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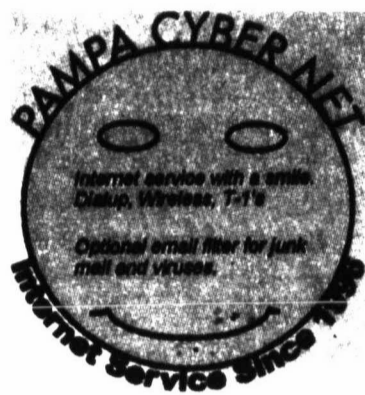
THE Pampa

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2003

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NEWS

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WEATHER WEATHER



HIGH 52 LOW 35

LOCAL

Lefors ISD board to meet Thursday

LEFORS — Personnel and senior trip will be the two topics when the Lefors Independent School District meets in a special meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 20.

An applicant will be interviewed for the boys basketball coach position.

The meeting will be in the Lefors High School Library at 209 E. Fifth.

VFW plans fish fry for veterans, families

Pampa's VFW members are planning a fish fry free to all veterans and their families at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 22, at the VFW Hall, 105 S. Cuyler. "By veterans for veterans." For more information call 662-4367.

DEATHS

Thomas Bailey, services pending.

INSIDE...

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE

It's Tree Planting Season ...
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Clock ticks toward war with Iraq

By DAVID CRARY
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Hours before the deadline set by President Bush, Saddam Hussein gave no sign of yielding to America's demands Wednesday, and U.S. troops rumbled through Kuwaiti sandstorms toward Iraq's border and the brink of war.

In Baghdad, fortified by trenches and sandbags, streets were quieter than usual, with

light traffic and some shops shuttered. Saddam ordered residents to stack wood and oil barrels to be set afire in hopes of concealing targets from bombardment.

The deadline set by Bush for Saddam to go into exile was 8 p.m. EST — 4 a.m. Thursday in Baghdad — though White House aides said war wouldn't necessarily begin at that time. In the event of war, the aides said, the president would address the nation from the Oval Office.

With 12 hours to go, Bush met with members of his war council, including Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said a war would be as short as possible but warned Americans to prepare

for loss of life. Iraq's rubber-stamp parliament rejected the U.S. ultimatum and reaffirmed support for Saddam. The idea that he would flee into exile "is absolutely unthinkable," said Speaker Saadoon Hammadi. The Persian Gulf state of Bahrain offered Saddam a haven Wednesday, the first such offer to be publicly extended to the embattled Iraqi leader. Arab officials say six

non-Arab countries have also offered to take him in. Just across Iraq's southern border, U.S. and British troops piled ammunition and combat gear into fighting vehicles and broke camp, ready to invade on short notice. One major deployment involved the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division. About 300,000 troops were within striking distance of Iraq, backed by more than

(See WAR, Page 3)

Chisum: Do more with less money

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

"It's not a pretty sight," said 88th State Rep. Warren Chisum from his Austin office Tuesday afternoon.

The Pampa legislator was describing the scene of lawmakers wrestling with a \$9.9 billion gap between state revenues and expenses over the next 2 1/2 years.

He said the predictions of state agencies facing massive cuts are no exaggeration. "They're going to have to do more with less," said the veteran lawmaker.

State offices located in Pampa will also be facing cuts as well as other communities across the wide expanse of Texas. Among the agencies which have offices located in the community are the following:

- Department of Health which implements the Women Infants &



(Pampa News photo) State Rep. Warren Chisum

Children (WIC) program;

- Department of Human Services which works with local clients on Medicaid, CHIPS, TANF and food stamps;
- Department of Protective and

Regulatory Services which handles Children's Protective Services as well as Adult Protective Services;

- Both juvenile and adult probation offices in Pampa;
- Highway Patrol, Drivers License Service, and License and Weight Service;
- Texas Railroad Commission;
- Texas Rehabilitation Commission;
- Texas Department of Transportation;
- Texas Ranger;
- Workforce Commission;
- Jordan and Baten Units of the state prison system.

Clarendon College's Pampa Center has also received notification of cuts, but Chisum said there is a possibility the community college's funding decrease may not be as bad as previously thought due to what he described as "extremely limited resources of tax revenue and tuition."

All agencies are going to "share the

pain," said Chisum.

He attributed the cause of the budget shortfall to be that people are not spending money in Texas as they have in the past.

"They've quit spending," he said. "People aren't buying as many cars, clothes or anything else."

He said the economic climate across the state has been the main factor as jobs have been lost and others are worried about their employment future and are not spending money.

"When that happens it affects the amount of sales tax going to the state and the communities," said Chisum, "because people aren't buying as much to generate the sales tax."

Pampa's sales tax was \$962,474.12 from October 2001 through February 2002, according to a spokesperson in the city's finance office. It fell approx-

(See CHISUM, Page 3)

Robbins faces 2 challengers for city mayor

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Mayor Lonny Robbins joins the two incumbent city commissioners with expiring terms in having opposition in the May 3 elections.

City Commissioner Jeff Andrews and local resident Mike Rummerfield both filed the necessary papers Tuesday with City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers to seek the mayoral spot held by Robbins.

Robbins is completing his first term as Pampa's mayor.

Ward 1 Commissioner Jeff McCormick and Ward 3 Commissioner Bob Dixon both filed to retain their seats on the city commission shortly after filing opened for the May municipal election.

McCormick is challenged by local businessman Doug Locke for a seat on the commission while Ed Robinson, another Pampa businessman, is seeking to unseat Dixon.

Andrews is allowed to retain his seat on the council while seeking the mayoral position, said

Jeffers. She said if he is elected mayor the commission will have two options to fill his seat on the commission.

Jeffers said in the event Andrews is elected as mayor, the commission may either appoint someone to complete his term which ends in 2004, or call a special election. She added that when there is more than one vacancy on the commission, the election laws require an election be held.

Andrews and Commissioner Faustina Curry were both re-elected to two year terms on the five-member commission in the 2002 election.

Filing deadline for a place on the ballot for two trustee positions of the Pampa Independent School District is also at 5 p.m. today.

Nancy Coffee, completing her first three-year term on the PISD board, is challenged by William Charles Smith and James "Jimmy" Goode in the election. School Board President Lee Porter did not have an opponent at press time today.

Dr. Tim Powers is in charge of the school election filing. His office is at Carver Center.

Fishin' with dad



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Makenna Henderson, 2, gets ready for a bass fishing trip with her dad Mark Henderson to Dead Indian Lake in the Oklahoma panhandle. Henderson, who has been working with Halliburton Services in Africa in recent months, said now he's back home, he'll have more time for his favorite hobby.



74th Annual Pampa Chamber of Commerce Banquet and Citizen of the Year Award

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ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents ending at 7 a.m.

Tuesday, March 19

Misty Dawn Lee, 27, 312 Roberta, was arrested for theft over \$50.
Joseph A. Barker, 20, 312 Roberta, was arrested for theft over \$50.
Rachel Lee Smiley Hicks, 33, 973 Mary Ellen, was arrested on 15 warrants for animal control violations and an additional three capias pro fine warrants regarding violations of animal control ordinances.
Anthony Santacruz, 38, 725 N. Nelson, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, first offense.

Credit card fraud was reported by a business in the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway. Amount of loss was \$2,056.75.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 600 block of North Wells.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of West Harvester. Estimated loss is \$250.

A bicycle was found and reported to the police department.

Assault by contact was reported at Pampa Middle School.

Burglary of a motor vehicle in a parking lot in the 1200 block of North Hobart was reported. Estimated loss was less than \$20.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 2100 block of North Hobart. Estimated loss was \$20.

Two runaways were reported to the police department.

A domestic incident was reported in the 500 block of North Frost.

FIRE

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

Tuesday, March 18

2:26 p.m. - Five units and 11 firefighters, the fire chief and deputy fire chief, responded to a large grass and trash fire in the 1300 block of south Barnes. According to reports, the fire was started by a cutting torch that ignited the grass at Chase Production. The fire then spread to a trash pit and pile of discarded vehicle tires. Property damaged in the fire was owned by Bill Kenner and Dennis and Teresa Neal, according to fire records.

5:35 p.m. - One unit and two firefighters responded to a dumpster fire in the 400 block of Hill. Firefighters extinguished a fire in the dumpster. No damage was reported.

STOCKS

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

Wheat	3.06	Halliburton	20.68	-0.22
Milo	3.76	Triad Hospitals	25.74	+0.18
Corn	4.25	NOI	22.56	-0.26
Soybeans	4.94	KMI	44.81	-0.06
		XCEL	11.54	+0.03
		Kerr McGee	38.92	-0.27
		Limited	13.01	+0.11
		Williams	4.21	NC
		McDonalds	14.44	+0.13
		Exxon Mobil	35.40	+0.15
		Atmos	21.40	NC
		Pioneer Nat	24.97	+0.17
		Penney's	20.47	-0.05
		COP	51.12	+0.20
		Schlumberger	39.68	+0.18
		Tenneco	2.37	+0.07
		CVX	65.84	+0.21
		Wal-Mart	52.58	+0.42
		OKB	17.91	-0.30

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

BP	39.79	+0.59	NS Group	7.70	+0.01
Celanese	18.36	+0.17			
Cabot Corp	23.24	+0.35			
Cabot Oil Gas	23.98	+0.11	New York Gold	337.85	
Coca Cola	41.04	+0.07	Silver	4.46	
VLO	41.08	+0.12	West Texas Crude	31.67	

CARSON CO. SHERIFF

Carson County Sheriff's Department reported there were five persons booked into the Carson County Jail during the week of Feb. 27 through March 2. Currently, there are 11 persons incarcerated in that jail and an additional 19 prisoners are held in other jurisdictions.

Feb. 27-March 2

Arrests made during that week were:
William Cross, 33, of Perryton, warrants out of Ochiltree County.
Lisa Atkins, 39, assault causing bodily injury-domestic violence.
Steven Franks, 43, of Amarillo, harassment.
Earl Tyner 46, of Fritch, possession/transportation of anhydrous ammonia.
Cody Corbitt, 21, of Amarillo, possession/transportation of anhydrous ammonia.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Saturday, March 15

Rene Maricio Nieto, 27, 1304 Duncan, was cited for failure to yield right of way while making a left turn after the 1989 Chevy Silverado pickup struck a 1985 Buick Park Avenue driven by Nathan Aaron Roy, 17, 1520 N. Dwight. Nieto was traveling west on 19th, crossing Hobart, when his vehicle struck the Roy vehicle. Roy was traveling east on 19th.

Monday, March 17

A City of Pampa dumpster received \$25 damage when it was struck by an unknown vehicle in a hit-and-run accident. According to the police report of the incident, the vehicle was apparently traveling east in the 100 block of West Browning when it drove up on the curb on the south side of Browning and struck the dumpster.

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday, March 18

8:07 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Somerville; one patient was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC; one patient was transported to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

9:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1600 block of Fir; no patient was transported.

10:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of North Wells; one patient was transported to PRMC.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Department today reported the following arrest ending at 7 a.m.

Tuesday, March 18

Shelly Dawn Graham, 36, 2430 Navajo, was arrested on Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 warrants for issuance of bad check, allowing a child to ride unrestrained by a safety belt, failure to appear and an expired drivers license.

Patricia Ann Carlson, 59, of Las Vegas, Nev., was arrested by Department of Public Safety troopers for possession of a controlled substance.

OBITUARIES

THOMAS BAILEY

McLEAN — Services are pending for Thomas Bailey, 82, of McLean. Arrangements are with Bailey-Ware Funeral Home of McLean.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today, widespread showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Areal coverage of rain 80 percent. Tonight, cloudy and breezy. Showers likely. Lows in the mid 30s. North winds 20 to 25 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent. Thursday, mostly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 50s. North winds 20 to 25 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Friday night, most-

ly cloudy. Slight chance of showers. Lows in the mid 30s. Chance of rain 20 percent. Saturday, mostly cloudy. Slight chance of showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Chance of rain 20 percent. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

STATEWIDE

A cold front moved early Wednesday into the Texas Panhandle while fog shrouded northeastern parts of the state.
The fog reduced visibilities near Paris.
The National Weather Service posed a high wind warning for the Guadalupe and Davis Mountains. A wind advisory was also issued for the Concho Valley.
Scattered light rain moved into the Panhandle with the front. Cloudy skies extended into far West Texas.
Scattered to broken mid-level clouds lingered over North Texas ahead of the front.
Temperatures were in the 30s in the western portions of the Panhandle and South Plains to the 50s in the Trans Pecos and Concho Valley. Early-morning lows were in the 60s along the

Gulf coast.
Readings ranged from 34 degrees at Anton to 55 degrees at San Angelo.
Winds were from the south to southwest at 5 to 15 mph and from the north at 10 to 20 mph in the Panhandle, with westerly gusts up to 35 mph in the Guadalupe Mountains.
Occasional showers were expected through Friday in the Panhandle and northern South Plains, with scattered showers in the southern South Plains.
Highs should range from the mid 40s in the Panhandle to lower 70s along the Rio Grande.
Showers were expected to spread into the Permian Basin by Thursday.
Lows overnight should range from the mid-30s to mid-40s.

Adversaries stake ground over civil lawsuit changes

AUSTIN (AP) — The long-anticipated fight over the state's civil justice system is reaching the full Texas House, where Republican leaders hope to pass legislation that makes major changes in how lawsuits are waged.

Some Democrats, though, say they'll engage in lengthy debate in an attempt to defeat the bill, which was headed to the House floor Wednesday.

"It won't be short," said Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston. "We'll go as long as it takes to flesh out the issues."

Democrats claim the proposal wasn't adequately debated in a House committee and that it has been rammed through the Legislature by a powerful business lobby.

The bill would make far-reaching changes in historical legal practice, said Democratic Caucus chairman Rep. Jim Dunning of Waco, a lawyer. As the bill stands now, product liability cases involving defective children's car seats, air bags and tires would not have been successfully waged in Texas, he said.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick and Republican Gov. Rick Perry have talked up "tort reform" for months, saying it's needed to crack down on frivolous lawsuits that hurt businesses and cause high medical malpractice insurance rates.

On Tuesday, all 26 freshmen Republican legislators in the House declared their support.

"Our communities are facing a crisis and our constituents are demanding a solution. The crisis we are facing is loss of health care in communities across this state," said Rep. Dan Gattis, R-Georgetown.

More than half of Texas' 254 counties have no obstetrician and no pediatrician, the Republican freshmen said, citing rising medical practice insurance rates as a reason.

The proposal would place a \$250,000 cap on non-economic damage awards such as pain and suffering in medical malpractice lawsuits.

It also would impose new rules on class-action lawsuit filings by delaying those lawsuits until plaintiffs exhaust administrative remedies through any applicable state agency.

The bill would require the plaintiff to pay the defendant's legal fees if the plaintiff rejects a settlement offer and later wins a lower monetary verdict in court. It also would allow an immediate pretrial appeal of a venue ruling when there are several plaintiffs.

Rep. Joe Nixon, R-Houston, author of the bill, has said the civil justice system needs improving because of consistently high jury verdicts. Since 1995, when tort laws were changed under then-Gov. George W. Bush, there have been \$10.5 billion in jury verdicts in Texas cases with awards of \$10 million or higher, Nixon said.

But opponents decry Nixon's proposal as one that would prevent negligent companies and bad doctors from being held accountable.

"This bill is a dream come true for the irresponsible special interests and a nightmare for Texas families," said Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston.

Shane Myers of Odessa, who was paralyzed when he was thrown from a vehicle because a defective tire blew out, said being able to sue a company for negligence isn't about money. He said he would much rather be able to walk again.

U.S. team assists investigation into shooting of 3 oil workers

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — The United States said Wednesday it was sending a team of investigators to help determine why a Yemeni man opened fire on oil workers, killing an American, a Canadian and a Yemeni before committing suicide.

The Yemeni Interior Ministry said the motive in Tuesday's attack was believed to be personal. The assailant, identified as Naji Abdullah al-Kumaim, had worked for the oil rig's owner, Nabors Drilling Co., for seven years and suffered from depression, it said.

Al-Kumaim was not known to have a political affiliation, and he shouted during the shooting that was taking revenge against people who were filing reports about him, the ministry said.

The attack occurred at an oil field in the northern province of Marib, about 100 miles north-east of the Yemeni capital

San'a.

The American victim was Ronald Horsch, 65, of Munday, Texas, about 170 miles north-west of Dallas. Hunt Oil Co. said in a statement that he was a superintendent employed by the Dallas-based company.

"Motives behind the incident are not yet clear, so it's premature to speculate on why this happened," U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington.

The embassy said the United States was sending a team to help with the investigation.

A statement issued Tuesday by Hunt Oil Co., which supervises the oil rig, said the four men worked at a rig owned and operated by Nabors, and were shot while working in the field.

Hunt Oil said the two Canadians and the Yemeni victim, in addition to the killer, were Nabors employees.

The Yemeni victim was identified as Nazem al-Kabati.

City Briefs

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Showdown approaching on drive to halve Bush tax cuts

By ALAN FRAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leaders are hoping to ward off a drive by moderate GOP senators and Democrats to pare President Bush's proposed \$726 billion tax cut by half.

A showdown vote seemed likely Wednesday, and both sides conceded it could go either way. At stake was an effort to slice the tax reduction to \$350 billion through 2013, which would threaten Bush's plan to end taxation of corporate dividends.

The clash was coming on the third day of Senate debate on a GOP-crafted \$2.2 trillion budget for next year that endorses Bush's full tax proposal. With war against Iraq perhaps hours away and federal deficits ballooning, Democrats and some Republicans said a large new round of tax reductions was the wrong thing to do.

"A tax cut of the magnitude the president and the Republicans are proposing is ... misdirected, unwise

and irresponsible," Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., told reporters.

Most Republicans said that even amid international conflict, the economy needed a spark from tax cuts.

"At a time of war, I don't think we should be pulling back on the economy. I think we should stimulate the economy," said Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo.

Moderate GOP Sens. George Voinovich of Ohio and Olympia Snowe of Maine were likely to be joined by most Democrats in voting to reduce the tax cut. Georgia Sen. Zell Miller is the only Democrat who has said he supports Bush's full \$726 billion economic plan.

With Republicans grasping a slender 51-48 Senate edge — the 100th senator is a Democratic-leaning independent — a major question was the vote of GOP Sen. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island. Chafee, a moderate, has said he would prefer no new tax cuts.

Bush's spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said "The president is confident that

With war against Iraq perhaps hours away and federal deficits ballooning, Democrats and some Republicans said a large new round of tax reductions was the wrong thing to do.

the end that he requested will be agreed to, either in large part or in entirety or in much part."

In what was expected to be another close vote, the Senate was likely to decide the fate of an amendment by Democrats and some pro-environment Republicans that would block mineral drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Bush has made opening the area to oil drilling one of the keys of his effort to increase the energy independence of the United States. Opponents consider the refuge an important sanctuary for polar bears and other animals, and the issue has become one of environmentalists' highest-profile issues.

House GOP leaders searched for a way to push their own, similar budget through their chamber, where debate could begin Thursday.

Top Republicans were considering easing planned cuts in Medicare and slightly reducing tax cuts outside the economic package, delaying by two years that budget's claim to reach balance by 2010.

House leaders were expected to preserve Bush's full \$726 billion economic growth plan, which means that if the Senate votes to reduce it, the final figure would be determined in negotiations between the two chambers.

"God bless the House," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Don Nickles, R-Okla., who favors Bush's entire tax cut.

Another looming Senate vote was an effort by pro-highway lawmakers of both parties to substantially boost spending for roads. Their plan was increase such expenditures by \$59 billion over the next six years, driving budget deficits even higher.

On Tuesday, the Senate used mostly party-line votes to reject two Democratic efforts to delay or dramatically reduce the size of Bush's tax cut.

By 56-43, the Senate rejected an amendment by the Budget committee's top Democrat, North Dakota Sen. Kent Conrad, to block most new tax cuts, and any new spending not related to war or domestic security, until after Bush reveals how much he thinks the war and its aftermath will cost.

A second Conrad amendment, defeated by 57-42, would have trimmed \$1.2 trillion from the \$1.3 trillion, 10-year tax cut in the Senate budget and use the money for deficit reduction.

The \$726 billion economic package is included in that amount.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WAR

1,000 warplanes. A strong sand storm swept in Wednesday, affecting several units, hampering movement and visibility.

"We are one day closer to making history," Col. Michael Linnington, commander of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade, told his officers at a briefing Wednesday morning.

Increased air activity from helicopters and jets could be heard near the Kuwait-Iraq border. One company commander in the Kuwaiti desert led his troops in a Seminole war dance, and ordered them to remove American flags from their tanks because "we will be entering Iraq as an army of liberation, not domination."

Aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt in the Mediterranean, combat pilots and others were ordered to snooze through the day Wednesday so they could work through the night.

"It's time for us to do what we were trained to do," said Lt. Matt Arnold, 33, of Virginia Beach, Va.

Dozens of members of Saddam's Baath party, armed with Kalashnikovs, deployed in clusters of fours and fives across Baghdad. Some stood behind the hundreds of sand-bagged fighting positions that have been erected around the capital over the past two weeks.

Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf

accused U.S. officials of lying to their troops about the losses they would suffer. The notion that invading Iraq "will be like a picnic" is "a stupid idea," he said.

Though U.S. defense officials hope for a quick victory, with minimal casualties on both sides, they raised the possibility that Iraq would use chemical weapons. Pentagon officials said intelligence reports suggest Saddam has given field commanders authority to use such weapons.

The top American general in Kuwait, Lt. Gen. David D. McKiernan, said such an action by Iraq would be "a hugely bad choice."

Around the globe, governments tried to adjust to the seeming inevitability of war.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told a special Cabinet meeting that his nation is "100 percent" prepared for an Iraqi attack. The military completed a call-up of 11,000 reservists, while citizens sealed rooms in their homes in case of a chemical or biological attack.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak blamed Iraq for the impending war, though he said international forces had to be mindful of the "dangerous repercussions" the invasion could have on the Middle East.

In Turkey, the government said it would ask Parliament on Thursday to let U.S. planes use Turkish airspace in the event of war but would not immediately seek approval for the entry of

American troops. Last month, Turkish lawmakers rebuffed a proposal to let in tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers to open a northern front against Iraq.

The Bush administration says 30 nations have joined the "coalition of the willing" backing a war to topple Saddam, with 15 more nations quietly pledging support. However, several of the 30 nations have ruled out contributing combat troops.

Confident that Saddam will be overthrown swiftly, the United States and Britain are working on a plan to use Iraqi oil proceeds from a \$40 billion U.N.-controlled account to pay for humanitarian relief during a war.

The proposal is to be presented soon after war begins, diplomats and U.N. officials told The Associated Press. The plan would alleviate U.S. and British financial responsibilities for caring for millions of Iraqis likely to be affected by the war.

Man gets extra sentence after mooning judge, court

ATHENS, Texas (AP) — An additional six months were tacked onto an East Texas man's eight-year sentence for aggravated assault after he mooned a district judge.

Judge Jim Parsons held 40-year-old Ray Mason in contempt of court Monday after the Kemp man dropped his pants and showed Parsons and then

the rest of the court his backside.

"He said something like, 'Hey, judge, look at this,'" Assistant District Attorney Barry Spencer recalled. About 70 other people were in the courtroom at the time, Spencer said.

"I've been practicing criminal law for well over 20 years,

and I've seen a lot of things," said Mason's defense attorney John Sichel. "This is the first time anything like that has happened."

Mason had pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and was sentenced to eight years in prison just before the incident, the Athens Daily Review reported in Wednesday's editions.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CHISUM

imately \$78,000 during the same period the following year as it was \$884,615.11 from October 2002 through February 2003.

However, the amount for March 2003 increased over March 2002, said officials. Based on sales in Pampa in

January 2003, the sales tax revenue was \$143,505.95. The sales in January 2002 were \$138,343.82.

Chisum predicts a special session will be held following the 78th Legislative session to handle the school finance issue as well as taxes.

Texas as well as several

other states are experiencing a budget crisis in the schools. Oklahoma officials announced recently that teachers are being laid off due to the crunch and California's school system announced a few days ago that 30,000 teachers will be without jobs in the 2003-2004 school year.

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THE PUMPER NEWS COMICS

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 19, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Teenage Tornado Twists Angry Stepmom Into Knots

DEAR ABBY: My husband's teenage son, "Danny," recently came to live with us. His mother has remarried and moved 2,000 miles away. Danny will visit her for a month this summer. Danny is basically a good kid, gets good grades, and appears to be making some nice friends at school and in the neighborhood.

The problem is, he's messy and I'm a perfectionist. I try to ignore the dirty clothes strewn across his bedroom floor, the food wrappers, the wet towels in the tub, etc. Although my husband is talking to Danny about the mess and there has been slight improvement, I was raised differently. I often find myself getting furiously angry. I am afraid I am going to say or do something I will regret, and I don't want to jeopardize my relationship with Danny.

Can you suggest some ways to channel my anger? Do you have any ideas?

TINA IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TINA: You've already taken the most important step — recognizing your anger and what's triggering it. You want to avoid yelling at Danny or breaking things. Some suggestions: Walk away from the cause of your anger. Leave the room, leave the house if necessary, until you have regained control. Write a letter in which you express your feelings. You may never give that letter to Danny

— in fact, you probably shouldn't — but you will feel 100 percent better once you have gotten it out of your system. Be sure to show your letter to your husband. He should know to what degree Danny's habits are affecting you.

There are other healthy, acceptable ways to express anger. I have incorporated some of them in my booklet, "The Anger in All of Us, and How to Deal With It." It can be ordered by sending a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check

or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0477. (Postage is included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY: I am a man who believes in equality, but I seldom find it with the women I date. I work full time, cook, clean, wash clothes, iron, shop, etc. I don't believe there is such a thing as "woman's work." The women I know agree with this philosophy, but have a problem accepting that there is no such thing as "man's work" either.

I believe in equal pay for equal work — with which my dates agree. But when the concept of sharing expenses is proposed, my idea of "fairness" is not well received. For example, if I buy a woman dinner on Friday night, I believe she should pay for my dinner on Saturday. If I drive one weekend, she should drive the next.

I have been called cheap, biased, and even obscene names. What's a

modern man to do? PUZZLED IN A SMALL STATE

DEAR PUZZLED: A modern man should take into consideration whether or not the women he's dating have approximately the same income he does. All things being equal, I subscribe to your philosophy. However, it shouldn't be set in concrete as you have stated it. If the lady doesn't take you to dinner, she might reciprocate in another way: cooking dinner for you, taking you to a movie, making a picnic for the beach or a ballgame. I do differ with you on one point, however: Driving alone at night can be dangerous for women. You should provide the transportation.

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

For Better or For Worse



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

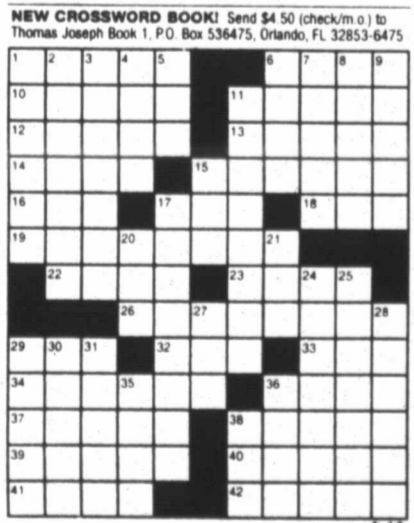
ACROSS

- 1 Loses color
- 6 Jury member
- 10 Limerick people
- 11 Eagerly optimistic
- 12 Bizarre
- 13 Misbehave
- 14 Sister of Linus
- 15 Jason's quest
- 16 Application
- 17 Jiffy
- 18 Blushing
- 19 Forewent
- 22 Incline
- 23 Warty critter
- 26 Did layout work
- 29 Quick-cooking pan
- 32 Brewed beverage
- 33 Singer Shannon
- 34 Fridge, once
- 36 Moon of Jupiter
- 37 Actor Burton
- 38 Flying reptile of movies
- 39 Posts
- 40 Keen
- 41 Charles' sister
- 42 Church leaders

LURID ALTAR
ASTIDE GORGE
MUDSLINGERS
BAG USE LEI
SLEDGES LED
EEEE SITE
SCARS PESOS
TURN OIM
ALI MATTINEE
MTA ALA IRA
MUDSKI PERS
ERINIE ASCOT
REEDS TIERS

Yesterday's answer

- 24 Totaled
- 25 Library book
- 27 Scandal film
- 28 Runway subject
- 29 Fred's sights
- 30 Shark's home
- 31 Bacon of stamp
- 35 Cotton unit
- 36 Frenzied
- 38 Jay-Z's music



STUMPED?

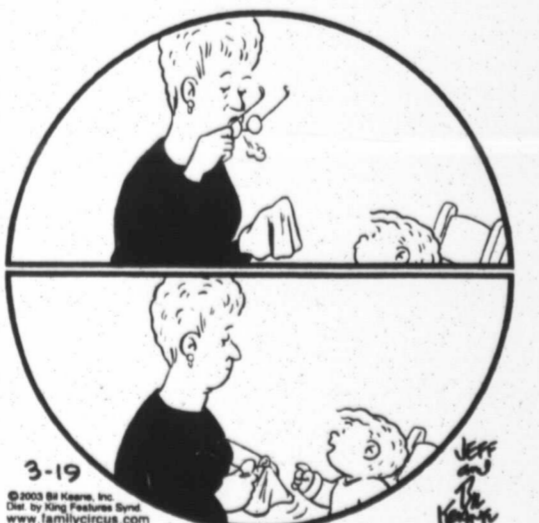
For answer to today's crossword call 1-900-454-7377 99¢ per min. 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

Marmaduke

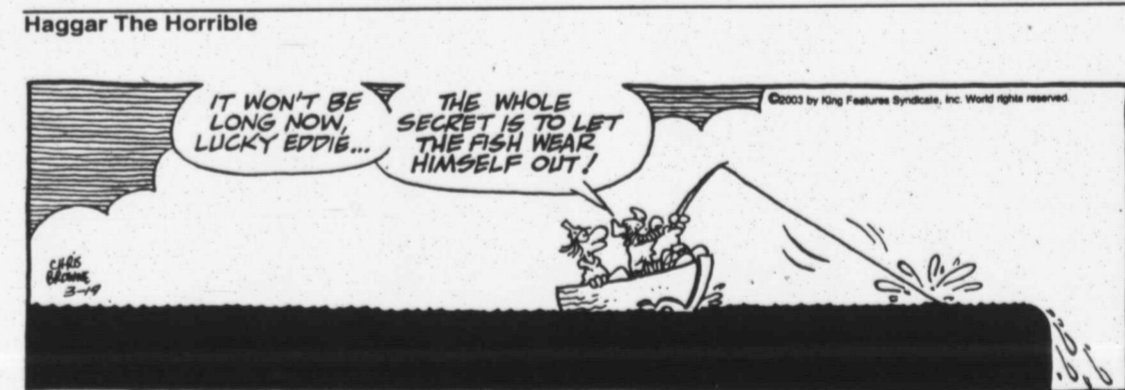


"I guess I have to wait for a commercial for you to fetch the other slipper, huh?"

The Family Circus



"Grandma, why do you hafta taste your glasses before you wipe them?"



Couple can use kidnapped girl reward money

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Rudy and Nancy Montoya say they weren't thinking about the nearly \$300,000 in reward money when they helped find Elizabeth Smart, but they don't deny a little extra money would help.

The Montoyas, who spotted Brian David Mitchell on a street in Sandy, make ends meet for their family of six in part by grocery shopping at a free Mormon supermarket for needy church members.

"If it wasn't for our church helping us, I don't know how we would be doing it," he said. "We're living off our income tax rebate and savings."

The city oversaw a \$250,000 reward — put together by the Smart family, the city and private donations — for information leading to Elizabeth's safe return. The city and the FBI added another \$45,000 reward for information about the perpetrator or information leading to Elizabeth.

A week after Elizabeth's discovery, no money has been rewarded.

Rudy Montoya, of Sandy, was laid off from a supervisory position at a manufacturing plant two months ago. He was making copies of his resume for a job interview when he and his wife spotted Mitchell walking with his wife Wanda Barzee, and Elizabeth Smart.

Mitchell and Barzee were charged in state court Tuesday with aggravated sexual assault, aggravated kidnapping and aggravated burglary. They were scheduled to make an initial court appearance Wednesday.

DRILLING INTENTIONS

Intentions to Drill
HANSFORD (WILDCAT & TWIN Tonkawa) Ricks Exploration, Inc., #3B O'Laughlin, 1320' from South & West line, Sec. 3,2,WCCR, PD 9000'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & PARSELL Upper Morrow) BP America Production Co., #3170 Roy Morrison, Scott & Conrad 'M', 1320' from North & 2350' from West line, Sec. 170,42,H&TC, PD 11300'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & PARSELL Lower Morrow) BP America Production Co., #3172 Warren B. Parsell, et al 'K', 1980' from South & 1320' from West line, Sec.

172,42,H&TC, PD 11300'.
WHEELER (WILDCAT & EAST THORNDIKE) Texahoma Oil & Gas Corp., #1 Taylor '4', 759' from South & 1823' from West line, Sec. 4,A-2,H&GN, PD 12000'.

Applications to Plug-Back
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT) BP America Production Co., #2 Webb, et al 'P', 467' from South & 2020' from West line, Sec. 190,C,G&MMB&A, PD 11260'.

Application to Re-Enter
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Turner Transpotation, #105 Meadows, 1320' from South & 2440' from West line, Sec. 5,4,AB&M, PD 5700'.

Application to Deepen (within casing)
HEMPHILL (HEMPHILL Granite Wash) BP America Production Co., #201 Oca Milom, 880' from North & 467' from East line, Sec. 1,1,I&GN, PD 11150'.

Gas Well Completions
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Patina Oil & Gas Corp., #11-12 Carr 'P', Sec. 12,4,AB&M, spud 1-3-03, drlg. compl 1-18-03, tested 2-13-03, TD 11700', PBTD 11590' — Form 1 filed in Bravo Natural Resources

HEMPHILL (IMMEL Douglas) St. Johns Operating,

L.P., #3013 Immel, Sec. 13,1,G&M, spud 12-14-02, drlg. compl 2-1-03, tested 2-4-03, potential 2300 MCF, TD 7472', PBTD 7382' — Form 1 filed in Questar E&P

ROBERTS (ALPAR-PEARSON Brown Dolomite) BP America Production Co., #2 Courson 'D' 22, Sec. 22,A,H&GN, spud 1-3-03, drlg. compl 1-8-03, tested 2-17-03, MD 5331', TVD 3223' — Horizontal well

ROBERTS (ALPAR-PEARSON Brown Dolomite) BP America Production Co., #778 Courson Ranch 'B' Unit 5, Sec. 29,44,D.A.Abernathy, spud 12-3-02, drlg. compl 12-11-02, tested 2-17-03, TVD 3466' — Horizontal Recompletion

ROBERTS (ALPAR-PEARSON Brown Dolomite) BP America Production Co., #80

Courson Ranch 'B' Unit 3, Sec. 21,A,H&GN, spud 12-5-02, drlg. compl 12-29-02, tested 2-27-03, MD 5465', TVD 3267' — Horizontal Well

Plugged Wells
HANSFORD (HANSFORD Lower Morrow) E R Operating Co., #2 Hix-Wilbanks Estates, Sec. 121,45,H&TC, spud 1-5-03, plugged 1-18-03, TD 7640' (dry)

HANSFORD (TEXAS-HUGOTON) C.E. Harmon Oil, Inc., #1 Sealy & Smith, Sec. 3,3,GH&H, spud unknown, plugged 2-19-03, TD 3156' (gas)

HEMPHILL (WASHITA CREEK Morrow) Conoco Phillips Co., #1 Bowers 'B', Sec. 256,C,G&MMB&A, spud 6-2-64, plugged 9-17-02, TD 16275' (gas) — Form 1 in Phillips Petroleum

Wal-Mart donation



(Pampa News photo)

Wal-Mart Manager Tammy George, right, recently presented Jerry Foote, of the local Boy Scouts of America chapter, with a donation check in the amount of \$1,000 from Wal-Mart.

THE Pampa NEWS

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