

## Second boardinghouse body identified based on fingerprints

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A second body among the seven found buried outside Dorothy Montalvo Puente's boarding home has been identified as Alvaro "Bert" Montoya, said a spokesman for the Sacramento County coroner's office.

The spokesman, who asked not to be named, said Thursday that identification was based on fingerprints. Montoya's death accounts for the single murder charge that has been filed against Puente.

One other person identified is

55-year-old Benjamin Fink, described by his family as a chronic alcoholic and transient who moved into Puente's home earlier this year.

Autopsies have been completed on the victims but causes of death have not been determined. Court documents indicate that one police search of Puente's home turned up 14 bottles of pills and various unknown substances.

Among items seized was a book titled "150 Commonly Prescribed Drugs," an 8-inch kitchen knife, a quilt with possible blood stains, a

coffee can with "Iye" imprinted on the lid and a book called "The Smell of Evil."

Police believe Puente killed the boarders for their Social Security checks.

Social workers and neighbors who reported people missing led police to question Puente, who was interviewed by police after the first body was discovered. She was allowed to walk away by authorities, who said they had insufficient grounds to hold her. She fled the area, and was captured five days

later at a downtown Los Angeles hotel.

Sacramento police, using a plane provided by a television station news department, flew to Burbank, retrieved Puente and returned her to custody in Sacramento.

The department's actions in letting her go and then using a TV station's plane to transport her has been criticized in newspaper editorials and by Puente's court-appointed public defenders.

Sacramento officials have

expressed concern about their police department's handling of the case and want a state agency to review the department's policies.

Mayor Anne Rudin made the request late Tuesday at a meeting of the Sacramento City Council. Rudin said she asked the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to examine the Sacramento department. The commission reviews about two dozen California police departments annually, officials said.

Michael Di Miceli, a commission official said Wednesday the review would take 45 to 90 days.

On Tuesday, police detectives met with Social Security officials to obtain the records of 16 missing tenants of Puente's boardinghouse. Police want the payment records of people reported missing after living at the home, hoping to determine whether their Social Security checks were improperly cashed.

Detectives believe the bodies found in the yard may be among those on the list of names.

## Chemical spill closes highway for 14 hours

PLEASANTON (AP) — An auto that cut in front of a truck carrying a load of chemicals was responsible for a toxic spill that closed part of Interstate 580 for 14 hours, according to the highway patrol.

"The (car) driver is having Thanksgiving at our expense," said Tony Crawley, safety manager of Crescent Truck Lines of Hayward, which will get the cleanup bill.

The cleanup of chemicals and diesel fuel closed the eastbound lanes Wednesday and Thursday, causing mass gridlock during the

peak of holiday travel.

The big-rig, hauling two trailers containing bottled chemicals in boxes, went out of control late Wednesday. It swerved to avoid hitting the car that cut in front of it, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Then it jackknifed and its trailers overturned in the heavy rain. Bottles of sulfuric acid broke, leaking their contents onto the highway.

The truck carried acetone, hydrogen peroxide solution, hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid.

## ALF claims responsibility for fur store fire

SANTA ROSA (AP) — A fire linked to an animal rights group swept through a fur store, missing valuable furs but ruining a Santa Claus outfit that was to be worn tonight at the annual Lighting of the Christmas tree, according to the store's owner.

"They burned Santa Claus," Eva Del Conte said at the scene of Thursday's 3-alarm blaze.

A group calling itself the Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the fire.

"ALF believes that the fur industry is a perverse business which needlessly murders millions of ani-

mals each year to provide humans with deplorable status symbols," said a statement read to The Associated Press bureau in San Francisco by a man claiming to be part of the ALF.

Capt. Bob Waldron said the cause of the fire at Del Conte's Furrers, which required mutual aid from the neighboring Rincon Valley Fire Department, was under investigation. There were no injuries.

"The ALF will continue its war against this Nazism until the bloody fur trade is abolished from our society forever," the statement said.

"Animals are entitled to their furs and to live unexploited lives," the liberation front statement said.

The words "ALF" and "No More" had been spray painted on the side of the store.

"Fortunately, none of the valuable things were destroyed. They were all in the safe," said Del Conte, who declined to estimate the damage.

"They won't even let us make a living, I guess," she said as she and her husband, Mike, picked through smoke-damaged merchandise in a steady rain.

She said the store would not

reopen. An advertisement in Thursday's papers had announced a retirement clearance sale.

"At least the customers' things are all right," said the husband. "We just have to sort through them all. We were really lucky. A new shipment had just arrived and was sitting there in cardboard boxes. It's OK."

When firefighters arrived, the attic and roof of the old wood-frame building were ablaze. The fire was controlled in 30 minutes.

In June, the ALF claimed it stole two calves from a Santa Rosa veal ranch.

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