WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Amtrak train stuck in Oregon for more than a day is moving

PORTLAND — Passengers stranded on an Amtrak train for more than a day in a remote and snowed-in part of Oregon said the train was moving again today after it got stuck when it hit a tree that fell on the tracks.

The Coast Starlight train left Seattle for Los Angeles early Sunday. It hit the tree Sunday evening southeast of Eugene. The 183 passengers were kept on the train because the heavy snow had knocked out power in the town of Oakridge, the closest populated place.

Officials decided that the train was the safest place for passengers to stay because it had food, heat electricity and functioning toilets, Naparstek said.

Amtrak Executive Vice President Scot Naparstek apologized. "With more than a foot of heavy snow and numerous trees blocking the track, we made every decision in the best interest of the safety of our customers during the unfortunate sequence of events," he said.

Storm slams western US, raises flood fears for California

SAN FRANCISCO — A winter storm slamming the western U.S. dumped rain today in Northern California and raised the threat of floods, while heavy mountain snowfall created a risk of avalanches and whiteout conditions on roads in the Sierra Nevada.

The National Weather Service issued flood warnings and flash flood watches for the San Francisco Bay Area and many parts of the Sacramento area into Thursday morning.

The storm already has barreled through

other parts of the West, toppling trucks and trees, triggering power outages and closing roads and schools from Oregon to Montana.

Snow forced flight cancellations at the Portland airport, and prompted a blizzard warning for parts of Montana, where Butte public schools canceled classes today for the first time in at least 20 years.

Appeals court clears AT&T's \$81B merger with Time Warner

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court has cleared AT&T's takeover of Time Warner, rejecting the Trump administration's claims that the \$81 billion deal will harm consumers and reduce competition in the pay TV

The ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington approves one of the biggest media marriages ever. It was already completed last spring soon after a federal trial judge approved it, as phone and pay TV giant AT&T absorbed Time Warner, the owner of CNN, HBO, the Warner Bros. movie studio, "Game of Thrones," coveted sports programming and other "must-see" shows.

Many observers had expected the decision favorable to AT&T from the three-judge appeals court panel, which upheld the trial judge's June ruling. Opposing the merger forced the Justice Department to argue against standing legal doctrine that favors mergers among companies that don't compete directly with each other, what's known as a vertical merger.

The U.S. antitrust lawsuit against Dallas-based AT&T, the biggest pay TV provider in the U.S., marked the first time in decades that the government has challenged that doctrine by suing to block a vertical merger.

Mother and daughter are charged in deaths of 5 relatives

MORRISVILLE, Pa. — Police found a Pennsylvania woman and her adult daughter in an apartment with the bodies of five relatives they had killed, including three children, authorities said today.

Shana S. Decree, 45, and Dominique Decree, 19, were charged with five counts of homicide and one count each of conspiracy.

Shana Decree told police that "everyone at the apartment ... wanted to die" and talked about suicide, according to court documents. Decree claimed one of the victims, Jamilla Campbell, 42, killed two other victims before she herself was slain.

The bodies were found Monday in an apartment in suburban Philadelphia after Bucks County child welfare officials showed up unannounced and got no response when they knocked on the door. A maintenance worker opened the door and found Shana Decree and Dominique Decree in a "disoriented" state.

Senators grill pharmaceutical CEOs about high drug prices

WASHINGTON — Senators grilled CEOs of seven major drug companies today over high prescription drug prices that are a drain on Medicare and Medicaid and a burden to millions of Americans. The extraordinary public accounting was a sign that Congress and the White House are moving toward legislation this year to curb costs.

Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, pointedly reminded the executives that it is a crime to provide false testimony to Congress. Some of the companies initially had sought a private meeting to

explain their pricing policies, but lawmakers refused and insisted the CEOs appear in pub-

lic or risk subpoenas. Ranking Democrat Ron Wyden of Oregon said in his prepared statement, "You pharma executives are here because the way you do business is unacceptable and unsustainable. Ten companies accounted for half of all profits in the health care sector last fall. Nine of those ten were drug manufacturers."

In statements submitted to the committee, the CEOs said drug development is a risky and costly undertaking and that prices reflect investment in research and development.

India strikes inside Pakistan after deadly Kashmir attack

BALAKOT, Pakistan - A predawn airstrike inside Pakistan that India said targeted a terrorist training camp and killed a "very large number" of militants ratcheted up tensions today between the two nuclear-armed rivals at odds over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Islamabad said there were no casualties in the strike near the town of Balakot, close to the border with Pakistan's sector of Kashmir, where residents said loud explosions woke them up, rattling their homes.

The airstrike was the latest escalation since a deadly suicide bombing in India's section of Kashmir earlier this month killed more than 40 Indian soldiers. Pakistan has denied involvement in the attack but vowed to respond to any Indian military operation against it.

Kashmir is split between the two countries but claimed by each in its entirety. The Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad claimed responsibility for the bombing. The bomber was a resident of the Indian-controlled sector of Kashmir.

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