

A-2 THE TIMES Friday, March 17, 1989 \$C

5 lauded for police support

By MARK KESLING
Times staff writer

CROWN POINT — Five people were commended Thursday by the Lake County Sheriff's Office for their roles of quiet heroism — the will to get involved to help another person.

"Most people don't get involved today, and it's a little expression of appreciation on our part," said Sheriff Stephen E. Tink-Slight.

The commendations were given in connection with two incidents.

In the first, Linda Stinson, of Lakes of the Four Seasons, and Mary Wynn, of Viduette, were working at the San Francisco Hotel on Oct. 26 when a Southlake Mall visitor this year when the telephone rang.

On the other end, a 6-year-old girl who had apparently climbed the number at random told the two women employees she had been left alone.

The women took the girl on the line, and were able to get enough information for police to determine where the girl was and ensure her safety.

In the second incident, three men attempted an accident near Dyer on Feb. 3 where an auto overturned and several children were injured in a water-filled ditch, threatened by the water-filled ditch, threatened by the water-filled ditch, threatened by the water-filled ditch.

San Wagner and Jose Keen, both of Dyer, and Alan Bagnall, of Schererville, jumped into the icy water and turned the car right side up.

While the women from the car, Raylinda administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation until paramedics arrived.

Clues still sketchy in inn murders

By LORRY GAY
Times staff writer

MERRILLVILLE — Two weeks ago today, two young hotel clerks were murdered by an unknown assailant.

Police in Merrillville and Jasper County are still searching for clues that they hope will lead them to a suspect in the deaths of the Days Inn, Merrillville, Police Chief Jerry McCoy said Thursday.

McCoy said Thursday detectives are working on two or three leads, but they still have a lot more to do.

There is still enough activity in the case that we are by no means up against a brick wall," said McCoy.

One important piece of information police are still waiting to receive is the result of ballistic tests performed on the bullets used in the killings.

As of this morning, the tests, being done by the state police at the Level post, were incomplete.

McCoy said what makes this case such a difficult one to crack is the lack of motive and the involvement of the killings.

The first victim was Mary Margaret Gill, 24, of Roma Township. Gill was the same night as the Days Inn at U.S. 29 and Interstate 65 on March 2.

Sometime after 2:30 a.m., Gill was robbed of \$175 and then led to a deserted, second-floor wing of the motel where she was shot to death.

The killer or killers then proceeded south on I-65 to the Days Inn U.S. 24 in Hammond.

Then, Justice Marie Gilbert, 31, of Hammond was robbed of \$247. Gilbert was abducted from the motel and her bullet-riddled body was found shortly before 4 a.m. along Ind. 15 in rural White County.

One thing police do know is that one person involved in the killings was a man, McCoy said. Traces of semen were found at the Merrillville scene. But while McCoy acknowledges that there was probably some type of sexual activity involved in the killings, he said police do not have conclusive evidence that either woman was raped.



Margie Kwiatkowski and Debra Ward add finishing touches to this cake-batter at Ivy Tech.

Ivy Tech class truly takes cake

By SHARON SKONE
Times staff writer

HAMMOND — Culinary arts students from Ivy Tech's Hammond campus baked a record-breaking 975-pound butter cake with vanilla and cinnamon flavors, common in Mexican baking, for the eighth anniversary of Casa Gallardo Mexican Restaurant, 1441 E. 83rd Ave., Merrillville.

Manager Roger Jacobs requested the cake paid for the ingredients and allowed students to use his kitchen. Twenty-five students and two teachers donated their time.

Ingredients included 4,500 eggs, 450 pounds of butter, 250 pounds of powdered sugar and 100 pounds of flour, and former pastry chef Deborah Ward, the culinary arts instructor for the project. Ward said, "I was surprised at the state library in Indianapolis confirmed the record, using newspaper articles."

Ward and instructor Margie Kwiatkowski kept students and faculty in other programs in response to an event which was going on for the largest amount.

Customers can today on Friday night and Saturday, Ward said.

Students formed committees for various aspects of the dinner. Ward said, such as making the miniature people figures that are part of the decoration. The cake was made from 150 blocks of cake that were used as "bricks."

The cake includes a supreroche cheese, a restaurant with a door leading inside the cake, a "waterfall" and other fully edible items, which took 74 hours to create. It took another 72 hours to bake the cake.

"Everyone had their own part and they didn't really realize it until it came together at the end," said Ward. The construction team worked in a circular assembly line, with one person laying the brick, one scooping out part of the 250 pounds of buttercream icing — the mortar," so Ward called it — and one smoothing it out.

Illinois seeks school chief

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — The Illinois Board of Education covering to find a permanent successor for outgoing Superintendent Ted Sanders, has launched a nationwide search that will probably last until fall.

The board Thursday said Sanders' chief of staff, C. Robert Lottinger, will be interim replacement and senior staff will automatically be considered as candidates for the permanent position.

"We think we have a pretty good staff and we see no reason why all of them shouldn't be automatically considered," Chairman Thomas L. Lottinger said.

Lottinger, 50, a 14-year board employee and a former president of the Illinois Association of School Administrators, will assume the temporary position when Sanders is confirmed as undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

Birroughs said it is likely to be as long as two years before Sanders is confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Since 1985, Sanders has administered the agency's \$2 billion annual budget, and 800 schools.

The White House announced last week that Sanders, 47, had been chosen for the federal post. Sanders will make \$110,000 a year plus benefits as Illinois superintendent, agreed to take a \$15,000-per-year cut, ending the challenge of the new job.

Herrington said the board on a whole will conduct the search for a new education boss and facilitate will be interviewed by all the members.

The board also agreed to improve the fiscal condition of Madison Community School District 2 in Cook County and Illinois School District 121 in Peoria County.

Lowell man charged with threats to FBI

By MARK KESLING
Times staff writer

LORELI — FBI agents arrested a Lowell man Thursday who allegedly threatened to kill the agents while they were trying to arrest him.

Paul D. Pothos, 66, of 20908 State Road, was taken into custody by agents of the Gary field office and state troopers. He was charged with the Springfield violations on an assault on a federal officer.

The man taken to the U.S. Marshal's Office in Hammond, and was to appear before U.S. Magistrate Andrew Rodriguez in Hammond. A sit-out indictment on the assault charge was returned against Pothos Thursday.

If convicted, Pothos can be fined \$15,000 and be given a maximum 10-year prison term on each count.

If convicted on the bank fraud charges, Pothos defrauded the First National Bank of Grand Park, 111 N. Main St., Grand Park, Ill., of about \$100,000.

Vislosky says census for Region is incorrect

By ANNE HAZARD
Times staff writer

WASHINGTON — Rep. Peter A. Vislosky, D-Merrillville, has asked for an investigation by the U.S. Census Bureau of population estimates for Lake County done by the Indiana University Business Research Center.

The figures show a population decline of 10,000 between 1980 and 1987 for the county, which could result in the loss of millions of dollars in federal funding.

Statistician Barbara von der Pflueg of the Census Bureau said the bureau would have to have a report from the Indiana Department of State Planning and Development before it could do an investigation. She said she is not aware that any such report has been made.

Vislosky said the figures from the Indiana University Business Research Center "highly suspect and cited rising public school enrollment in Lake County, a larger number of workers covered under the Indiana Employment Security Act and an increase in the number of building permits issued by the county."

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By Mary Shotton Assistant Cashier

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UCO to meet

FAYETTEVILLE — The United Citizens Organization will hold its monthly "Breakfast" from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the UCO Hall, 912 E. 10th St.

Items that will be accepted for recycling are glass, newspapers, cardboard boxes, cans, plastic aluminum and tin cans and plastic containers.

Glass containers should have the tops removed and wrappers should be taken off cans. No magazines, plastic wrappers or plastic film will be accepted. For more information, call the UCO at 397-1908.

Illinois lottery Thursday, March 16 Daily Game 2-1 Pick Four 4-2-9-5 Lotto jackpot \$15 million

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