

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Foul play suspected in Omaha boy's death

OMAHA — Shooting and stabbing have been ruled out as causing the death of an 11-year-old boy whose body was found in a roadside ditch, authorities said Tuesday.

"We do not know what killed the boy yet," Police Lt. Tony Mohatt said. Mohatt said there were no bullet or stab wounds on the boy of Richard F. Chadek III, which was found fully clothed by a farmer Monday.

FBI agent John Pankonin said evidence indicates that the killing did not take place where the body was found. Pankonin said there were no signs of a struggle and no weapons were found at the site.

Pankonin said there are "strange circumstances around the death we

want to iron out." He declined to elaborate.

Mohatt said no motive for the crime has been established, and there are no suspects.

The cause of death won't be known until toxicology tests on the boy's body are completed, Mohatt said. He said he expected to receive results from the tests in about 10 days.

"It's definitely foul play that's involved," Mohatt said.

Richard was last seen alive on March 23 in a bank parking lot in south Omaha.

The boy's grandfather, Robert Chamberlin, said Tuesday that a witness to the abduction is withholding information for religious reasons.



Oil falls to \$10 barrel

NEW YORK — Oil prices tumbled below \$10 a barrel Tuesday, the lowest in more than eight years and one-third of the cost just four months ago, caused by bulging world supplies, warm weather and pessimism about the depressed market.

"It's impossible to say where it will all end," said Peter Beutel, an analyst with Rudolf Wolff Futures Inc., a New York commodities futures firm.

The price of a standard 42-gallon barrel of West Texas Intermediate, the main U.S. crude and an important market indicator, fell to \$9.90 in early dealings on the New York Mercantile Exchange, down from \$10.42 Monday.

That compares to the pre-Easter price of \$11.44 a barrel and the late November price of \$31 a barrel, before the price slide began.

Oil prices had not fallen below \$10 a barrel for domestic crude oil.

Futures contract prices for refined products, such as gasoline and heating oil, also slumped Tuesday furthering declines from Monday dealings.

Among contracts for April delivery, heating oil dropped nearly 25 percent to 33.30 cents a gallon, down from 42.78 cents on Monday, caused partly by the warm spring weather over much of the country. Unleaded gasoline fell nearly 2 cents to 34.80 cents a gallon.

"There's nothing holding the market up," said Andrew Lebow, at the Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc. securities firm.

On Monday, United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Saeed Oteiba was quoted as saying in Abu Dhabi that oil prices would drop to \$8 to \$5 a barrel without cooperation among producers inside and outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Lebanon pullout; 2 kidnapped

BEIRUT, Lebanon — France pulled its 45 truce observers out of the Beirut battleground Tuesday. It said the unit, which lost nine men during a two-year tour, no longer could carry out its mission and would be sent home.

The French Foreign Ministry denied that the abrupt withdrawal was part of a diplomatic effort to free French captives from Moslem extremist kidnapers.

Also, in Beirut, two British teachers at the American University of Beirut are missing and feared kidnapped, university sources said Tuesday.

The missing men were identified as Lee Douglas, 34, a political science professor, and Philip Hatfield, director of the university's International Language Center.

9 U.S. citizens on Mexican plane

POMOCA, Mexico — Search teams Tuesday removed bodies from the wreckage of a Mexican jet that smashed into a mountainside, killing all 166 people aboard. A U.S. Embassy spokesman said nine U.S. citizens were on the Mexicana Airline Boeing 727.

Officials said the remains of more

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than half the victims and the "black box" flight recorder were recovered. The jet, en route from Mexico City to Los Angeles with stops in the Pacific resorts of Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan, hit the 7,792-foot mountain known locally as El Carbon about 90 miles northwest of Mexico City shortly after takeoff Monday morning.

Helicopter crashes

NAPLES, Italy — A U.S. Navy helicopter crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS America on Tuesday, slightly injuring "some personnel," a Navy spokesman said.

Lt. Col. John Marchi, the spokesman, told The Associated Press he could not say how many people were injured or described their injuries until their relatives had been notified.

Marchi said the helicopter crashed onto the deck of the carrier at 7:33 p.m. (2:33 p.m. GST) while "engaged" in logistic support of the America. At the time, the carrier was anchored in Augusta Gulf, just north of Syracuse in southeastern Sicily.

April fools

Rhode Island's capital city shut down for the day. A battleship steamed up Iowa's Cedar River to

put down a territorial dispute. Residents of one city were told to flush all their toilets at the same time to force an alligator out of the sewers.

April Fool! The traditional day of gags, goofs, pranks, practical jokes and simple tomfoolery was celebrated on the pages of newspapers and in radio broadcasts around the country Tuesday.

Hundreds of residents of Providence, R.I., called authorities and a rival radio station to check out a report on WJHY-FM that the city was going to shut down for the day.

In Illinois, Tuesday's Centralia Evening Sentinel reported the city may levy taxes based on the sins residents commit, hot air balloons will be used to harvest apple orchards in the area, and people are being urged to flush their toilets all at once to sweep a 10-foot alligator out of the sewer system.

Marcos loot

MANILA, Philippines — Claiming he needed money to fight rebels, Ferdinand Marcos took \$4.7 million from a ministry during his last days in power and left no trace of the money, the chief government auditor said Tuesday.

Teofisto Guingona said this brought to at least \$8.5 billion the amount of money auditors in the past month have found missing from the state treasury.

Senators adopt \$2 million in amendments

LINCOLN — The Legislature added nearly \$2 million Tuesday to the state's tentative state spending plan for fiscal 1986-87, and one senator said it "looks like the dam has broken around here."

The funds represent new money — that is, money that wasn't previously contained in the budget measures offered by the governor or the Appropriations Committee.

Lawmakers ignored repeated warnings from Sen. Jerome Warner of Waverly, veteran chairman of the committee, who cautioned them against approving amendments that provided additional funding for a variety of programs.

The major spending items added to the budget:

- \$1.270 million for mental retardation programs. The amendment, approved 25-4, was sponsored by Sen. Harold Sieck of Pleasant Dale.

- \$245,000 for the School of Technical Agriculture at Curtis. The amendment was sponsored by Education Committee Chairman Tom Vickers of Farnam, whose district includes Curtis. It was approved, 26-9.

- \$100,000 to fund a baccalaureate degree nursing program at West Nebraska General Hospital in Scottsbluff. The amendment, sponsored by Speaker of the Legislature William Nichol of Scottsbluff, won 25-10 approval.

All three amendments were attached to LB1251, the mainline budget bill.

Senators advanced LB1250, a measure providing \$11 million to increase salaries for state employees by 3 percent, to the final stage of floor action. Before advancing the measure, senators approved two amendments:

- \$170,217 to honor the order of the Commission on Industrial Relations for payments to teachers in the Department of Social Services, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Institutions.

- \$197,795 to provide the same relief for teachers at the School for the Deaf, and the School for the Visually Handicapped.

Together, amendments to both bills came to \$1,983,145.

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No RSVP from Soviets yet

Second summit date must be set soon

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The nation's capital has moved splendidly into spring. The forsythia and daffodils are in bloom, and so are the precious Japanese cherry blossoms, a prime attraction for the tourists who have returned with their cameras, strollers and street maps.

But as far as U.S.-Soviet relations are concerned, it might as well still be winter. Hopes raised at the "fireside summit" meeting in Geneva for a thaw are dwindling. If President Reagan is to be host of a second session with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev here in late June or late July, as the White House prefers, Moscow had better RSVP quickly.

More states starting pre-school programs

NEW YORK — The case for sending 4-year-olds to school sounds compelling.

Studies from Ypsilanti, Mich., to New York City have shown preschool programs foster academic achievement, lower dropout rates, reduce juvenile delinquency, and save tax dollars in the long run.

While some parents and educators have wondered why the rush to push such young children into classrooms, teacher unions and many school chiefs in New York, Connecticut, California, Illinois and elsewhere have warmly endorsed it.

And top business executives in a landmark school reform report last year titled, "Investing in Our Children," concluded that despite its

costs, preschool is one of the best education investments a reform-minded community can make.

Why, then, have public school systems around the country been so slow to adopt it?

Money is the quick answer. It's hard to persuade taxpayers and lawmakers to fund a new educational program for 4-year-olds — even one widely believed to save money and help students — at a time when dollars are scarce for existing programs serving children of more traditional school age.

Many school officials feel uncomfortable pressing for a new program for preschoolers while the public believes existing programs are in cry-

ing need of reform.

There also are educators and parents who question the wisdom of school for children so young they might have trouble just getting to the bathroom safely.

Yale University psychology professor Edward Zigler, in a speech last year, questioned whether preschooling was good for all children just because studies have shown it useful for disadvantaged youngsters.

"We are driving children too hard," he added. "We must allow children to enjoy their own childhood, their most precious commodity."

Supporters of universal preschool most often cite two recent studies. New York University researchers

reported last year on the progress of 750 Harlem children who participated in federally financed Head Start early childhood programs between 1961 and 1970. Their report found that those who were in such programs had employment rates double that of those not enrolled, and were 50 percent more likely to graduate high school.

A year earlier, another landmark study of about 100 Ypsilanti, Mich., school children came up with equally impressive results. The report also found that while preschool cost nearly \$5,000 per child, Ypsilanti saved more than \$3,000 per youngster because each needed less remedial help and social services later in their school careers.

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