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Judge in Libby trial grew up on tough streets

Reggie Walton, a native of Donora, is viewed as an outstanding jurist.

BY PETE YOST
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton grew up on the rough streets of a Washington County steel town, far from his courtroom in downtown Washington, D.C.

where the Bush administration may be called to account in the Valerie Plame affair.

Presiding over the biggest case of his 23-year career as a judge, Walton comes from a far different world than criminal defendant I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff.

Libby graduated from a New England boarding school, Yale University and Columbia University School of Law. Walton attended public

schools and a state college, struggled with reading and held a part-time job while attending law school.

As a teenager, Walton occasionally packed a gun and a straight razor and was arrested three times, he recently told an audience of young men at a juvenile detention facility outside Washington.

"I would fight you in a second," the judge, 50, said of his teenage years in Donora. "Most of the kids I grew up with are either dead, junkies or

drunks. They didn't do anything with their lives, but that doesn't have to be you."

In court, Walton is known for his tough sentencing. Outside court, Walton has reached out over the years to thousands of teenagers in trouble just as he was, exhorting them to change their lives.

Last week, some of the young men in Walton's audience at the Oak Hill Youth Center in Laurel, Md., were defiant.

"There's nothing out there," said one young man.

"There is something out there," the judge replied. "You can do something constructive with your life."

He explained one of the turning points in his own.

Walton was involved in a street fight in which one young man stabbed another in the back nine times with an ice pick.



Walton: This is the biggest case of his career.

SEE WALTON • A6

Braving bitter cold for sizzling deals

Black Friday shoppers fine-tune gobbling up bargains by plotting their paths to stores.

BY MICHAEL YEOMANS
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Francine Lingenhoel's planning for Black Friday began Thanksgiving evening while she was digesting her pumpkin pie. With the table cleared, the Shaler woman spread out the circular-stuffed Thursday editions of newspapers and plotted her attack.

She said Friday that she got plenty of bargains — a sentiment reinforced by the National Retail Federation: Post-Thanksgiving discounting was at its highest level ever.

Across the region, the bitter cold proved no match for the urge to obtain merchandise

SEE BARGAINS • A6



Autumn Kostley, of Ligonier, stretches in a cart full of items while waiting for her mother, Tami Kostley, and her godmother, Eloise Jack, to buy gift certificates during a long morning of shopping Friday at Westmoreland Mall in Hempfield Township.

ERIC SCHMADEL/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

'We feel that we are free'

Rafah crossing between Gaza Strip, Egypt opens

Palestinians control a border, with Israel unable to intervene.

BY RAVI NESSMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAFAH TERMINAL, Gaza Strip — When Israel pulled out of Gaza, Palestinians feared the territory would be turned into a giant prison, with the Israelis still controlling the airspace, the coast and all the borders.

But two months later, after tense negotiations and pressure from the United States, a gate to the world swung open — the Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

"From this moment, we feel that we are free," Palestinian Fathia Najjar, 55, said of Friday's opening of the Rafah terminal, to be run by the Palestinians with the help of European monitors. "Before this, we lived in jail."

It marked the first time Palestinians took control of a border, with Israel unable to intervene. The inauguration, attended by scores of local and international dignitaries, was a milestone on the Palestinians' rocky path to independence and a rare moment of joy for the fenced-in Gazans.

The opening of the border — under an agreement with Israel — bolstered Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas' message that independence can only be won through negotiations and gave him a boost ahead of Jan. 25 parliamentary polls fiercely contested by the Islamic Hamas group.

Officials were almost giddy with optimism as they addressed 1,200 guests at the ceremony in a large tent outside the terminal.

"This is a great day. It is a day

"It's a good start. You cannot go up the whole staircase in one leap. You have to go one step at a time."

AIDA ABU NAHEL
WAITING TO VISIT DAUGHTER IN CAIRO

of happiness ... because it means an enormous step forward toward the freedom of the Palestinian people," said Marc Otte, the European Union's representative in the Middle East.

Abbas said he hoped the Palestinians' new gate to the world will spur investment but added that no economic recovery can take place without an end to rampant lawlessness in the Palestinian territories. "The magic key that can give us everything is the key of security," he said.

After the speeches, Abbas took a short tour of the crossing with Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman. As he approached the immigration desk, Abbas pulled out his red diplomatic passport and told the clerk: "Check it out."

"You have to?" Suleiman asked.

"You never know. I might be wanted," Abbas replied.

Israel shut the Rafah crossing before pulling out of Gaza in September, ending 38 years of occupation.

International officials made reopening Rafah under Palestinian control a top priority to give Gazans concrete proof that their lives were improving after the withdrawal. Israel had been

SEE GAZA • A6

Ohio imam faces deportation

He was convicted of lying about terrorist ties when applying for naturalization.

BY JOE MILICIA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — Federal authorities arrested an Islamic religious leader Friday as they began the process of deporting him for his ties to terrorist groups.

Imam Fawaz Damra, the spiritual leader of Ohio's largest mosque, was convicted in June 2004 of concealing ties to three groups that the U.S. government classifies as terrorist organiza-

■ In Iraq: Sunnis protest the slaying of a sheik. A group says a deadly bombing was retaliation. A4

tions when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1994.

That conviction was upheld in March, clearing the way for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to begin deportation proceedings.

Damra, 44, was arrested early Friday without incident, the immigration office said.

"It is clear that this person, Mr. Damra, believed in terrorism, supported terrorism," said Brian Moskowitz, an agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's office in Detroit. "This is not a man of peace or a man of God."

Damra's conviction for naturalization fraud wasn't enough to warrant deportation because he has legally lived in the United States for five years. Immigration officials are seeking to remove him because he raised funds for terrorist organizations, Moskowitz said.

A message seeking comment from Damra's attorney, Mark Flessner, was not immediately returned.

Haider Alawan, a Damra supporter and a member of his mosque, criticized officials for arresting Damra without warning.

"What kind of a threat is he? He's been out all this time?" Alawan said. "Now his wife and

SEE IMAM • A4



Imam Fawaz Damra, the spiritual leader of Ohio's largest mosque, was arrested by federal authorities Friday and will be deported for lying about ties to terrorist groups.

TONY DEJAK/AP FILE

Fentanyl patch linked to respiratory distress

The popular painkiller was at first meant for cancer patients.

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — Dory Bauler prides herself on staying active despite painful back problems. But earlier this year, she

was getting so short of breath that she could barely walk. Doctors could find nothing wrong.

It never occurred to them that the medicinal skin patch she was using to deliver pain relief might also be poisoning her.

"I was just shutting down," said Bauler, 76, a retired paralegal from Laguna Woods, Calif., who suffers from a severe curvature of the spine.

Bauler's patch was delivering fentanyl, a narcotic many times more powerful than morphine. Like morphine and other opioid drugs, fentanyl controls pain but also reduces respiratory function. Luckily, Bauler figured out what was happening in time to stop using the drug. Too much fentanyl can shut down the respiratory system.

The leading brand of the fen-

tanyl patch is Johnson & Johnson's Duragesic; last year, pharmacists filled more than 4 million prescriptions for it.

The drug was developed to help people with extreme pain, such as cancer patients. But it is increasingly being used for other medical conditions and, in some cases, by drug abusers.

SEE DRUG • A6

MORNING BRIEFING

Weather

43-36



Morning flurry, then some sun. Turning cloudy tonight. A18

Nation/World

■ Syria agrees to let officials be questioned at U.N. offices in Vienna about the assassination of Lebanon's former prime minister. A3

■ Indonesia says it will begin producing the bird-flu drug Tamiflu. Vietnam and China report new outbreaks. A3

Opinion

■ Max Boot tells Bill Steigerwald that we must stay the course on the world stage. Q&A. A17

Local

■ The resale industry has prospered thanks to bargain shoppers and treasure hunters. B1

■ More college students are getting outdoors — and getting credit for it. B1

Business

■ A modified .50-caliber rifle, the most powerful firearm civilians can buy, was devised in a garage by a former wedding photographer. A12

■ November will likely be another disappointing month for GM and could force the automaker to speed up job cuts and closings. A12

'Forever my son'

■ Actor Pat Morita, who played the sage Mr. Miyagi in "The Karate Kid" movies, has died. He was 73. Morita also appeared in TV series such as "Happy Days," "The Odd Couple" and "Green Acres." A



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