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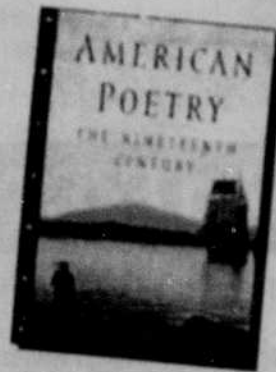
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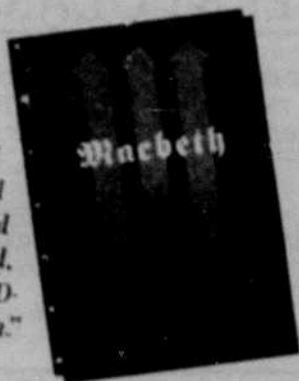
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NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Innocent plea entered for man charged in Bandon slaying



COQUILLE (AP) — A judge entered innocent pleas Monday on behalf of the man charged with the knife slayings of three adults and two children at a trailer park outside the coastal town of Bandon.

Chained hand and foot, Girley L. Crum Jr., 34, of Bandon, stood mute in Coos County Circuit Court as he appeared on a five-count indictment accusing him of aggravated murder.

Judge Richard Barron set a tentative date of Feb. 3, 1997, for the trial to begin.

Crum, described as a family friend of the victims, was arrested May 9 in the slayings of Ray and Kelly Jacobs, their two small children, Jessica, 5, and Christopher, 16 months.

Also killed was Mrs. Jacobs' brother, Roger Glazebrook, who was visiting from Spokane, Wash.

The five died at a trailer park where the Jacobs family lived. Crum, covered with blood, was found hiding in the bushes nearby.

Prosecutor Stephen Kreutzer said he still hasn't decided whether to seek the death penalty. That decision will await completion of a background investigation in about a month.

He added that the trial date appeared to be reasonable, as long as state police are able to complete DNA evidence in four to six months.

Defense attorney Michael Barker said he has yet to see any police reports or visit the scene of the slayings.

"I have not heard anything from him that tells me he is guilty," Barker said. "I would observe that he seems to me as shocked that this happened as anyone."

Cool weather helps crews battle blaze in Colorado forest



BUFFALO CREEK, Colo. (AP) — Firefighters took advantage of cooler, damper weather Monday to build firebreaks around a forest blaze that chased hundreds of people out of the woods.

Since Saturday, the fire had burned through about 10,000 acres of parched pine forest, but on Monday crews were able to keep it from advancing any farther, said U.S. Forest Service Spokeswoman Linda Hecker.

Temperatures were mostly in the 70s, at least 20 degrees lower than on Saturday when the fire erupted at a campsite near Buffalo Creek in the Pike National Forest. Humidity was at 68 percent, a 60 percent improvement from the weekend.

"One of the major things we're trying to do right now is reinforce the line and make sure houses are protected," said Forest Service spokeswoman Susan Haywood. "We're trying to hit it hard while the weather is cooperating."

There was concern, however, that a weather front expected on Thursday could whip up wind and increase the fire danger again, said Larry Dove of the federal Bureau of Land Management.

In spite of Monday's improved weather, authorities said the blaze was still out of control, disputing reports that it had been 20 percent contained by fire lines.

Dove estimated the fire would be contained Thursday and completely under control by Saturday. No serious injuries have been reported.

Campers and residents of the communities of Pine and Buffalo Creek were evacuated Saturday, and residents of the Deckers area moved out Sunday.

European Union continues banning British beef exports



BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — European Union veterinary officials refused Monday to relax a global ban on British beef exports in a move sure to inflame the mad cow dispute between Britain and its EU partners.

Germany gathered enough votes from other EU members to block any partial lifting of the ban until Britain does more to curb public fears about mad cow disease.

In all, seven nations voted to maintain the ban, EU officials said.

The decision will anger members of Britain's ruling Conservative Party who have called for retaliation, including trade sanctions against other EU nations, if the ban was not loosened.

On the table was a proposal to allow Britain to export beef fat, gelatin and bull semen. Under the EU's complex voting rules, a minority can block some majority decisions.

Britain tried to put the best face on a stinging rebuff to its eight-week effort to persuade its EU partners to ease the ban, which London argues is unjustified on scientific grounds.

"At the start of this some weeks ago, it was one country against 14," Keith Meldrum, Britain's chief veterinary officer, told reporters after the vote. "Now a number of countries are with us."

The beef embargo was imposed March 27 after the British government announced a possible link between mad cow disease and a human brain ailment that has killed at least 10 Britons.

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