

# H1N1 nearly killed her

Medford's Jacquelyn Cordero is home recovering from life-threatening swine flu

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# High School football playoffs

Phoenix, Crater move on to quarterfinals; South Medford and Ashland head home

Sports, Page 1B



Crater's Tyler Turituri, left, and Josh Dalton

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## HEALTH CARE REFORM

### Former governor says to fix it first

Kitzhaber tells Medford Rotary health care needs 'transformational change'

By BILL KETTLER

Former Gov. John Kitzhaber said Friday in a Medford talk that the debate on health care should focus on how to make people healthy rather than how to pay for health care.

"Health care is a means to an end," Kitzhaber said in a speech to the Medford Rogue Rotary Club. "It's not an end in itself."

Kitzhaber, who served as Oregon's governor from 1995 to 2003, recently announced he will run for the office again in 2010. He had been invited to speak to the group on health care prior to announcing his candidacy.

He told the Rotarians that the debate in Washington, D.C., is not addressing the biggest issue

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Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., lifts a copy of the Democratic health care reform bill Friday during a news conference on Capitol Hill.

### Senate faces crucial vote on health care legislation

Vote begins today to decide whether debate can proceed

By DAVID LIGHTMAN

WASHINGTON — The Senate is poised to approve today the start of a historic debate over health care legislation aimed at making coverage easier, less expensive to obtain and harder to lose.

It needs 60 votes to cut off a Republican-led effort to block consideration of the bill, however. A vote is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. today, Pacific time. Democrats control 60 seats, but two moderates are wavering.

One previously undecided Democratic centrist, Nebraska's Ben Nelson, said Friday that he'd vote to proceed, but stressed that his vote "is not for or against the new Senate health care bill. ... It is only to begin debate and an opportunity to make improvements."

Still undecided were Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, who's viewed as the most reluctant holdout.

She'd insisted that the health care bill be posted publicly on the Internet for 72 hours before the vote, which it was. That time expires when the vote is scheduled to start. The second-term senator faces the

see VOTE, Page 2A

### Militias have resurfaced across nation

Radical militiaman and founder of Michigan Militia, of which Timothy McVeigh was a member, forms new movement in Alaska

By RACHEL D'ORO

NIKISKI, Alaska — Norm Olson's genial tone belies his reputation as a radical militiaman, yet here he is, at 63, an affable grandfather explaining why Americans should arm themselves against their government.

Walking stick in hand, clad in military fatigues, he strolls a trail in the woods near his home, located on 22 acres near Nikiski, a small, unincorporated community with isolated roads and no local government. The nearest state trooper post is two towns away.

A fellow militiaman, armed with an assault rifle, walks along as Olson — a man whose conspiracy theories were so extreme that he was kicked out of the group he founded, the Michigan Militia,

15 years ago — discourses on the need for a paramilitary Alaska Citizens Militia.

He lays out his ideas about imminent economic collapse and social chaos incited by federal bailouts and other forms of intrusion by a tyrannical government.

Olson's militia is minuscule at the moment, but there has been a resurgence of the militia movement nationwide, in part coinciding with the advent of the Obama administration. At least 50 new right-wing militia groups have been identified by the Montgomery, Ala.-based Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit civil rights organization.

see MILITIA, Page 10A



Mail Tribune / Bob Pennell

Ashland wildlife forensic scientist Bob Hoesch used DNA analysis of large pieces of tusk and carved figures bought by undercover agents to help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service nab smugglers in Thailand.

### CAPTURED WITH FORENSICS

By ANITA BURKE

ASHLAND — Evidence in an international ivory smuggling case wound its way through the labyrinthine halls of a federal wildlife forensics lab in Ashland over the past year and led authorities to two men in Thailand this week.

Police in Bangkok arrested two Thai men and charged them with smuggling African ivory into Thailand to supply shops that sell

DNA results from Ashland lab lead to arrests of ivory smugglers in Thailand

jewelry and trinkets, including to customers in the United States, The Associated Press reported.

The United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species banned all international ivory trade in 1989. However, the ban didn't address domestic trade.

Groups that work to stop illegal

wildlife trade say smugglers increasingly have turned up in Thailand, where they sidestep the ban by mixing African ivory with tusks from domestic sources and then claim it all comes from Thai elephants. The tactic is effective because without DNA testing, it's difficult to tell the difference between African and

Asian ivory, the AP reported. That's where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Lab in Ashland comes in.

Wildlife forensic scientist Bob Hoesch has researched techniques to recover DNA from ivory, then pinpoint the species it came from.

He developed his method about five years ago. Since then, the Ashland lab has processed a growing amount of ivory.

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The Holy Shroud, a 13-foot-long linen revered by some as the burial cloth of Jesus, is shown at the Cathedral of Turin, Italy. A Vatican researcher claims a nearly invisible text on the Shroud of Turin proves its authenticity.



AP file photo

### Researcher: Writing seen on Shroud of Turin

By ARIEL DAVID

ROME — A Vatican researcher has rekindled the age-old debate over the Shroud of Turin, saying that faint writing on the linen proves it was the burial cloth of Jesus.

Experts say the historian

may be reading too much into the markings, and they stand by carbon-dating that points to the shroud being a medieval forgery.

Barbara Frale, a researcher at the Vatican archives, says in a new book that she used computer-enhanced images of the shroud to de-

cipher faintly written words in Greek, Latin and Aramaic scattered across the cloth.

She asserts that the words include the name "(Jesus) Nazarene" — or Jesus of Nazareth — in Greek. That, she said, proves the text could not be of medieval origin because no Christian

at the time, even a forger, would have mentioned Jesus without referring to his divinity. Failing to do so would risk being branded a heretic.

"Even someone intent on forging a relic would have

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#### BUSINESS

##### FIRED UP

Medford and Ashland residents open Firehouse Dance Hall in Medford's original firehouse

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#### LOCAL

##### POLICE PROTECTION

Shady Cove could close its police department and contract with the Sheriff's Department

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