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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2003

NEWS

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WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH	LOW
48	31

LOCAL

PISD board eyes search consultant

Pampa Independent School District's Board of Education plans to consider contracting a consultant to help them in the search for a new superintendent during a special meeting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Carver Center, 321 W. Albert.

Consideration of a contract with the Texas Association of School Boards to conduct a superintendent search is among the items listed on the agenda.

Board members plan to discuss an interim superintendent contract with Jane Steele, according to the agenda. Steele, assistant superintendent for instruction, was named as interim superintendent on Jan. 14.

Also scheduled for Thursday's meeting is the school districts representatives for banking and investment accounts with Texpool, Lone Star Investment Pool and FirstBank Southwest.

DEATHS

Juanita Mae Dodds, 88, school secretary.

INSIDE...

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West Texas LANDSCAPE

It's Planting Season

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Carson Co. sex inquiry headed for grand jury

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

PANHANDLE - Two Carson County men have been arrested in a sexual assault investigation involving five females 14-years-old and under.

The investigation has been ongoing since early December, officials say.

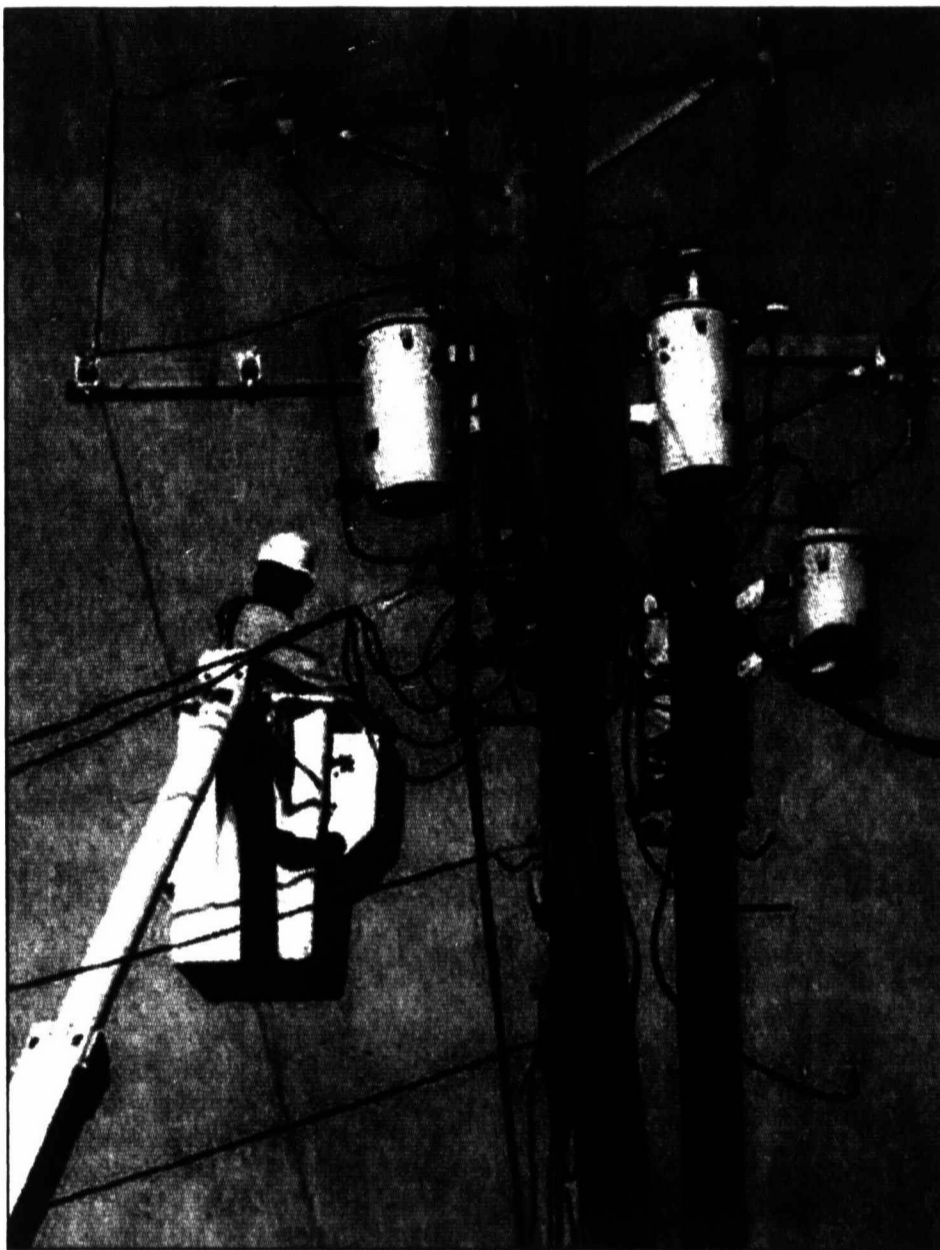
Carson County Sheriff Gary Robertson said this morning the investigation also involves seven males who are 17 to their early 20s. The young men have allegedly been accused in the incidents which have been occurring for the past year to 18 months.

Matt Kirby, 18, White Deer, was arrested by Carson County Sheriff's Department in mid-January on a charge of sexual assault while Shelton Watson, 20, Panhandle, was arrested for sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault and indecency with a child.

Justice of the Peace Phyllis Tyler set \$15,000 bond on Kirby. Watson's bond on each charge was \$5,000, totaling \$15,000. Both men met the bond requirements and are free on bond.

Sheriff Robertson said the investigation began in early December when one

(See INQUIRY, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

An Xcel employee examines the electrical lines in the alley of the 1900 block of North Hobart Tuesday afternoon where a fellow employee suffered 7,620 volts of electricity through his body while working there earlier. Ricky Urquhart, 35, of Pampa remained in critical condition this morning at a Lubbock burn unit.

Electric worker critical

Powerline burns Pampa man, 35

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

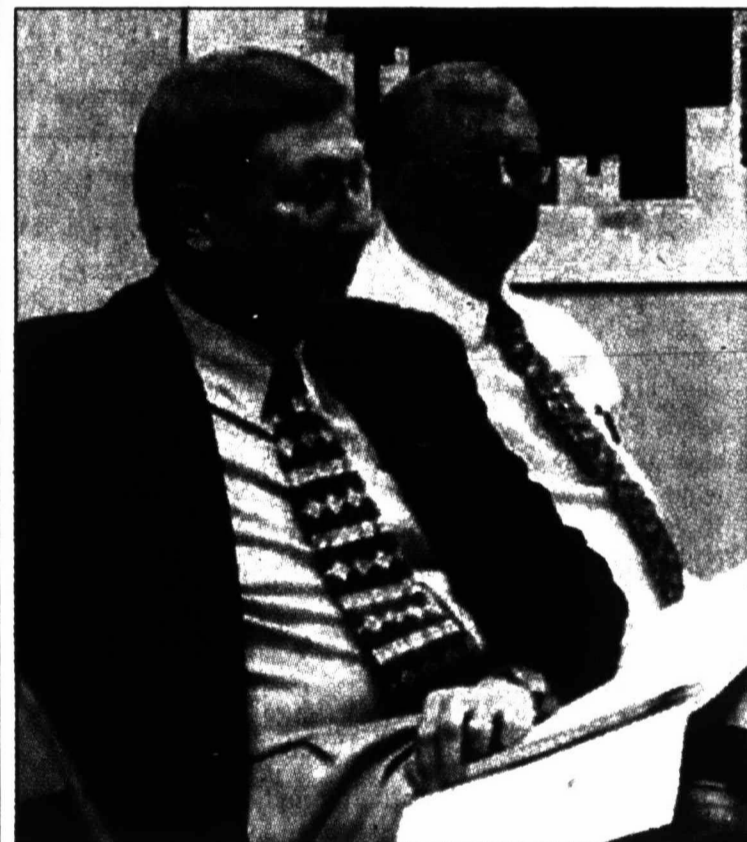
Xcel lineman Ricky J. Urquhart, 35, remained in critical but stable condition this morning at Lubbock's University Medical Center's Medical after an industrial accident Tuesday afternoon in the 1900 block of North Hobart.

Urquhart was injured by contact with an energized distribution line in the alley behind a local carwash at 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, according to Xcel Energy spokesman Bill Crenshaw. The line carried 7,620 volts of electricity, he said.

The electricity entered through his left shoulder with the exit wound being in his right hand, said Crenshaw.

"This morning medical personnel at UMC reported he was in critical, but stable condition," said Crenshaw. "His vital signs were also reported to

(See WORKER, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Pampa Public Works Director Richard Morris, left, discusses a request by Centramedia to place antennae on the city water towers for DSL service to local residents as Finance Director John Horst listens. The commission took no action on the request.

City eyes fee hikes

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

Discussion surrounding the possibility of raising several fees to some local utility customers occupied most of the work session of Pampa City Commission meeting Tuesday evening.

City Manager Mitch Grant presented a proposed fee increase to the commission regarding returned checks, reconnect fees and late payments.

Currently, the penalty assessed by the City of Pampa is an added five percent of the charges if the bill is not paid before it is considered a late pay, according to Grant. The proposal he submitted suggests that the late fee be set at 10 percent. He said the city is lagging behind area towns on their charges for several fees.

Commissioner Jeff Andrews said that all the area towns charge 10 percent with the exception of White Deer.

"They charge a flat \$15 fee which sounds OK unless your bill was \$60," he said. "Then it becomes a 25 percent late charge."

Commissioner Jeff McCormick expressed reservations about the fee increases saying, "I

don't want to put a hardship on the people."

Finance Director John Horst said one philosophy which has been considered is that if people would pay their bills on time they wouldn't be charged a late fee. He said the City of Pampa is currently sending 2,000 late notices to customers a month. He said the postage for the late notices runs \$10,000 annually.

Recently-hired Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner told the commission that the town he came from stopped sending late notices to city customers a couple of years ago because of the expense.

"They all knew what the cutoff date was," he said, "and it was often the same people each month who just didn't pay until the last date allowed."

Pitner said not sending the late notices saved the city money and made the customer responsible.

A city employee said approximately 200 accounts are turned off a month for non-payment.

Commissioner Faustina Curry said she had a problem with increasing the amount for late

(See FEES, Page 3)

Congress' division on Iraq evident

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are closing ranks, Democrats voicing doubts, after President Bush's State of the Union vow to use the "full force and might of the U.S. military" if needed to disarm Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

"Unless we stand fast and stand strong, the forces of evil will not disappear," House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said Tuesday night after Bush's speech before Congress and a global television audience that included U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf. "This is not the time for the timid leadership offered by the naysayers."

But Bush had scarcely completed his condemnation of the Iraqi leader — including an explicit, prime time listing of Iraqi torture techniques — when

'This is not the time for the timid leadership offered by the naysayers.'

- Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. Speaker of the House

Sen. Edward Kennedy issued a fresh challenge. "Instead of rushing down the path to war with Iraq, the American people deserve a full debate," the Massachusetts Democrat said.

Congress voted last fall to authorize military action, but Kennedy said he wanted to require Bush to give Congress "convincing evidence of an imminent threat" before sending troops to war.

Half of the president's speech — delivered to a crowded House chamber and with hundreds of protesters on the

Capitol lawn outside — was devoted to domestic policy, a recognition that the economy needs mending and that the new GOP-controlled Congress is eager to tackle issues ranging from overhauling Medicare to curtailing abortion to limiting damage awards from medical malpractice lawsuits.

With the polls showing a decline in support for his handling of the economy, Bush pressed Congress to give swift approval to the \$674 billion in tax cuts.

"Jobs are created when the economy grows; the economy grows when Americans have more money to spend and invest; and the best, fairest way to make sure that Americans have that money is not to tax it away in the first place," the president said.

Bush did not say so, but the centerpiece of his program, elimination of the tax on corporate dividends, has

'Instead of rushing down the path to war with Iraq, the American people deserve a full debate.'

- Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

elicited almost universal opposition from Democrats, and few expressions of enthusiasm from Republicans.

Even as people were still talking about Bush's speech, the Congressional Budget Office came out Wednesday with daunting new projections of red-ink problems in the immediate future.

The nonpartisan office projected deficits of \$199 billion this year and \$145 billion in 2004 — even if no new tax cuts or spending increases are

(See SPEECH, Page 3)

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ON RECORD

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Friday, Jan. 25

1:08 p.m. — A 1995 Buick Century driven by Brenda B. Willhite, 62, of Vega, and a 2000 Ford F-150 pickup driven by Joe Thomas Benett, 77, of Lefors, collided at Price Road and Kentucky Avenue. Willhite was cited for running a stop sign. A passenger in the pickup, Betty Word, 72, 2237 N. Zimmers, reported possible injuries at the scene but refused transport by ambulance for treatment.

Saturday, Jan. 26

1:30 p.m. — A 1992 Dodge Dakota pickup driven by Sharon Renee Gage, 22, 319 Davis, and a 1997 Ford F-150 pickup driven by Christian Edward Bruce, 23, 1710 Aspen, collided at Roberta and Buckler streets. A city street sign also sustained approximately \$120 damage as a result of the collision. Gage was cited for no insurance.

failure to control speed, and failure to yield right of way at an open intersection. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Monday, Jan. 27

5:39 p.m. — A child got a ball out of the front seat of a 1979 Ford F-150 pickup belonging to Joseph Garcia, 712 S. Finley, parked in the driveway at 412 N. Hill. When the child left the pickup, the pickup rolled out of the driveway across the street and struck a fence and porch at 411 N. Hill, property owned by Teresa Henson, 515 E. Craven. No citations were listed on the police report.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

5:50 p.m. — A 1994 Chevrolet Suburban driven by Ricky Lynn Russwurm, 49, of Dumas, and a 2000 Chevrolet Cavalier driven by Kelly Jackson Porter, 42, 1900 Grape, collided in the 200 block of Randy Matson Avenue. No citations were listed. No injuries were reported at the scene.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following call during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

1:18 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1900 block

of North Hobart. An Excel employee was electrocuted while working on a powerline. (See related story, Page 1.)

OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

DODDS, Juanita Mae — 2 p.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa.
HARRICK, Edra Aubrey — 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, Quanah.

**JUANITA MAE DODDS
1914-2002**

Juanita Mae Dodds, 88, of Pampa, died Monday, Jan. 27, 2003, at Pampa, Texas. Services will be at 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 30, 2003, at Central Baptist Church with the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mrs. Dodds was born Aug. 24, 1914, to Dal and Jessie Fultz Trusty on the family farm in Wheeler County. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1935.

She married Hollis Bob Dodds on March 13, 1937, in Mobeetie. He preceded her in death on July 9, 1943.

She was a school secretary at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School for 26 years.

She was a member of the Central Baptist Church for 60 years. She was an avid fisherman.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Sue and David Wilson of Las Vegas, Nev., and Kathleen and Jim Greene of Pampa; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 2013 Williston in Pampa and requests memorials be to Fellowship of Christian Cowboys, P.O. Box 91, Pampa, TX 79066-0091.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.



SHERIFF

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

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Gary Don Wheat, 34, 1340 Terrace, was arrested by Constable Chris Lockridge on charges of forgery and fraudulent use or possession of identifying information. He was released on bond.

Judith Johnson, 46, 414 N. Crest, was arrested to serve a sentence for driving while intoxicated.

STOCKS

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

Wheat	3.27	KMI	45.50	-0.13
Milo	3.90	XCEL	11.28	-0.17
Corn	4.44	Kerr McGee	42.34	+0.01
Soybeans	4.94	Limited	12.56	-0.04
		Williams	3.45	-0.06
		McDonalds	14.36	-0.31
		Exxon Mobil	33.74	+1.08
		Atmos	21.76	+0.06
		Pioneer Nat	24.00	+0.17
		Penney's	19.26	+0.07
		COP	47.28	+1.37
		Schlumberger	37.06	+0.42
		Tenneco	3.70	-0.07
		CVX	64.76	+1.81
		Wal-Mart	47.62	-0.56
		OKE	17.19	-0.06
		NS Group	6.60	-0.08
BP	37.65	+1.16		
Celanese	19.04	-0.32		
Cabot Corp	24.23	-0.28		
Cabot Oil Gas	23.10	+0.11		
Coca Cola	40.19	+0.91	New York Gold	369.65
VLO	34.48	+1.38	Silver	4.87
			West Texas Crude	32.67

The following show prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

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

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents.

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Clayton Johnson, 37, 1441 Charles, was arrested on capias pro fines for failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired registration, and driving with a suspended license.

Julian Dominguez Lopez, 23, 1130 S. Christy, was arrested on a capias pro fine for minor in possession of alcohol, and municipal warrants for driving with license suspended and failure to appear.

The rear glass on a vehicle in the 100 block of South Sumner was broken out causing an estimated \$400 damage.

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday, Jan. 28

1:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hobart; one patient was transported to LifeStar.

1:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Mary Ellen for lifting assistance.

Wednesday, Jan. 29

5:28 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of Coffee; one patient was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

CARSON CO. SHERIFF

Carson County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests.

Dec. 31-Jan. 5

Eleven persons were booked into the Carson County Jail during the week of Dec. 31-Jan. 5.

Arrested during the week were:

Tiffany Knox, 21, Claude, was arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Corrina Liendo, 22, Panhandle, was arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Rebecca Wurm, 20, Phoenix, Ariz., was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of

marijuana less than two ounces.

Charles Day, 24, Pleasant Valley, Mo., was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

Edwin Valenti, 40, Phoenix, Ariz., was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

Harry George, Jr., 58, White Deer, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Scott Maxwell, 28, Panhandle, was arrested for

assault causing bodily injury in family violence.

Nicole Culwell, 23, Borger, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance more than one gram but less than four grams.

Cody Walesiak, 30, Borger, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance more than one gram but less than four grams.

Jerry Prowell, 49, Marion, Ky., was arrested for possession of marijuana more than four ounces but less than five pounds.

Stephen Sugar, 24, Pampa, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, first offense.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for cloudy to partly cloudy skies and cooler temperatures with highs in the upper 40s and northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight should be mostly clear with lows in the lower 30s and light winds. Thursday should be mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Thursday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. West winds 5 to 15 mph. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Northeast

winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Saturday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Saturday night, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Monday night, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Tuesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

STATEWIDE

Temperatures dropped early Wednesday as a new cold front moved southward through Texas, bringing fog to central and southern parts of the state.

Cloudy skies prevailed across South Texas, where fog was lowering visibilities to one-half mile across the Coastal Bend. Fog also shrouded parts of the Hill Country.

Skies were mostly cloudy across the Panhandle and West Plains as well as the Edwards Plateau. It was partly cloudy across the rest of West Texas.

The front extended northwest of line from Paris through Fort Worth to Junction and the Edwards Plateau south of San Angelo. Low clouds spread to all but west central sections of the state overnight.

Early-morning temperatures were in the 50s and 60s ahead of the front and in the 30s and 40s behind it. Extremes ranged from 30 degrees at Dalhart, Dimmitt and Friona to 65 at Houston.

Other readings were 39 degrees at Wichita Falls, 45 at Marfa and 64 degrees at Lufkin.

Winds were mostly southerly to southwesterly at 10 to 20 mph south of the front and northerly to northwesterly at 15 to 20 mph behind the front. Across South Texas, winds were southerly at 5 to 10 mph, but northerly at 10 to 15 mph across the west.

Skies should become sunny across the west and north on Thursday. Daytime highs should range from the 40s and 50s in the northern half of West Texas to 60s and a few 70s in the south and along the Rio Grande.

Overnight lows were expected in the 20s and 30s.

City Briefs

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

ALL YOU Can Eat Shriener Stew & Corn Bread, Sun, Feb. 2, 11am-2pm at Top O' Texas Sportsman's Club. Adults \$5.50, Kids Under 5 Free.

CALF FRIES, Moose Lodge, Thurs. 7 p.m., Members & Guests.

MEREDITH HOUSE has a Respite Room avail, for temporary care. 24 hr. licensed assisted liv. 665-5668.

FAIRVIEW CEMETARY will begin picking up Christmas decorations on Jan. 3rd

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FEES

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SPEED

enacted. T obtained by Press, mark decline in wh years of stea government's expectations. Gov Gar Washington, formal response, administration "upside dow that offered a too heavily wealthy and o way of immed Congressio generally supp tive that woul \$300 per per and offer billi to cash-strappo In his spee urged Congre year on his \$4 year plan to strengthen Seniors who l rent coverage s mitted to retai Others "shou choice of a he

INQUIR

of the girls tol about the incid the counselor sheriff's dep required by law He said th majority of occurred in Wh "There was gang involv sheriff. "We th it was a prostit first, but upon the deputies d wasn't. It was stance type Technically by against the law the age of the v He said the l a person who or knowingly h victim 13 or y violation of the



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FEES

payers. Mayor Lonny Robbins said that often times it is a lack of self-discipline.

City employees said any time a customer is having health difficulties they will work with them.

Commissioner Bob Dixon asked about the door hangers to remind customers of their bill, and was told the service stopped two years ago when the city made cut-backs. Dixon said he was in favor of discontinuing the second-notice to the customers, also.

The city currently receives \$52,800 annually in late payment fees. If the amount is increased to 10 percent, that amount would double.

No action was taken.

Another fee discussed to increase are returned check fee which is currently \$15. It would increase to \$25. Grant said the city receives approximately 250 hot checks a year and that the revenue increase would be \$2,500.

Reconnect fees during office hours are currently \$10 and would change to \$20. At present there 576 accounts reconnected during office hours, and it would generate an annual \$5,760 increase.

Accounts reconnected after-hours are currently charged \$15 and the amount would go to \$20 if the proposal passes. There were 312 requests for reconnections after hours last year. Based on that number, an additional \$6,240 would be generated by the city.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SPEECH

enacted. The new figures, obtained by The Associated Press, marked the latest decline in what has been two years of steady decay in the government's economic expectations.

Gov. Gary Locke of Washington, delivering the formal Democratic response, accused the administration of pursuing "upside down economics" that offered a tax cut tilted too heavily toward the wealthy and offered little by way of immediate stimulus.

Congressional Democrats generally support an alternative that would cut taxes by \$300 per person this year, and offer billions of dollars to cash-strapped states.

In his speech, Bush also urged Congress to act this year on his \$400 billion, 10-year plan to "overhaul and strengthen Medicare." Seniors who like their current coverage should be permitted to retain it, he said. Others "should have the choice of a health plan that

provides prescription drugs," added the president, who was traveling to Grand Rapids, Mich., Wednesday to seek support for his program.

Bush said he would send Powell to the United Nations next week to "present information and intelligence about Iraq's illegal weapons program."

He said the Iraqi leader has not accounted for up to 25,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulin toxin, 500 tons of sarin, mustard gas and VX nerve agent and some 30,000 munitions that can be equipped with chemical weapons.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, denied that.

"The accusations of Mr. Bush in his statement last night are baseless, simply baseless," he said in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Said Bush: "Some have said we must not act until the threat is imminent. Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein is not a strategy, and it is not an option."

Key allies, including France and Germany, oppose military action in Iraq at present and want Bush to give U.N. weapons inspectors more time. On that point, the president said, "We will consult, but let there be no misunderstanding: If Saddam Hussein does not fully disarm, for the safety of our people, and for the peace of the world, we will lead a coalition to disarm him."

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle remained unconvinced.

"Before we commit the first life, the first American soldier in Iraq, we need to have more positive proof," he said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the House Democratic leader, said Bush "did not make a convincing case that the use of force now is the only way to disarm Iraq, or that removing Saddam from power would guarantee that a new regime would not pursue the same policies.

Troops search Afghan caves after fierce battle with rebels

By MARK KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) — American forces were carefully combing through a vast cave network on a steep mountain slope Wednesday after the fiercest battle in Afghanistan in nearly a year, the U.S. military said. Two men detained in the fighting were being questioned.

The fighting had died down by Wednesday morning, but the flare-up has served as a stark reminder that the war in Afghanistan is not over, even as the possibility of a new conflict looms in Iraq.

Hundreds of U.S. and coalition ground forces were in the area Wednesday, and an array of sophisticated air weaponry was called in to pummel the mountainside with earth-shattering bombs. There were no reports of coalition casualties.

U.S. and coalition troops had their hands full Wednesday searching through scores of caves found so far in the frigid southeastern mountain area, said Col. Roger King, a spokesman for the U.S. military at Bagram Air Base.

"At least 160 caves have been counted so far, quite possibly more than that," King said. "The search will be conducted in a deliberate manner to try to ensure that we don't miss anything."

King said soldiers had gone through 30 caves so far. They have detained two enemy fighters and found 107mm rockets and other weapons. The military had estimated on Tuesday that about 80 fighters were holed up in the mountain, but on Wednesday said the figure could be significantly

lower. The earlier number was based on the interrogation of a man detained after a firefight near the southeastern town of Spinboldak, who led Americans to the mountain site, about 15 miles to the north.

"We never had eyes on anywhere near that many (enemy fighters). The most that we ever saw at any one time was approximately 15 to 18, and most of those we believe didn't escape," King said. The military has said it killed 18 enemy fighters. "There were probably others

in the area, so there is the potential for more people to be there."

King said the military believes the men were followers of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a renegade warlord who has allegedly linked his forces with remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida.

"The man who was detained talked about a link to Hezb-e-Islami, which is Hekmatyar's military group. We had other intelligence that I cannot go into that also indicated the involvement of this group," King said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WORKER

be good."

Crenshaw added that a family member this morning reported the injured lineman's condition seemed to be improved from Tuesday evening.

Urquhart, formerly of Amarillo, has been employed by Xcel since 1993.

Rural/Metro Ambulance Service personnel immediately requested a LifeStar helicopter upon responding to the accident scene. They were assisted at the scene by Pampa firefighters. The ambulance met LifeStar several miles west of Pampa and transferred Urquhart to the waiting helicopter. The Amarillo-based medical helicopter then transferred the injured man directly to Lubbock's UMC Burn Unit.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

INQUIRY

of the girls told a counselor about the incidents. In turn, the counselor notified the sheriff's department as required by law.

He said that the vast majority of encounters occurred in White Deer.

"There was no ring or gang involved," said the sheriff. "We thought maybe it was a prostitution ring at first, but upon investigation the deputies determined it wasn't. It was a happenstance type of thing. Technically by law, it is against the law because of the age of the victims."

He said the law reads that a person who intentionally or knowingly has sex with a victim 13 or younger is in violation of the statute.

"Upon investigation there was no force. Maybe coercion, but not force," Robertson said. He said it was consensual sex because there was no force. "That's why they have the law."

Robertson said the results of the investigation are being turned over to District Attorney Stuart Messer. He said the cases will go to the Carson County grand jury as aggravated sexual assault

charges. The next date the grand jury meets is Feb. 7.

Editor's Note: The Pampa News contacted the Carson County Sheriff's Office on Jan. 13 and Jan. 17 attempting to gather information on this case. On both occasions, staff members were told by a sheriff's department spokesman that it was an "open case" and the sheriff had no comment.


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 AND CARPORTS

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Server at Family Restaurant Has to Carry Niece's Load

DEAR ABBY: I am putting myself through college working nights as a server in a small, family-owned restaurant. There are only two servers working nights, and a couple of nights a week, I share my shift with "Jane."
 Jane takes her table orders, then expects me to deliver the food, refill drinks, and anything else the people at her tables might need — in addition to working my own tables.
 My problem is that many of the patrons at Jane's tables directly hand me their tip, saying I deserve it more than she does. Even though I don't think Jane deserves to be tipped, I feel guilty taking the money and always end up putting it in Jane's tip jar. Also, according to our employer's policy, I could get fired for keeping the money.
 To make matters worse, Jane is the boss's niece. This makes me reluctant to take the problem to him. Would it be wrong for me to tell the patrons at Jane's tables that I can't keep their tips, and leave it up to them whether they leave anything for Jane? Maybe it would force Jane to work harder. Or should I keep things "as is" and not cause trouble?

With your experience, you are an attractive candidate for a job elsewhere. Start looking.

DEAR ABBY: My mother and I were discussing the traditional custom of tossing the bride's bouquet at my wedding two years ago. The young girl who ended up catching it was only 12. Mom had no problem with it at the time, but now she does. She says that single females trying to catch the bouquet should be of marrying age — and the child who caught mine should never have been allowed to participate.
 At most of the weddings I've attended since then, I have observed very young girls (some as young as 3) vying for the bouquet, as well as little boys scrambling to catch the bride's garter thrown by the groom. (At my wedding, the "winner" was a boy of 14.) What do you think about this, Abby? Is my mother right?
MOTHER AND DAUGHTER
IN HOUSTON

troops all year long. Will your Web site, www.OperationDearAbby.net, continue to be available to use all year to support the men and women in our military?
JUDY IN FLORIDA

DEAR JUDY: Absolutely! In the past, readers have complained because Operation Dear Abby was limited to Nov. 15 to Jan. 15. OperationDearAbby.net is now year-round. All messages will be relayed to our troops via a secure military site, which means they'll be bug-free and virus-free in every sense of the word.

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

WORKING MY WAY THROUGH SCHOOL IN INDIANA
DEAR WORKING: I have a "tip" for you. The boss's niece feels entitled, and in the interest of family unity, your boss will probably back her up. This can't be the only restaurant in town.

DEAR MOTHER AND DAUGHTER: Since catching a bouquet or garter is no guarantee that the person will be the next to marry (it's "up for grabs"), I see no reason why any guest should be excluded.

DEAR ABBY: I belong to two organizations whose members would love to send messages to our



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD
 By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
 3 Gets a hard copy of
 5 Egg pie
 11 Beige
 12 Like needs
 13 Leg part
 14 Skilled folks
 15 Farm layer
 16 Moxie member
 17 Hackneyed
 19 Place for a pint
 22 Wash-room feature
 24 Get a goal
 26 Tiny bit
 27 Equip
 28 Compete with a lance
 30 McCoy's nickname
 31 Fitting
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 34 Eats
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 41 Elevator part
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 43 Greek liqueur
 44 Temple leaders
 45 Flight unit
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AROMA HENCE
TYSON WEEP

Yesterday's answer
 23 On the roof of
 25 Farmer's concern
 29 Gauquin's home
 30 Violinist's need
 33 Naps
 34 Beach crawler
 36 Seep
 37 Plummet
 38 Cigarette ingredient
 39 Gardner of film
 40 Feeding time aid
 41 Uno doubled

Marmaduke



The Family Circus



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STUMPED?
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Flo & Friends



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BASEBALL

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SPORTS

Texas A&M makes a game of it against OU

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — The result against Texas A&M was the same as usual for No. 6 Oklahoma, although the game was clearly different.

The Aggies, who had lost by an average of 25 points in their four previous visits to Norman, made a game of it after falling behind by 19 in the second half Tuesday night.

Oklahoma wound up winning 75-68, extending the nation's longest home winning streak to 33 games. But the Sooners had to work for it. "We all headed down the same path tonight and Texas A&M, they didn't stop playing," Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson said. "We were up

19 and looked like we were getting ready to blow the thing out, but Texas A&M kept playing."

Hollis Price scored 24 and Ebi Ere had 18 for the Sooners (14-3, 5-1 Big 12), who beat A&M for the seventh straight time and ran their record in the series to 18-1.

Bernard King scored 21 for the Aggies (10-6, 2-3) to become the school's career scoring leader.

He moved past Vernon Smith, who scored 1,778 points from 1977-81.

"We could have easily folded but we kept playing hard," King said. "I felt we had a chance to win the game, but

we just didn't have it in us tonight. They were the better team."

Oklahoma put together a 14-0 run in the first half to get control after a listless start. The Aggies led 13-9 before Price made a 3-pointer and followed with a short bank shot. Ere added a short jumper and two free throws in the spurt.

The Aggies, meanwhile, went scoreless for nearly seven minutes, missing nine shots and turning it over twice.

Oklahoma scored the first seven points of the second half to build a 48-29 lead. Texas A&M gradually

chipped away and got within 68-61 with 3:44 left. The Aggies nearly cut the margin to four, but a 3-point try by Kevin Turner with 2:55 remaining rimmed out.

"I think some leprechaun or something knocked it off," Watkins said. "Do they have leprechauns around here? They have Hollis Price. He's better than a leprechaun."

Price was 7-of-12 from the floor, 4-of-7 from 3-point range and made all six of his free throws. He didn't score in the final 10:32, but had an assist on a late basket and played solid defense as the Aggies rallied.

"We wanted to try to stop

Hollis and let other players beat us," Turner said. "That's hard, as you can see."

Ere came in averaging 15.4 points per game, but had gone four straight games in single figures while shooting 9-of-48.

He continued to struggle with his shot, going 5-of-14 including 1-of-6 from 3-point range, but he scored 13 first-half points in part because he was more aggressive driving to the basket.

"I wanted to get to the basket first, get a couple of easy buckets, then step out and try to shoot 3s later in the game," Ere said. "But they still weren't falling."

NOTEBOOK

AUTO RACING

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A second scoring tower at Texas Motor Speedway was off limits on Tuesday, the day after the racetrack's 11-story-tall companion structure toppled amid gusty winds.

Structural engineers examined the remaining tower and maintenance crew members installed a fence in a 150-foot radius around the structure to keep people away from it as a precaution, said Eddie Gossage, speedway general manager.

"It may need something," he said.

Its companion, 110-foot-high electronic scoring tower cracked at the base Tuesday afternoon and fell onto the infield parallel to the track. No events were under way and there were no injuries.

BASKETBALL

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs reactivated center David Robinson from the injured list on Wednesday.

But the team said Robinson's availability for Wednesday night's game at Indiana would be determined just before game time.

The 37-year-old Robinson was placed on the injured list Friday because of lower back spasms that started after San Antonio's loss to Memphis on Jan. 22. He has missed three games.

Going on the injured list usually means a player must sit out for at least five games, but the Spurs did not replace Robinson on the active roster, so he can return sooner.

The 7-foot-1 center, playing in his final season, has had lower back trouble since the 1996-97 season, when he missed all but six games. Robinson sat out most of last season's playoffs after aggravating a back injury at the end of the regular season.

BASEBALL

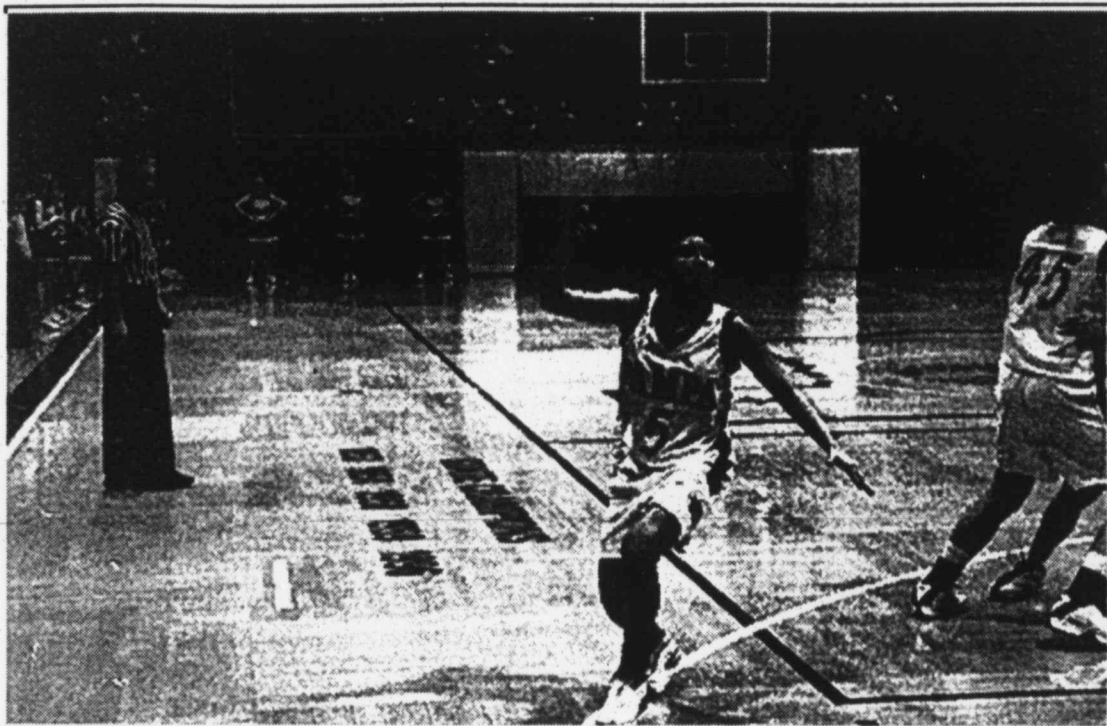
NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball players have taken the first step toward a possible collusion grievance against owners.

Michael Weiner, a lawyer for the players' association, filed a request last Thursday for management documents about negotiations with free agents during this offseason.

The request was confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday by a pair of baseball officials who spoke on the condition they not be identified. Players asked for "documents that would reflect interclub communications and communications between the commissioner's office and clubs about free-agent negotiations," one of the officials told the AP.

Several agents told the union in November and December that their clients received similar offers from several different teams, three agents said earlier this month on the condition they not be identified.

Union officials asked them to maintain the records of the bids, and the agents said the union was contemplating a grievance.



Pampa's Valerie Velez tries to catch up with a tipped ball in girls' basketball action last night.

Harvesters go on second-half surge to rout Dumas, 62-38

PAMPA — Pampa scored 18 consecutive third-quarter points in routing Dumas 62-38 in a District 3-4A game Tuesday night in McNeely Fieldhouse.

The contest was nip and tuck the first half with Dumas ahead 12-10 after the first quarter and Pampa leading 27-24 at halftime. That all changed at the start of the third quarter when Ryan Zemanek hit back-to-back three-pointers to put Pampa on a roll that would result in a 15-point lead (49-34) going into the final eight minutes.

Pampa improved to 6-3 in district and 10-12 for the season. Dumas is 7-16 for the season and remains winless in district at 0-8.

Zemanek and Chance Bowers led Pampa in scoring with 15 points each. Max

Simon added 12 points and led the Harvesters in rebounds with 6.

Pampa finished with a 25-23 rebounding advantage.

Jake Robinson tossed in 21 points to pace the Demons. Parker Hammons added 10.

Others who scored for Pampa were James Silva with 6 points, Collin Bowers 5, Jed Martin 4, Matt Robben 3, and Brittin East 2.

The Harvesters have an open date this weekend. Their next action is Tuesday night at Caprock.

Dumas came from behind in the second half to defeat Pampa 53-45 in the girls' game.

The Lady Harvesters held a 20-15 lead at halftime and trailed by only two (32-30) after three quarters.

The fourth quarter belonged

to the Demonettes, who scored the first six points and stayed in front down the stretch.

Pampa is now 5-19 overall, 1-10 in district. Dumas is 13-12 overall and 2-8 in district.

Dumas was led in scoring by Karli Denning with 18 points. Brittany Miller was next with 12.

Valerie Velez and Stacey Johnson led the Lady Harvesters with 12 points each.

Pampa had a 21-19 rebounding edge. Abbi Covalt and Casey Fisher had 4 rebounds each.

Fisher also had 8 points, while Jennie Waggoner had 7, Covalt 2, Jackie Gerber 2 and Callie Cobb 2.

The Lady Harvesters close the season next Tuesday at Caprock.

Big 12: Operator error likely caused clock stoppages

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Two timing errors likely caused by the clock operator occurred in the final seven seconds of regulation play in the Texas Tech-Oklahoma men's basketball, a review of videotape footage by Big 12 officials concluded Tuesday.

Oklahoma tied the Jan. 20 game on a last-second shot at the end of regulation and won in overtime.

The game's outcome is not reversible but Big 12 officials are taking steps to ensure there is no repeat incident.

As a backup, game clock operators will continue to start and stop the clock.

Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said that while mechanical problems could not be completely ruled out and no conclusive information was developed, it appears likely that operator error was the cause of the timing problems.

The last second shot by OU's Hollis Price went through the basket as the buzzer sounded in regulation and the Sooners went on to win in overtime 69-64.

Before Price made his way the length of the court and hit the game-tying shot, the game

clock stopped with 6.7 seconds for just under one second and then started again.

It stopped when a foul was called with 4.5 seconds remaining.

After Tech's Will Chavis hit two free throws and on the subsequent in-bounds pass to Price, the second timing error occurred when the clock started late by approximately 0.5 seconds.

The delay could have been inadvertent, possibly by accidental contact with the clock control which could have resulted in the clock pausing at the 6.7 seconds mark.

The videotape review also indicated the slow start of the clock at the 4.5 seconds mark may have happened because the clock operator's view of ball contact was blocked by players on the court. Still, the clock was slow in starting, Weiberg said.

"There is too much at stake, and the consequences too great for the school and the other team if something goes wrong with the clock, as poorly as it was handled in our game against Oklahoma," Tech coach Bob Knight said Monday.

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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
EDITOR: Dee Dee Laramore
MANAGING EDITOR: Nancy Young
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Dean Lynch
ADVERTISING MANAGER: ReDonn Woods
COMPOSITION SUPERVISOR: Brenda Cook

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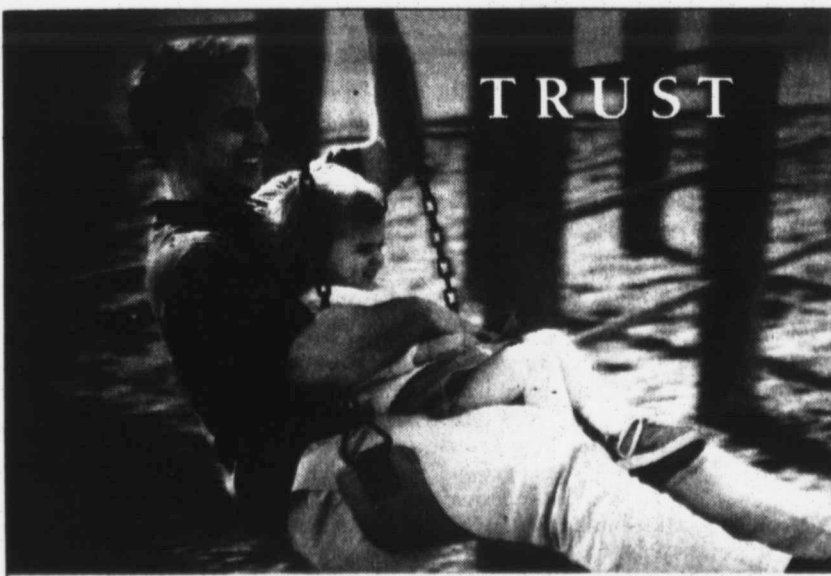
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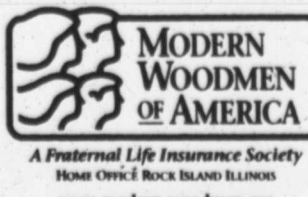
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Sharon scores big win, but real battle still ahead

JERUSALEM (AP) — Bolstered by a resounding election victory, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Wednesday called for national unity against "the murderous hatred" of Palestinian militants, but his efforts to form a broad coalition government are likely to be thwarted by the defeated Labor party.

Sharon might be forced into an alliance with ultranationalist parties that want to block U.S.-backed peace moves and spur him to even tougher moves against the Palestinians. Israel TV quoted Sharon as saying off-camera that he'd rather call new elections than preside over such a coalition.

Palestinians said they feared a worsening of the Mideast crisis. Sharon has presided over major military offensives against militant groups accused of deadly attacks on Israelis, and in June troops reoccupied nearly all West Bank population centers.

"You have Sharon in a new government, a

war against Iraq imminent, the disappearance of the peace process, all these factors," Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said.

As perhaps Israel's most controversial politician, Sharon was considered unelectable just a few years ago.

But the 74-year-old veteran of military and political wars pulled off what no prime minister has achieved since founding father David Ben-Gurion managed it in 1961 — calling an early election and winning.

Sharon's hawkish Likud almost doubled its strength, from 19 to 37 seats. But that's still well short of the 61 seats needed for a majority in the 120-member parliament.

The center-left Labor Party, which was part of Sharon's previous coalition before pulling out last November, posted its worst-ever election showing, dropping from 26 to 19 seats. Labor says it will not be part of any new coalition that is led by Sharon.

Another big winner in the election was the Shinui party led by pundit-turned-politician Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, who attracted disaffected middle-class voters rebelling against what they perceive as religious coercion by ultra-Orthodox Jewish political parties and an unfair tax burden. Shinui won 15 seats, emerging as the third-largest party and a possible kingmaker.

Wednesday morning's Yediot Ahront newspaper had a triple headline on its front page: "Sharon wins, the left crashes, Lapid leaps."

Sharon profited from the Israeli electorate's shift to the right in response to 28 months of fighting with the Palestinians. Many Israelis are angry at the Palestinians, believing they lied about wanting peace and responded to a reasonable offer with violence. Voters blamed Labor, which led the failed peace negotiations, for the nation's troubles.

Addressing Likud supporters in Tel Aviv early Wednesday, Sharon said Israelis must unite against external threats. "The differences between us are dwarfed by the murderous hatred of the terror organizations."

Sharon has said he wants to revive his 20-month alliance with Labor, but he did not mention the party by name in his victory speech or offer any policy incentives to prompt Labor to renege on its campaign promise to stay out of a Sharon government.

"There's no doubt that the Likud can go and establish a right-wing, nationalist government based on yesterday's results," Limor Livnat, a Likud Cabinet minister, told Israel Radio.

"But the prime minister has said all the way that he supports with all his heart ... a broad, national unity government because the challenges we are facing now are especially difficult," she added.

Blair says Iraq may be in league with al-Qaida

By ROBERT BARR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP) — Iraq has links with the al-Qaida terrorist network, but the "exact extent" of their cooperation is unknown, Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday.

Blair's comment came a day after President Bush said in his State of the Union speech that there was evidence that Saddam Hussein "aids and protects terrorists, including members of al-Qaida."

Blair responded to a question from opposition Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith, who recalled that British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon had said earlier in the week that ties between Iraq and al-Qaida were "not strong."

"We do not know of evidence linking Iraq to al-Qaida in circumstances concerning the Sept. 11 attack," Blair told the House of Commons.

"We do know of links between al-Qaida and Iraq. We cannot be sure of the exact extent of those links."

Blair did not say what evidence Britain had of such links.

In Baghdad on Wednesday, Hazem Bajilan, a member of the Iraqi Parliament, denied that his country had any connection with Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

"These allegations have been raised before by Mr.

Bush," lawmaker Hazem Bajilan told AP Television News. He dismissed the allegations as pretexts for war.

Blair again faced hostile questioning from a lawmaker in his own Labor Party about Britain's enthusiastic support for U.S. policy.

Lawmaker Lynne Jones asked Blair why Saddam poses "a greater threat today than he did in 1997, 1998, 1999, and all the time my right honorable friend was prime minister, up until President Bush's 'axis of evil' speech, when apparently the situation changed."

Blair countered that he had long regarded Saddam as a menace. "Precisely because he was a threat, there have been thousands of British forces down in the Gulf the whole time, flying over the no-fly zones," Blair said.

"The fact is, way before President Bush's speech, at the very first meeting I had with President Bush back in February 2001, I said that weapons of mass destruction is an issue, and we have to confront them."

Responding to a lawmaker who called out, "Who's next?," Blair said: "After we deal with Iraq we then do ... through the United Nations, again, have to confront North Korea about its weapons programs. We have to confront those companies and individuals trading in weapons of mass destruction."

"And another question is shouted at me, 'When do we stop?' We stop when the threat to our security is fully and properly dealt with," Blair said.

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#1 Sloss '32', 2310' from South & West line, Sec. 32,A-2,H&GN, PD 11750'.
#1 Thorne '76', 467' from South & 2000' from East line, Sec. 76,A-2,H&GN, PD 11150'.
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ROBERTS (WILDCAT & ST. CLAIR Granite Wash) Cordillera Energy Partners, L.L.C., #1125 McMordie, 500' from South & 2220' from East line, Sec. 25,A-1,D&SE, PD 10000'.
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