

News digest

Man sent to prison for urinating in airline

GREENSBORO, N.C. — A man got 19 months in prison for picking fights during an airline flight and urinating in the aisle.

Walter Andrew Everhart, 36, told a federal judge Monday that he remembered none of the episode, saying painkillers and alcohol caused him to black out during the US Airways flight from Germany to Philadelphia last November.

He also did not recall kicking the seat of a pregnant woman so hard that she fell out and feared she would have a miscarriage.

Everhart pleaded guilty to interfering with a flight attendant. The case was transferred to North Carolina because he was living there.

Fire causes Australian natural gas shortage

MELBOURNE, Australia — Stores began rationing bread Wednesday in Australia's second-most populous state, where a fire at a natural gas refinery has idled bakeries, dairies and a host of other businesses.

Some 1.4 million households also have been affected by the fire that killed two people and exten-

sively damaged Esso's gas plant in the state of Victoria. The cutoff could last weeks.

The plant supplied more than 80 percent of the natural gas for Victoria, in southeastern Australia. Esso has so far been unable to determine the cause of the blaze.

Rationing has not been seen in Victoria since World War II.

Iran holds military exercises near border

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian armed forces held military exercises Wednesday near Afghanistan, a move that could heighten tensions along the border of the two countries.

Iranian television broadcast footage of armored and infantry units advancing toward imaginary enemy positions. The maneuvers, the second in September, follow problems last month with Afghanistan's Taliban militia.

Taliban fighters killed eight Iranian diplomats and an Iranian journalist after the Aug. 8 capture of the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The Taliban, which rules about 90 percent of Afghanistan, said renegade fighters killed the Irani-

ans, but its leaders have refused Iranian demands to hand over the killers. They accuse Iran of backing Afghanistan's northern-based opposition alliance.

About 200,000 troops will take part in the Iranian exercises, which will cover 20,000 square miles in eastern Iran.

Oregon man accused of keeping coyotes

MONMOUTH — Oregon State Police joined state and federal wildlife agents in a raid on a home where wild coyotes were allegedly kept in a 150-acre compound enclosed by a 10-foot-high electric fence.

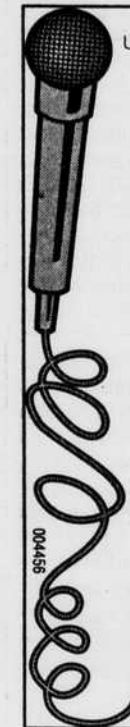
James Hendrickson, 78, was accused of illegally keeping an unknown number of the animals in the compound to be used to teach dogs how to hunt.

Police on Tuesday could not find Hendrickson, whom they believe is on vacation.

No charges have been filed, but Hendrickson could face multiple counts of unlawfully keeping coyotes and bobcats in captivity, harassment of wildlife and theft. Each offense is a Class A misdemeanor and carries a \$5,000 fine and up to one year in jail for each count.

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