

NUGGETS TARGET FREE-AGENT PLUMS ON NBA MARKET

> SPORTS, SECTION D

CAUGHT IN A BEAUTIFUL WEB "SPIDER-MAN 2" COMBINES THE FUN OF SUMMER AND THE DEPTH OF AN OSCAR CONTENDER

> REVIEW IN SCENE, SECTION F



THE DENVER POST

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Hussein due in Iraq court

NEW GOVERNMENT TAKING CUSTODY TODAY

After an arraignment Thursday, the ousted leader and 11 of his aides will cease to be POWs and gain legal protections.

By John F. Burns
The New York Times

Baghdad, Iraq — Iraq's interim government announced Tuesday that it would take legal, but not

physical, custody of Saddam Hussein and 11 of his top associates from the United States today.

The Iraqi government will file formal charges against all 12 Thursday in a special Iraqi court set up to

try members of the ousted regime for crimes against humanity.

Under terms approved by President Bush, the men, including several of the most notorious figures in Hussein's inner circle, will remain indefinitely under U.S. military guard at an undisclosed location in or near Baghdad.

But they will cease to be prisoners of war from the moment they are arraigned, becoming criminal

detainees with legal protections under Iraqi criminal procedures, including access to legal counsel, that were previously denied.

In claiming jurisdiction over the men as his government's first major act since Iraq formally resumed sovereignty Monday, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi acknowledged that U.S. forces "will continue to maintain physical custody of them" until Iraq has a prison system capable of

assuring that they remain unharmed and do not escape.

But, sensitive to suggestions that his government's power is constrained by its reliance on U.S. military power, he said that the arrange-

> See **IRAQ** on 14A

Status: The Marines Corps reportedly changes its classification of a corporal from Utah held hostage in Iraq. > **14A**



Saddam Hussein is likely to be tried after those in his inner circle so that emerging information can be used against him.

Activists for kids trade barbs

The Colorado Children's Campaign says it won't work with the national group Every Child Matters.

By Susan Greene
Denver Post Staff Writer

Colorado's leading children's advocacy group is spurning a national organization working to prod Coloradans to vote on behalf of kids.

Accusing the Every Child Matters Education Fund of politicizing children's issues, the Colorado Children's Campaign refuses to join the fund's efforts to increase registration and turnout among voters interested in children's health, education and welfare.

"We were burned two years ago and don't want to get burned again," Colorado Children's Campaign president Barbara O'Brien said.

Every Child Matters founding president Michael Petit, in turn, Tuesday questioned the effectiveness of the Colorado Children's Campaign.

"The fact of the matter is that their research is far removed from the day-to-day reality of kids," he said. "I'd say ... much sharper elbows than those of children crowd them off the table all the time."

Petit's nonprofit organization, based in Washington, D.C., plans to unite dozens of groups and spend at least \$100,000 in Colorado over the coming months trying to increase the visibility of children's issues in national politics. Every Child Matters also plans to campaign in five other states.

Petit raised the ire of O'Brien and other activists when his group targeted Colorado late in the 2002 U.S. Senate race as the first battleground in his quest to, as he put it, become as powerful politically as the National

> See **CHILDREN** on 16A

"These people in their half-million-dollar homes didn't like me."

Bob Acker, who is giving up a property overlooking Kitteridge now that he must part with his "stuff"



Craig F. Walker | The Denver Post

Bob Acker, 65, is leaving a property near Kitteridge but first must clear out its estimated 140 dump-truck loads of junk.

Mountain junk pile must go

One man's treasure ...

Bob Acker's property — with its collection of junkyard material — has become a contrast to the more upscale development growing around the area.



The Denver Post

A retired teacher, faced with a possible jail term, is forced to part with 1.5-acre heap of his "things"

By George Merritt
Denver Post Staff Writer

Kitteridge — Collection. Storage. Odds and ends. All of them are terms that might be used to describe Bob Acker's expansive mass of stuff.

But they would be too kind — at least that's what some of his neighbors believe.

For nearly 30 years, Acker has been hoarding all manner of things on his property overlooking Kitteridge. There are doors off their hinges, glass out of the pane and hubcaps with no wheels.

There are rocks — all kinds of rocks. And skulls from various roadkills stacked in tin trash cans waiting for bugs and time to eat the last of the leathery skin that is still attached.

But mostly there is just stuff. And it must go. "These people in their half-million-dollar homes didn't like me," Acker said.

No one seemed to notice the retired biology teacher's stash for decades — or seemed to care. Now there are posh mountain houses popping up all around his property.

Acker's veritable junkyard is in the way of development, authorities say, not to mention in violation of zoning laws. The 65-year-old recently agreed to get rid of it all to avoid the pokey.

"He got in the way of progress, I guess," said Jim Congrove, a Jefferson County employee running for commissioner. "But he doesn't deserve to go to jail for it."

Acker's land is within earshot of the whine of buzz saws; two houses are under construction on adjacent property.

Congrove and two of Acker's former students are helping him move everything off the property by a Sept. 30 deadline set by county authorities. He appreciates the help but is sor-

> See **JUNK** on 16A

Medics: Patients often abused

State reviews hospital reports

Current and former Denver Health employees say whistle-blowing efforts brought co-worker threats.

By Karen Augé and Marsha Austin
Denver Post Staff Writers

Abuse of patients by Denver Health paramedics and emergency medical technicians is widespread and has been going on for years, current and former employees say.

And, they say, efforts by other employees to blow the whistle on what some called a frat-house culture often resulted in harassment and threats.

Responding to allegations of rampant patient abuse and employee harassment, the state health department has asked Denver Health to turn over records from its investigation of paramedic misconduct.

Douglas H. Benevento, the department's executive director, said Tuesday that he also will ask a state emergency advisory panel and the legislature to look into changing Colorado law to allow statewide oversight and review of paramedics and emergency medical technicians.

Meanwhile, Denver Health is changing the way it handles complaints, said spokeswoman Bobbi Barrow.

Barrow acknowledged that a continuing investigation of paramedic and EMT misconduct dates back "two or three years or more." But she said that "the majority of paramedics at Denver Health perform compassionately, and this does not reflect widespread behavior among paramedics."

Last week, officials with Denver Health, the city's public

> See **ABUSE** on 14A

High court keeps Internet child porn law on hold

But the justices give the Bush administration another chance to defend the law in a trial on its constitutionality.

By Linda Greenhouse
The New York Times

Washington — The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected Congress' latest effort to curb children's access to sexually explicit material on the Internet.

But at the same time, the court gave the Bush administration a second chance to defend the law in a trial on its constitutionality in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

The 5-4 majority kept in place an order that the district court issued in 1999, blocking enforcement of the Child Online Protection Act until its validity can be resolved. The 6-year-old law, which would impose criminal penalties of up to \$50,000 a day on commercial Internet sites that make pornography

available to those under the age of 17, has never taken effect.

The decision came on the final day of the Supreme Court's term.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, said the government must now show why the voluntary use of filters to screen out material unsuitable for children would not work as well as the law's criminal penalties. Filters "impose selective restrictions on speech at the receiving end, not universal restrictions at the source,"

Kennedy said.

The opinion, which was joined by Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Clarence Thomas and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, suggested strongly that the government would not be able to meet the test of showing why filters were not a better option.

Not only are filters less restrictive, but they "also may well be more effective," Kennedy said, be-

> See **PORN** on 15A

Foreigners' rights: The Supreme Court upholds the right of foreigners to file lawsuits and seek compensation in U.S. courts for abuses that take place abroad. > **15A**



Brian Brainerd | The Denver Post

Former EMT Christine Bruno says she reported patient abuse in 1997. She said she often saw EMTs take money from drunk patients.

81° HIGH 53° LOW

Heating up: Warmer and drier weather settles into Colorado. > **8B**



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