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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

I body is missing woman's

Pair disappeared at I-64 rest stop

By RONNIE CROCKER
Staff Writer

AMELIA — When Margie and Henry Lauer ran the Truckillo Store across the road from their home a handful of locals gathered around a table there each morning to drink coffee, smoke cigarettes and exchange a little small-town gossip.

Some of those same people were gathered around the dining-room table in the Lauer's two-story country home Friday morning, anxiously awaiting word on the couple's eldest son, 21-year-old Daniel Lauer. The man has been missing since Sept. 4, and his parents are sure he is one of two people left dead in a wooded area of New Kent County.

Two sets of skeletal remains were found by hunters Thursday morning, and a state medical examiner later identified one set of remains as those of Annamaria Phelps, 18, the woman who was with Lauer the last time he was seen alive.

The pair disappeared sometime after leaving Phelps' parents' home on route to Virginia Beach, and the car they were in was found abandoned Sept. 5 in the westbound rest area of Interstate 64 in New Kent. When the remains were found two miles from the rest area, it was quickly assumed they were Lauer and Phelps.

Officials said a Social Security card and a miniature birth certificate belonging to the woman were found nearby. Positive identification of her body was hastened because her dental records were available locally, said Tom Stanley, special agent in charge of the State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Richmond.

Lauer's records were not, however, and State Police spent the day trying to get them from a dentist in Stonybrook, N.Y. They also were trying to get copies of head X-rays taken several years ago in Houston and any medical records the Navy may have compiled during the man's latest enlistment.

They even asked his family for any photographs in which the missing man smiled widely enough to show his teeth. Margie Lauer, sorting through pictures at her table, grumbled that when kids are young they are eager to show their teeth but obstinately refuse as teen-agers.

At the Phelps residence a few miles away, where the last traces of death had been erased, ■ Please see List, A6

Assessing the damage



Workers check the damage to I-80 in Oakland Thursday. The freeway collapsed in Tuesday's massive earthquake.

Bush tours ravaged areas

Boy who had leg amputated gets gifts, calls

By ANDY LEPPMAN
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The heroic rescue of 8-year-old Julio Benitez, who could be saved from a mangled car only by amputating his leg and sawing in half the body of his dead mother, has sent waves of sympathy rippling across the nation.

The hospital where the boy and his sister are recovering is tallying toys and phone calls, and a fund has been set up for Julio.

"The story just brought us back to reality about how important life is," said Heidi Pakowitz, who brought stuffed animals for Julio and his 8-year-old sister, Cathy, who was also pulled from the family's crushed car.

"You never know if that was going to be one of your family," Pakowitz said.

Julio was reported to be conscious Friday. Cathy was in fair condition with ■ Please see Rescue, A6

Poor weather may hamper cleanup efforts

From wire service reports

San Francisco Bay Area quake victims, including more than 6,000 still displaced from their homes, were beset by new misery Friday in the form of falling temperatures, the threat of rain and mounting damages, but they were promised prompt federal relief.

Workers dug more than a dozen bodies from under tons of freeway concrete and scientists pinpointed the epicenter of the mammoth earthquake beneath a mountain creek.

Damage estimates climbed over \$5.5 billion throughout the 75-mile-long region, officials declared the arid 76-year-old Oakland City Hall unusable, and ■ Please see Quake, A6



President Bush, center, accompanied by Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, left, examines the twisted rubble of I-880 Friday.

Clinics reject patients

State-run center lacks the money for indigent poor

By DAVID LERMAN
Staff Writer

The state-run Peninsula Health Center, strapped for doctors and the money to pay for them, has been turning away scores of ill residents seeking basic care for the past few months, officials said.

Since early summer, the clinic has turned down eight to 12 residents each day, said Janet Holden, a spokeswoman for the state's Peninsula Health District, which operates the center on J. Clyde Morris Boulevard in Newport News and three state-site clinics.

"We've had to turn away new patients for the past four or five months," Holden said. "We just don't have the resources. We've had a lot of complaints."

The center has one doctor working 15 days a week to see patients needing treatment for basic illnesses. Although that doctor, Padmaraj Dhanavada, will be able to spend three or four days a week at the center beginning next month, the increase in hours is not expected to meet the need.

Moreover, there is no money to provide for a temporary doctor when Dhanavada takes a paid leave of absence for three or four months beginning later this year, Holden said.

The situation has frustrated officials and distressed some Peninsula residents, who assumed the state clinics care for common illnesses.

"I had a tight chest and a bad cough and they said we can't help you at all," said Victoria Denson, a Williamsburg resident. "It's kind of a shock. I don't know what a person can do if they're sick. I finally did what a lot of people probably do — just gave up."

The problem has festered since December, when the state Health Department severed its ties with Riverside Regional Medical Center's residency program, which trains licensed doctors for general family practice.

Since the early 1970s, residents needing basic health care had access to a full staff of Riverside doctors. Riverside pulled out and set up its own program when the state said it could no longer subsidize costs.

"It was an excellent program but very expensive," said William Penick, center administrator. The cost had been going up ■ Please see Health, A6

Inside

Rep. Robert Garcia, D-N.Y., and his wife convicted of extortion in Wedtech case story, A3

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Today's weather: Some sun, some clouds. High mid-60s. Low near 40. Details, A5

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Senate ousts federal judge

By R.A. ZALDIVAR
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Senate removed Miami federal Judge Alice L. Hastings from office Friday by voting overwhelmingly to convict him of plotting to take a bribe eight years ago and then lying to deceive the jury that acquitted him.

Florida's first black U.S. district judge went immediately to the steps of the Capitol where he denounced the impeachment conviction and announced he will seek the Democratic nomination for governor next year.

"My momma had a man," said Hastings. "She did not have anybody that was afraid of the n-ten."

The Senate voted 68-36 to convict Hastings of conspiring with his friend, Washington lawyer William Borders, to shake down two elderly em- ■ Please see Judge, A6



Judge Alice L. Hastings of Miami leaves the Capitol Friday after the Senate vote.

Voting on a total of 17 impeachment charges adopted by the House last year, the Senate also convicted Hastings on seven charges of lying at his trial. Conviction required a vote by two-thirds of the senators present, in this case 68.

Family of war hero to tour Soviet prison

By MASHA HAMILTON
Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union offered Friday to let the family of Hans Wallenberg tour a prison where family members say that he was held as recently as 1980, and Soviet officials said that they were prepared to believe the Swedish diplomat was still alive, if given convincing proof, Wallenberg's half brother said.

"This is a big opening, and we have great hopes," said Ugo von Dardel, who has spent much of the last 44 years trying to trace his half brother through reports from former Soviet inmates, some of whom said that they saw him and others who said that ■ Please see Prison, A6