



HEALTH & FITNESS
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GOLF
Final-hole birdie gives Loren Roberts victory | C1

G-20 embarks on economic balancing act

Focus on debt mustn't stifle fragile recovery, leaders agree

By **TOM RAUM AND ROB GILLIES**
Associated Press

TORONTO — Wary of slamming on the stimulus brakes too quickly but shaken by the European debt crisis, world leaders pledged Sunday to reduce government deficits in richer countries in half by 2013, with wiggle room to meet the goal.

Leaders of 20 major industrial and developing countries generally sided with cutting spending and raising taxes, despite warnings from President Barack Obama that too much austerity too quickly could choke off the global recovery.

"Serious challenges remain," they cautioned in a closing statement. "While growth is returning, the recovery is un-

even and fragile, unemployment in many countries remains at unacceptable levels, and the social impact of the crisis is still widely felt," according to the document from the Group of 20 major industrial and developing nations.

Obama told a news conference he was satisfied with the outcome, saying he recognized that countries had to proceed at their own pace in either emphasizing

growth or budget austerity.

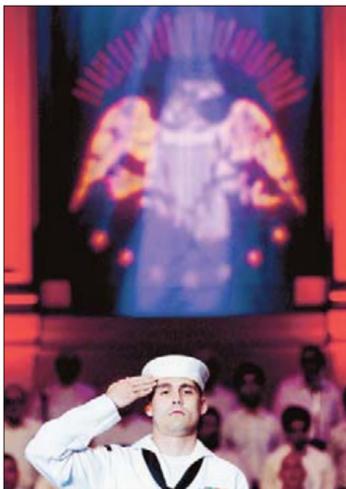
"We can't all rush to the exits at the same time," Obama said after three days of economic summitry.

Summit participants navigated a careful course between Obama's emphasis on growth and fellow leaders such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel who advocated spending cuts and even tax increases.

Please see **SUMMIT, A6**

Honoring our country through song, dance, praise at First Assembly of God Church

'Celebrate America'



Photos by Mike Brown/The Commercial Appeal

LARGE CROWD LEADS TO 2 PERFORMANCES OF PATRIOTIC SHOW

Jessica Wootton performs Sunday during the 2010 Celebrate America service at First Assembly of God Church in Cordova. The service, which always takes place on the Sunday before July 4, features songs, praise and re-enactments to honor America. This year, the church held two performances to accommodate the crowd. Navy Reserve Petty Officer Joshua Coward (top) salutes as members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Services were recognized.

'Careful' nominee all set for hearing

Kagan's life had led her nearly to Supreme Court

By **MICHAEL DOYLE AND DAVID LIGHTMAN**
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan has seemingly spent her life preparing for the center stage she's about to take.

The Princeton and Harvard Law School graduate's academic résumé is picture perfect. Her political mentors have been invariably well placed. And in the seven weeks of serious scrutiny that followed her nomination by President Barack Obama, no serious impediment has arisen to deny her confirmation.

Her hearings begin today.

"So far, this isn't as controversial as some nominees," noted Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana. "She's very careful."

Put another way, the buzz over Kagan's nomination on Capitol Hill is more like a murmur. There's debate, but it feels muted. And the Obama administration has no problem with that.

Though the administration starts with a built-in confirmation advantage, as the Democrats control 59 Senate seats, White House officials prefer not to rouse any sleeping lions.

"She barely gets the pulse racing on either side," said Andrew Taylor, chairman of the political science department at North Carolina State University.

If confirmed, Kagan, 50, would be the court's youngest member. Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., the next youngest, is 55. The retiring justice she'd replace, John Paul Stevens, turned 90 in April.

The public will learn more during the televised Senate Judiciary Com-

Please see **KAGAN, A6**



Elena Kagan

End-of-life medicine grows intense, expensive

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
Associated Press

The doctors finally let Rosaria Vandenberg go home.

For the first time in months, she was able to touch her 2-year-old daughter who had been afraid of the hospital. The little girl climbed up onto her mother's bed, sur-

rounded by family photos, toys and the comfort of home. They shared one last tender moment together before Vandenberg slipped back into unconsciousness.

Vandenberg, 32, died the next day.

That precious time at home could have come sooner if the family had known how to talk about

alternatives to aggressive treatment, said Vandenberg's sister-in-law, Alexandra Drane.

Instead, Vandenberg, a pharmacist in Franklin, Mass., had endured two surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation for an incurable brain tumor before she died in 2004.

"We might have just taken her

home and stuck her in a beautiful chair outside under the sun and let her gorgeous little daughter play around her — not just torture her" in the hospital, Drane said.

Americans increasingly are treated to death, spending more time in hospitals in their final days, trying last-ditch treatments that of-

Please see **MEDICINE, A6**

"She barely gets the pulse racing on either side."

ANDREW TAYLOR

chairman of the political science department at North Carolina State University



Rain possible
 Partly sunny with some storms likely. High 95.
DETAILS, C8

IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPER

Panetta sees 'elements of progress' in Afghanistan

Still plenty to do: The U.S. has driven al-Qaida into hiding and undermined its leadership in Afghanistan but is struggling to oust the Taliban, said CIA Director Leon Panetta. "We're seeing elements of progress, but this is going to be tough," he said. | **A4**

Flashbacks: The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is bringing back bad memories for many who lived through Katrina. | **A3**

Bank overhaul: At more than 2,000 pages, the new financial regulatory bill has a lot of new rules to follow. | **A3**

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