Air-traffic system upgraded Controllers, safety officials hope new equipment will limit delays

TATE

ORT WORTH (AP) — Controllers responsible me 160,000 square miles of airspace in the nwest said they are flying high with some overdue new equipment that makes their keasier and planes less likely to be delayed. The Fort Worth Air Route Traffic Control Centarted putting the new equipment, esseny better computers and more dynamic dis-, to use in June. It was the first of 20 centers und the nation to get both pieces of the new em up and running.

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Industry officials and control center workcelebrated the upgrade yesterday at an of-

he old radar displays, which were 30 years did not have the advanced features of the lay System Replacement: high-resolution or displays, improved weather information customizable settings for each operator. The new computers can track aircraft flight rmation such as speed, altitude and aircraft e and allow controllers to efficiently handle

"It does a lot of things the old system didn't do, and it's a lot faster," Bill Shedden, a con-national Airport. They handle planes shortly aftroller at the center, said

"[The new equipment] does a lot of things the old system didn't do, and it's a lot faster."

> - Bill Shedden Air-traffic controller

The old system used vacuum-tube technology, and replacement parts for much of the equipment was becoming scarce. The only difficulty in making the transition, Shedden said, was having to look down at the new keyboards to find keys that used to be next to display screens.

Controllers at the center are separate from

national Airport. They handle planes shortly af-ter takeoff and just before landing.

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The center's coverage extends to portions of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Controllers there directed more than 2 million planes in 1998.

The upgrade in Fort Worth is part of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) nationwide overhaul of air-control equipment. The agency is spending \$1.055 billion nationwide to install the same systems put into place in Fort Worth.

"Four and half years ago we signed the con-Monte Belger, the FAA's associate adtract," ministrator for air traffic services, said. "At that time we set a schedule and set a budget. And we have met that schedule and met that budget.'

Belger likened the switch to changing the control panel of an aircraft in flight and added that the process in Fort Worth would be a model for other centers still changing to the new equipment.



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| MATH 151 | 10PM- 12AM | 9-Mid Test #1 | Test #2 | Test #3 | | |
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Dell to pay for child insurance AUSTIN (AP) — Computer tycoon

hael Dell and his wife will help as ny as 33,000 Austin-area children inexpensive health insurance. The Dells will help pay insurance

miums for children in Travis and lliamson counties until a new fedl program begins in May.

Their donation jump starts plans to mote the Children's Health Insurnce Program, which beginning next ay will provide low-cost health covge for Texas families earning up to ice the poverty level.

For a family of four, twice the fedl poverty level is an annual income about \$32,000.

According to the Texas Healthy Kids rp., some of those 33,000 children eligible for Medicaid. But most of eir families earn too much or own nething, such as a car or land, that kes them ineligible under Texas' ngent Medicaid limits.

Bush asks West Virginia to extradite accused killer

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush asked West Virginia authorities yester-

day to send to Texas a man accused in the notorious yogurtshop murders. Robert Springsteen Jr.

Bush's office said.

of Charleston. W.Va., is one of

four men charged with capital murder in the killings of four teenage girls during a 1991 robbery. He could face the death penalty or up to life in prison if convicted

Bush sent the extradition request by overnight mail to West

Once the request is reviewed,

Virginia Gov. Cecil Underwood,

dition warrant to have Springsteen sent to Texas to stand trial.

Underwood's office did not immediately return calls vesterday. His spokesperson, Dan Page, earlier said the West Virginia governor would act quickly once the request is received.

Page said the fact Texas has a death penalty and West Virginia does not "is not an issue in this case at this point.

Springsteen has refused to be extradited voluntarily. Kanawha County (W.Va.) Circuit Judge Charles King set a final extradition hearing for Nov. 4. Springsteen is being held without bond in Charleston.

Police said Eliza Hope

Sarah Harbison, 15, were shot at an I Can't Believe It's Yogurt! store. Thomas and Jennifer Harbison worked at the store, which was set on fire after they were killed. Springsteen, Michael James Scott, 25; Forrest Wellborn, 23;

and Maurice Pierce, 24, were arrested Oct. 6 and charged with shooting the four girls in the head on Dec. 6, 1991. Scott, Wellborn and Pierce were arrested in Texas. The four are charged with

capital murder. Wellborn was 15 and Pierce was 16 at the time of the killings, so they have been charged as juveniles. Prosecutors want to have them certified to stand trial

301

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10PM-

Review #1

Thomas, 17; Amy Ayers, 13; as adults.







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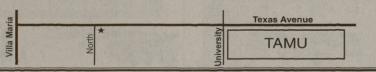
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Review #1 | Review #2

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