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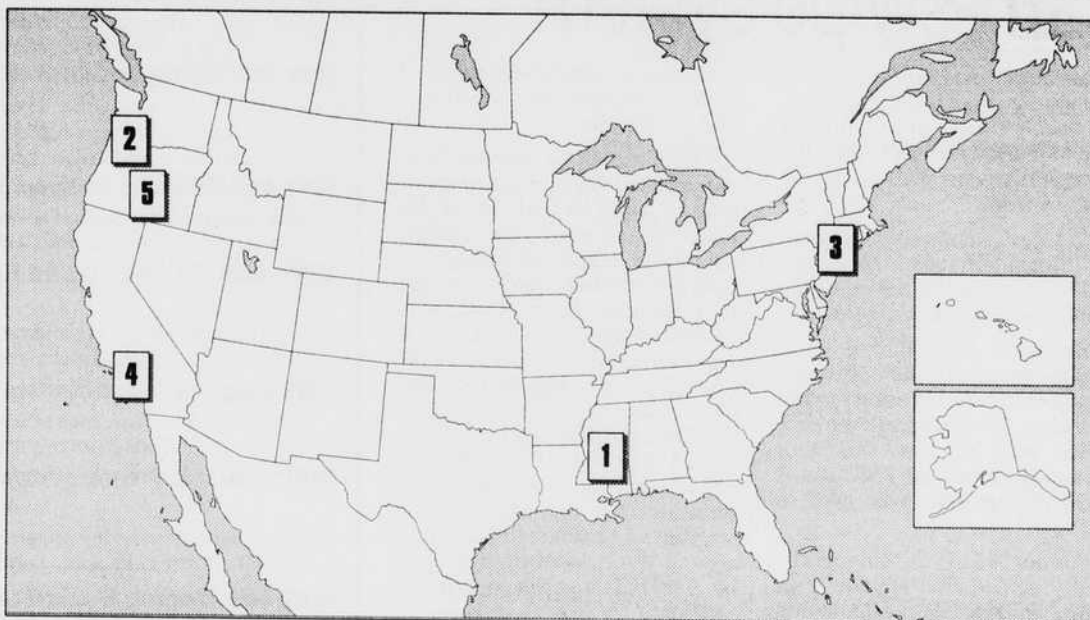
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NEWS DIGEST



Jury selection begins in Pearl shooting trial

1 PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Jury selection began Monday for the 17-year-old boy accused of killing his mother before allegedly going on a shooting spree at his high school.

The attack at Pearl High School left two of Luke Woodham's classmates dead in the first of a string of high-profile school shootings nationwide.

Woodham is charged in the hacking death of his mother, Mary Woodham, 50, the morning of Oct. 1. Lawyers hoped to call their first witnesses Tuesday. The trial is expected to last a week.

Woodham is to stand trial separately on charges of killing two classmates and wounding seven other students at the school later that day.

After attorneys trimmed the group of more than 100 potential jurors to 68, 18 of those remaining said they could not be impartial.

"I'm going to assume that most of those who have already formed an opinion, formed an opinion against Luke Woodham because of extensive media coverage," defense attorney Leslie Roussell said.

The trial was moved from Rankin County to Neshoba County, about 50 miles apart, because of publicity about the shootings.

Portland officer sues for discrimination

2 PORTLAND — A Portland police captain filed a lawsuit in federal court against Mayor Vera Katz and Police Chief Charles Moose Monday claiming they discriminated against him because he is gay.

The long-expected lawsuit by Capt. Mike Garvey seeks general, special and punitive damages but does not name a specific amount.

Problems for Garvey, a 21-year, highly decorated member of the Portland Police Bureau, began in April of 1996 amid allegations that he had paid male prostitutes for sex.

A grand jury refused to indict him in August of 1996 but the suit says Moose demoted Garvey from commander to captain in early 1997, alleging he had used his city cell phone for personal use and had run a clothing business from his bureau office.

The lawsuit claims Katz knew of Moose's "discriminatory animus towards gay males" but out of "deliberate indifference" chose to leave many decisions regarding Garvey in the hands of Moose.

Garvey claims that as commander he was not allowed to call Moose at home because Garvey is

gay.

Moose could not immediately be reached for comment and Katz said she could not comment on pending litigation.

Garvey contends he was interrogated about the minute details of his sex life in a humiliating manner.

It also claims he was put in danger by being issued a police car with no two-way radio, siren or police lights.

Obesity upgraded to 'major risk' factor

3 NEW YORK — The American Heart Association on Monday declared obesity a "major risk" factor in heart attacks, adding it to a list that includes smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and a sedentary lifestyle.

Though health officials have long warned that obesity can cause coronary heart disease, which leads to heart attacks, the heart association decided to upgrade its warnings after recent studies found that more and more Americans are overweight.

Previously, the heart association listed obesity as a "contributing risk" factor for heart attacks.

A study published in the journal Science last month found that 54 percent of U.S. adults and 25 percent of the nation's children are heavier than is healthy.

"Obesity itself has become a lifelong disease, not a cosmetic issue, not a moral judgment, and it is becoming a dangerous epidemic," said Robert Eckel, vice chairman of the heart association's Nutrition Committee. "Health care providers and the public need to accept that obesity is a chronic disease, just like high blood pressure or high blood cholesterol."

Eckel said studies have shown that gradual weight losses of between 5 and 10 percent of body weight can decrease blood pressure and cholesterol levels, which are often higher in obese people.

Suspect attacks two deputies in courtroom

4 COMPTON, Calif. — As jurors announced a guilty verdict Monday in a kidnapping trial, the defendant pulled a knife and attacked two deputies before a third officer shot him to death in the courtroom.

"The suspect made comments to the jury and became combative. When the deputies tried to take him into custody he stabbed them," said Los Angeles County Deputy Bill Martin.

The deputies' wounds were not life-threatening, Deputy Jim Hellmold said.

Hellmold defended courthouse

security. "But certainly a knife did enter here, so that leaves the question how did it enter the courtroom and we're going to find out exactly why," he said.

The weapon was described as homemade.

Jurors convicted James Eugene Moore, 51, of kidnapping for the purpose of rape and sexual battery.

Prineville evacuees wait for flood to end

5 PRINEVILLE, Ore. — Three days after floodwaters swamped this central Oregon town, many of the 400 evacuated homes were still surrounded by water and anxious residents waited for word on when, or if, they could return.

"I have no idea when I can get back in or whether I can still live there," Lorene Ward said Monday after spending the night at a Red Cross shelter.

"I have one of those old metal trailers and they say that if the water comes up over the skirting, forget it," Ward said. "I might have to find a low-cost apartment or something."

Ochoco Creek, which bisects Prineville, began spilling over its banks Friday night. And though the flooding has receded from its peak Saturday, water continues to pour into the creek from a full reservoir below snow-capped mountains.

"Nobody is controlling water releases from the reservoir now," said police Chief Jim Soules. "God is controlling it now."

The flooding came after this arid, high-desert region got nearly 3 inches of rain Friday and early Saturday, filling the reservoir to the brim and causing it to shoot millions of gallons of water into the creek. Water in some homes rose to knee deep.

Evacuated residents have been allowed to wade back in only briefly to check for damages and get supplies.

"I want to go back and get fresh clothes for one thing," said Ward, who has spent three nights in the Red Cross shelter.

Soules said most of the efforts to remove water from homes would have to wait until giant pools spreading from the creek into neighborhoods recede further.

Initial cleanup efforts began at some of the homes Monday, and county and state inspectors began examining residences. People will not be allowed to return until the structures are inspected for structural soundness and potential problems with utility services.

The process could take days.

— The Associated Press