

CHARLOTTE REGION

NEWS-PRESS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1987 • FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

LOCAL

KING BIRTHDAY
Most local governments observe holiday/1B

BUSINESS

AUDIS RECALLED
Audi recalls all models from 1978-86/15A

WEATHER

SUNNY
High in 80s/
Low in 60s/20A

Wood storks' skies pressing

By ROBYN AVERILL
News-Press Staff Writer

WOODSTORKS — Two broadcast towers that would expand radio and television markets may endanger the nation's largest colony of wood storks.

By the way, the tower towers from their nearby nests in Collier County about six miles to sweep fish from wetlands in Lee County — along a path that includes a recently built radio-transmission tower and a proposed television-transmission tower.

The National Audubon Society wants the 1,000-foot radio tower moved out of the birds' foray and wants the proposed 1,240-foot television tower built somewhere else, says society attorney Bill Butler said.

Butler said the cost to move the radio tower has been \$200,000.

See TOWERS, back page this section

TOWERS IN QUESTION

Site of existing radio-transmission tower and proposed TV-transmission tower in the storks' flyway.

'85 TWA hijack suspect arrested

Washington Post News Service

BERLIN, Germany — West German police have arrested a Lebanese man suspected of having hijacked the dramatic 17-day hijacking of a TWA jet en route to Beirut in June 1985 to which a U.S. Navy diver was stuck, authorities said Thursday.

Customs agents detained Mohammed Ali Hamad, 22, on his arrival at Frankfurt airport Tuesday when they found that he was carrying three bottles containing a powerful liquid explosive, court officials said. Frankfurt investigators later identified him as one of the suspected hijackers from last September, they said.

"The man we captured is a big fish," Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann said at a news conference here. He said the arrest represented an important success in the fight against international terrorism.

U.S. officials said in Washington that they hoped to extradite Hamad to be put on trial in the United States, but that no decision had been made on the timing. They said they were very much like to get that person sent to the United States to face charges pending against him here.

Justice Department spokesman Patrick Kortes said. "We've been waiting for 1 1/2 years to get our hands on one of those responsible for that mission."

See HIJACK, back page this section

Clerks lose records of 10 cases

By CHRIS COOPER
News-Press Staff Writer

The official record of proceedings from 10 cases — including site depositions from a pending murder case — are missing from the courthouse, probably for good, court reporters said Thursday.

Two civil cases and eight criminal case files are missing, but they should be because a cabinet box of notes has disappeared. But only two pending cases appear to be in jeopardy because of the disappearance, a court reporter said.

"This is all very embarrassing," said official court reporter Douglas Metzger. "We've turned the piece together again, given them all the records and we still can't find the notes. I wish nothing would, but we haven't."

Among the missing documents are site depositions taken in the pending first-degree murder case against Bradley Scott.

Scott, 31, of Fort Palm Beach, is charged with the 1979 burning death of Linda Ehrlich, a 17-year-old Port Charlotte girl.

Assistant Public Defender Wayne Woodard would not comment on the missing depositions, but Assistant State Attorney Paul Alessandro said the witnesses were relatively minor figures in the case.

Officials feared that a deposition of the primary case agent, former Charlotte sheriff's Detective Jerry Barthe, was among those that are missing. In fact, the courthouse said because Barthe was scheduled to give a deposition along with the people whose depositions are missing, Barthe did not have his notes, and as a result his deposition was postponed.

Metzger said he has 30 years as a court reporter in his own hand of a court reporter being 30 years. He said the court administrator of the main 10th Judicial Circuit building into the matter, but he doesn't think the records were maliciously destroyed. They were probably misplaced.

"If someone did it on purpose, well, it just wouldn't be very nice," Metzger said.

The missing notes were transcribed by court reporter Richard Wood Jr. while he was working for the previous official court reporter, Cyril Landis, before Landis retired. He fired Wood and another court reporter, Linda Adick, get along with the two employees, Wood said.

Wood says he has never reported. See RECORDS, back page this section

'It operated as advertised'

Anti-nuclear protester Paul Collins, of Washington, D.C., holds a peace symbol as a Trident 2 missile roars off a land launch pad Thursday from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. About 25 anti-nuclear protesters who had vowed to stop the test walked, beat their heads and fell to the ground as the 44-foot missile blasted off. A Navy spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Bob Pritchard, said the missile scored "a complete success. It operated as advertised." Story, page 2A.

Air tragedy claims 10

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A commuter aircraft on final approach and a private plane on a landing flight collided over the Salt Lake Valley Thursday, killing all 19 people aboard and shattering debris over a residential area, authorities said.

Falling wreckage from Skywest Airlines' jetliner struck a private plane and three houses, but there were no fires and apparently no one on the ground was hurt, said Salt Lake County Fire Marshal Fred Brown.

County Police Sgt. Joseph P. Brown said an airplane struck a private plane about 13 miles south of downtown Salt Lake City and continued off six blocks of the neighborhood after the 12:54 p.m. MST (1:34 p.m. local time) collision.

"They are picking up bodies here and there, whatever people call it reports," Brown said.

There was initial confusion over the death toll as bodies were scattered through the neighborhood.

See PLANES, back page this section

Fat gains weight with doctors

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Overweight people are more likely to die earlier than studies indicate, and the new version of an insurance company weight chart probably is wrong, doctors say.

"Being even mildly or moderately overweight may be more harmful than generally believed," said Dr. James E. Manson of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Manson and her colleagues reported in today's Journal of the American Medical Association that each of 25 major studies on the subject of excess weight and premature death had less than one of three major flaws.

One flaw is caused by a failure to take into account the effects of smoking, which is more prevalent in heavier people and tends to make their death rates look higher. Another results from a failure to eliminate the effects of disease that causes weight loss before premature death. The third is caused by discussing the effects of conditions such as high blood pressure and high levels of fat and sugar in the blood, which increase the risk of dying prematurely.

Even the most recent of the new weight Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. tables of desirable weights for given heights are probably inflated, researchers said. In 1959 tables that the desirable weight of an adult man 5 feet tall is 151 to 168 pounds, while the 1983 table lists it as 155 to 169 pounds. The average four-foot-tall man died at 49 to 48 years old weighed 147 pounds in 1979 study by the American Cancer Society.

INSIDE TODAY

Ted Bundy appeal wins new hearing

Procedural errors require that a lower court reconsider the appeal of alleged killer Ted Bundy in the 1975 slaying of two university sisters, a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 1/10B.

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Merke decries 'lynch-mob' fray

By DOROTHY SHARP
Gannett News Service

TAMPA — Robert Merke, the powerful federal prosecutor who has lampfaced the wrath of Florida's new governor, deflected himself Thursday in the face of public opinion.

Merke characterized as "almost a lynch-mob mentality" the news coverage of his conduct during the Nelson Italiani bribery trial, and the ensuing political battle between him and Gov. Bob Martinez.

Speaking Thursday before a crowd of reporters and television crews from across the state, Merke cited his record and said the public has been misled by inaccurate reporting and editorial that suggest "his office is not better run than an ethical failing."

Italiani, a former political power broker in Tampa, was convicted Wednesday in federal court of mail fraud involving a cable-television bribery scheme. But the Italiani case was contingent last week when the governor appointed as a defense witness to testify about taking bribes from Italiani during Martinez's 1979 Tampa mayoral campaign.

The accusation was raised during the trial last by Merke and a federal witness after the judge allowed the prosecutor to bring in testimony that Italiani had given bribes before.

Thursday, Merke refused comment about Martinez's testimony, and would not say whether he is contemplating pursuing a charge of perjury against the governor. Saying he wants to stay "above the fray," the U.S. attorney also declined to talk about the reasons political broadsides that Italiani had given before.

See MERKLE, back page this section

Oz's last survivor

Ray Bolger dies at 83

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Ray Bolger, who as the robber helped scarecrow helped lead Dorothy back home in the 1939 musical "The Wizard of Oz," died Thursday at age 83.

Bolger, the last survivor of the four people that troupe down the Yellow Brick Road, died at a Los Angeles nursing home, a spokesman said.

Bolger was best known for his role as the Scarecrow in the 1939 movie. The film starred Judy Garland as Dorothy, Jack Haley as the Tin Man and Bert Lahr as the Cowardly Lion. Margaret Hamilton, who played the wicked witch of the West, died in 1985. Garland, who played the same role, died from leukemia, died in 1987. Lahr, who died in 1969 of an accidental overdose, died in 1978. Lahr in 1957, and Frank Morgan, who portrayed the wizard, died in 1948.

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