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Nation Digest

Honored Utah teacher admits sex crimes

Salt Lake City

Honored teacher admits sex crimes

A man honored as among the best teachers in Utah pleaded guilty Thursday to felony sex charges involving 11 students in his suburban classroom.

Frank Laine Hall, 37, who taught first grade at Rosamond Elementary School in the Salt Lake City suburb of Riverton until his arrest in March, could get up to 30 years to life in prison, prosecutor Rodwicke Ybarra said.

Hall remains free on \$500,000 bond until his sentencing Nov. 14.

Hall received a Huntsman Award for Excellence in Education in 2006, for being one of the best teachers in Utah.

Los Angeles

Lunchboxes recalled for lead

More than 50,000 lunchboxes distributed by California as part of its nutrition-education drive may contain elevated levels of lead and the public should stop using them, officials said Thursday.

The California Department of Public Health said testing found increased lead levels in three lunchboxes, manufactured by TA Creations, which has factories in Canton, China.

Officials urged the public to stop using the roughly 56,000 boxes that were handed out at health fairs and other events.

Huntsville, Texas

State executes 25th person of year

Texas executed a man Thursday who confessed to killing three people in a 1999 robbery, including two who were injected with cleaning fluid before they were stabbed to death.

Clifford Kimmel, 32, was the 25th person executed this year and the 404th in Texas since the state resumed the death penalty in 1982, six years after the U.S. Supreme Court lifted a national capital-punishment ban.

Kimmel was condemned for the April 9, 1999, murder of Rachel White, 22, Susan Halverstadt, 22, and Brett Roe, 29, in San Antonio.

Vista, Calif.**Judge closes records in day-labor case**

Vista officials cannot disclose the names of residents who received permits to hire day laborers, a judge ruled Thursday in granting a request by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU's request was opposed by a coalition of newspapers and the Immigration Reform Law Institute. Vista Superior Court Judge Michael Orfield agreed with the ACLU that the privacy rights of the permit-holders outweighed the public's right to inspect governmental records.

Orfield's preliminary injunction will prevent disclosure pending further court action.

Also

Quong Hop of South San Francisco, Calif., expanded its recall of tofu products to include the 30-ounce Soy Deli nigari tofu coded Oct. 17 and the 12-ounce Soy Deli water-packed tofu coded Oct. 9.

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