

AT A GLANCE



Despite growing demands for new leadership in Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, 67, is defending his platform in his bid for re-election. See story on Page 9.

Launch scrapped

High winds and computer problems force NASA to delay the launch of its controversial Saturn probe, Cassini.

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Expecting the worst

The unpredictability of El Niño has American farmers worried about their crops.

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Presidential visit

President Clinton kicks off his visit to Latin America with business talks and a wreath-laying in Venezuela.

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Dutch dilemma

The issue of asylum seekers pits humanitarian groups and the government against one another in the Netherlands, a country known for its tradition of sheltering the needy and persecuted.

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Time on his side

Don't talk to rocker Keith Richards about being old. "The chicks still dig me," says the Rolling Stones guitarist.

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CORRECTION

Carol Ostrander was misidentified in a story on SHAPE elementary's School/Home Partnership program on Sunday. She teaches schoolwide enrichment classes.

DENVER

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was made of fiberglass with a single engine and two seats. It was considered an experimental aircraft, said Pacific Grove police Lt. Carl Miller. It took off from Monterey Airport shortly after 5 p.m. Sunday, with the first reports of a crash at 5:27 p.m. Only Denver was aboard.

The plane was flying about 500 feet in the air "when it just sort of dropped unexpectedly into the ocean," Miller said. "When it hit the water it broke into numerous parts."

Witness Carolyn Pearl told KCBA-TV that she saw a puff and heard a "popping" sound before the crash. The plane "kind of went up a little bit and absolutely straight down, not spiraling, just absolutely straight down," she said. "I thought it was doing some kind of acrobatic move, or something, and then realized it wasn't."

"I saw it hit the water and then a big splash of water came up over it," said another witness, Linda Shuman. "There was debris everywhere and the birds were in a frenzy. There were pieces everywhere."

Denver, a licensed pilot, was in a previous plane accident in April 1989. He walked away uninjured after the 1931 biplane he was piloting spun around while taxiing at an airport in northern Arizona.

"We are all very broken up over this," said a family friend, Jerry McClain. "The person John was in public was the person he was personally."

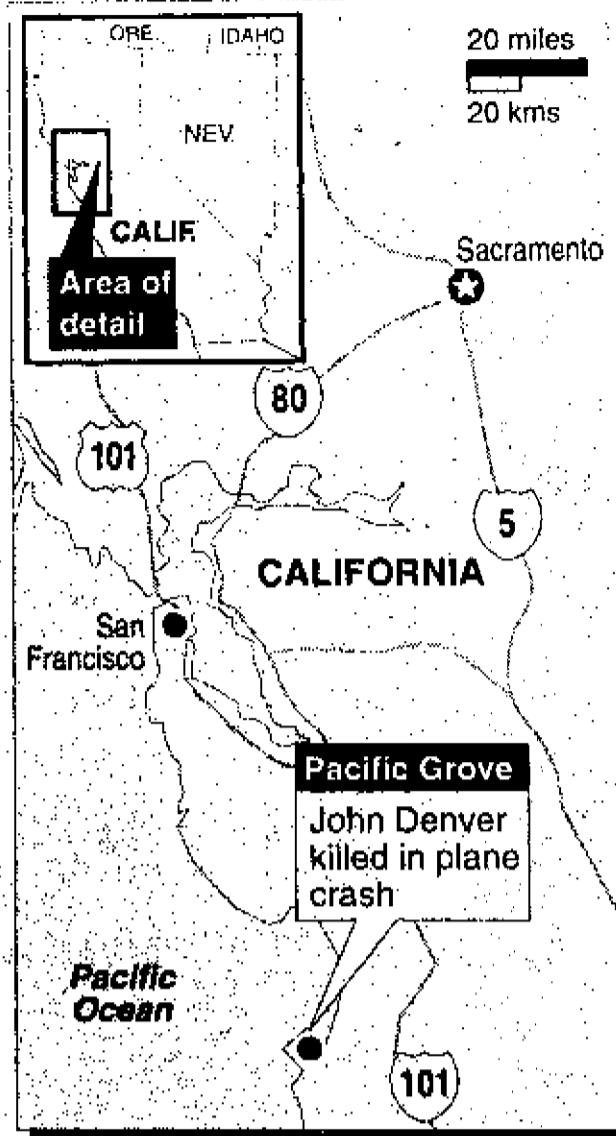
He was born Henry John Deutschendorf Jr., the son of a U.S. Air Force pilot, when his father was stationed at Roswell, N.M. He took his stage name from the premier city in Colorado, where he eventually made his home.

In the mid-'60s, he was chosen from 250 other hopefuls as lead singer for the Chad Mitchell Trio as a replacement for the departing Mitchell. But the trio's best years were behind it by then, and he left in 1969 for a solo career. That same year, his song *Leaving on a Jet Plane* became a big hit for Peter, Paul and Mary.

Soon, Denver's own records — melodic, light folk-pop with touches of country — began climbing the charts as well.

He scored with songs like *Sunshine on My Shoulders*, *Annie's Song* (written for his first wife), *Back Home Again* and *Thank God I'm a Country Boy*. He wrote many of his hits, even when they were by other songwriters, he made them his own.

Fourteen of his albums went gold and eight were ranked as platinum, with more than a million units sold. The LP *John Denver's Greatest Hits* is still one of the largest-selling albums in the history of



RCA Records, with worldwide sales of more than 10 million copies. He was named Country Music Entertainer of the Year in 1975.

His trademark wire-rimmed glasses and handsome smile — sort of a clean-cut hippie who could appeal to all generations — made him a winner on countless TV specials. He appeared with Itzhak Perlman, Beverly Sills, Plácido Domingo, Julie Andrews, and even Kermit the Frog, in a Christmas special called *John Denver and the Muppets: A Christmas Together*.

Denver tried his hand at movies with a supporting role in the 1977 George Burns comedy *Oh, God*. He also appeared in a TV movie, *Foxfire*, with Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn.

He has strong appeal to overseas audiences as well, with many gold and platinum records in other countries. In 1985, he toured the U.S.S.R. in the first performances by an American artist since the suspension, at that time, of cultural exchanges between the United States and the Soviet Union.

He is survived by his second wife, Cassandra Delaney; their daughter, Jesse Belle; a son, Zachary, and a daughter, AnnaKate, from his first marriage; his brother, Ron Deutschendorf; and his mother, Erma.

The person John was in public was the person he was personally.
 Jerry McClain, family friend

Entertainers killed in planes, copters

By The Associated Press
 Some prominent entertainers killed in plane crashes:

Aug. 15, 1935: Will Rogers, cowboy humorist and star of vaudeville and film, dies in plane crash near Point Barrow, Alaska, along with aviator Wiley Post.

Jan. 16, 1942: Actress Carole Lombard is killed in plane crash near Las Vegas while on a tour to sell war bonds. She was 33.

Dec. 15, 1944: A plane carrying Glenn Miller, trombonist and leader of a hugely popular dance band, disappears on a flight from England to Paris while Miller was serving in the Army entertaining troops. He was 40.

Feb. 3, 1959: A plane carrying singers Buddy Holly, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson and Ritchie Valens crashes near Mason City, Iowa, en route to a show in Fargo, N.D. Holly, was 22; Richardson was 29; and Valens was 18.

March 5, 1963: Patsy Cline, whose country hits included *Crazy* and *She's Got You*, dies in a plane crash near Camden, Tenn., at age 31.

Dec. 10, 1967: Soul singer Otis Redding dies in a plane crash in Wisconsin along with members of his band, the Bar-Kays. He was 26. His greatest hit, the somber ballad *Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay*, is released after his death.

Sept. 20, 1973: Jim Croce dies in an air crash near Natchitoches, La., at age 30. He had put together a string of rock hits, such as the poignant *Time in a Bottle* and the witty *Bad, Bad Leroy Brown*.

Oct. 21, 1977: Lead singer Ronnie Van Zant and guitarist Stevie Gaines, of the Lynyrd Skynyrd band are killed in a plane crash in McComb, Miss.

March 19, 1982: Randy Rhoads, 25, lead guitarist for heavy metal star Ozzy Osbourne, is killed when the plane in which he was flying buzzes Osbourne's tour bus and crashes into a house in Leesburg, Fla.

Dec. 31, 1985: Rick Nelson is among seven people who die in a New Year's Eve plane crash near DeKalb, Texas.

March 21, 1987: Entertainer Dean Martin's son, Dino Martin, who as a member of the '60s pop group Dino, Desi and Billy had a hit called *I'm a Fool*, is killed in the crash of an Air National Guard jet in California's San Bernardino Mountains. He was 35.

Aug. 27, 1990: Blues guitarist Stevie Ray Vaughan, 35, is killed when his helicopter crashes into a hill in East Troy, Wis., after departing from a concert.

March 16, 1991: Seven members of singer Reba McEntire's band are killed in a crash near San Diego.

ARMY

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ward for months an will go to court-martial. On Oct. 8, Maj. Gen. Robert F. Foley, commander of the Army's Military District of Washington, recommended that McKinney be tried on 20 counts of sexual misconduct from six servicewomen.

The following day, Reimer officially reassigned McKinney from his position as the chief of staff's senior enlisted adviser.

Since his Article 32 investigation began, the 46-year-old sergeant major had been reassigned to administrative duties but had retained his title.

The referral of the charges to court-martial, Reimer said, makes it clear that McKinney will not be available to perform his critical duties for an indefinite period.

"I owe the soldiers of the U.S. Army a full-time sergeant major of the Army who can forcefully advocate their interests and advise senior Army leadership on matters pertaining to enlisted soldiers," Reimer said.

The "well-being" of soldiers was the overriding factor in his decision to replace McKinney, Reimer said.

The charges against McKinney, which he has consistently denied, cover a period from 1994 to 1996 when he was in Europe and then at the Pentagon, in an office located next door to Reimer.

McKinney's attorney, Charles Gittins, has promised that if his client went to trial, he would air other cases in which senior Army officers engaged in sexual misconduct but were allowed to retire quietly.

IRAQ

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gulf waters. A senior Iranian military official, Adm. Ashkbous Danekhar, said Iranian naval maneuvers in the gulf were "highly suc-

cessful." Danekhar told the official Islamic Republic News Agency that 120 vessels and 40 fighter-bombers and helicopters would pass by the command ship in the third stage of the 10-day maneuvers.

In addition, two teams of frogmen will dive from helicopters, which will launch missiles at mock targets in the sea and air

Danekhar said. The exercises, code-named Piroozi 8, or Victory 8, cover an area of 15,000 square miles. Two of Iran's three Russian-built submarines also are taking part.

Danekhar said submarine capabilities, advanced electronic communications systems, new naval combat equipment and "electronic warfare games" were tested.