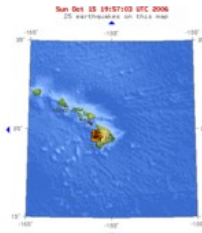




Top Stories

6.6 magnitude quake shakes Hawaii



A magnitude 6.6 earth quake shook the Hawaiian islands today at 17:07:49 UTC (07:07:49 local time). The

quake, centered approximately 6 miles southwest of Puakō on the west side of Hawai`i Island, was felt throughout the entire state, causing a statewide power outage.

"Friday the 13" Buffalo, New York snow storm in pictures



At least 340,000 people and businesses are still without power as the City of Buffalo, New York begins to clean up after the worst October lake effect snow storm in "137 years of records" being kept, according to the National Weather Service.

Featured story

New roadmap unveiled for Northern Ireland devolution



Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have unveiled a new roadmap for the Northern Ireland devolution process. The roadmap sets a target date for a new Northern Ireland Executive to be set up.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The United Nations General Assembly elects Belgium, Indonesia, Italy and South Africa to two-year terms on the UN Security Council, commencing 1 January 2007. The fifth seat remains deadlocked after ten rounds of voting between Guatemala and Venezuela and may be thrown open to other candidates from Latin America and the Caribbean.
- United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemns movement by Eritrea of 1,500 troops and 14 tanks into the UNMEE-monitored Temporary Security Zone with Ethiopia as a "major breach" of the ceasefire agreement that ended the Eritrean-Ethiopian War.
- 2006 North Korean nuclear test: The United States confirms that North Korea conducted a nuclear test on October 9, 2006.
- The government of Sudan and the Eastern Front rebels sign a peace treaty in Asmara, Eritrea.
- The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China starts its dual IPO in Hong Kong Stock Exchange and Shanghai Stock Exchange, in what would be the world's largest ever IPO.
- In one of the worst attacks in Sri Lanka's history, suicide bombers detonate a truck packed with explosives amongst a convoy of buses carrying naval personnel in the country's northeast. Approximately 102 people are killed, and 150 people are wounded.

Wikipedia Current Events

- Swedish Minister for Culture Cecilia Stegö Chilò resigns after 11 days in office, the second resignation within the Cabinet of Fredrik Reinfeldt.
- The government of Hong Kong will not appeal a court ruling striking down the territory's sodomy law.
- American and Russian scientists announce the discovery of a new chemical element with the atomic number 118, temporarily designated as Ununoctium.

Microsoft backtracks on Vista delay accusations

Last month Microsoft Corporation made accusations against the European Commission, stating that it may cause delays in the final release of their latest operating system, Windows Vista (formerly known as Longhorn).

Microsoft's general counsel, Brad Smith, stated:

"We recognize that the European Commission does not give 'green lights' for new products, and we have not asked for one. We appreciate the constructive dialogue we have had with the Commission and the guidance the Commission has provided," Smith added. Based on this guidance, we have made changes to ensure that we're in compliance with our competition law obligations."

The news should be welcomed by all those anticipating Windows

Vista within the European community, with Microsoft showing compliance to follow the regulations set out by the European Commission.

The entire debate started when Microsoft were responding to a letter received by the European Competition Commissioner, Neelie Kroes, that showed concerns over "The possible bundling into Vista of certain products, such as internet search and certain security features that are currently available on a standalone basis from Microsoft and other vendors". In July, Smith had made a statement that Microsoft had offered to create changes to its system to comply with the commission, and that it had asked the commission to state which changes would make Vista apply to its standards and regulations.

"We told the Commission that we would be prepared to do any one of four things and they could simply tell us which of those things they wanted us to do" said Smith.

Since Bill Gates announced the removal of WinFS from its new operating system in October 2003, the company has been plagued by many setbacks and legal issues. Only time will tell whether Microsoft decides to fight the commissions regulations or if it will comply and change its system.

Four more found guilty in 1993 Mumbai blasts case

The TADA court in Mumbai held four accused guilty of assisting Tiger Memon in smuggling arms and RDX that were used in the serial blasts. Four others were acquitted for want of evidence. Muzamil Umar Kadri, Khalil Ahmed Sayyed Nazir and Gulam Hafeez Shaikh were convicted of helping land RDX on the Shekhadi coast in

February 1993, and also for transporting weapons and possessing illegal arms.

Tulsiram Dhondu Surve, watchman of high security Wangani microwave tower in Raigad district, was found guilty of allowing Tiger's men to use government property for the purpose of loading arms into vehicles which then transported them to Mumbai. CBI investigations also revealed that Surve had concealed 59 bags of explosives in his field, before handing them over to the bombers. The watchman was convicted under Section 202 of the Indian Penal Code for "not informing authorities of the smuggling of arms and explosives despite having knowledge of the activities."

Judge Kode, however, acquitted Anant Bhoir, who had allowed his dumper to be used for disposing of RDX in the Nagla Bunder Creek. The court said that Bhoir had not been aware that the sacks contained explosive material. The court also ruled that Bhoir and his co-accused's confessions were inadmissible since they "appear to have been taken under duress."

New Zealand Labour party sells pledge card

The New Zealand Labour Party attempted to sell one of their pledge card at online auction site, TradeMe. It only fetched NZ\$30.

But a similar auction run by Libertarianz leader, Bernard Darnton is fetching in the upwards of \$400, however the current bid (at time of writing this was) at \$440,000 is probably a fake bid.

The pledge card Darnton is selling has described it as being: "Mint condition original 2005 Labour Party pledge card, nicely framed - just like the New Zealand

taxpayer." He is selling it so he can raise money to take Labour to court alleging that Labour misappropriated public funds so they could pay for the pledge cards.

Labours attempt at trying to sell their version of the pledge card is because of \$768,000 they have been forced to pay back by the Auditor-General. Auditor-General, Kevin Brady ruled that \$1.17 million of taxpayers' money had been spent unlawfully on electioneering.

There have been a numerous amount of questions on the Libertarianz auction, mostly humourous, including: "Do I earn FlyBuys when I use the card?" with the response: "No. Labour doesn't need to earn your loyalty. Your loyalty is demanded."

There is also a 1936 autographed book which includes the signatures from the MP's of Labours first government, a deck of Labour party cards said to be from the 1980's or a sport jacked branded Labour, described as "old-skool style meets new-skool textile technology."

Today in History

1346 - King David II of Scotland led an invasion of England during the Hundred Years' War, but was captured in the Battle of Neville's Cross.

1604 - Kepler's Star: German astronomer Johannes Kepler observed an exceptionally bright star which had suddenly appeared in the constellation Ophiuchus.
1662 - King Charles II of England sold Dunkerque to France for £40,000.

1977 - German Autumn: Four days after it was hijacked, Lufthansa Flight 181 landed in Mogadishu, Somalia, where a team of German

GSG 9 commandos rescued all remaining hostages on board. 2003 - The pinnacle was fitted on the roof of the 106-floor skyscraper Taipei 101 in Taipei, allowing it to surpass the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur and become the world's tallest building.

October 17 is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Quote of the Day

Maybe all one can do is hope to end up with the right regrets.
~ Arthur Miller

Word of the Day

cavalcade; n

1. A company of riders.
2. A parade.

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