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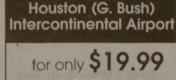
5:30am Leaving C.S.

Leaving Houston: 9:15am

5:30pm

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*Additional Schedules



You may qualify for a clinical research study if you have any of the following conditions:

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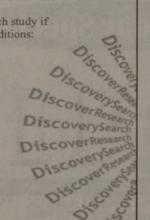
- · Males and Females 18 years of age or older
- · Have a frequent cough, facial pain, pressure and/or tightness
- · Up to \$400 paid for time and travel.

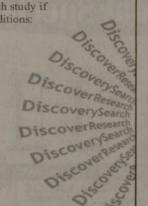
SORE THROAT?

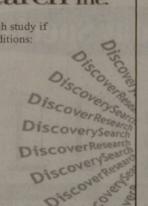
- · Males and females between the ages of 2 and 12
- · Have a sore throat/scratchy throat, pain or swelling
- Reimbursement for time and travel

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Thursday, December 4, 2003

THE BATTALIO 'Healthy Forests' allows for increased brush cutting, more logging protection Ag



President George W. Bush waves to the audience after a signing ceremony for the Healthy Forests Restoration Act in Washington Wednesday. The new legislation is intended to help prevent devastating wildfires that have annually plagued western states.

By Robert Gehrke THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - More timber and brush can be cut and cleared with less environmental scrutiny under a "Healthy Forests" law President Bush signed Wednesday. He said it will help protect communities from devastating wildfires.

'This law will not prevent every fire but it is an important step forward, a vital step to make sure we do our duty to protect our nation's forests," Bush said while standing in front of rows of wildland firefighters. "We'll help save lives and property and we'll help protect our forests from sudden and needless destruction," he said.

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act signed by the president is the first major forest management legislation in a quartercentury. It seeks to speed up the harvesting of trees in overgrown woodlands and insect-infested trees on 20 million acres of federal forest land most at risk to

It does that by scaling back required environmental studies, limiting appeals and directing judges to act quickly on legal challenges to logging plans. Critics said the bill would let timber

companies cut down large, old-growth trees in the name of fire prevention. 'There's a real danger that the presi-

dent's pen might as well be a chain saw," said Amy Mall, a forestry specialist with the Natural Resources Defense Council. Rep. Scott McInnis, R-Colo., sponsor

of the legislation, said those complaints are from groups out of touch with the mainstream.

"Of course when you thin out forests you're going to have logging. You're going to have to," he said. "But people want these forests managed. People want the

Legislation aimed at speeding decisions on where to allow timbering in national forests was bogged down in Congress for three years — until California blazes whipped by Santa Ana winds burned 750,000 acres, destroyed 3,640 homes and forced a compromise.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said language added to Bush's initial proposal will protect old-growth and large-diameter to

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"The signing of this forest bill into shows what can be accomplished when sides are willing to put aside partisan and do what is best for commu threatened by deadly and destructive fires," he said. "This new law protect growth forests while providing substa support for hazardous fuels reduction

Even after the California fires, was a below-average fire year. So far million acres have burned. Twenty-in firefighters died battling the blaze according to the Wildland Firefigh Foundation. In 2002, nearly 7 miles acres were charred.

The Bush administration estimates 190 million acres are at heightened risk a severe wildfire - an area the size Idaho, Montana and Wyoming combin

Mike Dombeck, Forest Service during President Clinton's second to said Congress, should have demand stronger protections for old-growth and roadless areas. Nonetheless, he cal the new law "a step in the right direction "We need to completely rethink

approach to fire and our human intera with fire and the wildland urban interfi It's obvious where we've been is not we ing," said Dombeck, now a forestry pro sor at the University of Wisconsi Stevens Point. But Dombeck said none of the change

the bill would have prevented the fires tore through swaths of California, Ar and Colorado over the past two years. The measure authorizes Congre

dedicate \$760 million a year for this projects. At least half of the money be spent on projects near homes and on Jay Watson, wildfire expert with

Wilderness Society, said impor changes were included in the bipar compromise bill that added money thinning and required half the funts spent in forests near communities. the law is implemented will determine is helpful to the forests or a payback to timber companies, he said.

The Center for Responsive Politics the timber industry has contributed million to political campaigns since 80 percent of it to Republicans. received \$519,350 from the industry also has spent \$23.8 million on lob efforts since 2000, according to fig compiled by Political Money Line.

Pentagon assigns lawyer for Guantanamo Bay prison

By Matt Kelley THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - An Australian prisoner Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has become the first foreign terrorist suspect to be given a U.S. military lawyer, the Pentagon

announced Wednesday. Marine Corps Maj. Michael Mori will represent David Hicks, the Defense Department said in a brief statement.

Hicks is one of six prisoners at the Navy base in Cuba that President Bush named as possible candidates for trial by a special military tribunal for terrorism suspects. One other Australian citizen is among the more than 660 men and boys being held there.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz will make the final decision on which Guantanamo prisoners, if any, will face trial. Wolfowitz has not decided on Hicks' case, the Pentagon statement said.

The announcement came a day after the Pentagon announced an about-face in the case of a Louisiana-born terror-

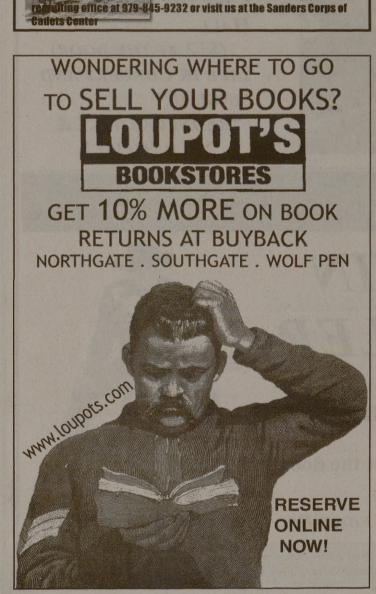
ism suspect being held in the face the death penalty United States as an "enemy combatant." The Defense Department agreed to let Yaser Esam Hamdi meet with a lawyer, a reversal from its previous refusal to do so.

The United States and Australia announced last week they had reached an agreement on how Hicks would be tried before a U.S. military tribunal. Australian officials said they were satisfied Hicks would get a fair trial.

U.S. Australia that Hicks would not cific date for the trip.

would not have his come tions with his lawver monitor by American troops. The B administration also has agree to allow terrorism suspects Hicks to have lawyers from home countries act as advis during any trial, a mea which was not allowed in

original rules for the tribunal Mori will travel Guantanamo soon to meet Hicks and inform him of the bunal rules, the Pentagon # officials assured ment said, without giving as







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