

G-20 Security Driving Away Pittsburgh's Bustle

By Joe Mandak
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER
PITTSBURGH (AP) - Nick Mancini Hartner is like a lot of downtown business operators: He doesn't know what to expect if thousands of protesters show up for the Group of 20 economic summit or for that matter, how many customers will show up either.

That's why he'll try something new during this week's summit at his Mancini's Hearth Baked Bread shop. He'll lock the doors and instead sell a limited menu of fresh breads on the sidewalk out front.

"That way, we can react to whatever's happening," said Hartner, whose mother's family owns the business. "If it's a regular lunch crowd, we can open up the store. If it's slow, we can pull back and come inside and lock up."

Security plans include a vehicle-free, three-block perimeter around the convention center and a ban on most vehicles elsewhere in the city's dense, triangular downtown - leaving protesters and foreign dignitaries to likely experience an emptier-than-normal Pittsburgh when the two-day summit begins Thursday. Commuters will have to park outside downtown and either walk or take mass transit into the business district.

Thousands of protesters and media are expected to come to town for the summit, a gathering of the leaders of the world's 20 top economies.

What's unclear is how many commuters will come downtown. Many businesses are closing or -like Highmark, the health insurance giant that normally has 5,000 employees in the area - having most employees telecommute or work at other offices.

"We tried very hard to create a sense that Pittsburgh did not have to shut down for the G-20 ... but I think the momentum was so strong that people just decided to shut down," said Secret Service spokesman Special Agent Darrin Blackford.

The city, with a population of about 310,000, usually draws about 200,000 commuters on a typical weekday.

In addition to many businesses, the city's public and Catholic schools will be closed along with most city, state and federal offices, cultural centers like the Carnegie museums, many bank branches, and most colleges and universities in the area.

But if President Barack Obama spills food on his tie, Macy's says its downtown department store will be open to sell him a new one.

Amtrak trains will pass through Pittsburgh, but passengers will be allowed only transfer to other trains; no boarding or disembarking here. Greyhound, the bus company, is temporarily moving its city operations to McKeesport, about 10 miles away.

Commuting uncertainty, fear of protests like those that rocked April's G-20 in London and fear of the unknown are all fueling the momentum to stay away, said Robert Armoni, president and CEO of Specialized Security Response Inc., based in the Pittsburgh suburbs.

At the meeting in London, anti-capitalist demonstrators tried to storm a bank; one man died from internal bleeding after he was pushed to the ground by an officer when he was caught up in demonstrations near another bank.

"The feeling of the unknown is going to breed fear," Armoni said. "A lot of executives I've talked to say, 'That's the week I'm taking vacation.'"

Armoni's company has regular security guards and ex-military personnel with special operations experience who are in demand for the summit. He said the Pittsburgh Pirates have hired his firm for two games that will be played as scheduled during the summit at PNC Park, just across the Roberto Clemente Bridge from the heavily restricted downtown area.

"People don't really, truly have any clue what to expect when they're going down to a sporting event in a situation like this and I'm sure they're saying, 'Man, is it really worth it?'" Armoni said.

Lara Bruhn, who runs the Prantl's Bakery that shares a storefront with Mancini's, does-

n't think it is. Her downtown bakery will be closed.

"I'd be asking employees to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning and go through all that if just three (customers) are here?" Bruhn said.

That uncertainty has also caused larger businesses to take precautions against nontraditional protests or violence - including targets like FirstEnergy Corp.'s Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station about 30 miles away.

FirstEnergy has spent more than \$30 million to secure three nuclear power plants since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and took unspecified "extra steps" for the G-20, spokesman Todd Schneider said.

"Our biggest effort has been to ensure that our security force is in coordination with local, state and federal agencies if an event should happen," he said.

Meanwhile, Nebraska-based cyber security firm Solutionary, which has had a 24/7 operations center in Pittsburgh, is guarding computer networks for more than a dozen area companies from vandals or "hacktivists," said chief technology officer Mike Hrabik. The firm can quickly determine if a computer service interruption is the result of an attack or just a normal failure, he said.

"Jumping to a conclusion (that there's been a cyber attack) or pulling all the plugs or drawing a wrong conclusion can send you down a path that can also be disruptive," Hrabik said.

Even more publicized aspects of G-20 security remain uncertain.

Police Chief Nate Harper originally suggested he'd need about 4,000 officers. He has nearly 900 officers and expects 1,200 state troopers and 1,000 others from out-of-state departments. Other

regional departments are contributing officers, and the city is getting more commitments each day.

"It's a work in progress, and whatever number we wind up with, that's what we'll work with," Harper said.

Is War On Drugs Worth It? Maybe Not, New FBI Data Suggest

Many law enforcement officers now say the drug interdiction effort is costly and unsuccessful

By Patrik Jonsson

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
ATLANTA - Every 18 seconds, an American is busted for drug possession, according to Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) crime statistics released last Monday.

The new statistics point to a continued emphasis on drug interdiction - otherwise known as the "war on drugs" - that more and more law enforcement officers are now questioning. While many experts hold the anti-drug campaign to be the key reason for the decline in the crime rate in the U.S., especially violent crime, since the 1990s, these police officers, as well as current and retired judges and prosecutors see, instead, thousands of American lives ruined for small drug infractions in a costly and possibly unwinnable "war."

"Not only do these officers see the terrible results that their

work has had on individuals' lives, but a lot of what I hear from beat officers and undercover narcotics agents is they've seen colleagues die in the line of fire trying to enforce laws that have no positive impacts," says Tom Angell, a spokesman for Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) in Washington. "For a lot of them, this is about trying to keep good cops alive by repealing stupid prohibition laws."

According to the latest FBI figures, 82.3 percent of all drug arrests in 2008 were for possession, and 44.3 percent of these for possession of marijuana. Arrests totaled more than 1.7 million.

"You can get over an addiction, but you will never get over a conviction," said Jack Cole, a retired undercover narcotics agent and LEAP director, in a statement last Tuesday about the "collateral consequences" of the war on drugs.

Changing attitudes

The emergence of frontline officers speaking out against the war on drugs is helping to kindle a debate about legalization of drugs across the U.S., says Angell. It is even driving a Congressional bill written by Sen. Jim Webb (D) of Virginia to establish a new Blue Ribbon justice system panel that would take a serious look at drug legalization.

The U.S. could gain \$77 billion in revenue a year by legalizing - and taxing - marijuana, cocaine and heroin, says LEAP.

Culturally, attitudes about drugs may be changing. A Zogby poll in May showed that for the first time a majority of Americans favor decriminalizing marijuana. States such as Massachusetts and California have already taken steps in that direction.

"Most drugs are more readily available at lower prices today than when Nixon declared a war against it," says Norm Stamper, a former Seattle police chief and a staunch proponent of drug le-

galization, referring in part to the lower price of marijuana.

However, White House "drug czar" Gil Kerlikowske recently said, "Legalization is not in the president's vocabulary and it's not in mine."

Sending the wrong message?

Pro-legalization groups are missing the forest for the trees, says Gregory D. Lee, a retired Drug Enforcement Administration agent. He says the dwindling crime rate across the U.S. is directly correlated to the government's investment in border and street interdiction.

"Legalization sends a message that it's okay to do drugs when in reality these drugs have a tremendous impact on the future of the people who take them," he says. "Under legalization, the crime rate would rise because of crimes committed by people under the influence of these substances."

Lee points to the rising price of cocaine in the U.S. as a sign that domestic and international interdiction is working. "The war on drugs," he says, "is being won."

Weight Watchers
MOVING to
Fulton County
Library
227 North First Street
beginning
Thursday, October 1.
Meetings begin
promptly at 6 PM.
Doors open at 5:15

JAMI'S ICE CREAM PLACE
Lincoln Way West
McConnellsburg

NEW HOURS
OPEN DAILY
4:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
SPECIAL FLAVOR
TANGERINE & DREAMSICLE

McConnellburg
Fire Company
CHICKEN & RIBS
Saturday
September 26
11:00 a.m. - ?
Last one of the year!


Needmore Vol. Fire Co.
200 CLUB DRAWING
SEPT. 26
New Needmore Fire Co. Building
Doors Open At 12 noon
Meal at 3 p.m.
No carryouts
Tickets \$30 for ticketholder and guest
Must be 18 to enter
Meal: Steak Dinner, does include beverage.
Call 717-496-3655 for tickets


SIPES FARM MARKET & BAKERY
233 Lincoln Way West, McCbg.
PHONE 717-485-5053
Hours: Mon-Fri. 9-5; Sat. 9-3
PUMPKINS - GOURDS - MUMS
INDIAN CORN - PURPLE ASTERS
APPLES
Red Delicious
Golden Delicious
Jona Gold - Gala
Cortland - MacIntosh
Empire - Honey Crisp
Pulled Pork - Pit Ham Sandwiches
Fri. at Farm Market & Saturday
At Thomas' Flea Market

EADER'S BUTCHER SHOP
Timber Ridge Rd.
Call 717-294-3954
or 717-294-3882
SPECIALS SEPT. 24-25-26
Kunzler Baconlb. \$2.59
Homemade
Beef Stickslb. \$2.99
We now accept food stamps
CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING
HOURS: 9-5 Th.-Fri.-Sat.

On November 3
Vote for a candidate that is
ready to go to work for the
people of Fulton County
ELECT
BRANDON FLETCHER
Fulton County
Prothonotary
9-17-09

CAR SEATS UPHOLSTERED OR REPAIRED
Also: Boat Seats
Truck Seats, RV Seats
Motorcycle Seats
Golf Cart Seats
Tractor Seats
Equipment Seats
Bus Seats
ALSO SMALL
FURNITURE JOBS
Contact C.J. McGarvey
717-360-4182
5-14-09

Happy 30th Anniversary
Momaw & Pappy
(Doris & Sam)

09.29.09
Love, Brenden, Ashlynnne,
Braelynnne and Katelynnne
9-24-11

Bt. Cabins Independent Bible Church
P.O. Box 4
Burnt Cabins, PA
814-259-3459
Pastor Bob Benson

MINI MESSAGE
Gen. 8:22 "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."
Every time the seasons change I am reminded of this verse. Following the flood, and even before God gave Noah the sign of the rainbow promising that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood, He lifted the curse upon the ground that had been placed there as one of the results of Adam's sin. Here God promises the natural order of things which we take for granted. The growing season; the heat of summer and cold of winter; the passing from day to night and back again; and the changing seasons, should remind us that God is in control of all things. This also reminds us that God is always faithful to His Word. You can count on that just as surely as the sun will come up tomorrow!

McConnellsburg Jr. Fire Co.
BUS TRIP
WWE Wrestling Event
Featuring **RAW, SMACKDOWN & ECW**
Sat., Oct. 24
BRYCE JORDAN CENTER
State College, Pa.
\$85 Bus & Ticket
For information and to register, call Bub at 717-485-9267

Another Load Of AMISH OAK FURNITURE Has Arrived From Lancaster
Come See All The Latest Styles!
All Sale Priced!
OTT BROTHERS
FURNITURE & APPLIANCE
Rt. 16, at entrance to JLG Industries
Phone 717-485-3271
McCONNELLSBURG
www.ottbros.com

Serta TRUCKLOAD MATTRESS SALE
Every Size, Every Price, Every Firmness . . .
NOW ON SALE!
Twin Sets Start at \$139 ea. pc.
HURRY IN!
With Prices Like These, They're Going Fast!
FREE DELIVERY - SETUP
FREE REMOVAL OF OLD BEDDING
OTT BROTHERS
FURNITURE & APPLIANCE
Rt. 16, at entrance to JLG Industries
Phone 717-485-3271
McCONNELLSBURG
www.ottbros.com

GARAGE SALE
Oct. 1-2
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Name Brand
Clothing
Household Items
Microwave
Longaberger
Beanie Babies
Artificial
Christmas Tree
P.N.B. Glasses
Metal Wardrobe, etc.
REAR 505 LWE
McCONNELLSBURG
9-24-11

Hustontown Area Vol. Fire Co.
OPEN STAGE
Sat., Sept. 26
6 p.m.
Kitchen opens at 5 p.m.
Everyone welcome to come out and share your talent.
Smoke-free and air-conditioned

Hustontown Area Vol. Fire Co.
BIG BINGO
Sun., Sept. 27
Games begin at 1 p.m.
Doors and kitchen open at 11 a.m.
Grill and fryers will be hot and ready
9 CARDS-\$25
15 CARDS-\$30
Includes 20 regular games and specials

AUCTION Fundraiser
Kindred Spirits will be holding an auction for **LIBERTY CROUSE**
Liberty is a 6-year-old who had surgery for a brain tumor. She is currently taking chemo treatments at Hershey Hospital.
SAT., SEPTEMBER 26
Greenhill Sewing Club
5:00 Dinner
6:00 Auction
You may drop off donated items and baked goods to be sold the day of the sale at the sewing club after 11:00 a.m.
Please come and help support the fundraiser.
Auctioneer: Max McQuade
Thank you,
KINDRED SPIRITS
9-17-09

FOR SALE

Cute as a button!
Brand new 3 BR/2 bath home,
McConnellsburg Borough, open floor plan, off-street parking
\$129,900
Call 485-5128
9-10-09

STOP AND SHOP
at
"THOMAS TIQUE"
Farmers/Flea Market
21518 Great Cove Road
McConnellsburg, PA 17233
Open Every Saturday
Through October
8:00 a.m. to ?
Looking for vendors of all kinds to display and sell their wares. (A great location to set up or shop!)
Cost: \$10.00
Call Sherry or Chuck at 717-485-4224 to participate or just show up!
Help us to help others!
9-3-09