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NFD POINT MOLATE
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Privacy Act Data Cover Sheet

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Privacy Act Data Cover Sheet

WEST COUNTY • BAY AREA

Experts struggle to draw DNA from child skull

They hoped it would be compared with that of Xiana Fairchild, who disappeared in 1999

By Kristi Belcamino
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SAN JOSE — As relatives of a missing Vallejo girl continued to wait for the results of a DNA comparison between a child-size skull found in the Santa Cruz Mountains and their loved one, police said Tuesday that criminalists are having a difficult time extracting DNA.

The great aunt of Xiana Fairchild,

the 7-year-old who disappeared Dec. 9, 1999, said the news was very disappointing.

"Our family is on pins and needles right now," said Stephanie Kahalekulu. "I'm trying to stay neutral — not imagining anything in my head one way or the other — but everybody is worried."

Xiana's disappearance drew renewed attention after the skull was found and after reports surfaced last week that a man being held on charges of kidnapping another girl had allegedly confessed to taking the 7-year-old.

A preliminary examination showed the skull was that of a 5- to

6-year-old child who has been dead for about six months. A dental comparison between the skull and Xiana was inconclusive, and criminalists were hoping DNA drawn from the skull would be compared with Xiana's DNA profile.

Kahalekulu said she fears that no identification on the skull will be able to be made.

"I would rather know it is (Xiana), than go on not knowing," she said. "That is as bad as her missing and not knowing anything."

Authorities have not disclosed where criminalists have sought to extract the DNA, but it can be extracted from teeth and bone, said

Mike Van Winkle, a spokesman for the state Department of Justice, which runs the Berkeley DNA Laboratory.

"They can do mitochondrial DNA, and they can get that from bone. It's much more difficult," Van Winkle said.

He also noted that although a dental comparison may not link the skull to Xiana, it could be connected to another youngster.

"My understanding is so far, dental won't match it to Xiana, but it doesn't mean it can't match it to someone else," he said. "You can make matches on a single tooth."

Dogs and search teams have

scoured the area since the skull was found Jan. 12.

Meanwhile, Kahalekulu holds out hope that Xiana is still alive.

She told the Times Thursday that Solano County Jail inmate Curtis Dean Anderson, 39, told her two months ago he had snatched Xiana and then passed her onto other people.

Anderson is scheduled to stand trial April 2 on charges of kidnapping an 8-year-old Vallejo girl in August.

Kahalekulu is embarking on a nationwide publicity campaign about Xiana's disappearance in case Anderson is telling the truth and Xiana was passed on as part of a child-trafficking ring.

Power

FROM PAGE 3

onds to finance the contracts. By signing the bonds, the state can pay for electricity at its current prices, which are far higher than what consumers now pay, and then average out the cost to some consumers over the long haul.

The most controversial aspect of the measure is to protect consumers who use up to 130 percent of an average "baseline" amount of electricity established for different regions of the state from any rate increases. That means the Public Utilities Commission could raise rates only for commercial and industrial users and for consumers who exceed their 130 percent baseline allotment.

Whether rate increases are needed depends on the cost of contracts being negotiated.

The Public Utilities Commission has set the baseline amounts as the electricity or gas required to meet reasonable energy needs of an average consumer. The amounts differ in 20 of the state's regions, and they account for climate and season.

Consumer advocates say all consumers should be protected from increases, while Republicans say they fear that small businesses, family farms or senior citizens living in the state's deserts would get hit with the

rate increases.

"The baseline rate is not high enough. It has never been high enough," said Sen. Jim Battin, R-Palm Desert. "For me, that's a non-starter. I can't go beyond that point."

Other lawmakers said the provision is simply too complicated.

"I think we're going to have a huge problem communicating with the public if we use this language of baseline," said Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City. She estimated that homes with several residents would get hit with rate hikes. "The average customer is going to see a rate increase."

Meanwhile, representatives of the Department of Water Resources said the department has spent more than \$500 million to buy power over the last two months. Tim Gage, the state finance director, said over the weekend the state had spent the last of the \$400 million in emergency money approved two weeks ago to buy power.

Purchasing power for the state's two largest utilities is costing \$45 million a day, said Lucinda Chipponeri, the assistant director of the department.

Tom Hannigan, director of water resources, said the department began buying power on the spot market in December to help the California Independent System Operator, the nonprofit agency that controls the electrical grid for 75 percent of the state, prevent blackouts.

is neck, a Contra Costa County deputy coroner said.

Burton and the 17-year-old, whose name is being withheld because of her age, were booked on suspicion of kidnapping, robbery and homicide.

Burton is being held without bail at County Jail in Martinez. His companion is being held in Juvenile Hall.

Family members gathered at Curtis' Richmond home Tuesday to

mourn his death, wondering what would provoke anyone to kill him. His sister, who did not want to give her name, said Curtis "didn't bother anybody, was quiet and stayed to himself."

His funeral will be Monday at 1 p.m. at Rose Manor Chapel in Richmond.

Leslie Fulbright covers crime and public safety. Reach her at 510-262-2728 or lfulbright@cctimes.com

Mason

FROM PAGE 3

grief, and sometimes through tears, the Masons called themselves "lucky" for both the support of the community and their family.

"I've been blessed with the most wonderful sons, and now a daughter," Karen said, looking across the table at Julie. "I feel like the luckiest woman in the world. We just feel blessed we had him that long."

Brent said Reid was a "walking encyclopedia" of sports knowledge, as anyone would conclude who glimpsed his room, the walls of which are still covered by sports posters and mirrors. He was also an Eagle Scout,

involved in church groups and played high school sports.

"Reid just loved people," said Larry Brassea, the director of Christian youth group Young Life, of which Reid was a member in high school. "I didn't see any age group he loved more than the other. He just related to everybody."

"He didn't know how to be mean to anyone — even if he wanted to," said Reid's best friend, Sean Rodden.

Reid was also famous for hugging people and getting them involved, whether it was dancing at a wedding or encouraging them to swim at the Hilltop YMCA, where he was a lifeguard in 1995.

"We get lifeguards, and most of them sit and watch the pool," said Bria Cartwright, the YMCA's executive di-

rector. "Every now and then we get one who's playful. He wasn't just sitting there. He was interacting with people, which makes so much of a difference."

Reid's impact on others showed after the accident. Karen estimated up to 50 people at a time jammed two hospital waiting rooms during the tense few days when friends and loved ones waited to see if he would pull through. Some friends lined up for an hour and a half to donate blood to help fortify the bank after doctors gave Reid 52 units.

"He wasn't a self-confident person," Brent said. "I don't think he knew how many people loved him — until now."

Those interested in donating to the Reid Mason scholarship fund can contact De Anza High School in Richmond at 510-223-3811.

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PUBLIC NOTICE NAVAL FUEL DEPOT (NFD) POINT MOLATE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

WHO: Everyone Welcome
WHEN: 7 February 2001 at 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: Richmond City Hall Complex Employment and Training Building
330 East 25th Street, Room #1 (enter from east side of building)

The Department of the Navy (Navy) has partnered with environmental agencies and the community to coordinate the environmental restoration and cleanup of NFD Point Molate under the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program. Point Molate established a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the IR Program in 1996. The RAB meets every month at the Richmond City Hall Complex Employment and Training Building at 7:00 P.M. This meeting is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and is intended to provide an open forum for the community to attend and participate in all aspects of the environmental investigation and cleanup of Point Molate.

Environmental documents associated with the IR Program for Point Molate are kept at the Information Repositories, located at the Richmond Public Library, Government Publications Department, and Richmond Redevelopment Agency, Second Floor. These documents are available for review by the public and other interested parties.

The Point Molate RAB is currently accepting applications for new RAB members. Applications are available at all RAB meetings, and can also be obtained from Don Gosney at (510) 233-2060.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Code 06CA.MP
1230 Columbia Street, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92132
(619) 532-0941 - phone
(619) 532-0940 - Facsimile

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asks, "Who will survive the challenges of the Australian Outback?"
We ask, "Who will survive the challenges of life?"

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