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### Child returned after ordeal with kidnapper

MESQUITE (AP) — A state case-worker's hunch and a missing-children flier led to a tearful reunion of a mother and her baby son who had been kidnapped from his home

when he was just 18 days old.

Alisha Wetselline-Rodriguez held
her son, Eric, for the first time in
more than 14 months Wednesday and was so excited she could barely

"I understand he has to get used to me," Wetselline-Rodriguez said as she cradled the boy dressed in red overalls and a striped shirt during a visit to the home of the boy's foster parents, John and Diane Noster, in Mesquite.

For months after Fric was kidnan-

For months after Eric was kidnapped from the rear of his home on Dec. 9, 1986, Wetselline-Rodriguez would call police and receive the

same message: Nothing yet.

The frantic mother resorted to a nationwide search using fliers and contacts with child-welfare agencies.

Her sister, Veronica Yanez, said she even prodded local radio stations to play the song "Somewhere, Out There," and dedicate it to the

missing boy.

A few months after his kidnapping, Edica Flores of Dallas took Eric to a local Catholic church and told a priest that a woman she met in a park nine days earlier had asked her to take care of the child for a week while the woman went to Houston to seek work.

The woman never returned, and Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Beverly Storey said efforts to find the woman have failed.

The church turned the child over to the state on May 4, 1987. On Christmas Eve, Texas Depart-

ment of Human Services worker, Mary Forrester, noticed a striking similarity between a picture of Eric on a missing-children flier and an abandoned child who had been

turned over to the agency.

Then the identification process

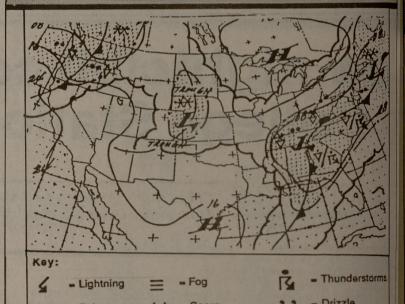
began.
"It was a one-in-a-million case,"
Forrester said. "I wasn't even supposed to get the case, but another worker was overloaded. And when I first saw the flier, I threw it away. Something made me go back and look at it.

Forrester said the boy would have been eligible for adoption in November, but she postponed that process because she had a feeling about the

Family Court Judge Härold Gaither Jr. on Wednesday returned the boy to Wetselline-Rodriguez's custody after reviewing evidence from blood tests and testimony by a Department of Human Services ca-

The Noster family, who has nurtured the boy for 10 months and has been there for his first steps and first birthday, will keep the boy for another week, giving him a chance to

### Weather Watch



Sunset Today: 6:25 p.m.

- Ice Pellets

Sunrise Friday: 6:46 a.m.

Map Discussion: Rain will extend from the lower and middle Mississippi Valley to Northern Florida, the Carolinas, and the Mid-Atlantic Coast with thunderstorms from Alabama to Virginia. Snow will extend from Eastern Kentucky and Southern Ohio to New Jersey to Maine. Snow showers will accompany the low pressure system over Nebraska. Rain and rain showers will extend along the frontal system in the Pacific Northwest with spow in the P in the Pacific Northwest with snow in the higher elevations. Fair to partly cloud skies will prevail over the remainder of the nation.

- Rain Shower

Today and Tonight: Mostly cloudy early with decreasing cloudiness through the day with a high of 67 degrees and northerly winds at 8 to 14 mph. Tonight will be fair and cool. Low of 67. Winds east at 5 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy and mild. High of 74. Winds southeast at 7 to 12 mph.

**Weather Fact**: Cap cloud — An approximately stationary cloud or standing cloud, on or hovering above mountain peaks. It is formed by the lifting, cooling and condensation of humid air forced up over the peak. Also known as "pileus."

Prepared by: Charlie Brenton Staff Meteorologist A&M Department of Meteorology

- Freezing Rain

## Salutes

#### Faculty/Staff

Dr. Larry E. Fink, an English teaching assistant, has been named to the Hardin-Simmons University English Department faculty for the coming school year. Dr. Roger Schultz, associate professor and director of theater, has been named University Theater Educator of the year by the Texas Education Theatre

#### Students

**Masaharu Iwasa**, a sophmore mechanical engineering major, was named MSC Aggie Cinema Member of the Month.

Salutes is a community service provided by The Battalion to list students, faculty and staff who have received honors and awards (such as scholarships, retirement, etc.). Space is limited and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee that your submission will run. Submissions may be refused if they contain incomplete or incorrect information. If you have any questions, please call The Battalion at 845-3315.

# Mayor asks departments to cut spending

HOUSTON (AP) — Mayor Kathy Whitmire has asked 16 city depart-Whitmire has asked 16 city department heads, including the police and fire chiefs, to report with plans to cut spending to help close an \$11 million revenue gap by June.

This year's revenue shortage is due to rapidly escalating employee health insurance costs and overestimation of court generated reverses.

mation of court-generated revenue.

"I'm asking them to develop some options," Whitmire said Wednesday. She said she has no idea what those

recommendations, due Monday, will

The administration was expected to move swiftly to deal with the revenue shortage in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Whitmire revealed Tuesday that the administration expects a \$42 million shortfall in 1989 just to maintain current service levels and restore to employees the 3 percent of their salaries that was cut in 1986.

Whitmire has instructed the po-

lice and fire departments to cut the

spending by \$1 million each in 1988 "We've been asked to look at what it would take to meet that target." Police Chief Lee P. Brown said. We have not been asked to lay off any one. We've been asked to respond

a target figure. But Brown repeated his warning from 1987's budget planning sesions, saying 91 percent of his department's budget covers personnel costs and he has little discretion in where to cut back.



Cones to sundaes. Shakes to ice cream cakes. Frozen yogurt to cookies. If it's good and gooey, we've got it. Quick.

