

At a glance

A brief look at our world

State

Goddard's death determined suicide

HARRISBURG (AP) — The death last month of environmentalist Maurice Goddard was a suicide, the Lehigh County coroner said yesterday.

Coroner Wayne Snyder said Goddard, who was the state's top environmental official for nearly 25 years, had been depressed. Snyder said he would have nothing more to say about what he called "this unfortunate event."

A fire in Goddard's bedroom in his suburban Harrisburg home on Sept. 13 was fueled by a type of petroleum accelerant, police said last month.

Firefighters pulled Goddard unconscious from his burning bedroom and he was taken to Hershey Medical Center and then the burn unit at Lehigh Valley Hospital. Snyder said Goddard, who was 83, died early Sept. 14 from burns and smoke inhalation.

State higher education may go up 4.5 percent

HARRISBURG (AP) — The 1996-97 budget request for the State System of Higher Education envisions a 4.5 percent increase in tuition, officials said yesterday.

The system's board approved a 4.5 percent increase in spending in a budget request to be submitted to Gov. Tom Ridge's administration.

The tuition increase, \$145, would bring in \$15.8 million towards the system's proposed \$414.8 million general budget.

The system also wants \$492.9 million for new construction, repairs and renovations.

The new budget includes \$8.8 million in savings from efficiencies, the board said.

The system's request will be reviewed by Ridge and his staff for inclusion in the budget presentation that will be made to lawmakers in February. The next fiscal year begins July 1, 1996.

Nation

Lincoln wife may have hoodwinked husband

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd announced abruptly one morning that they would be married that same night. And their firstborn arrived nine months to the day after the ceremony.

Now a Lincoln scholar suggests that Todd, fearing a life of spinsterhood, may have seduced the marriage-shy Lincoln and gotten pregnant to catch herself a husband.

"This cannot be proved of course. It's speculation. But if there's a little bit of smoke, there may be a little bit of fire," said Wayne C. Temple, author of the new "Abraham Lincoln From Skeptic to Prophet."

On Nov. 4, 1842, the couple announced they would be married that day, and nothing could deter them. When he asked James Harvey Matheny to be his best man, Lincoln said: "I shall have to marry that girl."

Lincoln later described his firstborn son, Robert Todd Lincoln, as "the offspring of much animal spirits."

World

Ivory Coast massacre leaves 18 murdered

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — At least 18 people, most of them children, were massacred on a plantation in central Ivory Coast, the government news agency reported yesterday.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report by the Ivorian Press Agency. The agency quoted police officials in Guibroua, 160 miles northwest of Abidjan, the commercial capital of the west African country.

Reports of such violence are rare in Ivory Coast, a country that traditionally has avoided ethnic or political violence.

With the approach of presidential elections Sunday, however, there have been some skirmishes between police and opposition supporters.

House passes Medicare overhaul plan

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Ignoring a veto threat, the House passed a Republican plan yesterday for overhauling Medicare by raising premiums for the elderly and disabled and saving billions from hospital and doctor fees.

The vote was 231-201. Six Republicans voted against their party's proposal to save \$270 billion from Medicare over seven years. Four Democrats sided with the GOP.

The vote culminated a long, bitter day of debate about the future of the health plan for America's 33 million elderly and 4 million disabled workers.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich called it "a great, great victory ... for fact over fiction" and "for believing you can tell the truth to the American people." He said Republicans were saving Medicare for today's retirees while sparing America's children from being "crushed with taxes."

Gingrich accused Democrats of "dishonest demagoguery" in charging that the savings were really aimed at freeing up money for the Republicans' \$245 billion tax cut.

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt charged that the Medicare bill and a separate GOP plan to take \$182 billion from Medicaid for the poor were "the beginning steps of dismantling these programs as we have known them."

Before votes were cast, President Clinton warned that the Republican plan to save \$270 billion from Medicare over seven years "will eviscerate the health care system for our older Americans."

Clinton sent this message to the Republicans: "I will not let you destroy Medicare, and I will veto this bill."

A key Republican, Rep. Thomas J. Bliley Jr. of Virginia, suggested a compromise might be possible before the final bill is sent to the White House. "I'd be willing to consider any reasonable proposal," he said.

The House first rejected by a lopsided margin, 283-149, a Democratic



AP Photo

Senior citizens and others gather on Capitol Hill during a Medicare rally yesterday. Defying a fresh veto threat from President Clinton, the

House approved the passage of a Republican-drafted bill to force \$270 billion in savings from Medicare.

alternative that would have saved \$90 billion from Medicare over seven years — a third of the medicine prescribed by the Republicans.

Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, boasted that the GOP's "lifesaving legislative surgery" would save Medicare for today's retirees and the next generation. The Ways and Means chairman called it "a great and historic occasion."

But Democratic Rep. Sam Gibbons of Florida called it "another day of infamy" that will result in many of America's elderly being

"herded into managed care."

Republican leaders made last-minute changes, including concessions to rural hospitals and steps to make health care fraud a criminal offense, to minimize defections from their Medicare Preservation Act, the central plank of their plan to balance the federal budget by 2002.

Gingrich promised New Jersey Republicans to fight in conference with the Senate to cushion the impact of reductions in Medicaid on their state. The bill to save \$182 billion from Medicaid should move

to the House floor next week.

Rep. Peter G. Torkildsen, R-Mass., said he voted against the package because his eastern Massachusetts district had been hurt by changes made to prop up Medicare payments for rural America.

Other Republicans voting against it were Reps. Jim Lightfoot of Iowa, and four House members from New Jersey: Frank LoBiondo, Jim Saxton, Christopher Smith and Richard A. Zimmer. Four southern Democrats voted for it: Reps. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery and Mike Parker of Mississippi and Pete

Geren and Ralph M. Hall of Texas.

GOP leaders said their belt-tightening measures would buy nine years of life for the Medicare hospital fund, now in danger of drying up by 2002. They acknowledged that more will need to be done to keep Medicare going beyond 2011 when the baby boomers retire.

It was a day of frayed tempers, shouts and histrionic gestures as lawmakers wrangled over the most fundamental changes made in Medicare since it was enacted at the height of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society in 1965.

March participants number still disputed

U.S. Park Police are being criticized for their alleged miscalculation of the number of people present at the Million Man March.

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Criticized for years and now threatened with a lawsuit, the U.S. Park Police is thinking about getting out of the crowd-counting business.

A spokesman made that suggestion yesterday as a fresh challenge arrived: Boston

University's Center for Remote Sensing, using digital analysis of the park police photos, estimated the crowd at this week's rally of black men at 870,000, more than twice the 400,000 estimated by the park police.

The agency and its parent, the National Park Service, are not required to count crowds, noted Maj. Robert Hines.

"Over the years, the news media and others came to expect it," he said. "We are going to reconsider whether we want to be in this business or not."

The Nation of Islam, whose leader Louis Farrakhan organized the march, called the park police estimate a racist-inspired undercount to dilute the event's success. Farrakhan contends the crowd lived up to the

event's name, "Million Man March."

Abdul Arif Muhammad, co-chairman of the Muslims' legal committee, said a lawsuit would be filed to force the park police to produce evidence on which it based its count, but no such action had been filed yesterday.

ABC News commissioned the recount and broadcast the result on "Good Morning America." Applying a 25 percent margin of error, the estimate would produce a range of 655,000 to nearly 1.1 million.

Boston University researchers enhanced the park service photographs, then counted and marked the shadows of people in outlying areas, said Farouk El-Baz, director of the center in Boston.

It was a technique developed to count sand dunes in satellite photos of the deserts of Egypt and Kuwait.

For the more densely packed areas, researchers used a different technique, estimating the number of people crowded into each square meter, then estimating the number of square meters.

El-Baz criticized the park police methods of photographing the crowd, saying it used a helicopter flying at a distance, instead of directly overhead, and an ordinary 35 mm camera.

The oblique angle of the photographs meant that "trees are going to hide people and people are going to hide other people," he said.

Pa. juvenile system to add 180 beds

By HUNTER T. GEORGE II
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG — Citing the rapid rise of juvenile crime in recent years, the Ridge administration yesterday unveiled plans to add 180 beds to Pennsylvania's juvenile detention system at a cost of about \$14 million.

Public Welfare Secretary Featherer O. Houstoun said one of the state's 11 juvenile detention facilities is operating at 40 percent above capacity, while others are 20 percent above capacity. Although the overcrowding has created few disciplinary problems, she said a 50 percent increase in violent crimes committed by juveniles in the last five years shows no sign of slowing.

"The need for these facilities is real, and it is urgent," Houstoun said during a news conference at the Capitol. "The new secure units will provide significant relief to our chronic overcrowding situation."

"There are places where we have kids on mattresses on the floor," she added.

Under the plan, two 50-bed maximum security units for boys will be built at the state prison in Cresson, Cambria County, and the South Mountain Restoration Center in Franklin County.

A renovated building on the grounds of Danville State Hospital in Montour County will hold a 64-bed unit for girls. And a 16-bed unit for disturbed boys is being built at Allentown State Hospital.

General Services Secretary Gary E. Crowell said construction of the maximum security units will begin in February 1996, with completion expected next fall. Work at the Allentown center is nearly complete, while renovations at Danville are to be completed in 1997.

Houstoun said 856 juvenile offenders are being held in state-run facilities, while another 100 are being held in county facilities awaiting placement in the state system.

Hundreds of privately run programs have state licenses, but they often refuse to treat some of the more difficult, hard-core offenders. The state, Houstoun noted, cannot refuse to accept young offenders sentenced by juvenile courts.

Reno approval of former FBI deputy denounced

By MARCY GORDON
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The chairman of the Senate's Ruby Ridge panel criticized Attorney General Janet Reno yesterday for approving the promotion of the now-suspended FBI deputy director. "She's not supposed to be a rubber stamp," he said.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., whose subcommittee has been examining the deadly 1992 standoff at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, criticized Reno during testimony by FBI Director Louis J. Freeh. Freeh was the final witness before the Judiciary subcommittee on terrorism.

Freeh's former deputy, Larry Potts, is among five top FBI officials now under suspension amid a federal criminal probe of the destruction of some documents related to the siege against white separatist Randy Weaver.

Freeh, a longtime friend of Potts, promoted him to the No. 2 job earlier this year.

"I will swiftly and decisively deal with anyone ... who the facts show committed misconduct," said

Freeh, who was not FBI director at the time of the August 1992 incident.

The FBI has been embarrassed by its use of a special shoot-on-sight order in the mountainside standoff with Weaver.

An FBI sniper shot Weaver's wife, Vicki, as she stood behind the door of the Weavers' cabin holding her infant daughter on Aug. 22, 1992. A day earlier, the Weavers' 14-year-old son, Sam, and Deputy U.S. Marshal William Degan died in a gunfight as federal agents scouted Weaver's property in anticipation of arresting him on a weapons charge.

Freeh, who promoted Potts a few weeks after he censured him for Ruby Ridge, acknowledged yesterday: "I made a mistake in promoting Mr. Potts. I take full responsibility for that decision, and I alone should be held accountable for it."

Freeh said he promoted Potts because of his ability and record and not because he was a friend.

But Specter, who is seeking the GOP presidential nomination, leveled blame at Reno for approving Freeh's promotion of Potts.



AP Photo

Sarajevan youths joke as they wait to crowd onto a city tram, rolling through Sarajevo's Old City. It was the first time the trams have run through downtown since March of this year.

Croatian army vowing to spare Serb-held area

By JASMINA KUZMANOVIC
Associated Press Writer

ZAGREB, Croatia — Struggling to keep peace efforts on track, U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke said yesterday he was assured the Croatian army would not attack the last remaining Serb-held area of Croatia.

A Croatian move to retake the

region, known as eastern Slavonia, could prompt the Serb-led Yugoslav army to move in to defend Serbs there. That would open a new battlefield in the Balkans at a time of tentative moves toward peace in neighboring Bosnia.

But even as Holbrooke shuttled among Balkan capitals, U.N. officials reported fighting in northwestern Bosnia.