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NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Salem mail carrier gets one year in prison

SALEM (AP) — A former U.S. Postal Service mail carrier was sentenced Monday to one year in prison for stealing bank cards and \$58,312 in cash from residents on his delivery route.

Jon Eric Nelson, 38, of Salem, also was ordered by U.S. District Judge Ancer Haggerty to three years of supervised parole following his release and to pay restitution to banks and other victims.

Nelson pleaded guilty July 24 to stealing 14 cards over a 2 1/2-year period and using them to withdraw cash from various accounts.

Nelson, an 11-year veteran of the Postal Service, was fired March 25 from his job as a mail carrier out of Hollywood Station in Salem.

He had been suspended Jan. 27 after being identified through automated teller machine photographs as the individual making unauthorized cash withdrawals on the stolen cards.

Courtney Love pleads guilty to assault, but won't be jailed

EPHRATA, Wash. (AP) — Seattle-based rock singer Courtney Love pleaded guilty to assaulting a singer in another band, but will serve no jail time as part of a plea agreement.

Grant County District Judge Rich Fitterer on Monday imposed a 365-day jail term, then suspended it on the condition that the grunge singer refrain from violence for two years and take anger management classes.

The 31-year-old lead singer for Hole was ordered to pay a \$150 fine and \$285 in court costs.

Singer Kathleen Hannah of the group Bikini Kill accused Love of hitting her on the head during the Lollapalooza Festival at the Gorge amphitheater near George last July 4.

Love, who carried her 3-year-old daughter Frances Bean Cobain into the courtroom, answered "Yes, your honor," when Fitterer asked if she agreed to the proposed sentence and fine for fourth-degree assault.

Perot agrees to support Californian third party effort

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a turn-about that could reshape the 1996 elections, Ross Perot has decided to embrace efforts by supporters in California to form a new political party, leaders of his organization said Monday. If successful, the effort is expected to quickly spread to other states.

Leaders of Perot's United We Stand America organization said they did not view the effort as a sign that Perot hoped to run as the new party's candidate in 1996. Indeed, some took it as a sign he would not run, noting that it was far easier and less expensive to qualify as an independent candidate, as Perot did in 1992.

"If he wanted to run for president, there is a lot easier route available," said Platt Thompson, the United We Stand executive director in California. "This is not a vehicle for a Perot campaign," said Joan Vinson, the Maryland executive director. Still, both said they would support Perot if he did run.

Plans for black men's march on Washington going forward

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rousing vision of a million black men, heads held high, marching through the nation's capital has united diverse black groups despite misgivings about the two men who are leading the way.

The males-only march being organized by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and ousted NAACP chief Benjamin Chavis is on its way to becoming reality, in spirit even if not in numbers, on Oct. 16.

The popularity of the march's message has largely overshadowed concerns about its two founders.

Farrakhan, a firebrand often accused of anti-Semitism, has alienated many black leaders; Chavis was fired from the NAACP amid accusations that he misappropriated funds to cover up a sexual harassment claim.

Christopher says U.S. will insist on Bosnian territorial integrity

NEW YORK (AP) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher appealed Monday to warring factions in Bosnia to "end the fighting and end it for good" and move on to negotiations over the future of the former Yugoslav republic.

But he received no promises of a cease-fire in the 3 1/2-year-old war.

After meeting here with the foreign ministers of Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia, Christopher said he told them the United States would oppose a settlement that does not guarantee the territorial integrity of Bosnia. He said that would include any agreement giving Bosnian Serbs the right to secede and join Serbia.

Canceled speeches may mean succession is at hand in N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The cancellation of two speeches by a top North Korean official has aroused speculation that Kim Jong Il may assume full power as early as next month.

Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam canceled an Oct. 19-20 meeting in Colombia, and South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported today from New York that he also canceled a scheduled speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Oct. 11.

The cancellations fueled speculation in the media and by diplomats that the 50th anniversary of the founding of North Korea's communist Worker's Party — to be held Oct. 10 — may be more than a celebration.

Kim Jong Il has been North Korea's de facto leader since his father, Kim Il Sung, died in July 1994 after a half-century in power. But the younger Kim has not taken the titles of his father: president and head of the Communist Party.

If he were to take those titles on Oct. 10, North Korea would want all top officials in attendance.

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