Analysts hope crime drop signals decreased violence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Violent tion brings crime down more." crimes reported to police dropped by a record 7 percent in 1996 as overall serious crime declined for a fifth consecutive year, the FBI reported Sunday.

Led by record declines of 11 percent in murders and 6 percent in aggravated assaults, preliminary FBI figures showed that violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault together had the largest one-year decline in the 35 years since the FBI began reporting year-to-year comparisons in 1961.

The far more numerous property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft and auto theft dropped by 3 percent. All together, the seven serious re-

ported crimes logged a 3 percent decline, the largest since 1982.

"The tide is turning, but there's a lot more to do," said James Alan Fox, dean of criminology at Northeastern University. "Increased crime rates can be contagious; so can decreasing crime rates.'

'There can be momentum. When we're hopeless, we retreat. But when crime comes down, people feel better and safer. They get together to take charge of neighborhoods.," Fox said. "That cohesion and coopera-

President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno credited their 1994 crime bill, which toughened sentences and has paid for 57,000 new local police officers in community-oriented programs; the Brady law, which has thwarted tens of thousands of illegal gun sales; and juvenile-crime-prevention programs.

'The continued downward trend over the past four years is further evidence that we are on the right track with increased community policing, tougher penalties and greater juvenile crime prevention," Clinton said.

They appealed for passage of Clinton proposals to add prosecutors and penalties for youth and gang violence, to prevent teenagers from purchasing handguns and to provide after-hours youth programs in schools. Clinton said a Housepassed bill designed to try more juveniles as adults falls short.

Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., chairman of House subcommittee that produced the bill, said, "Even with these declines, it is still four times more likely that you are going to be raped, robbed, assaulted or murdered than it was in 1960.

Clinton to face harassment trial

dent Clinton is ready to give Paula Jones her day in court and prove that her claims of sexual harassment are false, his lawyer said Sunday. Jones' attorneys said they now want money as well as an apology from the president.

Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, also indicated he could get rough, by making an issue of Jones' sexual past, if her side tries to make its case by contending that Clinton has a history of sexual affairs. "I'm prepared to play that one either way. and we are going to win at the end if we do," Bennett said.

As played out on the Sunday news programs, chances of an outof-court settlement appeared dim.

Bennett said Clinton would never admit to or apologize for an incident he insists never happened. Jones' lawyers, Gilbert Davis and Joseph Cammarata, said any deal must include Clinton's acknowledgment that Jones truthfully claimed that he propositioned her in an Arkansas hotel room in 1991 and his confirmation that she did nothing wrong.

They said they are now recommending that she also be com-

pensated by the president. Jones has said she won't profit from the case, but Cammarata said that "given the three years of hell that

she has been put through ..., she's entitled to some compensation."

The aggressive strategy outlined by Bennett was in response to the Supreme

Court's ruling last Tuesday that the Constitution does not shield a sitting president from lawsuits concerning acts unrelated to his official duties. Clinton was governor of Arkansas at the time of the alleged incident.

Clinton

Clinton's side had argued that the case be put aside because presidents should not be distracted by civil lawsuits while they are in office.

The high court did say that the presiding judge could delay proceedings to accommodate the president's schedule, and Bennett said he would take legal actions that could put off going to trial. But, speaking on NBC's

that "if Paula Jones insists on having her day in court and requires an apology, then, as far as 'm concerned, let's get on with it and let's get this over with."

Bennett said he spoke Saturday night with Clinton and was told to "tell the American people that this did not happen in any manner, shape or form as alleged in this malicious complaint.'

Asked why Clinton did not directly rebut the charges, he said: "I don't think it is appropriate for the president of the United States to get down in the gutter where Miss Jones wants to drag him.'

He said his three conditions for settlement are that the president not apologize for or admit to any action that did not take place and not agree to a financial resolution that leaves the implication that he did something wrong.

"I guess we are going to trial," Cammarata said on television when asked about those conditions.

Bennett did propose a possible compromise: He said he was willing to take Jones up on her promise to donate any profits

SPORTS. BRIEF

Jazz sing the blues after Bulls' win

CHICAGO (AP) - The old MVP wor the game after the new MVP choke at the free throw line.

Michael Jordan hit a 21-foo jumper at the buzzer after Karl Ma one missed two free throws with 9.2 seconds left, giving the defending champion Chicago Bulls an 8482 victory over the Utah Jazz in the opener of the NBA Finals on Sunday night.

The ending played right into all th pre-series hype over who was more deserving of the MVP award - Ma one, who won it, or Jordan, who fin-

And after one game, Jordan is still the man.

"It was nip and tuck down the stretch. I missed a free throw and Karl comes down and misses two Jordan said. "The MVPs didn't do much down the stretch. Fortunately was able to knock the shot in down the stretch."

Jordan, a four-time MVP finished with 31 points on 13-of-27 shooting with eight assists and four rebound Malone, who missed seven of his firs eight shots from the field, had 23 points and 15 rebounds.

Brits defeats Johnson,

TORONTO (AP) --- Okkert Brits' m

Ranked second in the world in the

lion-dollar jump came up just short.

pole vault, Brits disposed of American

Lawrence Johnson to capture the

Sunday with a leap of 19 feet, 4 1/4

inches before setting his sights on a

world record, which brought with it a

Africa failed in three attempts to

clear 20-2. Johnson, ranked fourt

in the world and holder of the

American record at 19-7 1/2,

One-to-One Challenge at SkyDome

on Sunday by proving that he still is

the fastest paralympian in the worl

Wash., hit his stride at the halfwa

mark of the 100-meter paralymp

showdown and blew past Australia

Neil Fuller at the 70-meter mark to

capture the event in 11.69.

Tony Volpentest kicked off the

The native of Mountlake Terrace

could clear only 18-10 1/4.

However, the native of South

\$1 million bonus.

event in the One-to-One Challenge of

falls short of record

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PUBLIC NOTICE. A public meeting will be held on Mon-PUBLIC NOTICE. A public meeting will be held on Monday, June 2, 1997, at 6:00p.m. at the Bryan/College Station Convention Visitors' Bureau at 715 University Dr. East, to present the Brazos County Area Regional Water Supply System findings to date. This public meeting is a Texas Water Development Beard planning grant requirement upon completing 50% of the project. The following information will be presented at the public meeting: population and water demand projections of the study area, potential surface and ground water sources, and outline the remaining tasks to complete the study. For more information, contact Charles A. Sippial at (409) 845-1232.

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WASHINGTON (AP) Supreme Court's annual springtime sprint toward its summer recess could yield an unusually large number of high-profile decisions this year, including one that could touch

every American family. 'The justices usually save the blockbusters for the end, but after two relatively quiet terms, the 1996-97 term is chock full of profoundly significant issues," said Suzanna Sherry, a

University of Minnesota law professor. Entering the last full month of the term, the court confronts constitutional quandaries of enormous complexity. Perhaps none will so affect American families as the coming ruling that will determine whether terminally ill people have a constitutional right to doctor-assisted suicide.

'It's simply an issue that affects everyone," said Boston University law professor Jack Beerman. "It's unusual to have so many potential landmarks sitting around waiting to get decided."

By late June or early July - perhaps as early as Monday - the court must decide whether states can make it a crime for doctors to give life-ending drugs to mentally

makers are sure to pat themselves on the back this week

Liberals say the costs of the agreement's tax cuts could

balloon in a decade, just as the massive baby boom gen-

eration begins drawing federal retirement benefits and

pushing deficits skyward again. Conservatives complain

that the plan would increase spending now with a

the country's biggest budget problem unresolved: The need to revamp Social Security, Medicare and

Medicaid so they can afford to support the 77 mil-

Even participants concede that the accord leaves

promise of future cuts that may never occur.

erase questions about the deal's long-term impact.

The justices usually save the blockbusters for the end, but after two relatively quiet terms, the 1996-1997 term is chock full of profoundly significant issues.."

Suzanna Sherry University of Minnesota law professor

competent but terminally ill patients who no longer want to live. The justices are studying laws

from New York and Washington state, but most states have similar laws. The court also is expected to pro-

Despite advances, budget questions linger

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton and law- lion baby boomers as they start to retire in 2008.

cipients could choose.

watched controversies: Does a federal law aimed at curbing smut on the Internet violate free-speech rights?

vide answers in these closely

-Is a key provision of the federal Brady gun-control law invalid because it requires local police to check backgrounds of prospective gun buyers but offers no money to cover the costs?

-Did Congress act unlawfully last year in giving the president unprecedented authority to veto specific items of spending laws? -Can states keep locked up sex-

ually violent predators who have served their prison sentences and are not deemed mentally ill? -Does a 1993 federal law aimed at curbing governmental interfer-

ence with Americans' spiritual lives

usurp too much power from federal courts or the states? -Should the justices reverse their 1985 decision and let public school teachers enter religiously affiliated

schools to offer remedial help? "I don't expect many, if any, of these cases to produce unanimous

votes," Sherry said.

earth-care options that elderly re

Corretja blown away at French Open

PARIS (AP) — It's probably not a good idea to call anyone a favorite among the men at the French Open. He'll lose.

The budget agreement leaves room for changes when Congress, as expected, votes final approval for a that could yield long-term savings in Medicare, such First, Pete Sampras and Thomas man many picked to win after those "I almost see this deal as brush clearing," said losses, Alex Corretja, is out.

Martha Phillips, executive director of The Concord His top-spin game thwarted by a blus Coalition, a bipartisan anti-deficit group. "This in some tery wind on center court, the eight seeded Spaniard lost in the fourth round ways removes the last remaining excuse for not dealing Sunday to a qualifier.

A lot of players spoke of bad lu Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, an archi-Sunday, but they were all referring to the same enemy: the wind.

'The wind just killed my game to day," Corretja said.

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with" the longer-range problems.
"It's not the end-all," acknowledged House Budget

The House and Senate hope finally to approve by

tect of the pact. "But boy, is it a giant first step."

midweek an outline of the budget-balancing plan.

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