

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Court ruling on doctor-assisted suicide might affect Oregon



PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon's physician-assisted suicide law may finally go into effect, possibly within weeks, if an appeals court follows through on its comments in a ruling against neighboring Washington.

Oregon's attorney general asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco Thursday to dissolve the injunction that has blocked the voter-approved law.

Judge Stephen Reinhardt, writing for the majority, said Oregon's law was "carefully crafted" and that Hogan "clearly erred" when he declared it unconstitutional.

Propane-loaded railroad cars threaten town; townspeople evacuated



WEYAUWET, Wis. (AP) — Delores Harris fled her home when propane-loaded railroad cars jumped the tracks and burst into flames.

Mrs. Harris found herself Thursday with her two teen-age sons in a hotel room miles away as the fire continued to rage and the threat of a huge explosion kept the town's 1,700 residents from their homes, jobs and pets.

Armored vehicles were being prepared by the Wis. National Guard to ferry 18 people at a time to their homes on Friday. Each would have five minutes to grab abandoned pets and essentials.

Israel peace process jeopardized by recent bus bombings



SALEM (AP) — While his agents showed off bomb-making gear and other confiscated terror tools, Yasser Arafat accused Islamic radicals on Thursday of trying to "kill the Palestinian dream" just as it was beginning to come true.

Opening the historic first session of an elected Palestinian law-making council, Arafat lashed out at the Hamas campaign of suicide bombings that has killed 61 people since Feb. 25.

He attacked Israelis for barricading Palestinians inside their towns, saying the blockade was "like the occupation come back again."

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