

US Women Go All the Way in World Cup, Surprise Officials and Set US Attendance Records

See B3



Daughter of the Late Dizzy Gillespie Visits Cathedral Park

See Focus Page 7



Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 1610

The Portland Observer

University of Oregon
Knight Library
Newspaper Section
Eugene OR 97403

Sección
en
Español

Alleged Railway Killer in Custody

By MICHELLE KOIDIN
© THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL PASO, Texas - Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, the train-riding fugitive suspected of killing eight people who lived near railroad tracks, surrendered at a border checkpoint today in a deal brokered by his sister.

The 39-year-old drifter, who is charged or wanted for questioning in the slayings in three states and was on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List, surrendered at the Ysleta port of entry to Texas Rangers Sgt. Drew Carter, state investigators said.

"Carter told me that he extended his hand, they shook hands, and they handcuffed him. He was very pleasant, not aggressive," said state Department of Public Safety Capt. Bruce Casteel.

He said he didn't know how long Resendez-Ramirez had been in Mexico.

Resendez-Ramirez, wearing gold-rimmed glasses, appeared briefly before a magistrate, saying only "no, sir" twice when asked if he had questions. The suspect was escorted into the courtroom in handcuffs and a chain around his waist.

Later, motorcycle police escorted a white van that carried Resendez-Ramirez to the airport and a flight to Houston.

The surrender agreement with Resendez-Ramirez included assurances of family visitation rights, a psychological evaluation and promises that he would be safe in jail, Casteel said.

However, it does not shield Resendez-Ramirez from the death penalty, he said.

Ramirez's sister, who lives in Albuquerque, N.M., called Carter on Sunday while he was on a fishing trip and said she had been in touch with her brother through an intermediary, said Mike Cox,



Rafael Resendez-Ramirez

state Department of Public Safety spokesman.

Carter, an FBI agent and a deputy U.S. marshal met with the sister Sunday night and Monday to negotiate the surrender on a burglary warrant related to one of the slayings.

Resendez-Ramirez's ability to elude law enforcement had been an embarrassment to law enforcement. On June 2, he

was released by Border Patrol agents, even though he was already wanted by the FBI and Houston police, had told the immigration service, they wanted him for questioning in a murder. The Border Patrol agents had picked him up for illegal entry and sent him back to Mexico.

But Immigration Commissioner Doris Meissner said the Immigration and Naturalization Service, parent of the Border Patrol, had multiple entries on Resendez-Ramirez in a computerized photo and fingerprint database that provides immediate identification of

aliens apprehended by the Border Patrol. Two days after that release, authorities believe, he killed a 73-year-old woman west of Houston. The following day, they say, he killed a 26-year-old Houston schoolteacher at her home. His fingerprints then were found June 15 in Gorham, Ill., at the scene of the slaying of a 79-year-old man and his 51-year-old daughter.

The INS first encountered Resendez-Ramirez in 1976 after he was arrested in Michigan. He was returned to Mexico, but since then has been deported from the United States three times - in 1985, 1987 and 1991. He also was apprehended by Border Patrol agents eight times since January 1998.

Meissner said the Justice Department inspector general would look at why Resendez-Ramirez "was not detained and whether INS knew about Resendez-Ramirez's criminal activities after being contacted by local law enforcement earlier this year."

In addition to the killings in June, Lexington, Ky., police obtained warrants last month for Resendez-Ramirez's arrest in connection with the August 1997 murder of University of Kentucky student Christopher Maier, who was attacked with his girlfriend as they walked near some railroad tracks. The girlfriend, who was raped, survived. The charges are murder, two counts of first-degree robbery and single counts of rape and assault.

He also was linked to the Dec. 17, 1998, sex slaying of Dr. Claudia Benton, 39, at her home in West University Place, a well-to-do community that is surrounded by the city of Houston; and the slayings of the Rev. Norman "Skip" Sircic, 46, and his wife, Karen, 47, in the parsonage behind Weimar (Texas) United Church of Christ. They were beaten to death with a sledgehammer and were found May 2 after they failed to show up for Sunday services.

The suspect's real name is Angel Leoncio Reyes Recendis, according to a birth certificate, but authorities had been using the name Resendez-Ramirez, one of his aliases.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Senate Defeats HMO Amendment

Democrats trying to expand a GOP patients' rights bill lost the opening vote today as the Senate rejected their effort to allow women more options in choosing doctors and hospitals. The vote was 52-48, mostly along party lines. This amendment would have allowed women to designate obstetric-gynecologists as their primary care doctor.

Peace Process

Israel's foreign minister told Israelis not to expect too much too soon from the peace process revival. The new government wants to see deeds as well as words from the Palestinians and Syria. A recent exchange between Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Syrian President Hafez Assad has been portrayed as a sign of a quick breakthrough.

Anti-Milosevic Movement

A petition was signed by thousands of people in Belgrade Yugoslavia calling for Slobodan Milosevic's resignation. It was an effort to oust the Yugoslav president. Thousands turned out for an opposition rally in a central Serbian town which the police tried to suppress by blocking roads. The increase in protests were a show that ordinary Serbs are "waking up" to the horrors Milosevic incited in Kosovo.

Military Y2K Test

The Pentagon had conducted a major test of their computer systems to make sure that they will still be operational on January 1, 2000. They identified that there were three minor glitches in its complex computerized logistics network. Technical experts built a duplicate network - what they called a "parallel processing environment" - then rolled those computer clocks forward to simulate the week following Feb. 28, 2000.

Jobless Claims Falling

Declining claims for jobless benefits and rising retail sales are providing fresh evidence of a booming economy. The Labor Department reported that jobless benefits fell unexpectedly. Last month, sales from the nation's largest retailers rose to better-than-expected levels. Warmer-than-normal weather attributed to the hefty U.S. economy.

Liver Transplant

A tricky series of liver operations involving four patients simultaneously will be handled by four teams of Japanese doctors. The 20 doctors will complete the last phase of the operation at Kyoto University Hospital. The procedure is called a domino transplant because the work involves a string of operations conducted one after the other.

WELLS FARGO BANKS ON SCIENCE AND MATH: Portland Students Gain

The Portland School Board gave thanks to Wells Fargo on Monday night, July 12, for a \$90,000 grant. The bank and its foundation want students learning more and more about the world them and using math to understand it. The grant will be used to create science and math kits for students.

In the last few years Wells Fargo donated computers and money for novel science and math experiment kits. Teachers throughout the Portland Schools tested the kits and taught other teachers to use them.

This is part of a broader program called "inquiry-based Science for Non-Science Teachers". 448 teachers are involved. The original kits include work with electricity and motors, testing pendulums and examining what owls are eating.

"The Owl pellet kit was great fun to work with whether you are eight years old or a Superintendent in his 50's", said Portland Schools Superintendent Ben Canada. "Doing real science, with hands on the materials, make science learning meaningful. And that means the interest in science continues throughout middle and high school."

Groups of fourth and fifth graders in Portland worked with the kits in the 1998-99 school year. The Hands-on, minds-on" experiments will be expanded to all of the district's 64 elementary schools and now available to students Kindergarten through third grade.

The Portland Public Schools

grant is just one of 17 grants from Wells Fargo to school districts in Oregon. The total this year reached \$356,471. That includes teacher inservice for more than 2000 math and science teachers.

"We believe that the first step to

success in life for our children is a quality education," said George Passadore, president of Wells Fargo in Oregon. "That is why we have made pre Kindergarten through grade 12 education a primary focus of our chari-

table giving."

This is the third year that Portland received a grant or materials from Wells Fargo. Statewide the total contributions from the bank reached more than \$1 million.



Ron Saxton, Chairperson of the Portland Public School Board along with Superintendent Ben Canada present awards to George Passadore, President of Wells Fargo of Oregon and his executive of the foundation in appreciation for their \$90,000 Math & Science Grant for grades K - 12.