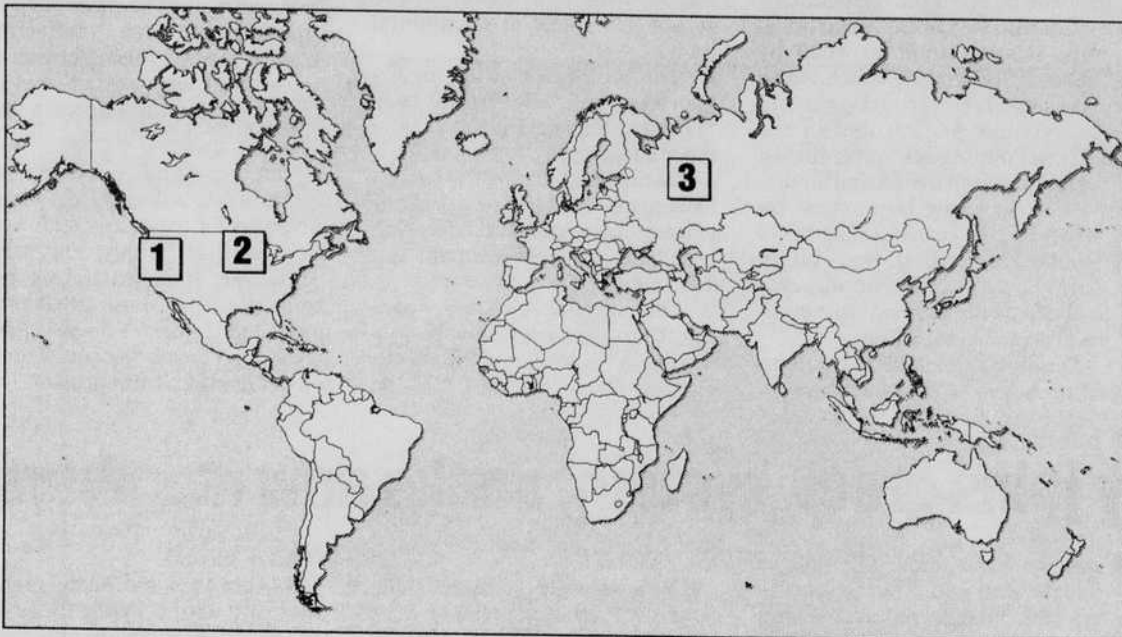


NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world



Mount Shasta Ski Park builds new lift

1 MEDFORD — Mount Shasta Ski Park in Northern California has erected towers for a new lift that will add room for as many as 30,000 new skiers as part of a \$2 million expansion.

"Our skiers have been asking for more advanced runs," said Tim Larive, market director for the ski area outside Mount Shasta, Calif. "We've taught a whole generation to ski at Mount Shasta. As they got better, they wanted more challenges. Coyote Butte is that challenge."

A Sikorsky Skycrane helicopter from Erickson Air-Crane in Central Point, Ore., lifted the steel towers in place Wednesday for the new lift, which will have 142 triple chairs and take skiers to the top of Coyote Butte in six minutes.

The third ski lift will add 300 vertical feet to the ski area for a total of 1,400 vertical feet.

The day lodge has been remodeled to include a new outdoor cafe, a larger ski shop and a new rental shop exclusively for snowboarding.

Snow permitting, the ski area hopes to open the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Pabst to close down brewery in Milwaukee

2 MILWAUKEE — Pabst Brewing Co. said Thursday it will shut down its Milwaukee brewery and lay off 250 workers, ending 150 years of the Blue Ribbon beer in the city that once dominated the industry.

The nation's No. 6 brewer said it will shift production to Stroh Brewing Co.'s La Crosse plant, which already handles two-thirds of Pabst's production. Pabst also has breweries in San Antonio and Tumwater, Wash.

"The losses at the Milwaukee division have been mounting and the demand for our product has been diminishing at an alarming rate," said spokesman Gary Lewitzke. "We cannot continue to absorb these ongoing losses."

The brewery will cease operation by year's end. Pabst had projected a nearly \$9 million loss by the end of the year at the Milwaukee plant.

Once an industry leader, Pabst has struggled with declining sales for several years.

Mayor John Norquist blamed the brewery's parent, S&P Co. of Mill Valley, Calif., for forcing the closure.

Lebed may become an opponent for Yeltsin

3 MOSCOW — Instead of solving a nagging problem by firing Alexander Lebed, Boris Yeltsin soon may find he has just unleashed his greatest rival.

Free of ties to a government he despises, the former security chief already is campaigning for president, the only job he wants. Lebed's dismissal will boost his standing in the eyes of millions of Russians fed up with Yeltsin and his government's incompetence and corruption.

Lebed was ousted amid charges from Kremlin rivals that the ex-general wanted to seize power or incite a military mutiny. But Lebed insists he wants to win the presidency with ballots, not bullets.

Lebed sees himself as a pragmatist and a patriot who believes in Russia's destiny as a great power.

Elections are not due until 2000, but few Russians expect the ailing Yeltsin to serve out his full term.

The two men had been bitter rivals, but a common threat from Russia's Communists forced them into the alliance during the presidential election.

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