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EDMONTON

Friday July 30, 2010

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Arab leaders gave the Palestinian Authority Thursday the green light for direct talks with Israel. "In response to the decisions of the Arab League, PM Benjamin Netanyahu says that he is willing to commence direct and honest talks with the Palestinian Authority within the next few days,"

* Oil that spilled from an Enbridge pipeline into a southern Michigan waterway is not expected to reach Lake Michigan, U.S. officials say. About 3.7 million litres of oil leaked into the Kalamazoo River early this week from a pipeline running from Indiana to Sarnia, Ont. The EPA, which is co-ordinating the cleanup, said staff and resources are being dispatched to the area to help with environmental testing.

* A body found in southeast Memphis, Tennessee, on Wednesday has been identified as that of former professional basketball player Lorenzen Wright. The cause of death has been ruled as "homicide by gunshot wound." Wright, who has a home in Atlanta, was reported missing on July 22. He had been visiting with his former wife and their children in Collierville, near Memphis.

* Mexican federal authorities arrested 62 police officers in the state of Baja California Thursday suspected of ties to organized crime and drug trafficking. Baja

California Attorney General Rommel Moreno said those arrested included 16 active state police officers, 40 active municipal police officers, and six who had already left the force.

* French prosecutors said Thursday they have charged a woman with murder after she admitted giving birth to and smothering eight babies over a 17-year period in northern France. The woman, Dominique Cottrez, said she hid the pregnancies and deaths from her husband, who said he had no idea what she had done.

* Owners of Toyota Avalons and Lexus LX 470s may be getting a recall notice soon as the carmaker moves to fix a steering problem. The recall affects 4,720 cars that were sold in Canada. Meanwhile, Ford Motor Co. announced Thursday that it will lay off 400 workers at its engine plant in Windsor, Ontario. The news comes a day after GM closed its transmission plant, pulling out of the city after 90 years.

* A man listed as the oldest living male in Tokyo in fact died some 30 years ago, city officials said after his body was found mummified in his bed. Tokyo police were investigating possible crimes on suspicion Kato's family received pension money of the man and his dead wife.

NATIONAL NEWS

An Alberta woman accused of killing her two sons has completed a psychiatric assessment on whether she can be held criminally responsible for her actions. The report was presented Thursday at a court hearing in Wetaskiwin, but was not made public. The boys were found dead on Feb. 1 by their father, Curtis McConnell, in their house in Millet, a town about 40 kilometres south of Edmonton. The boys' parents were in the midst of a divorce and custody battle.

* The group petitioning to keep the City Centre Airport open took unveiled its development plans for the airport Thursday. Envision Edmonton is still working to gather close to 78,000 signatures to force the city to revisit the decision of closing the airport. The first of two runways at the City Centre Airport is scheduled to close next week.

* Following an insurance rate review, the Automobile Insurance Rate Board is instructing provincial insurance companies to reduce premiums on mandatory automobile insurance by five per cent this year. The reduction will mean the average driver will save about \$30 a year on insurance premiums. The premium reduction takes effect November 1.

* Alberta Health Minister Gene Zwozdesky said Thursday that the government is looking at whether to follow Saskatchewan's lead and pay for studies of a controversial experimental treatment for people with multiple sclerosis. The treatment, *liberation therapy*, suggests MS stems from iron buildup in a particular vein constricting blood flow out of the brain.

* Two pilots are recovering after their helicopter crashed while fighting a wildfire in B.C.'s southern interior. The helicopter went down near Lillooet, B.C., on Thursday afternoon while the pilot and co-pilot were dumping water on the Jade Wildfire in Yalakom Valley. Transwest Helicopters Ltd., the

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company that employs the men, said it seems their helicopter lost power while in mid-air.

* Canada's communications industry took in \$55.4 billion in revenue in 2009, the CRTC said Thursday, a 2.1 per cent increase from the previous year's level. "The wireless and internet sectors posted positive results, while revenues for long-distance and local residential telephone services continued to decline. The TSX gained 32 points Thursday to finish at 11,728. The loonie was steady at USD\$0.965 while September oil was off 21-cents to USD\$78.15 a barrel.

BEEF BREAK

The recent smear campaigns targeting the Alberta Oilsands seem to imply that they're presenting a 100% green alternative. The ads say boycott Alberta as a tourist destination cause their oil and gas extraction from the oilsands produces pollution. What they don't say is come and visit California where we import our oil and gas from the places that cause pollution with their extraction methods. Doesn't matter where it's done, if you want a steak, the cow has to be butchered. Just cause it's out of sight in California doesn't alter the polluting effect.

Comments: beefbreak@bellyyellow.com

Today's Pop Quiz: What protective devices are all Olympic wrestlers required to wear?

Yesterday's Quiz: What landmark English bridge was opened in 1831? A. London Bridge

Weather

Today: variable, H 25
 Tomorrow: variable, H 26

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LUNCH BREAK
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Bang For A Buck
 Rating out of 5
 \$\$\$

Menu: Specialty wines and upper class fare
Wine: Huge selection of wines to fit all types of budgets. Tried: Torres Ibéricos Crianza 2006 - very nice, full bodied and fresh with a good acidity.
Food: These beautifully plated dishes obviously had a lot of thought put into them both in taste and in presentation. Tried: Scallops with bacon vinaigrette - slightly overseasoned, but nice flavour with a hint of maple. Mussels with shallots and bacon - The mussels were a little dry but all-in-all tasted nice. Cheese plate for two - Perfect for a wine bar, paired beautifully with the wine and compote. Quinoa salad - balsamic reduction was a little too bitter, but that is my own preference, the quinoa and cheese were the best part about this salad. Very nice portion sizes all around and not unreasonably priced.
Service: Very friendly, laid back and very welcoming.
Atmosphere: Rustic feel, comfortable atmosphere, quaint, small space

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