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BUMBERSHOOT



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Music Legend Mavis Staples and her band joined hundreds of other musicians, performers, dancers, comedians and artists over the Labor Day weekend at Bumbershoot, North America's largest urban arts festival. The beautiful weather drew thousands of people to the Seattle Center to hear music and see performances by national and local artists.

Bomber's Guilty Plea

White supremacist court deal wins reduced sentence

By Nicholas K. Geranios
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A man with extensive ties to white supremacists pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges he planted a bomb along a Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade route in Spokane, Wash., targeting minorities.

Kevin Harpham, 37, reached a deal with federal prosecutors for a recommended sentencing range of 27 to 32 years in prison just days before his trial was to begin in U.S. District Court.

The pipe bomb was loaded with lead fishing weights coated in a chemical, and could have caused mass casualties, prosecutors said.

Harpham told U.S. District Court Judge Justin Quackenbush that it took him about a month to build the bomb. He acknowledged placing the device along the parade route in an attempt to commit a hate crime.

The backpack bomb was discovered by parade workers and disabled before it could explode.

"This community was terrorized on Jan. 17 when this occurred," U.S. Attorney Mike Ormsby said after the hearing. "Hopefully the healing that needs to occur as a result of this happening can begin."

Harpham acted alone, Ormsby said. "There is no evidence to suggest anyone else was involved in this event," he said.

Ormsby praised the various law enforcement agencies that gathered evidence leading to Harpham's arrest on March 9. There was no particular tip that led officers to Harpham, Ormsby said. Rather, it was evidence from the bomb itself, he said.

The detonator was a remote car starter purchased over the Internet. The shrapnel that would have maimed victims was lead fishing weights purchased from Walmart. Harpham's DNA was on the handle of the backpack that held the bomb. After the arrest, officers found deleted photos in a

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Back-to-School Shoppers, Higher Prices

Retailers say rising cotton prices are largely to blame for cost hikes

By Chris Levister
Special to the NNPA from
the Blackvoiceneews.com

School aged kids have made their post Labor Day return to the classroom and the tell-tale signs of rising cotton prices and a sluggish economy are everywhere.

"The prices are sky high, and the quality stinks," says Lisbeth Rose-Scott, a mother of three school children.

Tis' the season of the back-to-school sale, second most impor-

tant time on the retailer's calendar after Christmas. Early indications are consumers aren't buying this year's bevy of higher priced merchandise from jeans to pencils.

With costs for consumer goods and services from apparel to food and gas on the rise parents like Rose-Scott are back-to-school shopping at thrift stores and dusting off hand-me-downs. "I buy nice clothes for the kids at the beginning of the school year and halfway through they're already worn

out. Even their corduroy's have holes in the knees. I can't afford to keep throwing money down the drain."

Retail experts say manufacturers are "quietly" making clothes that are thinner and made with cheaper quality.

Parents know this season better than anyone. Back to school shopping occurs from July through Labor Day, around the start of fall semester. Advertising for this heavy shopping time started earlier, with some stores cranking out ads in mid-

June, when some schools were still in session for the spring semester.

In August 2010, prime school shopping season, consumers spent a combined \$7.4 billion at family clothing stores, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Apparel, the season's top-selling category for school-aged children, is bracing for cotton cost inflation of as much as 20 percent, the first in at least a decade. The recent weeks' price

Agreement Unanimous on County Jail

City, county find final resolution on avoiding new facility construction

The Seattle City Council Tuesday unanimously approved an Interlocal Agreement between Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn and King County Executive Dow Constantine to use the King County Jail as the primary provider of bed space for the City's misdemeanor inmates over the next two decades.

"Just over a year ago, the City was considering spending \$200 million on a new

jail. Because we were able to work with King County Executive Dow Constantine to negotiate this agreement, we can focus our scarce public funds on priorities higher than incarceration — creating jobs, supporting our kids and maintaining the human services that people rely on more than ever during these tough economic times. Thank you to Councilmember Tim Burgess for his leadership on today's vote. This is some great

news to head into our next budget cycle with," said Mayor Mike McGinn.

In May 2010, the City ended its process of siting a new regional municipal jail for misdemeanor offenders after receiving a commitment from the County to house a certain number of City inmates from 2017 to 2020. The new proposed contract would strengthen

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