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Business Digest

Cabela's to build store in Lacey

Cabela's, a hunting, fishing and outdoor gear retailer, said Wednesday it has reached an agreement to build one of its superstores near the junction of I-5 and Marvin Road in Lacey.

Cabela's, based in Sidney, Neb., said it anticipates the approximately 185,000-square-foot store could be open as early as fall 2007. It said the store will include a replica of a mountain with running waterfalls and streams, a walk-through freshwater aquarium and museum-quality representations of wild-game species. The company said it expects to employ as many as 350 people.

Fishing industry

Seafood boycott protests seal hunt

More than 70 restaurants in Washington and Oregon recently promised to boycott Canadian seafood in hopes of ending that country's seal hunt, which officially began this week, although most of the hunt takes place after baby seals are born in the spring.

Seattle eateries, including Tulio Ristorante, Sazerac and Chandler's Crabhouse, joined a boycott by more than 1,000 U.S. restaurants, chefs and other seafood businesses, according to the Humane Society of the United States. Each pledged to boycott

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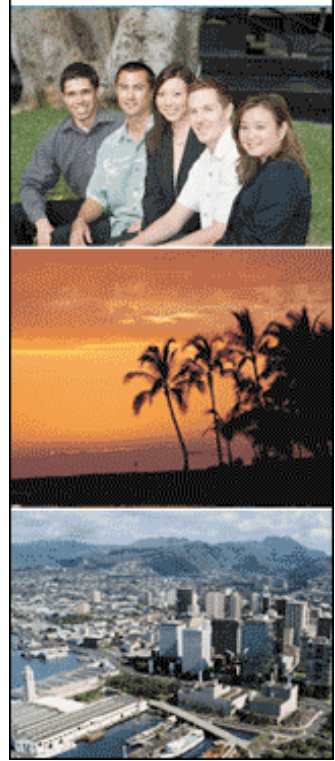


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Seal hunting is an offseason activity by some commercial fisherman along Canada's east coast. More than 330,000 seals were killed this year, according to the Humane Society.

Nation and World

Sony

In Japan, PS3 fails to fetch high prices

Sony's PlayStation 3 isn't living up to the hype — at least on Japan's Internet auctions.

The gaming consoles, which went on sale in Japan on Saturday, are fetching reasonable prices online, disappointing those who had hoped to make a quick profit by reselling the machines on the Internet.

Some of the 4,000 PlayStation 3 consoles listed on Yahoo Japan's auction site were downright bargains. Even systems with games included were going for about \$510 for the most expensive model — less than the \$600 asking price — and \$420 for the cheaper one — in line with Sony's suggested price.

In the U.S., where the PS3 goes on sale Friday, the average high bid for preordered PS3s was about \$1,500.

The PlayStation 3 is facing off in a next-generation console war against Nintendo's Wii and Microsoft's Xbox 360. The Wii debuts Sunday.

Dell

SEC investigates; 3Q report delayed

Dell said Wednesday that federal regulators had begun a formal investigation into the computer giant, which had been part of an informal inquiry since August.

Dell also said it was postponing the release of its third-quarter earnings report — which was scheduled for after the markets closed today — until later in the month.

The company said the earnings report delay was unrelated to the widening Securities and Exchange Commission probe. A company spokesman said the company did not know what the SEC was specifically investigating.

In a release, Dell said the delay of its earnings report was due to the "level of complexity the company is facing in the preparation of its preliminary results." The report will be posted as a news release and won't include the usual conference calls where analysts and reporters often get a chance to ask questions of founder Michael Dell and Chief Executive Kevin Rollins.

Dell has yet to file its second-quarter earnings with federal regulators

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because it has been trying to clarify unspecified accounting issues.

Enron

Last top executive gets 5 ½ years

Richard Causey, the last of the top Enron executives to learn his punishment, was sentenced Wednesday to 5 ½ years in prison for his role in one of the biggest corporate scandals in U.S. history.

Causey, the former chief accounting officer, pleaded guilty in December to securities fraud two weeks before he was to be tried along with Enron founder Kenneth Lay and former chief executive Jeffrey Skilling on conspiracy, fraud and other charges.

After Causey, 46, serves his five years, six months in prison, he will have to serve two years' probation and pay a \$25,000 fine that will be distributed to Enron's victims. Causey had already agreed to pay \$1.25 million to the victims' funds and forfeited a claim to about \$250,000 in deferred compensation.

Still to be sentenced Friday are Mark Koenig, Enron's former investor relations director, and Michael Kopper, an Enron managing director and Fastow's once-trusted top aide.

Causey's sentencing came a week after Andrew Fastow, former chief financial officer, was sentenced to six years.

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