

Daily News

KIFFIN'S IN, WHERE'S CHOW?

Lane Kiffin is introduced as the new USC coach, but now many wonder whether Norm Chow will join him. **SPORTS**



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Linda De Croock has a new windpipe thanks to an operation in which a dead man's windpipe was implanted in her.



Miracle windpipe transplant

TRACHEA: Woman grows own tissue from donor implant.

By Maria Cheng
The Associated Press

LONDON — For more than 2½ years, Linda De Croock lived with constant pain from a car crash that smashed her windpipe.

Today, she has a new one after surgeons implanted the windpipe from a dead man into her arm, where it grew new tissue before being transplanted into her throat. The way doctors trained her body to accept donor tissue could yield new methods of growing or nurturing organs within patients, experts say.

The technique sounds like science fiction, but De Croock says it has transformed her life. She no longer takes anti-rejection drugs.

"Life before my transplant was becoming less livable all the time, with continual pain and jabbing and pricking in my throat and windpipe," the 54-year-old Belgian told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

WINDPIPE A5

Men more evolved? Study stirs the debate

GENE: Y chromosome on the move, leaving XX types in the dust.

By Seth Borenstein
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Women may think of men as primitive, but new research indicates that the Y chromosome — the thing that makes a man male — is evolving far faster than the rest of the human genetic code.

A new study comparing the Y chromosomes from humans and chimpanzees, our nearest living relatives, show that they are about 30 percent different. That is far greater than the 2 percent difference between the rest of the human genetic code and that of the chimp's, according to a study appearing online Wednesday in the journal Nature.

EVOLVE A5

Devastation grips Haiti

Quake leaves capital in ruins; tens of thousands may be dead



Thony Belzaira/AFP/Getty Images

A Haitian woman passes destroyed buildings Wednesday in Port-au-Prince. Pneloads of rescuers and relief supplies headed to Haiti as governments and aid agencies launched a massive relief operation after a powerful earthquake there Tuesday. "I'm still looking to understand the magnitude of the event," said Haitian President Rene Preval.

By Jonathan M. Katz
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers desperately searched collapsed buildings as fear rose that the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

Police officers turned their pickups into ambulances to carry the injured. Wisnel Occi-

HAITI A13

Locals concerned about loved ones in home country

HELP: Southland aid to country 'already on its knees' is in the works.

By Susan Abram
Staff Writer

Each time Tigeorges Laguerre attempts to call his homeland, hope fades.

He has been unable to reach his brothers, cousins and friends in Haiti for the last two days.

"The bottom line is the phone system in Haiti is gone," said Laguerre, the owner of the popular Echo Park restaurant TiGeorgesChicken, a de facto community center for local Haitians, especially recently.

"Reality has set in for me now." As images spread Wednesday of the devastation in quake-stricken Haiti, local search-and-rescue crews began to arrive on the small island nation and humanitarian groups set up funds to donate money.

"It was hard to get into (the capital) Port-au-Prince because so many people are at the airport trying to get out," said Margaret Aguirre, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles-based International Medical Corps, in a statement.

Aguirre arrived in Haiti with a medical team on Wednesday.

"Health facilities have collapsed and many of Haiti's doctors and health workers are feared to be dead."

HELP A13



Photo by Gene Bleivins

The L.A. County Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team was on its way to Haiti Wednesday with tools and medical equipment to conduct around-the-clock search-and-rescue operations.

Obama promises all-out relief effort by U.S.

RESPONSE: Marines being sent in to help with supplies, security efforts.

By Matthew Lee and Julie Pace
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are laying out a massive military response to the Haiti earthquake, saying that ships, helicopters, transport planes and a 2,000-member Marine unit are either on the way or likely to begin moving soon.

Gen. Douglas Fraser, head of U.S. Southern Command, said Wednesday that one of the U.S. Navy's large amphibious ships will likely head to Haiti with a Marine expeditionary unit aboard. Fraser said other U.S. military forces are on alert, including a brigade, which includes about 3,500 troops.

The Navy announced late Wednesday the amphibious assault ship USS Batann had been ordered to get underway as soon as possible carrying the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. The ship is one of more than a half dozen, including frigates, a destroyer and a guided missile cruiser, headed to the Caribbean nation.

Fraser said during a news conference with other U.S. officials that the Pentagon is "seriously looking at" sending thousands of Marines to assist with disaster relief efforts and security in Haiti.

The dispatched troops would aim to keep the peace in the event of post-disaster unrest as part of a larger international effort overseen by the United Nations, whose peacekeeping operation headquarters was destroyed in the quake. About 100 U.N. personnel are believed to be trapped in the ruins of the building.

President Barack Obama promised earlier Wednesday.

AID A13

DAILYNEWS.COM — VIDEO, PHOTO GALLERIES, TWITTER FEEDS AND MORE

Bankers apologize

Those who received \$100 billion in taxpayer assistance say they're sorry for the financial meltdown but hint that executive pay may increase as a result of their survival. **Business, A8**

2010 may see record foreclosure filings

HOUSING: Nation set to surpass 2009 rate of 1 in 45 households threatened.

By Adrian Sainz
The Associated Press

MIAMI — A record 2.8 million households were threatened with foreclosure last year, and that number is expected to rise this year as more unemployed and cash-strapped homeowners fall

behind on their mortgages.

The number of households that received a foreclosure-related notice rose 21 percent from 2008, RealtyTrac Inc. reported Thursday. One in 45 homes were sent a filing, which includes default notices, scheduled foreclosure auctions and bank repossessions.

In December, more than 349,000 households, or one in 366 homes, were hit with a foreclosure-related notice. That represents a 14 percent

FORECLOSURES A5

92,000

Number of homes banks repossessed, up 19 percent from November.

21%

Amount of increase in number of households that received a foreclosure-related notice.

Resolve to keep resolution

If keeping fit or getting back in shape is on your mind after the holidays, check in with our panel of experts on how to stay on track. **L.A. LIFE**



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