased possibility of developing a serious eye disorder because their oxygen supplies were altered for less than an hour April 13 when air compressors at University Hospital overheated and stopped working.

Doctors won't be able to determine for two or three months whether the infants are going to be afflicted with retrolental fibroplasia, a disorder of the blood vessels in the back of the eye, said Dr. William C. Scott, hospital chief of staff and interim administrator. But even if the condition is observed, there is no cure.

The threatened babies, each weighing less than 3 pounds, were exposed to a dangerously high level of pure oxygen when the air compressors stopped. Very high concentrations of oxygen are thought to increase the likelihood that infants will develop the possibly blinding eye disorder, doctors said.

The air compressors shut themselves down an hour and 45 minutes after a planned 4 a.m. hospitalwide electrical shutdown. That shutdown turned off the institution's chilled-water cooling system, which is not hooked up to the hospital's emergency power generators.

With the cooling system not operating, the air-compression units overheated and switched themselves off.

Tim Goldfarb, assistant hospital administrator, said yesterday that a makeshift backup cooling system utilizing tap water is now in place. He added that at least portions of the hospital's chilling units eventually will be tapped into emergency power systems.

Scott said the parents of all the children were immediately notified of the incident.

He said hospital officials waited until yesterday to discuss the incident publicly so that a more complete explanation for the events of that Sunday morning could be assembled. "We're still collecting information," he said.

Doctors said there would be no way to pin absolute blame for the eye disorder on the air-system mishap, if indeed the babies do contract the affliction.

There were eight babies in the nursery when an alarm went off signaling that something was wrong with incoming air supplies. A staff of nurses, doctors and technicians immediately began to place the infants on self-contained air-oxygen regulators, said Dr. Vincent A. Fulginiti, head of the hospital's department of pediatrics.

However, after the incident had been reconstructed, doctors estimated that three of the infants were exposed to excessive levels of pure oxygen. What constitutes an excessive amount varies with each baby, Fulginiti said. "Each of these infants represents an individual equation."

The three babies in question could not survive in normal room atmosphere, doctors said.

The electrical system was turned off so repairs could made to faulty circuitry, Scott said. He said the day's chain of events may have taken place because the power was off longer than is usual in maintenance shutdowns.

While the hospital's electrical power remained off until noon, a flow of compressed air was returned to the intensive-care nursery within an hour. First, air bottles were employed, and then the hospital's compressors were restarted.

Of the three endangered babies, two were twins less than a week old. The other infant with an increased threat of eye impairment was several weeks old, doctors said.

Star photo by Jeffrey Rathbun

The babies were in 'tents' like this

Sailor's ears stitched to bed

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — A sailor who became violent while being treated at a military clinic here was strapped to a hospital bed and his ears were sewn to the bedding for punishment, the Navy confirmed yesterday.

A Naval Regional Medical Center spokesman said an investigation by the Naval Investigative Service showed that allegations in the case "are true" and that suspects "have been identified."

The stitching is believed to have taken place when the sailor angered an unidentified Navy hospital corpsman at about 1 a.m. on April 12 at the Navy's Boone Clinic at Little Creek Amphibious Base.

The sailor was identified as Fireman Anthony Russell, 19, assigned to Special Boat Unit 20 at Little Creek. Navy sources said he was not seriously injured and has returned to duty.

Russell reportedly had been taken to the Navy clinic for treatment of a head injury. A Navy source who asked not to be identified said he had been drinking.

While being treated, Russell kicked and attempted to strike at attending corpsmen, the source said, and was restrained with cloth straps and tied to a wheeled stretcher-type bed.

Russell's ears then were stitched to the bedding by the corpsman as punishment, the source said. It was not known how the sutures were removed or how long he remained fastened to the bed.

A Navy spokesman said, "The investigation is continuing, and therefore no final decision has been made regarding appropriate action. Prompt disciplinary action will be taken if warranted."

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