



Planes get dirty too

staff photo by David Fisher

Some of us spend our sunny afternoons washing our cars — Gary Martin, left, and Leah Hardcastle have other work to do. The pair spent an

afternoon recently washing Martin's airplane at Easterwood Airport. Both live in College Station. Martin has been a pilot for about seven years.

Reagan rallies to support 'no red ink' amendment

WASHINGTON — President Reagan Monday urged adoption of a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget — "an idea whose time has come."

In a speech at a rally on the steps of the Capitol, Reagan said: "Crisis is a much-abused word. But can we deny that we are in a crisis, that no more than a thin wall of wavering willpower stands between us and ruin by red ink?"

The fighting speech apparently was designed to whip up the crowd of 300 members of Congress and invited guests to the rally, complete with band and patriotic trappings.

Reagan, who campaigned on promise to balance the federal budget, has seen the deficit rise in the current administration. Projections are for a deficit of \$103.9 billion — the largest in history.

Reagan's original budget proposal to Congress contained \$91.3 billion deficit, but the Congressional Budget Office said it was closer to \$112 billion. "I have said before, balancing the budget is a little like protecting your virtue: You just have to earn to say 'no,'" Reagan said.

"For too long, their voices have been ignored. But no army of earth can stop an idea whose time has come. Our time is now. We come not as some special interest group, pleading for personal gain."

"We do not say, 'Here is our problem, government is the solution.' We say, 'Government is the problem, and people have the solution.'"

Reagan has stated several times previously his strong support for the amendment that would require a balanced budget starting in 1987 and

thereafter. The amendment is being debated in the Senate.

He predicted ratification will produce an immediate impact: "From that moment on, the watchword to Washington will be: Start shaping up, or you may be shipping out."

Before motoring to the Capitol, Reagan met with the American Lobby, a newly organized private group to promote passage of the amendment. It is headed by Don Kendall, chairman of the board of PepsiCo Inc.

Reagan said the nation has had only one balanced budget in 22 years, and the national debt has doubled in the last decade. He said borrowing to finance the annual interest on the debt "crowds out investment and keeps interest rates too high."

Reagan said: "Let's quit kidding ourselves. Pretending government could spend like there is no tomorrow and not hurt anyone has ended up punishing everyone — and the needy most of all."

Reagan blames the budget problems on the spending policies of past administrations and maintains his slashed-back approach will eventually put the federal budget and the national economy back on track.

The Senate resumes consideration this week of the proposed balanced budget amendment, which was debated for two days last week.

An anti-amendment rally has been scheduled by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a group of senior citizens and some House Democrats. They are particularly concerned about the measure's potential impact on Social Security.

The Senate has pending a motion by Sens. Charles Mathias, R-Md., and Max

Baucus, D-Mont., to kill the proposed constitutional amendment in favor of balancing the budget through a simple federal law.

The chief sponsors of the proposed constitutional amendment, Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., warned that any amendment changing the language in the measure might cost it some votes in the Senate and kill whatever chances exist for the Democratic-dominated House passing it this year.

The amendments are being offered because of concern by some, including Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., that the constitutional amendment would give the president new impoundment powers to withhold federal funds or that its directive would not be enforceable.

Domenici is one of the 61 co-sponsors of the resolution.

A companion resolution that has been bottled up in the House Judiciary Committee is identical to the Senate version.

Sponsors hope to achieve congressional passage this year and then have the proposed amendment ratified by the necessary 38 states to become part of the Constitution by fiscal 1987.

Another co-sponsor of the measure, Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala., announced he would offer

an amendment allowing a waiver during a "military urgency."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., would allow a waiver when the unemployment hits a certain amount. He has eight such amendments, each with a different unemployment waiver trigger.

Another co-sponsor, Sen. Mack Mattingly, R-Ga., said he has an amendment that would mandate a reduction in federal spending as a percentage of gross national product by 1 percent a year until spending equals 20 percent of the GNP. Currently federal spending equals 24.5 percent.

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Search for flood victims abandoned in Colorado

ESTES PARK, Colo. — Rocky Mountain National Park officials have abandoned the search for three people missing in a high-country flash flood because it is believed their bodies are buried under tons of debris.

"There is no evidence of the people being near the surface at all," park spokesman Michael Smithson said Sunday. "The assumption now is that they are buried. We're just going to have to wait until some of those debris piles are cleaned up."

The flood cascaded out of Lawn Lake Dam at the 10,987-foot level of the park early Thursday and flowed into Fall River, which overflowed and inundated the tourist town of Estes Park. The torrent uprooted trees, tore away underbrush and dragged huge boulders along its path.

Saturday, a crew of six Park Service personnel vainly picked through flood debris for the three missing people.

A body tentatively identified as that of Steven See, 21, of Hilbert, Wis., was found in debris Friday but there has been no sign of the three declared missing: Bridget Dorris, 20, Arlington, Texas; Terry William Coates, 36, Peoria, Ill., and an unidentified man in his late 30s.

Smithson said the unidentified man is considered missing because several witnesses said they saw him being swept away.

Meanwhile, Estes Park merchants struggled to reopen their

shops at the height of the summer tourist season which is vital to the area's economic health.

Police Sgt. Walter Kappely said most stores in the central business district were reopened for the weekend, although one block on the town's main street remained closed amid the cleanup from mud and water that flowed up to five feet deep through town.

"It's been an amazing recovery," said Mayor Harry B. Tregent. "The people of this town are wonderful. They keep bouncing back no matter what."

But several businesses — mostly motels at the west end of town, where the flood hit first — were seriously damaged or destroyed.

Chris Farrel, owner of the Ponderosa Motel, spent a day

writing refund checks to people who had reserved space for the summer.

"We were going to be full this summer," she mused. "And now we don't even know if we can make the mortgage payments."

"We used to have 18 units (cottages); now we have two," she said. "People would come out here and say, 'Gee, I envy you.' Dreams go up in a second, but life goes on."

Smithson said the flood caused about \$2 million damage in the park.

Sue O'Brien, a news secretary for Gov. Richard Lamm, said assessments prepared for the governor would be in the neighborhood of \$10 million in damage to private property and \$6 million in damage to public property.

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