

The Pampa News

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Thursday

February 17, 1994

PAMPA — The Gray County Christian Coalition will host a candidates forum at 7 p.m. today at the Pampa Community Building.

According to Pat Kennedy, spokesman for the group, candidates from both Republican and Democrat races for the March 8 primary will be present at the open meeting.

PAMPA — Richard Morris will be the featured speaker at Friday's noon meeting of the Downtown Kiwanis Club.

Morris is Pampa's city engineer and will be discussing the city's Comprehensive Street Improvement Program which will include an update on the progress made last year, the areas designated for this year's seal coating program and the general update on the overall project.

The Kiwanis club meets at noon Friday in the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Foster Avenue and Ballard Street.

AMARILLO — Novelist Elmer Kelton of San Angelo will speak tonight at Amarillo College on "Views of West Texas Settlement." Kelton, author of *The Time It Never Rained*, is scheduled to speak at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall-Theater at Amarillo College.

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — If NATO planes try to break the Serb artillery noose strangling Sarajevo, they may have only about a week to do so before the city begins running out of food.

Logistics officials with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said Wednesday they have about 1,150 tons of food in two Sarajevo warehouses. That's only enough to keep the city fed for about a week should NATO attacks force the humanitarian airlift to be suspended.

"The airlift is fairly fragile," said Kris Janowski, a U.N. relief spokesman in Sarajevo. "It is clear that any major military action would put the relief program on hold at least for a while." The Western alliance is threatening to strike Serb gun positions unless all heavy weapons are pulled back at least 12 miles from the mountains around Sarajevo or put under strict U.N. control.

HAMAR, Norway (AP) — Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan crossed paths at the Olympics almost immediately. There were no hugs, but no cross words either. They chatted during a chance encounter Wednesday in the Olympic Village, where they share a house with teammates, then posed for a team picture, separated — whether by request or by circumstance — by four athletes. "That broke the ice for all of us," said Paul George, head of the skating team, who joined them for the playful photo session.

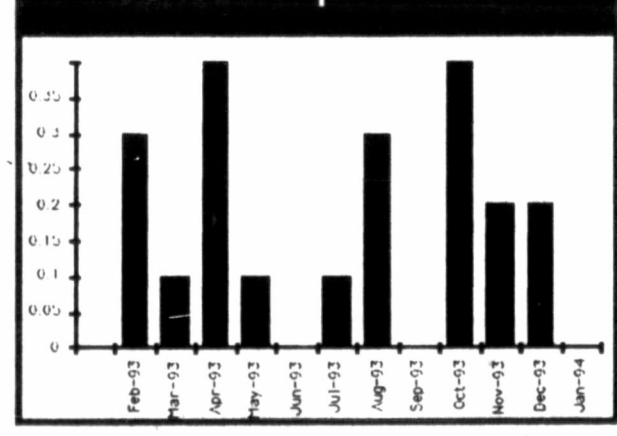
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Immigration and Naturalization Service, already adding border agents to slow the tide of illegal immigrants, now wants to impose a fee on anyone seeking U.S. political asylum.

Published reports have set the fee at \$130. Besides the payment, the INS, in regulations to be published in a few days, will propose a waiting period before the applicants receive work permits. The regulations, which could become law after a two-to-three-month period of public comment, apparently would make the United States the only country to charge a fee to asylum seekers.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Smiling in his crib, Santerras Graham is much too young to realize he helped make history. When the infant was but a 4-month-old fetus, Dr. Ruben Quintero pioneered fetal surgery that saved Santerras' life without cutting open his mother's womb. Now doctors hope to make this "new frontier in fetal medicine" a widely used method of correcting all kinds of birth defects.

"This poses unlimited possibilities for correcting almost any anomaly we find in a fetus," said Dr. David Cotton, chief of obstetrics at Wayne State University, where Quintero performed the surgery.

Consumer price index



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A FREEDOM NEWSPAPER

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Two Wheeler men hospitalized, White Deer ambulance damaged in Amarillo traffic crash

By CHERYL BERZANSKIS
News Editor

A Wheeler man was in stable condition today in an Amarillo hospital after an ambulance ride that sent six people to two hospitals for emergency care.

Mark Frankenberry, 31, Wheeler, was in St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo for injuries suffered when the White Deer Emergency Medical Service ambulance in which he was riding as an attendant was in a col-

lision Wednesday about 2:30 p.m. at North Buchanan and Amarillo Blvd. East in Amarillo.

The ambulance, operating with flashing lights and sounding sirens, was taking Leonard Harris, 66, of Wheeler, to St. Anthony's Hospital when it was in collision with a 1979 Camaro driven by 37-year old Billy Boydston of Amarillo, said Cpl. Lisa Cherry of the Amarillo Police Department.

Harris is in stable condition at

St. Anthony's, where he is being treated for his illness, not accident injuries, said a nursing supervisor.

Mary Christner, an ambulance attendant from Wheeler, was treated and released from St. Anthony's.

Treated and released at Northwest Texas Hospital were Rodney Immel, 46, White Deer, driver of the ambulance; Grady Milton, 57, White Deer, director of White Deer EMS, and Boydston.

Harris was being taken to Amarillo by White Deer EMS after being transferred from a Wheeler ambulance in White Deer. The patient began having problems as the Wheeler ambulance neared White Deer and Amarillo Communications Center dispatched White Deer paramedics to back up the Wheeler emergency medical technicians, said Charlene Milton, wife of Grady Milton.

No citations have been issued

in Wednesday's accident, which left the White Deer ambulance on its side, said Cherry.

The Camaro had the green light, said a second police spokesman who asked not to be identified. According to him, motorists are required by law to yield the right of way to ambulances which are on emergency runs.

The Camaro sustained heavy damage. The ambulance is a near loss, said White Deer City Marshal Tam Terry.

Trimming of the trees



Mike Bailey with the City of Pampa took advantage of the 70-degree weather today to trim trees in Central Park. The forecast calls for mild weather through the weekend. (Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Trade deficit surges to \$115.78 billion, highest in five years

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit surged to \$115.78 billion last year, the worst showing in five years, as the deficit with Japan climbed to its highest level in history, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said that the U.S. trade imbalance jumped 37 percent from the 1992 level of \$84.5 billion. Both exports and imports hit record highs last year, but imports grew twice as fast as exports, causing the gap between the two to widen dramatically.

In a stark demonstration of the trade problem with Japan, the government said that last year's deficit with the Japanese rose to \$59.3 billion, representing slightly more than half of America's total deficit with the world.

The deficit with Japan was up 23.7 percent from 1992 with the imbalance surpassing the old record of \$56.3 billion set in 1987.

For December, the trade gap actually narrowed slightly, falling to \$7.41 billion, down from a revised November level of \$9.68 billion. The 23.5 percent improvement for the month reflected a big jump in U.S. shipments of civilian aircraft and a sizable decline in America's foreign oil bill.

In other economic news today, the Labor Department reported that inflation turned in an unexpectedly good performance in January, showing no change at all in January, the best showing in more than four years.

A third report showed that the number of Americans filing first-time claims for unemployment benefits rose by 5,000 last week to 371,000, the highest level since Jan. 29.

The Clinton administration has been pressuring Japan to buy more American products as a way of lowering the trade gap. While trade talks aimed at lowering Japan's import barriers collapsed last week, the Japanese announced today that they were putting together a new package of market-opening measures in hopes of averting a trade war with the United States.

However, private economists said that even if the United States was totally successful in removing all of Japan's trade barriers, the United States will suffer growing deficits over the next two years at least because of an imbalance in economic performance.

With the U.S. economy growing faster than the economies of its major trading partners, Americans' appetite for foreign goods is climbing at a faster pace than foreigners' demand for U.S. products.

The National Association of Business Economists said this week it is looking for the 1994 trade deficit to rise even further to \$135 billion and for the deficit to hit \$137 billion in 1995.

After Japan, the country's largest deficit was with China, an imbalance of \$22.77 billion, also a record.

America's only surplus with major regions of the world was with Central and South American, a positive balance of \$562 million. The United States also had a surplus with Mexico of \$155.6 million.

Wheeler, Wellington banks plan merger

Officials with Wellington State Bank today announced an agreement merging that institution with the First National Bank in Wheeler.

The agreement, which is subject to regulatory and shareholder approval, would generate approximately \$70 million in combined assets.

Richard M. Sims, chairman of the Board of Directors of Wellington State Bank, said customers of the Wheeler bank will see no change in the level of service.

Sims said the Wellington bank is proceeding with the merger to expand its presence in the Texas Panhandle. Other acquisitions are a possible long-

range goal for the Wellington bank, he said.

There are no plans to change the name of the Wheeler bank until the merger receives the necessary approval, according to bank president Charles R. Brown.

Wellington State Bank was chartered in 1906 and has total assets of approximately \$37 million. The First National Bank in Wheeler was founded in 1908 and has total assets of approximately \$36 million.

In a prepared statement, Brown stated the merger and resulting expansion of assets would allow the banks to be more competitive within their respective trade areas.

Eleven defendants face federal retaliation trial

By JEAN PAGEL
Associated Press Writer

AMARILLO (AP) — The alleged leader of an anti-government group that calls itself "We the People" faced trial today with 10 followers accused of retaliating against federal judges.

Authorities say Roy Schwasinger, 49, of Fort Collins, Colo., travels around the country urging disgruntled farmers and ranchers not to pay taxes or to repay bank loans.

Defense attorneys say their clients, by filing liens against bankruptcy judges, didn't intend it as harassment or intimidation.

"These people are protestors with the best of intentions. They sincerely believe in what they're doing," said Amarillo attorney Paige Brittain, who represents Schwasinger. "They're motivated by a desire to restore the American farmer with his property."

Seven defendants are from Texas and four are from Colorado.

A 13-count federal indictment charges them with conspiring to obstruct justice and injure and impede judges and bankruptcy trustees.

U.S. District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer of Dallas is presiding judge for the trial, which is expected to last at least three weeks.

Several Lubbock judges and attorneys are expected to testify. Other evidence likely will include videotapes that prosecutors say show Schwasinger peddling a scam.

Investigators say Schwasinger asked people who lost land through foreclosure to pay \$300 to join his campaign against the nation's system of land financing.

Schwasinger claims that the United States went bankrupt in 1938, and that as a result, taxing, lending and foreclosures have been illegal ever since, investigators said.

He is accused of encouraging people to file false financial statements in retaliation against judges who foreclosed on them.

The UCC-1 document, typically filed by a secured party against a debtor, purported that the judges owed the defendants millions of dollars.

Four defendants are from the Texas Panhandle town of Tulia, about 50 miles south of Amarillo: Jerry Don Herndon, 57; his wife, Bettie Lu Herndon, 56; Jackie Dee Loring, 62; and William Bivens, 56.

Daniel McDaniel, 54, and his wife, Julia McDaniel, 51, are from the Central Texas town of Cameron, about 60 miles northeast of Austin. Murrell Dwain Foster, 62, is from the Northeast Texas town of De Kalb, about 35 miles west of Texarkana.

Scientists test Washington's genetic code with relatives

By ANNE GEARAN
Associated Press Writer

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Did George Washington get a trim here?

Nearly 200 years after his death, scientists are testing whether the genetic code of the Father of Our Country has survived in snippets of what may be his hair.

Using new genetic technology, evidence experts at the Federal Bureau of Investigation hope to conclude whether the hair is authentic. And as technology advances, they may even discover clues about the first president's health.

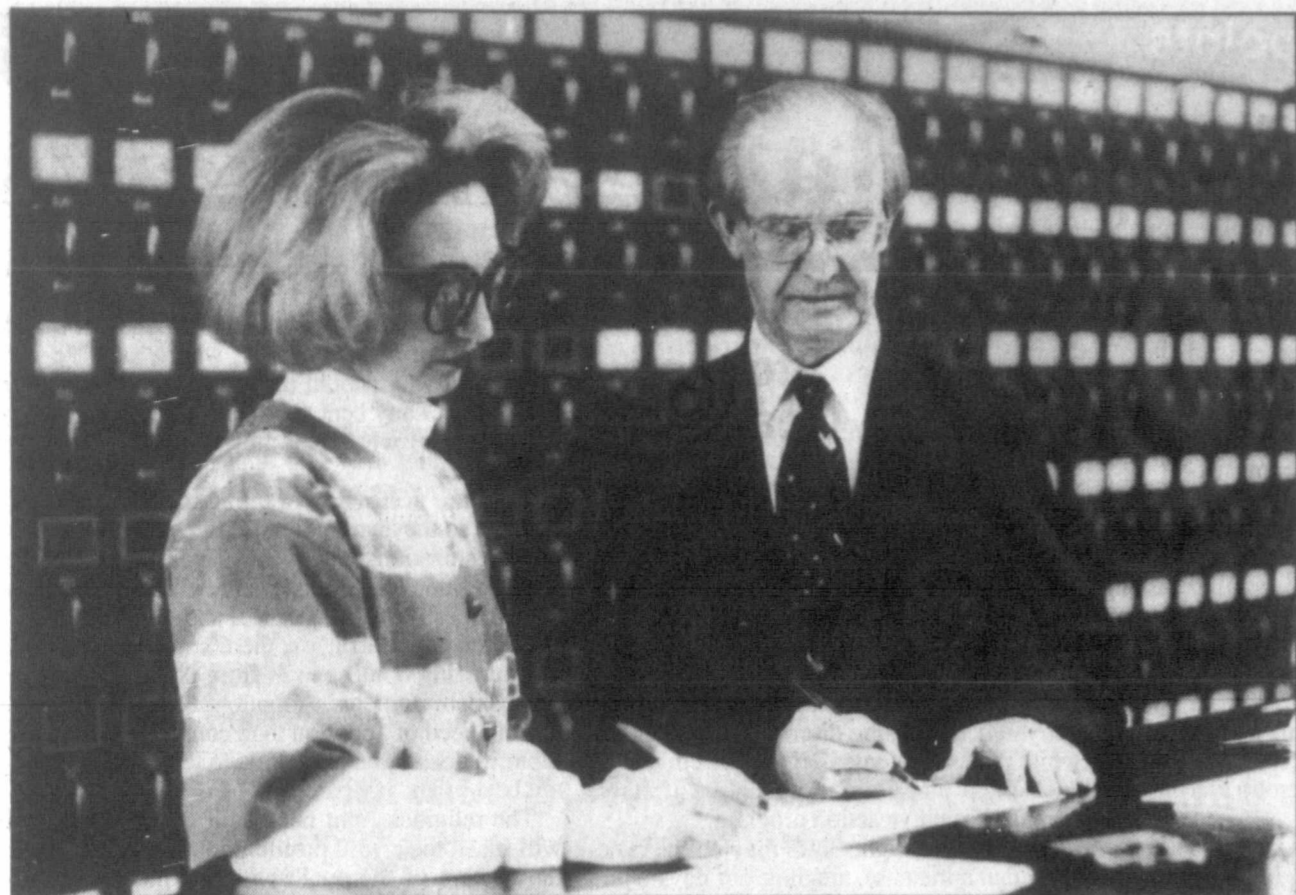
The DNA tests came about after Daughters of the American Republic Museum Director

Diane Dunkley began sifting through potential objects for an exhibit this month that focuses on Washington's personal life and surroundings.

She asked the FBI to verify the hair samples. Deedrick's hair and fiber unit, eager for a high-profile test of their new technology, agreed to help.

The samples will be shredded and the DNA removed for comparison to descendants provided by two direct descendents of Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis.

In a procedure developed in the past year and used increasingly at crime scenes, the FBI will examine mitochondrial DNA, or the genetic building blocks that lie outside the cell nucleus.



Pam Walton, left, deputy county clerk, and A.C. Malone, Gray County auditor, check over the early-voting forms this morning in the Gray County Clerk's Office as voters begin to cast ballots in the upcoming primary elections. (Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Early voting begins for primary elections

Early primary voting was light today, according to county officials.

Early voting for the March 8 primaries began Wednesday and continues through March 4, said Gray County Clerk Wanda Carter.

Registered voters may cast their ballots 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in person in her office on the second floor of Gray County Courthouse, she said.

Handicapped individuals may enter Gray County Courthouse through the south door and call for voting assistance from the office of Tax Assessor/Collector Margie Gray.

People who expect to be out of the county during early voting may request in writing a ballot from Carter's office. The written request must come from an out-of-county address and must be returned to an out-of-county address, Carter said.

For those 65 and older, ill or dis-

abled, voting may be done by mail, Carter explained.

Her office must receive a letter signed by the voter requesting the ballot, she said. The letter must specify political party and the reason for applying by mail.

Democratic and Republican primary elections are scheduled for March 8 with runoff spots to be decided April 12.

The position of Gray County judge has drawn four candidates: Jim Osborne and Wendell Palmer, both Democrats, and Gary Willoughby and Richard Peet, Republicans.

Seeking the post of county commissioner, Precinct 2 are Democratic incumbent Jim Greene, and two Republican contenders, Susan Triplehorn and Robert W. Dixon.

Aiming for election as county attorney are Tracey Blades, Democrat, and Todd Alvey, in-

cumbent Republican candidate.

McLean residents will have no shortage of Republican candidates to choose from to fill the position of justice of the peace, Precinct 4. Martha Jo Bailey, Milton Best, Mary Ann Carpenter and Jake Hess Sr. have filed to fill the spot now held by retiring Creed Lamb.

Democratic incumbent County Clerk Wanda Carter will face Republican challenger Joetta Thomas. Democratic incumbent District Clerk Yvonne Moler will face newcomer Republican Bobbie West.

State Rep. Warren Chisum, Democrat, is unopposed. Rep. Bill Sarpalus (D-Amarillo) will face a Republican opponent in the fall. Hoping to unseat Sarpalus are Amarillo attorney Mac Thornberry, Amarillo businessman Flavious Smith and Dimmitt's Mayor Wayne Collins.

Indicted pastor found dead in Houston of apparent suicide

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston pastor was found dead in his home of an apparent suicide Wednesday, a day after he was indicted for allegedly whipping a boy at the mother's request, police said.

Victor Anthony Boutte, 48, suffered a gunshot wound to his head and a gun was found clenched in his right hand, police spokesman Robert Hurst said. Boutte was pastor of the non-denominational Holy Ghost Church.

"The body was discovered by two members of the congregation who had gone to check on him after being

unable to contact him by telephone," Hurst said.

Hurst said the Harris County Medical Examiner's office will have to rule on the exact cause of death, but police did not suspect any foul play.

Boutte was indicted Tuesday and was to appear in court Wednesday morning. He and two of his parishioners were accused of whipping an 11-year-old boy after the youth's mother asked for help disciplining him.

The boy's wounds were so severe they were still bleeding when he went to school the next day.

Terminally-ill patients, investors benefit from purchase of life insurance policies

By JEFF CARRUTH
Staff Writer

Terminally-ill patients and investors apparently both stand to gain from the increasingly popular practice of purchasing the life insurance policies of individuals with short life expectancies.

But such transactions are fairly new and the idea of viatical transfer may take some getting used to as ethics questions arise.

The practice thus far is most commonly used by AIDS patients who face skyrocketing medical expenses and many times lose their health coverage.

Viatical agreements offer the terminally-ill a chance to use a large portion of their life insurance before death occurs — to pay medical expenses or simply enjoy life. In the process, those who purchase the policies stand to gain 10 percent or more on their investment depending on the amount of the policy and the length of time before the patient dies.

The patient enters into an agreement with an investor calling for the investor to buy the patient's life insurance policy for a large percent-

age of what the policy is worth. In turn, the patient names the investor as beneficiary of the policy. The investor then pays the premiums until the patient's death.

"A lot of (AIDS patients) don't have health insurance, and if they can use the money to pay off hospital bills, it's a good deal," said Pampa insurance agent Tim Hutto, C.L.U.

He has not yet been involved in a viatical transaction but expects the use of such agreements to spread.

Hutto said viatical agreements could become common among the elderly, especially with those who have too many assets to qualify for Medicare but face losing their net worth to medical expenses. Such living benefits could be used to pay increasingly high nursing home costs.

Meanwhile, it has become common practice for intermediary companies to match investors and the terminally-ill who wish to enter into a viatical agreement. This is where some see the potential for abuse, but there have been no complaints yet, according to State Rep. Warren Chisum.

Last session, the Texas Legislature

passed a bill sponsored by Chisum giving regulatory authority of the viatical industry to the state insurance board.

Chisum, who is also a viatical investor, sees the practice as a win-win situation. "Investors can make a better than normal return, and it's an avenue that people can use for medical care ... There's no downside to the industry," he said.

Chisum said intermediary companies do not engage in direct solicitation of patients, and the state attorney general's office has received no complaints.

Some questions over the human dignity of those who sell their policies have risen, but the economic benefit to both parties seems to outweigh such concerns.

"I don't know if I could (buy a policy) and not feel guilty. But it is a pretty good deal if someone needs cash for medical care," Hutto said.

By giving individuals the means to stay afloat financially, proponents say viatical agreements offer the seriously ill a chance to maintain human dignity.

"That's about all we have left to take with us," Hutto said.

Charges dismissed against former Hutchison aides

AUSTIN (AP) — Charges have been dismissed against two former aides who were indicted along with U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, and prosecutors have dropped attempts to reveal the grand jury testimony in the investigation.

State District Court Judge Bob Perkins on Tuesday dismissed charges against Mike Barron, former deputy treasurer, and David Criss, former policy and planning director at the agency.

The dismissal ends all pending indictments from the eight-month investigation into the state treasurer's office while Mrs. Hutchison headed it.

Because Hutchison was acquitted of using the office for political and personal purposes "it would not be fair to prosecute only the subordinates," said Darla Davis, Travis

County assistant district attorney.

On Friday, Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle refused to proceed in Hutchison's case, saying he feared Judge John F. Onion Jr. would rule against allowing evidence that was seized during a raid of the state Treasury.

Ms. Davis said the district attorney's office also would not pursue making grand jury testimony public, because of opposition from Hutchison.

Hutchison's attorney, Dick DeGuerin, said releasing the grand jury transcripts without notifying the witnesses involved would compromise their rights of privacy.

"Sen. Hutchison expressed satisfaction with the developments. She's especially pleased that Mike Barron was exonerated," said David Beck-

with, a spokesman for Hutchison.

Barron had been indicted on charges of official misconduct, tampering with a governmental record and tampering with evidence.

Criss had been indicted on one charge of official misconduct.

"I'm happy to put this behind me," said Criss, a first-year law student at Southern Methodist University. "I've maintained my innocence throughout. I believe the district attorney's actions affirm that. My wife and I are ready to move on with our lives."

Barron, now the chief financial officer for the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, was accused of telling Treasury workers to delete computer records of employees who had allegedly been conducting campaign work on state computers.

Community wants to force convicted murderer out of town

CLIFTON (AP) — Triple murderer Roy Swink cannot understand why many of Clifton's citizens absolutely do not want him as a neighbor.

"None of them know me. They really know nothing about me," he told The Associated Press Wednesday.

Since discovering that Swink, 32, was released quietly to a rural area near Clifton, the community's citizens have begun a petition drive to force him out.

After serving 15 years in prison, Swink was released Feb. 2 to Bosque County. He lives with a family friend and sponsor, Steve Cochran, in a rural area near Clifton, a community of about 3,000 people approximately 40 miles northwest of Waco.

As of Wednesday, 150 people had signed the petition, according to the *Abilene Reporter-News*.

Swink was sentenced to 45 years in prison for the 1978 shotgun slay-

ing of his 14-year-old brother, Royce, in Aspermont, about 60 miles northwest of Abilene.

In 1986, he pleaded guilty to killing his father, Hermon Welton Swink, and his pregnant stepmother, Ilene Swink, in the same incident. He received two more 45-year sentences to run with the original sentence. He also was given a 10-year term to run concurrently for trying to escape on the way to prison in December 1978.

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Viewpoints

The Pampa News

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

Louise Fletcher
Publisher

David Bowser
Managing Editor

Opinion

Drug sentencing laws need study

As Congress debates yet another federal anti-crime bill, legislators should take a few minutes to review a Department of Justice study that assesses the results of previous efforts to "get tough on crime." The policy of requiring heavy mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug law offenses has proven counterproductive. Those laws deserve critical study.

The manner of the Justice Department report's release was in itself fascinating. Last May, Attorney General Janet Reno ordered a comprehensive study of mandatory minimums for minor drug-law offenders, to be released in September. A few weeks ago, when Deputy Attorney General Philip Heymann quit (or was pushed out), stories were floated to the effect that his office had become a "black hole" for official studies.

But Heymann said this wasn't true of the mandatory-minimum study, which he says was completed last fall. According to a *Washington Post* story, "(Heymann) said presidential counselor David R. Gergen asked him to delay the release to give the White House more time to develop an administration position on mandatory sentences."

"To say that this fell into a black hole ... is a bum rap," Heymann was quoted as saying. "The damn thing was done months ago."

If that news hadn't surfaced, resulting in calls for the report to be released, it might have been kept under wraps until after Congress had passed a crime bill. As it was, the report was released just after 5 p.m. Friday, virtually guaranteeing that it wouldn't make the evening news and would be "buried" as a minor weekend story.

But everyone in Congress should know the results before voting on any crime bills. It turns out that 16,737 low-level drug law violators are in federal prison today (out of 70,000 total) serving mandatory minimum sentences averaging 81.5 months.

As Julie Stewart, president of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, points out, "The average federal sentence for sex offenses is 69 months, for manslaughter 51 months; yet we pay for nonviolent, first-time drug offenders to sit in prison for six years."

Some 42.3 percent of the drug offenders in federal prison were low-level couriers, or "mules." As Stewart explains, "The low guy on the totem pole has the least information to trade for a reduction in sentence. It's the kingpins who cut the deals and do less time."

The result of mandatory-minimum laws is that taxpayers spend \$334 million per year to take up space that is then not available for violent criminals. Some violent criminals have even been released early to make room for people sentenced under mandatory-minimum laws.

These laws should be reviewed — and probably repealed — before any new laws are put on the books.

The real agenda against gays

American homosexuals, who feel perpetually embattled and disliked, can take some consolation in the fact that they generate less loathing than career politicians. The campaign for term limits on elected officials is currently the most successful grass-roots movement in the country. The battle against gay rights comes in a mere second.

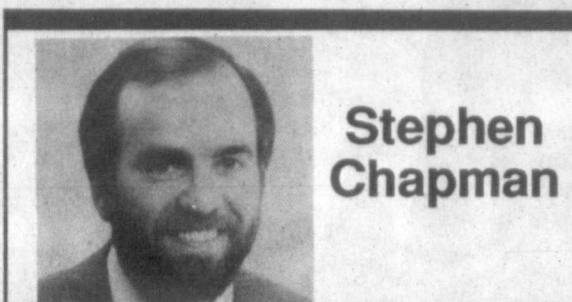
Last year, 19 local initiatives excluding homosexuals from anti-discrimination laws made it onto the ballot — and every one of them passed. In 1992, Colorado voters approved a measure barring protection for gays. As many as nine states may vote on similar measures this year.

Most of these would amend state constitutions to disqualify gays from civil rights protection. The impetus is horror of everything gays request, from the repeal of sodomy laws to school curricula admitting the existence of homosexuals. The dubious pretext is opposition to privileged status for a group that needs no help and deserves none.

The religious right, which is spearheading the drive, says gays don't belong in the civil rights laws because they don't suffer from discrimination, having a high average income. The anti-gay forces argue that what homosexuals want is not fairness but "special rights" that will lead to gay quotas.

Civil rights laws are open to the charge that they impel many employers to hire by the numbers. But if that effect is malignant, why should it raise concerns only in the case of gays? No one proposes to exclude blacks or women, the chief beneficiaries of any existing quotas. No one recommends excluding any other group. Gays alone have to pay for the sins of affirmative action.

It isn't true that we confine protection to those who suffer for inborn traits (assuming, against the evidence, that homosexuality is something people "choose"). We ban religious discrimination, even



Stephen Chapman

though people are free to change their religion and many do.

Nor do we shield only groups that are poor: Japanese-Americans are generally better off than white Anglo-Saxon Protestants, but they may sue over employment or housing discrimination. For that matter, white males also enjoy legal protection from racial and sexual discrimination, unless it stems from a formal affirmative action program.

On balance, the civil rights laws may not be beneficial. But if that's the case, singling out gays won't solve the problem. If they are beneficial, though, it's hard to think of a powerful reason why they should extend to white males but not white males who are gay. Of the groups our civil rights laws cover, few have suffered such fierce and enduring persecution as homosexuals.

The opponents of gay rights insist that gays evoke condemnation purely for what they do — live a "gay lifestyle." But homosexuals have never been able to purchase tolerance with celibacy. What disgusts their enemies is that they have homosexual feelings, even if they never act on them.

The anti-gay rights organizations, however, are not preoccupied with civil rights theory. Their purpose is to block gay rights gains of any kind. Homosexuals infuriate them not because they demand spe-

cial treatment but because they aspire to be treated like everyone else.

The gay rights opponents are appalled at the idea of repealing sodomy laws, which survive in 22 states. But why should the government tell consenting adults of any bent (16 states outlaw heterosexual sodomy, too) what they may do in their own bedrooms?

Gays are accused of wanting to lower the age of consent so they can molest children. The truth is that gay organizations only want to make the age of consent the same for homosexual relations as for heterosexual ones. What's so radical about that?

As for gay marriages, there's not much sense in discouraging homosexuals from permanent, monogamous commitments. Adoption? With far more children in need of adoption than couples willing to take them, it doesn't help the kids to tell them no parents are better than gay parents.

The religious right talks as if acceptance of gays will mean their wild proliferation — precipitating the destruction of the nuclear family, the Judeo-Christian ethic and, who knows, the National Football League.

In fact, as legal scholar and federal appellate judge Richard Posner noted in his authoritative 1992 book, *Sex and Reason*, this preference has been shown "to exist in most, perhaps all, societies, whether they are tolerant of homosexuality or repressive of it; to be almost completely — and perhaps completely — resistant to treatment of it; and to be no more common in tolerant than repressive societies."

Based on everything we know, we cannot use government power to prevent anyone from being homosexual. All we can do is make life miserable for those who are homosexual. For the people leading the campaign against gay civil rights, that may be enough.



Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Feb. 17th, the 48th day of 1994. There are 317 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
Thirty years ago, on Feb. 17th, 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its "one man, one vote" decision, ruling that congressional districts within each state had to be roughly equal in population.

On this date:
In 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president. Burr became vice president.

In 1817, a street in Baltimore became the first to be lighted with gas from America's first gas company.

In 1865, Columbia, S.C., burned as the Confederates moved out and Union forces began moving in. (It's never been determined which side set the blaze.)

June Allyson would be a fine coach

Somebody just told me the Atlanta Falcons have picked June Allyson as their new head football coach.

Great. I like June Allyson. In fact, I fell in love with her the first time I saw her, in the *The Monty Stratton Story*.

Remember that movie? You don't? I guess that's because you're not old enough to remember the girl-next-door type, which June Allyson certainly was. That was before the girl-next-door type would cut off your cowboy.

Anyway, it was a terrific movie. June Allyson played the wife of Monty Stratton, a baseball pitcher played by Jimmy Stewart, who was also rumored to be a candidate for the Falcons job.

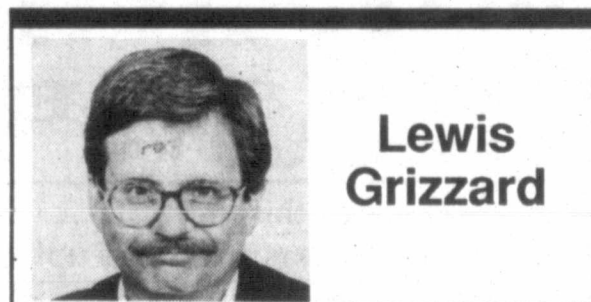
In the movie, Jimmy Stewart — Monty Stratton — shoots off his leg in a hunting accident.

So his baseball career is over, right? Not so fast. Because of his will and desire, and the help of his wife, June Allyson, he is able to overcome his injury and return to baseball.

So I like to think June Allyson is a great motivator, which she certainly will need to be as the new Falcons coach.

All great coaches are also great motivators. Jimmy Johnson of the Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys is a great motivator.

So is Mark Levy, coach of the Buffalo Bills. He



Lewis Grizzard

could probably even persuade his team to return to a fifth straight Super Bowl. A head coach must be a great salesperson. June Allyson was that. Ever see her selling those personal-hygiene products on television?

"Extra protection" is what she sells.

The Falcons need that. For their quarterbacks. The Falcons' protection has been so historically poor, they once had a quarterback who was hit so hard that he came out of the next huddle and lined up under a guard to await a snap that never came.

A lot of fans are probably asking, "Why on Earth did the Falcons pick a woman to be their new head coach?"

Why, indeed. Well, one reason must be that men certainly haven't worked out as Falcons coaches.

They've had six or seven male failures previous-

ly, including one other individual from the entertainment field, Mr. Peepers.

His real name was Wally Cox, and he had his own TV show.

Oh, that was Pat Pepler who was the Falcons coach? Sorry. Easy to get those two guys confused, though. They both had about the same amount of business being the head coach of pro football team.

I like the Falcon's choice of June Allyson, because they finally went for a "name" coach.

No more of this hiring somebody else's obscure coordinator of something or other. They didn't hire a Dan Henning. They at least hired somebody with some name recognition to make it look like they might finally be serious about winning.

Rankin Smith Sr. owns the team. His little boy Taylor runs it. Perhaps the Smith family has finally dedicated itself to throwing off the team's yoke as one of the worst, most ill-managed sports franchises in history.

Whatever, I want to applaud the Smiths for doing it right this time.

What's that? The Falcons didn't hire June Allyson. They hired June Jones?

Who the hell is June Jones? What movie is she been in?

I guess I misunderstood.

Tale of two skaters is on thin ice

Sports commentator Frank DeFord has called it the story of "Snow White and the Evil Queen."

And thanks to remarks just such as that, that's exactly what the tale of the attack on figure skater Nancy Kerrigan became as soon as it was known that her alleged attackers included men surrounding her chief rival, Tonya Harding. The story became not a plea for justice, but a fairy tale for some irresponsible members of the press to craft seductively to attract viewers, readers and listeners.

I understand what DeFord was trying to do: to be entertaining, to elevate the tale to an allegorical level, using a story with which everyone is familiar. That's a great technique — if all the elements of the tales you're comparing are known. Trouble is, in this case we don't know all of the elements yet. There are times when using allegory is a proper writing tool and times when it is not. When a person, such as Harding, has not been charged with a crime, it is not the time. She insists she is innocent.

Evil "queen," Frank? When the only people charged so far have been a host of men — or kings, to stick with your royal imagery — why would you decide it was the proper time to talk about evil "queens"?

I can understand how tempting it would be to slip into crafting news reports in this case around a Grimm Brothers theme.

First, there's the video of the few seconds after the attack; beautiful, graceful Nancy Kerrigan in white, screaming terror, helplessly carried from



Sarah Overstreet

the arena by her dad.

Next there's the video of a beaming Harding after she won the U.S. championships — which the clubbing kept Kerrigan out of — saying she hopes her rival is healed by the Olympics so she can "beat her butt" for the gold.

Then even more video, this time of the Buffoon Brigade charged in the attack — including Harding's ex-husband and her bodyguard.

And of course, there are the wonderful Kerrigans, the All-American family supporting their beloved daughter.

Behind Harding are only the coach who served as a surrogate parent to her, and stories of her difficult relationships with her natural parents and stepparents. The TV networks exploded with stories of Tonya's rough upbringing and tough-girl ways; photos of Tonya smoking; a revealing documentary of Tonya, as a young teen, on the nation's top TV news magazine, 60 *Minutes*. Nowhere is there any video or

childhood reminiscences of the men actually charged in the attack. The prevailing TV theme is, "If she did it, we'll be the first news team to show you why."

Shortly after her bodyguard admitted involvement in the attack, one columnist called Harding "Amy Fisher on skates." Several others called for her to voluntarily take herself out of the Olympics. "She would take an impossible shadow to the Olympics," syndicated columnist Mike Lopresti wrote. "It would be a circus in Lillehammer, engulfing the competition."

Withdrawing would be her chance to "appear to be gracious," to "rehabilitate her image," DeFord said later on National Public Radio, adding she is "morally obligated to get out of Nancy Kerrigan's way."

If Tonya Harding had anything to do with the attack — anything at all, even knowledge of any part of any plan — she should be practicing her famed triple axel in a small cell.

But what if, as she claims, she really had no knowledge of the crime, and her biggest sin was a poor choice of cohorts? She should abandon her life's work and crawl off so that no one else is inconvenienced?

Who among us doesn't know someone who has made a bad marriage, who has believed in friends who didn't deserve it, who has been the victim of a friend or relative's greed or treachery?

This story MAY become a tale of the "Evil Queen" and "Snow White" once the truth is known. But until that time, it is not. This is still America, no matter what's on *A Current Affair*.

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United Nations, NATO agree on tough terms for Bosnia ultimatum

By BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — At U.S. urging, NATO and U.N. commanders have agreed on tough terms to separate Bosnian Serbs from the deadly artillery and mortar they have rained on Sarajevo and now must surrender by Sunday night.

"The Serbs now, I think, must know that if they don't comply, NATO will take action," President Clinton declared today in a morning radio interview. "The United States has been pushing this for a long time and I think we've finally succeeded in bringing our allies around."

Disobeying the 6 p.m. CST Sunday deadline could touch off a NATO air attack. Complying — and so far the Serbs are moving slowly — could permanently deprive them of the deadly weapons that kept the city in thrall until an uneasy cease-fire took hold last weekend.

"The decision of the North Atlantic Council still stands," Clinton said Wednesday, referring to the ultimatum to clear a 13-mile radius around Sarajevo of

heavy artillery and mortar. "And the rules are clear."

He said the Serbs either had to surrender the weapons to the United Nations or withdraw them from the zone. A third option in the event the weapons cannot be moved because of snow or inadequate transportation is to put them under the control of U.N. forces at the site, Clinton said.

They will be surrounded by U.N. troops and made inoperable, administration officials said Wednesday.

The objective, one official said, was to ensure there would be "no Serb finger on the trigger."

In the meantime, only a trickle of guns have been turned over to U.N. authorities. Thirty-six were reported on Sunday and a half-dozen or so have been surrendered since, the officials said.

"There's no question there is a long way to go," said one official, who like the others spoke on condition of anonymity.

Clinton, returning to the White House from a trip to New Jersey, said Wednesday he thought "there is no problem" in aligning the NATO and U.N. commanders on implementing the ultimatum.

He said NATO and the U.N. were working out "a clear and meaningful definition of control of the weapons."

The administration officials said the terms were adopted in talks between U.S. Adm. Jeremy M. Boorda, the NATO commander in the region, and British Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, the U.N. commander.

Officials said the terms were shaped largely by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has also warned any shelling of Sarajevo — from the 13-mile zone or beyond — could provoke NATO retaliation.

NATO imposed the 10-day ultimatum last week, prompted by a mortar attack that killed 68 people in a Sarajevo market on Feb. 5.

About 10,000 people have been killed in Sarajevo since minority Serbs rebelled against the Muslim-led government's declaration of independence in April 1992. About 200,000 people are dead or missing across the former Yugoslav republic in strife that has involved Bosnian Croats, as well.

Christopher said Tuesday "the weapons must be inca-

pacitated so they cannot be fired unless they are withdrawn beyond the 20-kilometer range."

Dee Dee Myers, the White House press secretary, said Wednesday that NATO would not wait for the actual firing of any weapons in violation of the ultimatum. "Whether it's used is not the test," she said. "If we find them we bomb them."

Rose pledged Wednesday that NATO's intent will be met. He said if the Serbs want to recover their weapons "they will have to fight to get them back."

The Clinton administration agrees with him on this and on the stiff terms, the officials said.

The United Nations, meanwhile, is requesting an additional 2,000 to 3,000 troops to help implement the ultimatum.

But the officials said the administration will stand by its position of not sending U.S. ground troops into Bosnia unless there is a negotiated settlement among Muslims, Serbs and Croats.

In that case, the United States would contribute to a multinational monitoring force.

Rebels free former governor to start peace talks

By LAWRENCE KOOTNIKOFF
Associated Press Writer

GUADALUPE TEPEYAC, Mexico (AP) — Paving the way for peace talks, Indian rebels in southern Mexico released a former governor in a remote village that offered a glimpse of the poverty rebels are protesting.

Government envoy, Manuel Camacho Solis, declared the release Wednesday a "firm step toward peace." It was his first face-to-face encounter with the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army.

Both sides have indicated peace talks are imminent but no time or place has been set.

Absalon Castellanos, 70, the former governor of the state of Chiapas along the Guatemalan border, returned to his ranch after being held 47 days in a remote forest hide-out. He has said the rebels did not mistreat him and showed no sign of his ordeal other than a new beard.

Flanked by four hooded rebels, he walked to freedom along a dirt road in this tiny village in southern Chiapas where electricity was first introduced last year and telephones don't exist.

The 300 residents applauded as the rebels shouted "Viva the Zap-

atista Army!" About 160 journalists were on hand as well as government officials.

"We have fulfilled our promise," shouted the rebels, carrying automatic weapons and wearing their signature ski masks and red handkerchiefs.

An unidentified man in civilian dress recited a list long of complaints against Castellanos, a retired army general who commanded the Mexican army in Chiapas before serving as governor from 1982-88. Rebels accuse him of stealing Indian land and jailing those who opposed him.

Castellanos denied the charges but in a television interview broadcast late Tuesday, admitted failing to adequately address social injustices.

"I hope we will soon see peace and tranquility in Chiapas," Castellanos said in a brief statement after being examined by Red Cross workers.

His release was seen as a condition for peace talks. The government earlier released 38 suspected rebels and was preparing to free 32 others, according to Mexican news reports.

In what may have been a similar gesture toward peace, the government announced a huge increase in spending for rural social programs.

The rebellion began New Year's Day when the previously unknown Zapatistas briefly took over several towns in Chiapas, Mexico's southernmost state, to protest mistreatment and oppression of Indian peasants, most of whom live in poverty.

The fighting died down two weeks later after the government declared a unilateral cease-fire.

Castellanos, said by the rebels to be their only hostage, was kidnapped from his ranch Jan. 2. He planned to spend the night in his home before taking a military flight today from the Chiapas capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez to Mexico City. It was not immediately known if Castellanos would meet with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

In late January, the rebels said Castellanos had been sentenced to death but that they commuted the sentence to life of hard labor at an indigenous community to atone for his sins against Indians.

A majority of the 3.2 million Chiapas residents are Indians, many of whom speak no Spanish and live in tiny farm plots without running water or electricity. Hospitals and schools are scarce. The Zapatistas say Indians are dying of curable diseases.

Theft of 'The Scream' linked to anti-abortion group

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A clergyman today linked the theft of the Edvard Munch masterpiece "The Scream" to an anti-abortion campaign.

Borre Knudsen, a well-known anti-abortion activist, said Norway's most famous painting could be returned if Norwegian television broadcast a film showing a fetus being aborted.

He refused to answer questions about whether anti-abortionists were involved in the theft Saturday at the National Art Museum, which was putting on a Munch exhibition in conjunction with the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer.

"We can't publicly state that we know what happened, but we see what happened linked with the issue we feel deeply about," Knudsen, an ordained minister of the state Lutheran Church, said in a radio interview.

"If Norwegian television broadcasts the (anti-abortion film) *The*

Silent Scream ... then 'The Scream' would emerge again," he said.

When the radio interviewer asked if he or his supporters were involved in the theft, Knudsen responded, "No comment."

"We simply can't be too open about it," he added. "We have sent out a signal, and we hope that it will be heard, but we must be very secretive."

Knudsen has been involved in inviting American anti-abortion campaigners to Norway during the Olympics to take advantage of the international news media and gain attention for their cause. Police deported 12 Americans last week on suspicion they planned criminal activities, a charge they denied.

Anne Diesen, deputy managing director at Norwegian television NRK,

said it had not received any demand to broadcast *The Silent Scream*.

"We would refuse it without question. We would never broadcast under those conditions," she said.

Police superintendent Leif A. Lier said he was studying a copy of the radio interview. He said Knudsen "did not give a clear answer to the questions asked, so we will have to continue our investigations before I can comment further."

The Norwegian High Court ruled in 1983 that Knudsen could not have his own parish because his views against abortion brought him into conflict with the church. But he has a following among those who oppose Norway's laws allowing abortions and providing state payment for the procedure.

Convicted child killer gets death sentence

SAN MARCOS (AP) — A convicted child murderer was sentenced Wednesday to lethal injection for an attack on an 8-year-old girl.

Jurors decided the punishment for Doil Lane in Judge Charles Ramsey's 22nd District Court.

The death sentence came shortly before 2 p.m., said Edna Chagolla of the Hays County district attorney's office.

Jurors deliberated about 1 1/2 hours, said Annette DeLeon, assistant court coordinator for Ramsey.

A Kansas woman testified during the trial's punishment phase

that she was uneasy around Lane because he stared at her two children each day as they walked past his house on their way to school.

Lane was found guilty Monday of capital murder in the 1980 kidnapping, rape and murder of Bertha Martinez.

Brenda Smith of Wichita, Kan., testified Tuesday that because of the way Lane stared at her children, "They would cross the street when they got to his house."

Other testimony in the first day of the sentencing phase of Lane's trial focused on his past "sexually inappropriate conduct" at school, a school counselor said.

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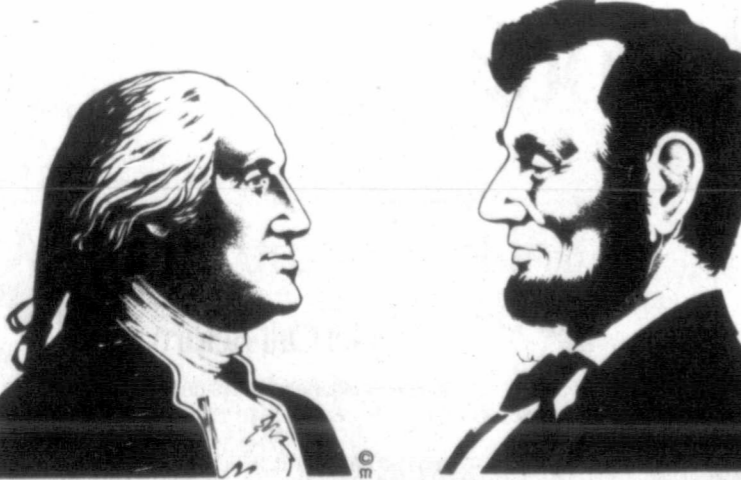
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Defense lawyer: Client was unwilling participant in Trade Center bombing

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawyer for a World Trade Center bombing suspect conceded Wednesday his client was an unwitting participant in the attack after falling victim to a "devious, evil ... genius" who fled to Iraq.

The statement by Robert Precht, attorney for Mohammad Salameh, marked the first time in the five-month federal trial that a defense lawyer told the jury directly that his client was connected to the bombing.

Some of the defense attorneys have refused to even concede that it was a bomb that damaged the trade center, killed six people and injured more than 1,000.

Precht said Salameh, the first person arrested in the case, was nothing more than an unknowing employee of the fugitive, Ramzi Yousef.

"Mr. Yousef did get Mr. Salameh to help him but he kept Mr. Salameh in the dark about the fundamental plan that he came to this country with," Precht said in closing arguments. As he spoke, he held a picture of Yousef before the jury.

Salameh, a 26-year-old Palestinian who was arrested after seeking a refund for the bomb-damaged van from the rental company, is on trial along with three other Muslim mili-

tants in the Feb. 26 bombing. If convicted, the defendants face up to life in prison without parole.

The prosecution presented 207 witnesses and hundreds of pieces of evidence that jurors will likely begin sifting through early next week.

Precht said his client was "terribly misled ... terribly manipulated by a devious, evil, I'll say it, genius, a person who came to this country with a single mission — to destroy American targets."

"The ultimate evidence that this is a skilled professional, ruthless and stealth and willing to stop at nothing in the pursuit of his goals is the fact that he is not here today," Precht said.

Precht said Salameh handled chemicals at the storage shed where some bomb components allegedly were delivered, and may have performed other tasks related to the bombing, but was unaware of the consequence of his acts.

He insisted there was "more than reasonable doubt" that Salameh rented the storage shed, lived at the Jersey City, N.J., address where the bomb was made, mixed chemicals and visited the Trade Center days before the bombing.

Besides Yousef's picture, Precht also showed the jury a photograph of Abdul Yasin, 33, who left the country March 5.

"The two major pieces of this

puzzle are missing and they're in Iraq," Precht said of the men. The U.S. government has offered a reward of \$2 million each for the fugitives' return.

In an attempt to show his client was a humble, struggling immigrant, Precht opened what he called a "miserable briefcase" that he said contained all of Salameh's worldly belongings: an assortment of random papers and pictures, having nothing to do with bombing or terrorism.

"This is the J.P. Morgan who was going to bankroll Yousef's bomb," Precht said, making light of the prosecutor's portrayal of Salameh as a financier of the attack.

Prosecutors say Yousef arrived in the United States on Sept. 1 from Pakistan and within days, joined Salameh to arrange the bombing. Yousef left the country the evening of the explosion.

They say Salameh rented a storage locker where bomb chemicals were stored, helped make the bomb and rented the yellow van that carried the explosive into a garage beneath the world's second tallest buildings.

Precht told jurors not to be fooled by the "sheer volume" of evidence, including more than 2,000 fingerprints and records of hundreds of telephone calls among the defendants before the bombing.

NASA sets March 3 launch date for Columbia shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA set March 3 as the launch date for the next space shuttle mission, a 14-day research flight by Columbia.

During the mission, the five astronauts will grow crystals, measure shuttle vibrations, conduct medical experiments and tend to 16 rats for a protein molecule study.

The crew is at Kennedy Space Center for a two-day countdown test that ends Thursday.

The launch date and 7:54 a.m. CST liftoff time were announced Wednesday by NASA officials.

It is the second of eight shuttle flights planned by NASA this year. The first, by Discovery, ended Friday.



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Former military bases slowly converted to new uses

By ROBERT DVORCHAK
AP National Writer

Need a shuttered military base?

Followers of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi tried unsuccessfully to open a center for mass meditations at Chantute Air Force Base, a 2,200-acre site that closed last September in Rantoul, Ill. It's now the Rantoul Aviation and Development Center — an airport and multi-use property.

One of the 130-plus proposals for 7,000-acre Fort Ord near Monterey, Calif., is for a spaceport for aliens to land. The spit-and-polish Army post — where Gen. "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell had his ashes scattered — is more likely to become a college campus.

The Presidio in San Francisco — once the northernmost outpost of the Spanish empire and a possession of the Army since 1846 — is destined to become a national park. But the first new civilian tenant is the Gorbachev Foundation-USA — a group headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, the former leader of America's eyeball-to-eyeball foe in the Cold War.

Scores of communities are converting the training grounds of war into engines of economic revivals, establishing civilian airports, prisons, industrial parks, colleges and homeless shelters.

Beginning in 1988, with the Cold War over, the Pentagon targeted unneeded bases for closing to save billions in defense spending. So far, 15 major bases have closed since the first one, Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire, shut down in March 1991 and became the Pease International Tradeport. Ten more are due to close this year.

Fort Douglas — built in 1862 to protect gold shipments from Confederate raiders — closed in 1991. Located outside Salt Lake City, it is now part of the University of Utah, which preserves the fort's historic buildings.

Chase Field Naval Air Station provided a \$40 million annual payroll and 30 percent of the local economy in Beeville, Texas, until jets made their final flyover and the flag was furled for the last time Feb. 17, 1993.

Since then, four light industries have opened on the 1,172-acre base that the Navy used to train pilots for 50 years. The Texas prison system is opening a regional headquarters, a training academy and a processing center for 4,000 prisoners.

And plans are nearly complete to turn the runways and hangars into a general aviation airport. By year's end, the place will have the same 2,000-person workforce, and with a higher payroll.

"What everyone thought would be a death knell for the community is really a tremendous opportunity for economic revival," said Brad Arvin, executive director of the Beeville-Bee County Redevelopment Council. "We've been able to recover and diversify."

But even with the successful turnaround, Arvin noted that the process is "often contradictory, convoluted and most cumbersome." The prime enemy: federal red tape.

Rantoul Mayor Katy Podagrosi echoed the same sentiments: "Working with the federal bureaucracy is a nightmare. It's maddening."

Consider Fort Sheridan, a 696-acre parcel of prime lakefront property in the Chicago suburbs, its high bluffs and sandy beaches among the last undeveloped slices of Lake Michigan.

Built in 1888 to protect Chicago from possible lakeside attack, Fort Sheridan's flag received its final salutes on June 1, 1990. Since then,

the place has pretty much been mothballed.

Community plans to make it a nature preserve, a veterans cemetery, an education center and nursing home fell through. Attempts to have a developer build half-million dollar homes along the golf course were scuttled.

While several homeless organizations hope to use the old fort's abandoned barracks, the only change has been when about 300 acres of ground were turned over the Army Reserves and the Navy claimed some housing units.

"We've been quite frustrated by the bureaucracy. It's a slow clunker of a process," sighed Daniel Pierce, the mayor of Highland Park, one of

the three communities that border on the old fort.

The past has shown that there is life after the military.

According to a Pentagon study of bases closed from 1961 to the latest round of shutdowns, 158,104 new civilian jobs replaced the 93,424 civilian jobs that were lost.

But things are different now, even though the government has worked to streamline the process.

Environmental regulations have changed dramatically, and the military must clean up unexploded ammunition, oil spills and other blight. A community may have to deal with a dozen federal agencies before taking over a base.

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Lifestyles

Dear Abby

Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I think you misread the letter from "Depressed Daughter" when she wrote about her mother's constant negativity. Your advice to try to bring her mother "up" by taking her to a movie, etc., won't work. Her mother lives in a world of her own. She likes to be negative. In fact, she would be ruined if she couldn't discount and denigrate her daughter.

It's not the mother who needs counseling; it's the daughter. The daughter has been verbally abused all her life. Now that she is beginning to realize how much she has been injured, she needs to seek professional help from someone who specializes in abused children and adults.

Don't try to make her mother happy. It can't be done. Make the daughter happy through a change in her self-image and attitude toward herself. Tell her to seek out and attend a self-help group of abused adult children. She'll find her story is very common and there is a way out.

Someday, maybe, if her mother sees that all of her abuse is not getting her anywhere, the mother will seek help for herself. I doubt it, though, because this kind of abusive behavior is an addiction, and you know how difficult it is to change an addict unless she wants to change.

ERV IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR ERV: I received more than a few thought-provoking letters from readers who disagreed with my answer. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have read your column for many years. This is the first time I have felt the need to write. In my opinion, your answer to "Depressed Daughter" was out of line.

I, too, have a negative, angry and depressed mother. She is angry about her life choices, but has not done anything to help change the situation.

For many years, my sister and I have tried to help her. We have done the things you have suggested to "Depressed Daughter," without success. Our frustration has created migraine headaches and colon spasms for us. Our mother is 75, so we have been at this for a long time.

Please tell "Depressed Daughter" to let go with love. It is not her responsibility to fix her mother. We cannot change ourselves. Love, acceptance, forgiveness, and letting go of the responsibility for her mother is the best advice you can give this daughter. I listened to my mother, but I know I can't fix her. I can love her, but I can't change her. Only she can do that for herself — if she wants to.

LEARNING TO LET GO

DEAR ERV, LEARNING TO LET GO, AND READERS: We all approach problem-solving from our own perspective, repeating those techniques that work for us. Obviously, the themes of forgiveness and trying to help others are patterns that I have found rewarding. If they do not work, and people find themselves locked into relationships that are unrewarding and unhealthy — the name for that is "co-dependency" — changes are in order.

There is an international self-help group dedicated to this problem: Co-Dependents Anonymous, a fellowship of men, women and teens whose common problem is an inability to maintain functional relationships; its members desire healthy, fulfilling relationships with others and themselves. They follow a 12-step program adapted from AA. For information on a group near you, write to P.O. box 33577, Phoenix, Ariz. 85067-3577. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$1 for materials.

Amarillo group looking for a few good women

AMARILLO — The Amarillo Women's Forum is looking for nominations for its annual Distinguished Service Awards.

The purpose of the Distinguished Service Awards is to honor outstanding women who have helped shape the development of the Texas Panhandle through their contributions of talent and skill.

The award recognizes and publicizes the visible examples set by these women that pave the way for others to follow. Individuals or groups may submit nominations for the Distinguished Service Award.

Nominees must be living Texas women who are legal residents of the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle and who have not previously received this award. Women previously nominated but who have not been honored with this award are encouraged to be re-nominated.

Winners of the award will be chosen on the basis of an individual's lasting contributions or achievements that have been of significance to the region. Judging will be done by a representative panel of Panhandle residents.

Awards are made in a variety of categories, including arts, business and finance, civic leadership and public service, education, health care, legal, science and technology, and volunteerism. There is also a special category for individuals who have distinguished themselves in such areas as farming, ranching, athletics, communications or philanthropy. Awards are not always made in every category each year.

Deadline for nominations is March 1. Presentations of the Distinguished Service Awards will be made during a luncheon at the Amarillo Club on March 26.

VAT refunds stretch dollars in Europe

By JENNIFER MERIN
For AP Special Features

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Many chic boutiques along Drottningatan display a blue and gold placard identifying them as participants in Swedish Tax-free Shopping. This 15,000-member merchants' association enables tourists to reclaim value added tax (VAT) on goods they buy for export.

Merchandise covered includes everything from Kosta Boda crystal and Gustavsburg fine china to Bjorn Borg tennis togs and suede boots made in Italy.

Since Sweden's VAT is a hefty 25 percent, taking advantage of the tax-free program is well worth the bother — even after the service charge.

The process is easy but can be

time-consuming. You must spend a minimum of 101 Swedish kroner (about \$13) in one store and ask for a VAT refund voucher with the purchase. When you are ready to leave the country, you line up at the airport or other point of departure, show authorities what you bought and get the voucher validated. Then you go to another line for an on-the-spot refund in dollars or kroner. If you prefer, you may have a check mailed to your home.

Similar VAT refund plans are in effect throughout Europe. Rates range from a low of 6 percent for general items and 15 percent for luxury items in Spain to the overall high of 25 percent in Sweden. Rules governing VAT refunds vary widely from how much; in what form;

whether there is a service charge and, if so, how much. At a time when European Union (EU) nations are minimizing trade differences, varying VAT regulations seem to be an area of stubborn — and confusing — individualism.

Each country requires different amounts to be spent before shoppers are eligible for refunds. In some, the minimum must be spent on one item. Others require that it be spent in one store. Still others allow purchases to be cumulative.

Spain, for example, requires tourists to spend at least 82,400 pesetas (about \$650) in one store to be eligible for a VAT refund. In Italy, with a 19 percent VAT, you must spend a minimum of 300,000 lire (about \$195) per item to qualify for a

VAT refund.

Service charges for handling vat refunds also vary from country to country, even shop to shop. In Sweden, for example, expect to get 14 to 18 percent refunded, not the full 25 percent. In Germany, where the VAT is 15 percent, VAT refunds range from 9 to 15 percent, depending upon the shop's policy.

Refunds may be made in cash in local currency or dollars, as a bank check mailed to your home, as credit to charge cards or bank-to-bank transfers. Sometimes you have an option, sometimes not.

France has an 18.6 percent VAT on general items and a 20 percent VAT on luxury goods. To be eligible for VAT refunds, you must spend at least 2,000 francs (about \$360) in one store.

Germany has no minimum purchase requirement for refunds of its 15 percent VAT. But some shops refund as little as 9 percent, keeping 6 percent as a service charge.

Great Britain's VAT is 17.5. Each shop sets minimum purchase requirements ranging upwards from 50 pounds sterling (about \$80). Ireland has a 17.36 percent VAT with no minimum purchase requirement. However, there is a service charge of three punts (about \$4.50) for each purchase under 150 punts (about \$220).

Knowing VAT regulations in countries you'll visit will allow you to plan dollar-stretching shopping strategies. Contact national tourism offices for more information on VAT percentages and refund regulations.

The theatre can be murder



Bill Hildebrandt, left, is just warming up for a scene with Debra Sandefur in Act I's production this weekend of "Catch Me If You Can." The murder mystery is scheduled for Feb. 18, 19, 25 and 26, at the Act I Theatre Center in The Pampa Mall. (Pampa News photo)

Club News

Recycle Teenagers

Recycle Teenagers of Highland Baptist Church met Feb. 4 for a business meeting and covered dish dinner.

Mike Ely opened the meeting with 11 present. Opal Ely read minutes from the last meeting.

Prayer was led by Opal Pettit. Rosie Smith had the program and told the story of "The Legend of the Angel of Shavano" in Salida, Colo.

The next meeting will be a trip to the museum in McLean on March 4.

Altrusa International

Altrusa International, Inc., of Pampa met at noon Feb. 14, in the Starlight Room of the Coronado Inn.

Judy Warner, president, called the meeting to order.

John Warner delivered a singing telegram to Rena Belle Anderson. John sang Let Me Call You Sweetheart to Rena Bell in honor of Valentine's Day. Rena Belle joined in singing with John.

Charlene Morriss presented the Accent on the philosophy of Altrusa. Charlene stated that Altrusa allows members self realization, contacts with other professionals and development of talents.

Dorla McAndrew reported to the club on the Mid-Year Evaluation, noting the number one reason for being in Altrusa is still community service.

Lib Jones announced the Literacy Committee would be making presentations for the Baker Star Reader Project at 2 p.m. on Feb. 21. Pat Johnson informed members she took Valentines to the Baker Readers. The club voted to furnish refreshments for the Tralee Crisis Center 10th anniversary celebration on April 22. Greeters were Glyndene Shelton and Sandy McCoy.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m., Feb. 28, in the Starlight Room of the Coronado Inn.

Daughters of the American Revolution

Las Pampas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met recently in the home of Mrs. John Skelly with the Regent Mrs. Tom Cantrell presiding.

Mrs. Melvin Gerik read the President-General's message to DAR daughters concerning the importance of the renovation of Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. The hall was once the finest performing arts theater in D.C.

The National Defense Report was given by Mrs. P.R. Britton on education showing voters in many areas are demanding a return to the back to basics platform in our public schools. Education policies have strayed from true academic standards.

Mrs. Britton also explained threats to World Peace are unmistakable. Russia is producing weaponry for war. China is shipping tons of military hardware to Syria, Iran, Pakistan, third world countries yet the U.S. has slashed defense spending to the lowest level in decades.

Names in the news

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Meg Ryan recreated her most memorable celluloid moment at Harvard University, this time making the audience fake the orgasm.

Ryan, 30, was at Harvard to accept the "Woman of the Year" award Tuesday from the Hasty Pudding Theatricals club. Her off-beat hosts said they wouldn't force her to repeat her bawdy performance in the movie "When Harry Met Sally."



Ryan

Instead, they gave her a wand they called an "orgasmabaton."

The student audience was divided in three sections and told to make their assigned moan, groan or shout "Yes!" at Ryan's direction.

Hesitant at first, Ryan got into the act and led the crowd in a loud, rhythmic — however quick — fake orgasm.

"Well Meg, we certainly think you've proven yourself," said club president Jeremy Nye.

"I thought I had forgotten how to do that, which is a sad thing," Ryan quipped afterward.

Tom Cruise, the Hasty Pudding 1994

"Man of the Year," will be honored Feb. 22.

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Lots of tourists visit the 250-room mansion built by George Vanderbilt. Macaulay Culkin acts like he owns the place.

A crew from Warner Bros. has been shooting a coming attractions trailer at the Biltmore Estate this week for the movie "Richie Rich," starring Culkin, 13, as the fabulously wealthy and self-satisfied comic book kid.

The teen actor should have room to grow into the role once full-time shooting begins in May. With four acres of floor space, the limestone mansion remains the largest private home in the country, and contains 70,000 objects of art.

NEW YORK (AP) — She may be royalty, but the Duchess of York acted like any other mother when confronted with a sneezy 2-year-old.

"Who's got a tissue?" Sarah Ferguson calmly inquired when little Dendra Mouson let out a hard-to-ignore sneeze next to her royal highness during a visit at a homeless shelter Tuesday.

After several royal requests, someone in the crowd produced the tissue for Dendra's mother, Shamel Mouson.

Ferguson, 34, then pressed her luck with the sleepy-looking child, saying "I want a huggie!"

Dendra declined, ambled off and began to cry.

"I'd better go," said Ferguson, laughing and rolling her eyes.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Dolly Parton has been in the music business long enough to know you have to cut the checks to run the show.



Parton

So she's forming her own record company modeled on United Artists Corp., which Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and director D.W. Griffith founded 75 years ago in a quest for creative control.

"We want to do something like that with music," said Steve Buckingham, a former Sony Records executive who will head the new record label, Blue I (pronounced blue-eye) Records.

Parton, 48, will put out the first album, a live acoustic record recorded April 24-25 at the opening of her Dollywood theme park in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Amarillo Symphony concert to feature Dvorak, Mozart, von Weber, Kodaly and Sam Jones

AMARILLO — The Amarillo Symphony Orchestra's February concert brings to the stage a large chorus and four vocal soloists for an extravaganza of sound.

The concert, set for 8 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Amarillo Civic Center, will be under the direction of James Setapen, music director and conductor, and will feature works by Dvorak, Mozart, von Weber, Kodaly and Samuel Jones.

Principal soloist is Metropolitan Opera National Award-winning soprano Christine Brewer, who has studied with Birgit Nilsson. She has performed throughout the United States and Europe, with a performance

at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden planned for later this year.

Brewer will sing "Come Scoglio" from *Così Fan Tutte* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, "Song to the Moon" from *Rusalka* by Antonin Dvorak and "Leise, Leise Fromme Weise" from *Der Freischutz* by Carl Maria von Weber.

Other soloists include Camille Day Nies, mezzo soprano; Joseph Bolin, tenor; and Lee Allen, baritone.

The chorus is composed of the Amarillo Civic Chorus, Dr. Steven Weber, director; the West Texas A&M University Chorus, Dr. George Biffle, director; and the Eastern New Mexico Uni-

versity Choir, Dr. David Gerig, director.

The musical groups are drawn together for the performance of Zoltan Kodaly's *Te Deum*. The choral work was written by the Hungarian composer in 1936 to mark the 250th anniversary of the overthrow of the Turkish forces in Budapest. One of Kodaly's most popular compositions, the *Te Deum* ("To You, God") is an extremely brilliant and exciting work, according to many music critics.

The concert also will feature music by living Amarillo composer Samuel Jones, best known as the composer of the *Palo Duro Canyon Symphony*, which premiered in Palo Duro Canyon

in May 1992.

At the February concert, the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra will perform Jones' composition "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men," a piece commissioned by the Shenandoah County Bicentennial Committee. The often-performed music draws inspiration both from the Apocrypha and from the novel of the same name written by James Agee and Walker Evans.

Concert-goers are encouraged to bring canned goods to benefit the High Plains Food Bank. This effort will help the community to meet the needs of those less fortunate at a time when supplies are low at the Food Bank.

Sports

Notebook

FOOTBALL
BROWNSBORO — Robert Arthur is carrying on a proud football tradition that started in the Texas panhandle some 50 years ago.

Arthur, a tight end at Brownsboro High School in East Texas, was recently named to the Tom Lemming's Prep Football Report All-America Team.

Robert's father is Bob Arthur, a 1958 Pampa High graduate who later played at West Texas State and was a member of the 1963 Sun Bowl championship team. Bothers Bill, John and Jim were also outstanding athletes. Bill and Jim both played collegiate football, Bill at North Texas State and Jim at the University-of-Houston. John was an all-district outfielder in baseball for the Harvesters.

On the prep all-american team, Robert Arthur is listed as a 6-5, 230-pounder who caught 16 passes for 375 yards and 3 touchdowns this past season. As an outside linebacker, he totaled 102 tackles, 7 quarterback sacks and picked off 3 passes.

Arthur is going to UCLA on a football scholarship and canceled recruiting visits to Texas A&M and Houston. Arthur is also an outstanding designated hitter-first baseman and also hopes to make the Bruins' baseball team. He had to undergo surgery after breaking a toe during basketball practice and will miss most of the baseball and track season. He throws the shot and discus.

OLYMPICS

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — Johann Olav Koss of Norway collected his second gold medal and second world record in Olympic speedskating.

Koss sailed to a 1,500 meters world record of 1 minute, 51.29 seconds to raise Norway's medal count to seven — a Games-high four gold, with three silver, second only to the Russians' 10 medals (3-5-2). Italy (2-1-2) is third.

Norway's Stine Lise Hattestad won freestyle skiing over favored Donna Weinbrecht, 1992 gold medalist and World Cup leader, with 25.97 points. American Liz McIntyre won the silver medal with 25.89.

The Russian hockey team (2-1) crushed an undermanned Austria (0-3) 9-1. The Czech Republic (2-1) shut out Germany (2-1), 1-0. Finland (3-0) blanked Norway (0-3) 4-0, and clinched a spot in the quarterfinals.

Tonya Harding arrived in Norway, where she ran into fellow skater Nancy Kerrigan. The pair, united in headlines the last month, said hello during a meeting in the athletes' village, and posed together for the team picture.

Italy's Gerda Weissensteiner won the luge gold in her third Olympics with a combined time of 3 minutes, 15.517 seconds. Germany's Susi Erdmann won the silver and Andrea Tagwerker of Austria, the bronze. American Cammy Myler finished 11th.

Canada became the sixth nation to collect a gold medal when Jean-Luc Brassard captured the men's freestyle with 27.24 points, finishing ahead of Sergei Shoupletsov of Russia and Frenchman Edgar Grosperon.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Temple coach John Chaney apologized to fans, players and "all young" people for his threatening outburst against Massachusetts coach John Calipari, saying even his wife hasn't forgiven him.

Chaney was suspended for Wednesday's game at St. Bonaventure, the first he has missed as Temple coach.

Chaney said his wife, Jeanne, left their home after he threatened to kill Calipari during a news conference at Amherst, Mass., Sunday night and hasn't returned. He said his daughter also refused to speak with him, although his son remains supportive.

TENNIS

CLEVELAND (AP) — Monica Seles, who hasn't played a tournament since being stabbed last April in Germany, will remain off the tennis tour "for an indefinite period of time," her agent said.

Seles was top-ranked in the world when stabbed in the back during a tournament by a fan of top rival Steffi Graf. Seles dropped completely out of the rankings this week because of her long absence from the tour.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Third-seeded Michael Chang overcame Chuck Adams 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 in the first round of the U.S. Indoor.

In other first-round matches, No. 4 Todd Martin defeated qualifier Alex Reichel 6-1, 1-6, 6-4, and No. 5 Ivan Lendl outlasted Patrick McEnroe 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Advancing to the quarterfinals were No. 7 Andrei Chesnokov, who beat Alex O'Brien 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; No. 8 Jaime Yzaga of Peru, a 6-3, 6-3 winner over Canada's Greg Rusedski; Jacco Eltingh of Netherlands, ousting Brazil's Luiz Mattar 7-6 (7-2), 6-2, and countryman Paul Haarhuis, downing Renzo Furlan of Italy 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — Sixth-seeded Boris Becker of Germany continued his comeback with a 6-1, 6-4 rout of countryman David Prinosil in the first round of the \$2.25 million Eurocard Open.

Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden reached the quarterfinals, downing Australia's Jason Stoltenberg, 7-6 (7-0), 6-1.

In other first-round action, Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Brad Gilbert 7-6 (7-5), 6-1; France's Arnaud Boetsch upset seventh-seeded Petr Korda of Czech Republic, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), and fourth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia topped Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

PARIS (AP) — Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce won first-round matches in the \$400,000 Paris Women's Open, while second-seeded Jana Novotna quit with a knee injury.

Top-seeded Navratilova defeated Germany's Christina Singer 6-2, 6-2; third-seeded Pierce of France, beat Marketa Kochta of Germany 6-4, 6-1; No. 7 Sabine Applemans of Belgium downed countrywoman Sandra Wasserman 7-6 (7-3), 6-1, and Novotna's replacement, Seda Noorlander of Netherlands, was ousted by Germany's Wiltrud Probst 6-3, 6-3.

Aggies keep pressure on 'Horns in SWC race

By The Associated Press

David Edwards set a conference record and Texas A&M was able to keep the pressure on the Texas Longhorns in the Southwest Conference title race. Joe Wilbert scored 24 points Wednesday night to lead the Aggies to a 93-87 victory over the Houston Cougars.

In other SWC games, Texas Tech defeated Southern Methodist 78-76 and Rice whipped Texas Christian 84-65.

Edwards scored 19 points for the Aggies, allowing him to surpass 1,000 points for his career at Texas A&M. He also had 12 assists and 1 steal, making him the first player in SWC history to score 1,000 points with 500 assists and 200 steals. In his three seasons at A&M, Edwards has 1,014 points, 516 steals and 206 steals.

"I was happy to achieve it. The good Lord really has

blessed me," said Edwards, who transferred from Georgetown after his freshman season.

Including his year at Georgetown, Edwards has 1,181 points with 666 assists and 248 steals as a Division I player. He came into the game ranked third nationally in assists with 8.4 per game.

Texas A&M (15-6 overall, 8-1 in the SWC) held a 43-39 halftime lead, but Rafael Carrasco hit two straight baskets and Anthony Goldwire added another as the Cougars ran off six straight points for a 45-43 lead to open the second half.

Chuck Henderson's two free throws with 15:24 left in the game gave the Aggies a 52-51 lead that they held for the rest of the game.

The Aggies' final 10 points came from the free throw line during the final minute as Houston fouled after every Cougar basket.

The Aggies also got 22 points from Brett Murry and 11 each from Tony McGinnis and Henderson.

Goldwire had a game-high 31 points and 10 assists for Houston (4-17 and 2-8). Tim Moore had 24 and Jessie Drain added 14.

Texas Tech blew a 15-point halftime lead but held on for a 78-76 victory when Southern Methodist turned the ball over in the final seconds while working for a final shot.

Mark Davis scored 24 points to lead Tech (11-10, 6-4). James Gatewood scored 17 points to lead SMU (3-18, 1-9).

SMU, trailing by 77-76, got the ball at 0:12 and worked for the last shot. Chris Boyd got the ball in the corner, but lost it on a turnover, and the Mustangs had to foul Davis with two seconds to go.

Davis made the first free throw to make the score 78-76.

SMU grabbed the rebound of his missed second shot, but Kwame Brown's desperation shot hit the backboard and bounced away at the buzzer.

"We were in position to win the game. I thought our inexperience down the stretch hurt us," SMU coach John Shumate said.

Texas Tech coach James Dickey expressed disappointment that his team couldn't hold onto its first-half lead.

"We're just happy to get the win," he said.

Torrey Andrews scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half helping Rice win its second game in a row with a 84-65 victory over Texas Christian.

Rice (13-9 overall, 5-4 SWC) ended a four-game losing streak on Sunday with a 65-63 victory over Southern Methodist. TCU dropped to 6-15, 3-7.

There were eight lead changes in the first half with Rice

outscored the Horned Frogs 15-4 over the final 6:28 of the first half to take a 39-28 lead at the intermission. Rice scored the final nine points of the half.

TCU starters Chris Foreman and Kurt Thomas, the team's leading scorer with a 21.2 average, had three fouls each at the half. Byron Waits led TCU with 19 points and Thomas finished with four fouls and 15 points.

TCU started to lose control as their fouls mounted. Starters Jentry Moore and Jeff Jacobs also finished the game with four fouls each. The Horned Frogs hit 38 percent from the field for the game.

"They took Thomas out of the game with the three fouls," TCU coach Moe Iba said. "Then, we got behind by 11 and in the second half we got our defense going a little but we never got our composure going on offense."

Pampa wrestlers enter state meet



Pampa wrestlers, from left, Tadd Alfonsi, heavyweight; Corey Alfonsi, 152 pounds, and Richardo Cruz, 130 pounds, will compete in the Texas High School State Wrestling Championships today through Saturday in Abilene.

All three placed second in their respective weight classes at the Region I Wrestling Championships last weekend in Amarillo to qualify for the state meet. Corey had a 15-5 season record while Tadd was 10-7 and Cruz, 7-7.

Listed as Pampa alternates are Cullen Watson, freshman, 103 pounds; Eric Zumudio, sophomore, 119 pounds and Mark Scott, junior, 140 pounds.

This season under a new format the regional tournament was split into two divisions, making it possible to send the top four wrestlers, instead of just the top two, in each weight class, to state.

Tadd Alfonsi qualified for the state tournament as a sophomore while Corey was an alternate as a freshman and sophomore. Cruz, a sophomore, is in his first year of wrestling.

Opening ceremonies for the tournament get under way at 6 tonight, followed by first-round action at 6:30 at Hardin-Simmons University's Mabee Complex. The tournament will have more than 350 wrestlers competing for 14 individual state championships. (Pampa News photo)

Major leaguers begin workouts

By RONALD BLUM
 AP Sports Writer

It doesn't seem that cold anymore, does it? From Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to Tucson, Ariz., baseball players started lumbering onto the green grass under those pretty blue skies Wednesday morning.

Baseball is back, and it's just 6 1/2 weeks to opening day.

"No doubt everyone is excited to be here," Chicago White Sox outfielder Michael Huff said as his team gathered in Sarasota, Fla. "We felt like we should have gotten farther last year and, after thinking about that during the winter, we were anxious to get down and get going again."

Chicago lost to Toronto in the AL playoffs last year. The Blue Jays, the first team to repeat as World Series champions since the 1977-78 New York Yankees, won't start working out until Tuesday, five days after the voluntary reporting date.

Other clubs wanting to catch them didn't waste time getting started.

"People have questioned us about not making changes," Marlins manager Rene Lachemann said as Florida gathered in Melbourne, Fla., to start its second season. "But we believe we have some young people that we still need to take a good look at. They have not reached their potential yet. We want to give them an opportunity to improve."

Lachemann plans only two changes in the lineup he used at the end of last season. Slugger Gary Sheffield will move from third base to right field, and three players will vie to replace shortstop Walt Weiss, who departed via free agency.

Colorado general manager Bob Gebhard watched a dozen Rockies work out at Tucson, Ariz., and was surprised the early turnout was so high.

"Normally you see a couple of the young kids come in a little bit early to get some advanced work in warm weather. This is the most I think I've ever seen," Gebhard said. "Our camp is starting the earliest possible date we're allowed to start. Some clubs won't start for another four or five days. This is a high number of early arrivals. It tells me they want to play."

Among the early arrivals were pitchers Bruce Ruffin, Willie Blair and Curtis Leskanic and catchers Joe Girardi, Danny Sheaffer, Jayhawk Owens and Eric Wedge.

Missouri closing in on Big Eight championship

By The Associated Press

College basketball roundup

Magic numbers are usually reserved for baseball pennant races. Well, Missouri's magic number is one to clinch a tie for the Big Eight title and it's only mid-February.

The 12th-ranked Tigers remained unbeaten in conference play with a 79-72 overtime victory at Iowa State on Wednesday night. It wasn't pretty but it did give the Tigers (19-2, 10-0) an eight-game overall winning streak and a 14-game league winning streak.

"We were very fortunate to win this game," Missouri coach Norm Stewart said. "We got out without really putting one together."

The Tigers are putting together quite a season after finishing 5-9 in the league last season. They now have a 3 1/2-game lead in the conference over Kansas and Oklahoma State as they try to win the regular-season title for the first time since 1989-90.

"Hopefully, we can pull it out and win the conference," Stewart said.

Missouri pulled it out against the Cyclones (11-10, 1-8) when Jevon Crudup scored eight of the Tigers' 14 points in overtime. He scored the first points 10 seconds into the extra session and then dominated inside.

"Basically, I was trying to get

isolated one-on-one more than we had been doing," said Crudup, who finished with 20 points, 16 after halftime. "I wasn't trying to force the issue earlier. It's just that shots I usually make, I didn't make."

In other games involving ranked teams Wednesday night, it was: No. 1 Arkansas 102, Alabama 81; Oklahoma State 63, No. 4 Kansas 59 in overtime; No. 6 Duke 84, Virginia 54; No. 7 Michigan 89, Iowa 76; No. 9 Purdue 67, No. 24 Wisconsin 64; No. 13 Temple 65, St. Bonaventure 56; No. 17 Florida 91, Georgia 79; No. 23 Cincinnati 78, No. 18 Saint Louis 73; No. 20 Minnesota 94, Penn State 66; and Tulane 66, No. 21 Alabama-Birmingham 60.

Iowa State has lost seven of nine games since center Loren Meyer broke his collarbone in a traffic accident. This is Cyclones' worst season in the Big Eight since they went winless in 1936-37.

"I feel very good about how we played," Iowa State coach Johnny Orr said. "They're a good basketball team. We're just having a tough time getting over the hump. We just can't seem to get what we need at the end."

The Cyclones had the final two shots in regulation, but

Jason Kimbrough missed from the top of the key and Crudup blocked Saun Jackson's attempted follow as the crowd screamed for a foul.

Orr thought Jackson was fouled but said little else.

"If I said what I wanted to say, I would get fined or suspended," Orr said.

Freshman Kelly Thames led Missouri with 24 points, while Fred Hoiberg topped the Cyclones with 22.

No. 1 Arkansas 102, Alabama 81

The Razorbacks (19-2, 9-2 SEC) avenged their first loss of the season as Corliss Williamson scored half of his 20 points in the first four minutes of the second half when Arkansas took a 58-39 lead. Jamal Faulkner had 18 points for the visiting Crimson Tide (13-8, 8-4), who had 25 turnovers and allowed 100 points for the first time in 61 games.

Oklahoma St. 63, No. 4 Kansas 59, OT

Brooks Thompson tied it with a jumper with 10 seconds left in regulation and won it with two free throws with 10 seconds left in overtime as the Cowboys (17-7, 6-3 Big Eight) snapped a five-game losing streak to the visiting Jayhawks (21-4, 6-3). Bryant Reeves had 16 points and nine rebounds for

Oklahoma State, while his counterpart at center, Greg Ostertag, finished with 18 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks.

No. 6 Duke 84, Virginia 54

Grant Hill dominated the team that held him to four points earlier in the season by scoring 25 points, grabbing 11 rebounds, handing out five assists and blocking four shots. Antonio Lang and freshman Jeff Capel each had 20 points for the Blue Devils (18-3, 9-3 ACC). Jason Williford's 14 points led the visiting Cavaliers (13-8, 7-5), who have lost 21 of the last 25 meetings with Duke.

No. 7 Michigan 89, Iowa 76

The Wolverines (18-4, 10-2 Big Ten) extended their conference lead and won their seventh straight. Juwan Howard had 24 points, nine rebounds and six assists, while Jalen Rose added 19 points and 11 assists as Michigan beat the Hawkeyes (9-11, 3-8) at home for the 13th straight year. James Winters led Iowa with 16 points.

No. 9 Purdue 67, No. 24 Wisconsin 64

Glenn Robinson had 27 points and 16 rebounds as the Boiler-makers (21-3, 9-3 Big Ten) withstood a late 3-point barrage by the visiting Badgers (15-6, 6-6), who played again without injured freshman center Rashard Griffith. Andy Kilbride had 20 points for Wisconsin,

which hit five 3-pointers in the final 6:07, but a desperation shot by Michael Finley was off at the buzzer.

No. 13 Temple 65, St. Bonaventure 56

The Owls (18-4, 11-3 Atlantic 10) prevailed on the road without coach John Chaney, who was suspended one game by the school for his threats against Massachusetts coach John Calipari last Sunday. Eddie Jones had 24 points as Temple beat the Bonnies (9-12, 3-8) for the 23rd consecutive time and 28th in 29 meetings. David Vanterpool led St. Bonaventure with 14 points.

No. 17 Florida 91, Georgia 79

The Gators (20-4, 10-2 SEC) hit the 20-win mark for the fifth time in school history and the first time since 1988-89. Craig Brown and Dan Cross each scored 21 points as Florida opened its lead in the SEC East Division to 1 1/2 games over Kentucky. Dathon Brown led the visiting Bulldogs (11-12, 5-6) with 18 points.

No. 23 Cincinnati 78, No. 18 Saint Louis 73

The Bearcats (17-7, 5-4 Great Midwest) beat the Billikens for the fifth consecutive time as they dominated inside late with Curtis Bostic and Dontonio Wingfield scoring 15 points each. Scott Highmark led Saint Louis (19-3, 5-3), which has lost two straight, with 27 points.



Sophomore forward Coy Laury (left) scored 11 points in Pampa's 73-56 victory over Borger Tuesday night to close the regular season. Pampa goes against Levelland at 7:30 Tuesday night at the Amarillo Civic Center in the Class 4A bi-district round of the playoffs. Tickets go on sale Friday at the PHS athletic office. Tickets are four dollars for adults and two dollars for students. The Harvesters have a warmup game scheduled Friday at 7:30 p.m. against Dummitt in the Amarillo High School fieldhouse. (Pampa News photo)

Harvesters to meet Lobos

By L.D. STRATE
Sport Writer

The Pampa Harvesters will get a chance to extinguish memories of an earlier loss when they meet the Levelland Lobos in the Class 4A bi-district round of the playoffs next week.

Pampa played Levelland back on Jan. 8 at Levelland with the Lobos coming away with a 69-48 win.

"They beat the stuffing out of us," said Pampa head coach Robert Hale. "I'm just hoping they didn't see the best team we have."

That bi-district clash is set for 7:30 Tuesday night in the Amarillo Civic Center. Tickets, which are four dollars for adults and two dollars for students, go on sale Friday at the Pampa High School Athletic Office.

Both Pampa and Levelland ended the regular season with victories Friday night, but Levelland's 55-47 decision over Snyder was of the 'must-win' variety. The Lobos, 27-6, got double-figure scoring from four players in a 55-47 win over Snyder. Sedric King led the way with 19 points while Todd Jones followed up with 11.

The win clinched the No. 2 playoff spot for Levelland behind Dis-

trict 2-4A champion Plainview.

Other than gathering momentum for the playoffs, the Harvesters didn't need to beat Borger to make the playoffs. Pampa had won the District 1-4A title by defeating Randall three days before, but beating a longtime rival like the Bulldogs is a joy in itself.

Pampa led most of the game against Borger with sophomore guard Rayford Young (22) and senior center Seivern Wallace (20) combining for 42 points. Sophomore forward Coy Laury and junior guard Duane Nickelberry chipped in 11 points each.

The Harvesters have a warmup game set against Dimmitt at 7:30 Friday night in the Amarillo High School fieldhouse.

"It's a heck of a deal for our fans and community to be able to play these two games in Amarillo. Dimmitt traditionally has a strong basketball program and we're looking forward to playing them," Hale said. "It's a game we really need to play to get us ready for the playoffs."

Dimmitt finished the season with a 17-12 record and was runnerup to Littlefield in the District 2-3A stand-off spot for Levelland behind Dis-

Wheeler battles Canadian in 'must-win' 2-2A showdown

By SUSAN ADELETTI
Sports Writer

After three meetings so far this season, the Wildcats and Mustangs are ready to play each other again tonight. The district 2-2A race has been drawn out to a three-way playoff involving Canadian, Wheeler and Panhandle. The loser of tonight's matchup will be knocked out of the postseason, while the winner will go on to play Panhandle Monday night, again in Pampa, where the winner of that game will be awarded the second seed, behind district champ Clarendon.

Got all that? Looking at the numbers - Wheeler's won the season series, two games to one - the Mustangs might have the advantage. But their statistic is countered by the fact that both Wheeler wins were extremely close games and Canadian's was a 52-39 show.

"We're two very evenly-matched teams," Canadian coach Kyle Lynch said. "I think both teams know each other so well, I think our kids are confident. We're excited

about extending our season." "[We] know everybody's first name and how they're going to go to the basket," Wheeler coach Shawn Read noted. "I look for it to be a pretty close game. I hope it's better played than the last two were."

Last week's three-point Wheeler win featured somewhat sloppy play, according to Read, while on Jan. 25, the 'Stangs were kept to just 39 points.

"When we played the other night, the only thing on the line was that one of us was going to get our 10th win," he added.

Both teams would rather look to duplicate the excitement of their first matchup, at the start of the season - a 40-foot shot at the buzzer in overtime barely gave Wheeler the win.

For the Wildcats, Blaine Bivins is leading the team with 19 points per game and 10 rebounds per game through district play. Kevin Flowers follows with 11 ppg and 5 rpg.

Justin Hefley leads the Mustangs with 10.7 ppg and 7.2 rpg over the district schedule. Todd Baize and

Jared Ledbetter also average over six rpg, while Heath Sabbe is scoring 10.3 ppg.

The 'Cats went 0-5 the second half of the district season and haven't posted victory since that Jan. 25 win over Wheeler. But their 3-2 first-half mark was good enough to earn them the playoff bid. They ended the season with a 9-15 overall record. Wheeler finished 1-4 in the second half and 3-2 in the first half, while finishing 10-16 overall.

"We're going to stick with the things we've done well," Read said of tonight's game. "We've had some of our best practices this week."

Area Girls Bi-District Playoff Pairings

McLean (22-8) vs. Valley (19-11), 6:30 Friday at Clarendon College

Miami (13-13) vs. Booker (21-9), 6:30 Friday at Canadian

Groom (28-1) vs. Silverton (16-13), 8 p.m. Friday at Clarendon College



Wheeler's Todd Baize (#32) goes up against a Clarendon defender earlier this season. The Mustangs are set to battle Canadian tonight in district 2-2A's first-round playoff action. (Pampa News photo by Susan Adeletti)

Spinnerbait popular among Texas anglers

By BOB HOOD
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

CORSICANA (AP) — Digging through a tackle box to find that one lure that will outcatch all the others can be a frustrating ordeal, but it isn't impossible. History repeats itself, especially with large-mouth bass.

Texas fishermen are smack in the middle of the pre-spawning period on most lakes, and of all the varieties of lures in their arsenal, only two stand head and shoulders above the rest — the jig and pork or soft plastic combination and the spinnerbait.

Narrow the selection down to one that will cover the most water and is attractive to bass of all sizes and you will find yourself reaching for a spinnerbait.

That's exactly what the majority of the bass fishermen on Richland-Chambers Reservoir are using these days when the bass are just beginning to move into shallow water in search of spawning grounds. The lure is versatile, capable of catching bass in open water, in thick timber and off points and near drop-offs.

Larry Block had made only a few casts with his double-bladed spinnerbait on Richland-Chambers last week when he saw the water boil behind his lure just before lifting it out of the water to make another cast.

"A bass followed it right up to the boat and swirled at it," Block said, sending the lure back toward a partially submerged bush.

I pitched a jig with a soft plastic trailer into a pocket between two limbs on a stump, felt a bite and set the hook. The bass ran straight toward the boat and the hook came out of the fish's mouth before I could feel much pressure with the rod.

Not exactly a good way to start the day — missing or losing two bass in such a short time before the sun had topped the horizon. But we took the two losses as a gain

because they at least let us know that the area we were fishing had attracted some fish.

Several minutes later, Block cranked his wobbling spinnerbait beside another stump and immediately drew a strike from a 2-pound bass that apparently had been hiding in the tops of the limbs about 2 feet below the surface.

Block landed the bass, and we checked the depth: 6 feet, an ideal depth for this time of the year when the bass are moving from deep water into the shallows and out again as they await the right temperatures and right time of the month for spawning.

Using a zigzagging pattern by moving the boat with the trolling motor toward the bank and then out again to stay in the 6-foot depth range, we continued to work the stumps and thinner lay-down timber with both the jig and spinnerbait.

The bass were scattered, and it appeared they were doing exactly what they should be doing at this time of the year when the water temperature still is in the upper 40s — traveling in and out of the shallow water rather than holding there.

Block caught four more bass on the spinnerbait with the largest weighing about 4 pounds, and all but one fish came out of the water approximately 6 feet in depth. The lone exception hit the spinnerbait in about 2 feet of water next to a tree and amid a multitude of limbs that had fallen around it.

On the same day, 10 members of the Burleson Bass Club used spinnerbaits to pave their way to 69 pounds of bass to win the Dallas-Tarrant County Top 10 tournament at Richland-Chambers, topped by a near 20-pound stringer by Kent and Rusty Watts.

The Richland-Chambers bass have been taking the spinnerbaits both aggressively and nonaggressively. The situation is the same on many other lakes both during the pre-spawn period and when the fish actually are

on the nests and not feeding.

To catch more bass at this time of the year, the key is to fish the spinnerbait slowly, barely cranking on the reel and feeling the blades vibrating as they spin.

Feeling that vibration is very important, for at times when a bass takes the lure lightly, there is hardly the feel of an actual strike. What the angler notices first is the sudden loss of vibration.

That is the instant the bass takes the lure into its mouth, and a sudden slack in the line is the only indication the angler has of what has just taken place. Many bass are missed or lost because the angler does not realize a fish has taken his lure.

The rule of thumb is to set the hook on the spinnerbait anytime there is a sudden slack in the line or the vibration of the blades stops.

Double-bladed spinnerbaits work best in the late fall and early spring because the fish are attracted to the vibration of the lure. Because two blades put out more vibration than a single blade, the double-bladed spinnerbait is the choice among most veteran bass fishermen.

When fishing around and in thick timber with lots of small limbs, the "long arm" spinnerbait is best. The long-arm lure is one where the wire blades are attached to it as long as the one with the lead head and hook. The long arm will protect the hook from becoming snared on underwater limbs and, thus, is more weedless than a short-arm spinnerbait.

Colors, as always, are the choice of the angler more than the choice of the bass at this time of the year. Chartreuse or a combination chartreuse and white or yellow work well, as do solid white and a combination of other colors.

Fished slowly in water 2-8 feet in depth, the spinnerbait will remain a tough lure to beat on Texas lakes within the next two months.

PHS golfers entered in Big Spring meet

The Pampa High boys' and girls' golf teams are entered in the Big Spring Tournament Friday and Saturday.

The tournament will be held at the Big Spring Country Club and Comanche Trail courses.

The Pampa girls opened the season earlier this month with a seventh-place finish at the San Angelo Classic. Pampa shot 417 and 402 for a two-day total of 819.

Angie Everson led Pampa with a 186 (94-92), followed by Crecia Lindsey at 206 (107-99), Amy Bradley 211 (108-103), Catie McKandless 216 (108-108) and Anna Nail 224 (111-113).

Sutton leads Bob Hope Classic

By BOB GREEN
AP Golf Writer

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) —

Pro golf's money-winning list has a double significance to Hal Sutton.

The list showed him the way to play. It also gave him the right to play.

Sutton, the 1983 PGA national champion and once one of golf's brightest young stars, ended two years of frustration Wednesday with a 9-under-par 63 for the first-round lead in the 90-hole, five-day Bob Hope Classic.

Sutton lost his playing rights on the PGA Tour last season due to lack of performance and is playing this season on a once-in-a-career exemption as a member of the career top-50 money-winners.

He credits the turnaround in his fortunes with hard work over the winter and a return to playing golf his way.

A look at the money-winning list, he said, was the key.

When his swing deteriorated a couple of years ago, Sutton, in desperation, "went to a number of guys who had me doing a number of things I was completely unable to do," he said.

"I would throw all my knowledge in the waste basket by their front door. I would put myself in their hands, in effect say, 'Here I am; do with me what you will.'"

"Finally, I went to the money (winning) list. I saw I'd won \$3.3 million playing golf my way and \$100,000 playing golf their way."

"Which way was best?"

With help from teaching pro Jimmy Ballard, he worked out his own problems, found his flaws, corrected them in his own way and, once again has the swing Jack Nicklaus once predicted "will win many, many majors."

It certainly wasn't a major championship, his jaunt around Indian Wells with three amateur partners. But the bogey-free effort, Sutton said, "is the best I've played in a long, long time, probably three years."

Still, he needed some help from Ronnie Black to gain the first-round lead in the \$1.1 million tournament sponsored by Chrysler.

Black went 10-under par through the first 15 holes at La Quinta, but made a double bogey after pull-hooking his tee shot on the final hole and dropping back to second at 64.

"You hear guys talking about they could have shot 59," Black said. "Well, give me one mulligan and about three putts and I'd have made it."

Jay Delsing, Donnie Hammond, and Clark Dennis, all at La Quinta, each shot 65 in ideal playing conditions. Jodie Mudd, Tom Sieckmann and John Huston, with 66's, were the best at Bermuda Dunes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS
County of Gray
TO: EUGENE GRINDER,
Respondent(s)
GREETINGS: YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Honorable District Court, 223rd Judicial District, Gray County, Texas at the Court-house thereof, in Pampa, Texas, by filing a written answer, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next after the expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation then and there to answer the First Amended PETITION of MARK WESLEY PARKS filed in said Court on the 11th day of February, 1994, against EUGENE GRINDER, Respondent(s) and said suit being numbered 28890 on the docket of said Court, and entitled: (ORIGINAL PETITION FILED 02.11.94)
IN THE INTEREST OF AMANDA MICHELLE GRINDER the nature of which suit is a request to SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP. Said child AMANDA MICHELLE GRINDER was born on the 29th day of June, 1993, in BORGER, TEXAS.
The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child's interest including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption, which will be binding on you.
ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Pampa, Texas this 14th day of February 1994.
YVONNE MOLER, Clerk
223rd District Court
Gray County, Texas
P.O. Box 1139
Pampa, Tx. 79066-1139
By: Gaye Honderich Deputy

IMPORTANT NOTICE
YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF TWENTY DAYS AFTER YOU WERE SERVED THIS CITATION AND PETITION, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.
A-42 Feb. 17, 1994

Final Public Hearing
Texas Community Development Program
The City of McLean will hold a final public hearing on February 24, 1994, at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall in regard to the water facilities project recently completed with a Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) grant. Topics to be discussed will include the specific program improvements completed and the costs associated with the TCDP and the City of McLean. Citizens will be given an opportunity at this time to make comments concerning the project. Handicapped citizens needing assistance to attend this hearing should contact Mayor Sam Haynes at City Hall. (779-2481).
A-43 February 17, 1994

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF H.A. D'SPAIN
Notice is hereby given that original letters testamentary upon the Estate of H.A. D'SPAIN, Deceased, were granted to me, the undersigned, on the 7th day of February, 1994, in Cause No. 7778 pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to me within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 7th day of February, 1994.
Mary Elizabeth D'Spain
Independent Executrix of the Estate of H.A. D'Spain, Deceased
c/o Buzzard Law Firm
Suite 436, Hughes Building
Pampa, Texas 79065
A-41 Feb. 17, 1994

Disconnect procedure of service will continue as previously established with the addition of a \$10.00 fee for reconnection after 5 p.m. and harassment of employee/council member is a punishable offense for which charges may be pressed. \$42.07.
A-40 February 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 1994

2 Museums
WHITE Deer Land Museum: Pampa, Tuesday thru Sunday 1:00-4 p.m. Special tours by appointment.
ALANREED-McLean Area Historical Museum: McLean. Regular museum hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, Sunday 1-4.

DEVIL'S Rope Museum, McLean, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 1-4 p.m.

HUTCHINSON County Museum, Borger. Regular hours 11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays except Tuesday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

Buckle up - it's the law - and just plain sense

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A woman walks amidst the rubble of what is left of her house Wednesday in Liwa, Indonesia, following an earthquake that hit shortly after midnight. (AP photo)

Earthquake kills more than 100 in Indonesia

By GHAFUR FADYL
Associated Press Writer

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Residents were buried in their sleep and homes, mosques and roads were destroyed by a powerful earthquake that hit the island of Sumatra just after midnight Wednesday.

At least 134 people were killed, but the toll likely would rise because of difficulties in evacuating badly hurt victims, officials said.

About 550 people were seriously injured, government spokesman Hotman Apik said.

"Most of the victims were sound asleep," Apik said. "Some of the victims died without knowing what hit them."

The earthquake had an initial Richter reading of 6.5, according to officials in Jakarta. The U.S. Geological Survey in Washington put the strength at 7.2.

The hardest-hit area was believed to be the province of Lampung, on southeastern Sumatra, about 125 miles northwest of Jakarta.

Destruction from the quake and heavy rain has made it difficult to contact Lampung. Roads have been churned up and phone lines shredded by the force of the quake.

An electrical blackout plunged western Lampung into darkness soon after the tremor began.

Many homes, mosques, government offices and police stations were demolished, Apik said.

Within Lampung, the most devastation was believed to be in the district of Liwa. As of Wednesday evening, only 15 injured people were evacuated by helicopters to Kotabumi, about 75 miles north of Liwa.

The only way to evacuate the victims is using helicopters because the main road linking Kotabumi and Liwa was badly damaged, said officer Haedar Nur of the command post dealing with the crisis.

The post had not heard from several seaside towns along the southeastern coast of west Sumatra, directly facing the quake's epicenter in the Indian Ocean, officials said.

Sixteen more people were reported killed in the Suwo, a village in west Lampung, Nur said.

"I am not sure whether or not they have been included in the last death toll," he told The Associated Press.

The quake was felt throughout south Sumatra, and the tremors were also noticed as far away as Jakarta, the weather bureau reported.

Meanwhile, unrelated floods have forced at least 1,500 people to flee their villages on the island of Java. The floods caused by heavy rain have destroyed at least 160 houses, officials said.

Java is about 281 miles southeast of Jakarta.

Israeli court blames banks, directors for stock crash

By ALLYN FISHER
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — The nation's four leading banks and their former directors were convicted Wednesday on fraud-related charges and blamed for a 1983 stock market crash that nearly wrecked the Israeli banking industry.

The four-year trial tested the accountability of Israeli banks, whose reputations were in tatters after the government had to pay more than \$7 billion to bail out ruined stock market investors.

The stock market crashed in October 1983, when it became known that the banks were artificially propping up their own share prices on the Tel Aviv exchange.

Bank stocks had become so dominant that their collapse immediately lowered the overall stock index by almost 70 percent, wiping out investments and forcing the government to step in.

After a two-week market shutdown, the government took over the banks and promised investors to redeem their stock at pre-crash values if they held on to them for five years.

The defendants in Jerusalem District Court included the four banks — Leumi, Hapoalim, Discount and Mizrahi — plus a dozen executives, all forced out of their jobs after the crash.

Taking two hours to read a summary of the 760-page verdict, Judge Miriam Naor said the former bank directors used fairy tale logic to coax clients into buying bank shares.

Their promises of maintaining high share prices "are reminiscent of some of the dialogue in Alice in Wonderland," Naor said.

She accused the banks of threatening the integrity of the stock market and public confidence in the banking system. "Public confidence is a bank's most important asset," Naor said.

The judge also alluded to some government responsibility for the crash, noting that officials were aware of the system of fixing share prices and made no move to stop it.

The four banks, a holding company and six executives were convicted of violating a 1977 law against selling shares on false pretenses, among other charges. Three other executives were convicted of falsifying documents or misleading clients.

They all face sentences of up to five years in prison and also multimillion-dollar fines. Sentencing is expected in about a month.

Two accountants were acquitted in addition to another who has since died. Other executives were acquitted of some charges because the statute of limitations ran out.

Former Bank Leumi chairman Ernst Japhet, who fled to the United

States in 1987 when his huge severance package created an uproar, returned to Israel last month after the government requested his extradition. He will be tried separately.

Israel has been trying to present the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange to international investors. It trades 600 companies — more than any European market except London — but its volume is about the same as an average European market at \$130 million a day.

Veterans face backlog in getting cases heard

By JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — American soldiers can reach remote hot spots within days or even hours, but many wait years to get hearings on injuries they might have suffered.

The Veterans Affairs Department acknowledges it is now losing the battle of coping with the tens of thousands of new claims for compensation and pensions coming in every year. Four years ago the backlog of pending claims was 377,000. By the end of fiscal year 1995, the VA estimates it could hit 870,000.

On average, it takes more than 200 days to get an initial compensation claim processed, and a veteran can expect to wait more than two years to get a decision from the Board of Veterans Appeals.

VA Secretary Jesse Brown said the backlog "remains one of the foremost concerns" in the Veterans Benefits Administration, predicting that claims completed will actually decline in the immediate future because of new legal requirements and the more complex nature of today's claims.

Veterans' groups are up in arms over the delays. "We believe that a crisis situation, approaching a state of emergency, currently exists in VA's Compensation and Pension Service," Joseph Violante of Disabled American Veterans testified before Congress. Appeals board delays "have become

unconscionable and intolerable." John Hanson of the American Legion said other issues "must not be allowed to overshadow the true crisis" in the claims process and "the impact this is having on the lives of tens of thousands of veterans and their families."

"Overall, the system stinks," said Sam Ledwith, 73, a former Marine who fought in the Pacific in World War II and in the Korean War. Ledwith, of Valley Stream, N.Y., recently learned that after four years of appeals and an even longer period of hospital visits that the VA was restoring a 40 percent disability payment for hearing loss it had cut in half in the 1980s.

It's too big, too bureaucratic," he said. "It just doesn't jell."

Gary Hickman, director of the Compensation and Pension Service, said military reductions have meant a 50 percent jump in new claims, to about 150,000 last year, and that veterans now tend to file multiple, and often complicated, claims. There have been about 30,000 claims from the Persian Gulf War, including thousands who say they are suffering from the mysterious Persian Gulf syndrome.

Board of Veterans Appeals Chairman Charles Cragin said the creation in 1988 of a new U.S. court of veterans appeals, while helping define a body of common law for veterans, has added an adversarial, legalistic

element to what for half a century had been a paternalistic system.

He said new requirements for more comprehensive explanations of decisions have also added to the paperwork — an average file may be four feet high — and slowed down the process. The board of appeals made 45,000 decisions in 1991, but may conclude only 13,000 this year, and if this trend continues it could take more than six years to hear an appeal.

"We are doing a marvelous job on a veteran-by-veteran basis," Cragin said. "It's a great product, but the waiting list gets longer and longer."

The VA plans to start incorporating 43 ideas made last year by a panel that recommended a "multitude of changes" in the claims system. Included were the training of more decision-making staffers, computerization of records and rating systems and better cooperation with the Pentagon.

Legislation is now pending that would allow single members of the appeals board to make decisions, rather than the three now required. The VA estimates that could increase decisions by 25 percent.

Compounding its problems, the Veterans Benefits Administration must reduce its staff by 622 under a program to cut the federal work force. Hickman insisted that the effects of this would be minimal, and that the number of decision makers is actually being increased.

FOX'S Wild ADVENTURES IN PARADISE CONTINUES TO HEAT UP **TONIGHT!**
WATCH ONE..GET ONE FREE!
Two episodes back-to-back!

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THE SIMPSONS

7:00 Tonight!

WOO-HOO! FREE STUFF!

Heller writes sequel to 'Catch-22'

NEW YORK (AP) — Joseph Heller has written a sequel to his World War II classic *Catch-22*.

It's called *Closing Time*, and Simon & Schuster is expected to have it in bookstores this fall, *The New York Times* reported Wednesday.

"The book and its title come directly from my stage in my career and my stage in life," Heller told the Times.

"It occurred to me that it might be a good idea to write about some of the characters of *Catch-22*, blend them in with a number of new characters and infuse it with my new experiences since World War II."

Heller did not return telephone calls by The Associated Press to his home.

Closing Time does not continue where *Catch-22* left off — in the Mediterranean during the final months of World War II — but, rather, is set in present-day New York.

Of the original novel's characters, Milo Minderbinder, the calculating mess officer, is now a defense contractor and media mogul. Yossarian, the bombardier who spent World War II trying to get out of flying, has become a business and public relations consultant.

Catch-22 has become a classic over the years, selling more than 10 million copies in paperback and hard cover since its original publication in 1961, according to Simon & Schuster.

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