

B2 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2000 • THE FRESNO BEE

Almanac

TODAY

Events
■ Foster Parent Orientation — 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aggrs. 1200 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 140, Fresno, Details: (559) 222-4980, (800) 438-1902.
■ Eastern Community Blood Drive — 5-8 p.m., C.P.D.E.S. Hall, 172 W. Jefferson, Eastern, Details: (559) 224-2900.

OBITUARIES

Guadalupe Conner, 49, of Porterville
Garcia, 12, of Dinuba
Paul G. Martinez, 30, of Fresno
Janet Marie Prandini, 64, of Fresno

IT'S YOUR CALL

KNIGHT FIRED

Do you agree with Indiana University's decision to fire coach Bob Knight?
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■ Call Beeline at 443-2400 and, on your touch-tone phone, punch in 3507. Then:
Punch 1 for YES. Punch 2 for NO.
Lines are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

BEELINE

This is The Bee's free, easy-to-use, direct dial information service. After calling 443-2400, just punch in the four-digit category code on your touch-tone telephone.
How to use BEELINE 4501
Obituary notices 2102
Stock Quote Hotline 2000
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Local Weather 1233

COMPILED BY TONI B. LOGGINS

POLICE REPORT

Orosi man found shot

An Orosi man was in stable condition at Kaweah Delta Hospital in Visalia after he was shot Saturday.
Jose De Jesus Gonzalez, 31, was taken to the hospital after Tulare County sheriff's deputies found him at 11:54 p.m. in the 13000 block of Avenue 414.
The case is under investigation, and sheriff's deputies are searching for suspects.

Stray bullet hits vendor

A Fresno ice cream truck driver was shot in the lower back by a stray bullet Sunday while driving near the intersection of Inyo and B streets.
Resham Shurgill, 55, was taken to University Medical Center and was listed in stable condition, said Capt. Robert Navarez of the Fresno Police Department.
Police responded to a report of several shots fired in the area at 11:52 a.m. They found Shurgill standing outside his ice cream truck injured by a single bullet.

AROUND THE VALLEY

To submit items, call (559) 441-6427, fax (559) 441-6436, or write "Around the Valley," The Fresno Bee, Metro Dept., 1628 E. St., Fresno, CA 93706.

Student gets \$10,000 in aid

California Masonic Foundation awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to Anesia Zeller, Anesia, a graduate of Madera High School, will receive \$2,500 for four years to pay for her college enrollment fees, tuition and books.

Payroll group helps teens

The Central Valley Chapter of the American Payroll Association will donate a truckload of school supplies, school furniture, used equipment and other supplies to the new on-site school at Valley Teen Ranch. Valley Teen Ranch provides guidance for children in crisis.
The donation is being made in honor of National Payroll Week, Sept. 18-22.

"It does not appear to be a robbery," Navarez said. "He was just driving through the area when he was shot."

Witnesses said they saw a dark brown Monte Carlo speed away from the scene after the shooting. Police said they do not have any suspects or motive.
Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (559) 498-7867.

Crash kills Firebaugh man

A Firebaugh resident died Saturday in a one-vehicle rollover accident on Washoe and Nees near Firebaugh.
Ray Acosta, 40, was a passenger in a 1995 Kia driven by an unidentified male. The driver suffered major injuries and was transported to University Medical Center in Fresno.
The vehicle was speeding north on Washoe at 11:20 p.m. when it struck a ditch embankment and flipped, according to deputy county coroner John Bowen.
Neither person was wearing a seat belt, Bowen said.

Cousin arrested in stabbing

A Fresno man was arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon Saturday after allegedly stabbing his cousin on the dance floor of Chiquito's Nite Club, 1291 S. Chestnut Ave.
David Rodriguez allegedly stabbed Jose Gallardo, 32, of Fresno in the neck at 10:40 p.m., then left the club, according to the Fresno Police Department.
Rodriguez was later found drinking at another bar, where he was arrested after officers discovered evidence linking him to the stabbing.

Fresno man held in robbery

A Fresno man was arrested Sunday in the 3600 block of East Nevada Avenue on suspicion of robbery and kidnapping.
Noel Obeso allegedly robbed a 24-year-old Fresno resident who was walking near Clay Avenue and H Street at 3:30 a.m.
Fresno police said Obeso forced the victim into his car and robbed him of \$500 at gunpoint before dropping him off at Olive and H streets. Police later located Obeso in his car and arrested him after the victim identified him.

Walk to fight heart disease

The American Heart Association will stage its American Heart Walk and Lovers Have Heart Run at 7 a.m. Saturday at Fig Garden Village, 740 W. Shaw Ave., in Fresno.
The event will feature a two- or four-mile walk and a five-kilometer competitive run.
Proceeds will fund research on heart disease and stroke. Details: (559) 224-8215.

Veterinary scholarship given

University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine announced Jennifer Yamamoto of Fresno has received the Sequoia Kennel Club Scholarship. She plans to focus her career on the care of small animals.

Sentence: Possible long jail terms prompt defense tactics

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lawyer, Philip Hausmann, said Gomes was fair throughout the trial and expects him to grant the continuance motions.
The jury deadlocked on one defendant, Lor Thao, who later pleaded to a lesser charge and was released from Fresno County jail in mid-August. The jury deadlocked on two counts of forcible rape against a third defendant, Lao Yang, and found him not guilty on 12 counts.
"We haven't reset it for trial yet. We're still attempting to deal with the case," Haas said of Lao Yang's deadlocked counts. "But the charges have not been dropped."

Yang's lawyer, Laura Guzman, said she told Haas her client is willing to plead guilty to one count of misdemeanor battery. Haas insisted on a felony statutory rape plea, she said. Neither side appears willing to yield, so Yang's case is probably heading toward a new trial, she said.

Defense lawyers Crawford, Kooyunjan and Hopper say they have plenty of good reasons to request the continuance requests. At or near the top of the list are the long sentences facing

their clients.

Hopper said the Probation Department report recommends 40 years for Lor Kooyunjan said he hasn't seen his client's sentencing recommendation but thinks Moua is "looking at somewhere around 15 years." Crawford said, "They're requesting 29 [years] for my guy."

Kooyunjan said his client, Nua Moua, initially was charged with 103 counts. In the end, he was convicted on 10. He said he has discovered new evidence since the verdicts in August and should soon file a motion for a new trial.

"My client is optimistic," Kooyunjan said. "He is happy with the outcome to some extent. There were so many charges. He basically won this trial."

Hopper said she expects to file a motion asking Gomes, as the 13th juror, to modify some of the verdicts against her client, Sia John Lor.

Crawford said he needs a continuance because he and Kooyunjan have asked for numerous transcripts from the trial needed to prepare their motions. Gomes has yet to make a decision on their requests, he added.

Internet: A 2nd Porterville teen meets with boy she met online

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Callier I.D. tracked the girl to a hotel in Lindsay, where authorities found a room registered to Call. However, no one was in the room when sheriff's deputies arrived late Friday night.

Saturday, sheriff's deputies discovered Call's rental car near a fast-food restaurant in Lindsay and later found Call and the girl inside the hotel room.

"We really don't have a reason for this," Villalobos said. "He knew she was under age through the e-mails they sent."

Call does not have a criminal record, Villalobos said. Tulare County sheriff's deputies are working with Canadian authorities on investigating the case.

After deputies found the girl at the hotel, she was taken to a hospital and then released to her parents.

"She seemed concerned," Villalobos said. "She was a nervous, scared 16-year-old girl."

For the most part these incidents are rare, but another Porterville teen-ager was involved in a similar situation Saturday, Villalobos said.

A 17-year-old girl was reported

"These kids are young and immature, and they don't realize what they're getting into," Tulare County Sheriff's Department, on teens meeting others online

Game: Creator wants to fight violence

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It's about having fun and knowing what's going on in this world. We don't promote weapons use. We promote Christian symbolism."

Creating it took several Ever-ett-size plunges into the unknown.
In 1996, Slayback quit his lucrative but what he called increasingly violence-oriented work with Sierra Online in Oakhurst.

"I always wanted to do a game that had a mission and purpose. I wanted an alternative that was fun but that didn't promote evil. I was told there was no market for it."

Through a friend, Slayback connected with Michael Ulrich of Salt Lake City. Each has about 10 years of computer gaming experience. Slayback, 33, has a degree in computer science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

In a relationship built by phone, letter and mostly the Internet, the pair spent 16 months

ON THE WEB

More information is available at www.saintsoftheweb.com or at fresnobee.com

developing "Saints."

"We spent nearly two years without ever meeting each other," Slayback said. Slayback handled design, architecture, mapping and music. Ulrich executed the artwork. Both took personal loans and borrowed from relatives.

"We lived on faith — faith in the vision God gave us," Slayback said.

They ran the scriptural verses and the theme past the Rev. Dave Vasquez, executive pastor of Fresno's Evangelical Free Church.

Vasquez described Slayback, an EV Free member, as "committed to Christian values ... and products that help people."

Vasquez said "Saints" packs a positive theme plus has some of the finest Christian games lack — top-notch technology.

Casual reviews of the game

from players in the Valley and those on the game's Internet site range from praise for the music and the "spine" that the Scripture provides, to "Go God! ... When's the sequel?"

Statistics in the nascent Christian computer game industry are hard to come by. Slayback said he's sold 15,000 copies of "Saints" at about \$25 each through stores, the Internet and direct mail since it began available in July 1999.

"It's one of the few titles that's well done for its genre," said Jacob Miller, supervisor of Fresno's Berean Christian Store.

"I don't have much competition," said Miller, adding that his store has sold about three copies a month since the game was introduced in April.

Slayback said big-name game stores involve 15 to 30 people and invest as much as \$5 million in one venture. He declined to say what "Saints" cost, other than to acknowledge it was less than \$100,000. He and Ulrich are finishing negotiations with an investor that may allow both men to work together full time in Fresno on other positive impact games.

Fewer beds at L.A. County hospital a concern

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — A compromise to rebuild Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center with fewer hospital beds is raising concern that more uninsured residents will go without medical care.
State and county lawmakers Sept. 1 ended a four-year feud over rebuilding the hospital in East Los Angeles, which was damaged during the 1994 Northridge earthquake. It will have 600 beds, down from 770 now.

Even with its current capacity, however, the hospital turns away about 150 uninsured patients a day, said Dr. Demetrios Demetriades, director of trauma and critical care at the medical center.

The reduced number of beds is expected to worsen that problem in a county that has nearly 3 million uninsured residents.

"We are going to have a big disaster on our hands unless we find another solution," Demetriades told the Los Angeles Times.

About \$820 million will be spent rebuilding the hospital. An 80-bed, \$47 million annex is planned for Baldwin Park, about 16 miles away.

Other health experts said the annex will not make up for a smaller County-USC hospital, especially with public and private clinics closing throughout Los Angeles.

"They are rationing care by making it 600 beds," said Rodolfo Diaz, executive director of the Community Health Foundation in East Los Angeles.

The hospital already places patients with heart problems, diabetes and hepatitis on waiting lists, where they can stay for months, hospital officials said.

Both state and county officials agreed to conduct a joint study in 2000 to determine whether the 600-bed hospital needs to be expanded by refurbishing the adjacent Women's and Children's Hospital, which has 150 beds.

Win: Madera teacher on way to Tahiti

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There are thousands of postcards — you can send as many as you want, but I had only sent in about 10."

Philbin's show is live in New York but tape-delayed on the West Coast, so Garbett is listening to the show on the phone for about an hour and 20 minutes.

A fan of the show for years, Garbett said she was excited, and doubly so after she heard the question because she knew she had the answer.

It won't be the only globe-trotting for Garbett, who has worked for the Madera Unified School District for 15 years. She is going to Japan in October as part of an exchange program.
She was selected from a pool of more than 2,000 applicants from across the country to be a participant in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program.

The program will send 600 U.S. teachers — in

three groups of 200 — to Japan for three weeks to promote greater intercultural understanding between the nations.

Garbett, who teaches independent studies at Furman High School, said she is the first teacher from Madera Unified selected for the exchange.

She said only five teachers from Fresno have gone. As part of her group, Garbett will visit Tokyo and also make a trip to a city about 180 miles west called Osaka. She hopes the experience will help her share with her students similarities between America and Japan while celebrating the cultural differences.

Garbett said there are no plans for a third trip — to New York to be on Philbin's other show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

"The just trying to get ready for Japan and all of this going to Tahiti," Garbett said. "It's just unbelievable."

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Large ad ran Sunday and Wednesday

Valley Surgical Specialist is pleased to announce the association of William E. Haddock, Jr. for the practice of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. Effective 9/1/00 the new number to call for appointments is 449-3901. Valley Surgical Specialist is a multi-specialty surgical group practicing General, Thoracic, Vascular, Endocrine, Oncologic, Breast and Bariatric surgery. The group is comprised of James Svoboda, M.D., Kevin Hays, M.D., J. Michael Brock, M.D., Michael Maryam, M.D., Randall Conception, M.D., Keith Boone, M.D., Deborah Guma, M.D., Vasil Gerdisas, M.D., Trenchin He, M.D. and William Haddock, M.D.

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