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Worthy of Western Pennsylvania **50¢**
5 sections • 92 pages

French rioting winding down

A state of emergency begins to deflate the worst unrest in decades.

BY JOCELYN GECKER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — The French Riviera cities of Nice and Cannes, best known for glitz and film festivals that attract Hollywood stars, were among areas that imposed curfews for minors Wednesday even as rioting abated.

The government toughened its stance against those involved in France's worst civil unrest since its 1968 student riots. Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said local officials have been told to deport the 120 foreigners convicted so far for their roles in the violence.

Although rioting persisted in some places for a 13th night, car burnings fell by nearly half and reports of violence dropped. Nonetheless, looters and vandals defied a state of emergency imposed by the government Tuesday, with attacks on superstores in northern France and a newspaper warehouse and a subway station in the south.

New arson attacks broke out yesterday evening in the southern city of Toulouse, which was hit earlier this week. Vandals set four cars ablaze and rammed a burning car into a primary school, damaging its entrance, the local government said.

The 12-day state of emergency went into effect at midnight Tuesday. For much of France — including Paris — it had no perceptible effect. That such extraordinary measures were needed, however, has fueled national introspection about the country's failure to integrate its African and Muslim minorities — seen as a key reason behind the rioting.

The decree paved the way for possible curfews in Paris, the surrounding communities, and more than 30 other cities and towns nationwide if officials feel they are needed.

SEE RIOTS • A15

"I saw blood. There were people killed. It was ugly."

AHMED, WEDDING GUEST AT RADDISON



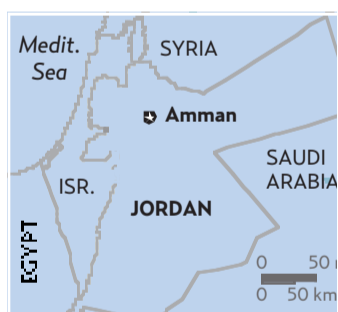
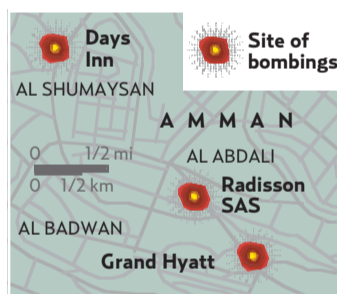
SALAH MALKAWI/GETTY IMAGES

An injured man is moved to an ambulance in front of the Hyatt hotel Wednesday in Amman, Jordan. Three U.S.-based hotels were hit by suicide bombers last night.

Bombs rip hotels

57 die in attacks on U.S.-based fixtures in Jordan

Terror strikes Western hotels



SOURCES: HOTEL SITES; ESRI

The date of yesterday's bloodshed is written as 9/11 in the Middle East.

BY JAMAL HALABY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMMAN, Jordan — Suicide bombers carried out nearly simultaneous attacks on three U.S.-based hotels in the Jordanian capital Wednesday night, killing at least 57 people and wounding 115 in what appeared to be an al-Qaida assault on an Arab kingdom with close ties to the United States.

The explosions hit the Grand Hyatt, Radisson SAS and Days Inn hotels just before 9 p.m. One of the blasts took place inside a wedding hall where 300 guests were celebrating — joined by a man strapped with explosives who had infiltrated the crowd. Black smoke rose into the night, and wounded victims

stumbled from the hotels. "We thought it was fireworks for the wedding, but I saw people falling to the ground," said Ahmed, a wedding guest at the five-star Radisson who did not give his surname. "I saw blood. There were people killed. It was ugly."

Jordan's deputy prime minister, Marwan Muasher, said there was no claim of responsibility but that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian-born leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, was a "prime suspect."

A U.S. counterterrorism official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, said the strong suspicion is that al-Zarqawi was involved because of his known animosity for Jordanian monarchy and the fact that it was a suicide attack, one of his hallmarks.

In February, U.S. intelligence indicated that Osama

bin Laden was in contact with al-Zarqawi, enlisting him to conduct attacks outside of Iraq. Jordan has arrested scores of Islamic militants for plotting to carry out attacks and also has sentenced many militants to death in absentia, including al-Zarqawi.

Its capital has become a base for Westerners who fly in and out of neighboring Iraq for work. Jordan's main luxury hotels downtown are often full of American and British officials and contractors enjoying the relative quiet of the city.

"Obviously, this is something Jordan is not used to," Muasher told CNN. "We have been lucky so far in avoiding those incidents." He said that most of the casualties appeared to be Jordanians and that authorities had sealed the country's land borders.

SEE JORDAN • A14

Pay hike revolt grows in numbers

More Pennsylvanians are less likely to re-elect lawmakers who voted themselves raises.

BY DAVID M. BROWN
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

A growing number of Pennsylvanians are furious about pay raises the Legislature approved for itself and other officials this summer, a new statewide poll shows.

The Tribune-Review/WTAE-Channel 4 Keystone Poll, released today, shows a majority of Pennsylvanians — 54 percent — would be less likely to vote to re-elect members of the General Assembly who voted for higher salaries.

That number is up from 46 percent of voters who felt that way in a September Keystone poll.

The poll also found many Pennsylvanians — about one in four — consider personal finances and economic issues to be their number one concern. Seventy percent say the Legislature should reduce property taxes, even if it means increasing other taxes.

SEE POLL • A6

Voters batter Nigro, Newman

Close retention results reflect Western Pennsylvania ire over legislative pay raises.

BY RICH CHOLODOFSKY
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Western Pennsylvania voters' anger over legislative pay raises translated into a resounding thumbs-down to retention bids by two Supreme Court justices, political observers said Wednesday.

That anger trickled down to the local level, where three Westmoreland County Common Pleas Court judges won retention by the slimmest percentages in 10 years.

Westmoreland and Fayette counties led

SEE NIGRO • A6

Las Vegas partners put \$225M on table for Meadows

Gambling executives plan to replace the 1970s-era grandstand with a 'racino.'

BY MICHAEL YEOMANS
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Seasoned Las Vegas gambling executives who held top posts at landmark casinos such as Caesar's Palace and Excalibur are buying The Meadows harness-racing track in Washington

County for \$225 million in cash.

The Meadows, one of six Pennsylvania racetracks virtually guaranteed a casino license next year to eventually operate up to 5,000 slot machines, is counting on slots money for its survival and to improve the lot of its 425 employees and 600 horsemen who make a living at the track. Revenue from horse racing has declined in recent years.

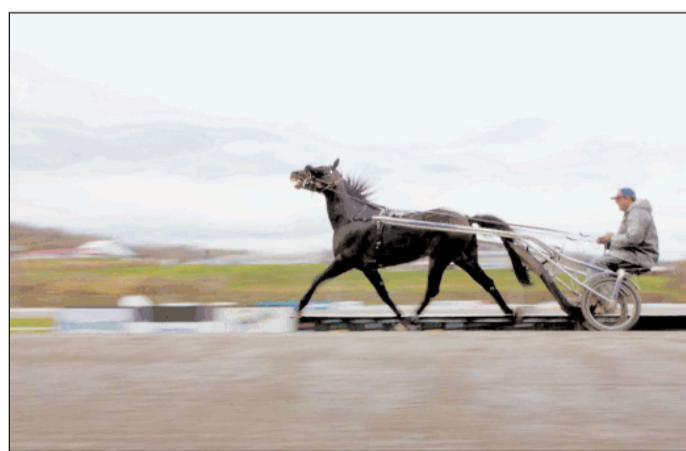
Millennium Gaming Inc., a partnership of Vegas veterans William Paulos and William Wortman, in tandem with

Los Angeles investment management firm Oaktree Capital Management LLC, will acquire the track and its five area off-track betting parlors from Aurora, Ontario-based Magna Entertainment Inc.

Paulos said The Meadows name would stay.

"(The Meadows) has a great name that is respected in the industry. We would want to really bring it back to its heyday," he said.

SEE MEADOWS • A12



A horse warms up by taking laps around the track Wednesday at The Meadows in Washington County.

JUSTIN MERRIMAN/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

MORNING BRIEFING

Weather

45-32



Intermittent clouds, windy and cooler today; a chance of flurries tonight. **A18**

Nation/World

Oil executives attempt to justify their huge profits during a hearing on Capitol Hill, but they find little sympathy from senators. **A3**

Opinion

The revolution is real. An editorial. **A17**

Local

Authorities hope an autopsy will reveal the cause of death of a Fayette woman whose body was found in a South Connellsville creek. **B1**

A former altar boy at a Greensburg church has written letters to about 2,000 parishioners claiming a priest repeatedly raped him in the 1970s. **B1**

Business

Union staffers at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette face an uncertain future as company leaders say a labor cost restructuring may force the newspaper to downsize. **B6**

People suffering with chronic diseases are a hot demographic for the grocery industry. **B6**



Ticket

The Radio City Rockettes kick off the holiday season with a Christmas Spectacular at the Benedum. **18**

The Tweaksters offer "fabulous feats of physical fun" for people of all ages. **4**

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