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MONDAY'S FORECAST
July 10, 1995: Mostly sunny; southerly winds 10 mph. Sunrise: 5:50 a.m. Sunset: 8:50 p.m. Details: 2T.
HIGH 85-95° LOW 60-66°

KING OF THE COURT WITH ACES

Sampras dominates Becker at Wimbledon to win third straight crown /SPORTS, 1S

THE NEWSPAPER IOWA DEPENDS UPON
SECTION A

The Des Moines Register

DES MOINES, IOWA ■ MONDAY, JULY 10, 1995 ■ PRICE 50 CENTS

Wetlands are bureaucratic swamp

By KENNETH PINS
OF THE REGISTER'S WASHINGTON BUREAU

Washington, D.C. — Almost every time Jefferson, Ia., farmer Charles Gunn appealed to the government, things got worse.

In 1993, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service told him part of the Greene County land he had farmed for two decades was a wetland, and six acres of it would be limited to growing and harvesting hay once a ditch was installed by his local drainage district.

He appealed, lost and took it in stride. But when the ditch went in the following year, the restricted area suddenly was recalculated to 14 acres — then he was told he couldn't take hay from it, either.

Further, Greene County Drainage District No. 5, a quasi-governmental body, assessed Gunn $25,848 as his share of the cost of the drainage ditch. Gunn appealed to the local Soil Conservation Service office, and after a review, the restricted area, known as a converted wetland, was reduced to 11 acres. Not satisfied, he appealed to the state in May 1960.

His timing could not have been worse. While the appeal was pending, the state Soil Conservation Service office changed a critical standard for defining converted wetlands. Not only was Gunn's appeal rejected, the agency increased the restricted area to 17 acres.

Feeling ill-served, Gunn, 45, appealed to the federal level. In October 1994, the now renamed U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service came back with its reply: A mistake had, indeed, been made. The offlimits area was now 28 acres.

"I think it's a bureaucratic system that's gone haywire," Gunn said recently. "I don't think Congress intended to take farm ground away from farmers the way they're doing."

Now Gunn is in federal court fighting for the right to farm his land. And he is one more symbol of the growing property-rights movement, which sees government as a predator.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service, citing Gunn's pending lawsuit, has declined to comment on his case.

But the agency concedes that few issues anger people in rural America

PROPERTY *Please turn to Page 3A*

UNSOLVED CRIMES

Missing woman part of a pattern?

Four young women were killed in recent years not far from where Jodi Huisentruit was abducted.

By JACK HOVELSON
OF THE REGISTER'S WATERLOO BUREAU

Is Jodi Huisentruit another Valerie Klossowsky, Julia Benning, Lisa Peak or Rhonda Knutson?

Huisentruit is the television anchorwoman missing since June 27. Police think she was abducted.

The other four are young women killed within a relatively small area of northeast Iowa not far from Mason City, the scene of Huisentruit's disappearance.

Or is Huisentruit another Julie Baack, 25, last seen 2½ years ago at her LeMars apartment?

Common Thread

The common thread that weaves through all these incidents is that none of the cases has been solved.

Other similarities crop up in the mysteries that have baffled investigators since June 1971, when the body of Klossowsky, 14, the youngest of the victims, was found under a bridge near Denver, Ia., about 10 miles from her home in Waverly.

She had been strangled. Only her upper garments, pulled up to her shoulders, remained, but investigators said they didn't know if she had been sexually molested.

Waverly also was the scene of the next two unsolved killings — those of Benning and Peak.

Headed for Nightspot

Benning, a 19-year-old cocktail waitress who grew up on a farm near Clarksville, didn't show up for work the afternoon of Nov. 28, 1975, although someone saw her walking on Waverly's main street toward the popular nightspot where she was employed.

Four months later, a county maintenance worker found Benning's nude body in a ditch along a road near Shell Rock. An autopsy determined she had been strangled.

Peak, a 20-year-old student from Knoxville, had just returned to Wartburg College in September 1976 to begin her sophomore year when she didn't return to her dormitory after telling friends she was headed for a shopping center a few blocks from campus.

The next morning, her nude body was found in a ditch just outside Waverly's northern city limits. She

MISSING *Please turn to Page 3A*

HANDGUNS POPULAR

Use of guns in crimes increases 11 percent

Firearms were wielded in more violent acts during 1993 than in the prior year, a recent survey reports.

By JAMES GERSTENZANG
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Washington, D.C. — An estimated 1.3 million Americans were victims of gun-related crimes in 1993, the Justice Department reported Sunday, and while the handgun was the more commonly used weapon among criminals of all ages, assault weapons were often the firearm of choice among juveniles.

The data were part of a survey by the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, which studied the use of guns in crimes during 1993, the most recent year for which information was available.

According to the department, guns were used in 29 percent of the 4.4 million murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults committed in the United States in 1993 — an 11 percent increase from the previous year. Handguns, rather than rifles or assault weapons, were used in 80 percent of the firearm-related crimes.

The new data are being released as the issue of crime in the United States is about to return to the political debate. The figures also stand in contrast to statistics showing a sharp decline in recent months in violent crimes in New York City, which has long been a bellwether for crime in America.

Congressional Action

Anti-terrorism measures, fueled by the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City on April 19, are on the congressional agenda, while the Republican majority in Congress is contemplating reductions in the funding for President Clinton's anti-crime bill.

Advocates of strict gun-control laws fear that renewed debate in Congress will give their opponents a chance to relax limits on firearms. The House Appropriations Committee is scheduled Tuesday to consider a measure restoring felons' rights to carry firearms. Three years ago, Congress passed legislation limiting ex-convicts' access to guns.

The proposal to allow convicted felons to own firearms and to eliminate the 1994 federal ban on 19 assault weapons — such as semiautomatic pistols or rifles — is opposed by Clinton and supported by the National Rifle Association.

Popularity Among the Young

In a segment devoted to young criminals and weapons, the Justice Department reported that a 1991 survey of young prison inmates in four states showed that just before they were confined, 58 percent owned a revolver, usually a large-caliber gun; 55 percent owned a semiautomatic handgun; 51 percent owned a sawed-off shotgun; and 35 percent owned a military-style automatic or semiautomatic rifle.

And, it said, a study of adults and juveniles by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services determined that young people were more than twice as likely as adults to have carried a semiautomatic pistol at a crime scene.

The Virginia survey also found that 20 percent of 192 juvenile offenders surveyed reported owning an assault rifle, but 1 percent said they carried the weapon at the scene of a crime.

HELPING HANDS

BOB MCDERMOTT/THE REGISTER

Dawn Adams, a nursing assistant at New Homestead Care Center in Guthrie Center, helps Violet Vanderpool prepare to go to lunch.

Aides offer, and seek, dignity

By TOM CARNEY
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Dawn Adams doesn't think of herself as a hero, but every workday she does tasks that many people consider heroic.

She feeds, bathes and sometimes changes the diapers of nursing home residents, lifts them in and out of beds and wheelchairs, and listens to seemingly endless stories that even many residents' families wouldn't sit still for.

Adams isn't complaining. She loves her job. But the kid who hands you your double cheeseburger from the fast-food drive-up window likely makes more money than Adams. And gets more respect.

Adams, of Guthrie Center, is among about 30,000 nursing assistants, or nurses' aides, who work in Iowa's hundreds of nursing homes and hospitals. And if she and Des Moines' Diana Findley have their way, their situation will change.

Findley, a former nursing assistant, is founder and director of the Iowa Caregivers Association, which she believes to be the first such organization in the state. Its goals are to be an advocate for nursing assistants, provide a support network for them, help them get training, and increase the public's respect and recognition for what they do.

While Findley insists the association is not a

AIDES *Please turn to Page 3A*

INSIDE YOUR DAILY REGISTER

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Accused killer and handyman has a long criminal record.
Iowa News, Page 2A

UP A MOUNTAIN IN THE DARK
An American tourist tells how he escaped his Kashmiri abductors.
World News, Page 6A

STAYING CLOSE TO THE GROUND
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NINE DAYS OF DARKNESS AND DEPRESSION

Cave-in survivor tells harrowing tale

Seoul, South Korea (AP) — The rescue worker almost ignored the faint tapping. It must have been someone else digging for bodies. Surely no one could be alive in this jumble of concrete and steel rods after nine days.

Then came the almost-inaudible plea. "Save me. Please save me. Water. Quickly."

An hour later on the rainy Sunday morning, Choi Myong-suk was pulled from a collapsed shopping mall where 160 people are known to have died and another 200 are missing.

The 21-year-old children's shoe salesman had survived, in amazingly good condition, in an area that had not been a high priority to search because it appeared that anything much larger than a mouse must have been crushed.

But the countless tons of rubble had fallen in a way that gave him a 4-foot-wide space. Within the space was just enough sustenance to keep him alive — a trickle of rainwater to drink and a cardboard box to eat.

His only company were the bodies of two other people who survived the initial disaster only to die later, filling his precious air with the stench of death and finally convincing him that he would never see daylight again.

"During the first few days, I thought I would be rescued," Choi said from his hospital bed.

But despair set in as he heard rescue workers nearby — but never close enough — in the wreckage of the ritzy Sampoong Department Store.

"They would dig, and go away. dig, and go away," he said. "I was depressed."

As he waited in the darkness, Choi's sense of time warped. He figured he had been trapped only five days.

"I thought of my parents, my friends," he said, adding that he dreamed that he was flying like a bird with his parents, going on a vacation together.

But when he was awake, reality set in.

"When I was too hungry, I ripped a bit of a box to eat," he said. "I slept when I got sleepy. What was most difficult was that when it wasn't raining, there wasn't any water. I did think that I would die. There were others around me, but they are dead."

Then on Sunday, workers found two bodies just above Choi. "We were digging up the remains, and we thought we heard a small voice," rescue worker Kim Sang-whan said.

Korean TV networks went live nationwide as workers using torches and power drills cut through concrete slabs and pulled Choi free.

Doctors said Choi was dehydrated and had lost 11 pounds but otherwise appeared to be in good health.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivor Choi Myong-suk is reunited with his parents Sunday.

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