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REACH FOR THE SKY(LINE)

Search at Utah mine goes on

Three weeks after accident, officials drilling 7th hole

By Chelsea J. Carter
The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON, Utah — Despite three weeks of drilling and digging that have revealed no signs of life from six men trapped inside a collapsed coal mine, officials yesterday said the search was continuing.

Federal and mine company officials said a seventh borehole was being punched into the Crandall Canyon mine, and that a special robotic camera was being lowered into a hole drilled during prior efforts to find the men.

The camera is similar to one used to search within the World Trade Center wreckage in New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It can take images in the darkened cavern from about 50 feet away with the help of a 200-watt light, can travel 1,000 feet from the end of the test hole and has some ability to move around the rubble, officials said.

"We're very excited about it. The families are thrilled to hear this," said Colin King, a lawyer for the miners' families.

Images from the camera were

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Letting go is difficult in mine cave-ins

By Dennis B. Roddy
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Joe Manchin was 21 when the Farmington No. 9 Mine blew up with a roar that shook the town nearby, sent a mushroom cloud of smoke and dust into the West Virginia sky and trapped 78 men.

One of them was John Gouzd, Mr. Manchin's uncle.

After nine days of trying to reach the men, Consolidation Coal, the mine's owner, gathered families in the company store for a meeting.

"They made the announcement that the mine would be sealed," Mr. Manchin, now West Virginia's governor, remembered. He can't recall who was speaking. He just remembers the words, then the groans and cries.

"I can only tell you there was no one in that room that would have agreed that you should close it," he said. "After you

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Bob Donaldson/Post-Gazette

Kristi Rogers, standing at center, leads her yoga class from the Breathe Yoga Studio in Grandview Park on Mount Washington overlooking Downtown Pittsburgh yesterday.

BACK TO SCHOOL THE FIRST 'R'

It's never too early to address reading problems

By Eleanor Chute
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Bennett Shakoske of Turtle Creek was only in first grade, but he was already beginning to give up on school.

He was having trouble reading.

It was only when he moved to another district, repeated first grade and found a special-education teacher who used his love of Legos to motivate him that he was able to progress. Now, he is starting his senior year at Woodland Hills High School.

Years ago, some advised waiting until third grade to get extra reading help to see whether the child would grow out of it.

Now experts advise stepping in as soon as a reading problem occurs.

"The research over the last 30 years really lays out very clearly you can't start too early. I wouldn't hesitate, if I were running a preschool, to try to address these kids' needs," said Dr. Timothy Shanahan, immediate past president of the International Reading Association and a professor of urban education at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Without the help of teacher Angela Livingston, then known as Miss Twyman, Mr. Shakoske, 18, said, "I probably would have dropped out of school already. I would have gotten too frustrated and just not cared."

Without early help, the picture is bleak.

A child who is four or five months behind at the end of first grade has only one chance in five or six of ever reading at grade level in a typical school environment, said Joseph Torgesen, director emeritus of the Florida Center for Reading Research at Florida State University.

"It is occasionally true that children who are lagging behind at the end of kindergarten have a growth spurt in

SEE **READ**, PAGE A-3

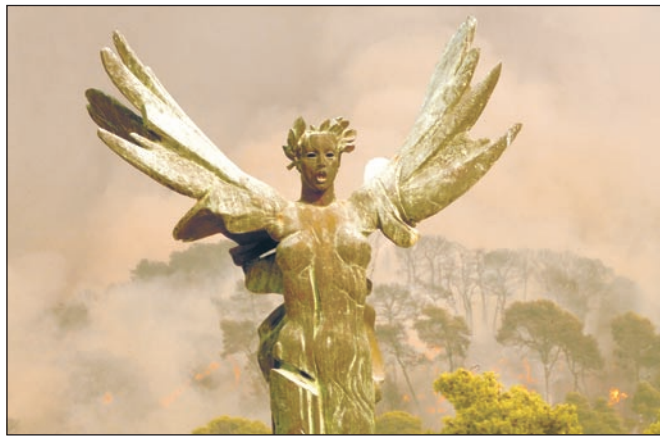
Greek fire by Olympic ruins

12 more deaths bring toll near 60; 44 blazes still not under control

By Ian Fisher and Anthee Carassava
The New York Times

ZAHARO, Greece — At least 12 more people were reported dead yesterday in fierce forest fires in Greece, as walls of flame, though slowed in somewhat-calmer winds, continued to consume homes and to advance on the ruins where the Olympic Games were first played.

Scores of villages were evacuated in fires that turned the earth to white ash and the air to a soupy ochre, but not everyone obeyed: In the hilltop town of Karnasi on the hard-hit Peloponnesian peninsula, Vassiliki Panagapoulou, 56, doused her tan dress with water, put a rag to her mouth and took a garden hose to the worst fires in Greece, by some accounts, since 1871.



Petros Giannakouris/Associated Press

A contemporary statue of winged victory is enveloped by smoke from fires threatening ancient Olympia in southwestern Greece yesterday.

"It's very scary, but I have no other option," she said, after she and her son stopped flames ripping down a slope

that threatened her nine white goats, 14 roosters and her home of 40 years. "There is no other woman trying

to protect her home? I can't believe that."

Though there were fewer victims than on Saturday — 46 people, most of them in the Peloponnese — it brought the three-day death toll to near 60. Moreover, the government warned that little progress was made yesterday in putting out the 44 separate fires.

They continued to rage, even as firefighters and water-bearing planes began arriving from other European nations.

"We are exactly where we were yesterday," said Vassilis Adamopoulos, a spokesman for the Greek fire brigade. "The winds have died down a bit. But none of the major fires have been put under control."

SEE **GREECE**, PAGE A-4

Maliki faults U.S. 'mistakes,' berates Clinton, Levin

By Carol J. Williams
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki yesterday lashed out at U.S. and French politicians who have called on him to step down and accused U.S. forces of committing "big mistakes" in

killing and detaining civilians in the hunt for insurgents.

It was the second outburst from the embattled leader in recent days, as he has come under fire from an array of allies and adversaries who accuse him of failing to unite his Cabinet and put key laws and programs in place.

Yesterday, he drew fresh criticism from two influential congressional Republicans.

Mr. Maliki trained his angriest words at Democratic presidential hopeful New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and her Democratic colleague, Michigan Sen. Carl Levin.

At a hastily called news

conference after meeting with other Iraqi leaders, Mr. Maliki dismissed calls for him to step down as "ugly interference" in Iraq's domestic affairs. "There are American officials who consider Iraq as if it were one of their villages — for example, Hillary Clinton and Carl Levin," he said. "They should

come to their senses."

Mr. Maliki also had harsh words for French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, who earlier this month paid the first official visit by a senior official from Paris since the March 2003 start of the war

SEE **MALIKI**, PAGE A-4

Syrian slain in Mount Oliver

Shot by robber at uncle's deli, was in city for medical treatment

By Mary Niederberger
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Jamal Mouzaffar was just weeks away from returning to his native Syria when he was shot in the chest and killed yesterday by a robber as he opened his uncle's convenience store in Mount Oliver.

Jamal Mouzaffar, 28, was in Pittsburgh for an adjustment to a prosthetic left leg that was



Jamal Mouzaffar

made here about two years ago, said his uncle, Abdul Mouzaffar, owner of the A&F Deli Food Mart, where the shooting took place at around 9 a.m.

"I am heartsick. Imagine telling my sister that her oldest son

has been killed," he said.

Abdul Mouzaffar said a security camera at the business showed the gunman running into the store, jumping over the counter and pulling a gun on his nephew. He said his nephew opened the cash door for the robber, but that he was shot anyway.

The store owner said the killer stayed in the store for an additional six minutes rummaging through things, perhaps looking for more money. He said there would not have been much money in the cash register at the start of the day.

"It was awful to watch the tape. I want this guy caught,"

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Robin Rombach/Post-Gazette

A police officer talks with Abdul Mouzaffar, left, owner of the A&F Deli Food Mart in Mount Oliver, whose nephew was shot and killed yesterday morning.



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Sunny with less humidity. High 84, low 56.
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