

Texas tans tougher now

DALLAS (AP)— Buying a suntan will soon become a little more difficult for Texans 18 and under.

Beginning Sept. 1, tanning salon customers aged 14 to 18 must have written permission from a parent or guardian. Those under 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The new law also prohibits salon operators from promoting tanning booths as risk-free. All customers must sign a statement showing they understand the risks of overexposure and agree to use protective eyewear.

The Texas Dermatological Society and the Texas Medical Society pressed for the law, signed June 15 by Gov. Bill Clements.

Overexposure to ultraviolet radiation emitted by tanning booths and the sun can lead to skin cancer, eye damage, weaken the immune system and cause premature aging of the skin.

Texas is the third state to regulate tanning salons, according to the American Academy of Dermatology. In 1985, Ohio became the first state, followed by California last September.

Tanning may be neat, but it increases cancer, other ills

CHICAGO (AP) — Getting a tan in order to improve your looks raises your risk of skin cancer, wrinkles, eye damage and changes in the skin's immune system, a new report says.

No health benefits are known from cosmetic tanning, except that "tanned skin may have positive psychological value by creating an enhanced image of personal worth," said the report by the American Medical Association.

The price can be high — premature wrinkles, dryness and leathery skin; a heightened risk of skin cancer; damage to the eyes, and genetic changes that may compromise the skin's ability to fight invaders, the report said.

"Despite the hazards, many people cannot be dissuaded from sunbathing or using artificial tanning devices," said the report.

written by the Chicago-based AMA's Council on Scientific Affairs and published in Friday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The council recommended these guidelines for people who insist on tanning:

- Minimize exposure to ultraviolet radiation, the component of sunlight that causes tanning and burning, by staying out of the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and wearing a hat and protective clothing.

- Beware of surfaces such as sand, snow, ice and concrete that reflect sunlight and can intensify the effects of the sun's rays by 10 percent to 50 percent.

- Use a sunscreen, with a sun protection factor of at least 15 for skin that burns easily or tans only gradually, or higher at greater ex-

posures or for other intensive exposures.

- Avoid tanning machines. Exposure to their radiation may increase the risk of skin cancer, even though most modern machines use the "safer" form of ultraviolet light, called UV-A, rather than the more dangerous form, UV-B.

People with extremely fair skin or severe reactions to sunlight should never use such booths, it said.

If tanning equipment is used, people who tan moderately well should limit their exposures to 30 to 50 half-hour sessions per year or less, use a properly calibrated device with a timer, keep a record of exposures, wear protective goggles and make sure an attendant is nearby in case of an emergency, the report said.

Baby rhino has zoo bosses very happy

FORT WORTH (AP) — Fort Worth Zoo officials still aren't sure what sex their new baby rhino is, but they know its significance.

The 100-pound black rhinoceros calf is the first born under a program designed to save the species from extinction through captive breeding, and biologists hope it will be the first of many born on U.S. zoos and ranches.

The baby is about the size of a large dog, and has a bump on its nose that will later grow into a large horn. It was closely tended by its mother, Ngwete, one of 10 black rhinos brought to the United States last month from Zimbabwe.

Ngwete's birth was immediately hailed as a milestone in the effort to try to preserve the species.

"It's wonderful," said Harry Tennison, who organized the shipment of black rhinos to breeding programs in the United States.

"I already have a name for it," Tennison said. "I'd like to call it 'Lucky' because of how lucky we are to have it."

Fort Worth Zoo director Elvie Turner Jr. said the baby is healthy, but that experts won't be able to determine its sex for some time.

Turner said he was considering naming the rhino Harry, after Tennison, if it turns out to be male.

"Maybe we'll call it Lucky Harry," he said.

'Soupers' home team really hasn't its own

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — A group of homeless men, led by a monk who runs a soup kitchen, has formed a softball team named "The Soupers" and is taking on all comers with a price: Losers must donate to the soup kitchen.

"A lot of people have asked where is our home field. As homeless people, I tell them it's appropriate we don't have one," said Brother Denys Cormier, a monk of the Emmaus Monastic Community who runs the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen and is the team's manager.

Denys hopes his team will help break stereotypes of the homeless as people either on drugs or alcohol, and help put faces on the working poor. He said there are about 6,000 homeless people in this city of 125,000.

Teams that play The Soupers will have to make a donation, of any amount they choose, if they lose. But Brother Denys is hopeful even victorious opponents will pitch in and help the homeless.

The challenge has gone out to established teams in New Haven's softball leagues, and at least two teams have expressed interest. But Brother Denys said his ballclub will play anybody.

"We'll go to Florida if they'll pay for our tickets," he said.

The Soupers plan to hold their first practice after attending a weekly church service for the homeless run by their manager, who will wear his traditional gray robes during games.

Twenty homeless men have

signed up for the team, ranging in age from their early 20s to mid-30s. Most live at the city's three homeless shelters, and a number have temporary jobs. Several members of the fledgling team were top athletes in high school.

Some have had run-ins with the law and are trying to get their lives back together. Gordon, 22, the team's captain, is one of them. After graduating from high school in Waterbury, where he played basketball and baseball, Gordon said he got into trouble because "I didn't use my mind."

Gordon, who declined to give his last name, has lived at a city shelter for four months, and has lived at other times with an aunt. He said playing softball should lift the spirits of the homeless men and show the community they are no different from anyone else.

"Some of these guys are really feeling bad because of the situation they are in. They have not chosen to be in this position. I think if you give them a little motivation, they will have a better attitude toward things," Gordon said.

A restaurant already has agreed to donate shirts to the team, and other contributions of equipment or money are being sought.

Denys allows himself a few chuckles at the thought of the jokes that may spring from his fielding a team of homeless men.

"When someone yells 'Bums' at the umpires," he said, "our whole team will stand up."

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