

THE SUN

YUMA, ARIZONA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2001

50 CENTS

GOOD MORNING

Today's weather: High expected to hit 104
DETAILS/A9

► IN QUOTES

"I'm not the evil man everyone thinks I am."

Eric Franklin Rosser, a pedophile listed among the FBI's most wanted, after his arrest in Thailand/A5

The 2001 YUMA VOTE

► YUMA

Troy Forbus is featured in the next of a series of profiles of the candidates for Yuma city council and mayor/ B1

► NATION

California sheriff offers \$10,000 reward in manhunt; spotlight shines on area's Ukrainian-American immigrant community / A2

► WORLD

Attack on Macedonian monastery threatens NATO deployment as U.S. troops stay behind the scenes/A5

► REGION

A state commission adopted ground rules to provide money to match spending on independent ads deemed to be for or against candidates getting public campaign cash/ B2



► SPORTS

NASCAR released its report on the death of Dale Earnhardt Tuesday. A broken seat belt was one of many factors that contributed to his death/C4

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Gone but not forgotten



MICHAEL'S LIFE

► "MIKE LIVED ONE WAY — THROUGH HIS BIBLE AND THROUGH HIS FAMILY.... YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN HIM WITH A LOT OF SMILES, BUT ANYBODY WHO KNEW HIM, KNEW HE WAS A KITTY CAT."

MEYER'S HAT SAT ATOP his flag-draped coffin during Tuesday's service.



YUMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY Michael Meyer's son Jacob looks away as his father's coffin was placed in the hearse following a funeral service Tuesday morning at Yuma Civic and Convention Center. Meyer died in a car crash Aug. 13 while on patrol on Highway 95 north of Yuma during a rain storm. Close to 1,000 people attended Tuesday's service to honor the fallen deputy.

PHOTOS BY ALFRED J. HERNANDEZ/THE SUN

► More than 1,000 attend funeral for Yuma County deputy who died in the line of duty

BY KERRY POHLMAN
SUN STAFF WRITER

The young Marine returned home from a stint overseas and showed his dad his new tattoo. It said, "Just passing through."

"Well, son, it was a very good pass," father Wayne Meyer said Tuesday at his son's funeral. "Your parents could not be more proud."

A stream of law enforcement officers saluted farewell to one of their own — his coffin draped by an American flag. His young son, Jacob, walked alongside the pallbearers. Only a dirge from a bagpipe broke the silence.

Michael Benjamin Meyer, 40 — decorated Marine, Yuma County sheriff's deputy and father of six — died Aug. 13. He was killed in the line of duty. His patrol car had overturned on rain-slicked Highway 95 north of Yuma, apparently during a routine check on road conditions.

Meyer met his first and only love at age 16. He and wife

Penny had six children — Thomas, Jacob, Wayne, Charlene, Francine and Kathleen.

HELPING OUT

► DONATIONS TO THE MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE MEYER FAMILY MAY BE SENT TO: CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 101 W. 26TH ST. OR YUMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 141 S. 3RD AVE.

Yuma Civic and Convention Center. Those who spoke described Meyer as a dedicated

SEE DEPUTY/A9



FUNERAL PROCESSION LEAVES YUMA Civic and Convention Center (above) where fallen Yuma County Sheriff's deputy Michael Meyer's father Wayne and his mother Kay (left) spoke about the type of man their son was during Tuesday's funeral service.

Driver charged in fatal hit-run incident

► 3-year-old boy dragged to his death under suspect's truck

BY LOREN LISTIAK
SUN STAFF WRITER

The man suspected of being the hit-and-run driver in the death of a 3-year-old Yuma boy has been charged with a single count of leaving the scene of a fatality accident, but could face additional charges.

Jose Israel Roman Duarte, 45, whose address is listed as 2545 W. 8th St., No. 78, was arraigned Tuesday was arraigned Tuesday in Yuma Justice County in connection with the accident that claimed the life of Christopher Hernandez in the 1900 block of Walnut Avenue July 30.

During the arraignment, Justice of the Peace Rick Donato set bond for Duarte at \$504,460.

Donato asked David Haws, prosecutor for the Yuma County Attorney's Office, if additional charges will be filed. Haws said it is likely that they will be, but

SEE DRIVER/A9

Federal Reserve provides seventh rate cut

► Wall Street plunges

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve on Tuesday cut interest rates for a seventh time this year, pushing short-term borrowing costs down to their lowest level in more than seven years in a continuing effort to keep the U.S. economy out of a recession.

Wall Street, however, took a steep tumble as investors grew more pessimistic about just when the country would be able to mount a sustainable recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial

SEE CUT/A9

FBI arrests eight in McDonald's Monopoly scheme

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities working with McDonald's broke up a criminal ring they say rigged the popular Monopoly and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" games played by millions of the fast-food chain's customers over the past six years.

The FBI alleged Tuesday that the ring fixed winners of \$1 million and other big-money prizes who then shared the cash with members of the group. In all, the ring "won" more than \$13 million in prizes. Authorities said it was not clear whether there

were ever any legitimate winners of large prizes in McDonald's Monopoly and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" games.

Eight people have been arrested so far. At the center of the scheme was Jerome Jacobson, 58, a security employee of Simon Marketing Inc., a company hired by McDonald's to handle game promotions and security, authorities said. Jacobson had almost total control over the distribution of winning game pieces, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court in Jacksonville, Fla.

In producing and

distributing game pieces, Simon is responsible for insuring the integrity of the game," the complaint said.

As advertised, the \$1 million prizes can be won by either collecting game pieces from drink cups and french fry boxes at McDonald's or in Sunday newspaper inserts.

But the complaint alleges that Jacobson embezzled winning game pieces and distributed them to friends and business associates who found others to take the winning pieces and claim the prizes. The "winners" then paid money back to Jacobson and his associates, the

complaint said.

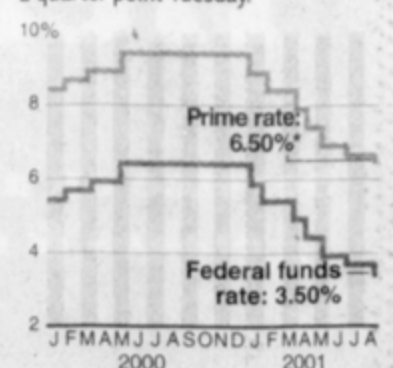
In many instances, the winners allegedly turned over the first \$50,000 of their prize money to Jacobson, who was arrested Tuesday in Georgia.

"This fraud scheme denied McDonald's customers a fair and equal chance of winning," said Attorney General John Ashcroft. "Those involved in this type of corruption will find out that breaking the law is no game."

Authorities said that no McDonald's Corp. employees were involved and that McDonald's assisted the investigation.

Fed cuts rate by a quarter point

For the seventh time this year, the Federal Reserve cut a key interest rate. The federal funds rate was reduced by a quarter point Tuesday.



* Commercial banks are cutting their prime rate effective Wednesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ACCU WEATHER® FORECAST FOR YUMA

Arizona Weather

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



Almanac

Yuma through 4 p.m. Tuesday	Precipitation	0.00"
Temperature	24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.18"
High	Month to date	0.28"
Low	Normal month to date	2.92"
Normal high	Year to date	0.37"
Normal low	Last year to date	1.43"
	Normal year to date	

National Cities

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Atlanta	92 73 s	91 72 s	Helena	88 56 pc	78 48 t	Omaha	88 68 t	86 66 t
Baltimore	88 66 pc	82 68 t	Honolulu	89 75 s	89 74 s	Palm Springs	100 75 s	102 75 s
Birmingham	89 58 pc	86 56 pc	Houston	98 74 s	97 73 s	Philadelphia	88 68 s	84 70 t
Boise	86 56 pc	80 50 c	Jacksonville	91 68 s	91 70 t	Portland, OR	68 56 r	70 56 sh
Boston	84 68 s	80 55 pc	Kansas City	90 70 t	85 70 t	Raleigh	90 66 s	95 70 s
Charleston, SC	92 70 s	93 72 s	Las Vegas	98 71 s	100 71 s	Rapid City	84 58 pc	83 59 t
Charleston, WV	88 67 s	85 63 t	Little Rock	98 75 s	95 74 pc	Reno	83 50 pc	80 48 pc
Cleveland	78 64 sh	76 62 pc	Los Angeles	78 62 pc	80 62 pc	St. Louis	95 72 pc	88 70 t
Dallas	100 77 s	101 77 s	Louisville	92 73 s	90 68 pc	Salt Lake City	88 62 s	86 60 s
Daytona Beach	91 70 s	90 72 t	Memphis	94 76 s	97 76 pc	San Antonio	98 74 s	98 76 s
Denver	82 56 t	82 58 s	Miami	89 77 t	89 75 t	San Diego	74 64 pc	74 64 pc
Des Moines	85 69 t	81 65 t	Milwaukee	79 65 sh	75 61 pc	San Francisco	62 54 pc	64 54 pc
El Paso	90 66 pc	96 72 s	Minneapolis	86 64 pc	82 64 pc	St. Ste. Marie	77 57 pc	74 54 s
Fairbanks	66 46 c	70 46 pc	Nashville	94 72 s	94 72 pc	Seattle	66 56 r	66 54 sh
Grand Rapids	79 64 sh	77 60 pc	New Orleans	92 76 s	93 76 s	Tampa	91 76 s	92 76 s
			New York	86 70 s	84 72 t	Topeka	93 71 t	87 70 t
			Oklahoma City	100 74 pc	96 74 pc	Washington, DC	88 70 pc	84 72 t



ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRESIDENT BUSH TALKS ABOUT spending and the budget during a speech Tuesday at Harry S. Truman High School in Independence, Mo.

Bush: U.S. has enough money for tax cut

► President denies threat to Social Security and Medicare

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — President Bush said Tuesday he will give his family's \$600 tax rebate to charity, as he fiercely defended his tax cut against Democratic charges that it has already imperiled Medicare and Social Security.

In Harry Truman's hometown, at a high school named for the president who first championed federal health benefits for the elderly, Bush swore that under his administration "every dime that comes into Medicare will be spent on Medicare."

He also sought to assure Americans that "we've got enough money" to pay for his tax cuts, pay down more than \$100 billion in public debt and boost spending on defense and education — all without dipping into Social Security reserves.

"I know this: We're not going to raise the taxes on the people. I know this: That we're going to make sure additional spending doesn't cut into essential programs like Social Security and Medicare," the president said.

He expressed confidence there would be no government shutdown over a spending stalemate with Congress, but he did suggest he would veto any bill that spent more than what Congress agreed to in a budget resolution earlier this year.

Bush spoke on the eve of a scheduled announcement by the Office of Management and Budget, updating projections of the federal surplus. The new estimates are expected to show that the Medicare surplus — as with all but about \$1 billion of the rest

of the general-revenue surplus — is gone.

Democrats blamed the Bush tax cut.

"I see no more irresponsible act than that of the Bush administration's tax cut," Senate Appropriations Committee chairman Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., said in an interview. "It was the tax cut that was based on faulty projections."

The Democratic National Committee aired TV ads in a half-dozen cities, including Independence, saying Bush's budget raids Medicare and "violates one of Harry Truman's basic principles — protecting our seniors."

Karen Hughes, counselor to the president, argued that the Bush administration had simply used the surplus in the Medicare Part A trust fund, which pays for seniors' hospital stays, to cover the deficit in Medicare Part B, which pays for doctor visits.

"The Democrats' logic is they will fund only the hospital part of Medicare, not the doctors' part, and we think we should pay both," Hughes said.

The DNC spots were prepared by the ad team used by former Vice President Al Gore in last year's contested election. Bush dismissed them as the work of partisans and big spenders.

Outside Truman High School were other reminders of the 2000 recount as demonstrators, carrying signs that read "Get out of Al's house!" and "Undo the coup," lined up among more welcoming local residents.

Bush asserted that the slowing economy ate up what, as late as April, was projected to be a \$284 billion surplus for this year. Social Security receipts, which both parties have agreed to separate from general revenues, account for nearly the entire \$158 billion surplus that is expected to be realized for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30.

"The slowdown is serious, folks. Make no mistake about it," Bush told a friendly audience inside the school gym.

Yuma Five-Day Forecast

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Bright sunshine, low humidity, breezy. 104°	Clear. 78°	Sunny; a breezy afternoon. 106° 78°	Sunny. 108° 80°	Warm with plenty of sun. 108° 80°	Sunny and warm. 108° 80°

Regional Weather

Arizona Deserts: Plenty of sunshine today with low humidity. Highs 95-105. Clear and comfortable tonight.

Arizona Mountains: Partly sunny in the north today; mostly sunny in the south. Highs 70-84. Mostly clear and cool tonight.

Colorado Plateau of Arizona: Sunshine and patchy clouds in the north today; mostly sunny in the south. Highs 82-94. Mostly clear tonight.

Inland Southern California: Abundant sunshine, a warm afternoon and low humidity today; breezy at times. Highs 96-105. Clear tonight.

Coastal Southern California: Cloudy early today, then turning mostly sunny and pleasant. Highs 66-80. Mostly clear early tonight, then low clouds.

Nevada: Partly sunny in the north today; sunny in central and southern parts. Highs 78-104. Partly cloudy north tonight; clear central and south.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	6:07 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:16 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:05 a.m.
Moonset today	10:04 p.m.
First	Aug 25
Full	Sep 2
Last	Sep 10
New	Sep 17

National Weather Today



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are high for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

Yesterday's National High/Low: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 107° in Fort Riley, KS Low 31° in Stanley, ID

CUT

FROM PAGE A1

average fell by 145 points while both the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index and the Standard & Poor's 500 index hit four-month lows.

"The market is beginning to realize that the economy is not going to roar back to life. It is going to creep out of this hole," said David Wyss, chief

economist at Standard & Poor's Co. in New York.

The Fed action lowered the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge on loans to each other, by a quarter-point to 3.5 percent, the second consecutive quarter point move.

Those cuts had been preceded by five half-point moves as the Fed made its most aggressive effort in 19 years to reduce borrowing costs as a way to spur a sluggish economy.

Commercial banks quickly

matched the Fed's latest move, pushing their prime lending rate, the benchmark for millions of consumer and business loans, down to 6.5 percent, the lowest level for the prime rate since the spring of 1994.

In explaining the decision, the Fed said it remained concerned that "business profits and capital spending continue to weaken and growth abroad is slowing."

However, the central bank struck a more positive tone by

noting that "household demand has been sustained." In June, the Fed had worried that consumer demand, which accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity, was growing at a weak rate.

Analysts saw the changed view about consumer demand as evidence that Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues are beginning to feel more confident that they have laid the foundation for a sustainable recovery.

DRIVER

FROM PAGE A1

he said any additional charges won't be added to the justice court complaint. Instead, Haws said the case will be referred to the grand jury, which may add charges before the case is sent to Yuma County Superior Court.

The justice court complaint was filed against Duarte on Aug. 6 after Yuma police determined that Duarte was driving a 1998 Chevrolet pickup that backed up over Christopher, who lived at 1946 Walnut Ave., and continued on until bystanders attracted the attention of the driver, who then removed the child from under the pickup. After Christopher was freed, the driver drove off, according to police. Christopher was taken to Yuma Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Duarte was arrested Monday at the San Luis Port of Entry after he turned himself in to authorities. He was booked into Yuma County jail.

Police were told on Aug. 6 that Duarte probably would turn himself in. In an interview with an investigator, Astolpho Cazares, a man who has known Duarte for a number of years, told police he had talked with Duarte in San Luis Rio Colorado, Son., after the accident.

At that time, Cazares said Duarte was very upset about the death of Christopher and wanted to turn himself in. However, Duarte said he first wanted to bring his 7-year-old son to his parents who live in Sinaloa, Mexico, according to Cazares.

DEPUTY

FROM PAGE A1

worker, loyal friend and a devout Christian. He may have passed through life, but life didn't pass him by.

Meyer joined the Marines at age 17. He retired as a gunnery sergeant, having served in the Gulf War and having earned commendation medals along the way. He became a Yuma County sheriff's deputy in 1998.

Major James Davidson loved serving under Meyer. Meyer's temper and expertise meant other Marines both loved and feared him, he said. They always wanted to do better under his leadership, he said.

"When Mike got mad, the more crooked his finger got when he shook it at you," said Davidson, whose remark made some people chuckle.

In 1993, Meyer put out a fire that ignited on an aircraft one evening during a local test flight. His actions saved lives, Davidson said.

Meyer had a softer side few people knew about. While away

from home he would cross-stitch pictures for his wife.

"The key here is very simple," said Marine James Shepard. "Mike lived one way — through his Bible and through his family. You may not have seen him with a lot of smiles, but anybody who knew him, knew he was a kitty cat."

As a senior deputy, Meyer patrolled the areas lakes and rivers. It was a perfect job for someone who loved the water, Sheriff Ralph Ogden said.

Meyer received numerous letters of praise during his law enforcement career, including one from a man Meyer arrested for drug possession. The young man had thanked Meyer for setting him straight.

Mother Kay Meyer said her son devoted his heart to God. She named him Michael, a strong name that means "who is like the Lord," she said.

"I believe one door closes and another one opens," she said. "We know what door has opened for Mike."

Kerry Pohlman can be reached at kpohlman@yumasun.com or 539-6872.

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August 26, 2001

Fan Appreciation Night

Fireworks Sponsored by

HEALTHSOUTH.

NEWSCHANNEL 11
where news comes first

NOTICE OF EMPOWERMENT ZONE MEETING

"VISION FOR CHANGE"

The future of Yuma County and Downtown Yuma

Thursday, August 23, 6:30PM

City of Yuma Council Chambers

Located in the back of City Hall
180 West 1st Street, Yuma

The City of Yuma, Yuma County, City of Somerton, Cocopah Nation, and the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation (GYEDC) have joined together as partners to submit an application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Empowerment Zone (EZ) designation. The main component of the application is a strategic plan which will address economic and social challenges faced by the community.

This meeting will serve as an opportunity for the community to provide direction for the plan. **The partners need your input to put a plan together which will meet the community's needs.**

For more information contact Pete Erlenbach, Assistant Director of Community Development (928) 343-8692.

Visit www.esicorp.net and click on the Yuma EZ link