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**Cody Crosland**, an employee at a local country western store steams a felt cowboy hat for a customer. Felt hats are shaped and creased by steaming the hat and forming it to the desired shape.

ANDY HANCOCK • THE BATTALION

## Internet cuts into television time, not time with the family

NEW YORK (AP) — A new survey suggests that the Internet is not cutting into the time people spend with their friends and families — it is cutting into their TV-watching.

Internet users watched 4.5 hours less of television a week than Americans who do not go online, according to the study, released Thursday by the University of California at Los Angeles.

"Without question, Internet users are 'buying' some of their time to go online from the time they used to spend watching television," said Jeff Cole, director of the UCLA Center for Communication Policy.

Internet users socialized with friends slightly more than nonusers did, and they spent nearly as much time socializing with family, the study found.

Users and nonusers spent about the same amount of time on most household activities, like having meals and playing sports.

The exception was television. Nonusers spent 16.8 hours a week watching television, versus 12.3 hours for Internet users.

The telephone survey of 2,006 U.S. households was conducted from May to July. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The study was funded partly by the National Science Foundation.

Among other findings:

- More than 72 percent of Americans have Internet access, up from 67 percent in 2000.
- Users spent 9.8 hours a week online, up from 9.4 hours.

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THE BATTALION

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Brothers, ages 12 and 13, charged with murder

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Two adolescent brothers were charged Wednesday with murdering their father soon after the boy returned home after being missing a week.

The body of Terry Lee, 40, was found early Monday when firefighters responded to a fire at the family home in an urban Cantonment. Sheriff's officials said he died from head wounds, but did not elaborate.

His sons, Derek, 13, and Hezekiah, 12, surrendered to sheriff's deputies Tuesday through their friend, Chief Deputy Larry Smith said. The boys talked with investigators, but Smith would not disclose what the brothers said.

#### Radio personality sues to overturn dwarf tossing ban

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A 3-hour radio personality sued Wednesday, seeking to overturn Florida's ban on dwarf tossing, so he can earn money in the barroom attraction.

Dave Flood, who appears on a morning radio talk show as "Dave the Dwarf," said he does not think the state should dictate how he earns his living.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court names Gov. Jeb Bush and the head of the state agency which enforces the 1989 law. The law allows the state to revoke the license or fine a bar that allows dwarf tossing, an activity that was popular in some Florida bars in the late 1980s.

#### Man dies during implantation of artificial heart

HOUSTON (AP) — A man suffering from chronic heart failure died from severe bleeding during surgery to implant a self-contained mechanical heart, doctors said.

The surgical team performing the procedure at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital on Tuesday spent 20 hours trying to control the bleeding. The man's name was not released.

The revolutionary Abiomed battery-run, plastic-coated titanium device the size of a softball, has been implanted in five patients since July. They have done well, though the first recipient suffered a stroke earlier this month.

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