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Doctors refuse to treat children in El Paso

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Children newly enrolled in Texas' health plans for the poor are being turned away by a third of the pediatricians in this West Texas city.

The doctors say they are paid too little to see the overwhelming numbers who need their help. Other pediatricians are warning they will follow suit, threatening access to health care for some of El Paso's most vulnerable children, the El Paso Times reported in Sunday's editions.

Seven doctors at El Paso Pediatric Associates no longer take new patients enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Pro-

gram. Some doctors have left El Paso in recent months for jobs in other cities because of the low reimbursements.

"Taking care of them is strictly a break-even proposition," said Stuart Kahn, one of the seven doctors. "They utilize services more, and they're sicker than our other patients."

In the past several months, El Paso pediatricians have seen a dramatic increase in the number of poor patients in their practices, driven by successful community efforts to enroll children in Medicaid — the health insurance program for the poor — and in CHIP, a federally

funded health insurance plan for the working poor, the doctors say.

But doctors are paid far less to treat those children than they would receive under commercial insurance plans — in many cases, half as much.

For example, El Paso pediatricians make about \$100 for a well-baby checkup covered by commercial insurance plans. But CHIP pays doctors \$62 for the same service, and Medicaid pays \$50.

"Our rates are cut and cut and cut, and we have to work more and more to break even," said Central El Paso pediatrician Arturo Casillas. He has closed his practice to new

CHIP clients and is contemplating his current CHIP practice go elsewhere.

A medical practice that more than 50 percent Medicaid patients will go bankrupt according to the Texas Medical Association.

In some cases, El Paso doctors are paid less for services than physicians in other parts of the state.

"It's hypocritical for the state to say it cares about kids whose rates are so low," said Dr. David Handal, regional chairman of pediatricians for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso.

Napster fails to block copyright music

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Copyright music flowed freely on the Napster tune-swapping service Sunday afternoon as users waited to see if the company would fulfill a promise to block pirated songs sometime over the weekend using a new screening system.

All the top 10 songs listed on the Billboard Hot 100 list were available on the company's servers, including the No. 1 "Stutter" by Joe featuring Mystikal. Songs by longtime Napster foe Metallica also showed up in searches.

The company will not comment on the screening plan until it begins, spokeswoman Karen DeMarco said Sunday. She would not say when that would be.

With the service facing imminent change, usage was soaring. More than 11,100 people shared a total of 2.2 million files Sunday afternoon on just one of dozens of servers used by Napster.

"I am kind of watching it and trying to get my last efforts in — quickly," said Thor Nelson, a user from St. Paul, Minn.

During a federal court hearing Friday, Napster attorney David Boies said the service would deploy the screening system over the weekend. He did not provide a specific time.

On its Website, Napster said the process of screening out file names, song titles and artists will not be easy. "It has involved a significant in-

vestment of time and resources," a statement said. "However, we believe it is superior to shutting the service down and disbanding the community during the transition period to the new membership-based service."

The software to be installed on Napster's servers will block access to 1 million music files, Boies said. He and Napster officials did not say whether that number represented distinct songs or spelling variations on a smaller list.

Napster's plan is a pre-emptive move against an injunction sought by the major record labels, which argue copyright holders and artists are not compensated for music traded on the service.

News in Brief

Trump loses battle over name

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — Donald Trump Jr. has lost a one-year legal battle to change his name to Sir William Trump in honor of his idol, New York estate magnate Donald Trump.

A county judge granted the name change petition on Friday. Trump Jr. headed to the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services office to change his driver's license.

The spa dealer was head around town for his tailored and inflated ego — so much so that co-workers and customers began calling him "Trump Jr."

Donald Trump tried to stop the name change petition. After a legal battle for three months, Richard Boies, Trump's lawyer, Richard Boies Milligan agreed to use the name William.

STUDYING

Continued from Page 1
responses from site users.

Others use the site just in case one else needs their help.

Since the site is just getting started, there is more time for others to use it to their advantage.

"The key is not to just get on the Website, sign up and leave. You contact each other and get together," Ramsey said.

ARREST

Continued from Page 1
of an investigation before a decision is made.

"We will have to wait until all facts are known," Welsh said.

Welsh said the incident will be referred to Col. Rick Mallahan, assistant commandant for discipline.

Welsh defended Carson and said he "is a man of integrity."

"The people who serve in leadership positions serve because their potential for performance is exceptionally high," Welsh said. "I pray the charges are dismissed."

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