

for *therecord*

The Beacon News tries to be accurate and fair in every story it publishes. When a mistake occurs, we want to fix it. To report errors, call the managing editor at 844-5881.

recent *deaths*

Obituaries / Page A10

- Bieritz, Patricia Weston, 72**, Montgomery
- Diederich, Barbara Marie (Baker), 53**, formerly Aurora
- Downes, James M. "Jay Dee" Jr., 88**, Oswego
- Hart, Sister Mary Petra R.S.M., 88**, Aurora
- Kuhman, Eileen R., 86**, Yorkville
- Miller, Robert, 47**, Elburn
- Peterson, Florence Irene, 88**, Waterman
- Roe, Gary R., 47**, formerly Aurora
- Simpson, Earl H., 75**, formerly Aurora
- Wendling, Carol, 66**, Yorkville
- Woodworth, Douglas H., 63**, formerly Aurora

The Beacon News

 A Hollinger International publication

Office
101 S. River St., Aurora, IL 60506
Lobby hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday. Closed holidays.

Newspaper delivery
Joe Weber, circulation manager
Customer service phones
(630) 844-5800 or (800) 244-5844
Customer service e-mail
customerservice@scn1.com.

Customer service hours
5:30 a.m.-6 p.m., weekdays
7-11 a.m., weekends
5:30-10 a.m., holidays
Home delivery times
6:30 a.m., weekdays and holidays
7 a.m., Saturdays, 8 a.m., Sundays.

If you do not receive your paper by our delivery deadline, please call customer service before 10 a.m., weekdays (or 11 a.m., weekends) and we will deliver your paper by noon.

Subscription rates
Home delivery: \$3.25 weekly; \$2.25 Friday-Sunday; \$1.50 Sunday (plus intermittent holiday issues)
Mail subscriptions: \$4 weekly.
Newsstand prices: 50 cents daily, \$1.50 Sunday.

Advertising
Display advertising
Robert Wall, manager
Call (630) 844-5858 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays.
Classified advertising:
Call (630) 844-5811 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays.
On-line advertising:
Brent Albrecht, manager
Call (815) 439-4377 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays

Obituaries
Call (630) 844-5837 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., weekdays or 4-8 p.m., weekends and holidays

Newsroom
Jim King, managing editor
Newsroom number: (630) 844-5900
Newsroom fax: (630) 844-1043
Send e-mail to staff members at: first initial last name @ scn1.com
Example: jrussell@scn1.com
News question or complaint? Call Jim King (630) 844-5881
To suggest a story or photo: Call City Editor John Russell (630) 844-5902
To submit a press release: Call communities editor Jolene Kremer

Local news editors: John Russell (630) 844-5902; Denise Crosby (630) 844-5870; Charlotte Gillette (630) 844-5893; Jolene Kremer (630) 844-5885

Photos: Donnell Collins (630) 844-5917; Steve Rosenberg (630) 801-5413

Reporters: Mike Cetera (630) 844-5853; Jim Faber (630) 844-5889; Ed Faselow (630) 844-5957; Marie-Anne Hogarth (630) 844-5955; Steve Lord (630) 844-5926; Mary Ellen Moore (630) 844-5882; Dave Parro (630) 801-5495; Dan Waitt (630) 844-5829; Matt Hanley (630) 801-5414

Business: Tom Johnson (630) 844-5888
Copy/design desk: Rick Nagel (630) 844-5840; Mike Bjorklund (630) 844-5901; P. Joseph Gillette (630) 844-5820; Bryan Noonan (630) 844-5894; Jason Bauman (630) 801-5491

Daybreak / Go: Penny Falcon (630) 844-5963

Sports, youth sports: Bill Kindt (630) 844-5878; Jeff Long (630) 844-5954; Tim Wagner (630) 801-5487; Rick Armstrong (630) 844-5912; Mike Knapp (630) 844-5911

Web site
www.suburbanchicagonews.com



The Beacon News
USPS 037-900

Published daily for \$169 per year by Fox Valley Publications Inc., 3101 U.S. 30, Plainfield, IL 60544. Periodical postage paid at Plainfield, IL 60544. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Beacon News, 101 S. River St., Aurora, IL 60506.

SNITCHES

From Page A1

decade.

Although his name has been revealed in legal papers and in open court, The Beacon News will not name the confidential informant, who no longer lives in the area.

Since his introduction to the Deuces, the informant has been charged three times with attempted murder. Three times a jury has acquitted him, most recently in 2000.

He has been accused of threatening a witness outside of court, possessing a weapon as a felon and drug dealing. He has spent time in the Kane County jail, the Kendall County jail and the Illinois Department of Corrections, where he was sentenced in 1996 to five years in prison on weapons charges.

By then, he was known by a different number: #K53246, assigned to the Pittsfield Work Camp at the Jacksonville Correctional Center.

A memo written by prosecutors included in one court file painted the gang member as "extremely cocky and proud of his role as the 'terminator' for the Deuces," while warning of potential violence against police.

In short, he was a danger to society. But he also had value to the authorities.

Risk versus reward

The use of informants to make a case might be as old as crime itself.

They are known as confidential sources, cooperating witnesses or jailhouse snitches. They may be looking for a deal to get out of trouble or simply want some quick cash.

They are used by police to bring down major drug dealers and by defense attorneys looking to use overheard conversations to free their clients.

Law-enforcement agents used informants in the case against the Latin Kings, which netted charges against about four dozen gang members.

They are considered a crucial tool used by law enforcement to infiltrate organized crime, and they can get in because of who they are: crook, drug dealer, killer. That's also what makes them a risk.

"The problem with the use of confidential informants by the state is that they are inherently unreliable because they are either working for money or working off another crime," defense attorney Kathleen Colton said. "And they are almost always hardened criminals."

Law-enforcement officials say measures have been put in place to safeguard the reliability of information provided by confidential informants. Police and prosecutors try to confirm the information they receive independently, said Berlin, who was unfamiliar with the informant in the Insane Deuces case.

Gathering evidence to back up an informant also can help when it comes to convincing a jury that a career criminal should be trusted to tell the truth on the witness stand.

"It's a concern that we have in every case," Berlin said. "We have to consider, is there other evidence in the case other than the testimony of an informant?"

The federal law-enforcement officials who put CI #210 to work had to examine suitability factors outlined in a 28-page document put out by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft's office.

Agents are expected to consider the informant's motivation in providing information, the risk to an in-

vestigation the informant might pose, his or her reliability and truthfulness and any past criminal record. Similar considerations are made during state cases, officials said, and informants are reviewed for suitability on a regular basis.

Information provided by the informant in the federal gang case in Aurora was found to be "truthful and reliable," according to a federal affidavit, which outlined the lengths to which investigators went to review the informant's information.

"The information contained herein that was obtained by this CI has been corroborated and cross-checked, where possible, by tape recordings, surveillance, other investigations, and law enforcement computer systems and documents," Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Special Agent Timothy R. Wilson wrote.

Going undercover

Two years ago, police raided the suburban home of a veteran gang member, taking from the residence a pistol, a scale used for weighing drugs and 910 grams of marijuana, according to court records.

The marijuana was found divided into smaller quantities inside a plastic shopping bag. The homeowner faced charges of manufacturing or delivering marijuana, a crime that carries a maximum sentence of seven years in prison and a \$100,000 fine upon conviction.

The case never went to trial. Federal court documents associated with the Insane Deuces investigation show the gang enforcer quietly agreed to help take down his friends a short time after his arrest.

Beginning in May 2002, the informant began buying guns and drugs while wearing a recording device.

For his efforts, pending criminal cases were dismissed, and the federal government paid him thousands of dollars, including at least one lump sum payment of \$6,000.

But he also had to move away because he was a potential target of the same men he once called friends. The man's family declined to be interviewed for this story, as did the Aurora Police Department, which remains in contact with him.

In building the case against the Insane Deuces, the confidential informant purchased thousands of dollars in drugs and weapons from several of the men arrested, ATF agents wrote in affidavits. The transactions were recorded, and agents conducted surveillance.

He not only made controlled purchases, the informant also provided information and evidence to authorities.

In one instance, he turned over weapons to federal agents. A man arrested during the course of the investigation had ordered that the two guns, which had been used in previous crimes, be thrown into the Fox River.

In another, he helped police build a case for multiple murder charges against an Aurora teenager.

In October 2002, the informant told agents he had met a man who sold weapons to gang members in Aurora. The gun dealer offered an array of weapons for sale and admitted to selling more than 30 firearms to gang members, according to the affidavit.

A federal search warrant of the man's home later led to the seizure of 17 firearms, a 37mm flare launcher, thousands of rounds of ammunition and more than \$3,300 in cash.

The dealer, Donald Bryant, of Aurora, was sentenced last year to 57 months in prison.

IRAQI

From Page A1

The latest deaths, along with the combat death of a Marine announced Saturday, brought to 108 the number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq since the beginning of April. The military also announced the death of a soldier in a noncombat incident, bringing to 717 the number servicemembers who have died in the country.

Anywhere from 900 to 1,200 Iraqis have been killed in April — depending on various reports of the death toll from Fallujah.

British military spokesman Hisham H. Halawi said the port at Umm Qasr, the chief southern outlet for Iraqi oil, remained open after the boat attacks.

The first blast came when a dhow was sighted near the Khawr al-Amaya oil terminal, the Bahrain-based U.S. 5th Fleet said. When an interception team tried to board, the dhow exploded, flipping the U.S. Navy craft.

About 20 minutes later, two more dhows were spotted near the al-Basra oil terminal. They, too, exploded when security teams approached, but there were no casualties among the

security teams, the 5th Fleet said.

Halawi said the second dhows were trying to pull close to two tankers at the al-Basra terminal, also known as ABOT.

Insurgents in Iraq frequently have attacked oil pipelines, repeatedly shutting down exports from northern oil fields through Turkey. Southern pipelines, running through relatively more peaceable Shiite regions, have seen fewer attacks.

Iraq is currently producing about 2 million barrels of oil a day, according to the Middle East Economic Survey.

The oil attacks came three days after near simultaneous suicide car bombings in the southern Iraqi city of Basra — 30 miles north of Umm Qasr — that killed 74 people.

The violence came as U.S. commanders repeated warnings that they soon might launch a new assault on the besieged city of Fallujah, saying guerrillas had not abided by a call to surrender heavy weapons.

L. Paul Bremer, the top U.S. administrator in Iraq, traveled to the Marine base outside Fallujah for consultations Saturday, while Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt told reporters: "Should there not be a good faith effort demonstrated by the belligerents inside Fallujah, the coalition is prepared to act."

Coming Monday

Steve Lord asks, What if Kane County were run like a reality TV show.



Daybreak

Transportation folks differ on how northern leg of Randall Road should be viewed.

News

The Cubs go for a sweep against the Mets, and the Sox play the Devil Rays.

Sports

the *insidestory*

Major countries are optimistic about global economic growth

By Martin Crutsinger
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Despite worries about high oil prices and Middle East unrest, the world's major industrial countries expressed optimism about the global economy Saturday, contending the world was poised for strong growth this year and next.

However, in an effort to deal with the rising violence, the Group of Seven major industrial countries pledged economic support to rebuild the war-torn economies of Iraq and Afghanistan and the Palestinian areas of the West Bank and Gaza.

The G-7 nations — the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — struck an upbeat tone in a joint communique issued as part of a weekend of financial discussions centered around the spring meetings of the 184-nation International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow, who led the discussions along with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, said there was a feeling of shared optimism in the group, reflecting a belief that strong growth in the United States, powered by President Bush's tax cuts, was helping to boost the global economy.

"There was a clear sense that improvement is being made and the balance of risks was more favorable than the environment we faced three months ago or six months ago," he told reporters following the G-7 discussions.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown agreed, saying, "It is a recovery that is strengthening and is becoming more broad-based."

In their communique, the G-7 ministers said that prospects for the global economy were favorable. "Although risks remain, such as energy prices, overall, the balance of risks to the outlook

has improved," it said.

Jean-Claude Trichet, the head of the European Central Bank, said he had pushed to include a reference to the threat of higher energy prices as a way for the G-7 to take a "high level of responsibility" for trying to restrain those increases.

The G-7 countries said they stood ready to provide financial assistance in the Middle East, hoping to improve the prospect for jobs in the region, including Iraq, and help to stabilize what is now a deteriorating security situation.

They called for more countries to come forward with offers of debt forgiveness for Iraq and Afghanistan and said they were prepared to provide assistance in rebuilding efforts not just in those two countries but also in the Palestinian areas of the West Bank and Gaza.

The G-7 discussions were followed by a meeting Saturday of the steering committee of the 184-nation International Monetary Fund and a special session between the G-7 and finance officials from the Mideast aimed at exploring ways to bolster economic growth in the troubled region.

A peaceful crowd of about 1,000 anti-globalization demonstrators marched through 15 blocks of downtown Washington on Saturday to protest the policies of the IMF and World Bank, which they say favor wealthy nations at the expense of the world's poorest countries.

This year's meetings were held against the backdrop of a global economy that the IMF is forecasting will grow at a 4.6 percent clip this year and 4.4 percent next year, the fastest back-to-back growth years in a decade.

However, the IMF also cautioned that this bright prospect could be derailed if oil prices spike even higher or if the unstable security situation in the Middle East begins to weaken consumer and business confidence and rattle global financial markets.

Don't miss



Television Program Series
airing on CBS 2 (WBBM-TV)

- Saturday, April 24th, 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday, May 1st, 11:30 a.m.

See why Aurora is one of the fastest growing areas for shopping, entertainment, cultural activities and superb quality of life!

Some of the challengers include:



Steve and Lulu Blacksmith
of Geneva, IL



Al and Clara Kennedy
of Aurora, IL

For more information, contact the Aurora Economic Development Commission at (630) 897-5500 or the Aurora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at (63) 897-5581.



CBS 2
WBBM-TV

Aurora Area
Convention & Visitors Bureau