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LOCAL

Police warn of scam

Local police officials warn area residents of a scam being used across the state.

A money laundering scam is being disguised as a legitimate company called FEXX, according to a news release from PPD Officer Donny Brown. The company is claiming to be based out of Las Vegas, Nev. The perpetrators take out advertisements in local newspapers claiming to have positions available for purchasing agents and/or couriers.

The ad requests resumes to be sent to a 1-866 fax number. Once victims send their resumes to the fax number, they are contacted and directed to go to a website and fill out a contract with personal information such as Social Security numbers, mother's name and bank account information. Once the information is collected, another call is made to the victim, according to the release.

The victims are told that they have the job and the company will transfer money into their account for a sign-on bonus. Some of the victims

(See SCAM, Page 2)

DEATHS

Charlie Wallace Noe, 79, oilfield company owner.

Barbara Smith, accounting.

Benny Lynn Young, 48, carpenter and oilfield worker.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE

It's Planting Season ...

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Cedars go; new trees to come

County courthouse undergoes landscaping changes

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Passers-by the Gray County Courthouse have observed a noticeable difference as people are able to see the county building following the trees being cut down last week.

Landscape workers from West Texas Landscape cut down the trees a few days ago. Rusty Stevens, owner, said the large cedar trees were in bad condition. He said they were diseased and on the decline.

"They had run their lifespan," he said. "It was time for them to go."

He said the trees which came down were at least 50 years old.

"I really don't know how old they were. They could have been planted when the courthouse was built in 1929," he said.

Trees will be planted to the exterior grounds of the building as the restoration project completes its second phase and moves into the third phase. The third phase includes the landscaping around the building and restoration

of the original balcony in the courtrooms.

The type of tree to be planted has not been decided, but several have mentioned Bradford pear trees which is the variety around the Pampa City Hall. Stevens said the average life of those is 30 to 40 years. Also mentioned have been red oaks.

Gray County Commissioners Court approved the removal of the cedar trees in the courthouse master plan on Feb. 15, 2000, for submission to the ArchiTexas firm. This firm assisted

the county in obtaining a grant from the Texas Historical Commission, and has been involved throughout the project.

The master plan was approved by the architectural firm in April 2000.

As the trees came down last week, county officials were ecstatic. All were hopeful the bagworms which inhabited the cedar trees will be gone from the courthouse grounds.

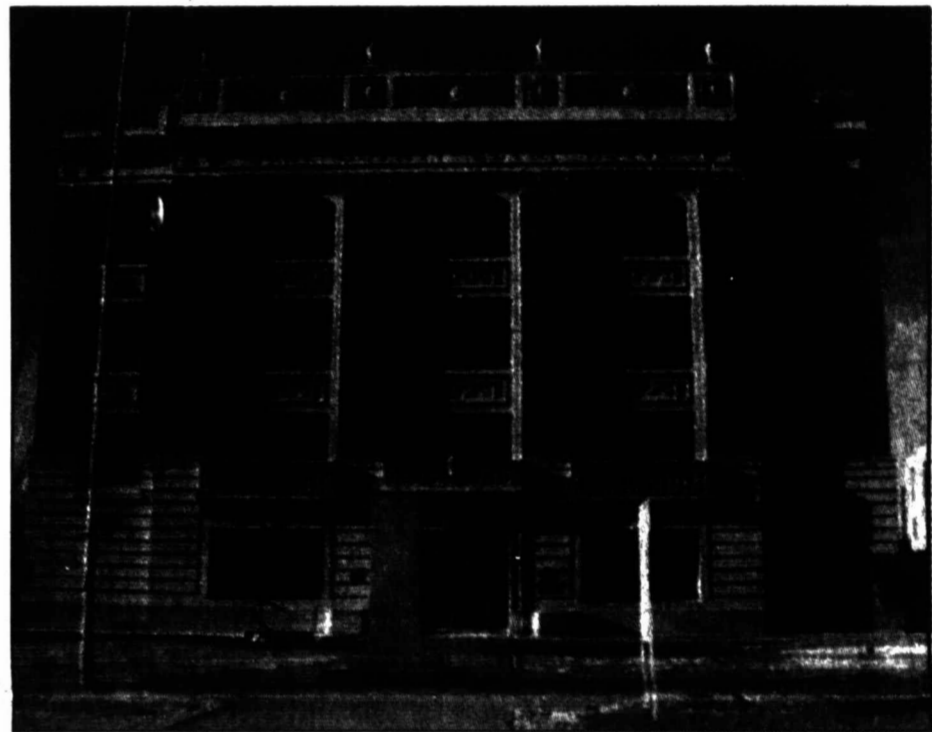
County Tax Assessor Sammy

(See CEDARS, Page 2)



(Courtesy photo)

Gray County Courthouse prior to the two cedar trees being cut down last week.



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Gray County Courthouse as it appears without the cedar trees this week.

Powell presents case against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell, methodically making his case that Iraq had defied all demands that it disarm, presented tape recordings, satellite photos and informant statements Wednesday that he said constituted "irrefutable and undeniable" evidence that Saddam Hussein is concealing weapons of mass destruction.

"Clearly, Saddam will stop at nothing until something stops him," Powell told a skeptical U.N. Security Council, saying Baghdad's denials constitute a "web of lies."

Three months after Iraq pledged that it would disarm, Powell presented his evidence in an appearance that was

televised live around the world. The Council members sat around a large circular table with Powell and listened attentively.

Of the 15 Council members, only the United States and Britain have voiced support for forcibly disarming Saddam.

Tang Jiaxuan, China's foreign minister, said immediately after Powell's presentation that the work of the weapons inspectors should continue. "As long as there is still the slightest hope for political settlement, we should exert our utmost effort to achieve that," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov agreed. While saying he had

listened closely to Powell's presentation, he said he believed more study and analysis was needed of the new evidence presented by the United States. Inspections "must be continued," he said.

Coming to Powell's defense, British Foreign Minister Jack Straw said the secretary made a "most powerful" case. Saddam is "gambling that we will lose our nerve rather than enforce our will," Straw said. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov

In a more than hour-long presentation, Powell also detailed the U.S. claims that Baghdad and al-Qaida operatives are working together and that some followers of a senior lieu-

tenant of Osama bin Laden are currently in the Iraqi capital, with the approval of Saddam.

Saddam, in an interview broadcast Tuesday in London, denied his government has a relationship with the al-Qaida or has weapons of mass destruction. He said it would be impossible to hide such arms.

In his presentation, Powell:

—Asserted that Iraq "bulldozed and graded to conceal chemical weapons evidence" at the Al Musayyib chemical complex in 2002, and had a series of cargo vehicles and a decontamination vehicle moving around at the site. Powell said that was corroborated by a human source.

Report: Tile damage from debris could create Columbia disaster

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — A technical report warned at least nine years ago that the space shuttle could be destroyed if tiles protecting critical wing parts were damaged by debris, but NASA engineers never found a complete solution for the safety soft spot.

Now the failure of the tiles is a leading theory for the catastrophic end of Columbia.

NASA struggled for years in trying to ensure that the tiles were firmly attached to the shuttle, Paul Fischbeck, an engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University, said in his analysis.

He said Tuesday that NASA engineers "took a lot of our advice to heart" and made changes to lower the risk of debris hitting the tiles during launch. But the problems were never completely solved, he said.

A patch of foam insulation breaking off from the shuttle's external fuel tank during launch and striking tiles on the underside of the left wing is being studied as the possible cause of Columbia's destruction Saturday, which left all seven astronauts dead.

"There are very important tiles under there. If you lose the tiles on those stretches ... it can cause the shuttle to be lost," Fischbeck said.

A NASA spokesman said Tuesday that nobody was available to comment on the report.

Meanwhile, the search for bits and pieces of the shattered Columbia was expanded westward to California and Arizona, where teams are checking reports of debris. That material could provide clues to the earliest stages of Columbia's disintegration.

Investigators also are examining military photos taken from an

Apache helicopter of Columbia's final fiery descent.

Fischbeck and his colleagues made an initial report to NASA on their findings in 1990, and they later published a follow-up paper on the research in 1994.

They conducted a risk analysis of the shuttle's thermal protection tile system and found that the spacecraft was highly vulnerable to tiles being knocked off or broken by insulation falling from the fuel tank and from other debris.

In a follow up to the report, Fischbeck said he studied debris strikes during the first 50 shuttle launches and concluded that about 25 thermal tiles per flight sustained damage of at least one inch.

The analysis found that the most vulnerable parts of the shuttle were the undersides of the wings close to the fuselage and right under the crew compartment.

Fire official seeks cause of a.m. blaze

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 EDITOR

Fire officials continue to search for the cause of a raging fire Tuesday morning that destroyed a home on Prairie Drive.

Fire Marshal Gary Stevens said today he is continuing to investigate what caused a frame house at 1140 Prairie Dr. to erupt into flames shortly before 7 a.m. Tuesday.

"The fire started in the northwest portion of the structure around a bedroom," Stevens said. "It totally destroyed the house."

Two persons inside the home, Charles Wood and Rebecca Drinkard, were able to safely escape from the burning house, he said.

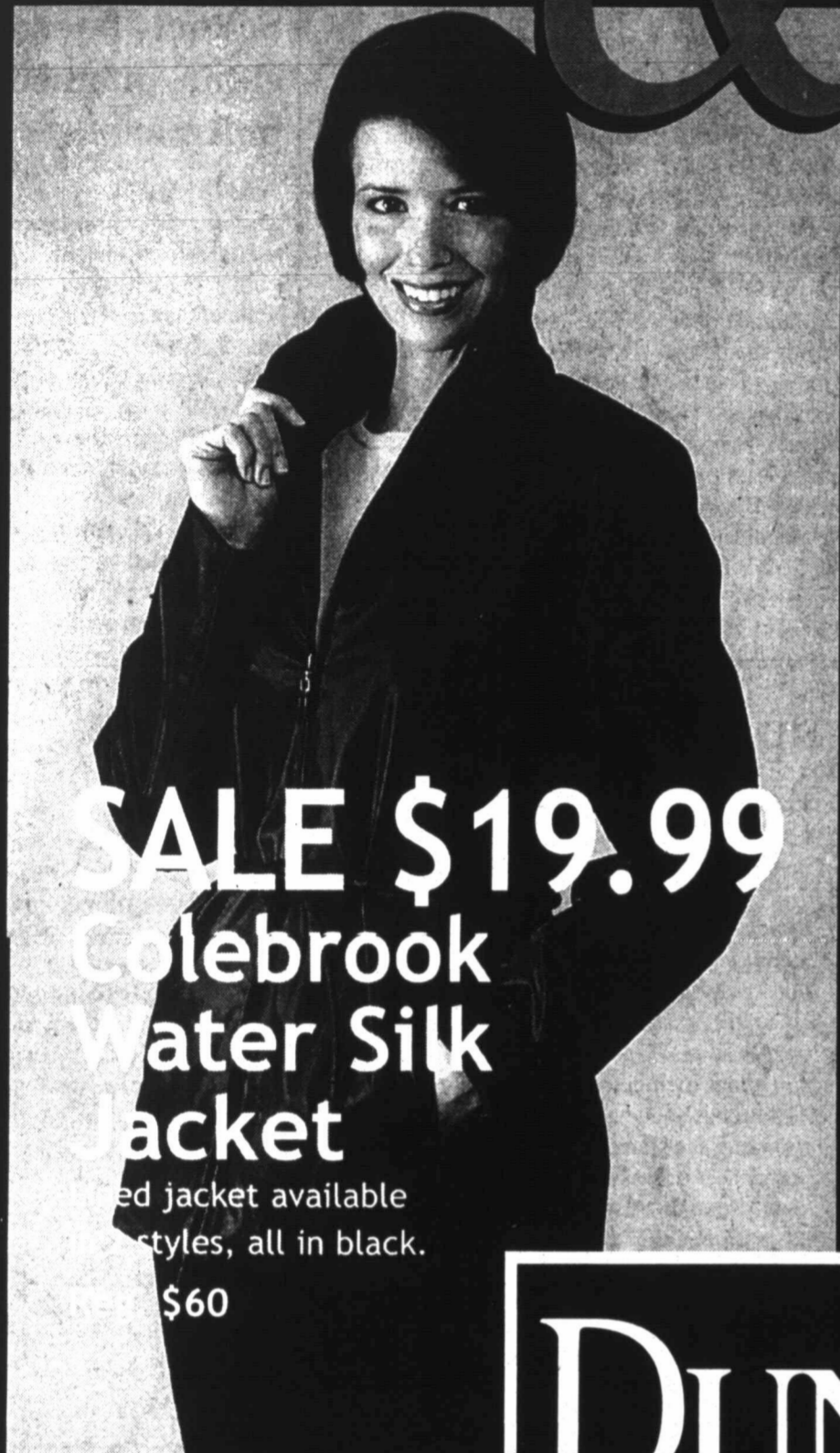
Wood's mother, Elizabeth Jan Wood, owns the house, Stevens said. Mrs. Wood was not at home at the time of the fire.

Pampa Fire Department responded to the fire with five vehicles and 13 firefighters at 6:58 a.m., Tuesday. The house was enveloped in flames when firefighters arrived, officials said. Heavy smoke from the burning structure drifted as far as downtown Pampa.

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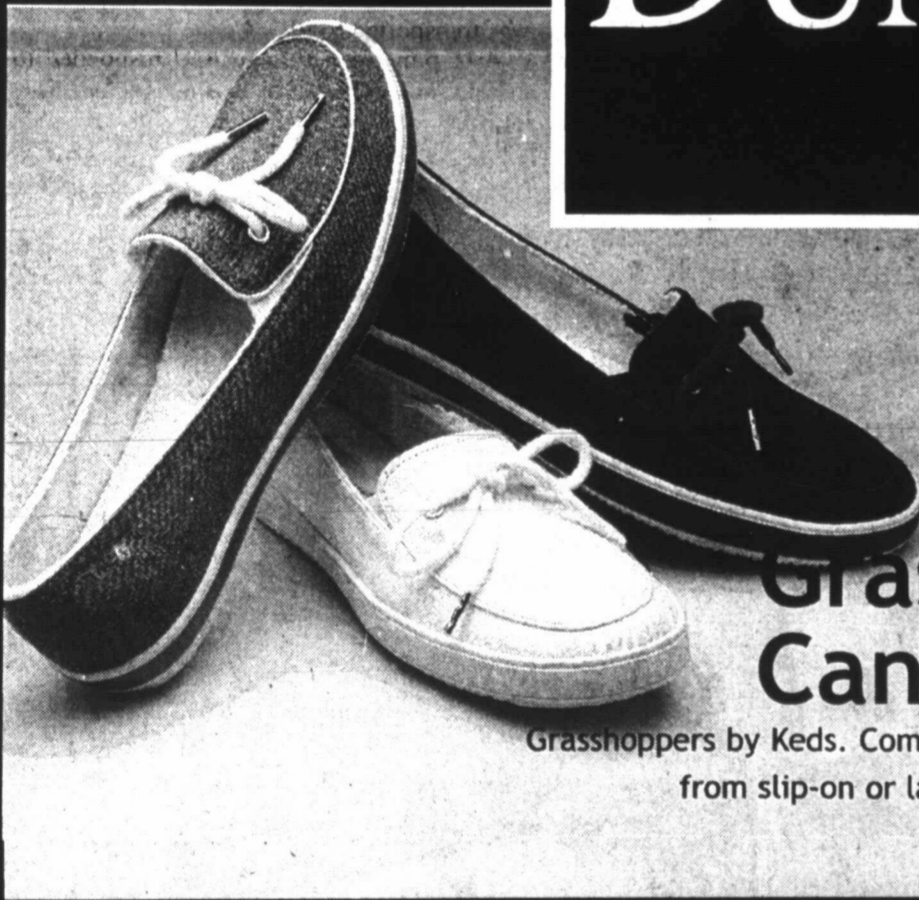
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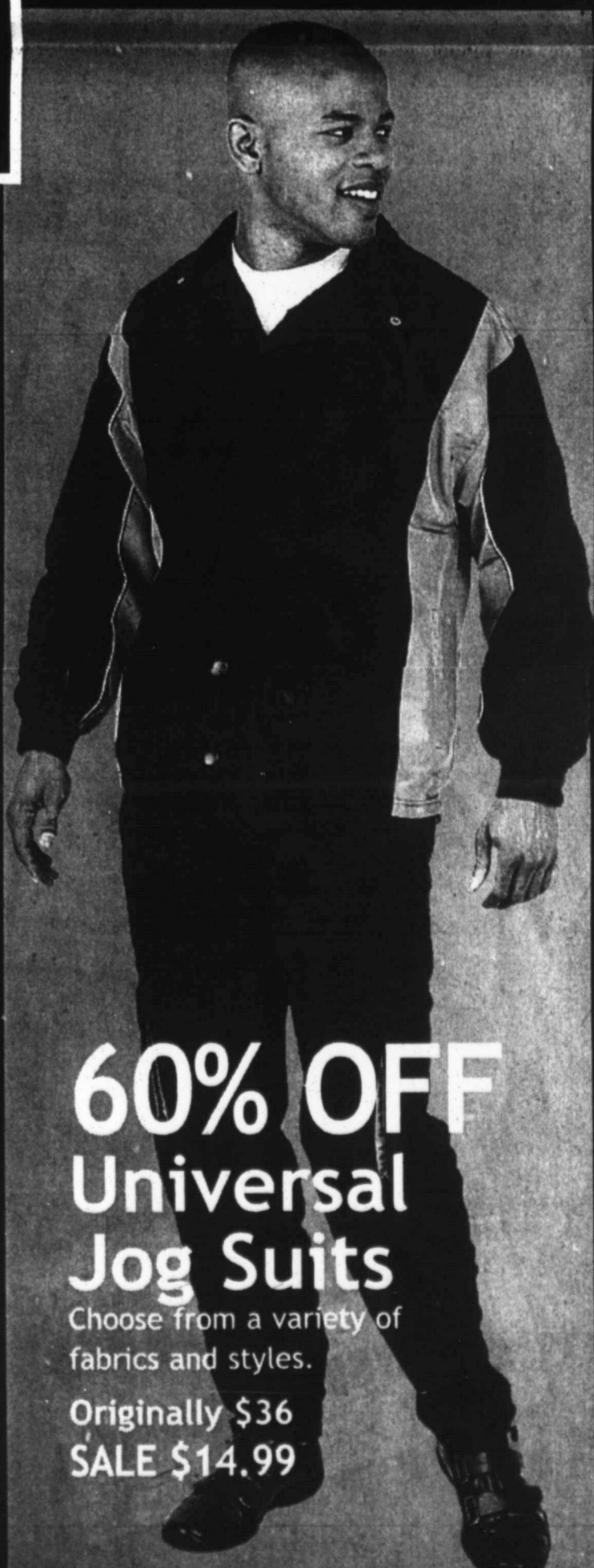
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Bush's SEC nominee facing Senate hearing, job of rebuilding confidence

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's nominee to head the Securities and Exchange Commission, Wall Street investment banker William H. Donaldson, is facing Senate scrutiny before he can take on the job of rebuilding investor confidence shattered by last year's corporate scandals.

Donaldson, a former New York Stock Exchange chairman and Bush family friend, was designated — with newly installed Treasury Secretary John Snow — a member of the president's revamped economic team. He was appearing at his confirmation hearing Wednesday before the Senate Banking Committee.

The SEC, straining under a heavy load of investigations of corporate fraud and accounting deception, has been led since

early November by a lame-duck chairman, Harvey Pitt. The Bush administration's first SEC head resigned under fire after a series of political fumbles, culminating in a flap over his selection of former FBI Director William Webster to head a new board overseeing the accounting industry. Webster also resigned.

This is the landscape confronting Donaldson: Once-mighty accounting firm Arthur Andersen is a smoldering ruin after an obstruction of justice conviction; its longtime client Enron Corp. led a parade of corporate bankruptcies, scandals and handcuffed CEOs; retirement savings have dissolved and the stock market has plunged.

When Bush named him in December, Donaldson pledged to work to restore confidence

in the markets and corporations and to deal swiftly with the numerous cases of company wrongdoing. Legislation enacted last summer expanded the SEC's powers to prosecute fraud and ordered the agency to issue new rules for companies, executives and accountants.

"One of his biggest challenges will be connecting with and communicating to Main Street investors, many of whom are cynical and shell-shocked," said Marc Beauchamp, executive director of the North American Securities Administrators Association, a group representing state securities regulators. "Investors are the No. 1 special interest group in the U.S. today. They vote and they're not happy, and politicians are waking up to those facts."

In 2001, from the perch of his own investment firm, Donaldson denounced as "terrible" a year-old SEC rule pro-

hibiting companies from revealing financial results and other information to stock analysts and other Wall Street insiders ahead of the public — a long-standing practice.

He called the Regulation Fair Disclosure of 2000 — pushed by small-investor advocates and then-SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt — "crazy in terms of what it does to the free flow of information." Like other critics, Donaldson contended it could make company executives afraid to say anything.

Years earlier, as NYSE chairman, Donaldson argued that accounting standards should be bent to attract foreign companies to the stock exchange.

While his Senate confirmation appears assured, Democrats on the Banking Committee have examined his leadership of the NYSE in the early 1990s, when floor brokers made millions of dollars in illegal trades. The trading

fraud scandal later brought the first-ever criminal prosecutions of floor brokers at the exchange.

Donaldson and other senior NYSE officials are said to have quietly approved of letting brokers who worked on the exchange floor trade and share in profits with private customers.

A federal judge in 1999 accused the stock exchange of "downright anorexic" enforcement of a prohibition against floor brokers trading accounts in which they hold an interest. The judge admonished the NYSE for failing to enforce securities laws and its own rules meant to prevent brokers from getting an unfair advantage over other investors.

Known for a colorful candor, the 71-year-old Donaldson — a founder of Wall Street brokerage Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette — recently reported personal assets of between \$89 million and \$253 million. He

was required to report only a range of assets, not specific numbers. He promised to sell his stocks in more than 50 corporations and his interests in partnerships to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

School board clinic planned in Amarillo

AMARILLO — Area school board candidates and interested citizens can learn more about the demands and rewards of school board service at a candidate workshop slated from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, March 20, at Region 16 Education Service Center in Amarillo.

The workshop will provide interested community leaders and individuals thinking about running for a board position with a better understanding of what is involved in being elected and serving as a local trustee.

Experienced school board members will explain board members' key responsibilities and outline the qualities necessary for effective service.

Topics to be covered include what it's like to be a trustee, key responsibilities of the board, division of authority with staff, how to campaign constructively, and much more.

The workshop is free and open to the public. For more information, call Brenda Canul at TASB, 1-800-580-8272, ext. 6104, or log onto www.tasb.org on the Internet.

West Texas gearing up for career expo

CANYON — West Texas A&M University will host its first winter Career EXPO Job Fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 at the Virgil Henson Activities Center Ballroom on the WTAMU campus.

The event is open to all students, alumni and members of the community who hold a college degree. Representatives from various companies will be available to visit with prospective employees and to answer questions about their company's personnel needs. The Career EXPO is designed to benefit every student and isn't limited to certain majors or classifications.

"We've always hosted a job fair in the fall, but many of our students have expressed an interest in a general job fair in the spring," Kim Storey, assistant director of Career and Counseling Services, said. "We decided to try it and see how it goes."

The Career EXPO will feature a broad

spectrum of opportunities ranging from full-time to internship positions in sales, business, marketing, healthcare, agriculture and more.

"This is a great way to get information," Storey said. "Besides allowing companies to identify candidates for employment, the job fair is also a great resource for information about the world of work as well as specific organizations. These representatives love to talk about their companies."

Alumni and students graduating in 2003 attending the Career EXPO are encouraged to bring their resumes and be prepared to interview. Student classified as freshman, sophomore and junior students are encouraged to attend to learn more about the job market and what companies are looking for in prospective employees.

For more information, call WTAMU's Career and Counseling Services at 806-651-2345.

THE Pampa NEWS

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Lost Your We hold

Serbia, Montenegro get fresh start after abolishing Yugoslavia

By **JOVANA GEC**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro (AP) — Officials began the difficult work of institution-building after all but disbanding the troubled nation of Yugoslavia and giving the resulting nation a new name.

Serbia and Montenegro, as the country will now be called, is all that is left after a decade of war that broke Yugoslavia into pieces.

A European Union-brokered accord approved by parliament on Tuesday leaves the two republics only loosely united, and they could break up for good as early as 2006.

Serbia and Montenegro were the only two republics remaining in Yugoslavia after the Balkan wars of the 1990s. Under the new agreement, they will largely run their own affairs but will be linked by a small joint administration in charge of defense and foreign affairs.

The EU-brokered reform was widely seen as an attempt

to accommodate two conflicting views within both republics, ranging from demands for complete separation to a more tightly unified country. The deal keeps the two republics together for at least three more years.

"This is a new beginning, but we should not be euphoric," Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic said after both chambers of the Yugoslav parliament approved the overhaul.

"This new country is based on a minimum of common interest between Serbia and Montenegro, and we should give it a chance," Djindjic said.

Over the next 30 days, the republics are to create a new joint administration, which will include a 126-seat parliament and a government to be called the Council of Ministers.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who mediated the deal, said the new institutions would be crucial for the success of the new country.

"Now it will be up to the new institutions of the union and to the governments of Serbia and

Montenegro to make the union work — and make the promise of European integration a reality," he said in a statement.

Yugoslavia, founded in 1918 as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was renamed Yugoslavia — "the country of southern Slavs" — in 1929. After World War II, the country became a communist-run, six-republic federation.

Yugoslavia began falling apart in the 1990s, as then-Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic presided over the bloody breakup that saw Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia secede.

Serbia and Montenegro, tightly knitted for centuries, opted to stay together. But their relations soured and a pro-independence leadership in Montenegro began boycotting federal institutions in 1998, prompting some Serbs to also demand a separation.

The new arrangement left many dissatisfied, including staunchly separatist leaders in both republics.

"This new country is still-

born," said Vladan Batic of Serbia's Christian Democrats, who serves as justice minister in the Serbian government. He predicted the two republics would part ways in three years.

Equally unhappy were separatist Montenegrin politicians, such as Miodrag Zivkovic of the Liberal Alliance, who contended that Montenegro was being

"cheated with this reform."

"Full independence is our true interest," he said.

Moderate politicians from both republics backed the reform and promised to establish a new administration for the new union by gradually shrinking and reforming existing federal bodies in coming weeks.

Tiny Montenegro, which

has just 650,000 people, is dwarfed by Serbia, home to 10 million.

Tuesday's overhaul leaves Yugoslav federal president Vojislav Kostunica — who ousted Milosevic in the 2000 elections — without an official position. It also raises questions about the status of Kosovo, which remains officially part of Serbia.

Activists demanding senator's name be taken off Old Senate Office Building

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group led by comedian and social activist Dick Gregory wants to alter the legacy of one of the most respected senators of the mid-20th century, saying his views on segregation warrant taking his name off a Senate office building.

Sen. Richard Russell's 38-year career in the U.S. Senate led his colleagues to rename the Old Senate Office Building after him in 1972, a year after his death.

The Georgia Democrat mentored Lyndon B. Johnson and shaped U.S. military policy during the Cold War as chairman of the Armed Services and the Appropriations Committees.

At the same time, Russell also was a segregationist who, with other Southerners, blocked anti-lynching and other civil rights legislation.

Gregory and others have formed a group, "Change the Name," that wants to erase the words etched in stone on the Russell Senate Office Building.

Once people "realize who this man was and what he represented, I don't think there will be any problem at all in changing that name," Gregory

said at a news conference Tuesday.

The group sent letters last month to all 100 senators asking them to pass a resolution to change the building's name, but it has received no responses, Gregory said.

When the Senate changed the name three decades ago on a voice vote, only one senator objected, Sen. Philip Hart, D-Mich. Hart's name now graces another Senate building.

"I thought we had learned

that it is unwise to anticipate history's verdict," Hart cautioned, though he did not criticize Russell as a legislator.

Senate historian Donald Ritchie could not recall any precedence for un-naming a Senate building. He described Russell as a "senator's senator."

"He was always a gentleman, his word was his bond, and people respected him," Ritchie said. "That building was named after him despite his record."

Marriage revelations topple Miss Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Beauty pageant organizers stripped Miss Brazil of her title after they discovered she was married.

Joseane Oliveira, 21, was replaced on Tuesday by first runner-up Taiza Thomsen, 21, who will perform the beauty queen's duties for the remaining three months of the reign.

"Being single is a prerequisite for competing, and Joseane

knew that because she signed the contract," said pageant organizer Boanerges Gaeta Jr.

Oliveira will have to return \$3,360 in prize money but will get to keep the jewels she received for winning the pageant, Gaeta said.

Evidence of Oliveira's 1998 wedding to Rafael Gustavo Vargas was uncovered by a newspaper in her home state of Rio Grande do Sul, which pub-

lished the marriage certificate in its Saturday edition.

Oliveira, who has since separated from Vargas but is not divorced, said she concealed the marriage to enter the pageant because her father was sick and she needed the money.

"I wouldn't do it again, but I don't regret anything," Oliveira said at a press conference Tuesday, when organizers presented Thomsen with Oliveira's crown.

It wasn't the first time Oliveira's behavior had drawn criticism.

Earlier this year, she appeared seminude on a Web site. Oliveira also appeared on the Brazilian version of the reality show Big Brother III, in which contestants are locked up in a house and filmed around the clock. At times she appeared to be drunk, performing lurid dances and sensually kissing another contestant. She was among the first contestants voted out of the house by her peers.

Roberts County Junior Livestock Show in offing

MIAMI — The 2003 Roberts County Junior Livestock Show is scheduled this weekend, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8 in the Roberts County Project Center, east of Miami on Highway 60. Bart Stover of Follett will judge the competition.

The event will get underway with weigh-in from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday. The next day's activities will begin at 9 a.m. with the swine show followed by lambs, Small Fry and steers.

Tickets for a barbecue dinner sponsored by "Seniors 2004," will be sold at the show and the meal will be served from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m., Saturday.

The premium sale will follow at 2 p.m. with auc-

tioner W.B. Dickerson.

The 2003 Roberts County Livestock Show exhibitors will include: Bailey Adcock, Katie Adcock, Taryn Adcock, Ty Adcock, Jason Adkins, Katie Baggerman, Kelli Bergen, Cole Booze, Jake Booze, Tarah Butler, Tatum Butler, Megan Crimas, Nikki Early, Colby Greenhouse, Marium Hannon.

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Monday - Thursday 7:15
Friday 7:15, 9:45
Saturday 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
Sunday 2:15, 4:45, 7:15

A GUY THING PG-13
Monday - Thursday 7:00
Friday 7:00, 9:30
Saturday 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Sunday 2:00, 4:30, 7:00

DARKNESS FALLS PG-13
Monday - Thursday 7:15
Friday 7:15, 9:45
Saturday 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
Sunday 2:15, 4:45, 7:15

Hot Chick, Kangaroo Jack Starts Friday 2-7-03

PET OF THE WEEK

"Annie"
This Red Healer and Golden Retriever cross is a 1 to 2 year old female. She's very friendly and enjoys being talked to and hugged! Please come by today!

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Wireless Works (806) 898-1800

Activation is valid for applicable local plans only priced \$29.99 and higher. Free phone may not be the phone pictured. Free Nokia 5110S and activation are available with a new two-year agreement only. Bonus minutes are given at end of month of service, one time, and are available until used or for six months after service ends. Free mobile-to-mobile minutes are given for six months with a new one-year agreement or for life with a new, two-year agreement. For life, defined as for as long as the customer stays on the same plan chosen at the time of activation. Nights and weekend minutes and free incoming calls are available to the following areas: Borger, Hart, and Wellington. Minutes are available from 8:00 p.m. - 6:59 a.m. weekdays and all weekend long. Mobile-to-mobile calling is available to the following areas: All area calling, roaming, long distance, and other terms and conditions may apply. See store for details. ©2003 Dobson Cellular. 104-3 (03/07)

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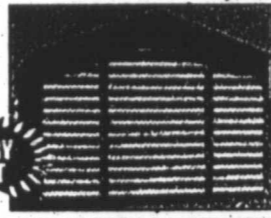


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Wednesday, February 5, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Rescue Workers Left in Dark By Poorly Marked Addresses

DEAR ABBY: I am a police officer in a small but very busy community in New England. I would like to impress upon your readers the importance of having their address numbers clearly visible on their homes and businesses. On too many occasions, police, fire and rescue personnel have wasted precious time trying to find the exact location of an emergency because the homes and businesses in the area were poorly marked — or not marked at all. This could mean the difference between life or death for the persons requiring assistance.

The numbers must be large enough to be seen from the roadway in all types of weather and lighting conditions. Their color must contrast sharply with their background. Put them directly on or immediately by the front door. If the structure is set too far back from the road, place the number at the entrance to the driveway. Make them large enough to be read from a moving vehicle. Individual apartment or condo doors should be clearly numbered or lettered as well. It is a wise investment that could save your life.

PUBLIC SERVANT IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR PUBLIC SERVANT: You have written an important letter, and I'm pleased to pass along your message. Address numbers should be posted on both sides of one's mailbox, or

near a porch light so they're clearly visible at night. Do not allow hanging plants, overgrown shrubs or partially opened doors to obscure them.

Once 9-1-1 is called, if at all possible, station someone at the door or in the yard to guide the police, firefighters or emergency medical personnel in. It's also a good idea to give the 9-1-1 operator a brief description of the house. A 15-minute search for an address during an emergency can be the difference between life and death.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-something new mother, as are most of my

friends. On New Year's Eve, my husband and I invited all our friends who have small children over to ring in the new year together. The idea was that the children (all 20 months and younger) could play and fall asleep, while the adults sat back and enjoyed themselves.

The nursery was packed with little ones snug in their makeshift beds, as their moms and dads sang "Auld Lang Syne." A good time was had by all.

The next day, I received a phone call from my cousin, who attended the party. He's a police officer. He told me that two of my guests had reported \$50 stolen from their purses sometime during the evening. I was flabbergasted. All of the guests who attended are so close that my

husband and I would have trusted them with our children's lives. Now we don't know what to do. I've called each guest. No one else had money stolen, and any of us would have gladly lent funds to whoever took the cash from those purses.

What do I do now, Abby? I have lost trust in my closest friends. I had scheduled play dates for our children, but have told the other mothers not to bring their purses.

HEARTSICK IN CLEARWATER, FLA.

DEAR HEARTSICK: By notifying your guests about the unfortunate incident, you have already done the responsible thing. You have prevented it from happening again.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanna 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.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby — Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

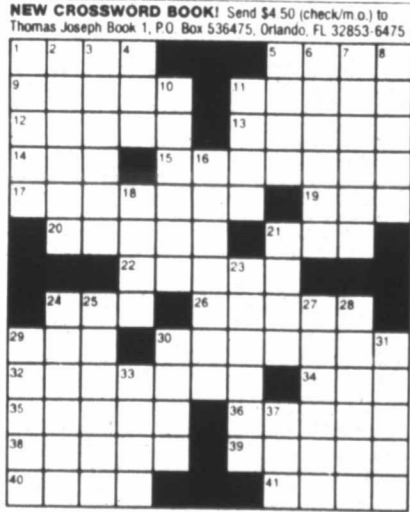
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- Ump's call
- Busted party
- Inventor
- Howe
- Less common
- Inferno describer
- Place in order
- French friend
- Bears' home
- Hole in the head
- Road goo
- See-through
- Cooling aid
- Take the wheel
- Drunk
- Display disdain
- Month after "avril"
- Beer buys
- Depleted
- Gratuity
- Sieves food
- French river
- Swimmer Janet
- Tempress
- Rational
- Left, at sea



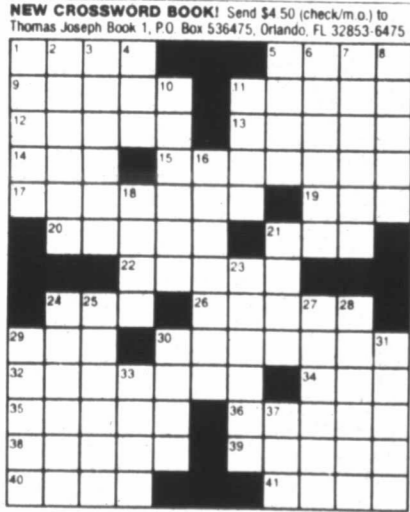
STUMPED?

For answer to today's crossword call 1-800-454-7377 99¢ per min., 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.



Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 24 Digestive aid | 29 Stable moms |
| 25 Tin Man's prop | 30 Company bigwig |
| 27 Matador's foe | 31 Used up |
| 28 "A Few Good Men" | 33 Heredity unit |
| 23 Comes in director | 37 With it |



STUMPED?

For answer to today's crossword call 1-800-454-7377 99¢ per min., 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

Marmaduke



"Now does your bath look inviting enough?"

The Family Circus



"Knowin' you're gonna have a test on it takes the fun out of reading."

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



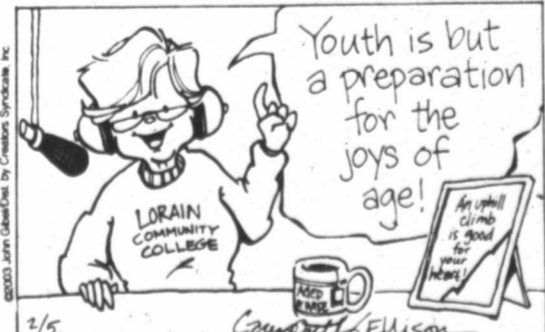
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blonde



GOLF

SAN A Pampa g opened th last week Angelo In The I shot a 7 take ninth team field shot a 17 two-day Pampa. scores wei 200 (10 Holman Carissa (116-107) Pepper 11 Andrew round totz the tour Pecos wa and Grant 693. The La entered Tourname The Pam opens tl Plainview, 15.

BASKE

BOULI — Colora ish high e 12 standi NCAA to the Buffal different a Embrac giant-kill beat a Top second tir upsetting 1 80 on Tue "This Buffaloes Patton sai postseaso "but we' work to dc don't fo with sever doesn't ma The Bul 13 points flurry that Michel tiebreaking 1:58 left. ished with assists, t three steals Morand prompted Rick Barr "the most er in the le country."

Colorac also got Blair Wils and 14 Stephanie F Brandon James Tho 19 points 5-2. The B beat then-59 on Jan. second ha lead chan flurry ove minutes. After m free throw night — h of their f Buffaloes over the fir David had 16 poi throws to g 80-74 le remaining shots, neit more than the second

SPORTS

Harvesters are heading to the playoffs

AMARILLO — Pampa escaped with 37-36 win over Caprock to earn a trip to the playoffs Tuesday night in a District 3-4A showdown.

The Harvesters, who are 7-3 in district with two regular-season games to go, clinched at least the third-place playoff spot with the victory.

Pampa is currently tied with Randall for second place.

Behind by three (37-34) with two seconds remaining, Caprock had the opportunity to knot the score when Cheston Mitchell was fouled on a 3-point shot attempt. Josh Frausto came in to shoot the three foul shots for

the Longhorns after Mitchell sustained a leg injury on the play. Frausto hit the first two free throws, but the Longhorns committed a lane violation on the third attempt. Caprock had one last chance after regaining possession when Pampa fumbled the ball out-of-bounds on the throw-in.

However, the Longhorns weren't able to get off another shot before the final buzzer sounded.

After leading by just two (21-19) at halftime, the Harvesters pulled away to lead by six (31-25) after three quarters. Some clutch plays near the end helped keep Pampa on top the

entire fourth quarter. Jen Martin hit a pair of foul shots to give Pampa a 36-31 lead with 1:41 remaining. Max Simon stole a pass with 15 seconds left and hit a free throw when he was fouled on the play to put Pampa up by 37-34.

Simon led Pampa scorers with 12 points, followed by Ryan Zemanek with 10.

Pampa had a 33-25 rebounding advantage with Zemanek collecting a dozen rebounds. Simon had 8 boards.

Mitchell led the Longhorns in scoring with 15 points and David Hernandez chipped in 9.

Martin finished with 5 points, while James Silva had 4, Johnny Moore 3, Clayton Hall 2 and Chance Bowers 1 for the Harvesters.

Pampa, 11-12 for theyear, visits Randall on Friday night.

....

Pampa's Lady Harvesters closed our their season with a 44-31 win over Caprock last night.

Senior Casey Fisher led Pampa with 14 points and 8 rebounds. Valerie Velez and Jaclyn Spearman followed with 9 points each.

It was a see-saw first half with Caprock ahead 10-6 at the end of the first quarter and Pampa in front 19-17 at halftime.

Pampa forged ahead by nine (33-24) after three quarters and never trailed in the second half.

April Brown had 12 points to lead Caprock.

Others who scored for Pampa were Stacey Johnson with 5, Tara Jordan 2, Abbi Covalt 2, Mariza Scott 2, and Callie Cobb 1.



Photo by Jerry Heasley

Pardon My Ponytail! Pampa's Stacey Johnson (10) uses her ponytail to screen out a Caprock defender on a drive to the basket.

Lions hire Mariucci as their new coach

DETROIT (AP) — Steve Mariucci successfully helped the San Francisco 49ers through a rebuilding process. The Lions are hoping he can do it again in Detroit.

Mariucci was hired as coach on Tuesday, taking over one of the league's worst teams less than three weeks after he was fired by the 49ers.

"He has tremendous experience in this league and brings unique qualities to our team," said Matt Millen, the Lions' chief executive. "Specifically, his ability to guide the 49ers through significant roster adjustments is very impressive.

"His offensive system is one that we already have in place, which certainly is a plus for our football team in general and some of our young offensive players in particular."

Terms were not disclosed, but ESPN.com reported Mariucci will earn \$25 million over five years, which would make him one of the NFL's highest-paid coaches.

Fired by the 49ers after six seasons, Mariucci becomes the Lions' fourth coach in four seasons. He replaces Marty Mornhinweg, who was fired last week after the Lions went

"His offensive system is one that we already have in place, which certainly is a plus for our football team in general and some of our young offensive players in particular."

— Matt Millen, Lions' chief executive

3-13. In two seasons, Mornhinweg was 5-27 — the worst two-year mark in team history.

Mariucci was 60-43 with the 49ers, and coached them to the playoffs four times. San Francisco was eliminated in the second round this season, losing to Tampa Bay 31-6.

Mariucci clashed with 49ers owner John York, who dismissed him three days after the loss to the Buccaneers. Mariucci's postseason record was 3-4; the Lions have just one playoff victory since winning the NFL title in 1957.

Mariucci presided over a remarkably brief rebuilding period in San Francisco, but it wasn't enough to save his job, even with a year left on his contract.

Lions defensive end Robert Porcher said he has talked to some 49ers, who gave Detroit's new coach good marks.

"They all speak very highly

of him," Porcher said. "The guy's a winner. Six years there, two titles, conference championships, four playoff appearances. That gets it done for me and it should get it done for everyone else.

"Now he comes into a situation where he's wanted, where the city is going to embrace him, where management wants him.

"I can't even begin to tell you how much pressure that takes off of you when you're somewhere and you know you're wanted."

Mariucci, born and raised in the Upper Peninsula town of Iron Mountain, was scheduled to be formally introduced at a news conference Wednesday.

He will be about 90 miles away from best friend, Tom Izzo, Michigan State's basketball coach. Mariucci and Izzo grew up together, attended Northern Michigan and talk almost daily.

"It's going to be great, really

for the same reason.

Attorney Cyrus Mehri, who along with attorney Johnnie Cochran led a campaign for more minority hiring in the NFL, said he was disappointed with Detroit's hiring process.

"By essentially crowning Mariucci as the next head coach before doing a single interview, the Lions discouraged African-American coaches from putting their hat in the ring in Detroit," Mehri said Tuesday. "Millen, in public and private statements, could not look African-American candidates in the eye and tell them they had a fair shot. I don't blame the coaches who didn't want to be a part of a sham interview."

"We're competing for the soul of the NFL, which has been based on a good old boys network, not fair competition for jobs. The ball is in the league's court now. If they condone this, they have ripped the heart out of the 'Rooney Plan,' because what Matt Millen has done harkens back to the good old boys days."

The NFL's new policy, announced in late December, said owners would seriously interview at least one minority candidate for each coaching vacancy.

Sooners, Cowboys sign several Texans to football letters

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma State and Oklahoma both signed several Texans to national letters of intent Wednesday morning.

Among the OSU signees are defensive tackle Xavier Lawson-Kennedy of Duncanville, Texas, who is ranked by most recruiting services as among the best

defensive linemen in the nation.

The Sooners, as always, had a large number of Texas recruits lined up, including linebacker Demario Pleasant

and defensive back Tony Cade, both of Lewisville, defensive lineman Steven Coleman of Dallas Skyline and defensive end John Williams of Houston Lamar.

Others who signed by Wednesday morning with OSU were quarterback Mike Friess of Wichita, Kan., and Calvin Roberts of Port Arthur, Texas.

NOTEBOOK

GOLF

SAN ANGELO — The Pampa girls' golf team opened the spring season last weekend in the San Angelo Invitational.

The Lady Harvesters shot a 797 (410-387) to take ninth place in the 16-team field. Megan Shannon shot a 179 (89-90) for the two-day event to lead Pampa. Other Pampa scores were Michelle Haley 200 (103-97), Krissy Holman (106-98) 204; Carissa Snelgrooves 223 (116-107), and Stacey Pepper 112-102 (214).

Andrews had a two-round total of 658 to win the tournament, while Pecos was second at 685, and Granbury was third at 693.

The Lady Harvesters entered in the Snyder Tournament on Feb. 14-15. The Pampa boys' team opens the season in Plainview, also on Feb. 14-15.

BASKETBALL

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Colorado might not finish high enough in the Big 12 standings to merit an NCAA tournament bid, so the Buffaloes are taking a different approach.

Embracing the role of giant-killer, the Buffaloes beat a Top 10 team for the second time in 13 days, upsetting No. 3 Texas 93-80 on Tuesday night.

"This certainly helps," Buffaloes coach Ricardo Patton said of his team's postseason aspirations, "but we've got a lot of work to do. Certainly if we don't follow this win up with several more, then it doesn't matter."

The Buffs scored the last 13 points of the game, a flurry that was triggered by Michel Morandais' tiebreaking 3-pointer with 1:58 left. Morandais finished with 24 points, seven assists, three rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

Morandais' play prompted Texas coach Rick Barnes to call him "the most underrated player in the league, maybe the country."

Colorado (13-7, 3-4) also got 23 points from Blair Wilson and 18 points and 14 rebounds from Stephane Pelle.

Brandon Mouton and James Thomas each scored 19 points for Texas (14-4, 5-2).

The Buffaloes, who beat then-No. 6 Kansas 60-59 on Jan. 22, broke open a second half that had 19 lead changes with their flurry over the final two minutes.

After misfiring from the free throw line most of the night — hitting only nine of their first 20 — the Buffaloes went 12-of-14 over the final 3:19.

David Harrison, who had 16 points, hit two free throws to give Colorado an 80-74 lead with 2:50 remaining. Until those foul shots, neither team led by more than four points in the second half.

FEB

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2003

Report: State budget gaps jump by nearly 50 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The flood of red ink for state governments just keeps rising: Expected budget shortfalls jumped by close to 50 percent in the past three months, and the situation is expected to worsen, the National Conference of State Legislatures said Tuesday.

The deteriorating situation could prompt more cuts in a wide range of programs such as elementary schools, health care for the poor and more. Additionally, it will increase pressure on state lawmakers to raise taxes.

"It's dismal and probably getting worse," said Nebraska state Sen. Roger Wehrbein, who heads his state's budget-writing Appropriations Committee. "Even if the economy turns around, we don't go to war and oil prices don't go up, it'll still be two or three years before we see improvements in state revenue."

Oklahoma state Sen. Angela Monson, who presented the findings of a conference study at a news con-

ference, said if the federal government doesn't help, many states will have no choice but to raise taxes and fees.

"If there was a Utopia, the 'no tax' option would be great," Monson said. "But there is an expectation that state government will meet certain needs — education, health, roads."

Several states are already discussing raising so-called sin taxes, on cigarettes or alcohol, while others are pushing gambling to raise revenue, like Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich's proposal to put thousands of slot machines at the state's racetracks.

Monson and others from the bipartisan legislators' organization criticized the \$2.3 trillion federal budget that President Bush proposed Monday. The plan, they said, fails to provide billions needed for education, homeland security and election reform, or to provide enough help to offset soaring costs of Medicaid,

the federal-state health care program for the poor.

The report's findings were compiled from data collected during the first six months of the fiscal year, which began July 1 for all but four states. Among findings:

—The collective budget shortfall for state governments jumped nearly 50 percent between November and January, rising from \$17.5 billion to \$25.7 billion, despite scaled-back spending plans.

—Next year's projected shortfall is \$68.5 billion now, but analysts said that probably will get higher as revenues continue sagging. That's a jump of almost 40 percent from this year's estimate of \$49 billion. Last year's shortfall hit \$37 billion.

—Thirty-six states reported gaps between income and spending; 15 states were missing money equal to 5 percent or more of their budgets.

The faltering economy, along with weakness in the stock market, manufacturing and the high-tech industry, drove down tax revenues. Add soaring health care to the mix, and "there is no immediate end to these severe budget troubles," the report said.

In his 2004 budget plan, Bush heeded governors' request for flexibility on federal rules. He proposed to give states more latitude in spending federal money for Medicaid and for Head Start preschools in low-income neighborhoods.

Bush's plan also would increase federal grants to state and local governments by nearly 4 percent to \$398.8 billion, about 18 percent of the budget. More than \$18 billion of the increase, however, is in mandated benefit programs such as Medicaid. For discretionary grant programs, Bush is asking Congress for \$154.1 billion, down from \$157.8 billion

this year. An analysis of Bush's proposal by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a group that focuses on how policies affect poor people, concludes it would reduce tax revenues for the states by \$64 billion over 10 years.

In 2000, when the economy was booming, states had roughly 10 percent of their spending put aside in reserves and cash. By last summer, that was down to 3.8 percent. It has fallen since, though final numbers aren't yet available, said Corina Eckl, the legislative conference's fiscal affairs director.

Twenty-nine states have imposed across-the-board budget cuts, and eight states have laid off workers. Others cut various programs, including elementary and higher education, Medicaid and corrections.

Next year promises to be worse, the report found. Again, 36 states reported

they expect a shortfall, and half said it would equal at least 10 percent of their budget.

The problems stretched nationwide. In California, a conservative estimate of next year's gap equaled 30 percent of the budget; in New Jersey, the budget shortfall equaled 18.5 percent. Minnesota's is 15 percent.

Several governors who campaigned on no-tax platforms, including New York Gov. George Pataki and Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, both Republicans. They maintain their states will get through without tax increases, but 24 states are considering such hikes.

On the Net: National Conference of State Legislatures:

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: <http://www.cbpp.org/>

CASA seeking volunteers

If you've always wanted to make a difference in the world, here's your chance. Every year more than a million children are abused and neglected and every year these children's futures are put at risk. But you can make a difference. By standing up for these children and speaking on their behalf, you'll help ensure that these children find safe, permanent homes — something every child deserves. Become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and change one life at a time.

CASA of the High Plains will be holding an informational meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3 in fellowship hall of Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N.

Banks. Come and find out how you can more about this special program.

Every year, the state of Texas removes thousands of children from their homes because of abuse or neglect. These victimized children are drawn into an overburdened child welfare system that is hard-pressed to address their individual concerns. Eventually, they end up in court.

CASA is a nonprofit agency that trains and supports volunteers to work with these children as they journey toward safe, loving and permanent homes. The CASA volunteer is frequently the most consistent person in the child's life during this crucial involvement with the court.

By EMILY GERSEMA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than half of 35 large meat processing factories reviewed recently by the government had shortcomings in their plans for protecting meat from harmful bacteria.

A preliminary assessment showed that 21 of the plants had problems with their plans to prevent E. coli contamination, Garry McKee, the Agriculture Department's food safety administrator, said Tuesday.

The problems in the plans were "scientific design issues and not food safety issues," he said.

Steven Cohen, an agency spokesman, said most of the plants failed to keep records up to date.

Department officials began checking plants last fall to ensure they were following

written plans to prevent E. coli, a bacterium that can cause food poisoning, from contaminating meat. Plants that didn't follow their strategies were sent letters telling them to correct the problems within 30 days, Cohen said.

The government requires plants to create their own prevention plans, known as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point strategies.

"If plants don't conduct their hazard analysis correctly, or there's something wrong with their HACCP plan — the way that they reassessed it and so forth — there will be actions taken," warned Elsa Murano, the department's undersecretary for food safety.

The department has been criticized by members of

Congress and consumer groups for how it handled large meat recalls last year that were linked to several illnesses. For instance, ConAgra Beef in Greeley, Colo., recalled 19 million pounds of ground beef after it was linked to an E. coli outbreak that sickened 22 people.

Carol Tucker Foreman, head of the Consumer Federation of America's Food Policy Institute, said plants are endangering public health in failing to adhere to their prevention plans.

"If there's a scientific design problem, either there's something wrong with the notion about what HACCP ought to be, or the HACCP notion is fine but companies are operating in such a way

that they're going to have a

food safety problem," she said.

The department is slated to complete its assessment of E. coli prevention plans at all plants by this summer, Cohen said.

President Bush proposed spending \$675 million on food safety next year in the budget he submitted to Congress on Monday. Murano said \$5.5 million of that would finance training of plant inspectors and \$4.3 million would be spent to hire 80 new ones. The agency now has 7,610 inspectors.

In addition, \$18 million would support the USDA's Office of Food Security and Emergency Preparedness to defend against terrorists' attempts to taint the food supply.

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	TIF Grant Special Revenue Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:					
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 1,397,827	\$ -	\$ 108,272	\$ 19,156	\$ 1,525,255
5800 State Program Revenues	484,548	-	-	18,667	503,215
5900 Federal Program Revenues	-	-	-	63,262	63,262
5020 Total Revenues	1,882,375	-	108,272	101,085	2,091,732
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011 Instruction	802,264	-	-	47,706	849,970
0012 Instructional Resources & Media Services	13,183	-	-	-	13,183
0013 Curriculum & Instructional Staff Development	404	-	-	1,554	1,958
0023 School Leadership	107,604	-	-	-	107,604
0031 Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Services	38,373	-	-	-	38,373
0033 Health Services	28,280	-	-	-	28,280
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	41,050	-	-	-	41,050
0035 Food Services	-	-	-	79,623	79,623
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	158,360	-	-	-	158,360
0041 General Administration	122,034	-	-	-	122,034
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operation	420,387	-	-	-	420,387
0053 Data Processing Services	52,856	-	-	-	52,856
Debt Service:					
0071 Debt Service - Principal on long-term debt	-	-	70,000	-	70,000
0171 Debt Service - Interest on long-term debt	-	-	15,076	-	15,076
Intergovernmental:					
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	16,056	-	-	-	16,056
6030 Total Expenditures	1,800,851	-	85,076	128,883	2,014,810
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	81,524	-	23,196	(27,798)	76,922
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7912 Sale of Real and Personal Property	-	-	-	150	150
7915 Transfers In	-	-	-	27,576	27,576
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(27,576)	-	-	-	(27,576)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(27,576)	-	-	27,726	150
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	53,948	-	23,196	(72)	77,072
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	560,082	-	818	1,726	562,626
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 614,030	\$ -	\$ 24,014	\$ 1,654	\$ 639,698

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