

Awaiting answers on lost nuke near Tybee



ASSOCIATED PRESS/file

Divers and scientists from the federal government tow radiation detectors Sept. 30, 2004, from the stern of a boat near Tybee Island while searching for possible signs of a nuclear bomb lost off the Georgia coast since 1958. Six months of silence have followed the federal search for possible signs of a lost nuclear bomb, fueling frustration among residents demanding results.

Six months of silence follow government tests for lost nuke

Air Force officials say report will be released in mid-April

By **RUSS BYNUM**
Associated Press Writer

SAVANNAH — Six months of silence have followed a federal search for possible signs of a nuclear bomb lost off the Georgia coast since 1958, fueling frustration among residents demanding results.

A team of 20 government experts collected water and soil samples from Wassaw Sound near Tybee Island on Sept. 30 after a man who has searched privately for the 7,600-pound nuke reported finding unusual radiation levels in waters roughly the area of a football field.

The team's leader said he expected results in several weeks. Six months later, none of the findings have been made public.

"It's been enough time," said

Jack Youmans, 79, a Tybee Island city councilman and lifelong resident. "Since they came down here and spent the time and people's money, riding around out there playing in the water, they need to tell us something."

A damaged B-47 bomber dumped the H-bomb at sea during a training flight in February 1958 after the plane collided with a fighter jet. The military searched the area for 10 weeks, but failed to find the bomb.

The Air Force says the Mark-15 bomb is incapable of a nuclear explosion because it lacks the plutonium capsule needed to trigger an atomic blast. Still, it contains about 400 pounds of conventional explosives and an undisclosed amount of uranium.

The bomb drifted into local

legend until retired Air Force pilot Derek Duke launched his own search more than five years ago. Duke caught the government's interest last year when he reported finding higher than normal radiation levels in Wassaw Sound, where the Wilmington River meets the Atlantic Ocean.

The Air Force sent a team of federal experts last September to investigate Duke's claims and whether they might reveal the bomb's location.

"The final report, coordinated with all of the participating agencies, is in the final approval stages for public release," the Air Force said in a statement Friday. "The Air Force expects the report to be released around mid-April."

Duke, who lives in Statesboro, accompanied the government team to Wassaw

Sound, but said the Air Force hasn't revealed any results to him.

"They kept me at arm's length," Duke said. "I did not see the equipment, I did not see the readings. The FBI collected their samples as soon as they docked and the FBI transported those samples to the lab."

The delayed release of the government report has Duke convinced something in the results has made the Air Force hesitant to make its findings public.

"The lab report could have been ready in a matter of days. It's what to do with that lab report that's been a problem," Duke said. "If they didn't find anything and they could dismiss it easily, why haven't they done so long before now?"

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SEB senior earns Eagle Scout rank

Brooklet's Harry Waters Jr. achieves rare distinction

Special to the Herald

Boy Scout Troop 332, chartered to the First United Methodist Church in Statesboro, is proud to announce that Harry Leonard Waters Jr., a senior at Southeast Bulloch High School, has been awarded the Eagle Scout rank by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Waters is one of the many Eagle Scouts from Troop 332 in its over 50-year history. While only 2 percent of all boys who enter scouting achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, Waters joins an impressive group of individuals who are also Eagle Scouts, such as former President Gerald Ford, former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, astronaut James Lovell and director Steven Spielberg. Water's experience in scouting has caused him to develop an appreciation for nature and the preservation of wildlife.



Waters

Waters' Eagle Scout project was the construction and distribution of Eastern Bluebird houses for the southeastern region of Bulloch County. Waters, other troop members and adult leaders built the houses that were distributed to Brooklet Elementary School, Southeast Bulloch Middle School, Southeast Bulloch High School, Brooklet United Methodist Church and Preschool, as well as natural settings throughout southeast Bulloch County.

Waters worked with Ralph Steding, general manager of Lowe's in Statesboro, who sponsored his project and gave his support through providing the materials needed, and L.R. "Junior" Blich, who sponsored Water's project and gave this support through providing the

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Health Secretary: CDC a "Disneyland for science"

By **DANIEL YEE**
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — Concluding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was a "Disneyland for science," the new U.S. Health and Human Services secretary on Friday pledged his department will work to help keep Americans healthy.

"Five thousand days from now, you'll see a clear priority toward prevention in that prevention is clearly as much a priority as healing," said Mike Leavitt, who came to Atlanta on Thursday and Friday to tour the CDC's campuses. The tour was part of a series of visits to federal agencies within his department.

"I feel like it's a Disneyland for science," he said of the CDC. "Everywhere I go there's

On the Net:

- CDC info:
<http://www.cdc.gov>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:
<http://www.hhs.gov>

interesting things happening."

Medicaid and Medicare reforms and the creation of an electronic health records system will be his top priorities as head of the federal department, said Leavitt, who has been health secretary for 60 days.

Details of his 500-day plan will be announced in the next few weeks, he said. Although individual priorities may change, the plan will be used to achieve his 5,000-day vision, he said.

Medicare is the health care

See **CDC**, Page 5A

State aims to improve communications among first responders

New system will help law enforcement agencies talk to each other during emergencies

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A day after presenting a reward to the woman who turned in suspected courthouse shooter Brian Nichols, Gov. Sonny Perdue announced Friday the state is working to help local law enforcement agencies talk to each other during emergencies.

Using federal grants that

already have been obtained, he said, the state is gradually implementing a system that lets different police agencies talk directly to one another no matter what type equipment they use.

The state has hundreds of first responder agencies which used a hodgepodge of VHF, UHF and 800 MHz frequencies, he said.

Their inability to talk to each other during major incidents is a major problem for law enforcement.

"We are laying the foundation now to make interoperable communications a reality," Perdue said at a Capitol news conference attended by top law enforcement officials from across the region. "This has the potential to save lives, and it is

part of my vision for a safe Georgia."

Perdue said \$23 million in federal homeland security grants have been distributed in the last two years to the city of Atlanta and Fulton and DeKalb counties to fund a project combining state of the art equipment with the existing 800 MHz radio system.

Fulton County Sheriff

Myron Freeman said sheriff's deputies and Atlanta police officers hunting Nichols in the aftermath of the March 11 rampage could only communicate with each other by going through their base stations.

"This law enforcement grant is going to make that a lot easier where we can all hear what's going on at the same time," he said.

Another homeland security grant of \$9.7 million has been distributed to law enforcement agencies throughout Georgia and is being used to improve agency-to-agency communications covering 75 percent of the state's population, Perdue said.

Two mobile units can be deployed in areas that won't be covered as a result of the initial grant, he said.

Jonesboro

Man who abducted children eager to face charges

A Riverdale man who sparked an Amber Alert across three states this week when he allegedly kidnapped two children said he is eager to return to Georgia and face charges.

Terrence McDowell, 27, allegedly sexually assaulted his ex-girlfriend and shot her father eight times while he was still in bed before leaving the Conley home with the woman's 4-year-old girl and 5-year-old boy, said Clayton County Police Capt. Jeff Turner. McDowell is the father of the 4-year-old girl but doesn't have custody, police said.

He then stole his ex-girlfriend's

car and drove to Greensboro, N.C., where he left the children at his sister's house and turned himself in to police, Turner said.

In interviews with federal agencies, McDowell told authorities he wanted to return to Georgia and address the charges, said FBI Special Agent Stephen Emmett.

McDowell is charged with rape, burglary, aggravated sodomy, two counts of aggravated assault and two counts of kidnapping and theft by taking a motor vehicle. He could be back in Clayton County in one or two days, Emmett said Friday.

Metter

Accident kills one, injures another

A Candler County man is dead and a Candler County woman injured after a traffic accident Friday afternoon.

According to a Georgia State Patrol accident report, at about 3:44 p.m. March 25, Josephine Beasley, 72, Metter, was traveling north on State Route 23 and attempting to make a left turn onto County Road 266.

She failed to yield to Christopher Clayton, 22, of Metter, the report stated, and Clayton's Chevrolet 2500 truck struck her Mercury Marquis.

After the strike, Clayton's truck traveled about 132 feet along the west shoulder of the road before overturning, ejecting Clayton from the vehicle. He did not survive, according to the report. Beasley was injured and transported to the Candler County Hospital.

Atlanta

Woman pleads to terror claims

At Atlanta woman has pleaded guilty to two counts of making false statement concerning alleged terrorist activity, the U.S. Attorney's office said on Friday.

Nia M. Reed could be sentenced to a maximum five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for each count, said U.S. Atty. David E. Nahmias.

Her guilty plea was for telephoning a false report of a terrorist plot to security officials at Atlanta's airport. She had talked about a plan to attack the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Dallas, Washington, D.C. and California.

The FBI investigated and found that no such plot existed.

Georgia Lottery

All lottery numbers are unofficial.

Atlanta — Here are the winning numbers selected Saturday in the Georgia state lotteries:

Cash 3 Midday: 3-5-5
Cash 4 Midday: 3-5-3-8
Cash 3 Evening: 0-4-6
Cash 4 Evening: 9-0-8-0

Here are the numbers selected in Friday's late drawing:
Fantasy 5: 05-09-31-38-39

Obituaries

Mrs. Ouida Hendrix

retired

Hodges-Moore Funeral Home

Mrs. Ouida Hendrix, age 75, died Friday afternoon after a brief illness at East Georgia Regional Hospital. The Bulloch County native was retired from Bulloch Memorial Hospital as a lab technician after 20 years of service. Mrs. Hendrix was a member of the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church and was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Hendrix. She was a loving mother and grandmother and loved gardening.

Surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Wayne Figg of Statesboro; two sons and daughters-in-law, Andrew G. and Jade Hendrix and Bo and Connie Hendrix, both of Statesboro; one sister, Ethel McCorkle of Statesboro; one brother, Frank Conner of Savannah; her grandchildren, Rachel Hendrix of Glennville, Wendy Hendrix of Statesboro, Matthew Hendrix (Brenda) of Brooklet, Trent Webster (Shana) of Jacksonville, Fla., Dacia Dyches (Damien) of Statesboro, Alisha Davis (Jason) of Statesboro and Leigh Mullins (Ronnie) of North Carolina; four great-grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Mrs. Hendrix will be Monday at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Hodges-Moore Funeral Home. Burial will be in Bulloch Memorial Gardens.

Visitation will be Sunday from 6-8 p.m. at Hodges-Moore Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Statesboro First Baptist Church, 108 North Main St., Statesboro, GA 30458; or Ogeechee Area Hospice, P.O. Box 531, Statesboro, GA 30459.

Statesboro Herald, March 27, 2005

Remer E. Dasher

retired supervisor

Hatcher, Chance & Hydrick Funeral Directors

Mr. Remer E. Dasher, 87, husband of Mrs. Cubia Stephens Dasher of Rocky Creek Road in Augusta, entered into rest Saturday, March 26, 2005 in the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home.

Funeral services will be held Monday, March 28, 2005 at 11 a.m. in the Fleming Baptist Church with the Rev. Billy Atkins and Elder John S. Mikell officiating. Interment will follow in Hillcrest Memorial Park.

Mr. Dasher was a native of Stillmore, Ga. and had lived in Augusta since 1942. He was a retired supervisor with Owens Illinois, Inc. He owned and operated Dasher's Supermarket on Green Street for several years. He was an active member of Fleming Baptist Church and the Martin Cave Sunday School Class. He was a former member of First Primitive Baptist Church where he was chairman of the deacons, Sunday School Superintendent and church treasurer for thirty years.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mrs. Cubia Stephens Dasher of Augusta, one son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Charles and Susan Dasher of Birmingham, Ala.; one daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Ben Nessmith Jr. of Statesboro; six grandchildren, Laura Dasher, Dr. Suzanne Dasher, Charles Dasher Jr. and his wife Brandi, Mary Nessmith, Kathy Nessmith and Brian Dasher. Mr. Dasher was preceded in death by his son Mr. John R. Dasher.

Active pallbearers will be Leon Hutchison, Sam Corley, Bernell Riner, Garnold Bodenheimer, Earl Williams and Bill Waters.

Honorary pallbearers will be deacons and the Martin Cave Sunday School Class.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Fleming Baptist Church Building Fund, 3027 Peach Orchard Rd., Augusta, GA 30906.

The family will receive friends today from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com.

This obituary made courtesy of Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home.

Statesboro Herald, March 27, 2005

Phillip Madison Hodges

Hodges-Moore Funeral Home

Phil Hodges, age 57, died peacefully at his mother's home on Saturday, March 26, 2005 surrounded by his loving family, and under the care of his devoted and long term caregivers and friends Napoleon Young, Shirley Harris, and Jo Ann Munford and Ogeechee Area Hospice. Phil was a native of Bulloch County and made his home with his mother since being permanently disabled in an automobile accident in 1974. He was a graduate of Statesboro High School, having served as the President of the SHS Class of 1965. He received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Georgia Southern University where he was a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, having been a member of the chartering pledge class of Eta Zeta Chapter. Following his graduation from Georgia Southern, Phil was employed by Columbia College and later the Richland County Department of Parks and Recreation in Columbia, South Carolina until the time of his accident. While in Columbia he was a member and was ordained as a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Columbia. After his accident, his membership was transferred to his home church, Statesboro First Baptist Church. Phil was preceded in death by his father, Eli Hodges.



Phillip Madison Hodges

He is survived by his mother, Helen Lanier Hodges of Statesboro; a sister, Mary Ann Hodges Green (Bill) of Statesboro; two brothers, James Eli Hodges (Sue) of Statesboro and Ray Lanier Hodges (Carolyn) of Tampa, Florida; one niece, Sally Hodges McKinney of Statesboro; three nephews, Billy T. Green Jr. of Statesboro, Ray Lanier Hodges Jr. and Timothy Eli Hodges Jr. of Tampa, Fla.; two great nieces, Lauren Hodges McKinney of Statesboro and Samantha Hodges of Tampa, Florida; and two great nephews, Ray Lynes McKinney III and Mark Green of Statesboro.

Visitation will be held Sunday from 5 until 7 p.m. at Hodges-Moore Funeral Home. Burial will be in Eastside Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Napoleon Young and cousins, Don Lanier, Russ Lanier and Charles Eunice and nephews Billy Green Jr., Ray Hodges Jr., and Tim Hodges.

The funeral service will be held Monday at 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Hodges-Moore Funeral Home with the Rev. Carter Berkeley officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to High Hope Foundation, 213 Simons Rd, Statesboro, GA 30458 or to the Nursing Ministry of Statesboro First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1039, Statesboro, GA 30459.

Statesboro Herald, March 27, 2005

Mrs. Dorothy Ordelle Cone Scheuer

retired bookkeeper

Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home

DUNNELLO, Fla. — Mrs. Dorothy Ordelle Cone Scheuer, age 84, died Tuesday, March 22, 2005, at Ocala Health and Rehab Center. A native of Statesboro, Mrs. Scheuer lived in Dunnellon, Fla., from 1989-2001, then in Sacramento, Calif., before returning to Florida in 2004. She was a retired bookkeeper for the welding industry and was of the Roman Catholic faith. She was preceded in death by a son, David Tanner, on September 17, 1988.

She is survived by a son, Daniel Tanner, and his wife, Brenda, of Dunnellon, Fla.; brothers, Henry and Tiny Cone of Statesboro; a sister, Eleanor Gee of Statesboro; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The graveside service will be held Friday, April 1, at 5 p.m. in Bulloch Memorial Gardens.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com.

Statesboro Herald, March 27, 2005

Mr. Ernest D. Newton

retired

Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home

Mr. Ernest D. Newton, age 88, died Saturday morning at the East Georgia Regional Medical Center under the care of Ogeechee Area Hospice. Mr. Newton was a native of Bulloch County where he lived for several years before moving to Savannah for 40 years. He returned to Statesboro several years ago. He retired from Union Camp and was a member of the Bible Baptist Church in Savannah.

Surviving are his son, Dentley Newton of Statesboro; a daughter, Shirley Ann Shaw of Seattle, Wash.; two sisters, Neva Akins and Sara Nell Barfield, both of Statesboro; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home with the Rev. James Barnes officiating.

Graveside services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Hillcrest Abbey East in Savannah. Visitation will be Monday from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Ronnie Riggs, Emerson Holland, Robert Rentz, Arnold Ray Akins, Randy Akins and Charles Ruiz.

Friends may sign the online register book at www.joineranderson.com.

Statesboro Herald, March 27, 2005

NUKE from page 4A

On Tybee Island, 18 miles east of Savannah, freelance photographer Nancy Heffernan has gotten fed up with waiting. Last week, she fired off e-mail to her congressman, Rep. Jack Kingston, saying, "this has been an absurd length of time to wait for results."

Heffernan, 52, says she's concerned terrorists might try to find the sunken nuke, or that it could leak pollutants into the Floridan aquifer that supplies drinking water to coastal Georgia and northern Florida.

In January, Heffernan organized screenings of two documentaries on the lost

bomb that packed 120 people into Tybee Island City Hall both nights. Since then, she says, others have been asking about the government report.

"A lot of people, since I put on the bomb movies, they're all tapping their fingers going, 'Where is it?'" Heffernan said. "Where are these results at taxpayer expense? I'd like to know what it cost them to come down and get a suntan."

CDC from pg. 4A

program for the elderly and disabled and Medicaid is the health insurance program for the elderly at the state level.

Leavitt urged CDC employees on Friday to always preserve the integrity and trust that people have in the "CDC brand," and the health information that comes from the federal health agency.

"I think the most important of all the assets we have here ... the CDC brand is the one that has to be protected with utmost care," he said.

Leavitt said he's brought the lessons he learned as Utah governor to his new position. For example, he said that as governor he struggled with Medicaid and now is working to make the system more flexible to allow states to help more people.

"I came to this job with very clear impressions of Medicaid. It kept me as governor from funding things clearly in the interests of people who needed help," he said. "I'm going to continue to seek helping people with the resources that we have."

He also said that he will not let the department's effort against obesity — initiated by former Health Secretary Tommy Thompson — falter.



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