Madonna to wed

INTERNATIONAL

DORNOCH, Scotland (AP) – Among the stars rubbing shoulders with Madonna and Guy Ritchie at the baptism of their son on Thursday will be a few dozen elderly local gents whom the couple will have special reason to toast.

The celebrity pair, hoping for some privacy, chose the remote Scottish Highlands for their wedding and the christening of their 4-month-old baby, Rocco.

But the Church of Scotland forbids private christenings unless elders parishioners with faultless attendance records — are allowed in as witnesses.

If the religious loophole hadn't been used, the prying eyes currently clambering up stepladders and peering out of windows opposite Dornoch's 13th-century cathedral might have been a little too close for comfort at Thursday evening's ceremony.

Madonna and Ritchie are to be married in Dornoch on Friday afternoon — apparently. The venue is thought to be Skibo Castle, developed a century ago as steel baron Andrew Carnegie's palatial vacation hideaway overlooking Dornoch fourth-floor ledge. Firth.

The couple have shrouded the two ceremonies in secrecy.

JERUSALEM — Israeli elder statesman Shimon Peres, a five-time loser in prime minister races, announced Thursday that he wanted to run again — only to be rebuffed hours later by lawmakers whose support is key for a bid.

The dovish Peres, a Nobel laureate and former prime minister, said he believed he was the best man to take

on the hawkish Ariel Sharon in Feb. 6 balloting.

But in order to run, Peres faced a midnight Thursday deadline for winning the support of 10 of Israel's 120 lawmakers. He had pinned his main hopes on the left-leaning Meretz party, which holds 10 seats.

The party's leader threw cold water on the notion at midday, urging Peres to instead work with Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who wants to keep his job. Barak's supporters say if Peres runs, he would only split the peace camp and pave the way for a Sharon victory.

Commentators almost universally interpreted that as meaning that Peres would not get the party's backing.

NATIONAL LOS ANGELES — A woman hurled her two young daughters over a ninth-floor ledge of the Los Angeles County Court building then jumped to her own death, authorities said.

The girls, ages 6 and 8, were taken to a hospital, where they died in the emergency room. The woman, who was in her 30s, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Their bodies were found on a

It wasn't clear what prompted the woman's actions, police Lt. Horace Frank said. The woman had been in the court building earlier in the day with her family in connection with a civil case, he said.

but said that after it concluded the family went home. The husband then went to work and the woman returned to the court building with her daughters, Frank said.

Police did not immediately release the victims' names





This dog looked like it was ready to play chauffeur as it waited for its owner. The pick-up was parked in front of Mueller Grain today. Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Help coming for gas bills

TOPEKA (AP) — Some money Frank declined to discuss the case from Kansas' tax on natural gas, expected to produce a \$32 million windfall this year, could help poor people unable to pay their heating bills.

Sen.-elect David Adkins, R-Leawood, says he will introduce legislation next month to set aside up to \$5 million of the severance tax collected on Adkins said Tuesday.

gas and oil produced in Kansas. The money would be used to supplement federal and private efforts to pay heating bills. Those programs are expected to be overwhelmed now that natural-gas prices are at record levels.

"Kansans will be faced this winter with a real and personal energy crisis,'

Bald eagles make pilgrimage to Kansas

By Heather Hollingsworth

Associated Press Writer Reservoirs and rivers are harboring early 1970s — when efforts were growing numbers of bald eagles, flocking to the Kansas River to feed during the winter.

the once-endangered species to converge in Kansas to feast on fish and waterfowl.

About 10 pairs nest and raise their young in the state throughout the spring and summer, joined in the winter by birds from Canada, Alaska and nearby states. The winter birds start arriving in October and leave in February.

"They like to hang out on reservoirs with some ice," said Dan Mulhern, a tats were initiated in the early 1970s. biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Manhattan.

"They are pretty lazy as far as feedand easy picking. They like to get easy meals of dead fish in or on the ice.'

Between 700 and 800 bald eagles flocked to Kansas last year, said Ken Brunson, non-game coordinator for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in Pratt.

They can be found on rivers and any large body of water surrounded by trees, including Clinton Lake and the Bowersock Dam in Lawrence; Milford and Tuttle Creek lakes near Manhattan: John Redmond Reservoir in Coffee County; Perry Lake in Jefferson County; Waconda Lake in Cawker City; Kanopolis Lake west of Salina; the Wolf Creek Power kind of work to see people turned on Plant's cooling lake and on the Kansas, Missouri, Neosho and Arkansas rivers.

Bald eagles in Kansas haven't always been so abundant. Before the stepped up to protect the eagle - several factors shrank their numbers.

The once widely sprayed pesticide December marks the peak time for DDT weakened their egg shells and reduced the numbers of hatched eaglets

Adding to the problem were indiscriminate hunting, Mulhern said, and hunters who shot lead shells while stalking waterfowl, which caused lead poisoning when ingested.

Their numbers began rebounding 15 to 20 years ago after DDT, lead shells and indiscriminate hunting were banned and efforts to protect their habi-The bird was taken off the endangered species list last July.

Recent frigid conditions haven't ing. They wait for stuff that is dying been a problem for the birds, Brunson said, in some cases making it easier for them to hunt by killing off some fish they then eat off the ice.

When lakes and reservoirs freeze, the eagles flock to moving bodies of water such as Bowersock Dam, where the large water flow prevents it from freezing.

Parks officials at any of the state's major reservoirs can provide lists of prime bird-watching spots. Some locations offer guided tours and special eagle days, Brunson said.

"It's always a thrill when people see the eagles for the first time," Brunson said.

"To me, that is a great joy for this to wildlife and there is nothing better to be turned onto than bald eagles."



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