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NCAA EXTRA

UA meets Utah State, 5:20 p.m. on Channel 13, in first round from Boise
 ◀ Fiery coach Bob Knight and Texas Tech face UCLA tonight in Tucson

Six pages of coverage in Sports

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Arizona Daily Star

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Youthful obesity viewed as deadly

Trend toward longer U.S. lives may be reversed

By Lindsey Tanner

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — U.S. life expectancy will fall dramatically in coming years because of obesity, a startling shift in a long-running trend toward longer lives, researchers contend in a report published today.

By their calculations — disputed by skeptics as shaky and overly dire — within 50 years obesity likely will shorten the average life span of 77.6 years

by at least two to five years. That's more than the impact of cancer or heart disease, said lead author S. Jay Olshansky, a longevity researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago. This would reverse the most steadily increase in American life expectancy that has occurred in the past two centuries and would have tremendous social and economic consequences that could even overwhelm the "save" Social Security, Olshansky and colleagues contend.

"We think today's younger generation will have shorter and less healthy lives than their parents for the first time in modern history unless we

SEE OBESITY A15

Gains in longevity expected to level off

A study indicates that the long-running rise in life expectancy is likely to fall off. Researchers suggest that the increase in childhood obesity will have an adverse effect on average life expectancy in the United States.



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

3 Arizona plans to offer contentious drug benefit

By Jane Erikson

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

At least three major health plans expect to offer Medicare's new prescription drug benefit in Arizona next year, but critics are questioning the program's promise of making medications more affordable for the 42 million Americans on Medicare.

Health Net, PacificCare and UnitedHealthcare will submit formal proposals to Medicare by next Wednesday's deadline to become "Part D" providers in Arizona when the benefit begins Jan. 1.

It will be the first time in the 40-year history of Medicare that prescription drug coverage will be offered to all its senior and disabled enrollees.

"This is an opportunity to meet an unmet need," said Tom Paul, chief pharmacy officer of UnitedHealth Group, UnitedHealthcare's parent

Timetable for 'Part D'

- For the rest of this year, Medicare approved drug discount cards will be in effect.
 - Oct. 15: Beneficiaries will learn which Part D prescription drug plans will be available in their area.
 - Nov. 15: Beginning of enrollment for Part D coverage.
 - Jan. 1: Part D coverage begins.
- For more information, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-368-5643.

SEE MEDICARE A15

Boy, 5, alerts family to fire



David "D.J." Stromak, in the bed of the family pickup, contemplates his family's losses. Two firefighters were injured battling the blaze.

Mobile home, house next door rapidly engulfed in likely arson

By Becky Pallack

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

When he opened his eyes, 5-year-old David "D.J." Stromak looked out the window and

Arizonia Rankin was watching biscuits in the oven and didn't realize a masonry house

fire. We had to get out," he said Wednesday morning. "And I told Grandma the house was on fire."

next door to their mobile home was burning. Rankin called 911 just after 9 a.m. and she and her grandson woke up others inside the house.

"He saved us," said Rankin about D.J.

In two more minutes, heavy wind blew the fire onto the roof of the family's mobile home and flames engulfed the house, near West Valencia Road and South Camino Verde.

SEE FIRE A15

Fast takes command at intelligence center

By Tom Baal

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

PORT HUACHUCA — Maj. Gen. Barbara G. Fast, one of the top intelligence officers in Iraq during the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, took command of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center here Wednesday and said she had been "appalled" by photographs of soldiers humiliating prisoners.

"When you look at those pictures you are appalled that there was conduct of this type. It is not within the standards and what we teach our soldiers to do," she said in a press conference after her installation as

head of the school that trains the Army in intelligence and interrogation techniques.

"I think we all feel that there was certainly behavior and certainly activity that did not reflect well on any of us," she said.

She said the photographs made her and others feel that "this isn't the America we know. So, of course, you have to look at those pictures and feel revulsion and feel Gosh, what could I have done? Could I have done something to prevent this?"

Fast was named deputy commander of the center.

SEE FAST A15



Maj. Gen. Barbara G. Fast reviews her new command at Fort Huachuca. She said she was "appalled" by the photos of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

IN TODAY'S STAR

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Weather

TODAY'S FORECAST
 Partly cloudy
 High 72 / Low 45
 Wednesday: High 69 / Low 40
 For complete weather observations, see the back page of Sports.

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WILDFLOWER GUIDE

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