

One-Minute Editorial



THIS WON'T BE A PRETTY SIGHT. If President Bush starts a war with Iraq, and it is a real possibility, without a quick victory our troops may be running around the battlefield in their underwear.

A record surge of imports from China and other foreign countries have destroyed the U.S. textile industry.

Chinese fabric imports into the U.S. have jumped 22,314 percent. Textile luggage imports increased 416 percent and gloves jumped 173 percent.

Last year more than 116 textile plants, mostly in North and South Carolina, closed and 67,000 workers in these plants lost their jobs.

The United States, because of its trade policies, no longer has the textile manufacturing capacity to

make any kind of clothing, not to mention military uniforms. We can't even make shoes or combat boots.

It looks like, to uniform our troops, we will have to work out an agreement with China, India or some other country to outfit our boys.

We've just realized we don't even have the plants to make their underwear! Maybe we should start buying suntan lotion by the 100-gallon barrels. At least this would give them some protection.

Incidentally, Rep. Cass Ballenger and Senate hopeful, Libby Dole, both still say the trade bill is a good thing.

Ron Daugherty, running against Ballenger, just points to the unemployed workers in the Carolinas and asks, "A good thing for whom?"

Commissioners Decide to Use Tradd and Water Street Library Site

Eileen Wilkinson
IREDELL CITIZEN

MORE THAN 2,000 PEOPLE SIGNED PETITIONS asking the county commissioners not to build a new library on Meeting Street, but all it took for commissioners to change their minds was Statesville City Council's about-face.

City council, after weeks of working for a "buildable" site on Meeting Street, decided abruptly public opinion was against it and offered the county a cash payment of \$1 million to build the new library on a downtown site.

A few nights later, at a scheduled commissioners meeting, Alan Eisele spoke to commissioners and presented them a several-inch-thick stack of petitions asking the boards to re-open consideration of the library site, and get more public input in the decision. Eisele went ahead with presenting the petitions because "neither board has officially abandoned the Meeting Street site."

A few minutes later, the commissioners approved a motion doing just that: withdrawing from any agreement to locate the new library on Meeting Street, accepting the city's donation - and any other donations - and locating the new building on the corner of

Water and Tradd Streets, on property already acquired for expansion at the present site.

Before the board voted, though, Commissioner Steve Johnson took the opportunity to say "I told you so." Johnson consistently opposed the Meeting Street location, and took a few minutes before the vote to recount a timeline for "those who like to rewrite history." He emphasized that the city was first asked to participate in the library project about a year and a half ago, and did not do so at that time. He also said the soil contamination from old service stations on the site was prohibitively above allowable levels.

Jim Vernon, facilities director, was called before the board and questioned about the suitability of the Tradd and Water Street site. He affirmed that the site was adequate in terms of room for expansion and ample parking, the two major criteria for a new library site.

The county has approximately \$5 million set aside for construction of the new library. An Eastside Drive site owned by the county was initially favored by commissioners, before the Mayor Marshall and city council intervened with the Meeting Street proposal.



THE PASSING PARADE The Week in Review

In a recent short summit—Japanese and North Korean leaders met, trying to talk out disagreements which have kept the two nations apart for decades.

Allied warplanes—have started bombing Iraq's major air defense sites, clearing the way for a military attack, some officials believe.

The last supper—of the 5,000-year-old mummy found in the Alps 11 years ago, probably was wild goat and venison, according to Italian scientists.

A robot—with a fiber-optic camera, crawled into Egypt's Great Pyramid, giving the world its first look inside a hidden chamber. It was empty!

Weapons inspectors—can return "without conditions," according to Iraqi officials. British and U.S. officials voiced skepticism.

N.C. circumcision—will be stopped saving the state \$400,000. Each year, 52 percent of the state's Medicaid male newborns are circumcised.

Saddam Hussein—in a message to the United Nations, said Iraq is clear of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Critics told Congress—a 1999 law has confused consumers and has given banks, investment firms and insurance companies a green light to share unauthorized personal financial information.

Digging in an old well—Jamestown archaeologists have come up with an armor breastplate they think dates back to the early settlement in 1607.

Elephant dung samples—indicates, for the Smithsonian

Institute's Lori Eggert, there may be three, not just two, distinct types of elephants in Africa. To prove it, she dug around in the dung and typed the DNA.

By 2010—53 percent of taxpayers earning under \$100,000 will pay a minimum tax. Only 24 percent paid the tax in 2002.

Prescription drug—use for kids under 19 grew 28 percent last year. This is a faster growth than for senior citizens.

"What's up, doc?"—Researchers believe a bucktoothed rabbit-like animal, related to the Tyrannosaurus may have lived in China 128 million years ago.

Nazi collaborator—in Paris, Maurice Papon, walked out of prison after a judge ruled him too old and sick to finish his 10-year sentence. He was convicted of helping to send Jews to the death camps.

Duke Power—will draw Lookout Shoals Lake down 20 feet below pond level to help stop the spread of an invasive plant.

It's a sure bet—North Carolina, at least for now, will not have a lottery. The House voted 69-50 not to let the voters have their say on the question.

Janet Reno—threw in the towel, conceding the Florida Democratic governor nomination to Bill McBride. McBride will face Republican Gov. Jeb Bush in November

The U.S. global war—on terrorism may be put under the Special Operations Command, government sources said. This means the next phase will be a more covert operation.

Up Coming

Thursday, Sept. 26
Olin's Lesley Gaither will Perform at Brookdale Coffee & Bagel, 923 Davie Ave., 7-9 p.m. For information call 704-872-0052.

Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 26-28
Third Annual Fall Auction & Bluegrass Festival planned on the grounds of Perry Auction Co. Inc., 316 Sharon School Road to benefit the Exchange Club Abuse Prevention Center of Iredell County. For information call 704-871-8353.

Thursday-Tuesday, Sept. 26-Oct. 15
Student work relating to a North Carolina Museum of Art exhibit by Rodin will be featured. Regional artists will also provide interpretation of Rodin's work for this exhibit. Exhibit hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the Lucas Mansion Gallery at Hiddenite Center. Admission is Free. For information call 828-632-6966.

Tuesday, Oct. 1
Quetzal, a leading Los Angeles Chicano band, performs at Davidson College Artists Series concert in Duke Family Performance Hall, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10-20. Call 704-894-2135 for reservations and information.

Wednesday, Oct. 2
Mooresville-SouthIredell Chamber of Commerce Business Expo planned at the Mooresville Citizen Center, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Free Admittance. Taste of the Town, 5-7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 3
The fifth annual Iredell County Candlelight Vigil for abused children planned at Presbyterian Church of the Springs (formerly Little Joe's Presbyterian Church), 6 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 3
The Statesville Woman's Club will meet 3 p.m. at the Clubhouse for their monthly meeting. The Ways and Means Committee will be in charge of the program.

Thursday, Oct. 3
Emerald Squares Beginners Western Square Dance Class at Hiddenite Center, 7-9 p.m. Bill Randlett is the instructor. For information call 704-873-9412 or 828-632-5657.

Thursday, Oct. 3
A prayer concert is scheduled at St. John's Lutheran Church in Statesville, 6:45 - 8 p.m. The public is invited to attend and pray for Ann Graham Lotts "Just Give Me Jesus" Revival to be held November 15-16 in Charlotte. Ann, the daughter of Billy and Ruth Graham will be joined by Jill Brisco, prayer leader, and musicians Stephanie Seefeldt and Fernando Ortega.

Friday, Oct. 4
Christ Boulevard UMC, 1947 E. Broad St., plans Annual Chicken BBQ, 11a.m.-7 p.m. Cost \$6.50 and proceeds go for Scholarship Fund, Upper Room and Youth Ministries. For information or to place order call 704-872-5651 or fax 704-881-0628.

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102-B South Center Street • Statesville, NC 28677
704-872-1200 • 704-872-1280 • Fax 704-872-1281
circ@iredellcitizen.com • ads@iredellcitizen.com

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