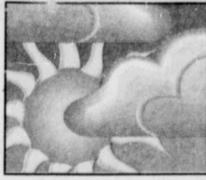


INDEX:

Calendar	3
Classified	9-10
Comics	6
Commentary	7
Crossword	10
Markets	3
Obituaries	3
Sports	8-9
TV Listings	4
Weather	2

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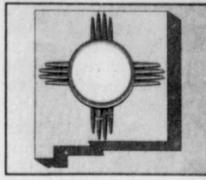
WEATHER:



Partly cloudy and breezy with temperatures in the 90s.

Page 2

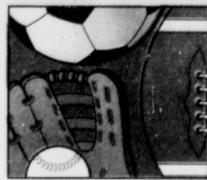
STATE:



The Supreme Court will take up collective bargaining.

Page 3

SPORTS:



Newly formed Little League offers opportunities for all.

Page 11

WEDNESDAY

Clovis News

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CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO

JUNE 30, 1999

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Clary hands base's reins to Utterback

■ Col. David Clary leaves Cannon Air Force Base for NATO post; Col. "Skip" Utterback returns to pilot 27th Fighter Wing.

By Chris Whiteman
STAFF WRITER

Hangar 208 at Cannon Air Force Base was filled to the bursting point Tuesday as hundreds of people from the base, Clovis and Portales gathered to honor the formal change of command of the 27th Fighter Wing.

Col. David E. Clary, who has been the commander of the 27th since August 1997, officially passed his command on to Col. Loyd S. "Chip" Utterback.

Utterback starts his new command forearmed, having been stationed here only two years ago as commander of the 27th Operations Group.

Despite the stifling heat, everyone in the assembled audience, including a formation representing the entire wing and nearly every officer stationed at the base, stood respectfully, solemnly, as the national anthems of both the United States and Singapore were played and the colors were posted.

Lt. Gen. Ronald C. Marcotte, 8th Air Force commander, was the reviewing officer for the event.

Before the actual change of command took place, Marcotte awarded Clary with a Legion of Merit for his "outstanding service and accomplishments" while at Cannon.

"Cannon pride is alive and kicking because of Col. Clary's initiative," Marcotte told the crowd before pinning the medal to Clary's chest.

"Today, we are celebrating the accomplishments of the past and moving forward to the future," Marcotte said.

Marcotte credited the men and

(See COMMAND, Page 5)



Col. David Clary (center) is greeted by members of the Clovis, Portales and Cannon Air Force Base communities after a change-of-command ceremony Tuesday at Cannon. Clary thanked the surrounding communities for their continued support of the base and Cannon personnel.



Lt. Gen. Ronald C. Marcotte (left), 8th Air Force commander, presents Col. Loyd "Chip" S. Utterback with the banners representative of Cannon Air Force Base and the 27th Fighter Wing during a change-of-command ceremony Tuesday afternoon in Hangar 208 of Cannon as former 27th Fighter Wing Commander Col. David Clary (behind Utterback) looks on. Clary relinquished command of the 27th Fighter Wing to Utterback, whose most recent assignment was as executive officer to the director of operations and senior United States representative, Allied Air Forces Central Europe, North Atlantic Treaty Organization at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.



Col. Loyd "Chip" S. Utterback nods to Col. David Clary after receiving command of the 27th Fighter Wing during a change of command ceremony at Cannon Air Force Base on Tuesday afternoon.

Regulators to consider rate cut for U S West

SANTA FE (AP) — Customers of U S West might see lower bills for telephone service within the next few months.

State utility regulators on Tuesday ordered a hearing to consider reducing U S West's rates by \$28 million a year pending a comprehensive review of the company's finances and operations to determine permanent rates.

A final decision by the Public Regulation Commission on the interim rate reduction could come as early as September or October. The company must submit testimony to the commission by July 20 explaining why its rates shouldn't be reduced.

The five-member commission unanimously agreed to its staff recommendation to begin proceedings that could lead to the temporary rate cut. The \$28 million reflects the amount U S West earned in excess of its state-imposed limit on profits in 1998.

The company made \$22 million too much in 1997, and state regulators ordered telephone rates cut by that amount last year. The state Supreme Court upheld the regulatory decision this year, which will mean monthly reductions of \$1.91 per line for residential customers and \$6.09 for business customers. U S West must issue customers a one-time refund for the months when the lower rates were on hold during the court challenge, but the amount has not been made final.

U S West officials were unable to estimate the potential monthly savings for customers from a \$28 million rate reduction. It will depend on how the commission decides to allocate any rate cuts between residential and business customers.

Several commissioners said regulators needed to proceed quickly on the interim rate case.

"If we wait a month, that's a month ratepayers will be paying higher rates," said commissioner Jerome Block.

Also Tuesday, the commission voted 4-1 to move ahead with a full-blown rate case for U S West, which could lead to even greater reductions in charges or potentially restore the temporary cuts.

(See RATES, Page 6)

Local growers offer freshest produce

By Lori Frazier
STAFF WRITER

Boxes and baskets filled with vegetables and fruits in shades of red, yellow, green and white beckon with the promise of the sweet and zesty flavors of this summer's freshest produce.

Local farmers come from throughout the surrounding area to offer the best of their crops to Clovis consumers at the Clovis Farmers' Market.

Baskets and boxes at the vendors' tables offer squashes, radishes, onions, tomatoes, berries, garlic and homemade breads.

The market is held in the parking lot west of the JCPenney store at North Plains Mall each Tuesday beginning at 4 p.m., and Saturdays beginning at 8 a.m.

The opening times are firm, and no vendor may sell produce until the bell rings. This gives all vendors an equal chance to sell their produce, said Rick Yochim, manager of the market this year.

Yochim's wife and co-manager, Katrina, said that the market is

(See MARKET, Page 6)



Cindy Longley of Farwell sets out a new bundle of radishes after a rush of customers at the Clovis Farmers' Market visited her booth and took advantage of inexpensively priced onions, radishes and squash Tuesday afternoon. The Farmers' Market is held twice a week, Tuesday at 4 p.m. and Saturday at 8 a.m., in the parking lot of the North Plains Mall west of JCPenney.

Gates donates computers to library

By James Sloss
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to the seemingly unlimited resources of billionaire philanthropist and Microsoft founder Bill Gates, the Clovis-Carver Public Library received six new computers this week.

The library applied for a grant from the Gates Foundation to receive the computers based on the income of the community, Marilyn Belcher, acting director of the library, said.

"It's wonderful," Belcher said. "The state library grant made it easy for us. It really didn't take that long for us to get the new computers."

The library also received a server to allow for Internet access.

Two computer trainers from the Gates Foundation, Becky Sears and Brenda Hough, were at the library to help set up the equipment and train the staff on how to use the new computer's programs.

"Our job is to get the equipment up and running and spend two days with the staff for training," Sears said.

Sears said the staff can attend a regional training session in the next few weeks that is more involved than the overview they received here.

Sears said the Gates Foundation goal is to get 10,000 libraries on the Internet within the next five years.

"The foundation is spending a total of \$1.16 million on equipment, including 3,300 PCs and 26 servers, in New Mexico," she said.

The six new Gateway computers are located near the reference desk at the library. One of the computers is equipped with a Spanish keyboard and icons for those who feel more comfortable working in Spanish.

Sears said the computers are designed specifically for the Gates Foundation by Gateway.

(See COMPUTERS, Page 6)

Officials seek comment on park plan

By H. Thomas Cannon
FREEDOM NEWSPAPERS

PORTALES — A proposed five-year management plan for Oasis State Park did not receive any negative comment during a public hearing held at the park Tuesday.

Although only a few people from Portales and Clovis attended the meeting, they were supportive of the plan.

"Within the state parks system, we're developing five-year man-

agement plans," Park Manager Jim Whary said. "This year, they're doing six at a time, and Oasis is in this bunch."

Whary said the management plan describes the history of Oasis State Park and lists improvement projects to be put in place over the duration of the plan.

"It looks like a good plan," Dave Barth of Clovis said. "They've gone through a lot of trouble to produce this plan."

According to the plan, some of

the improvement projects planned for the upcoming fiscal year include: completing a footpath around the lake; re-vegetating the amphitheater area; landscaping the office and shop area; and completing an educational exhibit in the visitor center.

"These are things we want to do, but like any agency, there could be budget constraints," Whary said.

If implemented, the plan will run from Thursday through June

(See PARK, Page 5)