



Goat gardeners | "If it's growing or once grew, they'll eat it" > 1F

# THE DENVER POST

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## Dad who raped two kids gets 200 years

*Sentence ensures parole not possible*

By Howard Pankratz  
Denver Post Staff Writer

A man who raped his daughter and stepson for years with the assistance of his wife received a sentence of 200 years to life on Monday.

Denver District Judge Christina Habas told the man he had forever forfeited his right to be free.

"I don't have the words for what I feel," she told the thin, black-haired man as he stood before her, shaking. "In the court's view ... you should forfeit your ability to live freely among the people in this community."

Habas had watched portions of the trial of the man's 40-year-old wife in another courtroom. The spouse was convicted on Aug. 16 of 24 counts, including sexual assault on a child and aggravated incest.

Although the woman never engaged in sex with the children, she dressed the boy in schoolgirl clothing and put make-up on him.

She routinely went to his bed and the little girl's bed and brought them to the couple's bedroom to be raped by her husband.

> See **ABUSE** on 13A

## AF issues religious guidelines

*Service members' beliefs will be respected and no single religion will be endorsed, the rules say.*

By Erin Emery  
Denver Post Staff Writer

The Air Force issued interim religious guidelines Monday, stressing that commanders and airmen will respect each other's religious or nonreligious beliefs and that the Air Force will not endorse one religion over another.

The Air Force developed the service-wide guidelines at the request of a task force that visited the Air Force Academy in May amid claims that evangelical Christians are favored over non-Christians. In a June report, the task force said it found perceptions of religious intolerance but no overt religious discrimination.

The task force examined about 50 events, including an advertisement, signed by key academy leaders, with the message: "We believe that Jesus Christ is

> See **AIR FORCE** on 15A

**Charles C. Gates Jr.**  
1921-2005



The billionaire businessman left his mark on Denver, expanding and diversifying his father's successful Gates Rubber Co. > **Story, 1C**



HURRICANE KATRINA

# Deadly destruction

*Dozens killed as Category 4 storm pounds Gulf Coast*



Eric Gray | The Associated Press

Bryan Vernon and Dorothy Bell are rescued from their rooftop in a New Orleans neighborhood flooded Monday by the massive Hurricane Katrina.



## Economic impact

Fuel prices soared, and already-tight supplies of gasoline led analysts to predict almost unheard-of one-day retail price increases, with the possibility of gasoline shortages. Colorado consumers may see a 20-cent increase. The price of a barrel of crude oil jumped above \$70 for the first time in midday trading before closing Monday at a near-record \$67.20. > **Story, 1C**

## Damage could surpass \$9 billion

*New Orleans dodges the worst of Katrina while Gulfport, Miss., is hit "like a ton of bricks." Persistent flooding and winds are hampering search-and-rescue efforts.*

By Joseph B. Treaster and Kate Zernike  
The New York Times

**New Orleans** — Hurricane Katrina pounded the Gulf Coast with devastating force at daybreak Monday, sparing New Orleans the catastrophic hit that had been feared but inundating parts of the city and heaping damage on neighboring Mississippi, where it killed dozens, ripped away roofs and left coastal roadways impassable. Packing 145-mph sustained winds as it made landfall, Katrina left more than a million people in three states without power and submerged highways even hundreds of miles from the center of the storm.

Officials reported at least 55 deaths, with 50 alone in Harrison County, Miss., which includes Gulfport and Biloxi. Emergency workers feared they would find more

dead among people trapped in their homes and in collapsed buildings.

Jim Pollard, a spokesman for the Harrison County emergency operations center, said a number of people were found dead in an apartment complex in Biloxi. Seven others were found in the Industrial Seaway.

While Katrina proved to be less fearsome than had been predicted, it was still potent enough to rank as one of the most punishing hurricanes ever to hit the United States. Insurance experts said that damage could exceed \$9 billion, which would make it one of the costliest storms on record.

In New Orleans, most of the levees held, but one was damaged, and floodwaters rose to rooftops in one neighborhood. Katrina's howling winds stripped 15-foot sections off the roof of the Superdome, where as many as 10,000 evacuees were sheltered.

Reports of some of the worst damage came from east of the historic city of New Orleans, with an estimated 40,000 homes reported flooded in St. Bernard Parish.

> See **KATRINA** on 10A

## A state-by-state look at Hurricane Katrina

### Louisiana

- Tens of thousands of homes were flooded.
- A water main broke in New Orleans, making it unsafe to drink the city's water without first boiling it.
- About 370,000 customers in southeastern Louisiana had no electrical power.

### Mississippi

- Winds hit 135 mph as the storm pounded the Mississippi coast.
- Officials reported at least 50 deaths in Harrison County.
- Several of Mississippi's beachfront casinos were flooded, but the scope of the damage was not immediately known.

### Alabama

- The storm hammered Alabama's coast with huge waves and wind. Water swirled in the streets of Gulf Shores.
- Two people died in an auto accident attributed to heavy rains from the storm.
- At least 265,000 homes and businesses were without electrical power.

### Florida

- Katrina hit the southern tip of the state Thursday, killing 11 people.
- When the storm made landfall Monday in Louisiana, its fringes flooded streets in the Florida Panhandle.
- At least 82,000 customers were without electrical power.

*"I'm sure there are many more victims. He's a very smooth talker. It's an art, and he has ... mastered it."*

Aurora police Detective Regina Britton, on Daniel Lowther, a home-improvement contractor who faces charges of theft and fraud

## More alleged victims building cases against home upgrader

By Alicia Caldwell  
Denver Post Staff Writer

Fred Kaysbier thought he was offering financial help to a troubled young man with a family. He thought he had a friend.

So, it was more than his body that hurt when Daniel Lowther, an Aurora home-improvement contractor now facing theft and fraud charges, allegedly punched Kaysbier and tried to run him over one snowy day last year.

"I don't think as fast as I used to,"

said Kaysbier, 78, of Aurora, who estimates he lost more than \$180,000 to Lowther.

Kaysbier is among a growing number of people — many of them retirees — who have accused the 36-year-old man of taking their money.

Lowther, who has a lengthy criminal history, was arrested by U.S. marshals this month on the second hole of a golf course. Records show he faces 10 new charges that include theft, harassment

> See **LOWTHER** on 15A



Diana White, standing outside her Aurora home, says she chose home-improvement contractor Daniel Lowther because he seemed like a nice local guy. She says she doubts she will ever see the 2003 judgment against him for \$3,320.

Glenn Asakawa | The Denver Post