

Partly cloudy
High 91, low 70
Details on 2A

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LITTLE ROCK, THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1985

25 CENTS

In the News

Joe Ungrady Jr., 18, a former leader in the Students Against Drunk Driving organization, was charged in Ansonia, Mo., with manslaughter with a motor vehicle while intoxicated after he ran over and killed a pedestrian.

Richard M. Nixon, the former president, in an interview with the Washington Times, called for "an international declaration of war" on terrorism and airship hijackings and said that it would be the main topic of any summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Vladimir Lomekio, a spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, condemned in Moscow the hijacking of TWA flight 847 and said that the Beirut hostage situation was a "human tragedy," but added that the United States was at fault for not understanding the causes of terrorism.

Lai Singh, 28, one of the two Sikhs being sought in the suspected bombing of an Air-India jetliner that crashed at sea, killing 329 persons, attended a two-week course on explosives last year near Birmingham, Ala., that was taught by a group of survivalists, the Chicago Tribune reported.

President Reagan, meeting at the White House with 114 school teachers who are vying for a single opening on a space shuttle flight next year, quipped that he had an assignment for the one who wins the ride: "Take notes, there will be a quiz afterward."

Ronald M. Austin, 20, a University of California at Los Angeles physics major, was convicted in Los Angeles of using his home computer to illegally tap into an international computer network with United States Defense Department ties and is to be sentenced August 23.

Frank Fahrnkopf, chairman of the Republican National Committee, appearing in Dallas before the NAACP's 70th annual convention, was booed by the audience when he told the civil rights group, "Why did black Americans isolate themselves from other Americans, including other minorities, in support of the Democratic ticket out of step and out of tune with the overwhelming majority of Americans?"

George Hansen, a former Republican congressman from Idaho who was convicted of filing false financial disclosure statements, charged in Washington that the Internal Revenue Service was loading its "master computers" with personal information on every American, saying, "The management [of IRS] is bogged down on a grand scale plan to do a profile of everybody in the country."

Muhammad Ali, 43, the former heavyweight boxing champion, and his third wife, Veronica, 29, who have two children, Hana Yasmeem, 8, and Laila, 7, have mutually decided to end their eight-year marriage and have filed for divorce, Mrs. Ali's attorney disclosed in Los Angeles.

Jay C. Smith, a former principal at a suburban Philadelphia high school, was charged in Harrisburg with three counts of murder in the deaths of one of its English teachers and her two children.

Millard Harmon, 59, of Delmar, N.Y., who flew to the Soviet Union in his single-engine plane without a visa, returned to Albany County Airport and called his mission a success, even though he was locked up in a hotel room for most of his four-day stay.

Joe Gallo, 23, who had a role in the Woody Allen movie "Broadway Danny Rose" and is the daughter of slain New York mob figure Joseph (Crazy Joe) Gallo, said in New York that she will be the co-host of a new syndicated rock-video show called "TV 2000."

Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, visited factories and institutes in the city of Kiev, exhorting Ukrainians to undo all "bottlenecks" slowing the introduction of technology into the workplace.

Palmer freed; remaining 39 may be transferred

BEIRUT — Shiite Moslem leader Nabih Berri Wednesday freed an American hostage, Jim D. Palmer, 48, of Little Rock, who is suffering from a heart ailment, and agreed to transfer the remaining 39 captives from Trans World Airlines Flight 847 to Syria, Iran or a Western embassy in Beirut, where the hostages would be held until the hijackers' demands are met.

Berri, Lebanon's justice minister
Mrs. Palmer: Talking with husband wonderful, Page 13A.

who has been negotiating on behalf of the hijackers who commandeered the TWA jetliner June 14, also told reporters he may free another hostage "today or tomorrow for health reasons." As negotiations to end the 13-day hostage crisis intensified, diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said Israel would release another 70 of

733 Lebanese prisoners Thursday from its Adiz prison south of the port of Haifa.

Israel, which released 31 prisoners Monday, has repeatedly denied charges that the move was linked to the hijackers' demands.

Berri and the hijackers insist the American hostages will not be freed until Israel releases all the Lebanese prisoners. He also said the United States must pull its naval forces away from the Lebanese coast and the United States and Israel must promise not to retaliate militarily once the hostages are released.

In Washington, the Reagan administration said neither the release of Palmer nor the offer to transfer the remaining hostages would soften its demand that all be freed immediately.

During a news conference with Palmer held in Berri's bomb-proof Beirut bunker, he proposed a transfer of the remaining American hostages to a Western embassy in Beirut — "Swiss, French, some

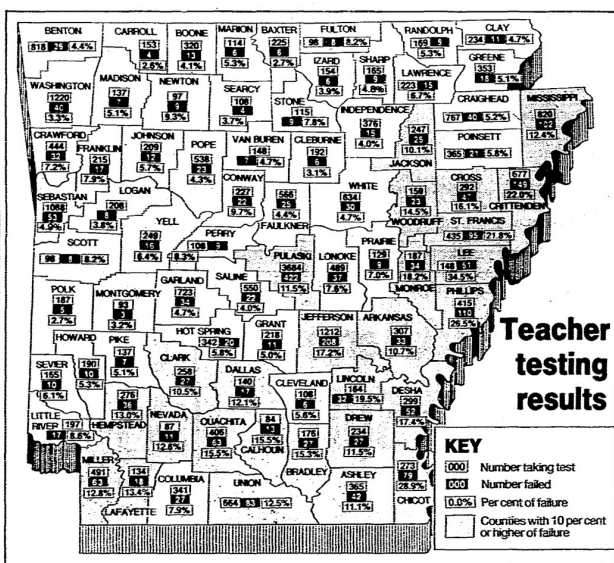
(See FREED on Page 9A.)



Palmer holds a Shiite's pistol in Beirut; the gun was loaded, but the chamber was empty.

90 pct. pass basic skills test

'It's a proud day for our state,' Clinton says; 2,803 failed exam



By David Davies
GAZETTE STAFF

Governor Bill Clinton, declaring "it's a proud day for our state," announced Wednesday that 90 per cent of the 28,276 teachers and administrators taking the state basic skills test last spring had passed the exam.

The governor said the results proved that the "overwhelming majority" of Arkansas educators had "the basic skills essential to teaching." He said the state would now begin programs to improve the basic skills of the 10 per cent, or 2,803, who failed the exam. Those who failed one or more sections of the test will be retested within a year and must pass the portions they failed by June 1, 1987, to have their teaching certificates renewed.

Mr. Clinton released composite scores for each of the state's 75 counties. The failure rates ranged from a high of 34.5 per cent in Lee County to a low of 2.5 per cent in Carroll County.

In Pulaski County, where 3,684 teachers and administrators took the test, 3,262 passed and the failure rate was 11.5 per cent. Pulaski tied with Drew County for 53d in a ranking from best to worst in percentage of failures.

The composite scores represented the scores of the 25,077 teachers and administrators who took the test March 23 and about 3,199 who took makeup tests in May. The individual scores will be mailed to those who took the test beginning next week.

To pass the test, teachers had to correctly answer 70 per cent of the multiple choice questions in separate tests on mathematics and reading and to write a 200-word essay that was judged on a pass-fail basis. Figures released by Mr. Clinton said 7 per cent of those who took the writing test failed. Five per cent failed the reading test and 5 per cent failed the mathematics portion of the exam.

Tommy R. Venters, director of the General Education Division of the state Education Department, said teachers had to pass all three portions of the exam. He said that 1,401 of those taking the test failed more than one portion.

"This whole process has been worth the time, struggle and money taken to make it happen," Mr. Clinton said. He said the state should "get behind teachers and pay the test behind us."

Peggy Nabors, the president of (See TEST on Page 12A.)

PSC commissioners asked to step down from rate case

By John Obrecht
GAZETTE STAFF

Arkansas Power and Light Company Wednesday asked the three members of the state Public Service Commission to disqualify themselves from ruling on any issues related to the Grand Gulf nuclear plant in the company's pending rate increase case.

AP and L also formally filed with the PSC its proposal to reduce its allocation of the \$3.5 billion Grand Gulf nuclear plant in Mississippi for 10 years. According to the company, the proposal would mean an average rate increase of 11 per cent over 10 years, exclusive of any other increases granted by the PSC.

The proposal was filed as part of the rate case and the company asked that a new set of commissioners be appointed by Governor Bill Clinton to determine whether to give tentative approval to the plan by July 15. If tentative approval were given, the company would be able to raise its rates immediately, subject to refund on a final PSC ruling by September 9.

The proposal calls for a first-year rate increase of 5 per cent or \$53 million to pay for Grand Gulf. This would be in addition to a 26 per cent, or \$201.2 million, increase the company is seeking to pay for costs not associated with Grand Gulf. The company said it

had no objection to the commissioners' ruling on the \$201.2 million request.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ruled June 13 that AP and L must pay 30 per cent of Middle South Energy's 90 per cent share of the plant, and AP and L has proposed phasing in the increase to pay for that share over 10 years, beginning this year.

The PSC staff, which opposes the proposal, said Wednesday that it planned to present evidence showing that ratepayers shouldn't

Tucker said he trusted the governor to make a fair decision in appointing a new set of commissioners to hear the case.

have to pay for any of the Grand Gulf plant and, in fact, AP and L rates should be cut by \$20 million. AP and L's request Wednesday that PSC Chairman Robert E. Johnston and Commissioners James W. Daniel and Patricia S. Qualls step down from the rate case said the three had prejudged certain issues related to Grand Gulf. They could not be reached for comment. The decision to seek the commis-

sioners' disqualification was approved by the 18-member AP and L board of directors Wednesday. There were no dissenting votes although Floyd Lewis, a board member and president of Middle South Utilities, AP and L's parent company, abstained.

The company said that since the commissioners had maintained before the FERC and in public statements that Arkansas ratepayers shouldn't have to pay for any of Grand Gulf, they couldn't be expected to rule impartially on the company's request to charge customers for the plant.

AP and L contended further that the commissioners had participated in the drafting of proposed legislation to provide for a state takeover of the company as a means of avoiding large rate increases because of Grand Gulf.

Jim Guy Tucker, an attorney for AP and L, said at an evening press conference to announce the PSC findings were based on what it had learned through a Freedom of Information lawsuit against the PSC.

The suit was filed in Circuit Court June 4 after the PSC refused a request by two AP and L officials for documents related to Grand Gulf, the pending rate case, proposed takeover legislation and other matters. "We contend that the current commissioners have shown such



AP&L's Charles Kelly (right) talks as Jim Guy Tucker listens.

bias that they have fundamentally prejudged the case before hearing all of the evidence. No American would want to be tried before any court under such prejudged conditions and neither should AP and L," Tucker said.

Although Mr. Clinton appointed the three commissioners and is appointed, they would be expected by AP and L to decide by July 15 whether to give tentative approval to the company's latest proposal for paying its share of Grand Gulf. They would then have to make a new set of commissioners to hear the case.

Tucker said AP and L couldn't appeal a decision by the current commissioners not to step down. However, he said the company likely would appeal any decision they made in the rate case.

If a new set of commissioners is appointed, they would be expected by AP and L to decide by July 15 whether to give tentative approval to the company's latest proposal for paying its share of Grand Gulf. They would then have to make a new set of commissioners to hear the case. (See AP AND L on Page 9A.)

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