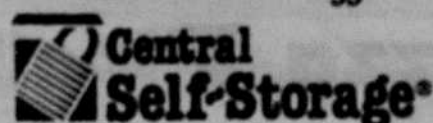


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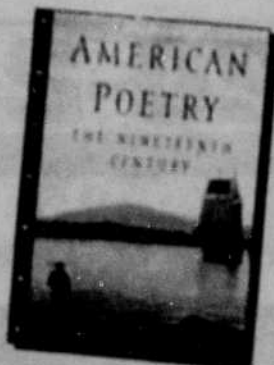
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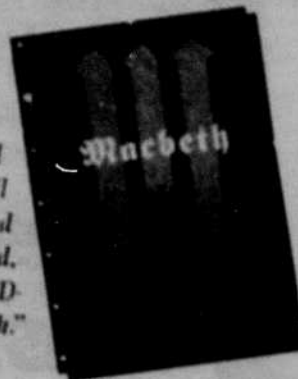
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NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Father diagnosed children's illness by using Internet



PORTLAND (AP) — A diagnosis for Andy Peake's ailing children didn't come from traditional or alternative doctors who for six years offered no answers.

No, Peake went hunting on the Internet and discovered the unusual illness his boy and girl suffer from.

Peake spent weeks searching through medical information on the Internet before landing on congenital myasthenia gravis, or CMG, a neuromuscular disease that strikes just one or two people in a million.

There's no cure, but medication has put 6 1/2-year-old Ethan in the best shape of his short life. He began taking ephedrine in December after another medication for the disease made his condition worse.

From a young age, Ethan has had limited energy, spending much of his time indoors doing quiet activities.

Now he has developed the strength and stamina to kick a soccer ball and ride a bike.

The medication hasn't worked as well for his nearly one-year-old sister Annelise, but doctor believes it might help her as her nervous system develops.

Freemen family groups come to negotiate with FBI



JORDAN, Mont. (AP) — New faces emerged from the Freeman farm complex Sunday as two family groups met for the first time with FBI negotiators and mediator Charles Duke.

It was the fourth day of talks between the anti-government group and law enforcement authorities.

Until Sunday, negotiations on behalf of the Freeman had been handled by four men considered to be leaders of the estimated 20 people who have been holed up on the compound for nearly two months.

Duke said Saturday's negotiations had produced a major breakthrough — a proposal from the Freeman that might end the 56-day standoff.

The proposal would require approval by FBI officials, possibly even Attorney General Janet Reno, and a decision might take several days, Duke said.

Duke, a Colorado state senator, used the term "verbal agreement" Saturday, but Special Agent in Charge Thomas Kubic issued a statement in Salt Lake City saying no agreement had been reached between the Justice Department and the Freeman.

Pressured to resign, Karadzic hands over some duties



SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic faced down intense pressure from Western officials to resign Sunday, deftly shifting some duties to an extremist ally in a bid to stay in power.

International officials were pressing for a letter of resignation, but their hopes to have one by the end of the day were dashed as Bosnian Serb officials denied earlier reports that their leader planned to quit.

Verbal guarantees that Karadzic was on his way out were given to Carl Bildt, the top civilian official in Bosnia in a meeting that ended just before dawn Sunday, said an official in Bildt's office.

"That was not enough for us," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "We want total removal of Karadzic."

Karadzic, who led the Bosnian Serbs through 3 1/2 years of war, has been indicted for war crimes. International officials refuse to meet with him, and regard him as one of the main impediments to implementing the Dayton peace accord.

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