Girl snatched from bicycle is found slain

ARLINGTON, Texas—Less than like that to a small child," said Archie the middle of the afternoon by a man in a pickup, her nude body was found floating face-down in a creek, her throat cut.

The gruesome discovery Thursday hit hard in the neighborhood where the 9-year-old Girl Scout was kidnapped Saturday.

Balloons and ribbons hanging from homes and cars in Amber's favorite color, pink, blew in a cold, stiff wind.

Movie Info: 441-0222

a week after Amber Hagerman was Price, 71, who lives down the street dragged screaming off her bicycle in from the home of Amber's grandparents, where the girl had been playing before her disappearance. "I hope whoever has done it is caught quickly."

> The body was found late Wednesday by a man walking his dog outside an apartment complex about eight miles from the middle-class neighborhood where a witness saw a man drag Amber as she fought and screamed.

'All I could tell was a naked body, "It's just so overwhelming to think face-down, with the head in the water that somebody could do something and the head had black hair," said

to the body after hearing shouts.

Investigators believe the body was dumped upstream and washed north as strong thunderstorms swelled the

"We are all a little numb," police spokesman Dee Anderson said. "We certainly didn't want this outcome. amazed, but we are really disap-pointed."

The body was identified by way of

edy, said family friend Coy Carlton.

The case was ruled a homicide. A preliminary autopsy indicated Amber died of cuts to the neck, said J.R. Helm, investigator with the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office.

In the search for the girl's kidnapper, police got help from up to 30 federal agents, and prison officials scoured records for recently released child-sex offenders.

Police also plan to talk to a witness

Jerry Wurst, 33, a resident of Forest a fingerprint card that her parents had Ridge Apartments who called police filled out in the event of such a tragtruck the day Amber disappeared, and several clues were found near the creek, Anderson said.

> Amber's mother, Donna Whitson, and her children took part in a Dallas TV station's documentary about people who are trying to get off wel-

> Nann Goplerud, WFAA executive producer of special projects, said there was no reason to believe there was a connection between the abduction and the documentary.

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Yeltsin claims victory over Chechen rebels

Yeltsin declared a bitter victory Thursday over Chechen rebels: They were wiped out by Russian troops and most of their hostages survived an assault that turned a tiny village into a wasteland of cinders and corpses sprawled in snowy ditches.

His account, which attempted to put a humiliating and politically costly episode in the best possible light, could not be independently confirmed. Other government and military officials said fewer hostages lived through the barrage and some rebels survived.

Photographers allowed into Pervomayskaya after the four-day assault found bloodied bodies lying in makeshift bunkers alongside rows of rifles and stacks of ammunition boxes. Those images may bolster Yeltsin's image for taking a tough line against well-armed rebels - or they may increase the perception that the country is on the brink of chaos and the Chechen war is a mistake.

There was no immediate reaction from rebel forces to Yeltsin's remarks and it was not clear if they had reached nappers during the Russian assault.

KEMSI-YURT, Russia — Boris rebel sympathizers who were holding a Turkish ferry hostage and threaten-ing to kill the Russians aboard.

Trying to explain why a huge Russian force took so long to defeat a band of no more than 250 rebels, Yeltsin claimed the village masked a giant underground rebel base with concrete gun emplacements. The claim about Pervomayskaya, a remote ham-let of simple brick houses, seemed highly unlikely.

Chechen separatists humiliated Russia last week when they slipped past the border into the neighboring Russian republic of Dagestan, seizing hostages to press their demand that Moscow pull its troops out of Chechnya.

A hostage who escaped on Thursday told the ITAR-Tass news agency that he had been forced to bury killed rebels. "There were a lot of them," Ali Aliyev said.

Another, Niyamuddin Amrakhov, said hostages were also forced to dig trenches, carry ammunition and act as human shields for their Chechen kid-



High-tech hockey puck makes debut

BOSTON—The big problem with watching hockey on TV—trying to see that little puck — is about to be solved by James Bond-style technology: a computer chip embedded in the disc to help it stand out on the screen like a neon light.

The National Hockey League and the Fox network unveiled the hightech puck Thursday.

On television, the SuperPuck appears with a fidgety, animated halo that follows it around like a little brother. When a player lets loose with a slapshot, the puck is trailed by an electronic comet tail that streaks red across the screen.

FoxTrax, as the puck-tracking system is known, will make its debut in Saturday's All-Star Game at Boston's FleetCenter.

Reagan to miss 85th birthday party

LOS ANGELES - Former President Reagan, suffering from Alzheimer's disease, will not attend a major celebration for his 85th

"He does not make public appearances any longer," said spokes-woman Lynda Schuler, adding that he was "doing very well." Former first lady Nancy Reagan will be on hand, however,

The celebration on Feb. 6 will take place in the building that once housed the famed Chasen's restaurant, which will reopen for the occasion. Among those expected to participate: former President Ford and

Reagan announced his diagnosis in November 1994 in an emotional, handwritten letter. It was then, Schuler said, that Reagan decided not to make any more public appearances.

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AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

If you are a singer, please sing one verse and chorus of two contrasting styles of song: one up-tempo and one ballad. Sing any type music you enjoy: rock, country, show tunes, etc. (No Rap.) Singer auditions should be no longer than three minutes in length.

Dancers should prepare one song to sing and a jazz routine no longer than two minutes.

You must provide your own accompaniment whether it be a pianist or a cassette tape. We will provide a cassette deck and a piano. A cappella auditions will not be accepted.

We are not auditioning bands, solo instrumentalists or dramatic actors.

THE CLOSEST AUDITIONS:

Lincoln, Nebraska

Thursday, February 1 - University of Nebraska Westbrook Music Building - Room # 119 3:30 p.m. (Registration closes at 5:00 p.m.)

Overland Park, Kansas

Saturday, January 27 - Doubletree Hotel 10100 College Blvd. (Just off of 69 Highway south.) 9:00 a.m. (Registration closes at 1:00 p.m.)

Kansas City, Missouri Sunday, February 4 - Park Place Hotel 1601 N. Universal Avenue (Just off Front Street at I-435.) 1:00 p.m. (Registration closes at 4:00 p.m.)

*Applicants must be at least 16 years of age by 5-5-96. For more information and a complete audition schedule, contact the Worlds of Fun Live Entertainment Department at (816) 454-4545, Ext. 1350.

Callers back judge who gave wrist slap

STANTON, Mich. — Phone messages, most of them positive, piled up for a judge who literally slapped a man on the wrist for spousal abuse, a court administrator said Thursday.

After Marshall, 38, was convicted Jan. 4 of misdemeanor abuse for shoving his wife, Crystal, against the wall, District Court Judge Joel Gehrke suspended all fines and instead slapped Marshall's wrist with three fingers, saying, "Don't do that."

The altercation between the Marshalls stemmed from an affair that Mrs. Marshall had with her husband's brother that resulted in a preg-

"If you touch, it's battery," said LeeAnn Ehlert of Crystal, a member of the jury. "We had to say guilty but we felt he was set up."

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