

Firms' data at risk from iPods

BY MATTHEW FORDAH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Companies beware: Critical corporate data might be dancing out of the office with workers who bring their iPods to work.

The research firm Gartner Inc. warns of security risks posed by the popular

music player and other portable storage devices that plug into a PC's USB or FireWire ports. The iPod, like the rest, can hold data in addition to tunes.

"Businesses are increasingly putting themselves at risk by allowing the unauthorized and uncontrolled use of portable storage devices," Gartner ana-

lyst Ruggero Contu wrote. The problem, he says, is twofold. In one scenario, employees could simply drag and drop sensitive files into the devices, which often come with gigabytes of storage capacity.

In the other, the devices could carry

See IPODS, page 60

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July 8, 2004

COMBINED DAILY NEWS CIRCULATION: 59,117

Volume 9, Number 214

Trial theory may be sunk

BY RICHARD COLE
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Prosecutors squeezed a pregnant woman into Scott Peterson's boat and inside the toolbox of his truck to prove he could have hidden Laci's body, according to photos shown in court yesterday. But another prosecution contention — that Scott secretly bought his fishing boat as part of his murder plot — appeared to suffer a near-fatal blow after testimony from the man who sold the vessel.

TRIAL DELAYED
SEE PAGE 20

The photos of the pregnant woman in the boat and truck were admitted over the vehement objections of defense attorney Mark Geragos. He argued vainly that using a live woman who could move around was not the same as hiding a dead woman entering rigor mortis. "It's fabricated evidence," Ger-

See SUNK, page 20

Van is probed in explosives heist

BY TAMI MIN
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Federal, state and local authorities were investigating a white van they believed was full of explosives parked in a Union City Home Depot lot late last night. Some 200 pounds of explosives were stolen from a San Mateo County storage bunker over the weekend.

Federal Alcohol Firearm and Tobacco agents were unclear at 11 p.m. whether the van contained the stolen goods.

Home Depot workers and others were evacuated after the van was discovered. Police said there was a man linked with the van. There was a nationwide alert over the theft of the

See EXPLOSIVES, page 60

Campaign shifts to battlegrounds

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

ATLANTA — The presidential campaign is heating up, but Georgia's not on anybody's mind.

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry announced his vice-presidential choice and immediately headed off arm-in-arm with John Edwards for a campaign swing through Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida — three of this election's 17 "battleground" states. Meanwhile, Georgia's Ralph Reed, the

See BATTLEGROUND, page 60

Stiffer rules eyed against smoking



DON KOCALIS of Los Gatos smokes outside a restaurant on Castro Street in Mountain View. Daily News photo by Tony Avelar.

Plan targets lighting up outside

BY MARK HELFEN
DAILY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Lighting up a cigarette or cigar within 10 feet of the door or window of commercial buildings in Mountain View could be illegal under a new tobacco rule under consideration.

In addition to banning smoking near doorways — including outdoor seat-

ing at cafes — City Council is looking at rules regulating smoking near tot lots in playgrounds and may require businesses convicted of selling tobacco to minors to seek special city permits.

Responding to recommendations from the Youth Services Committee's report about ways to limit smoking by

youngsters, council Tuesday told the city attorney to draft laws regulating smoking near the tot lots and the businesses convicted of selling to minors.

Council could use the permit to limit how the business operates, keep them from selling tobacco or alcohol, or even shut down the business. The

See SMOKING, page 60

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EXPLOSIVES

FROM PAGE 1

explosives over the July 4th weekend, and that's why the law enforcement spotlight turned on San Mateo County yesterday. Some said the agencies were embarrassed over the theft.

The storage facility, located in the Crystal Springs Reservoir area, near Interstate 280, was broken into over the holiday weekend. The storage is used by the FBI, the San Francisco Police Department and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Joe Dodd of Sanders Construction in Nevada said 200 pounds of high explosives, which can fit into the trunk of a car, can destroy the vehicle and do some significant damage to the surrounding structure it was parked in.

If a car, filled with 200 pounds of high explosives, was parked in a garage, the detonation wouldn't take out the whole house, but it would destroy the vehicle and the garage, Dodd said.

The reason high explosives are more dangerous is because if one went off in a group, the rest of them explode, Dodd said.

The sheriff's offices of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties said they are not commenting on the theft or taking questions about explosives in general.

Los Angeles police Officer Jason Lee said those in the bomb squad in the Los Angeles department do not talk to media.

A representative of an explosives company in Nevada said he couldn't talk on the

WHAT WAS STOLEN

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives released a list of explosives stolen from a San Mateo County storage facility yesterday.

- 114 pounds of binary explosives.
- 30-35 pounds of C-4 military explosives.
- 800-900 commercial and military blasting caps.
- 1,700 feet of "det cord," used for detonating other explosives.
- 75 feet of "det sheet," a dough-like explosive material that can be molded.

record. A thief or thieves made off with 800 to 900 commercial and military blasting caps from the storage, said Marti McKee, spokeswoman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. No suspect information was available.

About 114 pounds of binary explosives and 30 to 35 pounds of C-4 military explosives were stolen, McKee said.

Binary explosives, which are made up of two components, a solid and a liquid that are mixed before used, are not considered explosive until the two ingredients are combined. Binary explosives usually consist of ammonium nitrate and nitromethane.

But C-4 explosives are compact plastic

The thief or thieves got away with a total of about 200 pounds of explosives, said Marti McKee, spokeswoman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Explosives and Firearms.

The storage facility, located in the Crystal Springs Reservoir area near Interstate 280 in San Mateo County, is used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the San Francisco Police Department and the San Mateo County sheriff's office.

Anyone with information about the theft may call (888) 283-8477 (ATF-TIPS).

explosives, Lee said. "Those are really deadly," Lee said.

If it were 200 pounds of C-4, that could "destroy a high rise," Lee said. C-4 explosives are more powerful than dynamite.

Law enforcement agencies that are in the business of overseeing explosives and firearms keep explosives on hand for several reasons, Dodd said. They use explosives to blast open doors when serving warrants and during training, particularly for K-9 operations.

Since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, regulations on using, storing and doing business in the explosives field have become a lot more stringent, Dodd said.

Before Sept. 11, 2001, law enforcement agencies, including the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, required that the person in charge of a company dealing in explosives be fingerprinted, Dodd said. Now a background check is done on that person, as well as those employees working with explosives. Plus, anyone handling explosives must be a U.S. citizen and cannot have any felonies, Dodd said.

High explosives must also be stored under certain conditions.

High explosives are typically stored in 10-square-foot boxes that must have a layer of steel a quarter-inch-thick, and an inner layer of hard, solid wood 3 inches thick, Dodd said. The doors of a storage shed must be steel and have secured hinges. The lock must also have at least five tumblers.

"Unfortunately, there's not enough agents working for ATF," Dodd said, to make sure all regulations are in place.

When Dodd was told that it was a storage shed used by law enforcement agencies that was broken into, Dodd chuckled at the irony of it.

Even with all the security measures in place, "if anyone wanted to get in there, they're going to find a way to get in," Dodd said. The explosives industry has "some good systems in place to track materials."

Every piece has date and shift codes on it, and some even have a traceable dye-like component in them, Dodd said.

SMOKING

FROM PAGE 1

proposal to regulate smoking near doorways ran into some opposition.

Council member Rosemary Stasek was the chief proponent of eliminating smoking near buildings. She complained of "walking down Castro through a gauntlet of smokers." But both Mayor Matt Pear, and Council member Greg Perry were concerned about the city going too far in regulating personal behavior.

"We've made life difficult enough for smokers as is," said Perry. "What's next, chewing gum?"

Pear was opposed to trying to regulate personal behavior. "It's a personal issue how people treat their body."

Stasek, interviewed yesterday, said she had been in favor of greater tobacco limitations "for a long time."

"There is lots of community interest in tobacco regulation. This is just the continuing devel-

opment of community values. I've had the experience of seeing the tobacco ordinance evolve over eight years," said Stasek.

Stasek, Pear, and Perry all stated yesterday that they were not now, nor had they ever been, smokers. Stasek said that she had tried a few cigarettes in "the '70s" but didn't inhale.

"I just stood around and held one because it was the cool thing to do," said Stasek.

Stasek noted that each time the regulations were made more strict, businesses complained that it would be financially damaging. "But the objections turned out to be false."

Interviews with restaurant managers and owners in downtown Mountain View indicated that Stasek may be right.

Jenifer Gil, acting general manager of the Tied House restaurant, was in favor of the limitation. She said a new limitation would not affect the restaurant's business.

"I think it's a good idea. Our outside tables would feel more comfortable" with smokers further away. Gil is a smoker, but still thinks it more considerate of other people to force smokers further away.

"I come down on the side of nonsmokers," said Gil.

Supamit Prapayotin, manager of Amarin Thai Cuisine, agreed that the additional restriction would make no difference to the restaurant's operation.

"Less than 2 percent of our customers smoke," said Prapayotin.

Praveen Singha is one of the owners of Zucca, a restaurant on Castro. Zucca has tables on the street, but customers are not allowed to smoke when sitting there. Zucca has a "private corridor" in the back where smokers can step outside to light up.

But while Zucca did not expect any new reg-

ulations to affect his business, he was opposed to additional regulation.

"The government has too many regulations," said Singha. "One of the reasons I was attracted to this country was because of freedom." Singha came from Canada, where tobacco regulations are "very strict."

"The City Council has too much free time on their hands," said Singha.

Sitting outside the Red Rock Coffee Company, Don Kocalis smoked a cigarette and voiced strong opposition to more regulation, describing it as an example of "petty morality." Kocalis is a Los Gatos attorney and radio talk show host.

"Americans, and Californians are the most privileged in the world and feel their entitled to complete perfection. What's next, the aroma of Chinese food? There are certain inconveniences you have to put up with as a human being," said Kocalis.

BATTLEGROUND

FROM PAGE 1

Bush-Cheney campaign chairman for the Southeast, is spending time in Ohio and Missouri before heading for Florida and Colorado next week.

And while voters in those states and a few others are bombarded with presidential campaign ads, Georgia TV stations are a comparative dead zone. As Reed said yesterday, "as of right now, Georgia is not a battleground

state." The 2004 campaign is shaping up as a contest focused on states that are deemed critical to the outcome based on polling that shows them as too close to call, or on their tendency in past elections to swing from one party to the other.

With the exception of 1992, Georgia has voted Republican in presidential elections over the last 20 years.

IPODS

FROM PAGE 1

a virus, Trojan horse or other malware. The solution? "Companies should forbid the use of uncontrolled, privately owned devices with corporate PCs," Contu said.

Prohibition isn't the only way to mitigate risk, however. Bosses also can educate employees, create policies and protect data with encryption.

There are also programs available,

including an offering from SecureWave, that limit use of a PC's USB ports to authorized devices.

Contu did not compare the risk from portable storage with those from floppy disks, CD burners, e-mail and printers.

Apple Computer Inc., which makes the iPod, had declined to comment on the research.



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