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LDS Church extends priesthood to all worthy male members

The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today released the following statement:

As we have witnessed the expansion of the work of the Lord over the earth, we have been grateful that people of many nations have responded to the message of the restored gospel, and have joined the church in ever-increasing numbers. This, in turn, has inspired us with a desire to extend to every worthy member of the church all of the privileges and blessings which the gospel affords.

Aware of the promises made by the prophets and presidents of the church who have preceded us that at some time, in God's eternal plan, all of our brethren who are worthy may receive the priesthood, and witnessing the faithfulness of those from whom the priesthood has been withheld, we have pleaded long and earnestly in behalf of these, our faithful brethren, spending many hours in the upper room of the Temple supplicating the Lord for divine guidance.

He has heard our prayers, and by revelation has confirmed that the long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the church may receive the holy priesthood, with power to exercise its divine authority, and enjoy

with his loved ones every blessing that flows therefrom, including the blessings of the temple. Accordingly, all worthy male members of the church may be ordained to the priesthood without regard for race or color. Priesthood leaders are instructed to follow the policy of carefully interviewing all candidates for ordination to either the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood to insure that they meet the established standards for worthiness.

We declare with soberness that the Lord has now made known his will for the blessing of all his children throughout the earth who will hearken to the voice of his authorized servants, and prepare themselves to receive every blessing of the gospel.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Tomball
Weldon Samnet
Marion G. Romney

the First Presidency

Page 1 report

2 students swept away by Washington surf

A sunny oceanside picnic in Kalaloch, Wash., turned to terror and tragedy when a slack tide churned into a deadly surf, pulling seventh and eighth graders from the beach. Two were swept away. The body of Teresa Case, 14, of Amanda Park, washed ashore late Thursday, the Jefferson County sheriff's office said. Listed as missing was Donald Hale, 13, of Lake Quinault. "We started hearing kids screaming for help, saw kids pulling other kids out of the water," said Volkert Volkorsz, 27, a music teacher at Lake Quinault School. "I jumped in and pulled out two." Another teacher also rescued two pupils. "It was a class party," said a deputy sheriff. "The children were playing in the surf at slack tide. The tide changed and started coming in. The surf built up, of course, and started pulling them out and south."

Meteorite may hold clues to origin of life

It looks like a piece of used charcoal, undeserving of the same careful handling as a moon rock. But scientists say it is a rare ancient meteorite offering clues to the origin of life. Three experts Thursday took the first official look at the pingpong ball-size fragment — one of 310 fragments a U.S.-Japanese team found unusually uncontaminated in the dry,