

# National

## Civilians sought for draft boards

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan is committed to a voluntary military, but the Selective Service said Monday it is launching a nationwide search for civilians to serve on draft boards — in case such boards ever have to be set up again.

"We will be looking for about 10,000 board members for the country as a whole," said F. Brayton Harris, Selective Service assistant director.

The governor of each state is responsible for nominating board members, who are appointed by the president.

Harris said the program "is to help the governor in each state to get a sufficient pool of volunteer candidates so he can make

selections to help ensure the boards are representative of the community they serve in terms of racial and national origin.

"It is important to select and train the board members now in the relative calm of peace so that in the event of an emergency we will have citizens who are fully knowledgeable in law and policy and can carry out the very important duties of ruling on claims for an exemption from the draft," he said.

Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 60 and not presently in the armed forces, including reserve and retired status, although veterans are eligible, Harris said. Candidates must not have served previously on a board for more than 15 years.

## Reagan confident tax cuts will be approved

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — At the White House, push at last came to shove Monday on the question of a tax cut.

President Reagan called leading Democrats from the Senate and House to the Oval Office to tell them firmly he will press for his multi-year tax cut plan with or without them. Reagan planned to tell the group that Southern Democrats, his allies in the budget battle, also will join him in the tax fight and he is confident of winning it.

Apart from Reagan, the leading characters in today's drama were House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, Democratic leader Jim Wright of Texas and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill. From the Senate came Democratic leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Russell Long of Louisiana, the ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee.

Wright said in a CBS interview Monday Democrats were prepared to offer Reagan some new suggestions aimed at reconciling "his desire for relatively more relief for the moderate average income American who pays most of the taxes and for the working poor."

"We go forth with hope," Wright said. "I don't know whether the bands of reason will be sufficient to span a rather wide bill that separates us philosophically. But let's try. It's worth it."

"I don't anticipate at all that the president would have an ultimatum," he said. "I think, rather, that he calls us there to discuss it with us."

One alternative belongs to the Republican chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Robert Dole of Kansas. His plan calls for a 25 percent cut over 33 months, and it is no secret the White House finds the proposal appealing.

The Democratic leaders, however, see the multi-year cut as inflationary and its across-the-board application too heavily weighted in favor of the affluent. They favor a one-year cut, with special benefits to the poor- and middle-income Americans.

## 12 live without water for months

United Press International  
HONOLULU — Twelve survivors of a disabled 20-foot cabin cruiser that drifted two months in the Pacific subsisted on rainwater and raw fish, including a shark, but nine died from dehydration and were dropped overboard one by one.

The 1,300-mile ordeal, which began as a two-hour cruise, came to an end Friday when a red flag hoisted above the stricken vessel was spotted 700 miles southeast of Guam by a helicopter that travels with the San Diego-based tuna clipper, the Tifaimoana, the Coast Guard said Sunday.

The crew of the Tifaimoana removed the 12 survivors — five men, six women and a 3-year-old boy.

"They were too weak to make the transfers without assistance," said the tuna boat captain Joseph Ramalho of San Diego.

The survivors, residents of the sparsely populated island nation of Kiribati, formerly the Gilbert Islands, were taken to Truk Island, near Guam, and doctors on the island reported late Sunday the survivors were back on regular diets and were recovering well from dehydration and exposure.

The ordeal began March 26, when the islanders set out to make a 60-mile routine crossing from Abaiang to the Kiribati capital of Tarawa, site of the World War II Marine battle.

However, the boat's motor quit and when it couldn't be started, the currents took the hapless cruiser farther and farther west.

## Widow's activity in KKK stuns neighbors

United Press International  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Her neighbors knew Gladys Girgenti as a graying 50-year-old widow who kept to herself. They were stunned to find she was the alleged leader of a Ku Klux Klan faction charged with scheming to bomb a Jewish temple.

The slightly plump Girgenti and her 19-year-old son would sit at times on the front porch of their wood-frame home in the late afternoon, but mostly they came and went without chatting to others.

Herman Culbreath, who works at a nearby boat repair shop, said

the neighborhood of working class people is "fairly quiet." The most excitement is usually caused by children on their way home from school.

But last week, Mrs. Girgenti was arrested with five other people in an alleged scheme to blow up a synagogue, a television tower and Jewish-owned pawn shops. For her surprised neighbors, it was a stunning blow.

Authorities say the suspects are members of a militant splinter group of the Klan known as the Confederate Vigilantes of the KKK.

"I think a lot of people were just shocked," said the assistant manager of the National Stor-All Mini Warehouse across the street from Girgenti's home. "I think they probably tried to keep as quiet around here as possible to avoid raising suspicion."

Federal agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms who searched Girgenti's house found a .38 caliber automatic pistol, a 30-06 rifle, a pump-action shotgun and anti-Semitic hate literature that included a poster offering a \$48,000 reward for Israeli Prime Minister Menachem

Begin.

Elizabeth Scoggins, her next-door neighbor, said Girgenti never had many visitors that she noticed, but she did remember one occasion.

"One night about two weeks ago, I got up to get a drink and I saw a woman in a white robe with a red thing over her head on the side of the house," Scoggins said. "I think they were having a cookout."

Robert Chester, imperial wizard of the Confederate Vigilantes of the KKK, said he was as surprised at Girgenti's arrest as her neighbors. He said he knew

nothing of any plans to bomb anything.

"I don't think the charges are true," he said.

In addition to the group's alleged bombing plans in Nashville, federal agents say the group may have been involved in the Nov. 9, 1979 KKK-Communist Worker's Party shoot-out that left five people dead. Agents say the group may have ties with the American Neo-Nazi Party.

"One day about a week ago he (Girgenti's son) came up here mouthing off about community security or something, but I mostly ignored him," said Culbreath.

## Sinkhole draws curious tourists

United Press International  
WINTER PARK, Fla. — The sunbaked tourists, their children in tow, press against a chain-link fence to take snapshots of Florida's newest and most natural attraction — the Winter Park sinkhole.

"It is an ugly site, this 400-foot-wide crater partially filled with muddy water and the concrete, asphalt and wood debris from the buildings, streets and swimming pool it swallowed three weeks ago. It is also irresistible."

"We couldn't go home without seeing it," said Rita Lamb of Drexel Hill, Pa., accompanied by her 12-year-old son Steven who thought the sinkhole was "pretty neat."

behind the fence, but so far 15 people have been arrested for breaking through, including one 21-year-old man who jumped in the sinkhole "to see what it was like."

"They come from all over — Nevada, Utah, New York. It's died down some, but they come in a steady stream day and night," Guastella said. "You should see it at 2 a.m. when all the bars close."

Laughable to most, the sinkhole is no joke to the people who lost property and customers when the crater opened. Some tried to join the fun by holding "sinkhole sales" but the bottom line is still showing losses. The total damage has been set at \$2 million.

"We were closed for two weeks, but the bills didn't stop coming then," said Chavez, whose store is precisely 11 feet from the edge of the pit.

Altogether, six businesses were evacuated because of the sinkhole. The worst losses were suffered by the German Car Service owned by Karl Schoepflin. Besides the back of his garage, five Porsche sports cars and a Datsun camper tumbled into the pit.

Three of the cars and the camper were recovered. The other two cars are gone forever — lost in 75-foot-deep muddy water, 50 feet below ground level.

Now that the worst is over, Florida's lawmakers are considering helping the city of Winter Park. There's talk of a \$400,000 appropriation to repair the swimming pool ruined in the cave-in, and there is proposed legislation to extend sinkhole insurance coverage to property and businesses.



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The sinkhole was caused by erosion in the limestone aquifer that lies below most of Florida. Water levels in the aquifer are at an all-time low because of drought conditions and scientists say the resulting lack of supportive pressure contributed to the cave-in.

"I think this is Florida's Mount St. Helens," said another tourist, Dottie Greco of San Diego, while posing for a picture next to the "Sinkhole Monster" created by costume store owner Dennis Phillips.

Phillips, whose shop is across the street from the sinkhole, is doing a brisk business in "Winter Park Sinkhole, 1981" T-shirts. Residents and tourists buy them at \$5 apiece. Most, like Robert Hobbs of Warsaw, Ind., outfit the whole family.

"We were in south Florida and we decided we had to see this before we went home. I've never seen anything like it," said Hobbs, who bought six shirts.

Officer Joe Guastella watches over the procession of onlookers from a roadside stand complete with a lifeguard's umbrella to shield him from the sun. Five policemen and two firefighters guard the scene 24 hours a day.

He says most of the visitors stay

Roger Holler, a Chevrolet dealer, estimates he lost \$300,000 in sales because of the sinkhole near his lot, and Gary Chavez of Imperial Laundry and Dry Cleaners says it will take a year to make up lost business.

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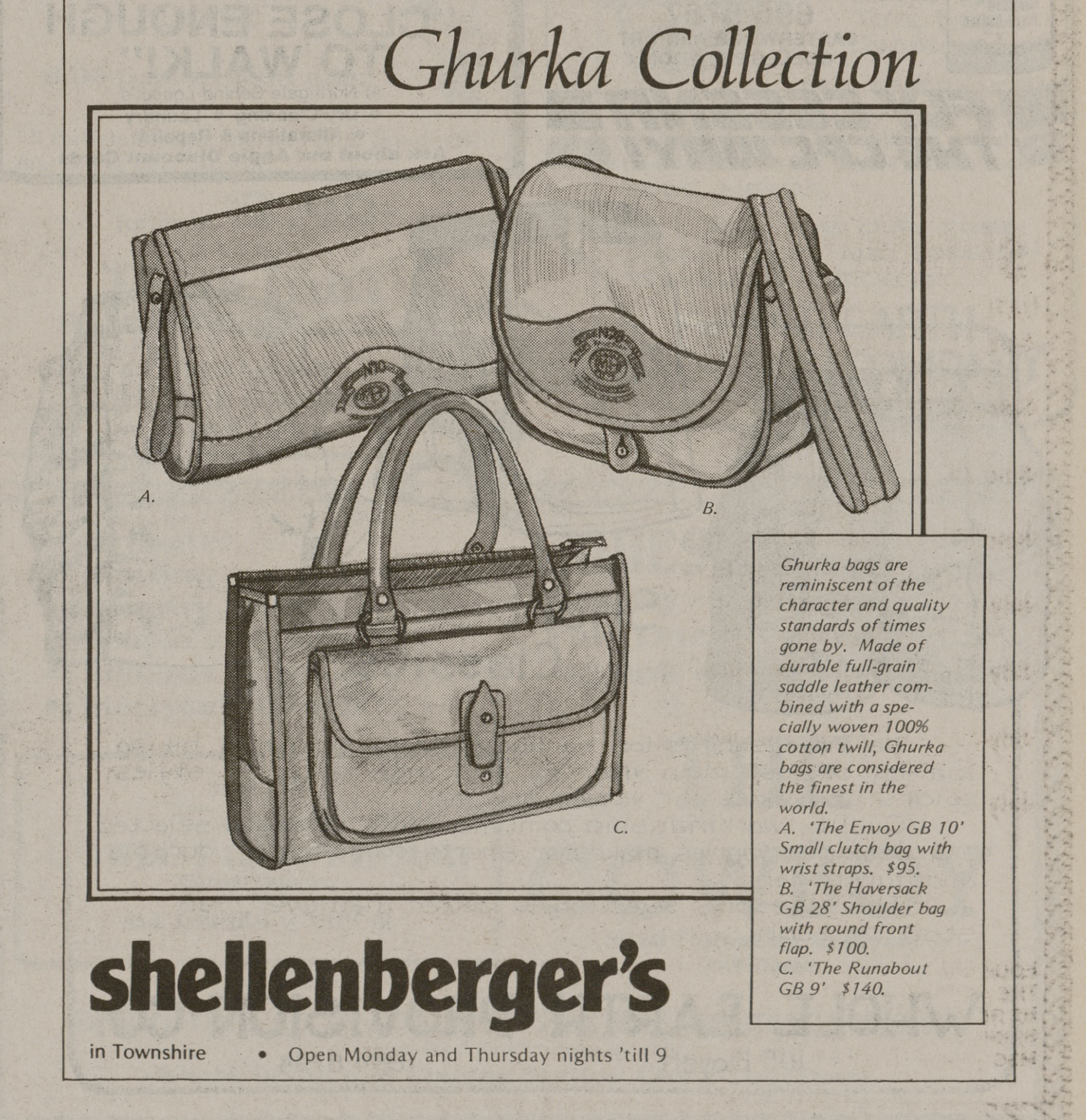
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