

Skilling out of prison; sent to halfway house in undisclosed location

Jeffrey K. Skilling, the former CEO of Enron Corp., was released from a minimum security prison camp in Alabama to a halfway house at an undisclosed location.

Skilling, 64, was convicted on 12 counts of securities fraud, five counts of making false statements to auditors, one count of insider trading and one count of conspiracy. He was sentenced to 24 years in prison and fined \$45 million in 2006.

On this date in history in 2004, former Enron founder Ken Lay was indicted by a grand jury in Houston. He was tried for his involvement in the 2001 bankruptcy of what was once the nation's seventh largest company.

Five years ago, Skilling's sentence was reduced from 24 years to 14 years. He is scheduled to be released Feb. 21, according to the Bureau of Prisons.

A. Kelley, assistant residential re-entry manager for the Bureau of Prisons in San Antonio, said the bureau would not say where Skilling is currently living.

The Bureau of Prisons typically sends inmates to a halfway house in their home city where they last resided before incarceration. It's a process to re-acclimate them to back in regular society and help them reestablish relationships with their families, said Philip Hilder, a white collar defense lawyer who represented Sherron Watkins, a former vice president of finance at Enron who went to then-Enron chairman Kenneth Lay to warn him of accounting irregularities she discovered while doing a review of Enron's assets.

Inmates are typically required to get a job while they're at a halfway house, and report regularly to the federal probation department for up to three years, said Hilder. Kenneth Lay, the 64-year old Enron chairman, was convicted of wire fraud, securities fraud, bank fraud and making false statements to banks. But Lay died before he was sentenced, wiping away his convictions after an apparent heart attack while vacationing in Colorado.



Woman tosses drugs, fake money on highway during Houston police chase

A wanted woman tossed drugs and counterfeit money out the window during a long police chase in a stolen car that ended late Sunday in Anahuac.

Police began following the woman when they spotted her running red lights and stop signs along the South Loop around 10:30 p.m., according to Lt. Larry Crowson of the Houston Police Department.

Officers tried pulling her over, but she refused to stop, sparking a chase along the South Loop, Gulf Freeway and I-10 East Freeway, Crowson said.

A woman and her passenger were detained by police after leading them on a chase to Anahuac on Sunday, July 1, 2018. The woman is wanted in Oklahoma on forgery charges. Photo: Metro

Video

A woman and her passenger were detained by police after leading them on a chase to Anahuac on Sunday, July 1, 2018. The woman is wanted in Oklahoma on forgery charges. During the pursuit, she and a passenger allegedly tossed narcotics and counterfeit money out of the window, according to the lieutenant.

Eventually, the chase ended east of Baytown when deputies put out spike strips and flattened her tires. At that point, police realized she had warrants for forgery charges in Oklahoma and the car was listed as stolen out of Tulsa.

The woman and a male passenger were taken into custody, though authorities did not im-

mediately release their names.

It's not clear what charges they might face, but police managed to recover some of the drugs and fake money.

During the chase, several police cars also ran over the spike strips and also ended up with flat tires, authorities said.



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Editor's Choice



Aug 30, 2018; New York, NY, USA; Marketa Vondrousova of Czech Republic (right) greets Eugenie Bouchard of Canada after a second round match on day four of the 2018 U.S. Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Mandatory Credit: Jerry Lai-USA TODAY Sports



The Arizona National Guard stands at attention as a military transport plane carrying the casket of Senator John McCain takes off on its way to Washington, DC in Phoenix



A riot police officer embraces his weapon during a protest against Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's government in Managua



Cindy McCain walks to the Air Force plane carrying her late husband, U.S. Senator John McCain, to Washington for his funeral in Phoenix



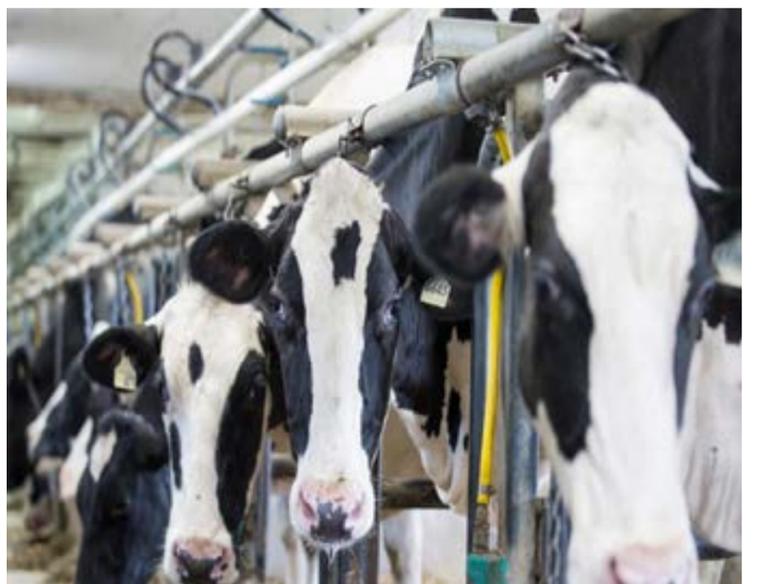
Masked demonstrators take part in a protest against Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's government in Managua



FILE PHOTO: FILE PHOTO: Logo is pictured at Google's European Engineering Center in Zurich



Athletics - Diamond League - Letzigrund Stadium, Zurich, Switzerland - August 30, 2018 Katerina Stefanidi of Greece and winning athletes celebrate at the end REUTERS/Moritz Hager



Dairy cows are seen on a farm in Saint-Valerien-de-Milton, southeast of Montreal

The National Institutes of Health has renewed a five-year, \$42 million primary base grant to support the operation of the Tulane National Primate Research Center in Covington, Louisiana, the university said last Monday.

The 54-year-old center's research focuses on finding cures, treatments and preventions for infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, Lyme disease, malaria and tuberculosis, and improving human health through biomedical research.

The center, which is located on a more than 500-acre site in Covington, employs more than 260 scientists, staff and animal care workers. It's among three federal sites selected by the NIH to test promising AIDS vaccines in nonhuman primates.

"This renewal is quite an accomplishment, and funded at its highest level ever," said Jay Rappaport, a neuroscientist and HIV/AIDS researcher who serves as the center's director. (Courtesy theadvocate.com)

Related

The little-known Tulane primate center: What sort of research is done there? Why? What's its future?



From the ground, not much can be seen of the Tulane National Primate Research Center. Some work has been halted at the center for investigation.

A standard green sign on U.S. 190 directs motorists down narrow Three Rivers Road south of Covington and past a couple of apartment complexes. There, pleasant landscaping and larger signs announce the primate center, but forbidding gates block access to narrow lanes disappearing into the piney woods.

But view the center using something like Google Earth, and it's a different story.

Federal Agency Renews Five-Year, \$42 Million Grant To Support Tulane National Primate Research Center

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



The Tulane National Primate Research Center in Covington, LA, photographed Friday, Feb. 13, 2015.

The full scope of the sprawling 500-acre complex is clear: Dozens of buildings form the main administrative and laboratory complex on the north side of Three Rivers Road, while the south side is laid out in a massive grid of cages that house enough monkeys to make the center the fourth largest municipality in St. Tammany Parish — if those monkeys were a dif-



ferent primate.

Normally preferring to remain low-key and unobtrusive, center officials found themselves thrust into the spotlight Feb. 7 when a hastily called Saturday evening news conference featured parish, state and federal officials talking about Burkholderia pseudomallei, the bacterium that causes melioidosis, or Whitmore's disease.

Two monkeys at the center had been infected with the bacterium, which was supposed to be kept in strict quarantine in the center's lab. Then, an investigator sent to look into the infection reported symptoms consistent with the disease and checked herself into a hospital. Of the two monkeys, one had to be euthanized; the other recovered.

A news release last Friday said subsequent tests on the investigator indicated that she

probably was not infected while at the Tulane center.

Although center and local officials said they believed the risk to the public from Burkholderia pseudomallei was negligible, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ordered the primate center to suspend all work with so-called "select agents" — those that could pose a significant risk to human or animal health — while the infections were investigated.

In addition, some public officials grumbled that center officials hadn't kept them informed, and they vowed that things would be different in the future.

Those events all raised questions about the center — what sort of research is done there and why, and what the future of the facility may be.

Growing with the community

The National Primate Research Center is not a recent arrival on the north shore. The 500 acres of land for the center were purchased from the Alexius family in 1962 — in fact, the Alexius House, which dates to the early 19th century, still sits on the property just south of the Abita River.

After the land was purchased, the center opened in 1964 as the Delta Regional Primate Center in what was then mostly piney woods.



Even in its first few decades, research at the center stirred some controversy. In the mid-1980s, activists complained about monkeys at the center being spun at high rates of speed and having their vomiting rated in experiments that were part of the space program. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, concerns were raised over three monkeys that, as part of experiments on spinal cord injuries, had nerves cut that cost them the use of their arms and legs; their brains also were pierced with electrodes. Those controversies did not slow the growth of the center, however. Like the community around it, the Tulane center has grown exponentially since 1964. Then, the area around the center was a largely undeveloped area known as Alexiusville. Now, though, the U.S. 190 corridor between Mandeville and Covington is a major thoroughfare. Northlake Christian School, which opened in 1978, is adjacent to the center. Three neighborhoods sit close by, as well.

Today, the Tulane center is part of a network of seven national primate centers spread across the country, each of which is largely funded by the National Institutes of Health. The centers provide facilities and support for scientists who wish to do work on nonhuman primates, according to Dr. John Harding, of the NIH.



The center operates as its own entity within Tulane University, but it is affiliated with Tulane's health science schools, including the medical school, a spokesman said. (Courtesy theadvocate.com)

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Facebook Rolls Out Watch Video Service Internationally

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

LONDON (Reuters) – Facebook is rolling out its Watch video service globally one year after it launched in the United States with original entertainment news and sports content to compete with platforms like Alphabet Inc’s YouTube.

Facebook’s Head of Video Fidi Simo said Watch was gaining real momentum in a crowded marketplace because it was built on the notion that watching videos could be a social activity.

“Every month more than 50 million people in the U.S. come to watch videos for at least a minute on Watch, and total time spent watching video on Facebook Watch has increased by 14 times since the start of 2018,” she told reporters.

“With Watch ... you can have a two-way conversation about the content with friends, other fans or even the creatives themselves.”

Facebook said eligible creators would be able to make money from their videos using its Ad Breaks service in Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand as well as the United States from Thursday, with many more countries set to follow.

Simo said publishers were making “meaningful revenues” from its automated video advertising system on the platform, which has featured shows such as beauty mogul Huda Kattan’s “Huda Boss” and live “Major League Baseball” games.

“We know it’s been a long road but we’ve worked hard to ensure that the Ad Breaks experience is a good one for both our partners and our community,” she said.



People are silhouetted as they pose with mobile devices in front of a screen projected with a Facebook logo, in this picture illustration October 29, 2014. (Photo/REUTERS)

Ad revenue will be split 55 percent for the content creator and 45 percent for Facebook, the same ratio as in the United

States, Simo said.

Publishers need to have created three-minute videos that have generated more than 30,000 one-minute views in total over the past two months and must have 10,000 followers to participate in Ad Breaks, Facebook said.

Simo said Facebook was working on a variety of other options for creators to make money, such as branded content and the ability for fans to directly support their favorite creators through subscriptions.

“(Fan subscription) is something that is rolled out to a few creators now, but we are planning on expanding that program soon,” she said. (Courtesy oann.com)

Related

Facebook launched Watch last year in the US as a platform for episodic TV content, and now it’s going international. The so-

a statement.

Shows in the US that have taken off include Red Table Talk with Jada Pinkett Smith (2.9 million followers) and beauty industry mogul Huda Kattan’s Huda Boss, along with PGA Tour and Major League Baseball sports coverage. Facebook said that up to 50 million people tune in to Watch for at least a minute per month, though you should take its video numbers with a grain of salt. Upcoming shows will feature Cristiano Ronaldo and Catherine Zeta Jones.

Facebook said Watch creators in four new countries (the UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand) will be able to profit off their shows via the “Ad Breaks” service. It will roll out to another 21 countries next month, including France, Germany, Spain, Argentina and Thailand. Facebook also lowered the threshold to monetize a channel: You now need just 10,000 followers or to generate more than 30,000 one minute views per month. It needs to be said again, however, that Facebook doesn’t have a great reputation for paying publishers and creators well.

Since Watch launched, Facebook has made it more socially inclined by helping users see which shows their friends have liked or shared. It also plans to unveil polls, quizzes and other interactive features for upcoming game shows like Outside Your Bubble later this year.

Facebook said it will spend up to \$2 billion on new content for Watch, a drop in the hat compared to Netflix or YouTube, but still a significant sum. It might want to spend some of that on marketing the service, as most Americans have never heard of Watch, let alone used it, as Variety notes. (Courtesy https://www.engadget.com)

cial media company announced that the VOD service will be “available everywhere” as of now, giving creators around the world an alternative to YouTube. “We are supporting publishers and creators globally in two critical areas: helping them to make money from their videos on Facebook and better understand how their content is performing,” said Facebook in



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