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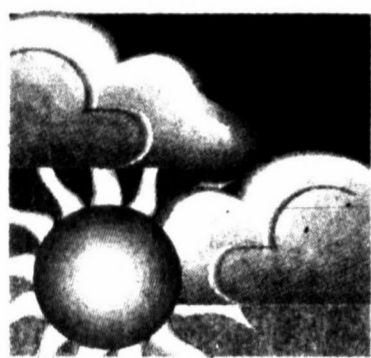
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Pampa

Vol. 91 No. 289 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday *1



High today low 70s
Low tonight low 30s
For weather details see
Page 2

PAMPA — The Gray County Red Cross will offer a Community First Aid and Safety course Saturday, March 13, starting at 9 a.m. Anyone interested in learning how to save a life can call 669-7121 to make reservations.

BRYAN (AP) — There will be no more spankings in Bryan's 13 schools.

The Bryan school board, in an unanimous vote, decided Monday to ban corporal punishment.

"I don't think we want to be in the business of hitting kids," board secretary Susan McKneely told The Eagle newspaper of Bryan-College Station in Tuesday's editions. Ms. McKneely has long sought the removal of corporal punishment.

"We're trying to teach them not to hit people," she said.

Spankings ceased Tuesday in Bryan schools after the school board voted unanimously Monday night to ban corporal punishment.

The ban went into effect on Tuesday.

Joy Dyer, the district's elementary education director, said the practice of paddling has been all but nonexistent in the district in recent years.

"It has been found to be ineffective, and there are just so many other things that can be done to steer a child in the right direction," she said.

- William James Berry, 91, retired J.C. Penney store manager.
- Elsie Snider-Chester, 83, retired farmer, factory worker.
- Dennis Ward, 80, retired car dealer.

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Roll-over accident kills driver

Passenger hospitalized with spinal, neck injuries

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

Services were pending this morning for a Pampa man killed in a one-car roll-over Tuesday night.

Gary Buchanan, 42, 1804 Lynn, was killed shortly before 10 p.m. when the car he was driving swerved and rolled at the intersection of Gwendolyn and Price Road. Paul Gerik, 42, 519 N. Frost, a passenger in the pickup, was in serious condition today at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo with spinal and neck injuries after being airlifted from Columbia Medical Center.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Bob Muns, said Buchanan died at the scene of the accident which occurred about 9:45 p.m.

Department of Public Safety Trooper John Nelson said Buchanan did not stop at the stop sign while westbound on Gwendolyn.

He appeared to have slammed on his brakes when he realized the road ended at Price Road,

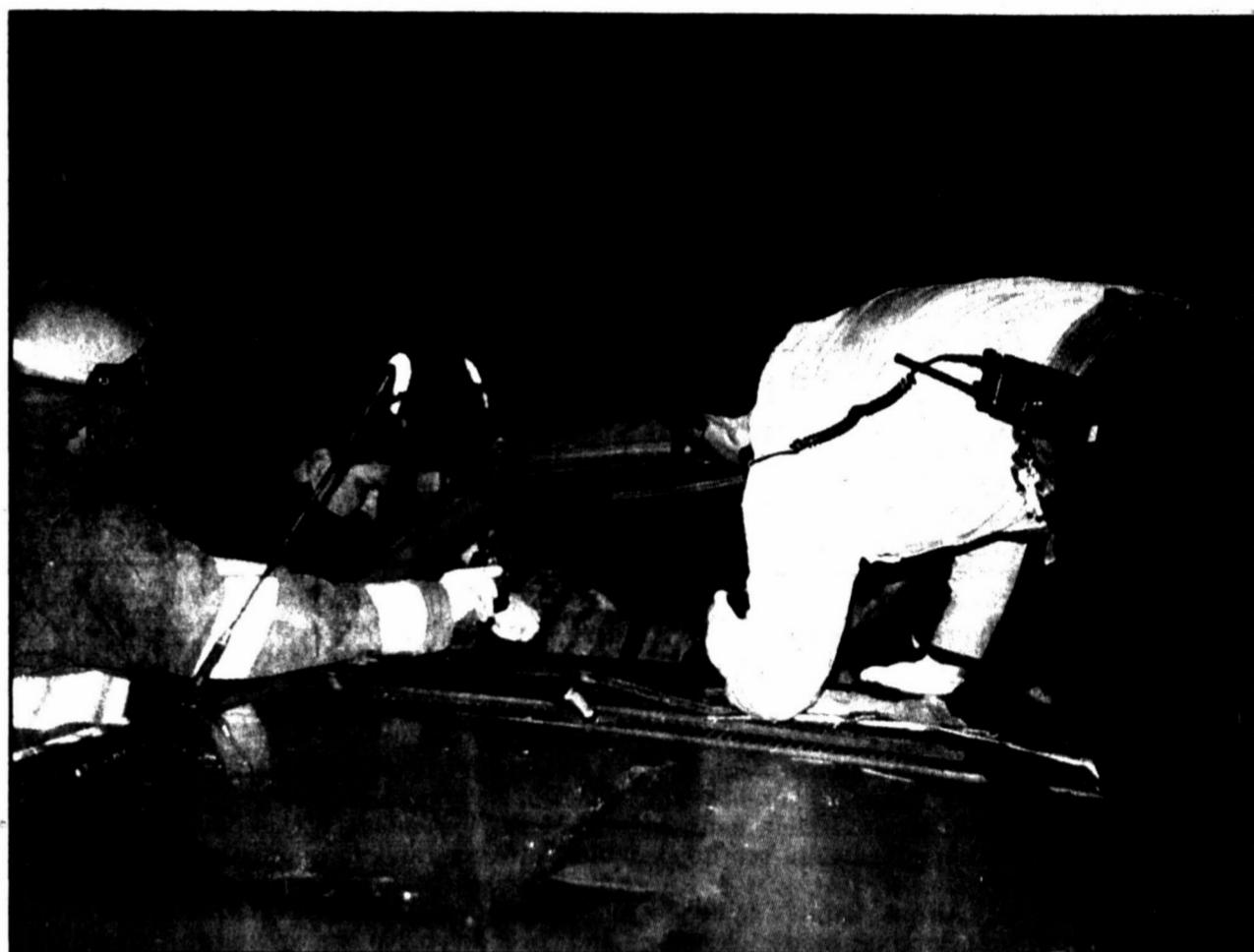
Buchanan was partially ejected from pickup and died from massive head injuries, said DPS Trooper John Nelson.

swerved left and rolled one time after hitting a culvert. Neither occupant was wearing a seat belt, according to Nelson.

Buchanan was partially ejected from the 1972 Ford F150 and died from massive head injuries, Nelson said. A Lifestar helicopter landed in the empty field and carried Gerik to Amarillo.

Muns ordered an autopsy and Buchanan's body was taken to Lubbock last night. DPS troopers are continuing their investigation today.

Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors is in charge of services for Buchanan.



Firefighters, ambulance crews and law enforcement officers worked for some time to extract passenger Paul Gerik who was airlifted to Amarillo. (Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Affordable housing shortage gets attention

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

The unavailability of low-to-moderate income housing in Pampa and the dire need for it is sparking the formation of a housing committee to pursue rectifying the problem.

In delivering the planning and zoning board's annual report to city commissioners Tuesday during the work session, P&Z member Charles Henry said Pampa needs to have ample housing before it can attract business and industry.

"There are ways to get assistance from the state and federal government to develop low-and-moderate-income housing," Henry said. "Texas has \$18 million for the 26 counties of the panhandle excluding Amarillo."

The issue is one that hit home with Lewis Meers, PEDC board chairman.

"The housing shortage has been a problem with economic development recruiting ... it's a big problem," said Meers, echoing Henry's statement. "When you talk to someone with 50 or 60 employees then tell them Pampa has no where to put them; it's embarrassing. We need to get the infrastructure in place. We need to get this behind us so we can move on down the road."

P&Z member Janie Shed told commissioners, "We do not have houses for sale in Pampa in the \$60-\$70,000 range but I can show you a \$116,000 house or a \$145,000 house. Right now it is a seller's market."

It was Shed who recommended Henry lead a



Charles Henry and city secretary/personnel director Phyllis Jeffers talk before the meeting.

housing committee that will work with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to secure grants leading to home construction.

(See HOUSING, Page 2)

Struggle results in cocaine arrest

A Pampa man remains in Gray County jail today on drug and other charges after trying to evade police and resisting arrest last night.

Jimmie Charles Johnson, 46, 1041 Prairie Drive, was arrested after Pampa Police Officer Corey Powell clocked him doing 45 mph in a 30 mph at Wilks and Huff, according to the officer. Powell pulled in behind the Suburban and turned on his flashing lights but the driver refused to stop and Powell called for backup.

Johnson stopped at 1041 Prairie Drive and got out of the vehicle. Powell also got out of his cruiser and ordered Johnson to stop, the officer said. At first Johnson complied and put his hands behind his head. When Powell started to frisk Johnson

he started resisting. Officer Anthony Wooley arrived for backup and both officers struggled to place Johnson under arrest, Wooley said. Wooley called for additional backup and Corporal Donny Brown arrived and assisted in getting Johnson into custody.

A crack pipe with suspected crack cocaine was discovered on the suspect after his arrest, Powell said. Officers also discovered there was a warrant for Johnson from Collins County.

During the struggle, people emerged from a residence but were ordered back by Wooley. No one was seriously injured in the incident and Johnson was charged with possession of a controlled substance, evading and resisting arrest. Bond had not been set at press time.

Community Partners to meet

Citizens, police officers and elected officials have set another in a series of meetings to help combat the drug problem in Pampa.

Called Community Partners Against Drugs, the group will hold its monthly meeting this Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the City Commission Chamber on the third floor of City Hall.

Anyone interested in helping to fight drugs in Pampa is invited to attend.

Dust Bowl exhibit coming to museum

By ANNE DAVIDSON
Director, White Deer Land Museum

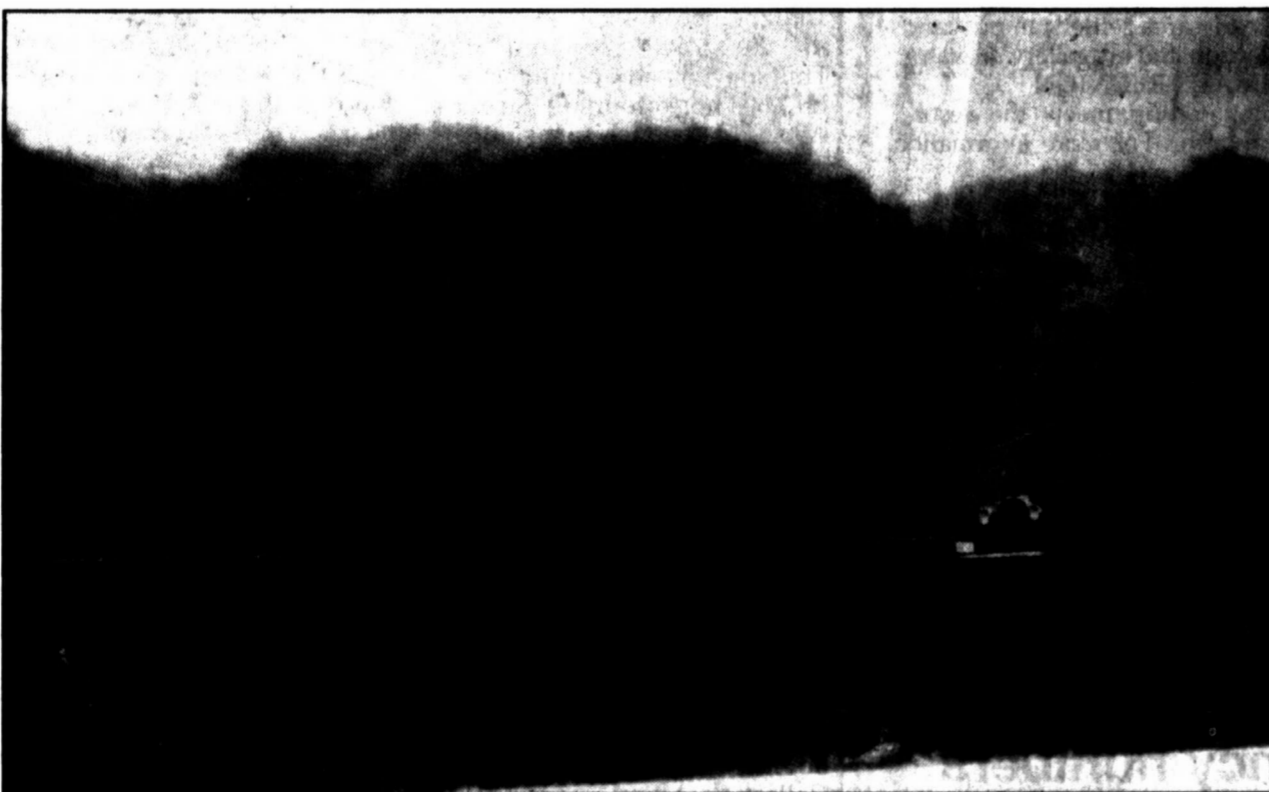
If there is one single experience that joins all senior Texans into a community of shared memory, it is the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

This is the common denominator of Texas life in the Great Depression, not only for farm people, whose livelihood was driven before the winds, but also for the folks hundreds of miles to the east, where black or yellow skies rained dirt through streets, yards, and houses, and deposited grit into food served at tables. The devastation of the High Plains turned noons so dark that people could see only by lamplight.

But for Texans on the High Plains, at the southern reach of the Great Plains, grit and darkness were of less significance than the destruction of their way of life.

Tenant farmers, unable to pay rent, were turned out by landlords. Landowners, unable to meet their mortgage payments, were dispossessed by the banks. Land-rich and cash-poor, the banks failed, and ownership of the land was further removed from the reach of families who wanted to live on farms. Family farms vanished, and farm families became migrants.

(See DUST BOWL, Page 2)



A car travels in Pampa in 1935 while cloud of dust looms.

(Photo courtesy White Deer Land Museum)

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

BERRY, William James — 10 a.m., Mercer Funeral Home Chapel, Bluefield, W.Va.
MOORE, Albert — Graveside services, 10:30 a.m., Citizens Cemetery, Clarendon.
STORY, Robert A. "Bob" — 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.
WARD, Dennis — 11 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Memphis. Burial, 3 p.m., Llano Cemetery, Amarillo.

Obituaries

HAZEL ALEXANDER
 Hazel Alexander, 84, of Pampa, died Tuesday, March 9, 1999, at Lubbock. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Alexander was born July 8, 1914, in Knox County. She graduated from O'Brien High School. She married J.J. Alexander on Sept. 23, 1933, at Knox City; he died in 1985. She had been a Pampa resident since 1946, moving from Gorman. She was a homemaker and a member of Hobart Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by a son, Jack Alexander, in 1988.

Survivors include two grandsons, Chris Alexander of Lubbock and Mark Alexander of Irving; and two great-grandsons, Jeffrey Alexander and Joey Alexander, both of Lubbock.

The family requests memorials be to Parkinson's Disease Association or St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle.

WILLIAM JAMES BERRY

BLUEFIELD, W.Va. — William James Berry, 91, father of a Pampa resident, died Sunday, March 7, 1999. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in Mercer Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Donald Adkins, of Rock Castle Baptist Church at Pineville, W.Va., officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery at Princeton, W.Va.

Mr. Berry was born March 15, 1907, at Erie, Pa., to Adam and Catherine Gimble Berry. He worked for J.C. Penney Company for 44 years, beginning in 1926 at the age of 16. He managed the Bluefield store from 1948 until retiring in 1967.

He worked for Alfred Land Diamonds, McQuail's and West Virginia Hotel following retirement. He was active in community and civic affairs and was among Appalachian Bible College's first board members. He also served on the board of Bluefield Union Mission and Y.M. - Y.W.C.A.

He was involved in Kiwanis Club and Bluefield Chamber of Commerce.

He attended Edgemont Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Barbara J. Furrow; a grandson, Matthew Jason Berry; four sisters; and two brothers.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Jessie Mae McKnight Berry, of the home; four daughters, Dorothy Jean Howington of Salina, Kan., Elizabeth Ann Nelson of Tulsa, Okla., Kathryn Edith Gray of Bluefield and Margaret Louise Stafford of Princeton; six sons, William John Berry of Pampa, Richard James Berry of Bland, Va., Charles Edward Berry and Joseph Earl Berry, Sr., both of Bluefield, David Robert Berry of Bastian, Va., and Daniel Stephen Berry, Sr., of North Tazewell, Va.; 21 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

The family will receive visitors from 7-9 p.m. today at Mercer Funeral Home in Bluefield.

GARY GENE 'BUCK' BUCHANAN

Gary Gene "Buck" Buchanan, 42, of Pampa, died Tuesday, March 9, 1999. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Buchanan was born Jan. 3, 1957, at Dallas. He had been a lifelong Pampa resident, graduating from Pampa High School. He was a construction worker for many businesses in the Pampa area and worked in the oil field. He was a Baptist.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1967.

Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Maxine and Richard Morgan of Pampa; a brother, Steve Buchanan of Amarillo; and two step-brothers, Steve Morgan of New Braunfels and Tim Morgan of Aurora, Colo.

The family requests memorials be to Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

ELSIE SNIDER-CHESTER

WHEELER — Elsie Snider-Chester, 83, died Saturday, March 6, 1999, at Amarillo. Services were Tuesday in Chapel Hill Methodist Church east of Clinton, Okla., with Patrick Peters officiating. Burial was in Chapel Hill Cemetery under the direction of Stanley-Lee Funeral Home of Clinton.

Mrs. Snider-Chester was born in Washita County. She grew up and attended school at Cordell. She married Elmer Snider in 1933 at Clinton; he preceded her in death. The couple farmed and resided near Washita River for several years. She married Bentley Chester in 1970 at Wheeler; he died in 1988. They made their home in Clinton. She had worked at Kellwood Factory and Gibsons prior to retiring from the Booterie after it closed. She had been a resident of Sunrise Care Center for the past six months, moving to Wheeler in 1997.

She belonged to Chapel Hill Methodist Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Ruby Lee McLaurin of Wheeler; two sons, Robert Snider of Amarillo and Jimmie Dale Snider of Paramount, Calif.; two sisters, Martha Bergen of California and Hilda Horn of Cordell; two brothers, C.H. Dalke Jr. of Cordell and August Dalke of Clinton; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

DENNIS WARD

MEMPHIS — Dennis Ward, 80, father of a Skellytown resident, died Tuesday, March 9, 1999. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in First United Methodist Church in Memphis with the Rev. Dale Sexton officiating. Burial will be at 3 p.m. in Llano Cemetery at Amarillo under the

direction of Memphis Funeral Home.

Mr. Ward was born at Emory. He was a car dealer in Memphis for several years.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II.

Survivors include three daughters, Penny Lee Lemons and Rebecca Ann Hudson, both of Amarillo, and Juli Ward of Euness; two sons, Barry Ward of Skellytown and Lynn Ward of Amarillo; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Buckner Children and Family Services, 6000 W. 9th, Amarillo, TX 79106.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 9
 Juvenal Madrid Chavez, 27, 119 W. Foster, was arrested on charges of driving while license suspended.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and reports during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 9
 Jimmie Johnson, 46, 1041 Prairie Drive, was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, evading and resisting arrest.
 Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block of Lowry.

Ambulance

The Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 9
 9:36 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Zimmers and transported one to a doctors office in Amarillo.
 1:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of N. Sumner. No one was transported.
 4:24 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of Wynne and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 9:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Price and Gwendolyn. No one was transported.
 10:02 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Price and Gwendolyn and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 9
 9:43 p.m. — Three units and six personnel responded to Price and Gwendolyn on an automobile accident.
 11:05 p.m. One unit and three personnel responded to One Medical Plaza on a Lifestar standby.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	2.39	Coca Cola	62 7/16	dn 9/16
Milo	3.21	Columbia/HCA	18 1/4	up 3/16
Corn	3.59	Enron	69 7/16	up 1 1/16
Soybeans	3.93	Halliburton	34 7/16	up 2 3/16
		IRI	3 7/16	up 1/16
		KNE	20 3/4	up 1/8
		Kerr McGee	30 7/16	up 3/8
		Lamite	38 1/8	dn 1/16
		McDonald's	43 3/8	dn 1/8
		Mobil	90 5/8	up 2 5/8
		New Atmos	23 3/8	dn 1/4
		NCE	40 7/16	dn 3/8
		Penney's	37 1/16	dn 1/16
		Phillips	41 5/16	up 1 1/8
		Pioneer Nat. Res.	6	up 3/16
		SLB	56 5/8	up 1 5/16
		Tenneco	30 3/16	up 1/8
		Texas	51 15/16	up 2 5/16
		Ultranar	19 7/8	up 3/8
		Wal-Mart	93 1/2	dn 1/2
		Williams	34 1/4	dn 9/16
		New York Gold	291.70	
		Silver	5.22	
		West Texas Crude	13.88	
		Chevron	82 3/4	up 2 13/16

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

Amoco	59 7/8	NA	11 5/8
Arco	22 1/2	up 11/16	
Cabot O&G	13 1/8	up 5/16	

Calendar of events

TOASTMASTERS
 The Toastmasters will meet every Wednesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at Furrs Cafeteria.

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM
 The White Deer Land Museum (112-116 S. Cuyler) visiting hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. There will be history of the White Deer Land Co., and the early area settlers an outstanding arrowhead collection and art gallery. Elevator.

EMMAUS REUNION
 Emmaus Reunion Group meets the second Thursday of each month. For more information call 669-3426 or 669-9226.

SHRINE CLUB
 The Shrine Club meets Friday, Mar. 19 There has been a change in time to 6 p.m. Put Ons are the entertainment.

THE RUSHIN WIND EMMAUS
 The Rushing Wind Emmaus community will meet Saturday, Mar. 13 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 520 Main Street, in Canadian. The board of directors will meet at 5:30 at the church. Family, friends, and members of all the area wide churches are invited to attend and a nursery will be provided. Rushing Wind sponsor a women's Walk to Emmaus on Mar. 18-21 and a men's walk on Apr. 15-18 at the Waka Center in Waka. Anyone interested in attending a walk may contact your pastor, someone who has attended a walk, or call Wanda Scott 806-435-2149 for more information.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance	911
Crime Stoppers	669-2222
Energas	665-5777
Fire	911
Police (emergency)	911
Police (non-emergency)	669-5700

Public invited to hear Bond speak Thursday

The public is invited to hear former Pampa Dr. Jim Bond speak to the Pampa Lions Club at 12:30 p.m. Thursday in the basement of First United Methodist Church.

Bond has served as a missionary for the Church of the Nazarene in Brazil as well as pastoring in

Kansas, Wyoming, Idaho, Oklahoma and Colorado...

Bond is a former Pampa basketball player who was an All-American and two-time NAIA All-American. He has been inducted into five Halls of Fame.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

HOUSING

Henry agreed to help but said it will take more than one person to make the effort a success.

Henry suggested the city, county and school district agree to deed vacant, tax delinquent property to the to-be-formed housing group in order for new homes to be built on the land.

"I think that's ideal," Mayor Bob Neslage said of the suggestion. "Pampa's a perfect fit. Last year we

tore down 55 vacant structures and we're tearing down more all the time."

No action was taken to form the committee until after a meeting of what PEDC interim director Susan Triplehorn called "all the players" in the local housing market.

"We want to plan a housing day," Triplehorn said. "We want to bring all the players together (builders, contractors, finance community, etc.) so we can find out what resources are out there."

No date for that meeting has been set.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

DUST BOWL

In this condition, Texas of the High Plains suffered in common with fellow residents of the Great Plains northward from Oklahoma through the Dakotas. Victims of drought and depression, they were also victims, at times, of public opinion, viewed as somehow having brought their failure upon themselves. If they joined the flow of families westward, they were detested "Okies". If they moved to town looking for work, they were hicks and hayseeds.

For most Texans under the age of fifty, the Dust Bowl is only "history", something that has happened before they were born. For senior Texans, however, it was, and it remains quite personal; a set of conditions and circumstances that changed their lives and shaped their outlook forever.

Fortunately for younger generations of Texans, the Dust Bowl is documented by visual images, photographs taken for the historical section of the Farm Security Administration, one of the New Deal programs designed to help farmers during the depression.

Some of the most gifted photographers of the 20th century worked for the FSA, documenting

what people were enduring.

These photographs provoke questions: What became of these people? Where are they now? What did they make of themselves and how did the Dust Bowl affect their view of America and life in general?

In the 1970s, Nebraska photographer Bill Ganzel decided to seek answers.

Guided by the annotations made by the FSA photographers, he went in the search of people who were featured in the Dust Bowl sectors of the File. Upon finding them, or their descendants, he posed them in positions like the originals and tape-recorded their recollections.

An exhibit of these originals and Ganzel's update pictures is set to appear at The White Deer Land Museum, 112 S. Cuyler, beginning Tuesday, Mar. 16. It will be in Pampa for three weeks. This exhibit is made available by the Texas Humanities Resource Center, Austin, Texas, and is supported by the Texas Committee for the Humanities.

Leaders and teachers who wish to schedule a class or group visit should contact Anne Davidson, 806-669-8041 in Pampa. Hours of viewing are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.

Year 2000 computer problems being headed off in Texas agencies

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Potential computer problems associated with the arrival of the year 2000 have been corrected in 80 percent of state agencies and will be fixed at all agencies by August, officials say.

"This is a disaster that could happen, but we are able to predict the timing and can characterize it," said Carolyn Purcell, executive director of the Texas Department of Information Resources.

Her remarks came Tuesday in a speech to the

38th annual Emergency Management Conference meeting in San Antonio.

"We are beginning to recognize where there might be potential failures, and we are identifying time-sensitive strategies," she said.

The push to deal with so-called Y2K computer malfunctions, such as the possible shutdown of utilities and government computer systems by August, is prompted by the start of the state's fiscal year 2000 in September, Ms. Purcell said.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

Partly sunny today with a high in the low 70s and southeast winds from 10-20 mph. Tonight, mostly clear with a low in the upper 30s and northeast winds from 10-20. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy with less than a 20 percent chance of rain and a high in the upper 50s. Yesterday's high was 57; the overnight low 37.

REGIONAL FORECAST

WEST TEXAS — Panhandle — Tonight, mostly clear with a low in the mid 30s. East wind 10-20 mph. Thursday, mostly cloudy with a less than 20 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms. High in the mid 50s. Northeast wind 15-25 mph and gusty.

SOUTH TEXAS — Hill Country and South Central Texas — Tonight, mostly cloudy. Lows in the low to mid 60s, upper 50s hill country. Thursday, cloudy with a slight chance of rain. High in the low to mid 70s except near 80 Edwards Plateau. Southeast Texas and Upper Texas Coast — Tonight, mostly cloudy with widely scattered late night showers and patchy fog. Lows in the 60s. Thursday, mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. High in the 70s. Lows in the 60s. Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Plains — Tonight, becoming mostly cloudy with patchy fog. Lows in the 60s. Thursday, morning low

north. Far West Texas — Tonight, fair. Lows in the lower 40s. Thursday, fair early, increasing cloudiness and becoming breezy in the afternoon. High in the upper 70s. Guadalupe Mountains/Big Bend Area — Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows from the upper 30s to upper 40s. Thursday, partly cloudy and breezy. High from the 70s mountains to the upper 80s along the Rio Grande.

BORDER STATES

NEW MEXICO — Tonight, fair to partly cloudy skies. Fog and low clouds possible eastern border around sunrise. Lows mid teens to lower 30s mountains and northwest, 30s to lower 40s elsewhere. Thursday, increasing cloudiness. Cooler with a slight chance of showers northeast. Breezy west and south. High middle 40s to around 60 mountains and north, 60s to mid 70s south.

OKLAHOMA — Tonight, increasing clouds. A slight chance of rain southeast after midnight. Lows in the 30s and lower 40s. Thursday, cloudy with a chance of rain southwest. High in the 50s. Thursday night, cloudy with a chance of rain. Low in the upper 30s and 40s. Extended forecast, Friday, cloudy with a good chance of rain. Rain may change to snow Friday night northwest. High 45 to 50. Saturday, mostly cloudy with a chance of flurries central and north. And rain southeast. Windy. Lows in the 30s and highs in the mid 30s to mid 40s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid to upper 20s and highs mainly in the 40s.

City briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

HOBBY SHOP Spring Break Craft Time for Children ages 6-12. Come by to sign up or call 669-6161 for more information. Registration ends March 13th. Adv.

CLUB BIARRITZ - Come join the fun with great music & dancing. Daily & weekend specials. New location, 618 W. Foster, 665-0225. Adv.

DISNEY BEANIES - retired & hard to find Beanies available at booth 740 - The Cottage Collection. Adv.

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN School, enrolling for Fall 1999. Grades K-7. Information/Appointment 665-3393. Adv.
OCB 2302 Alcock - Mon., Thurs. & Sat. Karaoke. Tue. pool tournament 8 p.m. Adv.

BAMMERS SUPER Bowl Heroes Bears Montana, Namath, Young, Bradshaw and more, also Baseball Bunnies and Planet Plush Hockey Animals. Holmes Sports Center, 304 S. Cuyler. Adv.

JOHNSON FENCE Repair old fence or build new. Plus odd jobs. Free estimates, 665-3368. Adv.

KINDERGARTEN: OFFER- ING half-day morning class & half-day afternoon class for Fall 1999. Information/appointment 665-3393. Community Christian School. Adv.

OCB 2302 Alcock - 1st Anniversary, Sat. March 13th. Calf fries, brisket & Karaoke by Cowboy. Adv.

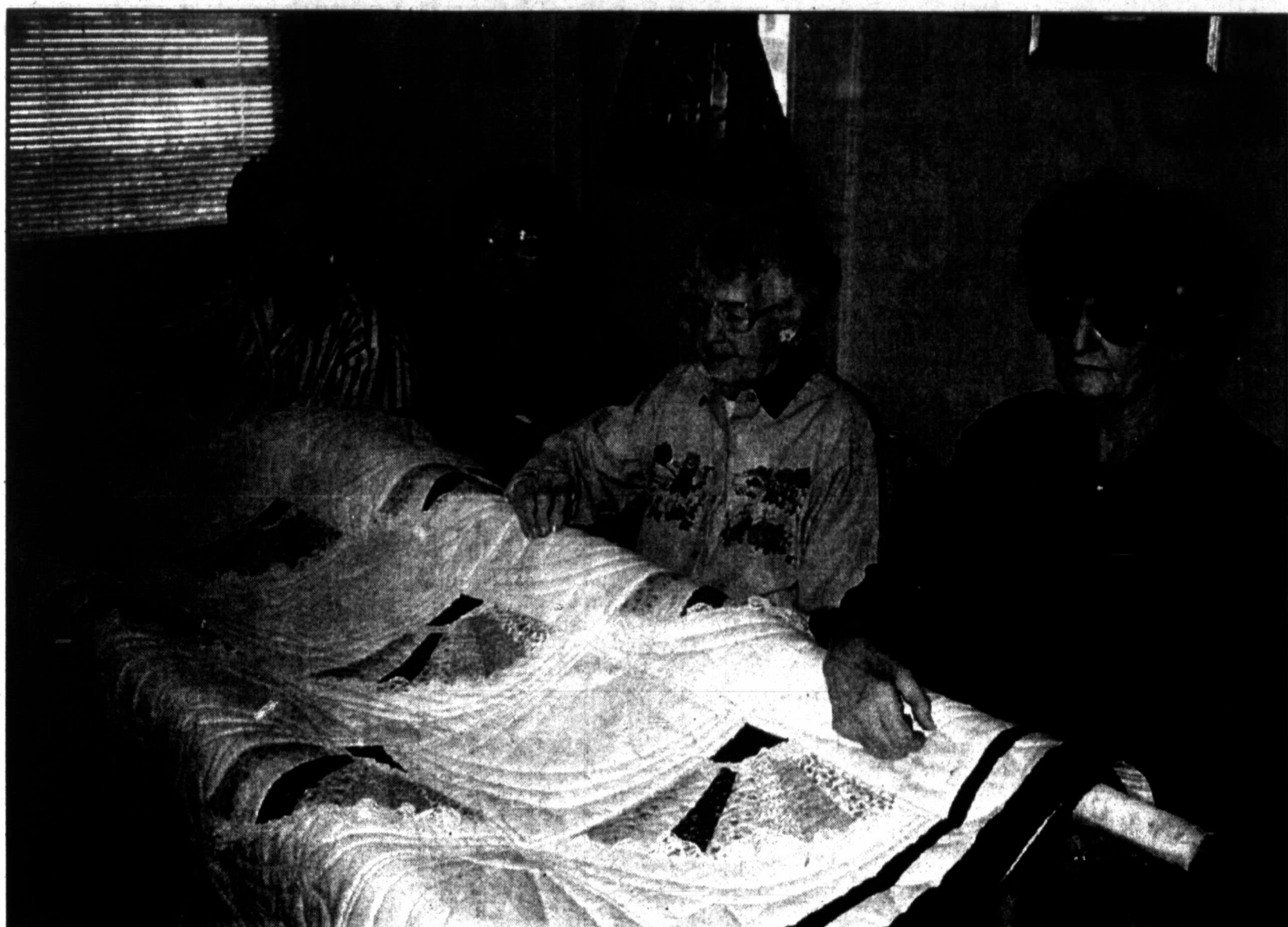
ELIMINATE MESSY or undesirable fruit with Fruit Eliminator. Watson's Garden Center, 125 N. Somerville. Adv.
DRAIN STOPPED? Why Wait? Give us a call. Ingram Sewer & Drain Cleaning, 665-8317. Adv.

LOST LRG. black female Schnauzer and 1 sm. black & white female Schnauzer. Reward. 669-3711, 665-1168. Adv.

TREES, PANSIES & seed potatoes & onions, inc. Texas Sweet onions, are at Watson's, 125 N. Somerville. Adv.

MASSAGE THERAPY by Doris King, RMT 665-6067. Adv.
ROLANDA'S HAS good scents, 301 W. Foster. Adv.

Pam Apartments Activity Club



(Community Camera photos by Pat Bolton)

Pam Apartments Activity Club will be selling tickets for chances for a hand-made quilt, fan pattern with lace insets and emerald green trim. Tickets will be on sale now until April. Quilters are (from left) Maudie Wheeler, Saquita Smith, Nell Derr, and Elsie Gerik. The Activity Club also has Bingo every Thursday at 1 p.m. Playing Bingo are (from left) Marie Peters, Betty Dills, Iva Tigrett.

Green Thumb



(Community Camera photo)

Mayor Robert Neslage (left) with Fern Ritter, job developer of Green Thumb Organization, recently signed a proclamation honoring "Hire the Older Worker Week."

Muscular Dystrophy Association seeking camp counselors

AMARILLO — Muscular Dystrophy Association is seeking camp counselors for their local camp for children with muscle diseases. MDA is especially in need of male counselors to assist with the camping program. The MDA camp will be held May 31-June 5 at Ceta Canyon Camp near Happy.

At the MDA camp, counselors work one on one with the campers to provide care, supervision, attention and friendship to children with limited mobility. Young men and women willing to spend a week at camp are needed to fill counselor positions for the camp. The volunteers must be at least 16 years of age and will be trained before camp.

As a summer camp counselor, young people are given the opportunity to perform a valuable community service, develop a greater understanding of individuals with disabilities and enjoy a very special week of summer camp.

Donations of supplies are also needed for MDA's summer camp. Arts and crafts items, carnival prizes and awards, life jackets, sporting equipment, snacks, medical supplies, walkie talkies and the use of a golf cart are among the donations being sought to help provide a memorable camp experience to approximately 60 youngsters.

MDA supports a nationwide network of summer camps offering a wide range of activities designed for youngsters who have limited mobility or use wheelchairs. Since 1955, MDA's extensive camp program has built bridges and knocked down barriers, fostering a sense of self-worth in young people with disabilities. For youngsters with neuromuscular disease, MDA camp is a magical place. At the more than 90 camp sessions nationwide, barriers simply do not exist. Skills are developed and taught for year-round use and a child with a disability can just be a child among friends.

MDA camp programs, although structured, are conducted in a relaxed atmosphere that gives campers an unmatched opportunity to develop lifelong friendships, share interests and build self-confidence. Activities range from outdoor sports such as swimming and boating to less physically demanding programs like arts and crafts and talent shows.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association serves many individuals and their families in the panhandle area. The summer camp program is a part of MDA's comprehensive patient and community service which includes clinics, equipment and support groups as well as research and public health education. Individual private contributors fund the association's programs almost entirely.

For more information on becoming a summer camp counselor or to donate supplies for camp, call (806) 359-3141.

TPMHA to offer 'SOS!' parenting class this month

AMARILLO — Texas Panhandle Mental Health Authority Child and Adolescent Services staff will teach "SOS! Help for Parents," a class for parents and other caregivers of children ages 0-12 from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings March 23-

April 20 at the TPMHA Administration Building, 1500 South Taylor, Amarillo. The class costs \$5 and the book is \$10. No childcare is available.

Lynn Clark, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist from Kentucky is the author of this curriculum. Dr. Clark has over 20 years of experience in working with parents and their children. He has written several other books and made videos on child rearing. As a parent, Dr. Clark has used all the methods of behavior management in the SOS program with his own sons.

Grant said, "SOS! Help for Parents" is designed to help parents learn ways to become more self-confident and effective in their parenting style. Some of the topics to be covered in this class are ways of improving and managing behavior, clear communi-

cation between parent and child, time-out skills, anger control for parent and child, helping the child express feelings and other resources for helping a child. Parents will leave this 5 week course with ideas and skills to have a more positive, happy, and loving family."

Jo Ann Berner, M.Ed., and Lisa Insall, BA, TPMHA Child & Adolescent staff, will teach the class. Preregistration is required. To enroll, call (806) 354-2191. "This class is beneficial for parents, grandparents, child care workers, foster parents, teachers — anyone who lives and/or works with children," said Grant.

The Mission of TPMHA Child & Adolescent Services is to provide an accessible array of quality psychosocial services to children and their families with an emphasis on family preservation.

This non-profit agency serves children and adolescents ages 2-17 who have some form of a behavioral, emotional or mental disorder and has offices in Amarillo, Hereford, Dumas, Borger, Pampa, Clarendon and Perryton.

Texas Wildflower Hotline now open

AUSTIN — Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is launching its annual Texas Wildflower Hotline through May 21. The hotline is being sponsored by NEWSRADIO 590-KLBJ AM at (512) 832-4037.

The Wildflower Hotline is open 24-hours a day and provides locations of the most spectacular roadside displays of wildflowers in Texas. The service is updated every Friday by Wildflower Center botanists.

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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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Opinion

HIV debate shows need for research

One would hope that the recent story that researchers have traced the origin of the HIV-1 virus to a similar virus found in a species of chimpanzee is true and promising, but we have to raise a skeptical question!

Scientists have long thought the HIV-1 virus might have been transmitted from chimpanzees or monkeys to human beings. But of 400 chimpanzees in captivity tested for Simian Immune Virus (chimpanzee) or SIV cpz, only three had it, and one of the three had an SIV virus so different from HIV-1 that few believed it was related.

Then along came Marilyn, a chimp who had died in 1985 but some of whose tissues had been frozen. Dr. Beatrice Hahn and a team at the University of Alabama used the technique known as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to recover the virus from a tissue and identify it. It turned out to resemble the virus in two other known chimps as well as HIV-1. And all three were members of the subspecies Pan troglodytes troglodytes, which in nature inhabit areas in west and central Africa where HIV-1 has been identified among humans.

Interesting and suggestive, but it's only three chimps and nobody claims to know just how the virus got from chimps to humans or why it changed as it did after it made the switch. The theories are all self-admitted speculation. And nobody knows why the virus has never been known to cause illness in chimps. So everybody agrees — as usual — that much more research is needed.

To be sure, real science is a process of fitting pieces of knowledge together and testing them through established and peer-reviewed methods until patterns seem to emerge, then testing some more and some more until a hypothesis can be said to be proven.

Still, this story is curious. If you read and ask questions, it becomes obvious that "the riddle of the origin of AIDS" has not been solved — not even close. A few chimpanzees have been shown to have a virus very similar to the HIV-1 virus, and they're members of a subspecies known to live in roughly the same area where HIV-1 has been identified. That's far from conclusive.

And what about the theories of Peter Duesberg, a molecular and cell biologist at the University of California at Berkeley who isolated the first cancer gene through his work on retroviruses in 1970 and was elected to the national Academy of Sciences in 1986. Duesberg believes that HIV-1 doesn't cause AIDS. He acknowledges a correlation, but his theory is that the syndrome of afflictions that have been subsumed within the definition of AIDS are the result of abusing illicit drugs in combinations that degraded the immune systems of those who took them. He also thinks that AZT, touted as a cure for AIDS, makes it worse.

Provocative enough? Although a few people have written about Duesberg's approach, most establishment media avoid him like the plague. But Nobel Prize chemist Kary Mullis — who invented the polymerase chain reaction procedure used to analyze Marilyn's virus — wrote a foreword to Duesberg's book. Mullis tells how he tried for years — and failed — to get any of the established experts to provide him a citation for a scientific study that proved that AIDS was caused by HIV.

Can it be that no such study exists? That the decision that HIV causes AIDS was a political rather than a scientific determination? Curious.

Duesberg said he thought the chimp study was good science as far as it went, showing a close resemblance between the SIV cpz virus and HIV-1. But he believes it fits his theory — that HIV is not the cause of AIDS — better than it fits the established theory.

So we've got a scientific dispute with reputable people on both sides over the nature of AIDS, let alone its origin. More research really is needed, but on a broader scale than is generally acknowledged. But funds for research into non-orthodox theories will almost certainly have to come from the private sector; government seldom chooses to finance challenges to received opinion.

—Odessa American

Thought for today

"Words are wise men's counters,
 — they do but reckon by them; but
 they are the money of fools."
 —Thomas Hobbes

A process of hope in Jasper

JASPER — Spring is already edging into East Texas. The redbuds are in bloom; the dogwoods will follow. Everything proceeds according to plan.

Everything, including this community's response to a crime so terrible it makes strong men wince just to think of it.

You have heard about the trial, conviction and sentencing of John William King for the murder of James Byrd Jr. A Jasper jury found King guilty of chaining Byrd to a pickup truck and dragging him to his death. The jury then quickly gave King the death penalty.


You may not have realized that the King case is just the first part of a process. Two more trials are scheduled, one for each of King's alleged accomplices.

And those are just the legal actions. The emotional process is much more complicated, as it always is with race. And it's just beginning.

Jasper has a long way to go. But the news this day is: Jasper is ready.

East Texas is rightly known for its history of violence and racial injustice. It is also rightly known for its hospitality. A paradox, yes. But life and race relations, most especially, are filled with paradoxes.

There wasn't anything phony about the hospitality Jasper accorded to reporters during the King trial. Other towns have turned frosty shoulders to the press under similar circum-



Dan Rather
 Syndicated columnist

stances. Some have greeted reporters with violence. Jasper opened its arms, offered us more coffee and invited us to stay as long as it takes to see this tragedy through.

The citizens with whom this reporter spoke have figured it out: Jasper must go through this process to heal and to move forward, to try to prevent anything like the Byrd murder from ever happening here again. And if the rest of the country can follow the trial, perhaps America as a whole can learn something, grow and improve.

So Jasper has put up with, even welcomed, global press attention while it grapples with some very private questions.

King's motive in the Byrd murder is believed to have been race hate. Most whites in Jasper were surprised to discover such vicious racism still existed in their community. Most blacks admitted when pressed — that they were surprised to discover whites were surprised.

After all, East Texas has a long history of white violence against blacks. Although most people prefer not to dwell on it, slavery was deeply entrenched here, and the Ku Klux Klan survives in this region to this day.

"Of course bad things happen here," one black woman said. "That doesn't mean Jasper is bad."

On that point, whites agree wholeheartedly. While many believe King's racism sprang not from Jasper but from the prison where King spent some recent years, just about everybody believes the Byrd murder was a wake-up call.

Not just for Jasper, but for all America.

Jasper is a friendly, church-going community. If race hate can simmer below the surface here, then you can bet it's simmering in other communities, too — perhaps boiling over — whether people want to face it or not.

"The rest of the country needs to pay attention to this trial," said one white Jasperite. "They need to think about it, talk about it, look into their own hearts — and then act. That's the only way things will ever get better in this country."

Jasper didn't ask to sacrifice its sons — Bill King and James Byrd — so that America might learn from Jasper's losses.

But now that sacrifice has been exacted, Jasper is dealing as well as it can. Which is to say painfully — but hopefully — as winter yields to spring.

Today in history

- By The Associated Press**
 Today is Wednesday, March 10, the 69th day of 1999. There are 296 days left in the year.
- Today's Highlight in History:**
 On March 10, 1949, Nazi wartime broadcaster Mildred E. Gillars, also known as "Axis Sally," was convicted in Washington, D.C., of treason. She served 12 years in prison.
- On this date:**
 -In 1785, Thomas Jefferson was appointed minister to France, succeeding Benjamin Franklin.
 -In 1848, the Senate ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the war with Mexico.
- In 1864, Ulysses S. Grant became commander of the Union armies in the Civil War.
- In 1876, the first successful voice transmission over Alexander Graham Bell's telephone took place in Boston as his assistant heard Bell say, "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you."
- In 1880, the Salvation Army arrived in the United States from England.
- In 1894, New York Gov. Roswell P. Flower signed the nation's first dog-licensing law. The license fee was \$2, renewable annually for \$1.
- In 1948, the body of the anti-Communist foreign minister of Czechoslovakia, Jan Masaryk, was found in the garden of Czernin Palace in Prague.
- In 1965, Neil Simon's play "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau as Oscar Madison and Art Carney as Felix Unger, opened on Broadway.
- In 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tenn., to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his innocence until his death last April.
- In 1985, Konstantin U. Chernenko, Soviet leader for just 13 months, died at age 73.
- Ten years ago: One day after the Senate rejected the defense secretary nomination of John Tower, President Bush announced he would nominate Wyoming Rep. Dick Cheney, who was later confirmed.
- Five years ago: White House officials began testifying before a federal grand jury about the Whitewater controversy.
- Today's Birthdays:** Talk show host Ralph Emery is 66. Actor Chuck Norris is 59. Singer Dean Torrence (Jan and Dean) is 59. Actress Katharine Houghton is 54. Newspaper columnist Bob Greene is 52. Rock musician Tom Scholz (Boston) is 52.

Gore brings carpool into campaign

Walter Mears
 AP Special correspondent

Carpooling is not usually part of a ride to the White House. But it is part of Vice President Al Gore's agenda for 2000 and beyond, as he seeks to succeed President Clinton.

Like president, like vice president. So far, anyhow. Gore is delivering small-scale administration proposals, doling them out much as Clinton did in campaigning for his second term.

The latest, aimed at easing traffic jams, or directing commuters to ways around the roadblocks, is one in a series due this week and next.

The vice president will be announcing steps to help passengers cope with the frustrations of flying, another step in the administration's clean water plan, a proposal to make prescription labels more easily understandable.

Nothing major, but all pieces of what the administration bills as a quality-of-life initiative, a certain theme in the Gore campaign.

To Gore's advantage against his only current challenger for the Democratic nomination in 2000, former Sen. Bill Bradley, his office provides a platform no rival can match. Clinton has given his vice president the franchise to announce national ideas like the traffic control plan he presented Monday — plus aid, disaster relief and other programs with a special impact in crucial early presidential primary states.

Clinton has proclaimed Gore the most influential achiever ever to serve as vice president. "The best partner and friend, adviser and prod-der any president could ever have," Clinton calls him.

And in the best office for a promotion. Vice presidents seeking to be nominated for president almost always are. The last exception was Alben Barkley in 1952, and he was 74 at the time.

That doesn't apply to the next step. Richard Nixon in 1960 and Hubert H. Humphrey in 1968 were defeated in the general election. George Bush won in 1988. Vice presidents can inherit problems, too. An economic slump dampened Nixon's first, losing campaign. Eight years later, he beat Humphrey, in part because the vice president would not stray from administration policy on the war in Vietnam. Bush tried to sound like Ronald Reagan-plus on taxes, leading to his "read my lips" campaign vow that he'd veto any increase, on which he reneged as president and suffered for it in the 1992 campaign.

The political art form is to remain the loyal No. 2 man while establishing an independent campaign identity, no easy balancing act. Especially for a vice president seeking to share the credit for the thriving economy and budget surpluses — without being seen as only another chapter in the Clinton administration.

For now, those piecemeal proposals will do.

They put his name out front, and they deal with some of the things that rankle Americans most because they are so commonplace. Together, they add up to a \$1 billion administration plan to make everyday life better and safer.

Clinton is filling in some of the pieces — his push for 85 percent automobile seat belt use, for example, and his announcement of new regulations to standardize car seats for children. Gore is getting his share, too, like the proposal for \$700 million to promote parks and open space in and around cities.

And, of course, Monday's effort to ease the lives of commuters stuck in worsening traffic congestion that the government says affects 41 percent of peak hour travel.

"Why do we call it rush hour, because as we all know, it lasts for more than an hour and there's not much rushing except from bumper to bumper?" Gore said.

So the vice president proposed a new, nationwide three-digit telephone number, 211 or 511, that drivers can dial for information on traffic tie-ups and for public transit data. Plus tax breaks that would enable employers to offer workers up to \$240 a month in incentives to join carpools or take trains or buses instead of driving on jammed highways.

"We simply don't have to accept steadily worsening congestion, steadily longer traffic jams as an inevitable part of America's way of life," Gore said. "We know how to change it, and by working together we can and will change it."

Youths arrested for burglaries

LIPSCOMB — A Kansas teenager was free on bond today after being arrested in Booker in connection with the burglary of vehicles and a house.

Bernardo Pinon III, 17, of Garden City, Kan., was free on bonds totaling \$5,500 today after being charged with four counts of burglary of a motor vehicle and one count of burglary of a habitation. Judge Frank Elmore set bond for Pinon at \$1,000 on each count of the vehicle burglaries and \$1,500 on the burglary of the a habitation charge.

Four juveniles also arrested in the case have been turned over to juvenile authorities along with a runaway from Garden City. Officers said the juvenile runaway did not appear to be involved with the burglaries.

Lipscomb County Sheriff James Robertson credited Deputies Virgie Morris and Matt Thornton with the breaking up of the burglary ring with their quick work.

Officers got a call about 9 a.m. Sunday from a Lipscomb County citizen concerning the burglaries. By noon Sunday, the two deputies had arrested two of the teenagers. By Monday afternoon, they had arrested the other three and recovered most of the stereo equipment and tools that had been reported stolen.

"We got a majority of all of it back," Thornton said.

Officers said more than \$2,000 in equipment and tools were recovered.

Target of 'Cheerleader Mom' plot says ordeal took a toll

HOUSTON (AP) — The target of the so-called Cheerleader Mom murder plot says the ordeal put such a strain on her life that she suffered heart trouble, her husband had a stroke and they now are separated.

"I feel that we've taken a trip to hell and back," 45-year-old Verna Heath of Channelview says in the March 8 issue of People magazine. "People want you to be strong and be an example to others. I want to be like that, but it still hurts."

Wanda Holloway was convicted of solicitation of capital murder in 1991 for trying to hire a hit man to kill Mrs. Heath, whose daughter was competing against Ms. Holloway's daughter for a spot on the cheerleading squad.

Prosecutors claimed Ms. Holloway wanted Mrs. Heath dead because she believed then 13-year-old Amber Heath would

be so distraught she would drop out of the competition.

The verdict was thrown out when it was discovered that a juror was on probation. But in 1996, Ms. Holloway pleaded no contest and received a 10-year prison term. She was released in 1997 after serving six months in prison.

Mrs. Heath said Amber, now head twirler at Baylor University, and her three other children also suffered health problems following the ordeal. Two years ago, her 17-year-old son, Sean, lost a kidney to renal cell carcinoma.

Still, she said, she and her family are trying to move on.

"I'm alive. Amber's alive. So I think I've finally found that peace," she said. "I didn't find it easily, but I realized I'm a mom, I have four kids, and I can't allow it to destroy them."

Coach suspended over comment to black student

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A high school baseball coach held up a chain to one of his black students and asked if he wanted to go for a ride, an apparent reference to the dragging death of a black man in Texas, school officials said.

John Decker Jr. was suspended for three days without pay after Beech High School senior Carlos Jarrett complained about the remark to school officials.

"This type of action will not be

tolerated in any manner," Jeff Helbig, assistant director for Sumner County schools, wrote in a March 4 disciplinary letter to Decker.

Decker has only said the incident "was all a misunderstanding" and he has apologized to Jarrett.

According to Jarrett's father, Willie Jarrett, Carlos and a group of boys were leaving school March 1 when Decker, standing by his truck and holding a piece of chain, said: "Carlos, do you want a ride?"

He was apparently referring to the torture killing in Texas of James Byrd Jr., a black man decapitated while being dragged behind a pickup truck.

The remark comes after a radio shock jock was fired last month from a Washington-area station for making light of the murder.

Doug "Grease Man" Tracht said, "No wonder people drag them behind trucks" after playing a portion of a song by Grammy-award winning recording artist Lauryn Hill, who like Byrd is black.

Two women indicted in burglaries

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — Local law enforcement officials say they don't see this very often: Two women have been indicted for a string of house burglaries.

"Women aren't arrested for burglary near as often as men, and when they are, they are usually just driving the car and are charged as accomplices," said Ector County sheriff's Lt. Billy Clark.

Authorities say Amanda Lea Jackson, 19, and Angela Dawn Cobb, 22, burglarized five houses late last year. They, along with Michael Wayne Nichols, 22, were indicted Friday by an Ector County grand jury.

The two women have been released on bond, but Nichols remained jailed on \$50,000 bond.

Clark said the three suspects would knock on a house door and, if no one answered, kick it in.

Most burglars — of either sex — steal to support drug habits, Clark told the Odessa American. A few female burglars do it to settle a score with someone — an ex-boyfriend, for example, said Odessa police Sgt. Bianca Brister.

Clark said women are more likely to engage in shoplifting, a misdemeanor, than burglary, a felony. Besides, he said, the items taken in burglaries are sometimes heavy or cumbersome and can be difficult for a woman to carry.

"It happens, but it's just not a female's crime of choice," he said.

Child murders strike idyllic suburb

By TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press Writer

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (AP) — In this seemingly perfect American town with its seemingly perfect American families, Lois Landgraf was puzzled when a neighbor called to say there'd been a horrible crime a few doors down.

"No way," Landgraf recalled telling her friend as she made her way to the door facing state-ly Loomis Street in this western Chicago suburb. "There's nothing going on."

A glance down the street showed her differently. There were police cars and yellow crime scene tape at the cranberry-red Victorian house a block away.

When police arrived last Friday, they found the bodies of 3-year-old Thomas Lemak and his 7-year-old brother, Nicholas, in their beds. Their 6-year-old sister, Emily, lay lifeless in her parents' room.

All three children had been drugged and smothered.

The initial shock was compounded when their mother, Marilyn Lemak, was charged with the crime. After the slayings, police said, Mrs. Lemak took several pills and cut her arm.

"She couldn't have done that in her right mind," Landgraf said. "Who could? It makes you feel so sick."

Many residents stopped Tuesday to leave flowers, teddy bears, candy canes, dolls, ceramic angels and other mementos near the three white crosses erected in the Lemak front lawn.

The slayings have jolted this neighborhood of historic homes and lush lawns, honored in 1997 as the most kid-friendly city in America by Zero Population Growth, a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying group.

Marilyn Lemak was part of that image, until Friday, prosecutors say, when she phoned police to come to her home in the city's historic district.

Mrs. Lemak, a brown-haired 41-year-old, was known as a loving mother and classy friend, someone who always looked "put together."

She and her physician husband, Dr. David Lemak, were in the middle of a divorce, though it seemed to be going amicably.

Neighbor Tom Klingbeil said both parents were attentive and loving with their children.

Police found a wedding photograph of the Lemaks with a knife stuck through David Lemak's chest, as well as a crumpled wedding dress on the bathroom floor, the Chicago Tribune reported today, citing sources it did not identify.

Daniel Kuhn, a lawyer representing Mrs. Lemak in her divorce, said she appeared to be sedated and "utterly devastated" when he visited her in jail on Tuesday.

Kuhn said Mrs. Lemak had been having trouble eating in jail because some of the food reminded her of her children's favorites.

"I think people are overwhelmed and don't know how to react," said neighbor, Edna Steinbock. "My heart aches for her. I'm praying for her and what she's going through — to have her own private hell."

"I'm not angry; I'm confused."

I keep saying 'Why?'"

Mrs. Lemak, who always had a cheerful greeting for a neighbor, occasionally worked at Dreyer Medical Clinic in Aurora, filling in for nurses who were sick or on vacation, clinic spokeswoman Nancy Hopp said.

She often was seen walking or driving her children to

Ellsworth Elementary School a couple of blocks from her home.

A week before the deaths, Mrs. Lemak attended a party where she bought \$80 worth of gourmet cooking utensils — a vegetable peeler, an apple corer, oven mitts, a kitchen oil spritzer and soap dispensers. She was planning her own

party, she explained.

A friend, who also attended the get-together, said Mrs. Lemak was uncharacteristically disheveled, but otherwise upbeat and pleasant despite the fact that her husband had moved out a few weeks ago.

"It's like nothing was wrong," Klingbeil said. "And that's what's so scary."

Texas House set to vote on state oil severance tax

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House began debating a proposal Wednesday to grant owners of small oil wells a \$45 million tax break.

"This is not going to solve the oil and gas crisis," but will help school districts and save jobs said Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland.

The bill is expected to encounter more opposition in the House than it did in the Senate, where it passed easily last month.

Tom Craddick has said he expects the bill to pass the House. But the measure, which Gov. George W. Bush put on the fast track for legislative action by declaring it an emergency, must gain 100 votes in the 150-member chamber to be implemented immediately.

Craddick admits it may be a little close. That's because some House members have linked their support of oil tax relief to passage of the federal Children's Health Insurance Program, which would provide insurance to children of families that cannot afford private coverage.

They have sought to qualify youngsters if their parents make up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, while Bush has advocated a lower level of 150 percent.

"A lot of House members are linking the severance tax bill to the CHIPs program even though they are not related," Craddick said.

"They're both needed programs, but they need to stand on their individual merit," he said.

Rep. Kevin Bailey of Houston, who is among the Democrats making the link, said, "Children's health insurance is as much an

emergency as oil."

He said some House members want assurance that the measure is not just "corporate welfare" before deciding how to vote.

"The promoters of this bill have said it will help small well owners, we want to make sure that's true," Bailey said.

But on Thursday, Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, questioned whether lawmakers should show favoritism to the oil and gas industry when others are in need of funding also, including poor school districts.

Oil producers have said the tax break will help save jobs and keep marginal wells from being shut down, which could cost school districts money. They also contend that at current low prices, it costs many of them more money to keep pumping than they earn from the small wells.

Craddick's bill would exempt

small oil producers from the state severance tax when the monthly average closing price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil is below \$15 per barrel, as recorded on the New York Mercantile Exchange, for three consecutive months.

That price test already has been met, so the exemption would automatically kick in if the measure won final passage by two-thirds majority, according to lawmakers.

Wells producing 15 barrels or less each day would be exempt, covering 83 percent of Texas wells and about 38 percent of production. It would apply until the end of the current budget year, Aug. 31.

The current severance tax on oil is 4.6 percent of the value at the wellhead and 7.5 percent on natural gas.

The oil tax relief bill is SB290.

Happy 50th
Mom & Dad
Love ... The Kids



Grandma Is Willing but Unable To Baby-Sit Infant Daughter

DEAR ABBY: My problem concerns my dear mother-in-law. She wants to baby-sit my infant daughter after I return to work. "Grandma" is 80. She's deaf and frequently does not wear her hearing aid. She is physically frail, confused and forgetful. Needless to say, my husband and I are uncomfortable with the idea of her baby sitting.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

She used to baby-sit our two older children, but we stopped asking her last year because we were concerned about her ability to keep track of two active youngsters.

Abby, I cannot stand the thought of telling her, "We don't want you to take care of the baby because we think you're too old to do a good job of it." It would break her heart. She does not see herself as incompetent because she still lives alone. Every time I see her she asks if she can watch the baby, and I just smile and shrug and say, "We're not sure what we're going to do with her once I go back to work."

Is there some nice way I can tell her the truth? Or should I make up some plausible story to avoid hurting her feelings? I love her dearly and don't want to hurt her, but my concerns about my baby's safety are valid.

UNCERTAIN IN FLORIDA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: The baby's welfare must come first. Without making an issue of it, make other plans for child care. Be diplomatic when discussing them with your mother-in-law

because she's only trying to be helpful, but remind her that a newborn requires physical stamina to deal with on a daily basis, and you have hired outside help to aid you in raising your three little bundles of boundless energy.

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to thank you for the help you've provided to caregivers throughout the years. Regarding "Still in Shock in Illinois," there are some other precautions families can take to ensure the proper care of their loved ones with regard to hiring home-care aides:

If possible, your loved one should receive care through a licensed home health-care agency or registry. Find out what kind of insurance they carry. Find out what procedures they use for background checks. Check all references yourself. Is someone available to assist you and your loved ones after-hours or in an emergency? Assess what level of care your loved one requires. Does the aide have the

skills necessary for the job?

Do not let an aide have access to checking accounts. If money is needed for expenses, give them only what is necessary and always get receipts. And as "Still in Shock" rightfully recommended in her letter, vary the times of your visits and ask other relatives and friends to stop by as often as possible.

Above all: Trust your own instincts! If you feel that something is not right — it probably isn't. **GARY BARG, PUBLISHER, TODAY'S CAREGIVER MAGAZINE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.**

DEAR GARY: Thank you for the helpful suggestions. Providing care for frail loved ones takes time, patience, sensitivity and effort. Even those who shoulder the entire responsibility need to acknowledge the fact that respite is necessary on a regular basis. For families who are able to afford professional help, the suggestions you have offered will give some guidance through the sometimes confusing process of selecting the right caregiver.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61064-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Though you have every intention of being logical and direct, you are overwhelmed by all that you hear. Take the lead at work. Don't be shy. Assume responsibility, but be careful about just how much you take on. You could be going in many different directions. Tonight: In the limelight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ If news is confusing to you, go out and get the whole scoop. Much is going on here; some of it has to do with your reactions. Be moderate in your choices, detach and make your own decisions. A trip could easily be in the offing. Tonight: Rent a movie or listen to a favorite CD.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Talk, rather than holding on to frustrations. You might feel you are heading down the wrong path. Could that simply be your current mindset? Many opportunities are approaching; just make the right choice. Talk about funds, feelings and partnerships. Tonight: Have that needed discussion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Defer to others; you might not have the energy to do otherwise. You have a lot on your plate. Work is unusually demanding. There's no time for confusion.

Be clear and worry less. Willingness to meet responsibilities puts you in the limelight. Tonight: Make a dinner date.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Pace yourself. Rethink a work decision. Another might want you to do something totally different, and he might not give you clear information. Do your own research; know what you want. Optimism surrounds long-distance communication and a potential trip. Tonight: Flip through travel brochures.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Let your creativity ride high. Be willing to challenge another. Get to the bottom of a misunderstanding. Not everyone needs to think the same! Be indulgent with money issues and a partner. In the long run, trust and goodwill go far. Tonight: Start the weekend early... whoop it up!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Associates mean well, even if some of their behavior borders on insanity. Establish limits when dealing with others. You might be pulled between what you should do and what you want to do. Humor goes a long way in this juggling act! Tonight: Play it cool and head home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Initiate calls. You could be on overload. Your sense of humor is stimulated by a co-worker, who is always upbeat and full of fun. Confusion could complicate work, but you do have a good time. Might it be time for a diet? Only you know for sure! Tonight: Visit with a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Use caution with funds. A partner might not be sure what is going on. Assume responsibility. Use your creativity. A child plays into the scenario; it might be wisest to say "no." A offer might be too good to

pass up, but be sure you understand the liabilities. Tonight: Pay bills.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You emerge as a star today. Still, you could catch some flak from a family member. You simply aren't speaking the same language. Be indulgent, adore this person and let it go. Your smile and positive attitude have a large impact. You know how to get what you want. Tonight: Your call!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Slow down and take advantage of changes in plans. You don't have to be everywhere all the time. Think before you leap into action. Is there another way of handling this situation? A neighbor or sibling is full of news; listen, but don't buy into it. Tonight: Do your thing!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Attend meetings; visit with friends. Don't shy away from groups; right now, you can succeed more through networking. Treat a friend to lunch, or make plans for dinner soon. Catch up on what is going on with others. Make sure your money facts are correct. Tonight: Whatever you want!

BORN TODAY

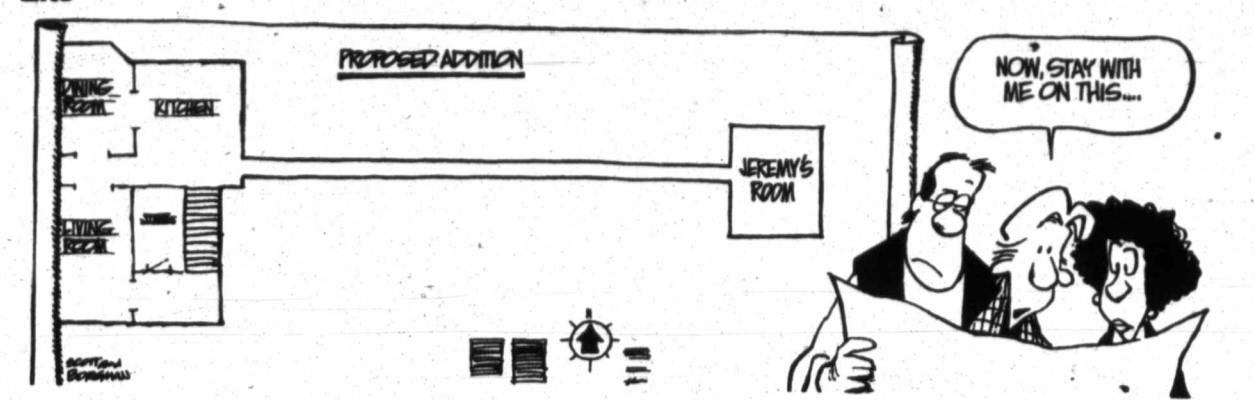
Journalist Sam Donaldson (1934), musician Bobby McFerrin (1950), actress Dominique Sanda (1951)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



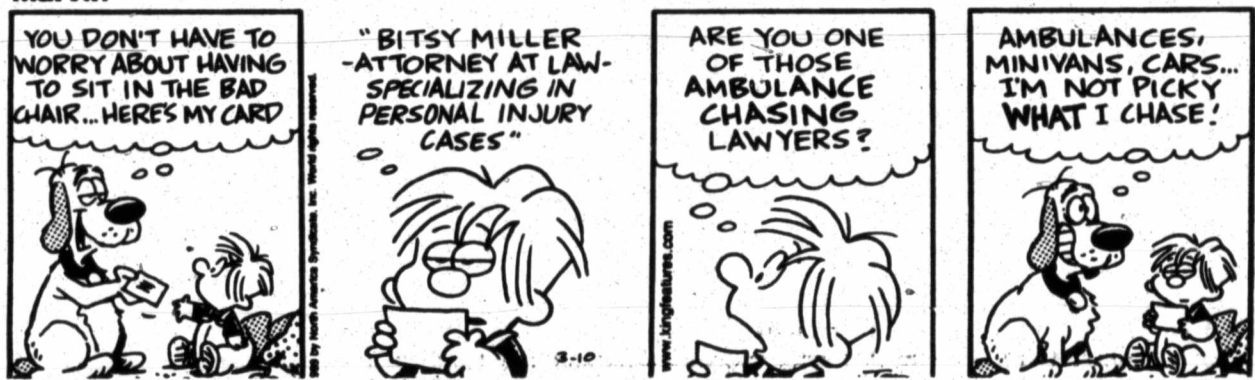
Garfield



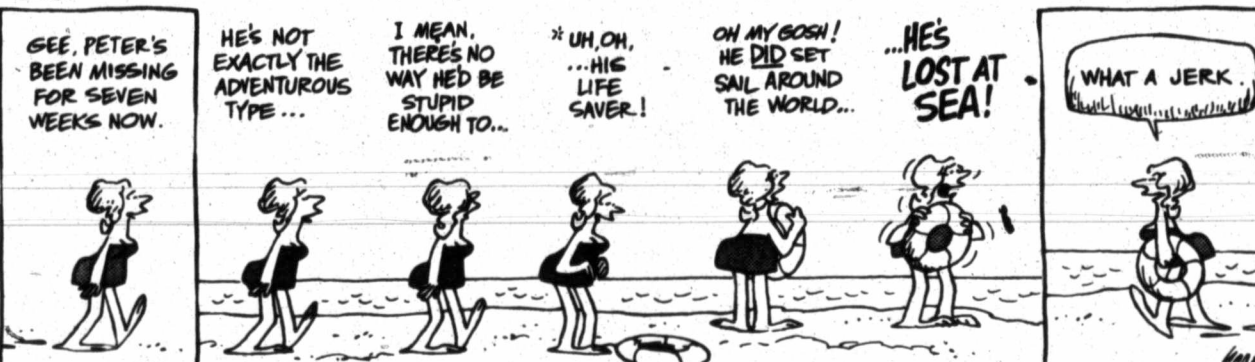
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Crossword Puzzle

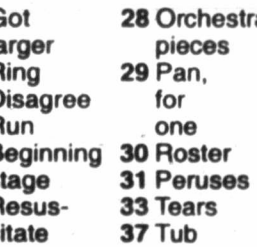
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Fleet unit
- 5 Farmer's place
- 9 Chocolate substitute
- 11 Eyelashes
- 12 Stood
- 13 Sailor's cry
- 14 Writer
- 15 Deighton
- 16 Thorough
- 17 Political exiles
- 19 Envision
- 20 Scour
- 21 Corral
- 22 Piano piece
- 24 Kitten cry
- 26 Tale tellers
- 29 Actress
- 30 Hockey's Guy
- 32 Concisely
- 34 Contend
- 35 City on the Seine
- 36 Madonna role
- 38 Pyramid setting
- 39 Talked wildly
- 40 Old autos
- 41 Hardy heroine



Yesterday's answer



Marmaduke



The Family Circus



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377. 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL
NEW YORK (AP) — Chamique Holdseclaw was a unanimous selection to The Associated Press women's All-America basketball team, becoming the first player voted to the first team three times. She was chosen for the third team as a freshman.

Purdue's Stephanie White-McCarty was also voted to the first team on all 42 ballots from a national media panel. The others on the unit were Tennessee's Tamika Catchings, Alabama's Dominique Canty and Colorado State's Becky Hammon. The only other time one school had two first-team picks was 1996, when Connecticut had Kara Wolters and Jennifer Rizzotti.

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — After leading Duke to a 32-1 record and the ACC regular-season and tournament titles, Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski was named the ACC Coach of the Year by The Associated Press.

Krzyzewski was the runaway winner of the award voted on by members of the Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Association, receiving 77 of a possible 95 votes. Pete Gillen of Virginia was second with 10 votes, while Gary Williams of Maryland got six.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court agreed to consider reinstating \$5.2 million in damages to six former Seattle Supersonics ticket-sellers who said they were fired for complaining about the illegal cutoff of overtime.

The damage award was thrown out in October by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Now, the court said a majority of its 21 active judges had voted to refer the case to an 11-judge panel for a new hearing.

HOCKEY
NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL will use two referees in all playoff games this season, satisfied with the way the format worked in selected games during the regular season.

The league instituted the change in October and every NHL team played 10 home and 10 road games with two referees and two linesmen, instead of just one referee as in the past.

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — The New York Islanders traded defenseman Scott Lachance to the Montreal Canadiens for a third-round pick in the 1999 entry draft.

Lachance, who was chosen fourth overall in the 1991 entry draft, played all 450 of his NHL games for the Islanders and had 26 goals, 79 assists and 348 penalty minutes.

FOOTBALL
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings promoted Ray Sherman from quarterbacks coach to offensive coordinator, replacing Chip Myers, who died last month.

Sherman originally had been a leading candidate for the coordinator position in January, but coach Dennis Green chose instead to elevate Myers, who had been an assistant in Minnesota since 1995.

TENNIS
INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Two players who could have replaced Sampras atop the ATP Tour standings this week were bounced from the \$2.45 million Champions Cup tennis tournament in second-round matches.

Second-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov was upset by Gustavo Kuerten 0-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in the second round of the Newsweek Champions Cup. Also, fifth-seeded Patrick Rafter was ousted by 21-year-old Nicolas Pietrangeli 7-6 (7-2), 3-6, 7-5; No. 7 Tim Henman defeated Hicham Arazi 6-3, 6-3; and Jim Courier beat Fernando Vicente 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

In the Everet Cup women's tournament, fourth-seeded Jana Novotna and No. 5 Steffi Graf both advanced to the quarterfinals, where they will face each other.

Fourth quarter play lifts Rockets Rockets 84, Nuggets 75

By MICHAEL A. LUTZ
 AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets almost got embarrassed — again.

Two days after being blown out by 40 points at Portland, the Rockets had to fight deep into the fourth quarter and get help from Hakeem Olajuwon and Scottie Pippen to finally beat the Denver Nuggets 84-75 Tuesday night.

Olajuwon scored 20 points and Pippen had 10 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter as the Rockets beat Denver for the eighth straight time and extended the Nuggets' losing streak to five.

"They made some adjustments from the last time we played them and came out with a lot of energy," Pippen said. "They got some loose balls and it took us to the very end to take control."

The Nuggets (5-14) took a 52-49 lead with 5:20 to go in the third quarter, but the Rockets used a 14-2 run to take a 63-54 lead into the final period. Pippen kept the Nuggets at bay with eight points in the final 3:15.

"We should play a lot better," Pippen said. "We need to put teams like that away early and let the bench have some fun. We just couldn't gain any control over the game. They were more active than we were."

The Rockets started out running, with eight fast-break baskets in the first quarter. But they lost their lead in the second quarter and struggled just to edge ahead 44-41 at the half.

"It was an ugly win," guard Cuttino Mobley said. "We didn't take care of the basketball. I missed some easy shots. We've just got to pick it up from here. It's a matter of taking care of the ball and playing smarter."

The Rockets lost to Portland 111-71. "Against Portland, we weren't playing aggressive and taking the shots and they took it to us," Mobley said.

The Nuggets tried to do the same thing in the fourth quarter, but Pippen wouldn't allow it.

"I just tried to let the game come to me," Pippen said. "Later on in the game, the opportunities were there and I tried to take advantage of them."

The Rockets held the Nuggets to 29.9 percent shooting and held Denver to eight fast-break points.

"We did a good job of cutting their fast break and we got 21," Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "This is a win we had to have. You can see it all over the league. Teams are out of character. But I like our foundation and we can get so much better on the fast break."

Antonio McDyess led Denver with 23 points, and Danny Fortson had 15 points and 21 rebounds.

"We need to shoot a higher percentage because we are not going to win games shooting that poorly," McDyess said. "In the second half, we lost it mentally and turned the ball over and we just couldn't catch up."

After the Rockets took their biggest lead of the first half, 24-13, Denver went on a 23-11 run that gave the Nuggets their first lead of the game, 36-35, on a 3-point basket by Johnny Taylor with 4:31 left in the half.

The Rockets regained the lead 42-40 on consecutive baskets by Pippen and held on to their narrow halftime lead.

Notes: Cliff Barkley is five assists from reaching 4,000 for his career and 42 rebounds short of 3,500. ... Nick Van Exel ran with the second team during Monday's practice session after showing up late. He still started the game for Denver and played 39 minutes. ... McDyess has 10 double-doubles this season. ... Olajuwon, the NBA's career leading shot-blocker, had four blocks, extending his career total to 3,503.

Suns log 13th win in Mavericks defeat Suns 103, Mavericks 91

DALLAS (AP) — A floor suitable for ice skating. A 70-minute delay. Four warmup periods.

The Dallas Mavericks had the Phoenix Suns as off-balance as they're ever going to get them Tuesday night in Reunion Arena. The Suns still pulled off their 13th consecutive victory in the building, 103-91, despite the handicaps.

Cliff Robinson scored 11 of his 18 points in the fourth period, including two 3-pointers, in the Suns' eighth consecutive victory over the Mavericks and 25th in the last 27 games.

"It looked like we were playing in our socks at first, but once the guys got it (the floor) out of their head, they went ahead and played and didn't think about it much," coach Danny Ainge said.

"Cliff was just huge. He does so many things for us."

Tom Gugliotta, Jason Kidd, George McCloud, Danny Manning and Luc Longley all scored in the double figures for the Suns. McCloud had 17 points, Longley 16, Manning 14, Kidd 13 and Gugliotta 12.

"The floor was real bad when we first went out there, but they did a good job of getting it in decent shape," Manning said.

Dallas was led by Michael Finley with 22 points. Samaki Walker and Steve Nash each scored 15.

Referee Bennett Salvatore, the crew chief of the three officials, said "the game was in danger of not being played. But the maintenance crew did a good job of getting the substance up."

Dallas officials were baffled how the substance got on the floor.

Coach Don Nelson said, "I

heard there were go-cars on the floor and they spilled some residue. We aren't sure. The floor was just barely playable. In the first half, it was not a normal NBA game."

Nelson gave his players the option not to play, and guard Robert Pack took him up on it, sitting out the game. Once the game began, the floor was no bother and no player ever slipped.

"I play fast and quick and I couldn't get any traction," Pack said. "I didn't feel comfortable playing. I feel I made the right decision."

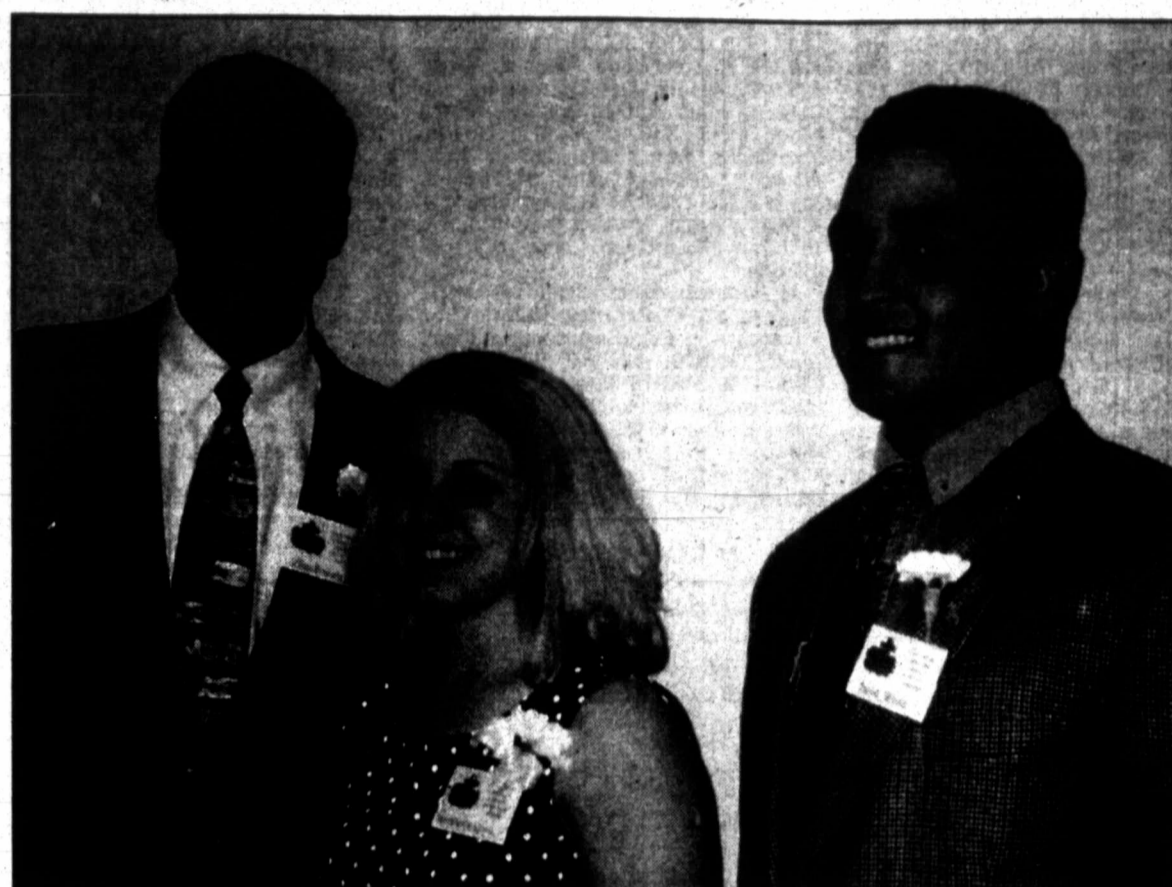
Nelson said he was OK with Pack.

"It's quite all right with me," Nelson said. "Pack said he didn't want to jeopardize his career, so he took the night off."

The Suns took control of the game in the fourth period behind Robinson and Manning, who had six of his points, and won going away.

"They were hitting 3-point shots better than we were hitting free throws," Nelson said. "They really had it going."

Notes: Ainge has a 9-1 record against Dallas ... A crowd of 12,714 was announced, with only 4,000 or so hanging around for the end ... Dallas has four losses in a row.



Zane Powers (from left), Kimberly Clark and Jared White were honored recently at the 1998 Christian Athlete of the Year Awards banquet.

IRVING — Three Pampa High School student athletes, Kimberly Clark, Zane Powers and Jared White, were recently honored at the 1998 Christian Athlete of the Year Awards banquet at the DFW Airport Marriott Grand Ballroom in Irving. The 10th annual awards honoring Christian athletes is sponsored annually by Lay Witnesses for Christ International.

Student athletes are nominated by either a coach, a teacher or a minister. Being selected from thousands of nominations from across the state indicates the strength of the recommendation. Many factors go into the selection process for the Christian Athlete of the Year Award including extracurricular activities, academics, community service and varsity athletics along with each student's Christian influence. Honorees represent an enrollment in excess of two million students from both public and private schools throughout Texas.

Dr. Sam and Sharon Mings, founders/president of Lay Witnesses for Christ International, hosted the celebration. Daystar Network, channel 29, Dallas, televised the event live nationwide.

White, a member of Central Baptist Church,

was further honored by being selected one of 10 finalists for the (Male) Christian Athlete of the Year Award.

Clark and Powers, members of First Baptist Church, were each named semi-finalist winners.

This year's Christian Athlete of the Year Award winners were Ruthie Lobb of Irving and Rob Attaway of Flower Mound Marcus. Coach of the Year Award went to Kenny Yates, The Oakridge School, Arlington. The NFL Coach of the Year Award winner was Dan Reeves of the Atlanta Falcons and the Collegiate Award was given to Ricky Williams of the University of Texas.

Master of ceremonies was Joe DeLoach, Olympic Gold Medalist in the 200 Meters and the only person to ever outrun Carl Lewis in the finals of an Olympic event.

Lay Witnesses for Christ International is committed to three main goals throughout the world: One-on-one evangelism through various types of outreaches and rallies, reviving a God-given zeal for soul winning within the Body of Christ, and sharing Christ with athletes and encouraging them to utilize their platforms to witness and influence.

DiMaggio funeral to be private affair Thursday

By MARV SCHNEIDER
 AP Sports Writer

Joe DiMaggio's estranged son will be a pallbearer at his father's private funeral.

Only about 30 relatives and close friends will attend the service Thursday at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, where DiMaggio married his first wife, Dorothy Arnold, in 1939.

"Joe insisted that his funeral be a private, religious service, and his family is intent on carrying out his wishes," said Morris Engelberg, DiMaggio's friend and attorney.

There was some dispute about whether New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner was invited.

"George Steinbrenner asked to come. So did Reggie Jackson and a lot of other people he knew and liked, but the family had to say 'no,'" Engelberg told The Associated Press from San Francisco.

Yankees spokesman Rick Cerrone disputed that Steinbrenner wasn't invited, saying the Yankees owner was asked to accompany the family to the West Coast.

And it was Steinbrenner who declined the invitation because he didn't want an exception to the guest list made in his case, Cerrone said.

DiMaggio's only son, Joe Jr.,

will be one of the pallbearers. The two had been estranged and had not seen each other in two years.

Other pallbearers will be Roger Stein and James Hamra, the husbands of DiMaggio's two granddaughters; Joseph DiMaggio, son of ballplayer's late brother, Mike; Joe Nachchio, a friend of DiMaggio's for 59 years, and Engelberg.

"There will be memorial services in other parts of the country," Engelberg said. "Steinbrenner said there would be one at Yankee Stadium in the Memorial Park there. And, there are plans to erect a monument next to the one for Babe Ruth."

The church's twin steeples tower over the North Beach sec-

tion of San Francisco where DiMaggio spent most of his childhood.

The funeral procession will drive into Beach Street in San Francisco's Marina section, where the DiMaggio family lived as it makes its way to the Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, where DiMaggio will be buried.

DiMaggio's body was flown from Miami to San Francisco late Monday on private jet. The Hall of Famer died Monday at age 84 at his home in Hollywood, Fla.

DiMaggio divorced Arnold in 1943. DiMaggio wed Marilyn Monroe in 1954 and they divorced later that year.

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Scoreboard

Rodeo Money Leaders By The Associated Press Through March 7

ALL-AROUND
1. Fred Whitfield, Hockley, Texas, \$47,562. 2. Herbert Theriot, Poplarville, Miss., \$25,874. 3. Ty Murray, Stephenville, Texas, \$19,492. 4. Chad Hagan, Leesville, La., \$16,632. 5. Joe Beaver, Huntsville, Texas, \$11,427. 6. Kurt Goulding, Duncan, Okla., \$9,826. 7. B.J. Zieffle, Consort, Alberta, \$9,817. 8. Cash Myers, Athens, Texas, \$9,629.

SADDLE BRONC RIDING
1. Rod Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, \$32,811. 2. Dean Schlattmann, Basin, Wyo., \$28,184. 3. Tom Reeves, Eagle Butte, S.D., \$22,249. 4. Dan Mortenson, Manhattan, Mont., \$18,274. 5. Ira Slagowski, Carlin, Nev., \$17,508. 6. Rod Warren, Water Valley, Alberta, \$16,146. 7. Billy Etbauer, Ree Heights, S.D., \$15,990. 8. Ryan Elshere, New Underwood, S.D., \$15,887. 9. Bobby Griswold, Moore, Okla., \$15,483. 10. Steve Dollarhide, Wikeup, Ariz., \$14,898.

BULL RIDING
1. Ty Murray, Stephenville, Texas, \$14,602. 2. Rance Bray, Texhoma, Okla., \$13,686. 3. T.C. Holloway, Eagle Butte, S.D., \$13,597. 4. Ryan Mapston, Geysers, Mont., \$11,399. 5. J.T. Hitch,

Stilesville, Ind., \$11,198. 6. Todd Fike, Pavilion, Wyo., \$10,580. 17. Oley McCloy, Licking, Mo., \$10,329. 18. Derek Clark, Colcord, Okla., \$9,474. 19. Shaun Stroth, Amidon, N.D., \$9,330. 20. Ryan Carey, Fallon, Nev., \$8,741.

BAREBACK RIDING
1. Pete Hawkins, Weatherford, Texas, \$28,110. 2. Jeffrey Collins, Redfield, Kan., \$23,163. 3. Chris Harris, Arlington, Texas, \$18,679. 4. Eric Mouton, Weatherford, Okla., \$18,320. 5. Deb Greenough, Red Lodge, Mont., \$16,459. 6. Mark Gomes, Hutchinson, Kan., \$16,225. 7. Kelly Wardell, Bellevue, Idaho, \$15,995. 8. Jason Wylie, Stanchfield, Minn., \$15,719. 9. Mark Garrett, Nisland, S.D., \$15,055. 10. Denny McLanahan, Canadian, Texas, \$11,588.

CALF ROPING
1. Fred Whitfield, Hockley, Texas, \$41,914. 2. Cody Ohl, Stephenville, Texas, \$29,453. 3. Blair Burk, Durant, Okla., \$26,684. 4. Johnny Emmorns, Grandview, Texas, \$20,559. 5. Jerome Schneberger, Ponca City, Okla., \$18,589. 6. Ronnie Hyde, Bloomington,

Ind., \$18,403. 7. Ricky Hyde, Conway, Ark., \$17,928. 8. Herbert Theriot, Poplarville, Miss., \$17,861. 9. Jim Bob Mayes, Elgin, Texas, \$16,833. 10. Tony Reina, Wharton, Texas, \$16,787.

SOUTH REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 11 At The RCA Dome Indianapolis
Syracuse (21-11) vs. Oklahoma State (22-10), 12:25 p.m.
Auburn (27-3) vs. Winthrop (21-7), 30 minutes after previous game
Ohio State (23-8) vs. Murray State (27-5), 7:40 p.m.
UCLA (22-8) vs. Detroit (24-5), 30 minutes after previous game
At Orlando Arena Orlando, Fla.
Maryland (26-5) vs. Valparaiso (23-8), 12:20 p.m.
Louisville (19-10) vs. Creighton (21-8), 30 minutes after previous game
St. John's (25-8) vs. Samford (24-5), 7:40 p.m.
Indiana (22-10) vs. George Washington (20-8), 30 minutes after previous game

MIDWEST REGIONAL First Round Friday, March 12 At The Bradley Center Milwaukee
North Carolina Charlotte (22-10) vs. Rhode Island (20-12), 12:30 p.m.
Arizona (22-6) vs. Oklahoma (20-10), 30 minutes after previous game
Michigan State (29-4) vs. Mount St. Mary's, Md. (15-14), 7:55 p.m.
Villanova (21-10) vs. Mississippi (19-12), 30 minutes after previous game
At The Superdome New Orleans
Utah (27-4) vs. Arkansas State (18-11), 12:30 p.m.
Washington (17-11) vs. Miami, Ohio (22-7), 30 minutes after previous game
Kansas (22-9) vs. Evansville (23-9), 7:50 p.m.
Kentucky (25-8) vs. New Mexico State (23-9), 30 minutes after previous game

WEST REGIONAL First Round Thursday, March 11 At McNichols Arena Denver
Iowa (18-9) vs. Alabama-Birmingham (20-11), 12:40 p.m.
Arkansas (22-10) vs. Siena (25-5), 30 minutes after previous game
Missouri (20-8) vs. New Mexico (24-8), 7:50 p.m.
Connecticut (28-2) vs. Texas-San Antonio (18-10), 30 minutes after previous game
At Key Arena Seattle
Minnesota (17-10) vs. Gonzaga (25-6), 2:42 p.m.
Stanford (25-6) vs. Alcorn State (23-6), 30 minutes after previous game
Florida (20-8) vs. Pennsylvania (21-5), 7:55 p.m.
North Carolina (24-9) vs. Weber State (24-7), 30 minutes after previous game
National Basketball Association At A Glance By The Associated Press All Times EST

Atlantic Division
W L Pct GB
Orlando 14 5 .737
—
Miami 13 5 .722
1/2
New York 10 8 .556
3 1/2
Philadelphia 10 8 .556
3 1/2
Boston 7 9 .438
5 1/2
Washington .412 6
New Jersey 3 14 .176 10
Central Division
Indiana 12 5 .706
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Milwaukee 11 5 .686
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Toronto 6 10 .375 5 1/2
Charlotte 5 11 .313 6 1/2
Chicago 5 13 .278 7 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division
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Minnesota 12 6 .667
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Houston 11 8 .579
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San Antonio 10 8 .556
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Dallas 6 14 .300
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Denver 5 14 .263
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Vancouver 4 15 .211 10 1/2

Pacific Division
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Seattle 9 8 .529
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Sacramento 9 10 .474 6 1/2
Golden State 8 10 .444 7
L.A. Clippers * 0 16 .000 14
Monday's Games
Miami 91, Philadelphia 89
Atlanta 114, Orlando 110
Detroit 75, Washington 71
Milwaukee 81, Chicago 76
Portland 92, Vancouver 73
Tuesday's Games
Milwaukee 87, New York 86
Charlotte 105, Boston 87
Minnesota 85, Seattle 84
Houston 84, Denver 75
Chicago 103, New Jersey 87
Phoenix 103, Dallas 91
Utah 88, Cleveland 75
Portland 103, Sacramento 98
Golden State 92, Vancouver 82
L.A. Lakers 103, L.A. Clippers 99
Wednesday's Games
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Boston at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Denver at Utah, 9 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Exhibition Baseball At A Glance By The Associated Press All Times EST

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Seattle 3 2 .600
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Cleveland 3 3 .500
Minnesota 3 4 .429
New York 3 4 .429
Toronto 2 5 .286
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Detroit 1 4 .200
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Chicago 1 5 .167
NATIONAL LEAGUE
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Minnesota 6, Boston 3
Kansas City 8, Florida 4
Baltimore 10, Los Angeles 0
Atlanta 9, Detroit 7
Houston 2, St. Louis 1
Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2
New York Mets 3, Montreal 2
Seattle 10, Anaheim 3

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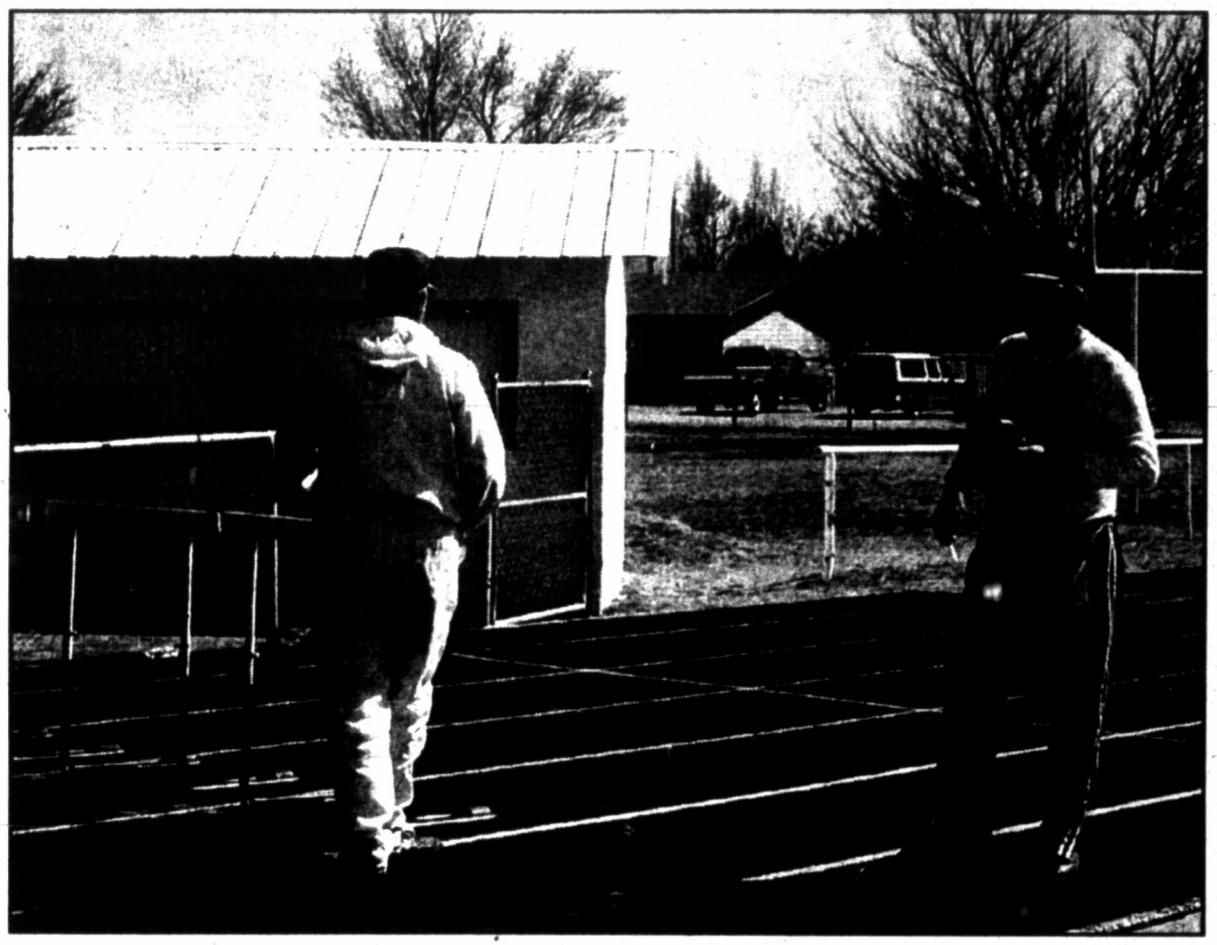
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Top coach ...



Former McLean coach Jerry Miller (right) checks his stopwatch. He's the winningest six-man football coach in state history and was at the Pirate Relays last weekend in Lefors. Miller had brought his track team from Loraine to compete in the meet. He coached at McLean for nine years, leaving in 1997. His 31-year coaching record when he left McLean was 211-107-5. Miller is a member of the Top O' Texas Football Hall of Fame.

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GOP questions security at weapons labs

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican lawmakers are questioning security at U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories and whether Clinton administration efforts to boost ties with China delayed a long-standing espionage investigation at one of the research facilities.

But Vice President Al Gore led a counterattack Tuesday, defending the administration's policies toward China and its investigation of a nuclear weapons espionage case that he said the administration inherited from the 1980s.

"Keep in mind that happened in the previous administration," Gore said in an interview on CNN's "Late Edition" program. "He said 'law enforcement agencies pressed it and pursued it aggressively with our full support' once the concerns were raised in 1995."

However, Gore and other administration officials left unanswered why the FBI investigation continued for nearly three years before action was taken this week.

National security adviser Sandy Berger, traveling with President Clinton in Central America, said Tuesday night: "I reject the notion there was any dragging of feet."

The growing national security controversy erupted after the Energy Department fired a Chinese-American computer scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he had been under FBI investigation since 1996.

The scientist, Wen Ho Lee, quickly went into hiding. He has not been charged with a crime, although federal officials said the FBI investigation was continuing.

But the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and other lawmakers on Tuesday questioned why the investigation had taken so long before any action was taken.

"That makes no sense, especially where he'd been suspected of espionage and they would keep letting him work there, (with) ... all the security clearances," Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., the Intelligence panel's chairman, said in an interview.

Shelby said his committee would question Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and FBI Director Louis Freeh at a closed-door hearing next week about the delay and whether the administration downplayed the incident when it first surfaced.

Richardson, in a telephone interview Tuesday night, defended the investigation as "extremely thorough and vigorous" and said he had no choice but to wait before taking action against the scientist.

"The moment the FBI gave me the green light to terminate this individual, I did," said Richardson. He said he had been advised not to pursue the dismissal until "a thorough investigation and questioning took place."

A native of Taiwan, Lee, whom associates describe as being in his 50s, had worked at the prestigious weapons research laboratory in New Mexico for about 20 years. According to U.S. officials, he became a prime suspect of an espionage investigation as early as 1996.

The investigation was triggered by concerns by U.S. intelligence agents that China in the 1980s had obtained top secret information on nuclear warhead technology that allowed the Chinese to develop miniaturized nuclear warheads so that more than one warhead could be delivered on a single missile. Nuclear scientists at Los Alamos had developed the technology.

With the administration under sharp attack from congressional Republicans, Gore sought to contain the damage and also defend the administration's broader efforts to work with China.

"China is the most populous country in the world. Its economy is growing and its role in the world is going to continue to grow

whether we want that or not," Gore said. "And so, obviously, having a relationship with them within which we can try to affect their behavior ... (is) in our best interest. We do that without compromising our interests in any way."

Clinton issued a presidential directive in February 1998 ordering stepped up security at the weapons labs and there hasn't been any allegations of "leakage of technology" since those safeguards were imposed, said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Richardson said "there's no evidence of any more (espionage) cases" at the weapons labs and that counterintelligence activities had been increased to ferret out any problems.

"We believe with the measures in place and the counterintelligence presence that we have at the labs now, the polygraphs, the increased scrutiny ... we believe the problem is addressed," Richardson insisted in the AP interview.

The flap over China's alleged theft of nuclear weapons secrets and questions about the speed of the investigation fueled what already had been long-standing criticism from Republican lawmakers about U.S. technology transfers to China. GOP-led congressional committees in 1997 also investigated but were unable to prove whether China had tried to buy influence in the 1996 Clinton-Gore campaign.

Several foreign-born business owners, including some with connections to China, have been charged as part of the Justice Department's investigation into campaign finance abuses.

A senior administration official, traveling with Clinton in Latin America, acknowledged that it was clear before 1998 that the weapons labs "were enormously porous." He said other countries, not just China, "had access that was troublesome" because scientists from around the world did nuclear work at the facilities.

classifieds ...



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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of IZAH PHILLIPS, Deceased, were issued on February 11, 1999, in Cause No. 8463 pending on the Probate Docket in the County Court in and for Gray County, Texas, to JOE ARNOLD PHILLIPS and HOMA JUNE BASHAM, Independent Co-Executors.
The address of record for said Co-Executors is: c/o Phil N. Vanderpool Attorney at Law P.O. Box 2455 Pampa, Texas 79066-2455
All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED this 4th day of March, 1999.
Joe Arnold Phillips Homa June Basham Independent Co-Executors, for the Estate of IZAH PHILLIPS, Deceased C-60 Mar. 10, 1999

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NICE 1 bdr., gas/water paid, appliances. Good location. 417 E. 17th. Call 669-7518.

Schneider House Apts. Seniors or Disabled Rent Based on Income 120 S. Russell 665-0415

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98 Unfurn. Houses
2 bdr. house, 1 ba. corner lot, fenced backyard. 532 Doucette 669-6881, 669-6973

3 BDR, 2 bath mobile home near Lamar school. Cat. heat, \$350. Rent on HUD, 665-4842.

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For Lease - 1908 Lynn \$750 month + deposit References Required 355-7750

CLEAN 2 bdr. duplex, w/d hookups, gar. lease. Dep. \$200, \$325 mo., 1908 Beech. 665-7618

2 or 3 bedroom 1214 E. Francis \$250 Month + deposit 665-2254

2 bdr., range, new carpet, cent. heat, refig. air unit, fence, gar., nice area. Rental 665-5436, 665-4180.

3 bdr., 1 1/2 ba. cent. h/a, near Travis sch. \$575 month Call 665-4842

LEASE 3 bdr., 3 lv. areas, 1 1/2 ba., dbl. gar., \$650+ dep. References. Action Realty 669-1221

LRG. 1 bdr. with double garage. Will rent on HUD. 665-4842

DUPL. 2 br. 2 ba, dbl. gar. \$550 mo., \$300 dep. 1426 N. Dwight. 806-622-2033, 352-8957 Cherilyn.

98 Unfurn. Houses

3 br. house, new carpet, new paint, garage, fence. \$325 mo. + dep. 1117 E. Foster. 669-9424

1104 Starkweather, 3 bdr., 1 ba., gar., new carpet, cent. h/a, \$400 mo. \$200 dep. 669-6881, 669-6973.

2 BDR, 2 bath duplex w/2 car garage. FF. C/H/A. 1 yr. lease. \$500 month. Call Jerri, broker/owner. 806/655-1420.

CLEAN 2 bdr. house, 224 Tignor. Sale or rent. 669-0767. HUD renters welcome. \$275. mo.

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102 Bus. Rent. Prop.
RETAIL/Office. Bills pd. 101 W. Foster \$400 107 W. Foster \$265 Action Realty 669-1221

103 Homes For Sale
Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

2629 Dogwood, 1800 sq. ft., 3-1 3/4-2. Fpl, sprktr, cent h/a, storage bldg. Excc. cond. 665-9781.

3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, 2 living areas, fireplace in den, deck in back, Travis School district, 665-2012 after 3 p.m. or leave message

312 Tignor, 2 bdr., 1 bath, large livingroom, kitchen, cent. h/a. Call 669-7320 or 665-1131.

4 bedroom house for sale. 612 Hazel Call 669-2192 after 5 p.m.

Jim Davidson Century 21-Pampa Realty 669-1863, 669-0007 663-9021

Bobbie Nisbet Realtor 665-7037

Buying? Selling? Need Property Manager? Call Linda C. Daniels C-21 669-2799 or 662-

Good tax advice for do-it-yourselfers not sure thing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service telephone help lines are open around the clock for taxpayers who need answers to difficult tax questions. Trouble is, even the IRS is wrong 15 percent of the time.

IRS officials say they're trying to close that gap, but it isn't easy. "People should be able to rely on the information they get from us," said Marilyn Soulsburg, acting IRS commissioner for customer service. But for sticky problems, she added, "oftentimes the taxpayers' best bet is to seek professional advice."

A little more than half of American taxpayers had their returns professionally prepared last year, according to the IRS. Others are increasingly turning to computer tax software programs, which are modified each year to reflect changes in the tax code and "ask" people detailed questions about their finances.

The IRS estimates that only 1 percent of returns done electronically contain errors, compared with 20 percent of those prepared on paper. But millions of Americans still do their taxes with nothing more than a pencil, a calculator and a pot of coffee. If they get stumped, the IRS offers a variety of toll-free telephone lines to get answers.

The IRS employs about 7,000 people in its toll-free telephone program, which expanded its 15,000 lines for the first time this year to

seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Last year, almost 70 million callers phoned the IRS for tax advice or to inquire about their accounts.

The IRS estimates that only 1 percent of returns done electronically contain errors, compared with 20 percent of those prepared on paper.

Dave Medick, national director of the IRS telephone service, said the agency's monitoring of calls indicates that last year's answers were accurate 85 percent of the time regarding tax law. For questions about individual taxpayer accounts, the accuracy rate was 90 percent.

As recently as 1995, the accuracy rate for both types of questions was placed at about 90 percent, but IRS recently switched to a centralized call monitoring system to replace the spot test calls made in the past.

"We are always working to improve," Medick said. "We have instant replay, so to speak, in the areas where we have the most difficulty."

That "replay" includes bulletins sent to the 25 IRS phone service

locations detailing areas of tax law where errors are more frequent. The IRS also has redoubled its training, but the expansion to a 24-hour system without additional staff has put a strain on the quality of its advice.

"We have the same group of people working more hours, so we don't have the same skill base," Soulsburg said. But the IRS isn't too sympathetic toward people who claim they made a mistake because of bad advice.

"For the most part, the responsibility still lies with the taxpayer to file an accurate return," Soulsburg said. "That's why there's a bigger burden on us to make sure our quality is as high as it can be."

Still, although the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for all taxes, the IRS will forgive penalties if the problem is caused by the agency's advice. Taxpayers who believe they were given bad guidance should contact the IRS to have any penalty deleted. It's a good idea for the questioner to record the name of the person providing the advice and the time and date of the call.

Another problem IRS has been working to overcome is the number of times taxpayers simply can't get through at all. A recent General Accounting Office report found that only about 51 percent of all calls were answered in 1997, and that was up 20 percent from the year before.

Last year, the agency expanded from typical business hours to 16 hours a day, seven days a week, and this year calls are answered round-the-clock all week during tax-filing season, from the beginning of January through mid-April.

"We've given people more opportunities to get through at different times," Soulsburg said.

Another free option for taxpayers with computers is the IRS site on the Internet — www.irs.us/treas.gov — that includes thousands of pages of tax publications and forms. The site, visited more than 340 million times in fiscal 1998, provides answers to frequently asked questions and features alerts to any widespread tax problems.

There are other alternatives. IRS tax help, including face-to-face contact, is available at 400 agency offices around the country, with 250 open Monday through Saturday through April 10. Taxpayers should call the IRS for more information.

Blue and White Sunday



(From left) Randy Tucker, associate pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Mayor Robert Neslage, and the Rev. Delbert White, recently signed a proclamation stating that March 21 is declared "Blue and White Sunday." This day is observed to honor all of Pampa's Police and Fire Departments and Gray County Sheriff's Departments.

(Special photo)

Congress weighs in on city lawsuits against gun makers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Congress are preparing to jump into both sides of the nascent legal battle some cities have launched against the gun industry.

Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., the point man in Congress for the National Rifle Association, led a bipartisan group of two dozen lawmakers who introduced legislation Tuesday to block cities and states from filing lawsuits to hold gun makers and distributors accountable for firearm violence.

"This is a national issue and it cries out for a national remedy," said Barr, arguing that the lawsuits would destroy the constitutional right to bear arms while undermining the integrity of the nation's legal and free enterprise systems.

But Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., said she intends to introduce legislation to guarantee cities the right to sue gun manufacturers and distributors.

"The federal government sends billions of dollars to local communities to fight crime," she said. "If local governments believe the fight against crime is being hampered because of a mass proliferation of guns, I believe it is in the national interest to allow them to take action in court."

Following the successful state lawsuits against tobacco companies, Atlanta, New Orleans, Chicago, Miami and Bridgeport, Conn., filed lawsuits seeking to force the gun industry to take steps to ensure that guns are used properly and are not distributed to criminals.

The Georgia General Assembly reacted to the Atlanta suit last month by enacting legislation to prohibit local governments from suing gun manufacturers and distributors. At least a dozen other states are considering similar legislation, said the NRA's Chuck Cunningham.

Yet Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell plans to pursue the lawsuit anyway, and that, Barr said, shows that Congress must step in.

"It is clearly a national problem and it is not going to go away," he said.

Barr said the cities' lawsuits are based on a "new, novel and abusive theory of law" that, if upheld by the courts, could make any number of manufacturers liable for the misuse or criminal use of their products.

But gun control advocates said Barr's legislation would give the gun industry a special legal protection to which it's not entitled.

"This amounts to political obstruction of justice," said Bob Walker, president of Handgun Control. "Barr is trying to use political means to stop lawsuits. If the cases are so frivolous, let the courts throw them out."

Panel stumped on Medicare recommendations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Is restructuring Medicare enough, or will more money be needed to provide adequate health care for growing numbers of elderly Americans?

A commission that is supposed to recommend Medicare changes has so far been unable to resolve that question and other serious differences delaying its report to Congress and President Clinton.

"We are not in agreement yet and it remains quite doubtful that we will be," said commission member Stuart Altman, a health policy professor at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass.

Both Republican congressional leaders and the president have said they'd prefer not to resort to tax increases to bolster Medicare. But Clinton has suggested using federal budget surpluses that are expected in coming years.

The Senate Finance Committee was scheduled to review Clinton's plan at a hearing

today, but Republican leaders have so far declined to endorse it.

To help resolve the issue, lawmakers have been hoping for a solid consensus from the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare. But the panel of private experts, former government officials and members of Congress has been equally plagued by the program's complexity and political sensitivity.

The commission missed its March 1 reporting deadline, and on Tuesday said it would not hold its final meeting this week as had been hoped. A spokeswoman for the panel's chairman, Sen. John Breaux, D-La., said informal negotiations among commission members are continuing.

"This is just a work in progress. There are a lot of moving pieces," said the spokeswoman, Bette Phelan.

The 17-member commission is just one or two votes shy of the 11 it needs to recom-

mend a plan that would make the nation's health insurance program for the elderly and disabled more like the health benefits that many companies and the federal government offer to workers.

Under that plan, pushed by Breaux and others, retirees would choose from a menu of health-insurance policies and get a Medicare subsidy to help cover the enrollment fee or premium. The government-run system that most retirees now use to get reimbursed for each medical bill would compete with private health plans, which would have to offer similar coverage.

Studies by government analysts say such competition could save Medicare hundreds of billions of dollars in years to come.

But Altman, a Clinton appointee, and other Democrats on the panel who hold deciding votes want the commission's report to make clear that despite the cost controls, Medicare is still likely to need more money.

Solar 'S' mark foretells solar explosion, scientists say

WASHINGTON (AP) — An 'S' mark found in X-ray photos of the sun may forecast powerful solar explosions that can cause power outages, block radio communications and scorch satellites in Earth orbit.

Scientists said Tuesday that X-ray solar images taken by a Japanese spacecraft show that an S-shaped structure develops on the face of the sun several days before an eruption of what is called a coronal mass ejection.

The S-shaped sign, said Richard Canfield of Montana State University, Bozeman, can be used as a solar eruption warning signal. This would give power companies and satellite

operators about three extra days to prepare for the effects of a coronal mass ejection.

Current technology detects the solar explosions as they happen. This gives some advanced warning since it takes three or four days for the explosive wave to reach Earth. The 'S' sign detected by the X-ray satellite would add days to the warning, Canfield said.

"The X-ray images will tell us when something is likely to happen," said Canfield, a co-author of research that detected the 'S' sign. "It could be developed into a powerful predictive tool."

Coronal mass ejections are massive eruptions of electrically

charged plasma, or superheated gas, from the outer atmosphere of the sun. The sudden release of energy can hurl 10 billion tons of gas into space at speeds of up to 2 million mph. The energy release can equal billions of megatons of TNT, said Canfield.

Such eruptions happen frequently and usually are harmless to the Earth. Occasionally, however, an explosion occurs on

a side of the sun facing the Earth, sending a massive bubble of energy directly at the planet.

The Earth's magnetosphere shields the planet from most of the violence, but Earth's magnetic field lines can be charged suddenly with a powerful wave of electricity. Such surges along power lines have caused blackouts in the past, burning out transformers and disrupting service for thousands of people.

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