

### Sound of music



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Mike Sullivan, rug designer and salesman, entertains engineering major, and his girlfriend Heather Woods customers Jeremy Corbell, a sophomore mechanical of Texarkana with his accordion.

## Summit to launch plan for African aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and other leaders of the world's most powerful countries are determined to use this year's Group of Eight summit to launch what some are calling a Marshall Plan for Africa: billions of dollars in new aid to the poorest continent.

African assistance is expected to be the primary achievement of the 28th annual economic summit, which gets under way Wednesday at a remote resort in the Canadian Rockies.

Bush and the leaders of the other G-8 countries — Russia, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — also will spend considerable time at their first summit meeting since Sept. 11 reviewing the fight against international terrorism.

U.S. allies are coming with plenty of questions about what Bush might have in mind in terms of expanding the war to Iraq and other countries. The president, in a commencement address at the U.S. Military Academy on June 1, said the United States will strike pre-emptively against suspected terrorists or the states that support them if necessary to deter attacks on Americans.

The remarks raised new misgivings about what many U.S. allies see as a troubling U.S. tendency toward unilateral action.

"In the context of terrorism, the allies will make an effort to get the president to commit to greater consultation. The West Point speech heightened their anxiety," said James Steinberg, deputy national security adviser in the Clinton administration.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said he was not expecting Bush to apply any pressure to get backing from the other leaders for an imminent expansion of the campaign.

"Demands are not on the agenda for Canada," Schroeder said in a summit interview.

Even before Sept. 11 elevated the summit's agenda, the summit was the target of violent street protests at last year's summit in Genoa, Italy, had come to a halt. Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien that a major restructuring of the summit meetings was needed. He switched the location from a bustling city to a remote site that is easily accessible to the globalization protesters. The tiniest site ever to serve as host for a summit — Kanana, Alberta, a remote village accessible by a single-lane road.

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— James Steinberg, deputy national security advisor in the Clinton administration

The official discussions have been reduced to fit the available low-rise hotel space. Chretien has pared the discussions to three days to just three days and end with the reading of a brief chairman's statement Thursday afternoon.

Chretien declared a year ago that he wanted the formal agenda to focus on Africa. That idea gained new momentum after Sept. 11 attacks as western countries saw the benefit of combating poverty as a way to eliminate breeding grounds for terrorist groups.

The G-8 leaders will be joined in their discussions by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the leaders of five African countries, including South African President Thabo Mbeki.

He is seeking support for his Partnership for African Development, which some see as the modern-day equivalent of the Marshall Plan, the U.S. program that rebuilt Europe from the devastation of World War II. The G-8 summit would provide billions of dollars to African countries that pledge to fight government corruption and pursue market economic reforms.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Congress, Palestinian leaders urge president to step up peace efforts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Congress and Palestinian leaders on Sunday questioned President Bush's plan for an interim Palestinian state and urged stepped-up U.S. peace-making efforts as Bush prepared to announce his Mideast blueprint. Bush and his advisers talked over

the weekend about the details and timing of a long-awaited speech outlining his ideas. White House officials said they tentatively planned the address for Monday afternoon, but said they were waiting for Bush to make a final decision, and they cautioned that events on the ground could force a change again.

A senior White House official reaffirmed Sunday that Bush will outline a step-by-step proposal for establishment of a Palestinian state contingent on democratic reforms. It would cre-

ate a Palestinian state within provisional borders late this year or early next year, provided that enough measurable progress has been made in reforming the Palestinian Authority and stemming terrorism.

The thorniest issues — such as final borders, the control of Jerusalem and the return of refugees — would be left to negotiations between Israel and the provisional state.

Bush delayed an announcement last week after two suicide bombings in Jerusalem that killed 26 Israelis.

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