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THURSDAY

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Suspect flees cops by diving through window

By Carla Bova
IJ reporter

A man rifled through cars in San Anselmo yesterday but escaped from pursuing police officers after losing his shoes, running inside a house, grappling with a resident and diving through a glass window.

The drama unfolded at 2:30 a.m. after a resident called police to report someone with a flashlight appeared to be searching vehicles parked on Vine Avenue.

Detective Anthony Boehle said when city police arrived, they spotted a man hiding under a car and chased him on foot.

The man hid in the garage of a house on Sunnyside Avenue, where he forced a locked door open and ran inside, rousing a family of five from sleep.

The burglar ran down the hall where he was confronted by the homeowner, and they struggled briefly before he broke free.

"The suspect tried to exit through the master bedroom but he was unable to do so, so he ran across the hall to another bedroom and went headlong through the window," Boehle said. "The window was eight to nine feet above ground, the shades were drawn and he dove through head first."

"The suspect left his shoes behind," Boehle said. "He ran out of one shoe on Vine Avenue and left the other in the house when he went through the window."

Officers from Fairfax, Ross, San Rafael and the Marin County Sheriff's Office joined the search but failed to find the man.

The resident was not injured and police don't know whether the suspect was injured.

"Because he was not apprehended, we do not know the extent of his injuries," Boehle said.

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A high point in their lives



IJ photo/Jeff Vendsel

NO WALDOS: A San Rafael police car called the statue of Louis Pasteur at San Rafael High School yesterday at 4:20 p.m. Starting in 1971, a group of students from the school who called themselves the Waldos would meet at that time to head off on a marijuana adventure. The youths used 420 as a code name for marijuana. The code caught on and has become an underground reference for the drug.

How band of San Rafael youths achieved pot-cult status in 1970s

In the 1970s, a group of friends at San Rafael High School coined "420" as their secret smokers' slang for marijuana.

Over the past three decades, 420 has grown like a weed into a grassroots phenomenon celebrated every April 20 (4/20) by pot users and advocates everywhere as a kind of underground Great American Smokeout.

Yesterday morning, the 420 tradition was being bandied about by a couple of San Francisco rock radio DJs, thereby alerting parents, albeit inadvertently, that their kids may be getting high at

school.

"It's huge with the kids," said Corte Madera family therapist Larry Fritzman, who runs a rehab program for teens with drug problems. "They all know about it."

Originally, 420 had nothing to do with April 20 or any other date. In 1971, it was the time, 4:20 in the afternoon, when the Waldos, an informal club of a half-dozen San Rafael High boys, would meet after school at a statue of Louis Pasteur on campus and head off in search of a fabled pot patch in West Marin.

LIBERATORS AT LARGE



Paul Liberatore

Yesterday afternoon at 4:20, the Benny Bufano-created statue stood all alone, cordoned off by yellow construction tape during a renovation project at the school.

There wasn't a student or a joint in sight, and campus supervisors said a re-

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Labor says S drives costs of health

Organization report as 'a hit'

By Richard I
IJ reporter

A network of union-affiliated hospitals, the California Health Services, asserted yesterday that the cost of rising health care is driven by the Marin General Hospital, operated by health care giant Kaiser Permanente, to bolster its argument.

The report by the coalition said that hospitals accounted for 54 percent of the annual growth in health care spending in 2003, with hospital expenditures in California growing at nearly twice the national rate between 1998 and 2001.

The coalition highlighted pricing at Sutter Health hospitals. Blue Shield analyzed patient charges at Sutter Health charges that Sutter Health charges 10 most expensive hospitals in California.

"We believe this is a high merit and that the agenda coalition is fundamental," Karen Garner, a spokeswoman for Health, responding to the report.

Last year, Blue Cross managed facilities with hospital in the same vicinity as the Sutter facilities, 10 percent of the two. Acco Marin General Hospital was 10 percent more expensive than the hospital compared. Blue Cross was

BRIEFLY

Stem cell measures win key approval

SACRAMENTO — Two related stem cell measures backed by groups as diverse as Planned Parenthood and the California Catholic Conference advanced out of a key state Senate committee yesterday, a spokeswoman for State Sen. Deborah Ortiz said.

One bill requires doctors to provide written warnings to research volunteers donating eggs of the potential health risks of their donations.

The second measure that passed out of the Senate Health Committee would place a proposition on California's next ballot that would tighten the agency's conflict-of-interest policies and require that any medicine developed with agency funding be made affordable for all Californians and that all financial arrangements with pharmaceutical companies ensure that the state share in drug sales.

Next month's Discovery launch delayed

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA pushed back next month's launch of Discovery by a full week, saying yesterday it needs more time to complete testing and engineering work for the first space shuttle flight since the Columbia disaster.

The new launch date is May 22. NASA had been hoping to send Discovery on a 12-day delivery and repair mission to the international space station on May 15.

But a critical design review of the revamped shuttle was not held until this week, and all the information needs to be submitted to the task force overseeing the space agency's return-to-flight effort.

NASA has until early June to launch Discovery — a window dictated by the space station's position and NASA's desire for a daylight launch. Otherwise, the flight will have to wait until July.

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tom, Idaho and Montana have historically been the world's largest producer of chinook, the biggest of the Pacific salmon species.

Before overfishing, dams, logging, agriculture and urban devel-

opment to improve. Biologists and fisheries managers are at a loss to explain why. For every possibility they come up with — ocean food abundance, sea lions invading the fish ladders to eat salmon, reduced

LUCAS: Business leaders say there's economic life after Lucas

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would likely fall into the category of home improvement companies, import/export, storage facilities, computer repair outfits and the multimedia industry.

Although no deals have been announced, representatives of at least two local multimedia companies have said they are seeking larger space. Telltale Games, a video game developer founded by three former Lucasarts Entertainment employees, is situated in a makeshift office in a ware-

house on Andersen Drive in San Rafael. The firm could outgrow that space within the year.

Another firm, digital animation studio CritterPix, is on Mitchell Boulevard in San Rafael and plans to move to a large space in Marin by mid-summer.

Given the current use of the buildings as a range of offices, effects studios and sound stages, San Rafael Economic Development Director Nancy Mackle said the city would be receptive to zoning change requests.

"The city is willing to work

with any property owner," she said.

Some of the property owners could also decide to sell the buildings as commercial condominiums like those that have had great success in the Vineyard, a 50-unit development on the east side of Highway 101 in north San Rafael. As many as 40 units within that project have been sold or are about to be, Ongaro said.

Dennis Fisco, one of the partners of Seagate Properties, which owns four of the buildings that house Industrial Light & Magic,

could not be sure to ease your sons unless the closure is lifted. "There are other fishing opportunities I know," he said. "But there is nothing like these Colymbia River spring chinook."

POT: San Rafael band of youths gains cult-like status from 1970s

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porter and photographer looking for a story were the only things that were out of the ordinary.

In years past, one of the Waldos, now a 59-year-old head of a financial services company in San Francisco, would make a pilgrimage to the statue at 420 on 4/20 for old times sake. But he didn't have time for nostalgia yesterday.

"Today is Wednesday," he said. "It's pretty busy for us. I'll be really busy at 4:20."

Two years ago, he and his fellow Waldos reunited at High Times magazine's Doobie Times magazine in New York City to present a lifetime achievement award to the New Riders of the Purple Sage, the Marin band that popu-

larized the tokers' anthem "Panna Ma Red."

The Waldos theorize that their connection to the New Riders and the Grateful Dead had something to do with spreading 420 among young rock fans. It has since been used as a logo on hats, beer, a record label and other paraphernalia.

High Times, which has proclaimed the Waldos as the original 420, posted on its Web site a number of 420 parties, concerts, fund-raisers and panel discussions on marijuana issues that were held yesterday in the U.S. and Canada, much to the amazement of the men who innocently started all this when they were young pot-heads 34 years ago.

"It pops up every year," one

said his company was considering that option.

Ongaro emphasized that the Lucas companies are not abandoning the county entirely. He would still occupy all or parts of Skywalker Ranch and Big Rock in Lucas Valley. He also noted that most of the companies' employees remain Marin residents.

"There is still going to be a major force here," he said.

heavy hand of the federal government" to require such payments "unless we have confidence that it is a fair allocation of responsibility," Conryn said.

SUTTER: Labor coalition rips health organization's prices

From page A1

hospital it used for the comparison.

The coalition bolstered its case against Sutter with one other example. In 2004 the California Public Employees Retirement System excluded 38 hospitals from its health maintenance organization network. "The hospital had failed to meet cost and quality-of-care standards established by CALPERS.

Since then, a number of hospitals have been reinstated after that remain excluded, 13 are managed by Sutter, said Clark McKinley, a spokesman for CALPERS.

Sutter's Garner said the Service Employees International Union, which includes health workers, is hindering and helping to lead the coalition.

"It is not a coincidence that SEIU and this union coalition has focused solely on an organization where SEIU has eight open labor contracts," Garner said. She attributed CALPERS' action to pressure from SEIU.

Sal Rossell, president of United Healthcare Workers-West, a local chapter of SEIU, said the union has been unable to reach an agreement with Sutter because the organization refuses to consult with health-care workers on setting staffing levels.

"Sutter is just so narrowly focused on providing the least care at the lowest cost to maximize their profits to fuel their expansion," Rossell said.

Sutter operates 25 hospitals statewide. The nonprofit's revenues exceeded expenses by \$465 million in 2003, Marin General Hospital recently reported that its excess revenues more than doubled in 2003 to \$13.8 million.

last fish," said Bruce-John, a gill-netter from Clatskanie. "If there is a conservation problem, we are the first ones who want to sit on the beach."

Sport fishing feeds the econ-

the highest they have been in at least six years.

Garner, however, said that Sutter has done its own study, which shows that its pricing is in line with other hospitals in the state. And Garner said Sutter does consult with health care workers on setting levels at some of its hospitals.

In its report yesterday, the condition said that Sutter's high prices could not be justified by the hospital's quality of care, which it called uneven. It cited the repeated inspections of Marin General Hospital by state health officials last year, and the officials' threat to cut off Medicare and Medicaid funding if deficiencies continued, as evidence of that uneven quality of care.

The report also noted that Sutter's Berkeley hospital, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, has been issued a preliminary denial of its accreditation based on deficiencies ranging from inappropriate action to reduce risk of hospital-acquired infections to inappropriate response to medication errors.

Garner said agencies that review hospital processes and procedures have increased their scrutiny lately.

"As it happens, some of our affiliates are among the first to experience this more intense focus and examination," Garner said.

Assemblyman Joe Nathan, D-San Rafael, who has introduced a health-care reform package, says there are equal, if not more important, factors driving up hospital prices. He listed the increased use of technology, increased utilization of health care, rising drug costs and the aging population.

It was nothing but a joke from the beginning. We still get laughs over it."

— A member of the Waldos

SUSPECT: Man dives through glass window to elude police

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"We did not locate any blood at the scene or other evidence that he had been injured."

The suspect has long brown hair and brown eyes. He is 5-foot-10 to 5-foot-11 and about 170 pounds. The shoes are black and

ported, yesterday several blocks away on Crescent Road.

Last week, a multitegency police force led by Novato police served a search warrant on a Novato condominium and arrested four people in connection with a rash of Marin County auto burglaries.

Property valued at more than \$100,000 was recovered in the search at 178 Oriole Circle in Novato's Pacheco Valle neighborhood.

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