

## Shootings concern Floridians

MIAMI — A New York City man visiting family was killed in what police called an apparently random, drive-by shooting. It was the third slaying of a traveler on Florida's highways in a month and another blow for the state's vital tourist industry.

The 40-year-old victim was going to dinner with two relatives when another car pulled up beside theirs on a highway just north of downtown Miami, said Metro-Dade Detective Juan Del Castillo.

The driver — who was apparently alone in his car — rolled down the car window and fired one shot, striking the victim in the head.

"It's a typical incident that's giving Miami a bad name," Del Castillo said. "It is a drive-by (shooting) with the vehicle just coming up alongside and shooting for no reason."

There was no indication of any traffic dispute or interaction between the two vehicles before the shooting, he added. The gunman — described as in his early 30s — sped off afterward.

The name of the victim, who lived in the New York City borough of the Bronx, was not immediately released. He was a passenger in a car with his cousin and his cousin's wife, whom he was visiting, Del Castillo said. They drove him to a hospital, where he died.

The shooting is the latest in a string of visitor killings that have rocked the Sunshine State and its \$31 billion-a-year tourism industry, prompting official efforts to make the highways safer. Ten foreign visitors have been slain in Florida in less than a year.

Road safety received renewed scrutiny in the wake of the Sept. 8 slaying of a German tourist, Uwe-Wilhelm Rakebrand, after his rental car was bumped on a Miami highway in a robbery attempt. At the time of the attack, his wife was reading a pamphlet advising tourists what to do when bumped in traffic.

Three people have been charged in

**Death in Florida**  
Sunday night another visitor to Florida was killed in a random act of violence. This is the tenth incident within the last year.

**A list of incidents of a similar, violent nature that have occurred in Florida since last October.**

1. Orlando Oct. 3  
Keith Thompson, 42, Chelmsford, England  
Shot and killed in front of his wife and two friends after refusing to surrender his wallet to robbers.
2. Fort Myers Dec. 8  
Rudi Rohloff, 54, Germany  
Shot to death along a quiet street
3. Lake Worth Dec. 29  
Marc Nadeau, 33, Canada  
Shot to death while walking with his father and son to a store to buy milk.
4. Sunny Isles beach Jan. 22  
Ralph Passero, 56, Ontario, Canada  
Shot to death when attempting to drive away from an apparent robber outside of a restaurant.
5. Miami Jan. 26  
Jesus Alberto Delgado, 47, Venezuela  
Shot to death while being robbed outside of a friend's home.
6. Homestead March 11  
Jorg Schell, 59, Germany  
Shot to death outside of a motel just after his wife checked in.
7. Miami April 2  
Barbara Moller Jensen, 39, Berlin, Germany  
Killed by robbers after she, her two children and her mother strayed off an interstate highway into a northeast Miami neighborhood.
8. Miami, Sept. 8  
Uwe-Wilhelm Rakebrand, 33, Adendorf, Germany  
Shot to death in front of his pregnant wife by the driver of a van that purposely rammmed the rear of his rental car.
9. Tampa Sept. 18  
Mahmet Behar, 17, Turkey  
A Turkish student beaten to death by two ex-convicts.
10. Miami Sept. 26  
A 40-year-old New York City man was fatally shot in the head while riding in a car with two relatives in Miami Sunday night in an apparent drive-by shooting.

Rakebrand's death. Then on Sept. 14, British tourist Gary Colley was fatally shot at

Tallahassee when two young men opened fire during a robbery attempt.

### STATE WIRE

## Clinton health plan has Nebraska insurers worried about jobs

OMAHA — President Clinton's health-care prescription is making some Nebraska private insurance agents sick. They're worried about how they'll earn their keep if the plan is approved by Congress.

Omaha insurance agent Richard Wilkinson fears he will have to find new work if the Clinton health-care reform plan passes.

"I'm very scared," he said, but he said he still favors the Clinton plan or one like it.

Wilkinson, 35, is among 8,166 Nebraskans licensed by the state to

sell health insurance.

Under the Clinton plan, most health insurance would no longer be sold by private agents. Americans would be required to get their insurance either from their employer or through a government-established regional purchasing alliance.

How many agents would lose their jobs under the Clinton plan is uncertain.

Although Wilkinson fears the plan's possible impact on his livelihood, he said such a plan could provide coverage to all Americans and

has potential to provide less-costly health insurance.

"Maybe the sacrifice of a few jobs is warranted," the independent agent said.

Nebraska might be especially vulnerable to job losses in the industry because of a heavy concentration of health insurance companies in Omaha and Lincoln.

According to industry figures, 24,000 Nebraskans are employed in health insurance work. Only Connecticut has a larger share of its population so employed.

### SPORTS WIRE

## Rockies pay tribute to Colorado's record-breaking fans

DENVER — The Colorado Rockies' six-month love affair with their fans culminated in an emotional farewell last weekend, as the expansion team wound up its home season with a record total attendance of 4,483,350.

"You're the best fans in the world," catcher Joe Girardi said.

"Thanks to you, the Rockies are the envy of major-league baseball,"

said manager Don Baylor.

Rockies majority owner Jerry McMorris promised that the fan support would be rewarded with an eventual World Series appearance.

The Rockies opened the year with the largest opening-day crowd in major-league history (80,227) and closed with their 10th sellout, a crowd of 70,069. Along the way,

they never drew fewer than 40,000 and averaged 56,751 in 79 home dates.

Their total attendance broke the previous record of 4,028,318 set by the Toronto Blue Jays last season. It also obliterated the previous record for a first-year expansion team of 1,701,052 set by Toronto in 1977.

## Sentences delayed for L.A. police officers

LOS ANGELES — Police officer Laurence Powell had already spent his first night in prison for the Rodney King beating and Sgt. Stacey Koon was just surrendering when a judge suddenly allowed them to go free Monday.

U.S. District Judge John G. Davies gave Powell and Koon about two weeks to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, setting Oct. 12 as the new date for them to start serving their 2 1/2-year sentences.

Both men had faced a deadline of noon Monday for checking into the Dublin Federal Prison Camp, a converted military barracks without bars or fences 40 miles east of San Francisco.

Powell, described by his lawyer as terrified, surrendered at the prison Sunday afternoon; Koon arrived at around 11:30 a.m. Monday, around the time Davies issued his ruling, and hadn't been processed yet.

"If Powell and Koon elect to they may walk out of the prison," said U.S. Marshal Craig Meacham in Los Angeles. "I expect they are going to make a U-turn and get out of there as fast as they can." It couldn't immediately be determined when they would go free.

Attorney William Kopeny, representing the two, said he would file an emergency request with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to allow the men to remain free on bail while they appeal their convictions and sentences to a federal appellate court. O'Connor oversees California matters.

Koon, Powell and two other white policemen were charged in the March 1991 beating of King, a black motorist stopped after a chase. A shocking

videotape of the beating was broadcast repeatedly worldwide.

The officers' acquittals on state charges in 1992 led to deadly rioting in Los Angeles and other cities. The officers were tried this year on federal charges of violating King's civil rights. Koon and Powell were convicted; officers Theodore Briseno and Timothy Wind were acquitted.

In August, Davies gave Koon and Powell surprisingly lenient 30-month sentences that were criticized by prosecutors and King. Davies said King himself was to blame for many of the blows he suffered in the beating.

The judge refused to let the officers go free on bail while they appealed, and last week the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected their request for a bail hearing.

Two of the appeals judges issued a strongly worded 10-page dissent arguing for bail, however, and in his ruling Monday, Davies said O'Connor should be given time to review their arguments and see if she is swayed by them.

At the 244-bed prison camp, inmates are housed four to a room and work from 7 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in such manual labor jobs as landscapers, cooks and roofers for 12 to 14 cents an hour.

Last week, Powell was described by attorney Michael Stone as "terrified" of prison. Powell remained out of sight in the last few weeks, even missing his police Board of Rights hearing, where a panel recommended that he be fired.

Koon appeared on a call-in radio show and said he would enter prison with a "pure heart" and no fear, even though prison can be a harrowing place for police officers.

## Midwestern floods continue

WYANDOTTE, Okla. — The National Guard helped evacuate residents in northeastern Oklahoma Monday as two rain-swollen rivers rolled out of their banks to record levels.

No mandatory evacuations were ordered but "most see the water rising and realize it's time to get out," said James Leake, a county commissioner in Ottawa County, where the flooding was concentrated.

"The Spring River is like the ocean roaring. It's just churning," Mayor Tom Derwin of Wyandotte, near the Missouri state line, said. "One of the engineers from the Grand River Dam Authority told me if I had any pull with God to start praying. I've been doing that already."

The Spring River was receding in places Monday but the nearby Neosho River was still rising.

At least a foot of water covered highways and rural roads into Wyandotte, Miami and Quapaw — virtually cutting them off from the rest of the state.

"At this point, we're seeking to minimize flood damage and prevent injury and loss of life," said Oklahoma Gov. David Walters.

Ottawa County officials declared a state of emergency Sunday, allowing Walters to send 75 Guardsmen, 10 trucks and four boats. The Red Cross helped set up shelters at churches.

Most of the Oklahoma flooding came from the Spring River, which was at a record 46 feet Sunday at Quapaw. The previous record was 43 feet in 1986.

"These people have never seen this kind of water before," Durburow said. "They see the water come up and they panic. They don't know what to do, who to call or where to go."

Since Wednesday, three deaths in Missouri were blamed on the latest flooding, which followed the historic summer flooding across the Midwest. Near Boonville, in central Missouri,

### Flood roundup



ri, police found a pickup truck that was washed off a highway but could not reach it because of high water. The fate of the truck's driver was not known.

Elsewhere in the state, the Missouri River continued to threaten towns where levees damaged by the summer floods are not yet repaired.

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