

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Great Oregon Beach Cleanup set for Saturday



(AP) — As autumn makes its appearance and the summer tourist season comes to an end on the Oregon Coast, it is time once again to pick up after the beach-goers and others whose litter has piled up.

This Saturday, 3,000 or more people are expected to take to the state's beaches to participate in the twice-annual Great Oregon Beach Cleanup.

Participants can meet at 34 sites up and down the coast, where volunteer zone captains will pass out litter bags and information.

In the 12 years since Oregon

invented the volunteer-driven cleanup, it has turned into one of the nation's most intensive volunteer efforts to protect public resources, said Bill Hastie, of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"It really shows the public's ownership of the beaches," Hastie said.

Popular beaches such as Seaside and Cannon Beach have little problem attracting hordes of volunteers, Hastie said. But other beaches often are neglected.

Volunteers are needed between Arch Cape and Cascade Head, and zones south of Ona Beach State Park, he said.

With the Arch Cape tunnel closed for repairs, volunteers coming from northern Oregon may want to use Oregon 6 to travel to points south of the tunnel.

Congressman gets five-year sentence for sexual misconduct



CHICAGO (AP) — Rep. Mel Reynolds, his promising political career ruined by his conviction for having sex with a teen-age campaign worker, was sentenced Thursday to five years in prison by a judge who told him bluntly, "You blew it."

"I think of all those things you could have done for education, for those kids ... who will join gangs because you weren't there to help," Judge Fred G. Suria told the 43-year-old lawmaker. "... You threw it away."

Before the sentencing, an unrepentant Reynolds delivered an angry, rambling, 40-minute denunciation of the prosecution and the media, accusing them of racism.

"When they shackle me, like they shackled my slave ancestors and take me off to jail, nobody in this room will see me crawl," the black congressman said.

Suria sentenced Reynolds to the mandatory minimum four years in prison for criminal sexual assault and ordered him to serve a concurrent four-year term for child pornography.

He also ordered Reynolds to serve an additional year afterward for obstruction of justice.

face as he sat outside in Brown's cream-colored Bentley, witnesses said.

Brown, 26, was unhurt but Sealy was shot several times and killed. Sealy, 31, had been engaged to marry one of Brown's sisters.

Publicists for Brown and Houston said they had no comment.

Police believe a lone gunman fired two weapons at Sealy and refused to comment on witness accounts that there had been a shootout.

"The car was riddled with bullets," fire Lt. Richard Quinlan said.

A gold medallion was missing from Sealy's neck, leading police to believe robbery was the motive. Police Superintendent Jack Boyle said a man was being sought.

The bar is a block from the Orchard Park project where Brown lived as a boy. Brown had been in the club signing autographs.

Woman researching prostitutes found slain; suspect caught

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — A student who descended into the underworld of prostitution for a research project was found slain, and a drifter she had met through an escort service was charged Thursday with her murder.

The Oakland Press of Pontiac quoted unidentified detectives as saying that the victim, Tina Biggar, the 23-year-old daughter of a Coast Guard commander, had been working as a prostitute.

At his arraignment, Kenneth Tranchida, 42, declared, "I'm guilty." But no plea was entered, and Judge Stephen Cooper urged him to speak to a lawyer. Tranchida, who was arrested Monday, was jailed without bail.

Police said they had found Biggar's car in Tranchida's possession, and tests found her blood in the trunk.

3 U.S. servicemen formally charged with Okinawan gang rape



TOKYO (AP) — Three U.S. servicemen were charged Friday with abducting and raping a 12-year-old girl, clearing the way for their delivery to Japanese authorities as protesters nationwide have vehemently demanded.

The rape has caused a major uproar on Okinawa, one of the United States' most important military outposts in the Pacific, and generated a nationwide debate over whether Japan should revise the terms under which 45,000 U.S. troops are stationed in this country.

Charged Friday were Marine Pfc. Rodrigo Harp, 21, of Griffin, Ga.; Pfc. Kendrick M. Ledet, 20, of Waycross, Ga.; and Navy Seaman Marcus D. Gill, 22, of Woodville, Texas.

The charges were filed Friday morning at the Naha District Court, court spokesman Hidekatsu Shinjo said. Marine spokesmen had no immediate comment but have promised to cooperate fully with the Japanese authorities.

Authorities believe the three abducted the girl Sept. 4 near her home, threw her into the back of a rented van and bound her with electrical tape. They drove her to a beach, where they raped her, police say.

Local police sought custody of the three shortly after the rape was reported, but their request was denied by the U.S. Marines, who cited a bilateral agreement that gives U.S. forces custody over personnel suspected in crimes until formal charges are filed.

Military officials had otherwise cooperated with Japanese investigators, allowing the suspects to be questioned daily by local police. But many Okinawans saw their refusal to turn over the suspects as evidence of military arrogance and insensitivity.

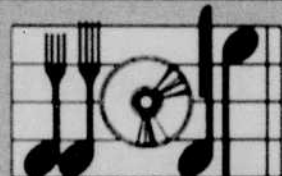
Hoping to soothe Okinawan anger, U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale, Defense Secretary William Perry and President Clinton have offered apologies and vowed to prevent more such violence.

Marine Maj. Gen. Wayne Rollings, the top commander on Okinawa, has declared next Wednesday a "day of reflection" and said routine training would be replaced by a full day of discussions on the military's standards of conduct and host nation sensitivities.

Greenpeace denies calling a boycott to protest testing

PARIS (AP) — Responding to a lawsuit by French farmers and winemakers, Greenpeace denied in court Thursday that it ever called for a boycott to protest French nuclear testing.

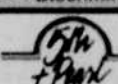
Producers of French wine, fruit and vegetables took Greenpeace to court for an Aug. 29 advertisement that listed producers opposed to the testing and urged others to join in. Producers say Greenpeace suggested people should boycott producers who didn't.



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