



World beat

International

Waldheim disavows role

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — President Kurt Waldheim on Thursday said he did not fight Yugoslav partisans during a Nazi operation and denied he was approached after the war to work for Soviet intelligence, according to his spokesman.

Spokesman Gerold Christian made the comments after new allegations appeared in the U.S. media about Waldheim's activity in World War II.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that Waldheim acknowledged after months of denial that he had played a role in the brutal Nazi "pacification" operation that cost thousands of lives in Yugoslavia.

It said that the former U.N. secretary-general had denied he was involved in the 1942 operation to remove all 80,000 residents, including 3,500 armed partisans, from Kozara, a mountainous region in Yugoslavia.

National

Scientists against SDI

WASHINGTON (AP) — National Academy of Science members think President Reagan's "Star Wars" program cannot produce an effective defense against Soviet nuclear attacks, and they believe spending for the program should be cut, according to a survey released Thursday.

The survey will be taken "very, very seriously" in next year's congressional debate over Star Wars, said Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., an opponent of the Strategic Defense Initiative, or SDI.

Of those responding, 78 percent said prospects are either "extremely poor" or "poor" that a survivable and cost-effective SDI system can be built within the next 25 years.

Regional

Driver gets 40 years

PORTLAND (AP) — A Vancouver man whose drunken driving caused the deaths of four adults and a child in March was sentenced to 40 years in prison on Thursday.

James Dean Walston, 24, said he was "deeply sorry" for the deaths of five members of a family whose car was pushed off the Glenn Jackson Bridge connecting Interstate 5 between Oregon and Washington. The victims were traveling to a birthday party March 1 when Walston's car set off a three-car collision on the bridge that plunged the five into the Columbia River.

David Bussman, a deputy district attorney for Multnomah County, said that Walston was traveling at 75 to 80 mph at the moment of impact. Walston's blood alcohol level was .22 percent, or more than 2 1/2 times the legal limit.

Absentee ballots popular

SALEM (AP) — Requests for absentee ballots for Tuesday's general election are brisk but aren't headed for a record, Secretary of State Barbara Roberts said Thursday.

Roberts said that as of Wednesday, county clerks had handled 78,000 applications for absentee ballots.

That compares with 105,000 absentee ballots issued for the general election in 1984, which was a presidential election year.

Absentee vote tallies by law must be completed by 5 p.m. on the Friday following an election, Roberts said.

The counties where the absentee vote counting will wait until after election night include the state's three most populous — Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas. Those counties account for 35,000 of the absentee ballot requests so far.

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