

Tri-City Herald

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VOICE OF THE MID-COLUMBIA

50 cents

LIFE, D4-5

Government shakes up food pyramid.



SPORTS, C1

Mariners bedevil Angels with 5-3 victory.



LIFE, D1

It's spring barrel tasting time at Mid-Columbia wineries this weekend.

Fat not so bad, study finds

CDC reports it has overstated dangers of being overweight

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Being overweight is nowhere near as big a killer as the government thought, ranking No. 7 instead of No. 2 among the nation's leading preventable causes of death, according to a startling new calculation from the CDC.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated Tuesday that packing on too many pounds accounts for 25,814 deaths a year in the United States. As recently as January, the CDC came up with an estimate 14 times higher: 365,000 deaths.

The new analysis found that obesity — being extremely overweight — is indisputably lethal. But like several recent smaller studies, it found that people who are modestly overweight actually have a lower risk of death than those of normal weight.

The study — an analysis of mortality rates and body-mass index, or BMI — was published in today's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Last year, a CDC study listed the leading causes of preventable death in order as tobacco; poor diet and inactivity, leading to excess weight; alcohol; germs; toxins and pollutants; car crashes; guns; risky sexual behavior; and illicit drugs.

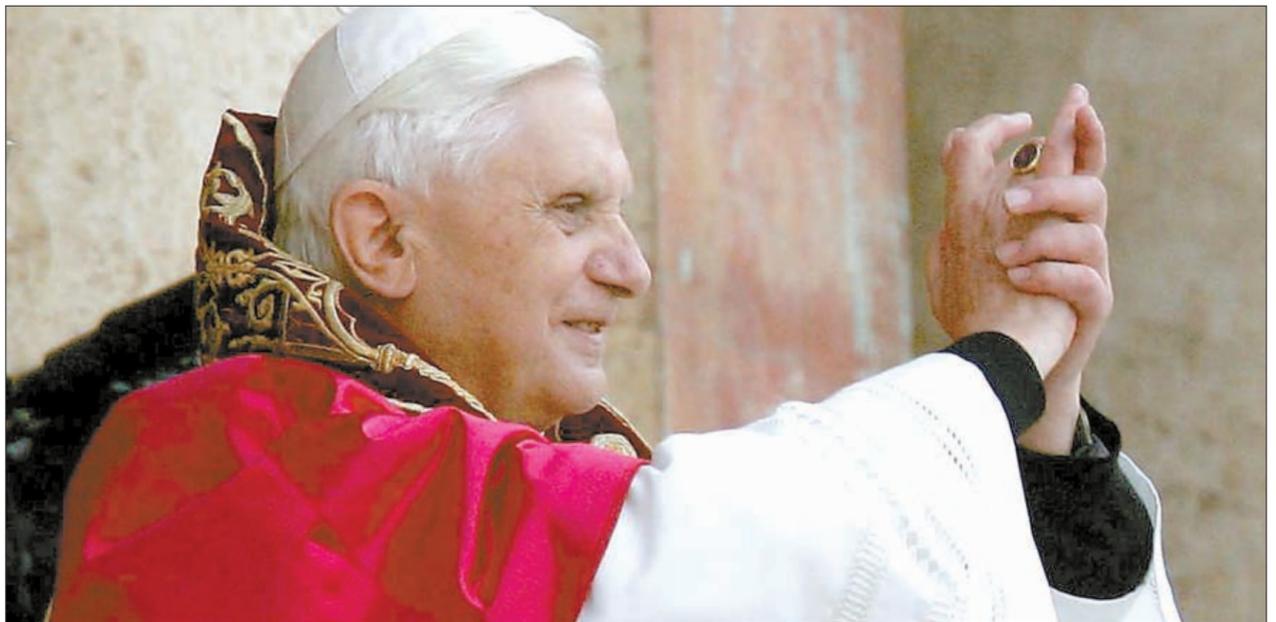
Using the new estimate, excess weight would drop behind car crashes and guns to seventh place — a ranking the CDC is unwilling to make official, underscoring the controversy inside the agency over how to calculate the health effects of obesity.

On the Net: JAMA, www.ama-assn.org

MORE ■ CONCERNS: GAY CATHOLICS DISAPPOINTED. ON A3: ■ CHANGES: VATICAN SQUARE ABUZZ.

■ HISTORY: POPE COMES FROM TRYING TIMES. ■ THIRD WORLD: SOME LET DOWN BY ELECTION.

BENEDICT XVI



After taking the name Pope Benedict XVI, German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger greets the crowd Tuesday in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. Ratzinger was elected by 115 cardinals, representing 52 countries, as the 265th pontiff for the Roman Catholic church.

German cardinal named new pope

Conservative Ratzinger elected after just 2 days

By The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — With unusual speed and little surprise, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany became Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday, a 78-year-old transitional leader who promises to enforce strictly conservative policies for the world's Roman Catholics.

Appearing on St. Peter's Basilica balcony as dusk fell, a red cape over his new white robes, the white-haired Ratzinger called himself "a simple, humble worker."

See **Pope**, Page A2



A pilgrim holds a cross Tuesday to celebrate the pope's election at St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

Tri-City faithful welcome leader

By Andrew Sirocchi
Herald staff writer

Black drapes over the doors of area Catholic churches mourning Pope John Paul II were on their way down Tuesday, as congregations prepared to hoist the gold and white, a worldwide sign used to announce a new pontiff.

Tradition warrants the election of Pope Benedict XVI to be celebrated in colors, but the real celebration was among Catholics in playgrounds, schools and churches where they discussed the significance of the change, debated religious ideals and wondered about the future.

See **Faithful**, Page A2

Standing at one of the proposed improvement sites, longtime fish biologist Paul La Riviere, left, and Mark Dalton, golf course superintendent at Meadow Springs Country Club, discuss the changes in restoring an open stream bed on the West Fork of Amon Creek near a lake on the private golf course in Richland.



Herald/Bob Brawdy

KID members say Amon Creek shouldn't be improved for fish

Proponents say project will help boost 'urban wilderness' in area

By Anna King
Herald staff writer

Kennewick Irrigation District officials say they aren't too excited about a proposal to improve part of Amon Creek for fish.

Proponents, who want to install fish ladders and restore vegetation in the creek's west fork, think

otherwise. About 30 showed up at a Tuesday meeting at KID offices in Kennewick to make their bid.

Scott Woodward, president of the Taptal Greenway, a Tri-City conservation group, said the project is an exciting first step in an area that supporters dub an "urban wilderness." He and others envision land acquisitions, walking trails, interpretive signs and educational programs on the waterway.

See **Fish**, Page A2

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IN THE NEWS

Drought: Western water woes likely to just get worse, officials say. **A4**

Memorial: Oklahoma City remembers victims of bombing on 10-year anniversary. **A6**

Fire: Paris hotel blaze that killed 24 may have been started during woman's rage at boyfriend's drunkenness. **A7**

HEADLINERS

Legally peeved: Reese Witherspoon is the latest celeb who has had it up to here with the stalkerazzi — and this time, she's going legal. The *Legally Blonde* star has filed a false-imprisonment complaint with the LAPD after paparazzi surrounded her vehicle outside her gym in Hollywood, blocking her in. She eventually managed to pull away, only to be pursued by at least five shutterbug vehicles "driving aggressively and almost cutting her off at times," an LAPD rep said.

More Names & Faces, A2

CONTACT US

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