

"The fact that the person has even called means there's a certain part that wants to live, that's saying 'Help me,'" says Ken Rector, a volunteer at White Bird Clinic. (Staff photo by Andy Henson)

Volunteers meet crisis head-on

Eugene's White Bird Clinic averages more than two suicide calls a day

By JEFF WRIGHT
The Register-Guard

In Lane County, which records an average of five suicides a month, Ken Rector awaits the next phone call.

When the call comes, he speaks carefully to mask whatever apprehension he might feel should the conversation turn desperate.

"It can be a little stressful when you're on the phone going at it, and the caller's not responding the way you want," says Rector, one of more than 30 volunteers who help with the 24-hour crisis intervention hotline at Eugene's White Bird Clinic. "That's when the beads of sweat can form."

While crisis volunteer work has its intense moments, Rector says it rarely feels overwhelming.

Thanks to the training provided by White Bird staff. More typically, he says, the work feels rewarding — and never-ending.

According to figures released this week by the state Health Division, the suicide rate in Lane County last year was 22.3 deaths per 100,000 population — almost double the national rate of 12.3 deaths per 100,000 and significantly higher than the Oregon average of 16.8 deaths per 100,000.

At White Bird, those statistics can be measured against the steady stream of people — on the average, more than two a day — who contact the clinic to talk about suicide.

In the fiscal year that ended in June, White Bird responded to 4,803 "crisis contacts." Almost one-fifth of those contacts — 847 — involved the issue of suicide,

said David Zeiss, one of White Bird's paid employees and a veteran crisis worker.

So one knows why Lane County's suicide rate is so high, though theories about the causes range from the weather to the economy. Zeiss says he isn't sure of the reasons and suggests that, in one sense, the reasons don't matter all that much.

"We generally don't think too much about the statistics around here," he says. "We're dealing with people, not statistics."

Much of the clinic's crisis intervention work is conducted by trained volunteers such as Rector. About half the volunteers are students, most of them psychology or counseling majors.

For Rector, who's pursuing a bachelor's degree in

Turn to CRISIS, Page 4A

Attack scenario planned

But delay of execution puts hold on air strike

By the New York Times

President Bush was prepared to order an air strike against suspected terrorist strongholds in Lebanon if kidnappers had carried out a threat to kill an American hostage, administration officials said Thursday.

Pro-Iranian militants said Thursday night that they had suspended a decision to kill Joseph James Cicippio in order to allow more time for the release of Shiite Moslem cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, captured by Israeli commandos in southern Lebanon last week.

But the group issued new demands and said they must be met within days.

The announcement, issued in the name of the Revolutionary Justice Organization, said the decision about Cicippio had been prompted by the intervention of "certain parties and countries."

The statement was apparently alluding to American appeals to many nations and groups to intercede to prevent further killings of hostages in Lebanon after the reported murder on Monday of an American Marine, Lt. Col. William Higgins.



Joseph Cicippio

The military plan that Bush had selected called for the Sixth Fleet to attack terrorist targets with carrier aircraft that were moved within striking distance in the last three days, administration officials said.

The attack scenario, which had been refined and discussed at the White House and the Pentagon over the last 72 hours, was held in abeyance Thursday after the Shiite kidnappers suspended the execution of Cicippio.

Although Bush reportedly had reserved the right not to go ahead with the plan, top officials said they had understood that Bush was all but certain to order the attack if an American hostage had been killed.

The plan is still alive, officials said, and can be put into effect if Cicippio or any of the other hostages is killed.

Officials said the United States had warned Iran over the last 24 hours through diplomatic channels that it would take strong military retaliation if Cicippio was killed.

Bush's willingness to strike targets in Lebanon appar-

Turn to TERRORISTS, Page 3A

Conferees reach compromise on S&L bailout

By OSWALD JOHNSTON
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The massive federal bailout of the savings and loan industry founded Thursday night as the Senate rejected the House-approved procedure for financing the rescue plan, but House and Senate negotiators quickly patched together a new compromise that they hoped would win congressional approval today.

The Bush administration, which had threatened to veto the earlier version of the bill, endorsed the new plan. "In the spirit of compromise, we accept," Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady told congressional negotiators.

But House negotiators remained deeply divided over the compromise, and final House approval appeared to

be less than a foregone conclusion.

The rescue plan stalled when the House and Senate could not agree on how to manage the cost of selling \$50 billion worth of bonds to finance it.

The House voted to add the \$50 billion directly to the federal deficits for this year and the next two. Since this would exceed the deficit ceilings imposed by the Gramm-Rudman law for 1990 and 1991, the House-passed bill would exempt the \$50 billion from Gramm-Rudman.

The Senate, however, refused to provide an exemption from Gramm-Rudman. Senators voted 54-46 in favor of an exemption, but the Gramm-Rudman law requires the votes of 80 senators before such an exemption can be approved.

That sent congressional negotiators back to work. Senate Banking Commit-

tee Chairman Donald Riegle, D-Mich., proposed a compromise. The first \$20 billion in bonds, to be sold before fiscal 1990 ends Sept. 30, would be counted as part of the deficit, but the next \$30 billion, to be sold in equal installments in 1990 and 1991, would not.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., insisting that the full \$50 billion should be counted as part of the deficit, called Riegle's offer "an unacceptable compromise."

Ways and Means Committee member J.J. Pickle, D-Texas, added "Why do you assume we came here to compromise? What we should do is put it on the budget and raise the taxes to pay for it."

The House negotiators ultimately supported the Riegle plan by a narrow

Turn to S&L, Page 4A

Rules imperil some thrifts

By PAUL DUNWIDDIE
The Register-Guard

There was hot and heavy action in the hallowed board rooms of local thrifts Thursday, as banking officers tried to sort out the ramifications of pending federal legislation designed to revamp the savings and loan industry.

Most attention was focused on arcane accounting principles used to figure regulatory net worth. In simple terms, regulatory net worth is a measure of how much of an institution's own money backs up its operations.

Congress wants thrifts to invest more of their own

money in their institutions and to axe shaky investments as junk bonds from their balance sheets.

The new legislation still faces a bruising political battle today, but almost everyone in the industry says tougher regulations are inevitable.

Under pending legislation, many local thrifts will be technically unsound by regulatory standards. The weaker thrifts will have to raise more money, sell off poor loans or merge with stronger institutions to stay in business.

None of it will mean much to consumers, who will

Turn to THRIFTS, Page 4A

Ski industry gains ground

Experiencing record growth

By JEFF WRIGHT
The Register-Guard

Downhill skiing continues to make uphill gains on the slopes of Oregon's tourist economy.

For reasons ranging from consistent snow conditions to a stepped-up marketing campaign, skiing in Oregon is booming at an annual growth rate of about 6 percent — double the national average.

That translates into a record number of ski-lift tickets, more than 1.5 million, sold at Oregon ski areas during the 1988-89 season, according to a recent University of Oregon survey conducted for the Oregon Ski Industry Association.

The skiers holding those lift tickets spent an estimated \$170 million, a record amount that accounts for roughly 10 percent of the state's tourism industry.

Encouraged by the record figures, ski industry represent-

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THE REGISTER-GUARD

'Lonesome Dove' beats out all rivals by gathering 18 nominations for Primetime Emmy Awards, Page 10D.

Research finds drug AZT slows attack of AIDS

By GINA KOLATA
The New York Times

For the first time, researchers have strong evidence that the drug AZT can significantly delay the onset of AIDS in people showing mild symptoms of immune system damage.

AZT or zalcitabine is now the only medication licensed for the treatment of AIDS, but it has been approved for use only in the sickest patients.

Until now, AZT had only been shown to be effective in patients who already had full-fledged AIDS or certain other symptoms, including severely debilitated immune systems.

The new research indicates that AZT can delay the onset of AIDS in patients who are just starting to show symptoms of decline in their immune systems.

As many as 100,000 to 200,000 Americans infected

Turn to AIDS, Page 4A

RON BELLAMY



Tough losses still mounting

AS HE TALKED with reporters Thursday night, after the Eugene Emeralds' eighth consecutive loss, Paul Kirsch actually managed a smile.

Once or twice, even. At first, I figured it was a grimace, a sign of suffering from a guy who hates to lose.

But, no, it really was a smile, and his voice was calm, and his hands were steady.

So, you don't need to keep sharp objects out of Kirsch's reach, or keep him away from second-story windows, or bolt the chairs to the clubhouse floor.

As the Ems ride out their longest losing streak since 1984, their manager is trying to keep things together instead of ripping himself apart.

"Other than not being able to sleep and eat, I'm all right," he said. Answered pitching coach Bernie Flaherty, "You too?"

Kirsch is still sleepless and hungry, because the Emeralds lost another one Thursday night, 7-4 at Civic Stadium, to the Salem Dodgers, to fall to 21-26 for the Northwest League season.

They lost it even though they were back home,

after a harrowing and winless road trip, and even though they had their best pitcher on the mound, righthander Chris Schaefer, who entered with a 1.63 ERA, third-best in the league.

Lost it, too, after a pre-game meeting in which Kirsch was positive, encouraging. In which, he said, he told them they were playing hard, and to keep after it.

Thursday night, Kirsch thought, "They're showing me some real character," he said.

It doesn't seem that long ago that the Ems were right in the thick of things with Southern Oregon and Salem, hanging in contention for first place. Now only the fact that Bend lost to Southern Oregon on Thursday night kept them out of the basement.

To an extent, perhaps, some shortcomings have caught up with them. The pitching staff, behind Schaefer and reliever Scott Centala, has struggled. It's thin. Thursday, Kirsch left Schaefer out there until the eighth inning, even though he got behind 6-1 after rocky innings in the fourth and fifth, even though he wasn't as sharp as he can be.

Kirsch left him in because Schaefer battles, and because he wanted to turn things around, and because you stick with your best guy.

The starting lineup, meanwhile, still misses first baseman Rich Tunison, a key player, sidelined with an ankle injury. They are 1-9 without him. The Ems have three hitters in the top 10, but the starting lineup also features some low averages.

To an extent, the losing streak transcends those shortcomings. Things snowball. "We're really not playing that badly," Kirsch said.

A FEW NIGHTS ago, in Medford, Kirsch had Centala pitch to the A's Craig Paquette in the 10th inning, because walking him would have meant putting the winning run on base. Centala, from Texas A&M, has been in a lot of big games. College World Series stuff, but Paquette took him deep for a game-winning three-run homer.

"I'd do it all over again, same way," Kirsch said.

And Thursday night, trailing 6-4 in the bottom of the seventh inning, the Ems loaded the bases because of the wildness of Salem reliever Bob Fletcher. He walked first baseman David King on four pitches. He walked DH David Soleish on five. He walked third baseman Pat Murphy on five pitches and got the book.

So in came Salem reliever Jorge Pasual to face the Ems' Fred Russell, the No. 7 hitter, batting .188. Russell hit the second pitch on a line to left field, somewhere in the medium range, maybe a little deeper. Don Carroll, the left fielder, caught it going back, and Kirsch, without hesitation, had the 230-pound King tagging and going home.

King is not the fastest guy in the world, but Kirsch figured it would take a perfect throw. Carroll's throw was good enough. Catcher Mike Piazza caught it a few feet up the line and tagged King, who could neither avoid the tag nor take Piazza out.

Double play. "I'd do it all over again, same way," Kirsch said. The next batter, Colin Ryan, was called out on strikes End of rally.

THINGS ARE GOING like that for the Ems. Salem scored in the first inning, but Schaefer might have escaped unscathed if second baseman Sean Collins hadn't pulled Russell off the bag on a potential double-play ball.

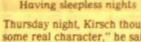
And Salem's two-run damage against the Ems in the fourth might have been less if Murphy had covered third for a force play on a ball that Russell flagged down deep in the hole. And the Ems might have given up less than the three they did in the fifth if centerfielder Kerwin Moore had made a great running catch — and he came within an inch of doing so — of a ball that went for a two-run triple.

"It's just a tough thing to go through," Kirsch said. "You've just got to overcome it. It's a mind thing.

"We just have to come out and play that much harder, and work that much harder. In everything we do, we try to overcome this deal. I mean, it has to turn around, sooner or later."

For Kirsch and the Ems, sooner can't come soon enough.

Paul Kirsch Having sleepless nights



They did Thursday night, Kirsch thought, "They're showing me some real character," he said.

Foreman bout suffers a TKO

By RON BELLAMY

The Register-Guard

The proposed Eugene boxing match for heavyweight fighter George Foreman, scheduled for Aug. 17, was knocked out Thursday.

Ritch Danner, events manager at the Bond Sports Complex, said the facility withdrew as the site for the event for two main reasons.

The continuing inability of the televising USA Network and Foreman's promoter, Ron Weathers, to agree on an opponent for Foreman, and that fact that the network was refusing to televise an outdoor fight.

"Given the shortness of time in dealing with these problems, Bond Sports Complex has opted to cancel its involvement in a George Foreman promotion," Danner said in a prepared statement.

It's still possible that Foreman will fight somebody someplace in two weeks, but it won't be in Eugene.

Meanwhile, Danner said Bond Sports Complex has reached an agreement with highly ranked heavyweight Tim Witherspoon to headline a fight card at the Bond on Saturday, Aug. 26.

However, Witherspoon's opponent hasn't been determined yet. Danner's initial choice, Oregon fighter Jim Ashard, was immediately rejected by Oregon Boxing and Wrestling Commission director Bruce Anderson, who noted that Ashard simply isn't in Witherspoon's league.

Witherspoon, 37-3, is the third-ranked heavyweight by KO Magazine. His bout would headline a program that Danner hopes would consist of the same five-fight undercard intended for the Foreman fight, including heavyweight

Joe Hipp against Shaun Ayers, though Danner had not yet informed the fighters and their managers of the change.

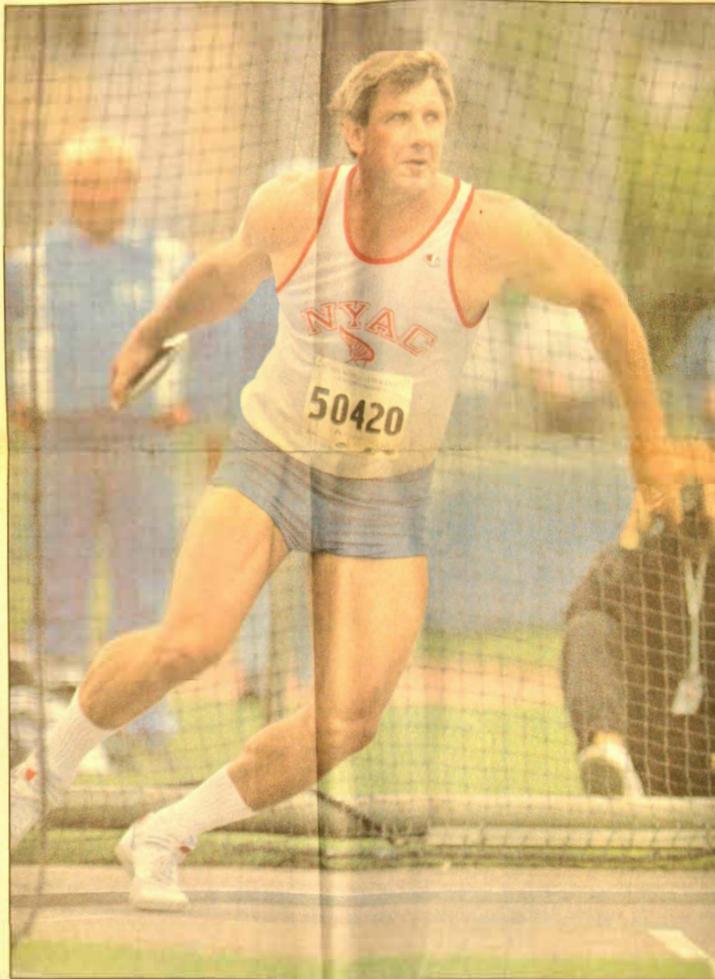
Danner said the Witherspoon fight would not be televised, and that the card would begin at 8 p.m., under the outdoor lights at the Bond. Fans who purchased tickets for the Foreman fight can have them honored at the Witherspoon fight — top ticket remains \$25 — or can obtain a refund, Danner said.

He said approximately 300 tickets have been purchased.

As it turns out, the proposed Foreman fight at the Bond was doomed from the outset — at least in regard to the fight being held outdoors — because the USA Network did not want to risk weather problems, nor did it want the carnival-like atmosphere inherent in a fight in a field or under a

Turn to FOREMAN, Page 4C

Ex-greats strut stuff at Hayward



Oerter, Hart now veterans

By DAVE KAYFES

The Register-Guard

A handful of big names from America's track and field past stepped to the head of the class Thursday and showed an appreciative crowd of 3,500 that they hadn't lost their touch on the eighth day of the World Veterans' Championships at Hayward Field.

There, at center stage, was Al Oerter, the four-time Olympic gold medalist, flinging a discus past the 200-foot stripe again.

There was Eddie Hart, who equalled the world 100-meter record of 9.9 in winning the Olympic Trials here in 1972, winning his second gold medal in the men's 40 division, this one in the 200 meters in 21.74.

There was James King, who barely missed making the United States Olympic team twice here, winning the men's 40 division 400 intermediate hurdles but barely missing his age-group record set earlier this year.

And there was Milan Tiff, a world-class triple jumper in his prime, setting a men's 40 age-group record in his specialty at 51-6 1/2, less than a foot off his 10th-place mark here in the 1972 Olympic Trials.

"We're like elephants," Tiff mused afterwards. "We go to our special spot when we need to lie down. It's our sanctuary, and I feel good here."

Although veterans track and field hasn't been dominated by the past greats in the sport to this point, Tiff and King feel that more and more Olympians will be getting involved.

"I think we're setting some good marks for them," said Tiff, who has coached American Olympic hurdler Willie Banks and Olympic medalist Al Joyner. "We're giving them something to look forward to."

"I think it's going to get even more competitive," said King, his thoughts turning to ageless intermediate hurdler Edwin Moses. "I think you're going to see some real competitive times."

Of all those here, though, the man who is perhaps blazing the most difficult trail for those to follow is Oerter.

He upped the standard for his age (52) to 205-10, 20 feet better than the old record for 52-year-olds held by former shot put gold medalist Parry O'Brien, but it was short of the 50-54 age-group record he set as a 50-year-old (214-3).

"I truly enjoyed it," he said after posing for pictures with competitors and admirers for nearly a half-hour after his competition had ended. "This

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Rally falters so Ems drop 8th straight

By BOB RODMAN

The Register-Guard

For a moment, but only for a moment, the Eugene Emeralds appeared to have Salem right where they wanted the Dodgers.

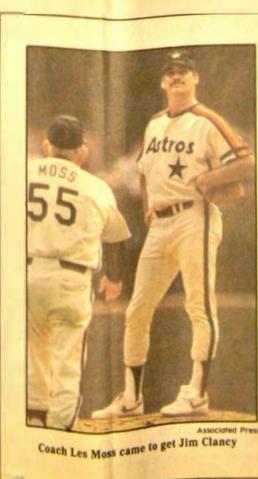
Granted, the Ems were trailing 6-4 and it was the seventh inning. But, hey, after seven straight losses, a two-run deficit sometimes can look like a gift horse.

And indeed it did. The bases were packed with Emeralds, and not a soul had been put out.

But a fly ball to left field coupled with a failed attempt to score from third on that fly ball sent the Emeralds on the way to their eighth straight defeat, a 7-4 setback Thursday night at Civic Stadium.

It was another pouring of salt into an already gaping wound for Eugene, a club that had lost seven baseball

Turn to EMS, Page 4C



A partial from Cincy: 14-0, one out in first

From news service reports

CINCINNATI — There was joy here Thursday. Men were laughing. Children shouted in the midst of their most ponderous season, the Cincinnati Reds paused for a few moments of pleasure.

The Reds had 16 hits and 14 runs in their game with the Houston Astros. And that was with one out in the first inning, and the bases were still loaded.

When it was finished, and statisticians began to assess the damages, the Reds had broken three baseball records in the course of a 26-hit, 18-2 victory. This was history in the making, and history in the learning.

"Now I know," Houston Manager Art Howe said, "what the blitzkrieg was all about."

The Reds, heretofore Team Tread-

mill, already victims of 13 shutouts this season, were suddenly five runs in August, unleashing more firepower in one 38-minute turn at bat than they had in the whole month of July.

"It's been a long time," said right fielder Rolando Roomes, one of three Reds with four hits. "It was like coming new ground by producing 12 singles and seven different players with two hits in the inning. The second time through the lineup, all nine batters hit safely. Given the Reds' pre-game batting averages, the odds against that oc-

Turn to REDS, Page 3C

