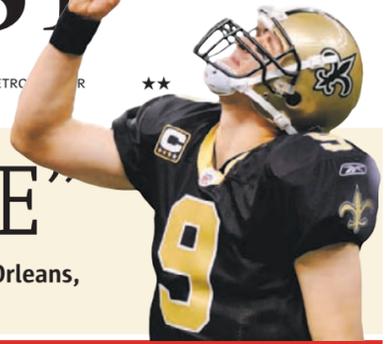


THE DENVER POST

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010



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“SORRY” STILL HARDEST WORD ON WALL STREET
»BUSINESS, 4B

R&B SINGER PENDERGRASS DIES AT 59
»OBITUARY, 10A



“IT’S OUR TIME”

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans, a football team and a city have been reborn. »SPORTS, 1C

dp Online today» Live coverage of Gov. Bill Ritter’s State of the State address. »denverpost.com/politics

DEVASTATION IN HAITI

“There’s nothing”



An injured child receives treatment Wednesday in Port-au-Prince. Many survivors had hideous wounds, and a triage unit was set up outside a hotel. Eduardo Munoz, Reuters

Bodies line the roads in the flattened capital as quake survivors grapple to find medical care

By Tina Susman Los Angeles Times

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI» As darkness fell on Haiti’s capital Wednesday, crowds gathered in the streets to spend the evening in the relative safety of the outdoors, their lives turned upside down by Tuesday’s devastating magnitude-7 earthquake.

Many survivors broke out into communal song, seeking to soothe themselves and remain calm in a city with no power, little water, a limited number of habitable buildings and scores of bodies strewn along roadways.

About 6:30 p.m., the songs turned into screams, as a strong aftershock hit.

Moments later, the crowds in the street grew larger, as many of those who had remained inside ran from their shaky shelters, away from the walls and ceilings that had caused such destruction a day earlier.

Across Port-au-Prince on Wednesday, the

damage seemed nearly random.

Some hillsides of homes look as if they had simply crumbled into the dirt. Other buildings, such as the cheerful-looking Rose Restaurant, appear untouched.

But along the city’s roadsides, the true cost of Tuesday’s earthquake was readily visible: the bodies of victims neatly lined up, some covered in white sheets and some not.

The corpses included that of a girl, perhaps a teenager, in pink shorts; a couple lying next to each other; a man covered in a sheet, save for his horribly swollen feet poking out.

On Martin Luther King Avenue, just past a “Welcome to Port-au-Prince” sign, the slender legs of three young children poked out from under their sheets. Three adults were next to them.

There was virtually no sign of outside assistance other than a few United Nations vehi-

HAITI » 8A

MORE INSIDE

STAGGERING DEATH TOLL

Tens of thousands are dead and untold more remain buried in rubble in the aftermath of the earthquake that ravaged Haiti. The United States and other countries mobilized a vast rescue and relief effort, including military relief vessels. »8A

How to help. Relief agencies such as the Red Cross, and even an Edgewater medical-marijuana dispensary, join the humanitarian effort. »9A



Refocused attention. Broncos star Elvis Dumervil, who is of Haitian descent, says he’s still trying to contact extended-family members in the earthquake region. »6C

Key points of devastation in Haiti. »8A

COLORADO LEGISLATURE

Budget battle: Blood ahead

Lawmakers, opening their 2010 session, expect strife over how to close a projected \$1.3 billion gap.

By Tim Hoover The Denver Post

The 2010 Colorado legislative session opened Wednesday with addresses from leaders of both parties that foreshadowed the battles over the state budget expected to dominate the next 4½ months.

And there were glimpses of other potential hot-button issues, including stricter regulations on payday loans and placing tougher limits on initiative referendums. Some 160 bills were introduced Wednesday, highlighted by a measure to kick-start constitutional reforms with voters and legislation cracking down on abuse of handicapped parking stickers.

The state has dealt with a nearly \$2 billion shortfall over the past two budget years and faces a deficit in the budget year that begins in July that could be more than \$1.3 billion. The state has weathered the crisis largely through the use of one-time sources of money, such as cash funds and federal stimulus funds, and through one-time cuts such as eliminating a property-tax break for seniors last year and furloughing state employees.

Some cuts, though, did affect programs for the mentally ill and develop-

OPENING » 14A

Pot advocates differ on how to cultivate law

By John Ingold The Denver Post

Three months ago, Laura Kriho stood before a roomful of fellow medical-marijuana advocates and urged them to get involved with the political process to create regulations for the state’s legal-marijuana industry.

“I know our standards are way higher than the government’s standards,” she said then.

Now, as the medical-marijuana community prepares for a rally today that it hopes will grab the attention of state lawmakers, Kriho is among a number of cannabis advocates who have soured on what the community can accomplish by working with politicians.

Frustrated by what she says are overly harsh regulatory proposals from state and local governments and

MARIJUANA » 12A

dp Images» Photos and video from the opening of the 2010 legislative session. »denverpost.com/photos and denverpost.com/video

What’s to come» Key bills to work their way through the state legislature in 2010. »14A

Up quickly» A bid to increase federal education money. »1B

Susan Greene» The pot issue. »1B

TARGET: KIDS’ OBESITY

By Robin Givhan The Washington Post

WASHINGTON» In a Wednesday afternoon interview that informally marked the beginning of her second year in the White House, first lady Michelle Obama declared her intent in 2010 to lead the administration’s efforts to tackle the epidemic of childhood obesity.

With a combination of advocacy and outreach to businesses, nonprofit organizations and government officials, she intends to lead the nation in making children healthier.

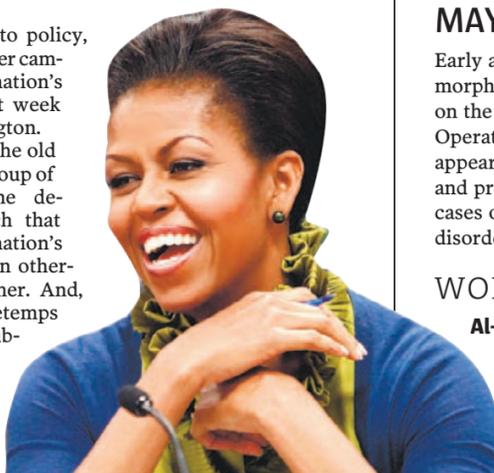
“I want to leave something behind,” she said. “I hope that will be in the area of childhood obesity.”

And if she has to go to Capitol Hill, lob-

by lawmakers and delve into policy, she will do it. She will begin her campaign by addressing the nation’s mayors on the subject next week when they gather in Washington.

During a conversation in the old family dining room with a group of seven print reporters, she described the security breach that marred her debut as the nation’s hostess as a “footnote” to an otherwise outstanding state dinner. And, she waded into the contretemps caused by the recently published remarks by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., in which

FIRST LADY » 12A



HEALTH MORPHINE DOSES MAY BLUNT PTSD

Early administration of morphine to troops wounded on the front lines during Operation Iraqi Freedom appears to have relieved pain and prevented hundreds of cases of post-traumatic stress disorder, a study finds. »10A

WORLD

Al-Qaeda suspect slain. Yemeni security forces kill a man believed to be leading an al-Qaeda cell. »13A