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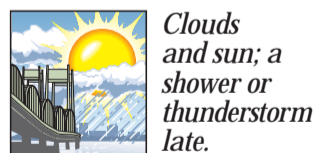
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Days of darkness

Clark County amphitheater is in survival mode, meaning fewer shows may be coming this season

By BRETT OPPEGAARD
Columbian staff writer

Sting and Annie Lennox wanted to play The Amphitheater at Clark County last fall. Instead — irked by a county-mandated curfew, about a half-hour too strict — the pop stars went across the Columbia River to perform before 12,000 at Portland's Rose Garden arena. At least three other major acts

passed on the Ridgefield facility because of various county restrictions, says amphitheater chief executive officer Dan Braun.

Meanwhile, the venue's first full season, Braun acknowledges, was "a complete disaster. An absolute

On Page D1

Local insight helps amphitheater operators navigate tough market.

disaster. ... Last year was as bad as bad can be. Less strong people would be out of business."

Contractual restrictions combined with the industry's worst slump in a decade have the operators wondering what they have brought upon themselves.

Then there are the patrons critical of the hours it takes to get out of the facility's parking lot after

big shows. Average ticket prices are more than double the cost of eight years ago. The best acts aren't coming, not one of the top 10 draws last year played in Clark County, and neighbors continue to complain about traffic and related inconveniences.

Cliff Burnstein, co-owner of

AMPHITHEATER, page A9

"Last year was as bad as bad can be."

Dan Braun
AMPHITHEATER CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

"While everyone is sleeping, we are praying for the world."

Sister Iosiphia

A LIFE APART



Sister Makrina, one of 16 nuns and novices at the Holy Monastery of St. John the Forerunner in Goldendale, carries fresh pastries from the Greek Orthodox community's kitchen to the roadside store the sisters operate.

Monastery near Goldendale attracts women who choose a prayerful existence

GOLDENDALE —

As the world around them sleeps, the sisters of the Holy Monastery of St. John the Forerunner struggle to get out of bed. Even after nine years, 2 a.m. comes early, said Sister Ephraimia. "Most of us have to force ourselves," she said. They rise with the assistance of "alarms, alarms and sisters."

Once awake, the sisters start their individual prayers in seclusion. They stand up then drop to the floor or bend at the waist in prostrations.

On Page A7

A look at the monastery's short but tradition-rich history.



Sister Prodromia, left, visits with members of her biological family, her sister Paraskevi Copeland and her 7-year-old niece Anastasia Copeland.

clad head-to-toe in black. "While everyone is sleeping, we are praying for the world," Sister Iosiphia said.

Despite the tiredness, Sister Ephraimia said, "Many say it is their favorite part of the day. That's where we receive our strength."

The sisters are among 16 nuns and novices who have pledged to live

their lives as part of a monastic community. Many came in their early 20s, an age when young people often struggle with their identity and purpose.

Novices spend as long as three years at St. John's before being tonsured, the final step to becoming a nun.

MONASTERY, page A8

U.S. fears N. Korea may set off nuke test

Underground blast could come in June

By GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press writer

VIENNA, Austria — The United States is warning allies that North Korea may be ready to carry out an underground nuclear test as early as June, diplomats said Saturday.

The diplomats told The Associated Press that the information had been apparently gathered in part from satellite imagery. They spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of discussing intelligence information.

The reported U.S. warnings reflected growing fears in Washington that the North is going ahead with efforts to develop nuclear weapons after South Korean officials said Pyongyang had recently shut down a reactor, possibly to harvest plutonium that could be used in an underground test.

The 5-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon generates spent fuel rods laced with plutonium, but they must be removed and re-processed to extract the plutonium for use in an atomic weapon. They can be removed only if the

N. KOREA, page A11

Demos cite evidence of felons voting

SEATTLE (AP) — Democrats say they've found evidence of 432 felons who apparently voted illegally in November but claim those votes were ignored by Republicans in their legal challenge of Gov. Christine Gregoire's election.

Democrats say Republicans left those felons out because the votes came from parts of the state that backed Republican Dino Rossi, who won the first two vote counts but lost the election to Gregoire by 129 votes after a hand recount of nearly 2.9 million ballots.

In a court filing Friday, Democrats also outlined other alleged illegal votes and errors by

FELONS, page A11

Story by
Kelly Adams
Columbian staff writer



Photos by
Kim Blau
of The Columbian

ON THE WEB

To see more, go to www.columbian.com where photographer Kim Blau and staff writer Kelly Adams share their experiences at the monastery with a photo slideshow and column.



"A lot of what got written into the original lease was for show. It's overly protective. They made us go way overboard to assuage the fears of everybody."

Cliff Burnstein, Q Prime co-owner

Amphitheater:

From page A1

the amphitheater's parent company, Q Prime, acknowledges making concessions in the contract with the county to win the deal.

In hindsight, he says some giveaways were "ill-advised," hindering the amphitheater's ability to book shows and make money.

Those same concessions also caused the venue to start in a hole. It opened three years late and more than 250 percent over budget on construction. The amphitheater's operators since have made matters worse by unwittingly booking a cadre of underperformers.

If the facility has another season like 2004, Braun says, "We'd have to do what the (NHL) hockey teams did. We'd take a year off."

Besides exploring offers to sell the business and appealing for the county to relax restrictions, the company's immediate response has been to approach this season with far more caution, booking only deals that seem to be sure winners, Braun says.

It's an approach that could stop or slow losses, but it also could mean many dark days at the amphitheater over the summer.

Concerts could have begun as early as last month but instead won't start until June (Reba McEntire, June 11).

The only other two acts booked are Mötley Crüe (July 31) and James Taylor (Aug. 26).

Last year about this time, the amphitheater had announced 11 shows in a season that eventually produced 16.

If it cuts back too far, the amphitheater could be forced to give refunds or credits to its corporate sponsors and box-seat holders, who are guaranteed at least as many events as last year.

"Our goal is to establish some kind of financial sanity," general manager Kiet Callies says. "The fact is that we had a lousy year last year, and we need to do better (this season), and our jobs depend on that. That's the reality of the matter."

That's also a drastic change in attitude from the late 1990s, when New York-based Q Prime came to Clark County promising to build and operate a regional attraction that would bring the world's best musical talent to Southwest Washington. It planned to have an average of 40 shows a year, projecting 400,000 ticket-buyers annually. With those numbers, it was betting that it would fill 55 percent of the facility's capacity during the events.

That hasn't happened. Last year, with 111,000 patrons attending 16 shows, the amphitheater achieved only 39 percent capacity.

Burnstein acknowledges that 2005 doesn't look any more promising.

The nation's amphitheater business was down 17 percent in 2004 and any kind of significant rebound this year is unlikely, according to a recent Billboard magazine report.

Prospects are so dim that even the county is in a mood to listen to arguments for loosening restrictions.

"We don't want them to go broke. If we overdid some of the restrictions, then we might ease them," says Clark County Commissioner Betty Sue Morris. "We're, in a way, partners."

High expectations

Q Prime cut its deal when the tech bubble was bulging, Sept. 11 was just another late-summer day, and Clark County's announcement in early 1998 that it would consider proposals for a major amphitheater on its fairgrounds caused a commotion among promoters throughout the country.

Vancouver-Portland was one of the biggest markets left without, as the industry dubs it, a shed.

An intense competition to operate the amphitheater fol-



TROY WAYRYNEN/Columbian files

A young Kiss fan enjoys a concert at the Clark County amphitheater in July.

The Amphitheater at Clark County 2005 concert schedule

CONFIRMED SHOWS

■ Reba McEntire, with Brad Paisley and Terri Clark, 7 p.m. June 11, \$55.25 for reserved seats, \$30.50 for lawn.

■ Mötley Crüe, with Sum 41, Silverclaw and The Exies, 6 p.m. July 31, \$50 to \$70 for reserved seats, \$25 for lawn.

■ James Taylor, 8 p.m. Aug. 26, \$45 to \$60 for reserved seats, \$24 for lawn.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster by telephone, 360-573-7700, or www.ticketmaster.com.

lowed. The applicants eventually were narrowed to three: Q Prime, which was primarily an artists management company at that point; Bill Graham Presents; and a group backed by billionaire Paul Allen, owner of the Portland Trail Blazers and, at the time, the Rose Garden arena.

The county initially chose Allen's group but dropped out of those negotiations when it appeared that Allen was stalling and using Clark County as leverage to instead build the venue in Portland.

Q Prime — which manages such acts as Metallica, Shania Twain and the Red Hot Chili Peppers — desperately wanted to get into the amphitheater business and didn't stay silent during the negotiations. Aiming for the most contentious spots, Q Prime offered guarantees that Allen's group wouldn't.

Q Prime sent a letter to Clark County confirming its commitment to the fairgrounds site, adding: "We're ready to go to work today. If you give us the word, we'll have a check in overnight mail for the first year's lease and come in to file for permits tomorrow, even before we have a contract."

Initially, Q Prime projected the venue would cost about \$10 million and draw 350,000 fans per year, expectations that were raised in a later economic impact statement to \$13 million and about 440,000 patrons.

Either way, Q Prime pledged to build the amphitheater significantly cheaper than the other two proposals and to draw more fans by the tens of thousands.

It agreed to pay for about \$7 million worth of road improvements, pay to construct the facility and then pay a base lease on the complex starting at \$600,000 per year, roughly twice as much as the other two were offering. For rent, Q Prime committed to \$20 million over 25 years.

The county also accepted eight pages of procedural constraints. No traffic on the back roads. Costly sound abatement. No music past 11 p.m.

"The amphitheater (in Clark County) is so overdesigned, so far above standards, it's ridiculous," Burnstein says.

He says the facility's sound walls added \$4 million to the project. Staffing levels are based on projected attendance instead of common sense. For example, he says, the contract terms called for 22 sheriff's deputies to be on site for a concert last year by operatic singer Josh Groban.

"A lot of what got written in-

to the original lease was for show. It's overly protective. They made us go way overboard to assuage the fears of everybody. So now we have a lot of people standing around and doing nothing, and we have to pay for them."

Mitigating various neighborhood concerns, going through the other parts of the public process and construction delays took years.

That put off the first concert until July 2003, when Counting Crows lead singer Adam Duritz, without even turning on the stage lights first, wobbled out from backstage, blurry-eyed, and croaked a rough chorus from an old rap tune, before cutting himself off and quipping, "Oh, (expletive), did I just do that out loud?"

There was no ceremony or even passing remark about the new venue so fans could celebrate on opening night, only a sloppy performance by Duritz, with a traffic snarl for a nightcap.

The ignominious start proved to be an omen.

Construction and road improvement costs eventually were tallied to \$37 million, substantially more than initial estimates. Fans were stuck in parking lots for three hours or longer after some concerts.

Christina Aguilera was booked to open the amphitheater's season last year, only to cancel her tour after the company had advertised and publicized the concert for months.

Not one of the top 10 grossing tours of 2004 came to Clark County, and the amphitheater finished the year so dimly in attendance that it couldn't crack Pollstar's ranking of the top 50 most popular amphitheaters in the country, even though a Pollstar spokesman acknowledged that there aren't many more than 50 in the area.

When the season ended, the amphitheater laid off three of its seven full-time staff members, including its director of public relations and its box office supervisor.

Even attempts made to solve problems have created new ones.

The box office will be open

only on the day of each event this year, with the rest of the sales handled through Ticketmaster, which charges service fees.

The process of funneling concertgoers out of the parking lots after large shows was so inefficient in the first half of the season that the amphitheater was able to successfully petition the county last year to allow fans to exit via back roads, through the surrounding neighborhoods.

But that concession caused a new round of complaints from neighbors that the amphitheater is not honoring its original agreement.

"Knowing what I know today," Burnstein says, "I would have negotiated harder. We really wanted to do this. We thought this was a great opportunity. Looking back in retrospect, though, it was only an average opportunity."

Paying construction debt, the lease and basic operational costs adds up to about \$5 million a year, before a single note is played.

Q Prime's amphitheater subsidiary, Quincunx, has been making its \$600,000 flat lease payments to the county on time and recently gave away — as promised but not contractually obliged — donations amounting to 50 cents per ticket sold.

Those donations, valued at \$64,000, could be looked at as both a community boon and disappointment, for falling so far short of the original expectations.

Burnstein declines to say how much the company has lost on the venture so far, but he acknowledges that Q Prime has been listening to offers for its amphitheater business.

Paul Allen's group made a pitch to take the place over after the end of both last year as well as the year before. At the same time, Q Prime also began asking around to gauge whether anyone else was interested, Burnstein says.

Given the facility's poor prospects, those inquiries have ended, he says. "It's over. We're not talking to anybody now."

One setback to another

Burnstein says the focus of the amphitheater this year is to stabilize financially and reestablish at least some of the

CONCERTS BY THE NUMBERS

Top 10 tours in 2004

Clark County didn't attract any of the top 10 tours last year for various reasons: some were indoor only; Van Halen was asking too much in guaranteed money; Kenny Chesney played the venue in 2003; and Sting didn't like the venue's restrictions on the concert's length.

Artist	Gross (in millions)	Cities/Shows	Average gross
Prince	\$87.4	69/96	\$1,266,321
Celine Dion	\$80.4	1/154	\$521,763
Madonna	\$79.5	14/39	\$5,677,185
Metallica	\$60.5	76/83	\$796,116
Bette Midler	\$59.4	61/66	\$973,920
Van Halen	\$54.3	72/79	\$754,392
Kenny Chesney	\$50.8	75/77	\$676,759
Sting	\$50.1	73/83	\$686,649
Toby Keith	\$47.83	74/75	\$590,508
Elton John	\$43.3	11/60	\$3,933,831

SOURCE: Pollstar

Average ticket prices

Year	Price
2004	\$52.39
2003	\$50.35
2002	\$46.56
2001	\$43.86
2000	\$40.74
1999	\$36.84
1998	\$32.20
1997	\$29.81
1996	\$25.81

SOURCE: Pollstar, for top 100 tours each year.

original value, which appeared so promising on paper, when the facility was expected to open in the summer of 2000.

Part of that effort is learning from the past.

In the failed negotiations with Sting and Lennox last season, roughly 30 minutes separated the pop stars from a date at The Amphitheater at Clark County. The venue's week-night restriction on music — allowed only between 8 and 11 p.m. — simply wasn't a large enough window for the artists.

The argument was that their fans, paying as much as \$100 per ticket, deserved the full event, which usually lasts longer than three hours with the set change.

Without any wiggle room contractually, the local amphitheater had to pass.

The Rose Garden show ended up grossing more than \$850,000 in ticket sales alone. That was almost \$200,000 higher than the show's average gross in its more than 70 stops around the country, when Sting and Lennox were ranked the No. 8 tour of the year.

The amphitheater was able to address the timing issue with the county to secure the final show of last season, featuring Brooks & Dunn.

Similar to the situation with Sting and Lennox, Brooks & Dunn wanted to bring along a

couple of opening acts (Montgomery Gentry and Gretchen Wilson), but didn't think the show could fit between the county's time parameters.

After a lengthy discussion, county officials let the show start 30 minutes early, at 7:30 p.m. on a Friday night, and the event attracted 10,800 people, one of the top crowds for the venue so far.

Burnstein says his company just needs a bit more leeway from the county like that and business eventually can get turned around.

Hope, yet worry

Q Prime's artists management division is flourishing and the radio stations the company owns, primarily in California, are doing well. Those for now have subsidized the struggling amphitheater.



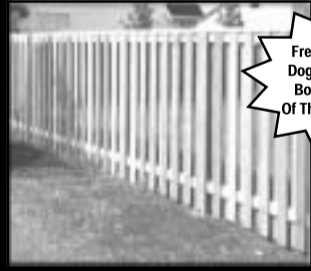





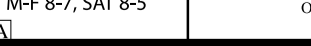

"Luckily for us, our other businesses are good," Burnstein says. "There's no way we're going to have a winning year this year (in Clark County). But we could have a better year than last year, if we avoid big losers, if we're not paying guarantees that come up short, if average attendance is higher."

He adds, "If more shows were coming our way, then I probably wouldn't be as concerned as I am."

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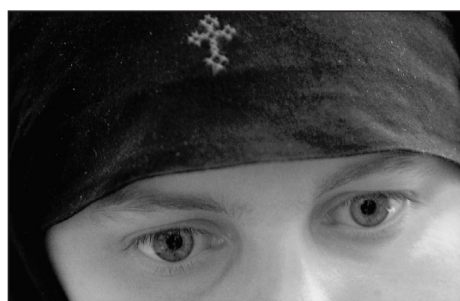
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A LIFE APART

"Obedience is quite an amazing mystery. It's true freedom, it's freedom from cares."

Sister Philothei



Sister Philothei works on a painting of Jesus done in the iconic style that dates back to the Byzantine Empire. The sisters work on the icons collaboratively and do not sign the paintings individually. The sisters wear black head coverings with small red crosses. The crosses are meant to communicate their Christian faith, particularly when the sisters are in public. They have sometimes been mistaken for Muslim women.

Monastery:

From page A1

Tucked in the trees just north of Goldendale, St. John's is one of 18 Greek Orthodox monasteries in North America.

It's just up the highway from the area where entrepreneur Sam Hill dreamed of creating a Quaker agricultural community. Although that dream didn't come true, his legacy is evident in the Maryhill Museum and the Stonehenge replica dotting the bluffs along the sparkling water.

After more than two hours of solitary prayer, the sisters gather in the chapel. Golden icons look out from a series of panels while lights from oil lamps and thin, amber-colored beeswax tapers flicker in the pre-dawn dark. Located on the ground floor of their large house, the small but elaborately adorned room is the heart of the place where the women gather several times a day.

The sisters enter softly through a side door, long black scarves unfurling behind them. As they pray, their individual identities dissolve and merge into a choreographed, single entity. They call and response of chanting and singing fills the sacred space.

The 4:30 a.m. common services are led by a priest who travels from Goldendale, 10 miles away, or Yakima, 60 miles away.

During services, worshippers, whether they are nuns or one of the local Orthodox Christians, cross themselves and kiss the surface of the paintings, called veneration.

Iconic paintings depict the faces of Jesus, the saints and the Virgin Mary as they looked when they were alive, Sister Philothei explained.

"They help us to pray," she said. "We don't worship the wood or the paint."

'... fulfilling, sweet life'

Over and over, the women smile as they describe how they were drawn to the solitude, the structure and the spirit of a life spent dedicated to prayer and work. It is with joy that they have turned their backs on careers, marriage, children.

"It's a process of understanding nothing else works for you," Sister Prodromia said.

She does not spend much time thinking about life away from St. John's.

"I think we're very much in the real world. We see it all the time. The goal is not to be a part of it," she said.

What they are a part of is trying to make the planet better, "to help the world through our example, through our prayer."

The women embrace the monastery's restrictions: chastity, hard work, and obedience to the abbess, their spiritual mother.

Known as Gerontissa Ephraimia, the abbess of St. John's has been a nun for 40 years. A kind smile spreads across her softly wrinkled face as she speaks in her native Greek, explaining her role as "mother, sister, friend" to the women in her care.

Sister Prodromia, 27, grew up in Yakima in a Greek Orthodox family. She was then known as Megan Hagler.

She made her initial visit to St. John's when she was 17.

"It was the first time I realized monasteries weren't castles in the clouds," she said.

Although she was drawn to the life, she left home to study theology and philosophy at a small Orthodox college in South Carolina.

"I didn't really have a plan. I think that's why I was there,"

she said.

Her mother, Glenna Hagler, said that when her daughter returned to Yakima with the intention of enrolling in college there, she lacked direction.

"She just seemed so sad," Glenna Hagler recalled.

She remembers turning to her daughter and asking: "When was the last time you were happy?"

"The last time I was happy was when I thought I was going to be a nun," Megan, then 20, replied.

The young woman went to Goldendale for a visit, then accompanied the sisters back to Yakima to attend services at her family's church, Holy Cross. Her mother was there and knew immediately something had changed.

"I looked back at her with the sisters and I thought, 'Oh my goodness, she's not coming home,'" Glenna Hagler said.

Sister Prodromia's story is similar to many of the women who have embraced an existence of structured spiritual practice that dates back thousands of years.

Just as Orthodox nuns centuries ago, they dress modestly in long skirts and long-sleeved shirts. Their heads are wrapped in identical black coverings with small red crosses stitched into the fabric at their foreheads.

Sister Ephraimia, 31, compared the feeling to the way people sometimes describe meeting their future spouse. The knowing goes beyond what can be rationally explained. That is the same way the sisters feel about the monasticism, she said.

"Everything else seems so empty," she said. "The monastic life is really such a beautiful, fulfilling, sweet life."

Following the 4:30 a.m. service, the sisters spend time on their own resting, reading and praying before breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

Work and prayer

By the time they begin their work day at 9:30 a.m., they have spent many hours praying for both their salvation and peace for the planet.

When it is time to work, they scatter to the shop where their wares are sold, the kitchen where the authentic Greek food is prepared, the studio where the icons are painted, the mobile home where the candles and soap are made.

As the sisters go about their day, the swish of dark skirts is accompanied by the whistling whisper of the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ Have Mercy on Us" uttered over and over again in Greek.

The softly uttered words form the background to Sister Iosiphia's work as she dips a large ladle into a huge vat of syrup on the stove, fishing out lemon and orange slices. She pauses in her prayer to explain her choice.

Sister Iosiphia, 29, grew up the oldest of four in a Greek Orthodox family near Phoenix. She loved school, sports and fashion. Sister Iosiphia was studying to be a teacher when she was drawn to the life she experienced during monastery visits. It felt like home.

"It's a calling," said Sister Iosiphia. "It's like a flame inside you."

She has the soul of a scholar, effortlessly quoting Scripture and the teachings of the church leaders.

One of Sister Iosiphia's main duties is to maintain the chapel: filling the oil lamps, straightening the books, looking after the visiting priests who conduct services.

She pitches in wherever she is asked by the Gerontissa. Some days that means stuffing



Sister Prodromia watches as John Abraham, a police officer with the Yakama Indian Nation, takes a sip of strong Greek coffee. Established in 2002, the shop sells espresso, pastries, and Greek food. The sisters also make candles, lotions and soap.

Photos by KIM BLAU/The Columbian

vine leaves with meat, vegetables and spices, called dolmadakia. Other days that means preparing syrup to use with the homemade baklava, a popular item in the store.

At first sight, the shop just off the highway could be any roadside stop frequented by the campers and hunters who pass through. "ESPRESSO" spelled out in bright neon lures drivers off the rural highway.

Once inside, the difference from a typical convenience store becomes apparent: there's no gleaming silver cases of beer lining the coolers, no bait or tackle for sale. Not a pack of cigarettes or can of chewing tobacco is in sight.

A sweet smell from the handmade lotions and soaps mingles with the spices from freshly baked pastries with long, vowel-laden names. The espresso machine in the corner occasionally sputters to life, filling the room with the strong aroma of fresh coffee.

The low, melodic rumble of Byzantine chants draws attention to a display filled with pastel-colored bits of incense and black prayer ropes.

Purity of work, purity of life

On most days, Sister Philothei's work takes her to a tiny, sun-dappled room above the kitchen and bakery. Leaning on large easels are shiny golden-toned icons in progress.

Iconography is the art form of the saints, Jesus and the Virgin Mary painted in a style that dates back to the Byzantine era, about 300 years after the death of Christ.

Sister Philothei has a warm smile for everyone she encounters. Her eyes light up as she talks about the life she has chosen.

She pages through a large book filled with photographs of murals painted on the walls of a monastery in Greece. The icons depict Jesus' life from his birth in a manger to his rising from the dead.

"We can live the liturgy. We don't need to see a movie," Sister Philothei said. "This is the story of the Gospel."

She'll talk passionately about iconography and discuss the meaning behind the paintings. But Sister Philothei, 25, is less comfortable talking about the young woman she was before she became a nun.

Her father, Luke Dingman,

is an Orthodox priest and artist who lives southwest of San Jose, Calif. His portraits of St. John's adorn the bottles of lotions and soap as well as the notecards sold by the sisters.

His daughter grew up as Sarah Dingman and worked in his art studio before becoming a nun. From a very young age, she showed artistic promise.

"She just drew everything," Luke Dingman said.

Now her art is limited to iconography; she leaves the sketching of the wilderness around her to her father when he visits.

She also sees herself not as an individual with unique talents but a member of a community to which she offers her contributions.

"This is our life now," she said. "You don't want anything else."

Although he misses her, Luke Dingman is proud of his daughter.

"I think she's gone beyond me in the purity of her work and the purity of her life," Luke Dingman said.

The sisters stop their work for lunch at 1 p.m. After lunch, they have quiet free time that they spend in personal prayer, reading, resting or walking.

They return to their work at 4 p.m. until they are called to evening services.

The freedom to make individual decisions has been replaced by a life led in obedience to the Gerontissa.

Rather than feeling controlled, Sister Philothei said the structure is a comfort.

"Obedience is quite an amazing mystery," she said. "It's true freedom; it's freedom from cares."

The Gerontissa said she doesn't see obedience as a bad word but a way of expressing how their lives are structured.

"It kind of keeps a nice order," she said in Greek, interpreted by Sister Iosiphia. "It's an understanding, not like servants or a slave. I'm not going to get them to do something that's against the will of God."

All of the sisters came to the monastery with the belief that God's will for them is to live out their days there.

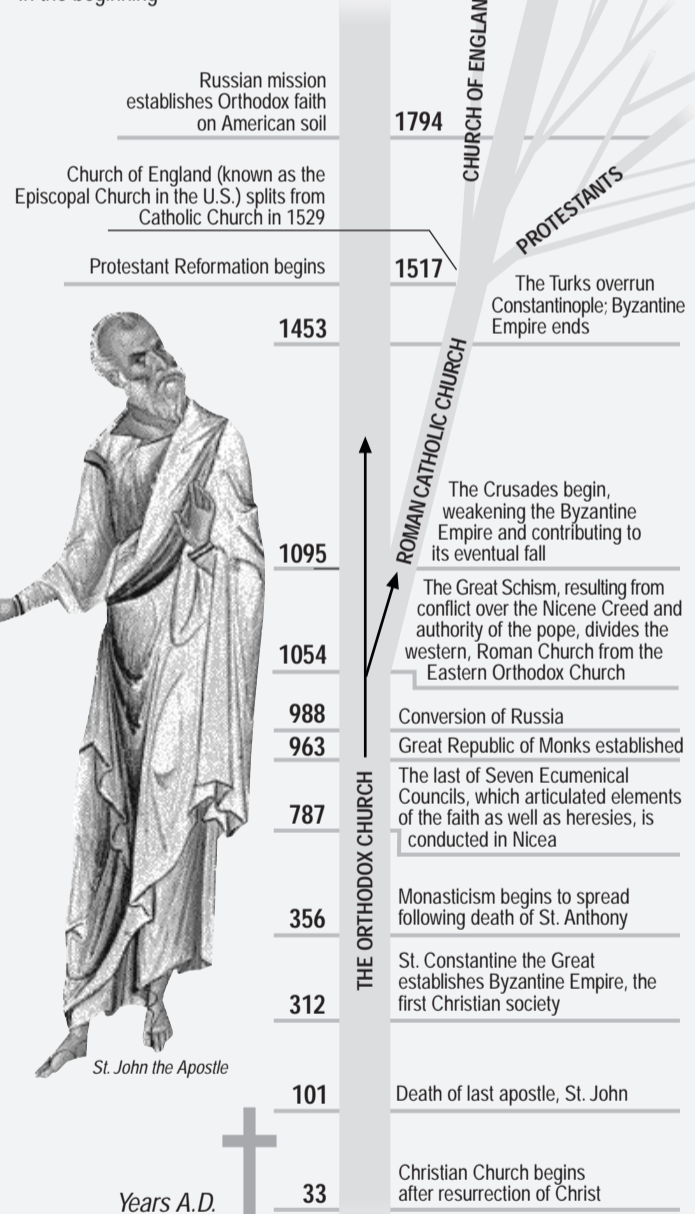
"You come here with the goal to die here," Sister Iosiphia said.

'Surrounded by angels'

At 6 p.m., as the sun starts

Orthodox history

In the beginning



SOURCES: Door to Paradise: Jesus Christ and Ancient Orthodoxy; St. Herman Press, Platin, California; Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

to set, Sister Iosiphia summons the sisters to vespers by whacking a long plank of wood with a stick, meant to symbolize Noah calling all the animals into the ark.

The service offers thanks for the day coming to an end and a welcome for the next day to dawn. It is filled with low soothing tones of the sisters reciting prayers.

Local Orthodox families join the sisters. The sisters greet the children by name, often wrapping an affectionate arm around them.

One mother, Theophano Reese, loves having her four children spend time at the monastery. "It's like they are surrounded by angels," she

said.

Following vespers, the sisters have dinner, then return to the chapel for small compline, their evening prayers. Sister Iosiphia explained that they are closing their day by asking for forgiveness.

"You kind of make everything good with everyone," she said.

"That's the end of our day," Sister Ephraimia whispers before quietly disappearing into the residence. "Have a good rest."

KELLY ADAMS covers social issues and religion for *The Columbian*. Contact her at 360-759-8016 or kelly.adams@columbian.com.

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BILL O'LEARY/The Washington Post

A brown mallard chick peeks out from under its mother after hatching in a nest outside the U.S. Treasury Building in Washington, D.C., Saturday. The Secret Service, which normally guards the president and other dignitaries, has been protecting the mother duck and her nest since she laid her eggs in early April, installing metal guardrails to keep them safe from throngs of tourists who have been stopping to snap pictures. Treasury employees have given the mother duck such nicknames as "Quacks Reform," "T-Bill" and "Duck Cheney."

Navy chaplain alleges faith discrimination

Evangelical Protestant says he's punished for beliefs

By MATT KELLEY
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Navy is investigating a chaplain's allegations he was punished for theological disagreements with superior officers, including his objections to requiring sailors to participate in services at a church that accepts homosexuality.

Lt. Gordon Klingenschmitt says he was transferred ashore and given a negative job recommendation because of the religious disagreements.

Other actions cited in Klingenschmitt's personnel records include his advocacy for a Jewish sailor who wanted kosher meals and his preaching of sermons that some sailors viewed as proselytizing and intolerant.

"I'm shocked that senior chaplains would force their faith on sailors and on me," said Klingenschmitt, who was chaplain on the cruiser USS Anzio, based in Norfolk, Va.

The Navy began an inspector general investigation Wednesday into Klingenschmitt's allegations, said Lt. Cmdr. Charles Owens, a spokesman for Naval Surface Forces Atlantic.

"Anything he's alleged will

be investigated," Owens said Thursday. "If there's any substance to it, the legal process will take its course."

Klingenschmitt became a priest in the Evangelical Episcopal Church after spending 11 years as an Air Force officer. He said he transferred to the Navy and took a demotion from major to lieutenant to become a military chaplain.

Other evangelical Protestant chaplains in the Navy have complained about religious discrimination. A group of evangelical chaplains is suing the Navy in federal court, saying they were passed over for promotions in favor of Roman Catholic or mainline Protestant chaplains and punished when they complained.

One of Klingenschmitt's run-ins with his commanders came in May 2004 during the Navy's annual Fleet Week celebrations in New York, when the city holds various events to honor sailors.

Klingenschmitt objected to having Navy personnel attend Fleet Week church services at the Marble Collegiate Church, which has an outreach ministry to gays and lesbians. The church has hosted Fleet Week services for years.

In an e-mail to senior chaplains, Klingenschmitt said the Marble Church "endorses homosexual sin." He said it was improper for the Navy to have sailors attend the church because homosexual acts are

"I'm shocked that senior chaplains would force their faith on sailors and on me."

Lt. Gordon Klingenschmitt
NAVY CHAPLAIN

crimes under military law and two sailors recently had been discharged for homosexual acts while at sea.

Days later, a senior chaplain wrote to all chaplains and executive officers in the Anzio's group saying that "each ship is expected to provide bodies to this service" at the Marble Church. Klingenschmitt said he complied, finding 20 sailors to attend the service.

A July 2004 "letter of instruction" to the chaplain from the Anzio's commander, Capt. Jim Carr, took Klingenschmitt to task for the Fleet Week incident.

"You distributed an e-mail of protestation, alleging certain unacceptable beliefs in the Marble Church that created a great deal of concern among Navy and New York City leadership," Carr wrote. "This (incorrectly and improperly) created an impression in the highest levels of the U.S. Navy that Anzio and our Religious Ministries program were in contention with Navy policy to sup-

port Fleet Week obligations."

The church's Web site says Marble Collegiate "provides dynamic, positive spiritual direction to a diverse and embracing congregation." A mission statement describes "an inclusive community."

Klingenschmitt said he also had to push for the Anzio to provide kosher meals for an Orthodox Jewish sailor. The Navy provides kosher meals for its Jewish members, but smaller ships such as the Anzio often must specially order such meals.

Klingenschmitt said the Anzio did provide kosher meals but did not stock enough kosher rations for the sailor, who lost 17 pounds on a tour at sea.

Carr's letter also cited that incident, saying Klingenschmitt "misrepresented the Command concern for this issue."

In March, Carr wrote to Navy Personnel Command recommending against extending Klingenschmitt's tour of active duty.

"He has demonstrated recurring confusion concerning a chaplain's role within a military organization," Carr wrote.

Klingenschmitt, Carr added, "has been cautioned in this regard by his Commanding Officer and the Force Chaplain, but thus far has not made appreciable progress toward change."

Klingenschmitt said he is waiting for the Navy's final decision on whether he will continue on active duty.

Felons:

From page A1

election officials that they believe favored Rossi.

The Republicans "essentially cherry-picked through Democratic portions of the state to come up with their list," state Democratic Party Chairman Paul Berendt said.

Rossi spokeswoman Mary Lane denied that Republicans' list of nearly 1,000 felon voters targeted Gregoire territory, though most of them came from King County, a Democratic stronghold. "Obviously it's a laborious process," she said. "But we looked everywhere."

Democrats looked for felon voters in counties that Rossi

won in the November election and in Rossi-leaning pockets of counties that Gregoire won.

They found evidence of illegal felon votes in 31 counties, including 65 in Spokane, 55 in Yakima and 35 in Clark counties. Democrats say they found 31 felons who appeared to have voted in parts of King County that leaned toward Rossi.

In a motion filed before the Democrats' announcement Friday, Republicans moved to stop Democrats from introducing evidence of illegal votes or election errors that might offset evidence collected by Republicans.

Chelan County Superior Court Judge John Bridges will hear arguments Monday on a number of pretrial issues, including whether the Democrats' new evidence can be con-

The Republicans "essentially cherry-picked through Democratic portions of the state to come up with their list."

Paul Berendt, state Democratic Party Chairman

sidered in the GOP's lawsuit seeking to overturn Gregoire's victory. The trial is set to begin May 23.

Berendt said the Democrats' list of alleged felon voters will grow before Friday's deadline for the party's attorneys to file allegations of illegal votes.

Lane took a jab at the Democrats' search for illegal votes.

"Their story keeps changing," she said. "First they said our list was horrible, inaccurate

"First they said our list was horrible, inaccurate and sloppy. Then they were saying most felons vote Republican anyway."

Mary Lane, spokeswoman for Dino Rossi

and sloppy. Then they were saying most felons vote Republican anyway. Now it looks like they're playing catch-up."

State law requires that felons serve their sentences, pay any fines or restitution owed, and get a certificate noting their voting rights have been restored before they can register to vote again. Election officials have found that many felons who cast ballots in November hadn't had their voting rights re-

stored.

To show that the felons they found offset illegal votes by felons Republicans found, Democrats will rely on a methodology they say should be disallowed in the court case.

Republicans have proposed using statistical analysis to apportion illegal votes by the same percentage as legal votes. If Gregoire won 60 percent of the votes in a given precinct, Republicans say the court should assume that 60 percent of any illegal votes in that precinct were cast for her.

In court papers, Democrats called that "speculative attribution" and "based on chance." But Berendt said Democrats will use the same formula to show statewide votes by felons did more to help Rossi than to

hurt him.

Berendt said Democrats still will oppose the Republican methodology, but also are ready to counter if it's allowed.

"We believe that even if the judge were to accept the theory, there is no proof whatsoever that Dino Rossi won the election," Berendt said.

Democrats also say they found 1,939 improperly counted provisional ballots in counties other than King — all but three of which went for Rossi in the manual recount. Republicans have cited 785 mishandled provisional ballots in King County.

Provisional ballots are cast by voters whose names don't appear in the poll book or who vote somewhere other than their regular polling places.

N. Korea:

From page A1

reactor has been shut down.

North Korea restarted the reactor after expelling U.N. monitors at the end of 2002.

On Friday, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill — Washington's point-man on North Korea — warned the communist state against conducting a nuclear test, saying such a move would be a "truly troubling" complication for suspended six-nation talks on halting Pyongyang's nuclear program.

The negotiations — among the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia — stalled last June after three inconclusive rounds.

The U.S. mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna declined comment, and an official close to the IAEA told the AP he was not aware that Washington had informed the agency of the most recent concerns. After the North quit the IAEA in 2002, the agency was left with no direct access to or overview of the country's nuclear program.

The U.S. intelligence community believes North Korea has

one or more nuclear weapons, and has untested two- and three-stage missiles capable of reaching U.S. soil.

But it has been unclear whether Pyongyang has yet developed the technology to miniaturize a nuclear weapon so it fits on a missile, and provide it with the guidance systems so it can hit a target.

The United States and South Korea have called on China — the North's major ally — to play a bigger role in convincing Pyongyang to return to the negotiations.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun plans to discuss the standoff with his Chinese counterpart, Hu Jintao, in Moscow on May 9.

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