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# The Columbus Dispatch

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FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2006

## Columbine killers held back little in journals

Newly released entries depict specific plans to carry out hellish attack

By Robert Weller  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLDEN, Colo. — Authorities released nearly 1,000 pages of new documents from the Columbine High School massacre yesterday, including step-by-step plans written by the two killers as they plotted the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

"Hell on Earth — ah, my favorite," Dylan Klebold writes in the 1998 yearbook of Eric Harris above a drawing of a gun-wielding headless soldier. "So many people need to die."

The documents released by the Jefferson County sheriff include essays, schoolwork and computer files from Harris and Klebold, the two suicidal killers. The papers also included a journal kept by Harris' father that refers to his son's disciplinary and psychological problems but sheds no light on whether he knew the teenager might be capable of the slaughter that left 13 people dead.

A scrawled entry in Klebold's day planner apparently sketches out April 20, 1999, down to the minute, starting with a 6 a.m. meeting, a 10:30 a.m. "set up," an 11:12 a.m. "gear up" and at 11:16 a.m., "HAHAHA."

"Have fun!" Klebold writes in another notebook.

More than 20,000 documents and videos have been released since the attack, and some of the details released yesterday had been previously disclosed. Some documents include blacked-out portions, including song

See COLUMBINE Page A4

## INSIDE

DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS | ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Felipe Calderon, of the National Action Party, celebrates in Mexico City.

### It's official in Mexico

► The controversy isn't over, but the vote counting is, and Felipe Calderon has been declared the winner of Mexico's presidential election. He is a conservative with the ruling party. His rival, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, alleges fraud and called on his supporters to fill Mexico City's main square Saturday in protest. | Page A3

## Accident chasers get police reports easier than victims

By Theodore Decker

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Darrell E. Herrmann wasn't truly irked until he realized that the auto-body-shop employee speaking to him on the phone knew more about his May 12 car crash than he did.

The May 16 call to Herrmann's

North Side home had been unsolicited, as was the prerecorded message from another body shop that had come in a few hours earlier. Both wanted his business.

Herrmann, a retired Army field artillery captain, was baffled. He had been trying to get a copy of his Columbus Division of Police accident report all weekend, with no

success. Now it was Tuesday, and his insurance company still hadn't seen it, either.

"They were waiting for the Web site, same as I was," he said.

He asked the woman on the phone: How was it that she already knew the details about his crash?

"She said she had the complete police report, that they e-mailed it

to her," Herrmann said.

For Herrmann, that day marked the start of a blitz of cold calls and unsolicited mail from body shops and lawyers.

"I got some chiropractors, too," he said.

For victims, accident reports are

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## FUTURE OF WYANDOT LAKE



Wyandot Lake's pools were an attractive option over the July Fourth weekend.

CRAIG HOLMAN | DISPATCH

## Zoo leaders awash with ideas for park

By Robert Ruth

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Wyandot Lake won't become another Cedar Point or Sea World, but its soon-to-be owners think it will make at least \$1 million a year in profit.

That's just an educated guess, though, said Jerry Borin, executive director of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, which is buying the water park next to the zoo in Delaware County in October.

► Columbus Zoo works hard in entertainment jungle | A4

The zoo's lease with Six Flags, the park's operator, requires the amusement company to reveal yearly attendance and gross-revenue totals but not expense and net-profit

figures. "We can't guarantee everything will be 100 percent foolproof," Borin said. "But we've looked at the economics, and they look good."

The biggest risk is the weather, he said. The water park, which has a 100-day season, depends on sunny skies and high temperatures to keep attendance up, he said.

And Wyandot Lake might need to close next season so that new water rides can be built and old ones relocated, said Susan D. Rector, presi-



Julia Morabito and her son, Nathan, 8, smile at the end of Wyandot Lake's Shark Attack ride.

TIM REVELL | DISPATCH

See WYANDOT LAKE Page A4

## County's ash trees at risk again

Short on funding, officials unsure how to stop spread of latest ash borer outbreak

By Ryan Loew  
and Amanda Kawalek  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The emerald ash borer is back in Columbus, and without the funds to fight it, the voracious insect will turn the area into what one expert called an "unchecked buffet."

The Ohio Department of Agriculture announced yesterday

that the borer, which has killed millions of trees in Canada and Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, has been discovered in Blendon Township for the second time in two years.

Agriculture officials said last year that they eradicated the insect in Franklin County. But that's when the state had federal funds to throw at the bug.

In 2004, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan received

\$41 million to fight the insect; in 2005, \$29 million. In December, Gov. Bob Taft told the federal government Ohio needed at least \$50 million to fight the ash borer. Congress, however, approved about \$4 million.

"Instead of being a proactive battle, it's gone to a reactive battle," said Luke Messinger, executive director of the Dawes Arboretum in Licking County.

See ASH BORER Page A5



KYLE ROBERTSON | DISPATCH

The emerald ash borer, thought to be eradicated in Franklin County, was found near Easton.

## Voinovich gets much of blame in BWC report

By Alan Johnson

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The powerful influence Ohio governors wield over the Bureau of Workers' Compensation should be curtailed, a consultant concluded in recommending more independence for the problem-plagued state agency.

"So long as nearly absolute power is vested with the governor, the potential for the abuse of this power exists," Evaluation Associates said in a report released yesterday. "The only way to assure that power will not be abused is to spread it among a variety of persons."

The multiple scandals at the bureau were not caused by a lack of a sound investment policy; instead, it was "routinely ignored by the management of the bureau and was not properly enforced by the (agency's) Oversight Commission," the consultant found.

The report by the Norwalk, Conn., consultant is the first in the bureau's scandal saga to put much of the blame on sweeping structural changes at the bureau that former Gov. George V. Voinovich fought so hard to enact a decade ago.

The report also was critical of some of the

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# Bush, now 60, to talk with media in Chicago today

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will hold a news conference today in Chicago as the White House explores new venues for putting the president before the public.

It will be his first full-scale news conference since June 14 in the Rose Garden on his return from a surprise visit to Iraq.

Today's session, around 11 a.m. EDT, is expected to run

about an hour and be open to Chicago-area press as well as the White House press corps that accompanies the president, said Dan Bartlett, the president's counselor.

Bartlett said the Chicago trip was the beginning of occasional presidential trips around the country to learn what's on Americans' minds.

Often when Bush travels, he stays in a community for only a

short time and talks about one issue, Bartlett said. "This gives him a opportunity to cover a broader range of subjects in the local community," he said.

It also provides Bush with an opportunity for more exposure at a time when his popularity is low and Americans are unhappy with his handling of Iraq and the economy.

The president, meanwhile, celebrated his 60th birthday

yesterday.

"Let me just say this: It's a lot younger than you think," the president said as he accepted birthday greetings from a Canadian reporter during a news conference with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bush celebrated with friends on Tuesday at a White House party on Independence Day and there weren't supposed to be any festivities yesterday. Still,

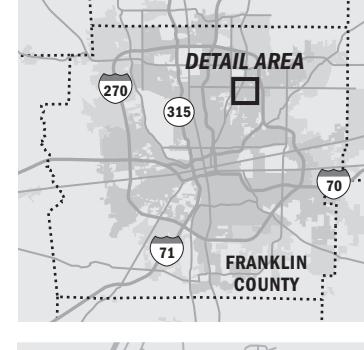
the occasion was noted in a long day of meetings and public appearances, including a news conference with Harper.

Yesterday, the president received birthday greetings from Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Vladimir Putin who talked with Bush on the phone yesterday morning about North Korea's missile tests.

As Bush closed his news con-

ference, a reporter in the audience, Raghubir Goyal, called out that it was his birthday, too. Bush invited him to the podium for a picture. The president asked if anyone else had a birthday and invited them to come up. Two others, reporter Richard Benedetto and State Department employee Todd Mizis, joined the celebration.

"Amazing, everybody's birthday today," Bush joked.



## ASH BORER

FROM PAGE A1

Eradication programs, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, can cost as much as \$1 million per site, said Dan Herms, an entomology professor at Ohio State University.

Officials have quarantined Blendon Township, making it illegal for anyone to move ash trees, parts of ash trees or any hardwood firewood out of the township.

Adam Williams, a 29-year-old township resident and arborist, called the state after he inspected a neighbor's tree and saw the signs: smaller-than-normal leaves, a shrinking canopy and tiny D-shaped holes in the bark.

State officials say they don't know where this infestation started, but they suspect someone brought it into the township via firewood or other materials, said Melissa Brewer, a spokeswoman for the Agriculture Department.

In the past, the department set up detection trees, quarantined communities, educated the public and eradicated ashes near an infested tree. In Franklin County, the state destroyed 17,000 ash trees.

Now, eradication has "taken a back seat" as a strategy, Brewer said.

The most recent eradication occurred in Orange Township in Delaware County, where 39,000 ash trees were destroyed to control the bug.

The price tag for that job, which ended in the spring, was \$2.8 million.

First discovered in Ohio in 2003, Herms said, the insect has killed about 15 million ash trees in Canada and northwestern Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. He said Ohio's 3.8 billion white ash trees are in danger.

"It has a very good potential ... to completely wipe out the ash population," said Herms, who is on state and federal ash borer advisory panels.

The larvae of the borer, a green beetle that's smaller than a penny, eat through the trees' circulatory systems, slowly depriving them of water and nutrients.

Many experts think the ash borer, a native of Asia, was unintentionally imported to the United States in wooden crates shipped from China.

It was discovered in 2002 in Detroit and southeastern Michigan.

The bug has no known predators, and no pesticides are effective against it. When there was funding, officials resorted to cutting down, mulching and burning every ash tree within a half-mile radius of an infestation to stop the bug from spreading.

Ryan Esau, the Blendon Township homeowner whose ash tree set off this latest quarantine, can cut down and burn the tree. But the cost of cutting the tree down — about \$600 — will be his responsibility.

"It's an unfortunate situation, but the bug's a bigger problem than the tree," Esau said.

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