

WEATHER

 Mostly cloudy
 30% rain chance
 High: 80s, Low: 60s
 Details, map/2A

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WACO TRIBUNE-HERALD

A Cox Newspaper

Waco High's Mitchell proves doubters wrong
SPORTS, 1D



Festival is global in scope
WEEKENDER, 1B



Residents to celebrate Cinco de Mayo
WEEKENDER, 1B

Service policy outlined

Students could get benefit plan, \$13,000 tuition

By **RON FOURNIER**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Students who perform community service could work off \$13,000 in college tuition, get a modest stipend and qualify for health care and day care benefits under President Clinton's national service program.

According to a White House outline of the program obtained by The Associated Press, the plan to be unveiled today also includes a more controversial component to make higher education affordable: a \$25 billion federal government takeover of the college loan program.

Clinton said during the campaign he would like to have the IRS collect loan money from students, but Deputy Education Secretary Madeleine Kunin said Thursday that the Department of Education will hire private contractors to collect debts for now.

Neither the community service program nor the loan overhaul would be fully in place before 1997, but Clinton promised last month that the program eventually will "change America forever and for the better."

Clinton sketched the broad outlines of this program March 1; he scheduled a speech Friday to students at the University of New Orleans to promote it now that draft legislation is ready to send to Congress.

Some 150,000 students would join the National Service Corps by 1997, when the program is fully phased in. Students could work full-time for up to two years, earning \$6,500 a year in tuition credits. Payments would be made directly to schools.

The \$13,000 is substantially less than the average cost of tuition but equals the average debt among graduates.

See **SERVICE**, Section Back

BOUND BY BLOOD, BELIEFS



Mary Jones discusses her life with the Branch Davidians. Her husband, three of her children and at least four grandchildren died at Mount Carmel.

Siege costs family 3 generations

By **STEPHANIE L. JACKSON**
Cox News Service

Twenty years ago, the Jones family didn't keep even one gun.

And if you had told Mary and Perry Jones that they would one day marry off a daughter at 14 and then allow her husband to impregnate his pubescent sister-in-law, they'd have probably thought you were crazy.

But that was before Vernon Howell.

Make no mistake. The Joneses had always been different, thanks to decades spent within the Branch Davidian cult, their unusual religious beliefs and an insular existence. Yet they were considered nice people, people you'd say hello to at the store, people who shared the basic morals held by most members of traditional society.

But something shifted when

Bunker last refuge for most in cult

Last remnant of compound has yielded more than half of bodies found

By **DREW PARMA**
Tribune-Herald staff writer

The small cement bunker which now is the last standing remnant of the sprawling Mount Carmel compound more and more appears to be where Vernon Howell's Branch Davidians made their horrific last stand.

The bunker, which a health inspector said measures about 20 feet by 20 feet, has yielded 32 terribly burned bodies along with hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition. Another nine were found on top.

More than half the bodies found in the ruins after the April 19 blaze that roared through the complex were found on top of or inside that small concrete building.

"The number of the bodies removed from the bunker could change somewhat because of the severe co-mingling of those bodies," Justice of the Peace David Parey told reporters at an afternoon press briefing. "The bodies were so meshed together that we were unable to separate them at the scene. So we felt as though the best route to go was to go ahead and ship those to the medical examiner's office, to allow profes-



ATF Director Stephen E. Higgins takes responsibility for the Feb. 28 raid in which four agents died.

ATF head may resign after probe

By **PIERRE THOMAS** and **MICHAEL ISIKOFF**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Director Stephen E. Higgins said Thursday he accepts full responsibility for his agency's aborted Feb. 28 raid on the Branch Davidian cult near Waco and will consider resigning after completion of an internal Treasury Department investigation.

After weeks of criticism over a series of confusing and apparently conflicting statements by ATF officials about the Waco matter, Higgins also acknowledged that an ATF public-affairs officer had

See **BODIES**, Section Back Please see **HIGGINS**, Page 7A

Health experts deal with spoiled cult food

By **TOMMY WITHERSPOON**
Tribune-Herald staff writer

It was a dirty job and somebody had to do it.

Jim Myers and Doryce Payne just weren't too sure — at least initially — if they wanted to be the ones to do it.

Called upon by government agents to advise them this week of the best way to dispose of tons of spoiled and rotting foodstuffs at the Branch Davidian compound, the Waco-

McLennan County Public Health District officials say now it was all in a day's work.

"It was just part of the job. Just another story to tell our grandkids," said Payne, a 13-year health district employee.

The primary irritants for federal agents combing over the rubble of the Mount Carmel site were the odors from the mountains of food and the

See **HEALTH**, Page 5A

Won't you step into my palace?

Strapped for cash, Elizabeth invites in tourists and their wallets

By **WILLIAM E. SCHMIDT**
The New York Times

LONDON — Pressed for cash to help repair fire damage at her out-of-town residence at Windsor Castle, Queen Elizabeth II said on Thursday that she was throwing open the doors of Buckingham Palace in London and charging tourists the equivalent of about \$12.50 apiece to tour her state apartments and picture gallery.

Beginning this summer, and continuing for at least five years, royal advisers say, the palace will open its

side London.

At the same time, the palace and the government announced that an entrance charge of about \$4.70 would be levied on visitors entering the grounds of Windsor Castle, where tours were resumed this year after the fire last fall.

The palace said the announcements underscored the queen's determination to relieve British taxpayers of the burden of paying for the repairs at the castle, which was badly damaged. The castle is owned by the government, but is maintained for the exclusive use of the royal family.

The queen's decision, disclosed at a rare royal press briefing this afternoon, also underscores a growing

her family and various royal properties and privileges.

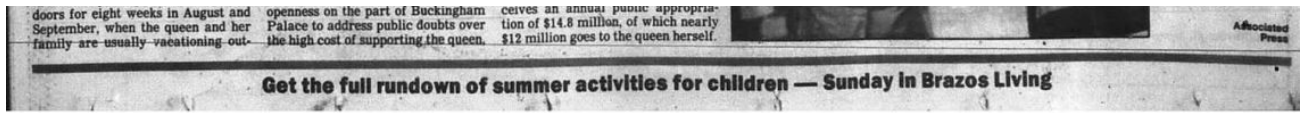
Details of the Buckingham Palace tours have not yet been worked out, but advisers said they would include the queen's state apartments and several rooms designed by the 19th-century architect John Nash for King George IV, including the Grand Staircase and the Throne Room, and decorated with art and other items from the Royal Collection.

Last November, Queen Elizabeth broke with royal and legal tradition by declaring she would voluntarily pay tax on her private income and absorb a larger share of her family's expenses.

At present, the royal family re-



Queen Elizabeth, seen inspecting the ruins left by a fire at Windsor Castle last year, has taken some heat for the cost of restoring the weekend residence. So on Thursday, she announced a plan to help cover the costs, inviting tourists to come around for a look — for a price.



horrific last stand.

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Tribune-Herald reporter Douglas Doe contributed to this report.