

Bush says letters act of terrorism but source uncertain

ANTHRAX, from Page 1

disease has infected at least a dozen people, killing two postal workers and a tabloid photo editor.

President George Bush said he's sure the letters are the work of terrorists, but he doesn't know if they are connected to Osama bin Laden's network, which has been blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

Whoever is responsible has spread fear across the U.S. and prompted an anthrax scare, which arrived in Goodland on Monday.

While hospital officials and law enforcement officers believe the incident was a hoax, it has further heightened awareness of a possible bioterrorism attack here.

Before Monday, Jolly said, the person who opens most of the mail at the hospital was wearing gloves and a mask while sorting mail, but now everyone who comes into contact with the envelopes is wearing gloves and masks.

"Our whole mind set about safety-related issues of any kind," he said, "is that it's not our job to predict if and

when something will happen, but to understand potential risks and be prepared for them."

He said a committee has drafted a bioterrorism plan for the hospital, which tells doctors how to identify different diseases, how to proceed if there is an exposure, how to handle suspicious mail and other instructions.

Jolly said doctors have been told to watch for certain symptoms in patients and to be alert, as many viruses and bacteria can cause the same symptoms.

"They have been told to look for patterns," he said.

Hospital workers are used to unexpected emergencies, he said, so the anthrax scare hasn't done much to shake things up.

"There's no fear," Jolly said. "Obviously, it got everyone's attention and it drives the point home that you never know when something will happen. But folks working in the hospital are dealing with the unexpected all of the time."

Sheriff Whitson said the department can't touch the envelopes a hazardous materials team picked up at the hospital on Monday until they know whether

anyone has contracted anthrax.

He said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment tells law officers to wait a week before testing or examining the possibly contaminated material. If no one gets sick, the powder will not be tested, he said, adding that the department can't begin investigating where the material came from or what it is until a week has passed.

Krehbiel said the U.S. Postal Service has told all employees to closely examine all mail and has sent out instructions on what to look for in suspicious mail. He said the employees at the post

office here can wear gloves and masks while they are working.

While customers have said they are worried about receiving contaminated mail, he said, no one so far has called to say they've received anything suspicious. Except the hospital.

Krehbiel said the only thing he knows about that incident is what he read in the newspaper. He said postal workers didn't notice anything out of the ordinary on Monday.

"Whatever they found at the hospital," he said, "was probably something internal."

Kanorado native to exhibit at Art Center

The Carnegie Arts Center in Goodland will hold a reception from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday to open a show by Goodland native Marilyn Johnson Stoddard which will be featured through November.

The exhibit, which includes Stoddard's oils, acrylics and water color paintings and monotyping works, will be open to the public and the Goodland Arts Council will provide refreshments.

Stoddard was born in Goodland and raised on a farm near Kanorado, where she lived until she graduated from high school in 1947.

She attended the University of Denver, where she earned degrees in elementary, religious and art education, and obtained a Master of Arts degree from Iliff school of Theology.

As a U.S. Air Force wife in Japan, she studied with F. Harada, specializing in oils, with an emphasis on children and faces.

Stoddard is a member of the Bear Creek Studio Painters in Denver, a group of 10 women who meet weekly to study a variety of mediums in a workshop setting.

She has taken many classes in Colo-

rado, New Mexico and Idaho and her instructors have included Mina Conant, Jim Valone, Lee Rose, Rita deJure, Liz Johnson, Skip Neal, Dan Looney and Jackie McFarland.

Her professional shows have included a group show at the Elizabeth Schlosser Fine Art Gallery in Cherry Creek North, Curtis Arts and Humanities in Greenwood Village and University Park Methodist Church.

She said she enjoys experimenting with mediums and blending those methods.

Stoddard said she uses sketches, photographs taken during travels or a visual feeling or memory to create her art.

Often the work will stand alone for a time, she said, and then will be worked back in for the final piece.

"Art surrounds us," she said. "The always-changing and ever-beautiful western Kansas sunsets, reflections from a stream or a snowy mountain top, the wild, unruly flowers by a roadside, all ages of faces, old buildings, stretches of fields and fences, the sky and the birds that soar."

"All of this means being alive and alive to art," she said.

Stoddard said she feels art is in all things — the seamstress, the gardner, the farmer, the tradesman and the student — and all give their own unique skills to their craft.

Taliban missile misses two American planes

ATTACKS, from Page 1

Samangan province southeast of Mazar-e-Sharf but that Taliban lines were still holding.

At the Islamic militia's southern stronghold of Kandahar, U.S. strikes hit a bus near the city gates and at least 10 civilians were killed in a fiery explosion, the Taliban and residents said. The claim could not be independently verified.

For a fifth straight day, U.S. jets roared over the front line about 30 miles north of the capital city of Kabul, swooping down and dropping bombs on Taliban positions on the Shomali Plain.

The pattern of attacks suggested the United States was trying to push the Taliban back from the opposition-controlled Bagram airport so the northern alliance can use the airfield to fly in desperately needed supplies and reinforcements for any move on the capital.

Over Bagram on today, Taliban fighters again fired at U.S. jets. Associated Press Television News footage showed one missile that appeared to

pass between two American planes, missing both of them.

The missile was fired from a Taliban position probably one to two miles south of the Bagram air base. That base and the adjacent ruins of the former Afghan Army 40th Division base form the linchpin of the opposition front line north of Kabul.

The Russian-built air base at the southern edge of Bagram district has been largely destroyed in waves of fighting in recent years. But according to a northern alliance local commander, Gen. Baba Jan, the runway could still be operational if the front line were to push farther south.

During the afternoon attacks, plumes of black smoke rose high into the sky, two big orange fire balls appeared, and fire triggered by the blasts raced up a foothill on the southwestern part of the plain. Taliban fighters fired anti-aircraft guns, but the planes were too high to hit.

While the air bombardment was going on, northern alliance fighters on the ground fired rockets onto hilltop Taliban positions.

Girl meets man who received brother's heart

HEART, from Page 1

end of piano lessons for good. I just didn't want to leave him after that. I wanted to be there."

By the time Carmel was in sixth grade, her parents decided it would be best for everyone if Michael were sent to Parsons State Hospital, which at that time dealt strictly with mentally challenged patients.

Even with all the attention needed to help Michael, Carmel said, he meant the world to her and it was hard to let him go.

"He loved to ride in a boat, ride on his bicycle, swim, and he could read and write thanks to Gary Wingerd, who helped him with speech, and the late Margaret McBride, who was his special education teacher."

The decision to donate his organs was made between Michael's mother and Carmel.

"He didn't smoke and he didn't drink," Carmel said. "His body was perfectly normal. So we thought that if someone could benefit from this, it would be a blessing to them and something Michael would have wanted, too."

After Michael's death, following the removal of the vital organs, an autopsy done in California revealed that bleeding had occurred in nearly every part of his brain.

Following all the trauma, Carmel said she came to a full realization of her brother's life when she learned about the man who now has her brother's heart. She met him this year and together they talked about what was happening in his hospital room some 12 years ago.

Then only 24 years old, Troy said he was laying in a Minneapolis hospital dying. He said he had given up. Doctors had given him only 24 hours to

live.

As Troy's family sat and watched their son, the phone rang.

"His father picked up the telephone and the caller asked to speak to Troy," Carmel said.

It was his specialist with good news. "We found you a heart," Troy recalled. "There was this sudden burst of energy in the room as medical personnel started kicking everybody out to prepare Troy for surgery."

Since then, Troy has married and he and his wife, Dawn, have twins, Carmel said.

"I got to meet them too. Their names are Dane and Gabriel," she said.

Carmel said she has met Troy's parents and thinks they are good people. "How can anyone deny another's happiness?" she said about the heart transplant. "If we hadn't donated Michael's heart, there would be no

Troy today and no Gabriel and Dane."

Carmel said she found it heartwarming that her "heart brother," as she affectionately refers to him, likes the exact same foods as her own brother did.

"I want to see Troy's children grow up and we are planning to get together again," she said. "I also hope someday my mother will meet Troy."

For Carmel, there is no greater gift that any person can give.

"I was always close to my brother," she said, "and I feel like he's still with me."

Both Carmel and her mother, Carolyn, had always wanted to learn where Michael's heart went — and after 12 years, they finally know.

"For those who have had a loved one who has donated organs," Carolyn said, "there's always a chance that the recipient can be found. It added so much to our lives."

Minister wants debate on domestic partner benefits

WICHITA (AP) — A Wichita minister demanded a public debate on domestic partner benefits at the Sedgwick County commissioners meeting Wednesday.

The committee voted to revoke those benefits earlier this month. County Manager William Buchanan had offered health plans for domestic partners of county employees to maintain and recruit employees.

The Rev. Shelley Hamilton called the commissioners' decision biased and demanded the county hold a public forum to debate the issue of partner benefits.

"There are religious leaders, politicians of many persuasions, teachers, county employees and a variety of concerned citizens who believe you violated their right to speak in these chambers," Hamilton said.

"We have gathered, in the past week or so, nearly a thousand signatures in support of health benefits for domestic partners," she said.

Hamilton said they will continue to gather signatures until the county holds a public debate.

Commissioners did not respond to Hamilton's comments during the meeting and did not say if they would reconsider the issue.

According to one commissioner if county employees want the issue reopened they will have to go through the county Benefits Committee.

Tom Winters, county commissioner, said it was an in-house issue and he would be reluctant to reconsider it unless a significant number of the 2,700 county employees requested it.

The item was overturned after the commission received numerous phone

calls and e-mails from constituents saying the policy gives official sanction to sinful unions.

Employees were told of their option to cover domestic partners in a packet of materials outlining insurance plans for 2002.

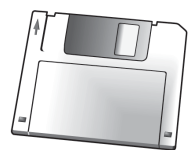
The state of Kansas does not allow benefits to same-sex couples.

The number of U.S. employers offering or planning to offer health insurance benefits to same-sex partners increased by 20 percent in the last year to 4,284, according to a study by the nation's largest gay and lesbian organization.

At least 712 employers added the benefits from August 2000 through August 2001, according to a "State of the Workplace" study by the Human Rights Campaign in Washington. The number of employers offering the ben-

efits has almost doubled in two years, from 2,846 in August 1999.

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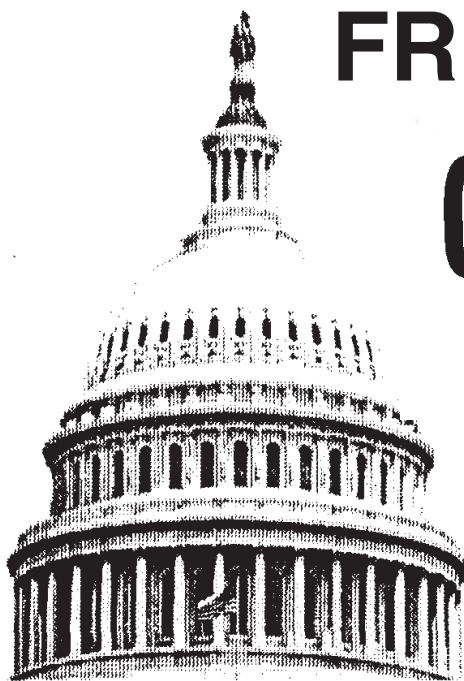


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