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APS Therapist Missing; Police Fear Foul Play



Woman Last Seen At School Friday

By CHRIS RAMIREZ
Journal Staff Writer

Police believe a missing Montezuma Elementary School employee may have met with foul play.

Carolyn Thurman Rustvold's

family began to worry when the 28-year-old occupational therapist failed to come home Friday night, said Capt. Greg Sanchez, an Albuquerque police spokesman.

According to police, Stephen Rustvold picked his wife up at Montezuma for lunch about noon, then dropped her off at the school about 1 p.m. She attended a staff meeting at 1:30 p.m. and was seen by other teachers in her classroom

around 3:30 p.m., Sanchez said.

When Carolyn Rustvold didn't make it home Friday night, Stephen Rustvold called family, Sanchez said. He called police about 11:30 p.m. and an officer met him at the school.

There, they found Rustvold's silver Honda Accord in the parking lot. A cursory search of the campus turned up no sign of the therapist, Sanchez said.

School district officials and police searched Rustvold's portable trailer classroom Saturday morning.

"We found items that should not have been there," Sanchez said. "And some things that should have been there weren't."

Sanchez would not elaborate on the evidence that was recovered but said it led them to suspect foul play.

When reached by telephone Saturday, Stephen Rustvold declined comment. Several Montezuma teachers and employees contacted on Saturday would also not give a statement.

Much of the school's campus, located near the University of New Mexico, was cordoned off Saturday with yellow police crime-scene tape, as police scoured class-

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Thousands march in Albuquerque to oppose a U.S. invasion of Iraq



GREG SORBER/JOURNAL

FAMOUS SPEAKER: Amy Goodman — host of a radio and television show called "Democracy Now!" — finishes speaking at an anti-war rally at the Truman Gate at Kirtland Air Force Base on Saturday.

Strength in numbers

By LLOYD JOJOLA
Journal Staff Writer

In what some observers called the largest peace rally in Albuquerque since the Vietnam War, thousands marched Saturday to speak out loudly against a United States war with Iraq.

"I feel like the anti-war movement is growing stronger and getting more powerful," said Bob Anderson, an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico and a member of the Committee to Stop the War Machine. "This is just an example of it, the power that's in the grass roots of this country. People are seriously and deeply opposed to what (President Bush's)

administration is carrying out."

A noontime rally at the Truman Gate of Kirtland Air Force Base, which organizers estimate numbered between 2,000 and 3,000 people, was the first link in a chain of peace events. Another rally followed at UNM from which there was a Central Avenue march that went from the university to a gathering at Robinson Park Downtown.

The peace demonstrations were part of similar events that took place the same day in cities across the country and throughout the world.

Well before noon, people were

See STRENGTH on PAGE A8



KITTY CLARK FRITZ/JOURNAL

CLEAR MESSAGE: Loma Samraj of Albuquerque wears her statement on her face during a rally Saturday afternoon.

S. Korea: Attack Discussed

U.S. Says It's Unaware Of Talk To Strike North

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — High-ranking U.S. officials last month considered attacking North Korea before agreeing to seek a peaceful solution to the standoff over nuclear weapons, South Korea's president-elect said Saturday.

Roh Moo-hyun, speaking on television, said there were top-level U.S. discussions about a possible invasion, but Washington officials Saturday were quick to say they had no knowledge such talks took place.

Washington for weeks has stressed diplomacy in resolving the conflict, and Roh's comments came one day after the United States said it would be willing to give North Korea a written guarantee it would not attack.

Still, the remarks by Roh, who was elected Dec. 19, shed light on an alleged debate within the U.S. government over how to deal with the communist North after it declared it would reactivate old nuclear facilities capable of making bombs.

"At the time of the elections, some U.S. officials, who held considerable responsibility in the administration, talked about the possibility of attacking North Korea," Roh told a panel of university professors on KBN-TV.

He described the U.S. officials as "hardline" and did not say how he knew about the discussion. But Roh is close to outgoing President Kim Dae-jung, whose government has been coordinating a joint strategy on the North with the United States.

The White House and Pentagon deferred comment to the State Department, where a spokesman said he was not aware of any such discussion about military action against North

Sweeter deals

Offers to abandon nukes getting better **A9**

In control

N. Korea regime governs anti-American messages to people **B8**

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Critics Say APS Roofing Costs Sky-High

■ District defends paying top price, but others contend program wastes taxpayers' money

By MIKE GALLAGHER
Journal Investigative Reporter

Albuquerque Public Schools is spending \$494,000 to put a new roof on the Northeast Heights headquarters building it purchased less than two years ago.

The price of \$17 a square foot is almost twice the estimate APS received from its roofing consultant in 2001, and almost

Other choices

Competitors say they also offer 30-year roofing guarantees **A3**

triple the \$6-a-square-foot estimate the building's prior owners obtained in 2000.

APS officials say they are getting more than a simple roofing job on the headquar-

ters complex, and that the district was the victim of a poor "bidding climate."

But critics contend the City Centre project is another sign that APS' roofing program is costing taxpayers too much money.

"They're paying for a Cadillac," said John Horton, director of Public Policy and Government Relations for the Associated General Contractors of New Mexico. "I hope they're not getting a Chevy with a tarp over it."

APS officials acknowledge

the price is high but say it's worth it.

"We're paying top dollar and we're getting a top system," said Pat McMurray, APS director of facilities, planning and construction.

The City Centre roof is just the latest episode in a long-running controversy.

APS roofs have been a sore spot with parents and teachers who complain about leaks, and with some in the local roofing industry who say the district's

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