



Top Stories

Five prostitutes found dead in U.K. brings fears of "Ipswich Ripper"

The bodies of five women in the United Kingdom have been found dead in or around the county of Suffolk in the east of England. The five women have been found dead within 10 days and authorities face an "unprecedented" murder investigation.

Rally organizer arrested in Caledonia, Ontario

Two men were arrested today by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) at a Caledonia rally at about 12:00 p.m. ET after entering the disputed land in Caledonia, Ontario.

Featured story

British computer scientist's new "nullity" idea provokes reaction from mathematicians

Reading university teacher Dr. James Anderson's claim that he has devised a number system that handles the "divide by zero" problem has been challenged by academics and bloggers, who have also criticised the BBC for its reporting on the claim.

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- Muqtada al-Sadr has withdrawn his support for Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.
- The Government of Saudi Arabia announces plans to build a separation barrier between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The barrier will

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- cost \$12 billion to build.
- The king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, abdicates in favor of his son, two years before he had initially planned to do so.
- A severe windstorm hits the American Pacific Northwest overnight, with wind gusts reported as high as 97 miles per hour. Three people were killed in Washington, and at the peak of the storm about one million homes in western Washington and over 400,000 in the Greater Portland area were without electricity.
- United States district court judge Jeremy Fogel imposes a moratorium on lethal injections in California stating that they are unconstitutional. In an unrelated incident, the Governor of Florida Jeb Bush has suspended lethal injections in Florida pending an investigation into the system after the recent execution of Angel Diaz took 34 minutes after it was botched.
- The 2006 Asian Games is officially closed at the 50,000 seater Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar marking the end of 15 days of competition.
- Retired Formula One driver Clay Regazzoni dies in a car accident when the Chrysler Voyager he was driving hit a lorry head on, outside Parma, Italy.
- Assistant Secretary of State Jendayi Frazer announces that the United States has no plans to

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commit troops to intervene in the Somali civil war to root out al Qaeda cells operating in the country.

Four dead, more than a million in U.S. without power after Pacific Northwest storm

High winds and heavy rains have left 4 people dead, and much of the Seattle, Washington area is without electrical power. A number of large trees have been downed and heavy rains have caused minor flooding in many areas of the city. According to first-hand reports as many as 1 million people and several large organizations such as Microsoft are without power this morning.

Flood, storm, and strong wind watches were in effect last night as a rare thunderstorm system moved into the Pacific Northwest region, hitting areas from Seattle to Portland with high winds and heavy rains. Interstate 5 through Seattle was closed at its intersection with Mercer Street due to standing water. The State Route 520 floating bridge, a major conduit across Lake Washington to the technology-rich Eastside was closed and disassembled to protect it from storm damage well into Friday. Local roads throughout the region were strewn with debris, especially evergreen branches and leaves. Authorities advised people to stay off the roads.

Four deaths were reported in connection with the storm as of

Friday. A Seattle woman died in the basement of her home after floodwaters caused the basement door to close and jam shut. Two others died in outlying areas after tall Northwest evergreens fell on their vehicles, and a man in Grays Harbor, near the Pacific coast, died in his sleep after a tree fell on his mobile home. KOMO news reported a caller saying a 100-foot evergreen had fallen into his house.

Downed trees and high winds also brought down powerlines throughout Western Washington. Seattle City Light, the municipal electric utility for the city, reported a peak of 175,000 customers without power, most in the north and south ends of the city, as well as the east edge of town and the Green Lake area.

Puget Sound Energy, the electric utility for much of the Seattle metro area, reported 700,000 customers (over 66%) without power, with the area around Seattle the worst hit. PSE, which had already enlisted additional powerline workers from neighboring states, did not send crews out until mid Friday morning due to continued high winds. Estimates for power restoration were anywhere from a few days to over a week. Island County, at the mouth of Puget Sound, was completely without power.

Schools in Seattle and throughout its suburbs were closed Friday, many due to power outages. The city of Mercer Island, connected to the mainland only by Interstate 90, is reportedly inaccessible.

At Sea-Tac Airport, three terminals were shut down overnight due to the storm. Concourse A and the South Satellite terminal lost power, and a blown-out window caused

Concourse C to also close. All terminals were back in working order by midday Friday. Many flights were delayed or cancelled. Likewise, in Oregon, Portland International Airport reported at least 40 flights cancelled. At Seattle's Boeing Field, winds flipped a private plane over, colliding with another plane.

The Seattle Seahawks vs. San Francisco 49ers football game was delayed 15 minutes. A pre-game power surge temporarily took the Qwest Field's video displays offline. The gridiron was plagued by standing water, as the stadium's loudspeakers played "Who'll Stop The Rain?" shortly before kickoff.

Thursday night's storm comes after a previous regional storm in the Seattle area earlier in the week, in which trees in a few Seattle suburbs fell onto roads, powerlines, and two school buses. In those incidents no one was hurt, and there were a few spotty power outages.

This is the second serious storm to hit the Northwest since Thanksgiving. In late November, record-setting snowfall had a similar disabling effect on the region.

Court of Appeal upholds Ontario's talks with Caledonia

The Ontario Court of Appeal yesterday has reaffirmed Ontario's right to negotiate with Six Nations protesters on the disputed Douglas Creek Estates, a housing development, which was bought by the province, in Caledonia, Ontario.

The decision says that the attorney general and the OPP will decide if new proceedings will be launched against the protesters. The court decision also allows the protesters

to continue occupying the land. It said Six Nations protesters are no longer occupying the land illegally because the Ontario government now owns the land and will let protesters continue, and that talks with both levels of government have "restored a measure of peace to the community."

"Ontario is content to permit the peaceful occupation of its property," the decision reads. "It has the right to do so. As a property owner it has the right to use its own land as it sees fit."

Caledonia Mayor Marie Trainer said the decision shows that aboriginals are above the law. Mayor Trainer also said that she hoped the court of appeal would uphold a lower court order to halt negotiations with the province and federal government until protesters cleared the disputed land.

"It shows two rules of law -- you and I couldn't stay there illegally but they [the aboriginals] apparently can. That's what's irritating for everyone," Trainer said. "It's frustrating, especially when it's illegal."

Premier Dalton McGuinty said he was glad that the court reaffirmed the province's right to continue talks with protesters. He also added that the dispute is a federal issue.

"We are now waiting for the federal government to bring a substantive proposal to the table that would involve a number of aspects related to this land claim, including the use of this specific parcel," McGuinty said.

The Caledonia land dispute has been going on since February 28 and still has not been resolved. The native protesters occupied the

Douglas Creek Estates, southwest of Hamilton, saying that the property belongs to them.

South Korea says North Korea will test more nuclear bombs

South Korea has warned, in a letter to its military, that North Korea may test at least "two or three" more nuclear bombs if they feel that they have been "provoked."

"We have to be thoroughly prepared to counter the possibility of a second or third nuclear test by North Korea and a possible hostile act by it in the process of negotiations over its nuclear weapons program," said Kim Jang Soo, the South Korean Defense Minister in a letter addressed to their military. At least 130 commanders of South Korea's military held a special meeting before sending out the letter to the rest of the military personnel.

Six-party talks regarding North Korea's nuclear program are set to resume next week on Monday, December 18, 2006.

The letter also says that North Korea may try to "provoke [the South Korean's]" ahead the six-party talks and Soo has asked the military to be prepared for such an act and also warned that a nuclear strike is not off the table.

"[We have] a clear contingency plan against North Korea's nuclear threat ... by strengthening our monitoring and intelligence, our ability to conduct precision strikes and our nuclear defense," said Soo on Wednesday while reading from a 2007 report on South Korea's top priorities on policy.

Five prostitutes found dead in U.K. brings fears of "Ipswich Ripper"

The bodies of five women in the United Kingdom have been found in or around the county of Suffolk in the east of England. The latest victims were found on 12 December 2006 in a rural area a few hundred meters apart, and one body discovered within 40 minutes of the other. Detectives investigating the murders have confirmed that the last body discovered was that of 29 year old Annette Nicholls. Five women have been found dead within 10 days and authorities face an "unprecedented" murder investigation.

Britain's infamous historical serial killers are the 19th century murderer known as "Jack the Ripper", who was responsible for the deaths of five prostitutes in east London in 1888 but was never found and Peter Sutcliffe the "Yorkshire Ripper" who murdered 13 women, mainly those who worked in prostitution, over a period of five years in northern England.

Suffolk Police have cited prostitutes to stay off the streets and women have been advised not to go out unaccompanied.

Ed Stelmach sworn in as new Alberta premier

Ed Stelmach was officially sworn in as the 13th Premier of Alberta Thursday. He was officially sworn in by Lt. Gov. Norman Kwong in a public ceremony at the Alberta legislature in Edmonton, Alberta's capital.

"Alberta is in an enviable position," Stelmach said. "We have the means to build a strong province and future."

Born and raised in Lamont County, Alberta, the 55-year-old Ukrainian farmer grew up on a farm as the

youngest of five children. He raised his four children on the farm his grandfather established in Alberta. Stelmach was elected leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party on December 3, 2006.

Stelmach replaced former Alberta premier Ralph Klein, who was Alberta's premier since 1992 and former Mayor of Calgary. "I have the greatest respect for my predecessor, Ralph Klein," Stelmach said to the crowd of about 1,000 people. "For all that he has done for me as a member of his team, for the government, and for all Albertans."

"What Albertans can expect from me is to keep my word and to keep an open mind. And I promise an open, inclusive Alberta government that puts Albertans first. A government for all Albertans, both urban and rural, young and old, north and south," he said.

Due to Alberta being a major producer of oil and natural gas, it allowed Klein to get rid of the \$23-billion debt.

After the microphone amplified Stelmach blowing his nose he apologized to the chuckling crowd.

Today in History

1598 - Admiral Yi Sun Sin's Korean navy defeated the Japanese fleet in the Battle of Noryang Point, the final naval battle of the Imjin War.

1653 - The Protectorate: Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England.

1689 - The Parliament of England adopted the Bill of Rights, declaring that Englishmen possessed certain positive civil and political rights.

1773 - Boston Tea Party: To protest the British Tea Act,

members of the Sons of Liberty dumped crates of tea bricks from three British East India Company ships into Boston Harbor.
December 16 is

Quote of the Day

What renders man an imaginative and moral being is that in society he gives new aims to his life which could not have existed in solitude: the aims of friendship, religion, science, and art.
~ George Santayana

Word of the Day

paddy; n

1. (From Malay padi): An irrigated or flooded field where rice is grown.

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+1-866-653-4265
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