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Casper Star-Tribune

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Cheyenne expected big profits

MRI hopes unrealized

By BILL LAZARUS
Star-Tribune staff writer

CHEYENNE — A group of entrepreneurs expects projected spectacular profits when they raised money to set up a Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Cheyenne three years ago.

So far, they say their hopes have not been realized. But their expectations are an indication of the money that can be made in such high technology medical ventures.

Each of the Cheyenne MRI Limited Partnership's four "original limited partners" hoped to make more than \$6.2 million in the

Please see MRI, B8



Marines set up refugee tents near Zakho, Iraq Monday

U.S. establishes camp, Iraqis don't interfere

SILQI, Turkey (AP) — U.S. military forces working Monday to construct a model camp to house Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq were watched by Iraqi police but left alone, officials said.

The U.S. soldiers, meanwhile, have received high marks from relief groups and refugees in Kurdish camps along the Turkish border.

"They are very cooperative, very young, and they have a lot of logistical support," said Commander Schofield, a field officer for the United Nations High Commission-

er for Refugees.

Dozens of U.S. troops have arrived the past few days at the semi-off refugee camps, at Cakir and Uzunlu in Turkey. They will be bringing in medicine and water by helicopter, distributing food and helping pump spring water to the hundreds of thousands of refugees at the squalid camps.

Two U.S. soldiers were injured in a land mine explosion at the Uzunlu camp Monday. The bomber had been mined by Turkey and Iraq.

Please see REFUGEES, A12

Baker prods Kuwait towards democracy

Heads to Syria for meetings

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — The ruler of Kuwait told Secretary of State James Baker on Monday they were working on governmental reforms — including elections that he said could mark "a radical transformation" of the emirate.

In addition to promising elections next year, the ruler said they would stop rounding up Palestinians accused of being sympathetic to Iraq during the Persian Gulf War, in which Kuwait was pried from Iraq's grip by U.S. and allied troops. The Kuwaiti government has been accused of serious human rights abuses following its return to power.

Baker, who began his day in Saudi Arabia, flew from Kuwait to Damascus to resume his drive for Middle East peace talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

In Idaho, Baker gained the support



Baker is silhouetted by burning oil wells in Kuwait

Citizens say EPA has proof of contamination

Claim failure to access threat

By DAN WHIFFLE
Star-Tribune staff writer

CASPER — Contrary to assertions last week by the Environmental Protection Agency that it has no evidence that a chemical contamination problem exists in north Casper, the agency has done at least three separate investigations concerning, potentially, hazardous chemical contamination in that area, according to local activists.

According to Linda Burkhardt of the Pollution Probe, EPA's own data shows that groundwater in north Casper is contaminated with PCE (tetrachloroethylene), a chemical commonly used by dry cleaners as a solvent, at levels thousands of

times greater than drinking water standards allow.

Burkhardt charged EPA's lack of action on the contamination is an "outrage," citing the agency's failure to determine possible threats to public health.

Those threats may include people using the contaminated groundwater from private wells, Burkhardt said. While the city of Casper in 1989 warned owners of five registered wells not to use groundwater in the area, others are using water.

Please see EPA, A12

Mace company says it could employ 400

By HUGH JACKSON
Star-Tribune staff writer

CASPER — "Sensible tax laws," a good attitude toward business among state and local officials, a "merciful work ethic" and the free trade zone at the airport were the factors that led a music and tear gas company to relocate to Casper, the company's president said Monday.

The company will ultimately employ between 300 and 400 people, 40 percent of them from the Casper area, Defense Technology of America's Robert Oliver said at a press conference at the company's new site on Old Drive northwest of town.

"Roughly 60 to 70 percent of those people will be women, Oliver



Welcome to Casper

Cov. Mike Sullivan welcomes Defense Technology of America to Casper. Behind the Governor are, from left, Steve Elledge and Carl Adams of the Casper Area Economic Development Alliance and Robert Oliver of Defense Technologies.

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Old Grouch

I guess they're expecting a whole town full of 'em, the Riveters!

RESULTS

The Star-Tribune Classified Section is not just for selling unwanted items. It's a place to find a job, a house, a car, a boat, a pet, a mate, a place to place a for sale ad in the paper. To receive your own advertisement in #36-what to Buy-Trip-Right now, contact us by a classified ad then for just \$6 for 7 days. Just call 336-6565, or 336-44-9999 (in WY toll-free) for more details.

Rafsanjani says America, Iran discussing hostages

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said in an interview published Monday that Tehran and Washington had exchanged messages over a possible swap of Muslim detainees for Western hostages in Lebanon.

He gave no indication whether these contacts had led to any progress toward ending the saga of hundreds of hostages detained by Israel, four Iranians captured and reportedly killed by Lebanese Christians and the 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

Rafsanjani's remarks were published in the Persian daily newspaper Emlaq in a wide-ranging interview. The text was carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency, mentioned in Nicosia.

Rafsanjani said contacts between the United States and Iran mostly consisted of message exchanges through Switzerland.

"As you know, the Swiss embassy in Tehran is functioning as the interest section of the United States," he said. "The Americans send their messages to our Foreign Ministry through the Swiss Embassy."

"They are studied and response to them is given to the Swiss diplomats. Well, they may do the same through Turkey and similar countries," he added.



HASHEMI RAFSANJANI

Messages sent through Swiss embassy

Additional wolf hearings slated May 13 at 3 sites

By DAVID HACKETT
Star-Tribune Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The federal Wolf Management Committee will hold three additional public hearings — all on the same day, May 13 — in Cody, in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and in Great Falls, Mont., a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman said Monday.

The committee has until May 15 to recommend a plan to Congress for reintroducing gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho.

Barbara Henry, a spokeswoman for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Galea Bernhardt, said the meetings will be held simultaneously and that some members of the committee will be present at each hearing.

Henry said times and sites of the meetings are still under consideration.

Spokesmen for members of the Wyoming congressional delegation said Monday they had not yet received official word from the Interior Department about where the hearings will be held.

The spokesman said, however, that their bosses would be pleased by the decision to hold one of the meetings in Cody because incidents will be directly affected by wolf reintroduction.

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan ordered the committee last week to schedule one additional hearing each in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho at the urging of seven GOP members of Congress, including all three members of the Wyoming delegation.

The congressman wrote a letter to Lujan March 21 in which they said the committee had not "consulted the kind of public opportunities for public involvement that are needed to effectively deal with this sensitive issue."

Henry said the committee originally recommended that the hearings be held in Riverton, Billings, Mont., and Lewiston, Idaho, but that members of Congress preferred the other three cities.

Please see WOLVES, A12

Wyo's tax structure slammed by D.C. group

By KURT REFSHNER
Associated Press writer

CHEYENNE — Wyoming's tax structure is one of the nation's 10 worst because it requires low- and middle-income families to pay a greater percentage of their income in taxes than rich families must, a Washington-based group said Monday.

However, in making that claim the Citizens for Tax Justice group did not comment on the state's low sales and property taxes or the fact that the bulk of the tax burden in Wyoming is borne by the minerals industry.

Additionally, an examination of the group's data shows Alaska is the only other state where both low- and middle-income families have a lower tax rate than those in Wyoming.

"Wyoming is a pretty low tax state overall," Bob McIntyre, director of Citizens for Tax Justice, agreed while discussing his group's analysis of the state's tax structure.

"But what taxes they have are primarily on low-income people and the rich get away with virtually