

# Fire on French express train kills 12 passengers

## around the world

**By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL**  
**NANCY, France** — A fire broke out in a sleeper car on overnight express train today, filling the car with smoke and killing 12 passengers, officials said. Five Americans were among the dead, the U.S. Embassy said.

At least eight others were injured, none seriously.

The train with 150 passengers was passing through the eastern French city of Nancy when the fire broke out three hours after departing from Paris on route to the southern Germany city of Munich, the French rail authority SNCF said.

The cause was an electrical short-circuit in the sleeping car where the blaze originated, according to regional French authorities.

Most if not all victims — six men, five women and one child — died of smoke inhalation, authorities said. Their identities were not immediately known, although the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin said four of dead appeared to be German.

Richard Lankford, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Paris, said that five Americans died in the fire, according to information received from French authorities.

**NATIONAL BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** — Jurors

in Winona Ryder's shoplifting trial ended their first day of deliberations without reaching a verdict on whether the actress went on a shoplifting spree at a Beverly Hills store.

The panel deliberated for five hours and ended the day Tuesday without sending any messages to the court and without asking any questions. They were scheduled to return today for a second day of talks.

Ryder made a brief appearance at the courthouse at the start of the day, but left after about an hour.

The 31-year-old "Girl, Interrupted" star is charged with grand theft, burglary and vandalism for allegedly stealing more than \$5,500 worth of merchandise from the Saks Fifth Avenue store on Dec. 12, 2001.

Jurors must decide whether the actress was a thrill-seeking thief as prosecutors suggested or if she was the victim of overzealous department store security guards as the defense argued.

She faces up to three years in prison if convicted.

**GREENBELT, Md.** — The attorney for John Allen Muhammad denounced the government's case against the sniper suspect, saying federal prosecu-

tors overreached in bringing extortion charges.

The lawyer's remarks on Tuesday came as a federal judge ordered Muhammad held without bail.

Federal prosecutors brought charges against Muhammad last week under weapons and extortion law in the October sniper attacks that killed 10 people in the Washington, D.C., area. He could get the death penalty.

In court, federal public defender James Wyda accused prosecutors of trying to "shoehorn this case into federal courts" in using the extortion law. He said the government is trying to prove that "these seemingly random attacks were all motivated by a crackpot scheme to collect \$10 million."

Wyda noted that authorities did not even receive a note demanding the money until Oct. 19, well into the shooting spree.

The other sniper suspect, 17-year-old John Lee Malvo, was ordered detained Monday after appearing at a closed juvenile hearing in federal court in Baltimore.

**BARNEGAT, N.J.** — When two teenage girls walked into the Sun National Bank and announced a stickup,

branch manager Linda Williams thought it was a prank.

They were 5-feet-2 inches tall, one in a black knit ski mask, the other with a nylon stocking over her face. One carried what looked like a silver handgun. It was almost noon, two days before Halloween.

"What is this, a joke?" Williams said.

"No, we ain't (expletive) joking," one of them replied. "Give us your money." Williams handed a black plastic trash bag to the teller.

The teller stuffed \$3,500 in cash into the bag and the girls ran out, jumping into a getaway car driven by their mother, authorities said.

"A teenage 'Thelma & Louise,'" said police Detective Michael Duffy, shaking his head.

Two twin 14-year-old girls and their mother, Kathleen Wortman Jones, 34, of Barnegat, were charged in the heist along with a 16-year-old stepsister and Jones' husband.

Police said they stole because they were facing foreclosure on their rundown ranch house and needed the money to pay the mortgage.

**HOUSTON** — As Enron Corp.'s chief financial officer, Andrew Fastow allegedly masterminded a series of complex financial schemes that con-

tributed to the energy trader's downfall.

A flood of criminal charges followed, and today he faced arraignment

in a federal courtroom on a 78-count indictment.

His attorneys have indicated Fastow, 40, would plead innocent.

## obituary

### Lillian Pearce

Lillian Marie Pearce, 84, a Wallace County rancher, died Sunday, Nov. 3, 2002, at St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City.

She was born Nov. 13, 1917, at Judsonia, Ark., the daughter of Etta Josephine (Miller) and John D. Steinsiek and attended school at Hartford.

She married Price Harrington when she was 16. During his military service, Mr. Harrington contracted malaria and died in 1941.

She continued to live in Hartford while working in a furniture store and mortuary. She was a practicing licensed funeral director until she married Charles C. Pearce on Dec. 25, 1954, at Ottawa.

They lived at Spring Valley Ranch southwest of Sharon Springs. Mr.

Pearce preceded her in death on Dec. 2, 1997.

Survivors include two step-daughters, Lelia Pearce Nice of Ava, Mo., and Beverly Pearce Andrews of Chino Hills, Calif.; two sisters-in-law, Ruth Steinsiek of Jonesboro, Ark., and Louise Pearce of Wallace; six step-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; and one step-great-great-grandchild.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, 2002, at the Sharon Springs United Methodist Church with the Rev. Robert Winters officiating. Burial will follow in the Sharon Springs Cemetery. There will be no visitation, and the casket will remain closed.

Memorials may be made to the Sharon Springs United Methodist Church in care of Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

# County may pick up trash for city

TRASH, from Page 1

city clerk.

"I think this whole thing has gotten way out of hand," said Commissioner Chuck Lutters. "The Colorado company appeared to be a way to alleviate all the problems. The present system had people very confused about what could be thrown away."

"Would the rules change?" Hurd asked.

Pickman said the rules would not change, but there would be additional efforts made to encourage people to properly dispose of trash. He said the problems have gotten better, but have not gone away.

"There would be more options for people to get rid of items at sites in the city," Pickman said.

"We need to provide a service to the citizens to get this out of the alleys," Blume said.

A question was raised about special pickups, and Pickman said the discussions did not include the special pickups or the city truck at this time.

"We believe there will need to be cooperation between the city and county even if they take over the trash collection," Pickman said.

"I don't think we are naive enough to think these are all going away," Hurd said.

When asked if the city should con-

tinue the discussions, each member of the commission said yes the talks should continue. In a separate motion, the commission voted unanimously to postpone the negotiations with U.S. Waste Industries for 30 days.

"We hope to know our direction by then," said Sherman County Commissioner Kevin Rasure.

Rasure said the county would hold a work session on the discussion items at their meeting Tuesday.

# Shallenburger wins race in Sherman county

ELECTION, from Page 1

1,259 votes over Garner's 678.

As expected, Congressman Jerry Moran had no problem winning re-

election in the First Congressional District with 91 percent of the vote (184,611) to Libertarian Jack Warner's 9 percent (18,116). Moran was the second highest vote total in Sherman County with 1,806 to 139 for Warner.

Connie Morris of Saint Francis was declared the winner in the State Board of Education race despite the write-in campaign by Sonny Rundell of Syracuse. In Sherman County, Morris received 1,260 votes to 415 write-ins for Rundell.

State Representative Jim Morrison of Colby, who ran unopposed, was the high vote total with 1,808 votes.

The new Sherman County Commissioner Chuck Thomas, who ran unopposed, received 580 votes in District 1. There were 118 advance votes; 1166 from Ward 3; 148 Ward 4; 10 from Iowa Township; 94 Itasca; 19 Union; and 26 Washington.

Perry Lohr received 96 votes for Logan Township Clerk and Shirley Anderson received 23 votes for

McPherson Township clerk.

A total of 2,073 voters turned out and Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel said that is 51 percent of the 4,056 registered voters.

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# All voting in one place a good idea

VOTING, from Page 1

said, "and I got to joke with people that I could tell them where to go as they came into the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall."

Each precinct had a table and booths were located close by for the citizens.

Rumpel said she was trying the single voting location because of new regulations from the federal level which are expected to require new electronic machines and it should be cheaper for the county to have all the precincts in one location.

"I don't think the ladies auxiliary realized how many people there would be when they agreed to provide lunch," Rumpel said. "And once it was known that the public could get lunch the ladies ran out of food."

She said next election she plans to use the same site for all the voting, and will ask the ladies auxiliary to open the dining room so people can have a place to sit and eat.

"It was very convenient for our citizens," said Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Snethen. "It was much easier to direct people to the right voting table, and they did not have to drive across town or across the county to find the right place to vote. It was a great day."

Some of the people voting said they liked having all the people in the place and found it to be something of a social occasion as they saw friends across the room.

Rumpel believes it can be such an event that will grow, and help increase the voter turnout in the county.

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