

165 evacuated during hospital fire

OMAHA — Parents grabbed their children while nurses and other staff members wheeled tiny babies and adults to safety early Wednesday as smoke billowed through five floors of the nine-story Childrens Hospital, forcing the evacuation of 165 patients.

No injuries were reported in the fire, which apparently began around 5:30 a.m. CST in an air-handling machine atop the hospital's ninth floor, hospital officials said.

Assistant Fire Chief Verne Beers said 22 pieces of equipment, includ-

ing aerial ladder trucks, and 58 firefighters responded to the fire alarm in the complex housing two hospitals.

The 100-bed Childrens Hospital occupies the first six floors of the north tower but is connected to the 556-bed Methodist Hospital, which occupies the south tower and the top three floors of the north tower.

During the evacuation, which took about 10 to 15 minutes, staff members wheeled patients in their beds through the connecting corridors or assisted patients who could walk to the Meth-

odist wing.

"Usually you have to take the patients down and out, but here we could evacuate horizontally instead of vertically," Beers said.

Some patients with less serious medical problems were moved to the Methodist Hospital lobby until rooms could be found for them, Childrens president Gary Perkins said.

Of the patients evacuated, 56 were children and 109 were adults from Methodist's medical-surgical floors.

Official questions vote on dumpsite

LINCOLN — An official of the company that will develop a low-level radioactive waste dump in Nebraska said he questions legislative proposals for local elections to approve the site.

"I don't know if a referendum is the appropriate way of really dealing with the issue fairly," said Rich Paton, special assistant to the president of U.S. Ecology, Inc. of Louisville, Ky.

"People have elected officials," he said Wednesday. "They elect those

officials to make decisions and I think that's the process that we would like to work with — working with those elected officials."

Two bills now before the Legislature would require voters in the county proposed as the site to approve the location.

Gov. Kay Orr has insisted that the facility will not be built in a community that doesn't want it, but has not

endorsed the concept of an election. But she has said that the perception she is against an election "may be premature."

Paton said U.S. Ecology would open an office in Lincoln staffed by one full-time employee as soon as possible. Paton also said he did not think the process of selecting a site should be delayed while Congress restudies the issue of low level waste.

In Brief

U.S. negotiators to take tough stand on Star Wars

WASHINGTON — American negotiators are under instruction to take a firm stand on the U.S. Star Wars program when a new round of nuclear arms talks opens Thursday with the Soviet Union.

The negotiators will tell their Soviet counterparts in Geneva that President Reagan is determined to proceed with development and testing of a space-based shield against nuclear ballistic missiles and aim for eventual deployment, a U.S. official said Wednesday.

The main goal in the new round is to work out a 50 percent cutback in U.S. and Soviet long-range bombers, land-based missiles and nuclear submarines.

Ruling unlikely to cause widespread censorship

School officials around the nation said Wednesday they don't intend to use a Supreme Court ruling to curb the freedom of student newspapers even though it gives them broad powers to do so.

Administrators "generally appreciate the importance of the journalistic experience for students and will very likely try not to intervene unless they feel it is absolutely necessary," said Gary Marx, associate director of the American Association of School Administrators.

Mike Ganerty, faculty advisor to the Central High School Register in Omaha, said there was "no particular alarm" when he told students of the ruling.

Price of Super Bowl tickets out of reach for most

SAN DIEGO — Profiteers and a smaller stadium have combined to drive up the market price of Super Bowl tickets, effectively putting them out of reach of the average fan.

An end zone seat is going for about \$800 and a seat on the 50-yard line costs up to \$2,000 at Murray's Tickets in Anaheim, Calif., said the firm's Mike Crowley.

The Jan. 31 game is being played at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium, which will seat about 73,000 people, well below the capacity of the 100,000-seat Rose Bowl, site of last year's Super Bowl.

Study shows Type A's live longer

BOSTON — Hard-driven men with Type A personalities are almost twice as likely as less aggressive people to survive heart disease, according to a study that challenges the advice that heart attack victims should slow down and relax.

The research, directed by Dr. David R. Ragland, also casts new doubt on the theory that Type A behavior puts people at higher risk of getting heart disease in the first place. That idea has already been questioned by several other researchers in recent years.

Taiwan president dies

TAIPEI, TAIWAN — President Chiang Ching-Kuo, the son of nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek, died of a heart attack Wednesday and was succeeded by a native Taiwanese expected to continue his push for liberalization.

Chiang's death at age 77 ended the six-decade dynasty that led the Nationalist Party to victory and defeat in China and prosperity in Taiwan, an island nation of 19.5

million people off China's coast.

Vice President Lee Teng-nui was sworn in to succeed Chiang in accordance with the constitution after an emergency meeting of the party's Central Standing Committee.

Lee, a 64-year-old Christian and the first native Taiwanese to become president, is expected to continue easing the nationalists' authoritarian grip on the island they have governed since 1949.

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