

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world

Bill creates Opal Creek forest reserve

1 SALEM — The bill that creates an Opal Creek forest reserve also makes available \$750,000 to remove toxic mine waste in the area, Sen. Mark Hatfield announced Wednesday.

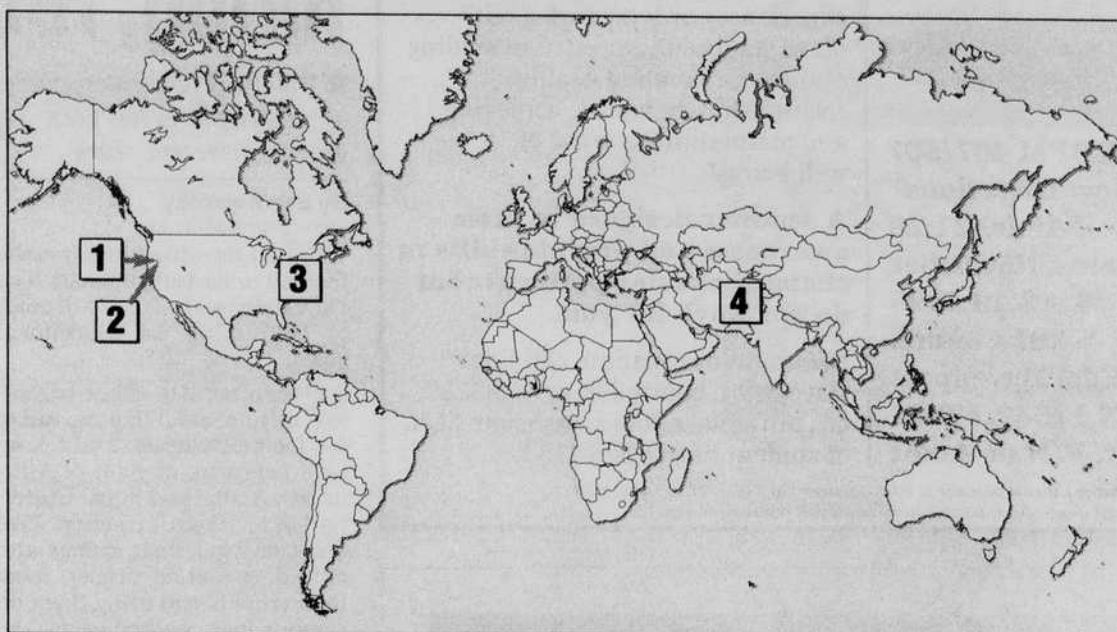
Hatfield, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, attached the Opal Creek legislation to a spending bill that was approved by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton on Monday.

Hatfield said at a news conference that the measure provides funds to help pay for removing 5,500 cubic yards of mine waste from the area 30 miles east of Salem.

The Oregon Republican, who is retiring at the end of the year, said the bill's passage was greatly satisfying to him.

"I always said as long as I was in the Senate, Opal Creek would not be harvested," Hatfield said.

"It was a rider on the appropriations bill, just like the salvage logging rider was," said Jim Geisinger, president of the Northwest Forestry Association. "And we've been criticized for over a year for legislating an emergency salvage amendment in that manner."



Medford's first gang slayers tried in court

2 MEDFORD — A grand jury has indicted two young men in the city's first gang slaying.

Gang member Peter Curtis Millard, 18, was indicted Tuesday on a charge of murder in the Sept. 24 shooting of Jose Ruiz Rodriguez, 18, at Rodriguez' home.

Police say Rodriguez was associated with a rival gang.

The grand jury also indicted Jeremy Russell Overby, 19, on a charge of solicitation to commit murder for allegedly encouraging Millard to kill Rodriguez.

Deputy District Attorney Judith Lowrey said she will consider requesting that a third youth, Ruben Arturo Chavez, 17, be tried as an adult.

Authorities say Millard fired a pistol 12 times through a bedroom window and hit Rodriguez three times in the head and chest.

Italian financier found guilty of perjury

3 WILMINGTON, Del. — Italian financier Giancarlo Parretti was found guilty Wednesday of perjury and tampering with evidence during a 1991 trial that cost him control of the MGM studio.

Parretti could face up to 10 years in prison.

His lawyer, Jay M. Coggan, said he was considering asking for a new trial.

During the 1991 trial, Parretti claimed he received a fax from the French bank Credit Lyonnais showing he had acted properly in his dealings with the bank, which financed his \$1.3 billion purchase of MGM in 1990.

The defense and the prosecution agreed the fax was altered, but split on whether Parretti, who did not testify, had known that the document was bogus.

Rival troops mass in Northern Afghanistan

4 KABUL, Afghanistan — The rebel fighters who control most of Afghanistan clambered over the mountains north of Kabul on Wednesday, tightening their siege on the lone valley still in the hands of former government soldiers.

Meanwhile, a U.N. envoy tried to prevent separate outbreaks of fighting in a nearby part of the country. Northern warlord Rashid Dostum's army of ethnic Uzbeks and Tajiks, which controls most or all of seven northern provinces, is the only force standing in the way of complete Taliban control of Afghanistan. The warlord has reportedly sent 40,000 troops to bolster his front line.

So far, Dostum has taken a neutral position between the government troops and Islamic rebels.

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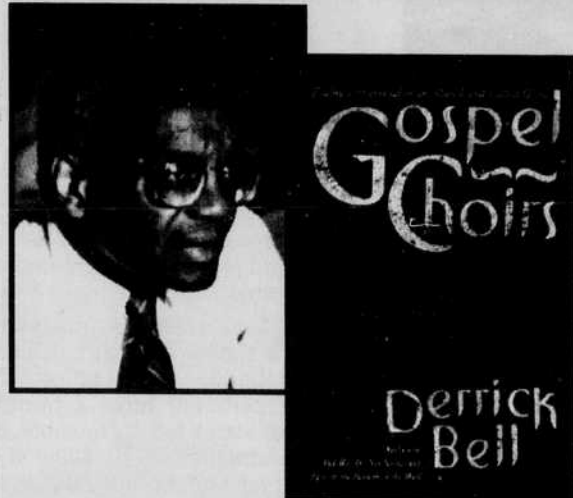
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