

Leaders get together to boost economies

SUMMIT, from Page 1

hemisphere.

“Without a doubt, the lack of economic growth puts democracies under an almost unmanageable strain,” he said. But he added: “Simple economic growth doesn’t solve social problems or the problems of democracy.”

Not all agree that the trade pact even would help Latin America. For many human rights activists, jobs created by export plants pay so little and offer such poor conditions that they lock Latin Americans into a future of poverty, even if the export jobs are better than those currently available.

And they contend the pact will be an attempt by corporations to skirt environmental laws they must follow in North America. They say the agreement would lead to a new dictatorship operated from corporate offices in the United States.

“The governments say this will create more capital, more jobs. That’s a lie,” said Chilean human rights worker Maria Elena Ahumada. “That capital will end up in banks on the Cayman Islands.”

Thousands of protesters have traveled to Quebec from across the world, and Canadian authorities already arrested seven people they accuse of planning violence at the event.

Fearful that the protests could turn into the kind of mayhem that derailed trade talks in Seattle in 1999, organizers sealed off a large area of Quebec’s picturesque downtown Thursday with a 2.3-mile concrete-and-wire wall. Authorities posted thousands of police officers to patrol the line.

Angry protesters spray-painted “Wall of Shame” and “Berlin” on the structure, saying it recalled the oppression and division created by the Berlin Wall that separated East and West Berlin until 1989. Small demonstrations have run all week and were expected to grow as the summit got under way.

Inside the modern convention center that houses the summit, delegates were preparing to debate details of the trade pact.

Brazil is insisting that the United States end agricultural subsidies and remove anti-dumping clauses that some fear the United States will use to block their products from U.S. markets.

Many countries want a “democracy clause” that would expel countries deemed undemocratic from the trade pact. Others fear such a clause would provide a justification for powerful nations to retaliate against their enemies.

Some leaders will push for resolutions on political chaos in Haiti and U.S. aid to Colombia.

Despite the diversity of the interests represented at the summit, all the rulers are elected, a stark contrast to Latin America’s military past. Only Cuba’s Fidel Castro wasn’t invited, because he has not held democratic elections.

“Ten to 15 years ago it would have been hard to imagine such a gathering in which all of the countries of the hemisphere, save one — that is Cuba — are functioning democracies,” said Bush’s national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice.

Woman recalls early days

BATEMAN, from Page 1

dishes in them.

“My kitchen cabinets were all those to start with,” she said.

The Bateman’s had three children. Two sons, Carl and John, and a daughter, Louise. Doris and her husband farmed for 55 years and both liked to garden and grew “loads” of tomatoes and all kinds of vegetables.

The couple got their first telephone in the late 1940s, an indoor toilet and plumbing in the 1950s. Their first television came from their son, John, in the early 1960s.

They attended the Pleasant Home Church, northeast of Edson, where Bateman was church historian for 47 years.

Bateman said Henry died in 1988 and in April 1995, she moved into Handy Towers in Goodland, where she has lived since.

Growing up on a farm, Bateman said, she helped her father with the farm work. She said she drove a team of horses to pull farm machinery, milked cows, slopped hogs, fed milk to calves, fed chickens and gathered eggs. She also helped stack hay at harvest time.

Bateman said most farmers had milk cows back then, and after they milked the cows, they would separate the cream from the milk and put it in cans. These would then be shipped on a train pulling two or three cars that was called the “Jersey Train.”

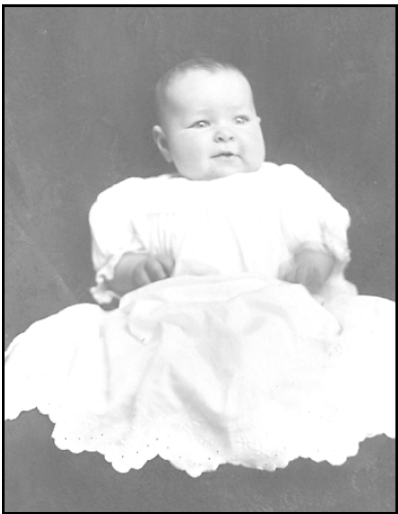
Farmers, she said, would give the skim milk to the calves and hogs or drink it themselves.

Bateman said when she lived northeast of Edson and started first grade, she drove a horse and buggy three and a quarter miles to the one-room schoolhouse in Edson with her sister, Martha. She was 7 at the time and Martha was 17 months younger.

Bateman said she and Martha could read and write when they started school. Their parents bought primers for them to learn from at home.

“We knew the primers by heart,” she said.

The sisters took their lunch to school in tin syrup pails.



Doris Bateman when she was 1.

Bateman graduated from Edson High School in 1931. She said all three of her children graduated from the same school, which is now closed.

Bateman recalled that when one of her brothers was born the doctor came to their house and stayed until he was born.

She remembered the doctor sitting in an old wooden rocker on the front porch and smoking a cigar.

She also recalled that her father had to drive into Goodland to register for the draft for World War I.

Her parents were sad, she said, and she remembered them hugging and kissing before he left for town. However, she said, he was in his 30s and was old enough that they didn’t take him.

Bateman said a country preacher, Charlie Gafford, would sometimes hold Sunday evening church services at the Edson school. She said she remembers traveling home from church after dark, laying down in the wagon box and looking at the stars.

After her family moved northeast of Edson, which was 12 miles from Goodland, she remembers going to town only a few times a year. The family would get everything ready the night before, she said, and they would bring their noon meal and a bale of feed for the horses.

“It was a real celebration,” she said.

Award received



Vera Beneda shook Blake Helderman's hand Tuesday night after he was named the recipient of the Allan E. Beneda Memorial Award. Helderman, a senior in the DECA program at Goodland High School, received the award during DECA's Annual Employer-Employee Banquet and Awards program held at the Goodland Elks Lodge.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Navy instructor admits sexually abusing child

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — A U.S. Navy officer, serving as an exchange math instructor at the U.S. Military Academy, pleaded guilty in military court to sodomizing a 7-year-old girl.

Lt. Cmdr. Mark L. Stone had been charged with forcible sodomy, assault and indecent acts or liberties with a child in connection with incidents that took place at Stone’s West Point home between March and June 2000.

He pleaded guilty Wednesday to sodomy with a minor under 12, conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and acts contrary to good order and discipline. Stone will be sentenced to seven years at the Leavenworth military prison, Kansas.

Stone is a 1983 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., and a 17-year career Navy officer.

By pretrial plea agreement, charges of unlawful touching and indecent acts involving three other children were dropped.

Stone was also discharged from the Navy and his base monthly pay of \$4,935 will go to his wife for six months, then end.

Democrats get early start

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the rehearsal halls of Democratic presidential politics, a dozen or so political stars and newcomers already are auditioning for the role of the party’s 2004 White House nominee.

The big question is when will last year’s nominee, Al Gore, clarify his plans about the presidential race. The betting is later this year.

Democrats around the country say Gore would be a formidable candidate, probably the party’s front-runner, if he decides to run. But they acknowledge his unsuccessful 2000 presidential race left some lingering questions.

“There are people who think if he wants the nomination, he should have it,” said Barbara Flynn Currie, House majority leader in Illinois. “There are others who think he blew it.”

Gore won the popular vote by half a million votes in 2000 and barely lost Florida — and the election — in the now-famous recount.

Some Democrats feel Gore earned the right to a rematch; others say he let an election slip away that he should have won because of the strong economy and popular Democratic issues.

“He’ll be considered a frontrunner just because of his experience and fund raising and people thinking he was cheated out of the election,” said Ark Monroe III, a Little Rock, Ark., lawyer, who was a fund-raiser for Gore.

The list of people lining up to provide an alternative to Gore is growing steadily, though few will admit publicly they’re seriously interested in running.

Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana, House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut are names that come up frequently in discussions with Democrats.

Lieberman is out testing the waters and raising money, but has made it clear he would base his own plans on Gore’s decision whether or not to run.

“What we’re seeing is everybody who wants to increase their profile and visibility doing so,” said nonpartisan political analyst Stuart Rothenberg. “They can’t just wait for a signal from Gore.”

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Disabled farmers get helping hand

CENTERTOWN, Mo. (AP) — Lashley Garnett was using his tractor to help build a small barn when a 15-foot steel pole holding up some sheet metal began tipping toward him.

He felt mesmerized, able only to watch as the pole picked up speed and smashed down on his skull and spine. Later, paralyzed from the waist down and able to get around only in a motorized wheelchair, Garnett feared his farming days were over at age 65.

“You grow up loving the land and you just can’t imagine the feeling of being unable to farm. I was about to sell my cattle when my daughter persuaded me not to, saying these were her roots, too,” Garnett recalled.

With the aid of a handful of University of Missouri students, Garnett found reason to keep trying. The students, specialists in engineering and occupational therapy, retrofitted Garnett’s Ford 4000 tractor for a chair lift, customized hand controls and extra safety features including a seat belt and a steel roll bar.

Now the tractor waits in Garnett’s barn — which neighbors volunteered to raise during his hospitalization — and is ready for seasonal chores such as mowing, raking and baling hay.

Garnett is among more than 10,000 farmers helped by AgrAbility, a federally funded program launched in 1991 to help disabled farmers stay on their farms.

Some 60,000 students and professionals in agriculture, rehabilitation and medicine have been trained in assisting farmers with disabilities, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program operates through land-grant universities in more than a dozen states.

In Missouri, the program attracted Chris Wray, a 22-year-old senior whose father lost his left arm in a tractor accident on the family farm several years ago.

“That whole experience with my father made me aware of how extra hard a farmer with a disability has to work to keep going,” said Wray, who was on the team that helped Garnett. “I probably understood his mentality better than the average person.”

A team of occupational therapy students from the university had already brainstormed to come up with a design for Garnett’s tractor, considering matters like how to shape the seating to help Garnett avoid pressure sores.

Wray studied the ideas and refined them, and he and Karen Funkenbusch, who coordinates the AgrAbility program at the university, got businesses to donate parts and assistance.

“This hasn’t cost me one dime. It’s an amazing program,” Garnett said.

To board the tractor, Garnett pulls his wheelchair alongside a chair mounted on a hydraulic track near the tractor’s front wheel. Easing himself into the swiveling lift chair, he uses a hand control to slide backward and up into the thickly padded tractor seat.

Wray added risers to hold Garnett’s cowboy boots in place, and a long lever to work the clutch without bending to an unsafe angle.

The students receive academic credit for the projects.

Now in its ninth year, the Missouri program has helped scores of farmers, including more than 30 with spinal cord injuries. Its next outreach program will be to farmers battling severe arthritis, Funkenbusch said, “to apply the same brainstorming principles to allow a farmer with bad hips or bad knees to keep on working.”

Study finds leukemia link

WASHINGTON (AP) — The dangerous aftereffects of the chemical Agent Orange used in Vietnam may have extended to the children of veterans of that war.

The Institute of Medicine reported Thursday that the children of veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange seem to have a greater chance of being afflicted with a certain type of leukemia called acute myelogenous leukemia.

The new analysis makes the first connection between the childhood disease and the pesticide, although it stops short of saying the link is conclusive.

“I’m deeply concerned about the implications for the children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange,” Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi said in a telephone interview. He called the report “very serious.”

Principi said President Bush has directed him to prepare legislation to assist children with the disease. Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., said he will introduce a bill to provide compensation and medical care for these children.

Acute myelogenous leukemia is a fast-spreading form of leukemia that originates in bone-marrow cells. It accounts for about 8 percent of all childhood cancers, the report said. It is also known as acute myeloid leukemia and acute nonlymphocytic leukemia.

Rick Weidman, vice president of Vietnam Veterans of America, said his group is “pleased that they recognized one additional birth defect in children born to Vietnam veterans.” But, he added, it is also very sad news because most of these children have already died. The median life expectancy for children diagnosed with this type of leukemia is two years, he noted.

Dr. Linda Schwartz, head of the association’s health care task force, said that last year Congress approved a broad program to assist female Vietnam veteran’s children with birth defects. She called for a similar program for the children of male vets.

“No firm evidence links exposure to the herbicides with most childhood cancers, but new research does suggest that some kind of connection exists between (acute myelogenous leukemia) in children and their fathers’ military service in Vietnam or Cambodia,” said Irva Hertz-Picciotto, a professor of epidemiology at the University of North Carolina.

The report is the most recent in a series by the institute, a division of the National Academy of Sciences, looking at the effects of the herbicides used in Vietnam.

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