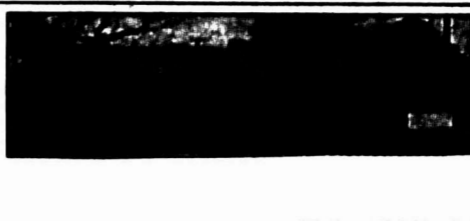


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THE Pampa NEWS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2002

NEWS

Vol. 98 No. 444 • Pampa, Texas
50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



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LOCAL

Preschool Story Time

Lovett Memorial Library will begin its fall session of preschool story times at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10.

The free sessions for 18-months to 5 years will be held each Tuesday. Parents are welcome. No registration needed. For more information call 669-5780.

Lefors School Board

LEFORS Independent School District Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, in the Lefors High School Library at 209 Fifth Street.

Student transfer, Lions Club, hog pens, personnel, principal's report and superintendent's report are all items on the agenda.

Stolen license plate

A license plate 1RJT57 was reported stolen from in the parking lot of Wal-Mart on Sept. 5. Anyone having any information to this incident is asked to contact the Pampa Police Department.

DEATHS

Joyce Cornell, 71, business owner.

Peri Grigsby, 43, homemaker.

Birdie Paralee Hudson, 91, retired saleswoman.

Merle W. Nichols, 85, retired Cabot plant operator.

INSIDE...
Classified 9
Comics 6
Sports 7

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City ponders pay scale revamp

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Interim City Manager John Hatchel told the Pampa City Commission Saturday morning that the city's pay scale needs to be revamped and the entire classification plan needs to be reviewed.

Commission members voiced their approval of a three percent planned raise for city employees and praised the employees' dedication as they discussed a proposed operating budget of \$13,125,967.

The proposed tax rate of 69 cents per \$100 valuation is the same as last year's.

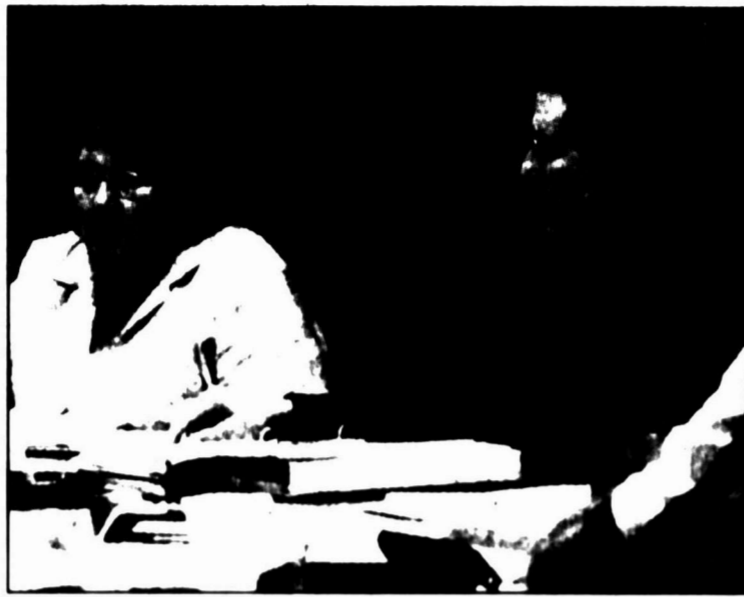
"We expect a lot for a little," said Commissioner Faustina Curry.

"And we've been getting it," said Commissioner Jeff Andrews.

Curry added, "I wonder if we'd do it."

Mayor Lonny Robbins said the city employees are not paid high salaries.

"When I look at those



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Pampa City Commissioner Faustina Curry and Mayor Lonny Robbins discuss raising city employees' salaries and revamping the employee pay scale.

salaries, it is amazing what they work for," he said. "They are being paid below poverty level."

Hatchel said he had viewed a randomly picked employee's pay records.

"This employee has been with the city 13 years and has

only received four raises," he said. He said some employees have not had a raise in four or five years.

Approximately 77 employees are capped at the top of step pay in the system which is currently followed City

(See CITY, Page 3)

City Commissioners meet again Tuesday

Pampa City Commission will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in work session prior to the 6 p.m. meeting. The work session will be held on the second floor conference room of Pampa City Hall.

The 2003 tourism budget, review of the ordinance to adopt the International Energy Conservation Code, and agenda review will be discussed during the work session.

When the meeting goes into regular session in the Pampa City Commission on the third floor the commission will adopt on second and final reading the ordinance annexing territory adjacent to the present corporate limits of the City of Pampa.

Two items relating to the Pampa Economic Development Corporation will be considered. Approval of the proposed 2002-2003 budget for dissolving entity will be considered.

Also the commission will consider adopting a resolution repealing Section 4.02 of the PE-DC by laws.

PE-DC Board of Directors has requested that the section be repealed. Under Section 4.02, a bond of the president, vice-president and treasurer are required with the approximate cost \$6,000.

Chief Financial Officer John Horst is now handling all of the receipts and disbursements of the PE-DC since the Nov. 6, 2001, election by Pampa voters to dissolve the entity.

Pampa City Commission must approve the recommendation of the PE-DC Board of Directors as the board is a City of Pampa entity.

Also to be considered is to authorize Interim City Manager (See MEETING, Page 3)

Tipster breaks train incident; juvenile held

One juvenile was taken into custody Friday regarding a Sept. 1 incident involving a Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad train.

Pampa Teen Crime Stoppers received a tip after information was requested through the organization.

With this tip, one juvenile was taken to juvenile probation on charges of trespassing and obstructing a highway, both class B misdemeanors.

Shortly after 9 p.m. on Sept. 1, an emergency call was received of a train-pedestrian accident one mile east of Pampa at Loop 171.

Local emergency workers searched more than an hour through high grass along railroad tracks east of Pampa looking for a victim believed to have been struck by a train. The workers eventually determined that they were the victims of a prank.

Participating in the search were Rural/Metro Ambulance, Gray County Sheriff's Department, Pampa Police Department, Pampa Fire Department and Texas Department of Public Safety (See TIPSTER, Page 3)

The sun also rises



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

The title of an Ernest Hemingway novel seems to fit this still-life caught by David Bowser, staff photographer, of the sun rising through wildflowers beside the highway while on the way to work recently.

Pampan held for attempted capital murder

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

A Pampa man is being held in Gray County Jail today on attempted capital murder charges in connection with an incident early Sunday morning.

He's charged with deliberately swerving a vehicle in an attempt to run down a Gray County Deputy.

Matthew Gilbert Maul, 31, HCR 3, Box 12-A, remained in jail this morning on additional charges of felony evading arrest with a vehicle and unlawful carrying a weapon.

He was being held at press time on bonds totaling \$50,000.

Bond was set at \$30,000 for the attempted capital murder charge. His bond on the felony evading arrest with a vehicle charge and the unlawfully carrying a weapon charge were each set at \$10,000.

Maul was the driver of a pickup spotted in White Deer by that town's City Marshall in what was believed to be an attempt to steal anhydrous ammonia shortly after 3 a.m.

Gray County Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing said the White Deer officer began chase and asked for assistance from Gray County deputies and Pampa Police Department.

Rushing said the police department officers stopped the vehicle and deputies assisted. As the officers were exiting their vehicle the pick- (See PAMPAN, Page 3)

West Nile hitting horse population hard

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

CANYON - There are no flies on Jaime May, but she does have some mosquito bites.

The equine major at West Texas A&M University is trapping mosquitoes as part of a study concerning the increasing number of horse deaths in the panhandle from West Nile virus, a mosquito borne disease that has killed horses, birds and people in other parts of the country. No human infections of the disease have been reported in the panhandle.

Dr. Greta Schuster, assistant profes-

sor for integrated pest management at WT, initiated the study about the middle of the summer.

"With WT and our emphasis on our equine program," Schuster said, "I was interested in what was happening with the horses."

Since about the first of August, May has been setting traps for mosquitoes at the WT horse center, another nearby horse facility and at a local veterinarian's clinic.

The mosquitoes are being sent to Dr. Jim Olsen at College Station for identification.

Dr. Carl Patrick, an entomologist at WT, said there are hundreds of types of

mosquitoes. About 31 species are usually identified with West Nile.

Culex is the genus of mosquito that is ordinarily associated with carrying West Nile virus.

"There are several species of that genus involved," Patrick said, "and the reason they seem to be primarily involved is they have a predilection for feeding on birds, horse and humans. Birds would be their favorite."

While there are exceptions, that group, he said, tends to favor birds.

Although West Nile virus has been in the news lately as the disease has continued its westward expansion since first being reported in 1999 in

New York, Patrick said that the Texas Department of Health reports only about one percent of the mosquitoes they were examining earlier this summer carried the disease.

Still, West Nile has taken its toll among horse owners in northwest Texas in the last few weeks.

Out of 41 counties in the Texas Panhandle and Texas South Plains that make up the health department's Region One, 28 counties have reported horses infected with West Nile.

"There have been 121 cases," Schuster says. "Twenty-five of those have died." (See HORSES, Page 3)

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Administration: Time is short to act against Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bush administration officials, trying to build a case for action against Iraq, are warning that the world can't afford to wait to see whether Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction.

"The problem here is that there will always be some uncertainty about how quickly he can acquire nuclear weapons. But we don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud," national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition."

President Bush made his case behind closed doors Monday to Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who said last week he has yet to see evidence that would justify Canadian support for a military campaign against Iraq. The official purpose of the meeting, during a visit by Bush to Detroit, was border security.

Before leaving the White House for Detroit Monday, Bush continued his diplomatic efforts on Iraq in telephone calls to President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Anan and the president of the European Union, Denmark's prime minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, along with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

"The president is calling as part of his ongoing consultations with leaders around the world about the situation in Iraq and also urging them to listen carefully to his speech to the United Nations" on Thursday, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said, while declining to further describe the conversations.

Fleischer would not comment directly on a two-step proposal by French President Jacques Chirac that could lead to military action, but only

through the approval of the U.N. Security Council.

"It does appear that a movement is budding to put some force into previous U.N. resolutions," Fleischer said. He cautioned later that he was not referring specifically to greater support for allies for military action, but perhaps for some kind of coercive inspection policy.

Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested Monday that it's Saddam Hussein's intent to use weapons of mass destruction — not just the fact that he has them — that makes Iraq a bigger threat than other countries.

"A country could have a capability which is of concern to us, but their intent to use or not use that capability is what determines the current level of threat," Pace said in a Pentagon interview with wire service reporters. "There are friendly nations around the world that have capabilities that, if they intended to use against us, would be threats."

Pace was asked why Iraq is considered a greater threat than Iran, which U.S. officials also say is trying to develop nuclear weapons and also is supporting terrorism.

"It's a combination of the capability and the intent to use it against us that, when put together, defines the current threat against us," Pace said, without referring to directly to Iraq.

Vice President Dick Cheney said intelligence gathered in the last 12 to 14 months suggests the "the United States may well become the target" of an attack.

Cheney and top administration officials took to Sunday's TV talk shows as part of Bush's effort to convince the public, Congress and other countries that action against Saddam is urgently needed. The officials cited the Sept. 11 attacks in making the case that the world cannot wait to find out whether the Iraqi president has weapons of mass destruction.

"Imagine, a September 11 with weapons of mass destruction. It's not 3,000; it's tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

In an interview published Monday in The New York Times, Chirac condemned as "extraordinarily dangerous" a pre-emptive U.S. strike against Iraq.

"As soon as one nation claims the right to take preventive action, other countries will naturally do the same," the French president said. "If we go down that road, where are we going?"

Chirac told the Times that he wants to see Saddam ousted, but said any military action must be approved by the U.N. Security Council.

For third time this week U.S.-British airstrike hits military facility in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Allied aircraft struck Iraq for the third time in a week, bombing a military facility southeast of Baghdad Monday morning, defense officials said.

The attack came after Iraqi forces fired on one of the U.S.-British patrols in the no-fly zone, and it followed bombings on Thursday and Saturday, Pentagon officials said.

It brought to 37 the number of strikes reported this year by the United States and the United Kingdom coalition put together to patrol zones in the north and south of Iraq following the 1991 Gulf War.

"There is a price to pay when you attack U.S. and British planes," said Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In Monday's strike, coalition aircraft used precision-guided weapons to hit an air defense command and control facility near Al Amarah, about 170 miles southeast of the Iraqi capital, the U.S. Central Command said. The command called it "a self-defense measure in response to Iraqi hostile threats and acts against coalition forces and their aircraft."

Monday's strike was in the southern zone, set up to protect Shiite Muslims, and it was the 27th one in the zone this year. In the northern zone, set up to protect Kurds, there have been 10 this year. Both groups were given protection after unsuccessfully revolting against the regime of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Counterattacks by coalition planes were made 43 times in the northern and southern zones in 2001 and 80 times in 2000, officials said.

Asked if Iraq was increasing its attempt to shoot down coalition planes or the United States was trying to make some point with the frequent retaliations, Pace said that over time, the number of Iraqi attacks has been fairly consistent.

"What we are certainly trying to do is to not accept that at all and to ensure that any time that they shoot at our coalition aircraft that we respond," Pace said in an interview with wire service reporters.

The strikes come as President George W. Bush's administration increases efforts to convince the world of the need to overthrow Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, and as Iraq wages a campaign to rally the world against such a move. But attacks and counterattacks in the no-fly zones have been going on for several years. The numbers ebb and flow, and the Pentagon says there is no particular increase now.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

MEETING

Also to be considered is to authorize Interim City Manager John Hatchel to execute the OMI contract and adopt a resolution authorizing the location of the Pioneer Cottage into Santa Fe Park.

First reading of Ordinance No. 1381 to adopt amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (2000) will be held along with considering an ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds and providing for the redemption of the obligations being refunded and all other matters relating to the issuance and sale of City of Pampa tax, water works and sewer system surplus revenue refunding bonds, series 2002, dated Oct. 1, 2002.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CITY

Secretary Phyllis Jeffers said that approximately one-half of the city employees' pay is capped.

Hatchel said he is not a proponent of across-the-board pay raises, but he thinks this is the most fair

increase for this year.

He said he hopes when the new city manager is hired that a priority will be to revamp the pay scale, saying employees should be examined by merit.

"I hope that a new plan will be in place in another 12 months," said Hatchel. "I think this is the best way to

do it and not skew the plan any worse than it is."

He said entry-level salaries at the police department were improved to attract new police officers, but said that the officers who have been with the department several years are not getting the needed raises because of a necessary revision in the pay scale plan.

Proposed expenditures for fiscal year 2002-2003 are general fund, \$7,959,417; water/waste water fund, \$4,568,747; library fund, \$393,610; and civic center, \$204,193.

Hatchel said the budget is a "tight budget," that will not strap the city.

"I could live with it if I was going to be here 12 months," he said.

The new budget includes a subsidy increase for Rural/

Metro Ambulance Service.

Andrews commented that Medicare continues to reduce the amount of money paid to ambulance services.

"That revenue just keeps going down," he said.

Commissioner Jeff McCormick said that the city doesn't need to get into the ambulance business.

"The cost of operating an ambulance service is too high for a city," he said.

Hatchel said that Rural/Metro has cited the declining collection rate as a major reason for requesting the subsidy increase.

"If the city gets into the ambulance business, that collection rate will go down even more," said Hatchel. "Many people think that their property taxes should be paying for the operation if the city operated the service."

CRIMESTOPPERS NOTICE

Pampa Crimestoppers needs Callers #9182 and #1129 to please call 662-1022 to make arrangements to get paid for their Crimestoppers tips. Call between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

HORSES

Most of the testing in this region has been at the Texas A&M Diagnostic Veterinary Lab in Amarillo.

Along with area veterinarians, Schuster says they are advising horse owners that the best prevention is basic sanitation, especially cleaning up standing water.

"If you don't have water," Patrick said, "you don't have mosquitoes."

Much of the problem will end with the first freeze which should kill adult mos-

quitoes, but Patrick said there will likely be eggs that will over winter.

"The first warm weather and rain event we get next spring, we could have another outbreak," Patrick said. "They're gone during the winter, but they'll be back."

Patrick and Schuster agreed that next spring may be a good time to vaccinate horses against West Nile.

"I would," Patrick said. "If I was a horse owner, and I paid that kind of money for it, I would certainly vaccinate them."

Also arrested were Tabitha Herring, 22, 1130 S. Christy. She was charged with felony evading arrest with vehicle. Bond was set this morning at \$3,000.

Michael Wayne Blalock, 45, 601 E. Frederic was also arrested for evading arrest with a vehicle, a felony. Blalock had not been arraigned at press time.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PAMPAN

up driven by Maul took off.

He said the vehicle narrowly missed a deputy. The deputy fired one round into a tire to flatten it.

Rushing said the vehicle continued to the Cole Addition where officers arrested Maul and his two passengers.

Also arrested were Tabitha Herring, 22, 1130 S. Christy. She was charged with felony evading arrest with vehicle. Bond was set this morning at \$3,000.

Michael Wayne Blalock, 45, 601 E. Frederic was also arrested for evading arrest with a vehicle, a felony. Blalock had not been arraigned at press time.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

TIPSTER

troopers.

LifeStar Helicopter was also launched from Amarillo as a traumatic injury was anticipated. It was recalled.

According to authorities, a train official called in the accident and stopped the train east of town.

The investigation is still pending. At least one other person is expected to be

charged.

Pampa Teen CrimeStoppers gives reward money to people to help in solving crimes in Pampa, and focuses on juveniles involved in these crimes.

Reward money is provided by donations from the community.

Anyone interested in donating to the funds may contact Officer Colby Brown at 669-4800.

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All filled with tears for me,
I wish so much you wouldn't cry,
The way you did today,
While thinking of the many things,
We didn't get to say,
I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too,
But when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name,
And took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready,
In heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love,
But as I turned to walk away,
A tear fell from my eye,

For all my life, I'd always thought,
I didn't want to die,
I had so much to live for,
So much left yet to do,
It seemed almost impossible,
That I was leaving you,
I thought of all the yesterdays,
The good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared,
And all the fun we had,
If I could relive yesterday,
Just even for a while,
I'd say good-bye and kiss you,
And maybe see you smile,
But then I fully realized,
That this could never be,
For emptiness and memories,
Would take the place of me,
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here, in your heart.

Mom, Dad, Zachery,
Mark, Chris & Families,
and Grandma Doan

Violent crime rate continues decline, at lowest since 1973

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation saw violent crimes except murder fall by 9 percent last year, marking the lowest level since the government began surveying victims in 1973.

A record low number of reported assaults, the most common form of violent crime, was reported.

The drop is detailed in the 2001 National Crime Victimization Survey, which is based on interviews with victims and thus does not include murder. The Bureau of Justice Statistics report was obtained Sunday by The Associated Press in advance of its release this week.

Preliminary figures from an FBI report — gleaned from more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies and released in June — reflected an increase in murders of 3.1 percent in 2001.

Specialists said the decade-long decrease in violent results mainly from the strong economy in the 1990s and tougher sentencing laws.

"When people have jobs and poor neighborhoods improve, crime goes down," said Ralph Myers, a criminologist at Stanford University.

"Crime also has been impacted by the implementation of tough sentencing laws at the end of the 1980s."

Since 1993, the violent crime rate has decreased by nearly 50 percent.

The report said that between 2000 and 2001, the number of people who reported they were victims of violent crime fell from about 28 per 1,000 to about 25 per 1,000. The number of people reporting violent crimes fell from 6,323,000 in 2000 to 5,744,000 in 2001.

Only about half of the violent crimes counted in the survey were reported to police.

The report showed a 10 percent decrease in the violent crime rate for whites. It also included an 11.6 percent decline for blacks and a 3.9 percent increase for Hispanics. However, those figures were not given the highest grade of confidence because of analytical formulas that suggest they could be flawed.

Assault was down 10 percent, but victim reports reflected a 13 percent increase in injuries.

The effect of tougher sentencing laws can best be seen

in the drop in the rate at which people in the United States are assaulted, said Bruce Fenmore, a criminal statistician at the Institute for Crime and Punishment, a Chicago-based think tank.

"There is overwhelming evidence that people who commit assaults do it as a general course of their affairs," Fenmore said. "Putting those people behind bars drops the rate."

The rate at which criminals used guns to accomplish their crimes held steady at about 26 percent.

Victims of rape and assault were the least likely (7 percent) to face an armed offender, while robbery victims were the most likely (55 percent).

Rape fell 8 percent, and sexual assaults — which include verbal threats and fondling — fell 20 percent.

About half the women who reported rapes said the perpetrator was a friend or acquaintance. The rate at which women reported rape to the police fell 19 percent in 2001.

The overall property crime rate fell 6 percent between 2000 and 2001 because of a 6.3 percent decrease in theft and a 9.7 percent drop in household burglaries.

The car theft rate rose 7 percent, reflecting a jump from 937,000 car thefts in 2000 to 1,009,000 in 2001.

Teenagers seemed less likely to be victims of violent crime. The crime rate against those between ages 16 and 19 fell 13.2 percent.

Crime also fell in each of the regions of the United States but showed the most dramatic decline, 19.7 percent, in the Midwest.

The decline was felt in urban, suburban and rural areas alike. The rate of violence experienced by suburbanites fell 14 percent. In urban and rural areas, the rate fell 5.4 percent and 10.6 percent, respectively.

Five generations



(Courtesy photo) This five-generation photo was taken recently during a gathering of the George E. Keeton family. Above: (back row, left-right) George E. Keeton, 102, Darrell Danner, Jr., 47, both of Pampa, Casey Danner, 24, of Amarillo; (front row, l-r) Aaron McKinney-Danner, 5, and Helen Danner, both of Pampa.

Former president decries 'blame game' after attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Bush said Monday he thinks the CIA was too harshly criticized for failing to alert authorities in advance of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

"I know that we predicted from time to time that there would be insidious terror attacks but I was surprised by the magnitude of it," Bush said on NBC's "Today" program.

"What I didn't like was the blame game that followed: The CIA should have known, the CIA should have predicted. The FBI failed us," he said. "I mean, I get so irritated by these Monday morning quarterbacks who come rushing in with what should have happened."

"You cannot predict accurately the intentions of evil people, or good people" Bush said in an interview from his summer vacation home in

Kennebunkport, Maine. "You can measure where the forces are but it's impossible to always know when something is going to happen."

"Yeah, it would have been nice" to know in advance, to be able to try to foil the plan, he said. "But that's not the way the real world works. But if you want to call that a failure. Yeah, it's a failure to predict but it's not the failure our intelligence internationally or nationally, per se."

Bush, a one-time director of the CIA, said he was glad that his son, President George W. Bush, kept George Tenet on as CIA director.

"It's not that the CIA is weak and no good," the elder Bush said. "It's not that you need to reorganize it. It's not that you need to put it all under some other roof. I have great

confidence in the director of central intelligence and he is going to find ways to improve things."

"But what I object to is painting with such a broad brush that you destroy morale," Bush said.

Speaking of the war against terrorism, he said, "We're up against a different kind of enemy and it's so hard to predict when and how it will end."

"It's not going to end with a definitive judgment on whether Osama bin Laden is dead or alive," he said, "but it will end when the terrorists realize they don't have the resources or the will to attack."

Bush also said he was worried about the effect on U.S.-Saudi relations of the war against terrorism.

"What I don't like is demonizing Saudi Arabia," he said.

Chirac scenario could lead to use of force

PARIS (AP) — French President Jacques Chirac condemned pre-emptive military action against Iraq as dangerous in an interview published Monday but suggested a scenario by which the United Nations might permit the use of force.

Chirac told The New York Times that he wishes to see Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ousted, but forcefully reiterated the French position: Any use of military force against the Iraqi leader must be approved by the U.N. Security Council.

"I find that he (Saddam) is especially dangerous to his own people, who are living under extraordinarily difficult circumstances," Chirac was quoted as saying in the interview. The presidential palace released a transcript of the interview to The Associated Press on Monday.

Chirac also said he fears the international coalition against terrorism might fall apart with military intervention in Iraq and that intervention without international backing would set a bad precedent.

"As soon as one nation claims the right to take preventive action, other countries will naturally do the same," the French president was quoted as saying. "If we go down that road, where are we going?"

Chirac laid out a two-step scenario that could open the way to use force against Iraq: a Security Council resolution giving Iraq a three-week deadline to allow the return of U.N. weapons inspectors with a free hand to do their job. If that was refused, the council could consider a second resolution on whether to use military force would be passed.

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall
 Assoc. Publisher: Kate B. Dickson
 Editor: Dee Dee Laramore
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Masonic 50-year award



(Community Camera photo)
Jack Hood, retired local pharmacist and business owner, recently received a 50-year service award from Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM. Pictured with him is his wife Charlene Hood.

No longer a bastion of silence, college libraries expand horizons

By STEVE GIEGERICH
AP EDUCATION WRITER

The hiss piercing the University of North Texas library used to come from a librarian quieting a student. Now it's more likely a Starbucks employee, steaming milk for an undergraduate's late-night grande caffe latte.

In an effort to get students to study outside their Internet-connected dorm rooms, college and university libraries are trying to make their facilities more attractive — whether that means offering food, comfier chairs or even personalized service.

Melody Kelly, an associate dean at North Texas, admits she blanched at when idea of using a Starbucks to attract students to the campus library was broached earlier this year.

"We've been taking Cokes away from them for years," she protested.

But Kelly also acknowledged that students on the suburban Dallas campus had long flouted the library's no-food policy. So Starbucks moved into a commons area on the first floor, and now coffee, snacks and soft drinks — in containers with lids — are allowed in all but five sections of the North Texas library.

At the University of Richmond's Boatright Library, recent renovations added more comfortable chairs and computer work stations. Improvements to the library's services resulted in an 18 percent jump in the number of students visiting the facility, said Lucretia McCulley, director of Outreach and Instruction Services.

Helen Spalding, president of the 11,000-member Association of College and Research Libraries, said that, to their credit, most school librarians embraced the Internet early on, and that will help the institutions stay relevant.

The move toward computer-based learning pushed McCulley to coordinate the library's databases with class reading assignments and research projects. That turned Boatright into a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week operation, McCulley said.

The school also assigns "personal" librarians to Richmond's 5,000 students, matching them with staff researchers who specialize in similar areas of interest, such as women's studies or English literature.

Spalding, the associate director of libraries at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, cautions that the volume of resources now online means the number of students trickling through the turnstile are no longer the sole barometer of a library's popularity.

"Why would I want them to come into the library just to justify my existence?" she asked. "I'm thrilled that we are able to use the technology to meet their needs, and if that means not coming into the library, then that's terrific."

But Samuel Demas, librarian and senior lecturer at Minnesota's Carleton College, prefers to see a healthy representation of students frequenting his school's Gould Library.

To offset personal computer use that caused library visitation to plummet, Demas last year introduced art exhibits and public literary events — including a marathon reading of the *Odyssey* and a Shakespeare birthday celebration filled with recitations from sonnets and plays.

Demas said the programs evoked an era when the campus library served as both the social and scholastic center of college life.

"It's part of that trend to rethink what we're doing here," he said. "It's reaching into the past to reinvent the future. Libraries have always been gathering places for people who are interested in ideas."

Kelly also has changed her thinking. After a test run this summer, the Starbucks at the North Texas library became fully operational when classes began in late August. A "reluctant convert," Kelly said the coffee shop has been a success and she's "beginning to see it hasn't made that much of a difference in terms of messes."

"We're sort of getting used to it and I'm adjusting," she said between sips of a caffe latte.

There are still limits, she noted: "You can't bring in a wok, plug it in and start frying."

In an effort to get students to study outside their Internet-connected dorm rooms, college and university libraries are trying to make their facilities more attractive — whether that means offering food, comfier chairs or even personalized service.

Jerry Lewis resting after collapse

LONDON (AP) — Comedian Jerry Lewis was resting comfortably Monday after collapsing backstage at a charity show, the event's producers said.

Stephen Allen Green, master of ceremonies and producer at the High on Laughter benefit Sunday at the Palladium theater, announced to the audience that Lewis, 76, would not be able to participate because he was unwell.

"I saw him collapse backstage out of the corner of my eye," Green said. "He was watching the screen clips of an earlier show of his behind the stage when he just sat back. I hope it's nothing too serious."

The show was raising money for Turning Point Scotland, a drug and alcohol treatment group.

News reports said Lewis was treated in an ambulance behind the theater and then driven to an unidentified hospital. Green and Lewis' wife said he had not been

hospitalized. "We are grateful it was not necessary for him to go to hospital and he is currently resting comfortably at his London residence," Green and co-producer Tamsin Hollo said in a statement Monday. Lewis' wife SanDee (known as Sam), reached by The Associated Press in Las Vegas, also said he was not hospitalized and was in London to receive an award. "He has not taken ill. There is no change in his condition."

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Part-time troops wage full-time war on terror

SOMEWHERE OVER TEXAS (AP) — Alabama Air National Guard Master Sgt. Steve Hay is fighting the war on terror lying on his stomach more than four miles above Texas.

Hay, a lawyer whose budding career was sidetracked by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, will spend this night refueling F-16 fighters patrolling U.S. airspace.

Peering out a small window into the darkness, Hay maneuvers the fueling boom into a receptacle atop a fighter, flying about 20 feet below at 500 mph.

On the ground below, Americans are sleeping and watching Jay Leno.

"They don't have any idea we're here," Hay, 34, said over the deafening roar of the engines.

That kind of disconnect between middle America and the fight against terrorism bothers Guard members including Hay, part of a four-person crew aboard the tanker. Sometimes it seems people are more worried about the stock market than al-Qaida, they say.

"The American public was really into it for a couple of months, but it's old news now," said Tech. Sgt. Shane Rogers, who works full-time for the Guard.

"It's not old news to us," said Rogers, also of Alabama. "I've got two little girls, 6 and 7. I'm not at home and if you asked them where I am, they'll say, 'Daddy's out there fighting for the flag.' It has directly affected my life."

Nationwide, about 80,000 reservists and Guard members have been mobilized since the attacks.

Hay and Rogers are part of the 117th Air Refueling Wing, based in Birmingham. The group has flown about 800 missions in its nine KC-135R tankers since Sept. 11, refueling planes both domestically and overseas.

Of the unit's nearly 1,000

members, about 275 are full-time Guard employees, like Rogers. Hay and more than 300 other part-time members have been activated, giving up their regular jobs to keep the planes flying.

The surge in patriotism inspired Guard members in the weeks after Sept. 11. There were flags everywhere, and a fast-food restaurant gave food to members of the 117th after learning where the burgers and fries were going.

Such frills faded away as the war on terrorism continued.

Co-pilot Doug Preston, 41, normally flies for American Airlines, which lost two planes in the terrorist hijackings and plans to lay off 7,000 employees by March. Will his regular job be there when his Guard duty ends? Preston shrugs as he sits at the controls.

"They haven't filed bankruptcy, and they haven't said they were shutting down," said

Maj. Preston, who has two children, ages 3 and 11 months, and a wife who teaches.

Hay's wife is a lawyer like him, and she recently got her first big settlement working solo on a case. Hay was there to offer congratulations, but missed much of the work leading to a big payday. Twice in the last year he has been on monthlong deployments to Turkey, and he also made two other shorter missions to that country.

Crew members can't talk about specifics of such overseas missions for security reasons. But they talk of seeing bomb flashes on the ground while fueling planes at a distance safe from surface-to-air missiles.

On this Aug. 28 flight, there is talk that the 117th will get an eight-month break from foreign deployments soon after 175 members return from missions in Turkey.

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Woman Sees an Opportunity To Break Bad Luck at Love

DEAR ABBY: I am a 35-year-old single woman who has had terrible luck with men. I've always been attracted to great-looking guys who turn out to be complete jerks.

I have recently started to get to know a man who works for the same company, but in another city. We talk on the phone several times a week because of our jobs. He is nice, kind and has a big heart. We finally met last week. I introduced myself and we talked like old friends. We didn't even realize there were other people in the room. He called me the other day and asked me out. I'm really excited about it.

Here's the catch: My co-workers tell me not to go out with him. They say he is not "my type" — that he's not good-looking enough. Abby, I want to go out with him and get to know him better. His looks don't matter to me. (I think he may be "the one.") I love my co-workers and usually care what they think. Now I don't know what to do. Help!

LOOKING FOR LOVE, NOT LOOKS

DEAR LOOKING: "They" won't have to live with him. You will — if he is indeed "the one." And remember, real beauty is from within.

Go out with him and get to know him, but take plenty of time before deciding he's your Prince Charming. First impressions can be misleading. Love may be blind, so use your head in addition to your heart, and you won't go wrong.

DEAR ABBY: Last summer, before we were married, my fiancé, "Justin," and I had a conversation that led to him telling me that he thought my mother was prettier and more sexually attractive than I am. I was devastated. I am the spitting image of my mother. He later apologized for what he said and we moved on. However, it took me months to regain my self-esteem to a point where I could even look at myself in the mirror.

Justin has always been the type to prefer older women. In fact, he has dated several. (He is 6 1/2 years older than I am.) I cannot help but feel he would rather be with my

mom. It doesn't help matters that my mother is the biggest flirt I know. She flirts constantly with Justin, and when I confront her about it, she tells me I am "overreacting."

Even now, after more than a year, I still get bouts of depression that leave me feeling worthless. Although I know he loves me, I feel he will never look at me and see someone as sexy and beautiful as my mother. What do I need to do to get over this?

HURTING IN CANADA

DEAR HURTING: You need to get counseling, because you must come to terms with your relationship with your competitive and insecure mother, and the damage she has done to your self-esteem.

You are the one your husband wants to be with. But I don't think you will truly accept that fact until you have resolved, with professional help, your relationship with your mother. Please don't wait. You'll be glad you did.

DEAR ABBY: I am planning to propose to my girlfriend of five years. Do I need to ask her father's permission? And when is the appropriate time to do so?

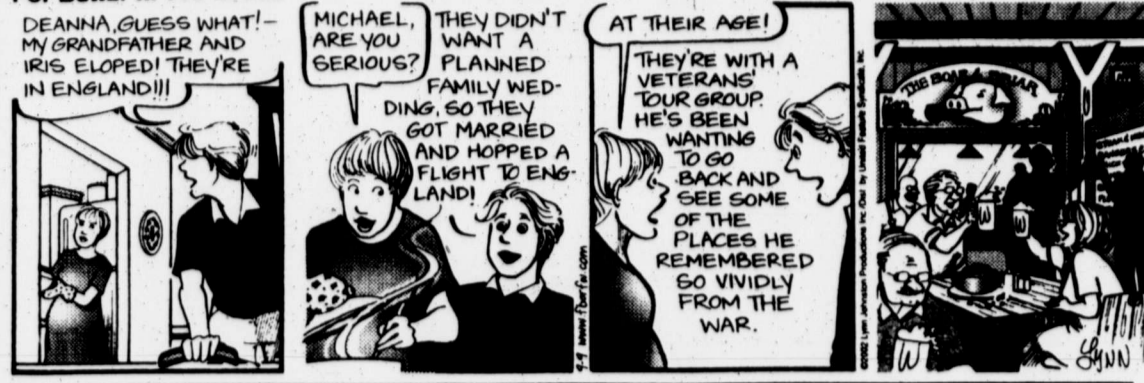
JACK IN LONG BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR JACK: Asking the girl's father for permission to marry her is a charming but somewhat outdated custom. First, ask your girlfriend — and then the two of you should approach her parents with the happy news.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

For Better or For Worse



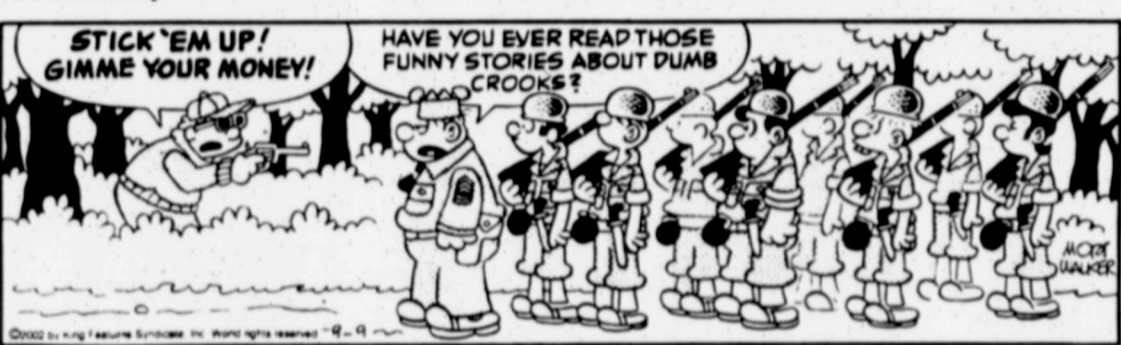
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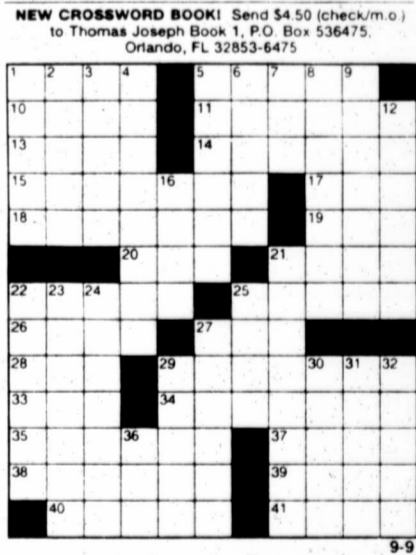


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- Garbage van
 - Wrongful acts
 - Refrain
 - Worships
 - Foot or fathom
 - Alaskan island
 - Rosie the
 - Historic time
 - Sound systems
 - Use a chair
 - Actor
 - Skeleton part
 - Colorado resort
 - Signs of hunger
 - Peruse
 - Card game
 - Brown shade
 - Star-support group
 - Hagen of the theater
 - Pennsylvania town
 - Bring to mind
 - Pickling herb
 - Threat ending
- DOWN
- Smears
 - "Be quiet!"
 - Green shade
 - Sloshy sleeper
 - Acquire scans
 - Scents
 - Cane
 - Checks
 - Ushers
 - Intensely hot
 - Enjoys the rink
 - High schooler
 - Checkout
 - Maestro
 - Toscanni
 - Ushers
 - Cure-all
 - Gasp
 - Fats of jazz fame
 - Test
 - Answer
 - French river
 - Dark
 - Cotton bundles
 - TV alien



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Two Miss North Carolinas arrive for Miss America pageant

By JOHN COLEMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — After all the fuss over topless photos of one Miss North Carolina, it was the other North Carolina beauty queen who showed the most skin as the contestants gathered here.

Miss North Carolina Misty Clymer sashayed across the stage at Sunday's welcoming ceremony for Miss America Pageant contestants wearing a navy blue warmup suit — the jacket unzipped to reveal a belly-baring, low-cut, baby-blue blouse.

Miss North Carolina Rebekah Revels, the woman whose quest for the crown is in limbo over topless pictures taken by a former boyfriend, wore a sedate white hooded sweat shirt and warmup pants.

Though everyone did their best to keep the spotlight on the contestants, their designer duds and the beautiful weather — anything other than the dueling Miss North Carolinas — it was like trying to keep seagulls from a

dropped french fry.

"It's terrible, the whole thing," said spectator Theresa Ritz, 68. "But I say the girl who gave up the crown, she should just back off now. The runner-up, she should be the real Miss North Carolina."

Revels, 24, won the crown last June but later resigned under pressure after her boyfriend contacted the Miss America Pageant and told them he had nude photographs of her.

The photos, it was learned later, showed her topless and — according to Revels — were taken by boyfriend Tosh Welch as she changed clothes.

Clymer, 24, who finished as first runner-up in the state contest, was given the crown when Revels resigned.

Revels later went to court to seek reinstatement, and a judge gave her the title back. But the Miss America Organization continued to recognize Clymer — until a federal judge ordered both women be treated as Miss North Carolina for the time being.

After a weekend's worth of activities in Philadelphia, the 52 contestants from every state and the District of Columbia boarded buses for the one-hour trip east to Atlantic City and the start of two weeks of primping and preparation for the Sept. 21 pageant.

Unlike previous years, the contestants were not made available for media interviews Sunday as they arrived. Their schedule — prepared before anyone knew the Miss North Carolina controversy would drag on into the pageant — pushed interview sessions off until Tuesday.

The welcoming ceremony featured all 52 contestants showcasing the fall line from designer bebe, a new pageant sponsor.

None wore sashes, crowns or anything to identify what state they were representing as they walked across a black carpet at the Kennedy Plaza amphitheater to the strains of Carly Simon's "You're So Vain."

Later, they introduced themselves by name from the stage.

"Misty Clymer, Miss North Carolina,"

said Clymer.

Three contestants were asked to declare their state as they walked across the stage.

The presence of two contestants wearing the same state is posing practical problems for Miss America officials who have had to scramble for hotel rooms — a usual consequence of the pageant of year — and make other last-minute arrangements.

Pageant officials insist they have no special nomenclature for differentiating between Clymer and Revels. "It's just North Carolina and Miss North Carolina," said acting CEO George Bauer.

But one pageant volunteer was heard Sunday to refer to Clymer as "the blonde" and Revels as "the brunette," for clarity's sake.

Bauer said there was no effort being made to keep Revels and Clymer away from each other, although they have been assigned to hotels far apart.

From eagle to hummingbird, more than 100 kinds of birds fall to West Nile virus

By ALLISON SCHLESINGER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The West Nile virus, first spotted in this country in a sick crow three years ago, has now attacked at least 111 species of birds, including the bald eagle and the endangered Mississippi sandhill crane.

The spread of the virus has surprised and alarmed wildlife researchers because it has happened so quickly. Last year, West Nile had been detected only in about a dozen species of birds.

This year, hundreds of birds of prey, particularly red-tailed hawks and great horned owls, have been found dead in the upper Midwest, said Kathryn Converse, a wildlife disease specialist with the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wis.

About 400 owls and hawks died in Ohio alone in what one wildlife official called "a major die-off." The carcasses were being tested for West Nile virus, which has been confirmed in several cases.

West Nile also has killed such birds in the wild as the ruby-throated hummingbird and Canada goose, and exotic and captive species such as the macaw and the Chilean flamingo, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

Of particular concern are the deaths of any endangered species, like the Mississippi sandhill crane, which numbers only about 120. It is one of six types of sandhill crane.

Since 1999, the virus has also killed at least one bald eagle, a threatened species, according to the CDC Web site.

"We don't know of any birds that can't be affected by the virus," Converse said.

It's impossible to know exactly how many birds have died from the West Nile virus, wildlife officials say, because the only way to confirm the virus in birds is to test them after they die.

Also, federal agencies like the CDC and Geological Survey rely on state and county health officers to report the bird deaths. But those officials are mainly interested in birds

only as a tip-off that mosquitoes carrying the virus have shown up in their areas, so that people can be warned.

News that the virus is spreading in bird populations is frustrating for bird caretakers like James Mejeur, curator at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, because the illness is hard to detect, treat and prevent.

Although veterinarians are experimenting with a vaccine approved for horses, the most effective way to prevent birds from getting sick is to control the mosquito population, Mejeur said.

Some institutions with captive bird populations install mosquito netting.

"It's manageable for us because the majority of our bird population is inside," said Mejeur, whose facility has lost three magpies and a crow this year. "But it is a tough time for zoos and other places that can't control the mosquitoes and have large populations of birds."

The horse vaccine has not been widely tested on birds, but the few facilities that have tested it found the birds were not harmed by it, Mejeur said.

Still, birds must be injected three times over a span of three months, which can be traumatic to wild populations, he said.

At the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, caretakers suspect the raptors may have the virus when they develop tremors, a blank stare and confusion. But other illnesses can cause similar symptoms, said Pat Redig, the center's director.

At that point there's not much veterinarians can do but give the animals fluids, antibiotics and special feedings that may help their immune systems.

But many raptors infected by the virus die after symptoms appear, said Redig. The Raptor Center has been studying and caring for eagle, hawk, owl and falcon populations since 1974.

There is hope that hawks, crows and other birds will become resistant to the virus over time.

"But we don't know how long that will take and how many raptors we'll lose in the meantime," Redig said.

Grandfather terrorizes family, burns self and house

MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. (AP) — A 79-year-old man upset over a family dispute burst into his son's home and terrorized his two granddaughters and his son, shooting out windows before setting the house on fire, police said.

Rosario Musca apparently killed himself in the blaze, but no one else was hurt.

After Musca burst in, 50-year-old Dennis Musca

escaped through the front door, but his two daughters, ages 10 and 16, were stuck upstairs, said Detective Lt. Kevin Smith, Nassau County police spokesman.

Clad in pajamas, the girls hid in a closet with a phone, dialed 911 and talked to police for about 20 minutes.

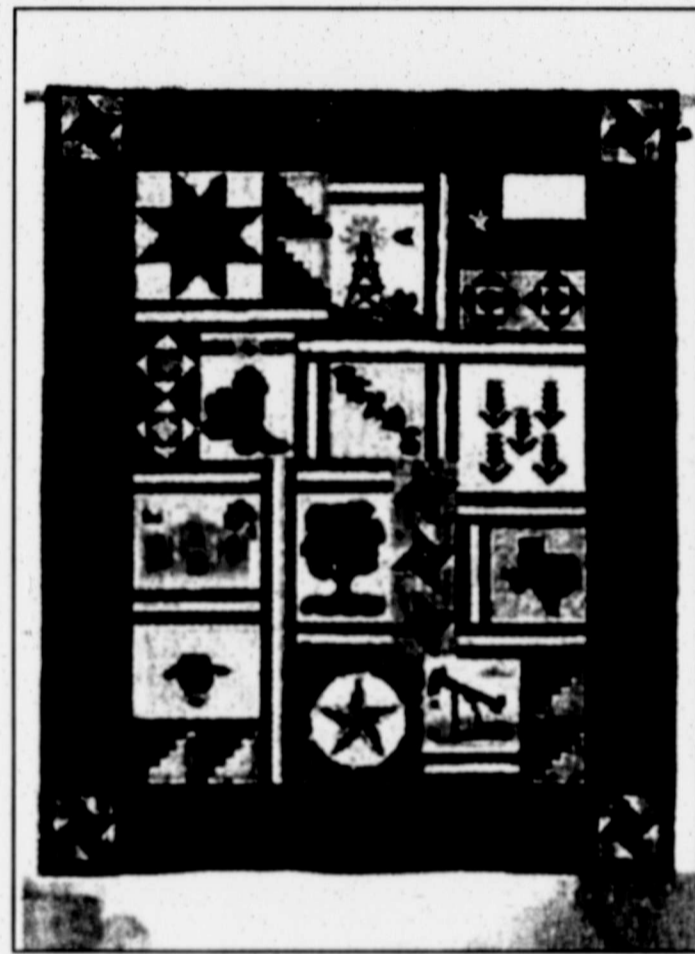
When the girls told police they smelled smoke, police advised the girls to escape through the back sliding glass

doors, which their grandfather had shot out. The girls escaped unharmed.

Neighbors said the father and son had a long-standing dispute over money and the elder Musca's not being allowed to visit his grandchildren.

After the onset of the siege, police evacuated nearby homes and found containers of gasoline in the Rosario Musca's car.

PPQG quilt show



(Courtesy photo)

This "Texas Traditions" quilt is one many to be featured during the Panhandle Piecemaker's Quilt Guild bi-annual show to be held Oct. 5-6 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. The show is being held in conjunction with the Gray County Centennial celebration and will feature both old and new quilts.

WTA&M to present musical theatre revue

CANYON — The music in Stephen Sondheim's "Side by Side" will be featured in a musical theatre revue beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 through Saturday, Sept. 21 in the Intimate Theatre of the Fine Arts Building on the WTAMU campus.

Students auditioned for spots in the show on Thursday, Aug. 29 and rehearsals began immediately. Some of the featured songs will include "Comedy Tonight," "One Hand, One Heart," "Send in the Clowns," "You Gotta Get a Gimmick" and "Broadway Baby."

Royal Brantley, director

and head of the WTAMU Department of Art, Communication and Theatre, is the staging director for the revue, and Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, assistant professor of music, is the musical director.

"This revue features one incredible Stephen Sondheim song after another. No plot to muddle through, just some of the best music and lyrics ever written for the American stage," Brantley said. "It promises to be a quick evening of delightful entertainment."

Cost of the show is \$5 per person. For more information, call the University's theatre office at (806) 651-2799.

Sept. 11 changes agri-air industry

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Crop dusters nationwide, grounded three times after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and anthrax scare, are still trying to recoup their financial losses.

But in a world of heightened security, and amid fears the highly mobile airplanes could become weapons for terrorists, it's no longer business as usual.

Around Mississippi, security measures — including locking down parked planes and filing detailed reports — are part of everyday life for operators, said Mickey Sims, executive secretary of the state Board of Agricultural Aviation.

"There is still a tremendous amount of awareness as far as someone stealing an (agricultural) aircraft, and we have means in place to prevent a lot of that," Sims said.

Rudy Holcomb, owner of Holcomb Aerial Service Inc., informs local officials of his spraying schedule and route before he starts work over a new field.

"We've just got to communicate more than we used to," Holcomb said. "Everybody's on edge. If they don't know, it scares them."

Holcomb said losing about a week's work during last season's peak time for spraying and defoliating cotton, "put us in a heck of a bind around here."

"When you get a week behind, it's hard to make up that week," he said. "You reach a point where it's just too late to spray and you're through until next year."

Holcomb said he has managed to recover, in part because he has expanded to aerial forestry work, which is currently in high demand.



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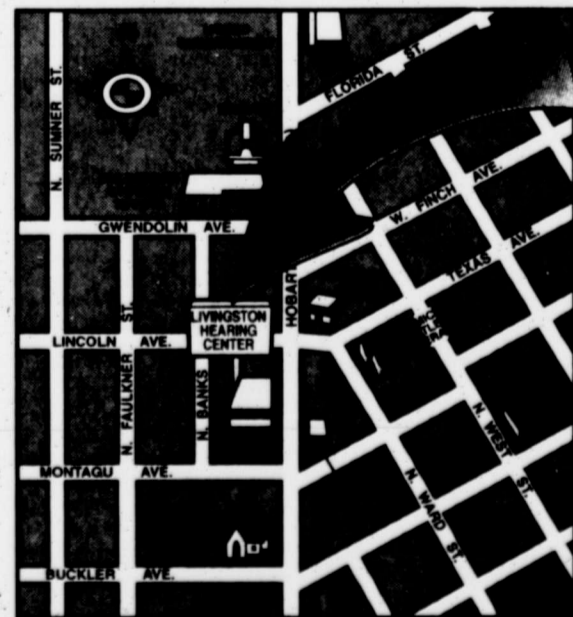
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