

## People in the News

### Prince shields family from media

CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP) — The star formerly known as Prince is happy to talk about one new creation: his upcoming three-CD set, "Emancipation."

The other is off limits.

The 38-year-old star wouldn't even confirm whether his baby has been born.

"Whenever we give birth to our children, the world won't know anything," he said. "They won't know their names, sex, anything."

"Our child has to make those decisions. What if it doesn't want to be a public person? That's just straight respect; it's their experience."

Prince and his wife, Mayte, were expecting their first child this month.

Reports circulating in the European press and in the National Enquirer said his child was born prematurely last month with a deformity.

### Singer's first kiss recalled in song

HOWELL TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — "Maria Espinosa, where are you tonight?"

That's what Bruce Springsteen called out as he sang about his first kiss during a recent benefit concert in Freehold, his hometown.

The 15-year-old he kissed more than 30 years ago is now Maria Espinosa Ayala, a 48-year-old mother and grandmother.

"I can't believe he remembers my name," she told the Asbury Park Press.

Espinosa Ayala said she never told anyone about her secret smooch.

"My parents were so strict. I wasn't allowed to have a boyfriend so I couldn't let anyone know what happened," she said.

When Springsteen became famous, she didn't think anyone would believe her.

Her memories of the tender moment at a dance in downtown Freehold are hazy.

"It must have lasted about a minute," she said. "It was good. I dreamed about it afterward."

### Friends find place as hottest celebs

NEW YORK (AP) — Goodbye, old friends — David Caruso, Arsenio Hall, Mike Myers, Axl Rose. Hello, new *Friends* — Jennifer Aniston, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer.

People magazine's annual list of the 400 hottest celebrities is

out, and the *Friends* stars were big winners. The five other cast members join Courtney Cox, a holdover from 1995.

Ah, but the losers. Caruso, who swapped *NYPD Blue* for obscurity, is off the list. Ditto ex-talk show host Hall, ex-*Saturday Night Live* star Myers, and once-hip Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose.

Goodbye also to singers Jackson Browne and David Byrne, funnyman Chevy Chase, former CBS anchorwoman Connie Chung, rapper Hammer and "The Bridges of Madison County" author Robert James Waller.

Other newcomers: Gillian Anderson of *X-Files*, rapper Coolio, *Politically Incorrect* host Bill Maher, multi-hued hoopster Dennis Rodman, "Goosebumps" author R.L. Stine and Aerosmith offspring Liv Tyler.

### Young artist is 'no Milli Vanilli'

daughter of a Los Angeles prosecutor defended her singing contract at Death Row Records, saying it was talent, not her father's pull, that landed her the deal.

Gina Longo, 18, said she is unfairly being linked to a controversy between Death Row owner Marion "Suge" Knight and her father, Deputy District Attorney Lawrence W. Longo, who handled an assault case involving Knight.

"I'm no Milli Vanilli," said Longo, referring to the pop duo that lost a Grammy Award after it was discovered they lip-synced their 1990 debut album. "This was no sweetheart deal."

### HBO Commercial: It's all Goodall

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — Jane Goodall was initially "horrified" at the idea of using her beloved chimpanzees in HBO commercials.

Now she hopes the commercials will help the species.

"I realized this would be a way to make a statement and that this is how animal advertising should go in the future," the primate researcher said in a speech Monday at Colorado State University. "It's working to everyone's good."

The commercials show the chimpanzees watching televised movies and repeating well-known lines from some of them.

Money raised through HBO is providing a year's worth of funding for chimpanzee research and sanctuary work at the Jane Goodall Institute, based in Ridgefield, Conn.



Goodall

# Walking the Wilderness

A Texas A&M student uses his own two feet to travel across Alaska.

By APRIL TOWERY  
THE BATTALION

Jeffrey Ottmers, a senior recreation, parks and tourism sciences major, spends his free time eating mosquitoes and boldly going where no man has gone before.

Ottmers' dreams came true this summer as he spent 90 days on what he calls "The Alaskan Range Traverse."

Ottmers and three other mountaineers: photographer John Burcham, Kevin Armstrong and Doug Woody, climbed 27 mountain passes, crossed 29 rivers and traveled on 13 major glaciers, to become the first men to complete a continuous trip across the Alaskan range.

The mountaineers hiked 600 to 700 miles beginning along the Glenn highway, south of Tok, Alaska, and ending at the Cook Inlet near Anchorage.

The mountaineers were interviewed by National Geographic and featured in *Climbing* magazine for braving the freezing weather in the isolated and unspoiled subarctic mountain environment.

Ottmers, an emergency medical technician, outdoor guide and rock-climbing instructor, said several factors came into play after spending his summer in Alaska.



Special to THE BATTALION

Jeffrey Ottmers, a senior recreation, parks and tourism major, spent his summer with three other mountaineers walking across Alaska. The group hiked 600 to 700 miles in 90 days.

"The wilderness has become an integral part of my life," he said. "All I'd learned was that wilderness was immense. This was a chance to see more of it."

"It's important to get away from society, music and traffic to learn and critically analyze yourself."

Ottmers said the experience was a soul-searching time because, with the exception of a few travelers and miners, the four people only communicated with one another.

The mountaineers stayed in lodges and ate wild mushrooms, berries, leafy vegetables, roots, fungi, willow leaves and lots of butter — fats were the best thing to eat because they contain more calories per pound.

Ottmers, who was afraid of losing too much weight, once ate mosquitoes to survive.

He said his parents were skeptical about their son's decision to spend his summer hiking across Alaska.

"They had a hard time with me running off to Alaska and doing nonproductive things," Ottmers said. "There's a ton of social pressure and loss of income. It's kind of like being a musician. There's not much recognition, only personal rewards, and your parents don't really understand."

His friends were more accepting of his travel plans.

Jason Carter, Ottmers' friend and a senior anthropology major, has hiked in Mexico with Ottmers. Carter said he has encouraged Ottmers to travel to Alaska.

"It's doing something no one has ever done before," he said.

Carter and Ottmers plan to graduate in December and go to Alaska in the spring to open a guiding business.

"Contact with the earth is an important need we have," Carter said. "I enjoy traveling with Jeffrey because of his unique outlook on foreign locales. I'm looking forward to traveling with him in Alaska to see him in an environment he knows something about."

Utah Jung, a senior recreation, parks and tourism sciences major, said he is amazed by Ottmers' excursion to Alaska.

"If anyone were to do it, it would be Jeffrey," Jung said. "I don't think it surprises anyone because it fits him. He's brave for doing it. I don't know near enough

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