# LAW & JUSTICE

### **Mail Key Theft Arrest**

Police arrested a man Friday in the theft of mailbox keys and stolen identi-

Vincent Johansen, 29, faces two felony theft charges and a parole violation. He's



Joe Johansen

a Northeast Killingsworth Street apartment.

Portland Police Detectives and the U.S. Postal Inspector led the investigation.

The mailbox key thefts required a

complete change of accused in connection with the theft of postal box locks to mail drop off boxes keys and mail that were found in throughout the city.



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### **Minorities Get Few Katrina Contracts**

## with connections

contracts.

About 1.5 percent of the \$1.6 billion awarded third of the 5 percent normally required.

Donald A. Manzullo, R-Ill., have asked the you get paid less." Government Accountability Office to investicompete for Katrina contracts.

Andrew Jenkins doesn't think so.

he began making calls in hopes of a winning a man Larry Orluskie said. government contract for his Mississippi construction company.

many of them larger, white-owned companies paperwork to speed emergency aid. with political ties to Washington.

region has a higher percentage of blacks and to agency records. minority-owned businesses that other areas of the country.

The president has talked about

our economy, but when the time for

sound bites is over, his administra-

tion still uses the same backroom

deals to take care of their friends.

Most go to businesses The result has been far more no-bid contracts going to businesses that have an existing rela-

(AP) - Minority-owned businesses say rules for contractors and a suspension of a "prethey're paying the price for the decision by vailing wage" law that black lawmakers and busi-Congress and the Bush administration to waive ness people believe will hurt the disproportioncertain rules for Hurricane Katrina recovery ately large number of black hourly workers in the

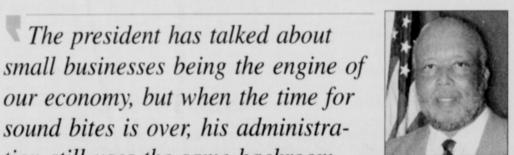
"It sends a bad message," said Harry Alford, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency president of the National Black Chamber of Comhas gone to minority businesses, less than a merce. "What they're basically saying to the minority in New Orleans is, 'We'll make it harder Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, and Rep. for you to find a job. And if you do, we'll make sure

gate whether small and minority-owned busi- FEMA division handles most of the contracts, nesses have been given a fair opportunity to said it is committed to hiring smaller, disadvantaged firms. But many of the no-bid awards were given out to known players who could quickly Once Katrina's destructive waters receded, provide help in an emergency situation, spokes-

Jenkins, who is black, says he watched in rules for first-time government contractors doing frustration as the contracts went to others, Katrina work was motivated by a need to reduce Andrew Jenkins, a Jackson, Miss.,

The Army Corps of Engineers has a better "That just doesn't smell right," said Jenkins, record on minority contracts, with roughly 16 president of AJA Management and Technical percent of the \$637 million in Katrina contracts Services Inc. of Jackson, Miss., noting the going to minority-owned companies, according

businesspeople with federal contracting officials, To speed aid, many requirements normally Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said many of attached to government contracting were the 100 owners walked out in anger when told waived by Congress and the administration. their best chance of getting work was to seek



- Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., member, Congressional **Black Caucus** 

tionship with the government. There also was an easing of affirmative action

The Department of Homeland Security, whose

The Labor Department also has said its decision to temporarily suspend affirmative action

At a recent meeting in Mississippi for minority

businessman, says he believes many minority-owned businesses in the Gulf Coast are being unfairly shut out of Katrina-related contracts. (AP photo)

smaller subcontracts from the larger compa-

The larger companies include Kellogg, Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton Co., which Vice President Dick Cheney headed from 1995 to 2000; and AshBritt Inc., a Florida company with ties to Mississippi's governor, Haley Barbour, former chairman of the Republican National Committee.

"The president has talked about small businesses being the engine of our economy, but when the time for sound bites is over his administration still uses the same backroom deals to take care of their friends," said Thompson, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The situation has exacerbated racial sensitivities that already were heightened by the slow initial federal response to the New Orleans flood. Many poor black residents didn't get help for days.

### Evacuated Prisoners Describe Beatings

### Rights groups demand investigation

Human Rights Watch and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund is asking the U.S. Department of Justice to immediately investigate the alleged mistreatment of prisoners evacuated from Hurricane Katrina.

Interviews by the two organizations revealed widespread claims of abuse against inmates at Louisiana's Jena Correctional

Facility. The pretrial prisoner had been evacuated to Jena from Jefferson Parish Prison because of storm damage and flooding.

Every detainee but one of the 23 interviewed reported that he had been hit or kicked by the prison staff. The claims are cred-

mine whether the human and civil

Vanita Gupta

tainees and sprayed them unnecessarily and repeatedly with pepper spray. Prima-

cans, they also deible and serious enough to warrant scribed degrading treatment and an independent and comprehen- racist language by the Louisiana sive federal investigation to deter- state correctional officers, who were primarily white.

The inmates said

beat and kicked de-

rily African-Ameri-

"LDF has worked for decades ees have been vioin Louisiana and believes that the alleged abuse at Jena reflects the larger crisis in the that correctional ofstate's criminal justice system," ficers at Jena said Vanita Gupta, attorney for LDF. "The racism and violence slapped, punched, that Jena detainees have described should have no place in any prison."

> The prisoners evacuated to Jena because of the hurricane had no contact with the outside world for the first two weeks. They were not allowed to use the phone until just recently. The inmates also complain about the lack of medical care at the facility.

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### **Driver Alert Near Schools**

### Police offer traffic safety tips

is reminding motorists to be there are other traffic laws more aware of pedestrians now that school is in session.

Among the problems seen stop in front of the school in traffic to drop off their chilin the middle of the road.

According to Sgt. Gary are using them." Cerotsky of the Traffic Diviwhen it comes to the 20 miles per hour speed zone law around schools.

Some zones post speed limits at 20 miles per hour at all times, some during periods of flashing yellow lights, and day.

20 miles per hour," said Sgt. Bureau's Cerotsky.

The Portland Police Bureau School Police Division said that can directly affect the safety of students.

"Watch for the flashing red by officers are parents who lights on stopped school buses during the loading and off-loading of students," said dren or park across the street, Officer Liu. "And drivers leaving their children to cross should not encroach into crosswalks when children

Officer Liu said that being sion, there is some confusion responsible goes both ways.

"Students shouldn't assume that vehicles will stop for them," he said. "They are also responsible, and should walk across the street when it's safe and clear to do so."

For more safety tips, as well some during specific times of as information about the Portland Police Bureau's School "When in doubt, drop it to Police Division, go to the website www.portlandpolicebureau.com Officer Dan Liu of the and click on the resources tab.

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