

THE Pampa NEWS
 THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2003 Vol. 98 No. 605 • Pampa, Texas
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH 82 LOW 45

LOTTERY

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night.

Winning numbers drawn: 11-12-21-27-40-44.

Estimated jackpot: \$9 million.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Matching five of six: 46. Prize: \$2,603.

Matching four of six: 3,244. Prize: \$91.

Matching three of six: 65,078. Prize: \$5.

Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

Estimated jackpot: \$13 million.

DEATHS

Sean C. Boales, 35, store manager.

Tony Waters, 54, minister, Gospelheirs founder.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE

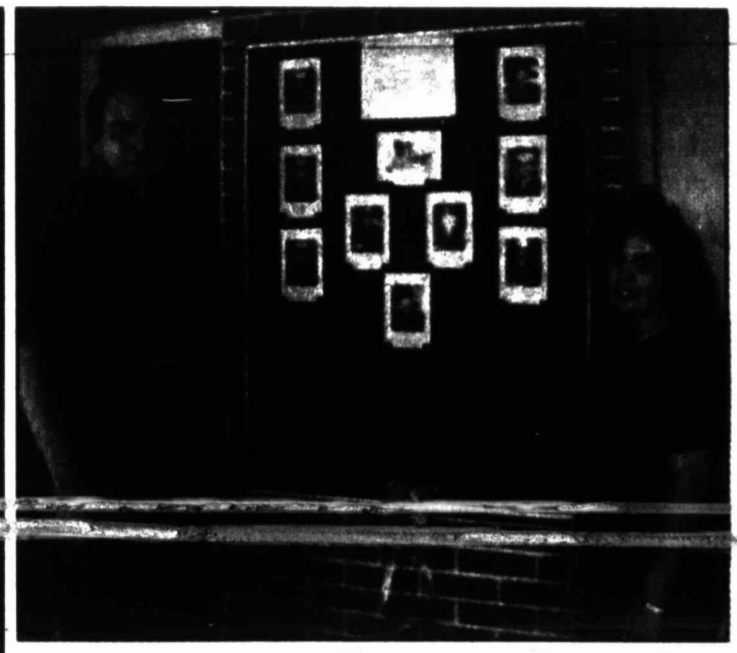
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(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)
Father Lupe Mayorga, assistant priest at St. Vincent's De Paul Catholic Church, and Delma Sealman, church secretary, flank the patriotic display of local service members in the foyer of the church.

A wall of honor

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Several local young men and women are currently involved in the war in Iraq as members of the United States military. Many others from this area in military service are stationed in other countries or in the U.S.

Members of St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in Pampa wanted to do show their appreciation to these military members and to recognize their efforts.

And they are searching for more pictures to go up in the foyer of the church.

"It was Father John's idea," said Delma Sealman, a secretary at the parish office, speaking of the brightly decorated bulletin board showcasing the military members representing all branches of the military which the local priest decorated.

Pictures of 10 uniformed members of the military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines — are displayed on the bulletin board covered

(See WALL, Page 3)

U.S. troops close in
Special forces raid presidential palace

By DAVID CRARY
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

U.S. troops surged forward Thursday into the outskirts of Baghdad, and a special forces unit raided one of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces. American officials said Iraqi forces appeared on the verge of collapse.

Lead units of the multi-pronged U.S. assault force were approaching from two directions: Army troops closed in from the southwest after crossing the Euphrates River; Marine units advanced from the southeast in a long column along the Tigris River.

"We are getting closer and closer," said Navy Capt. Frank Thorp, a Central Command spokesman. "We will be in Baghdad within a matter of hours from when we decide to go."

Paving the way, special forces infiltrated some Iraqi command posts in the Baghdad area and secured strategic dams and bridges to guard them from sabotage. The air assault on the capital continued, with coalition forces targeting a row of tin shelters near the site of Baghdad's old airport.

Another group of commandos raided the Thar Thar presidential palace, in a resort area 56 miles north of Baghdad.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, in a briefing at Central Command, said the raiders landed by helicopter in the palace compound after suppressing anti-aircraft fire. The commandos found no leaders there, but came away with documents that will be reviewed by intelligence officers, Brooks said.

(See WAR, Page 3)

HOME of the BRAVE

A1C Scott R. Phillips
 Rank: Airman First Class
 Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force
 Job description: Fuels specialist
 Stationed: Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene
 Deployed: Middle East
 Parents: Galen and Debbie Phillips of White Deer

Smith feels education important

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of interviews with candidates for offices to be decided in the May 3 local elections.

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

Education is important to William Charles Smith.

"My father was on the school board," Smith said. "Education is extremely important in our household."

His mother-in-law has been a teacher for more than 35 years.

Running in the only contested race for the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees, Smith is challenging incumbent Nancy Coffee, and cattleman James Goode for the Place 4 slot.

Born in Lubbock, Smith's family moved to Pampa in 1957. He grew up in the Pampa school system, graduating from Pampa High School in 1974. After high school, he went on to attend Louisiana State University, Lubbock Christian University and Texas Tech.

It was while at Tech that he met his wife Karen.

"Her dad was in the oil business," Smith said.

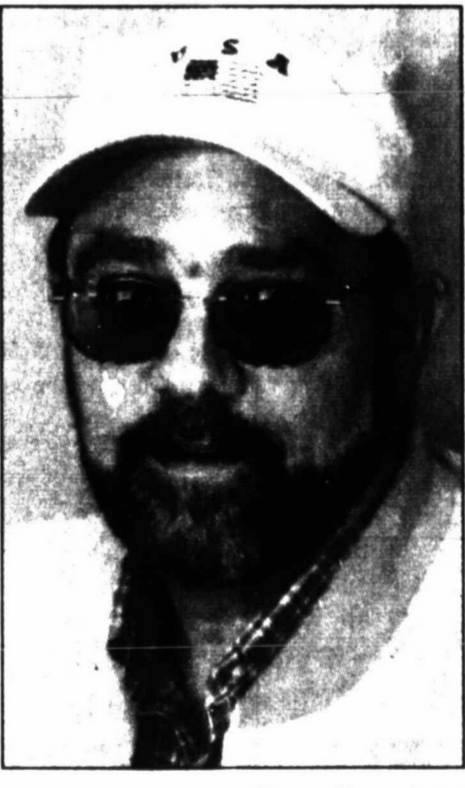
She and her family had lived in Pampa for a while.

"I didn't know her then," Smith said.

He had to go to Texas Tech to meet her and marry her. Today they have two sons and a daughter.

"We lived in Lubbock until 1982," Smith said, "and moved to Midland."

In 1991, they moved to Pampa where



(Pampa News photo)
William Charles Smith

Smith and his brother formed a family oil and gas operating company with their father.

He sold his interest back to them in late 1993, and started Evergreen Consulting Company, an environmental, health and safety consulting and training company.

With three kids, Smith said he is extremely concerned about education in Pampa. He's also extremely busy.

"Between school and sports and church," he said, "we try to squeeze what ever we can into those kids."

Smith said he thinks he can be more a

part of his children's lives and help the community by serving on the school board.

"Education and opportunities are so important," Smith said, "not only today but in life later down the road."

He said he sees the challenges facing the school board as the same ones that are challenging school boards all across the state. One of the major challenges will be funding.

"Over the years," he said, "the issues have been up and down. I don't know that they ever change. Everybody is trying to do more with less. We just felt like it was time to provide, not only our children, but the children in the community with the best possible education that the community can afford."

Smith's major concern is planning, or lack of it.

"I haven't read or seen in a long time, a to do or want or need list," Smith said. "I just plan to help existing board members perform their duties more effectively and efficiently. Especially in the environment that the schools are in in this state, working with their hands tied."

In some cases, he said, there's not a lot that can be done other than better planning or communications or research on projects.

"That's what I do for a living," Smith said. "I'm used to dealing with government entities, whether that's OSHA or DOT or EPA."

He said he wants all the facts together before decisions are made.

(See SMITH, Page 3)

Perryton residents injured in accident

A Perryton woman, Kimberly Lynn Benton, 31, was treated and released from Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo following a wreck Sunday in Pampa.

Benton was transported by LifeStar Helicopter after her 1995 Chevy Lumina, traveling north on Price Road, collided with a 1995 Ford F-150 pickup, driven by Ricardo Deleon, 32, 317 Starkweather.

Deleon was turning south on Price Road from 23rd Street when it turned in front of the Lumina, according to Pampa Police Department records.

Three passengers in the Benton vehicle were transported by Rural Metro Ambulance Service to Pampa Regional Medical Center for treatment of injuries.

They were identified in police reports as Deana Foster, 34, Perryton; Arren Benton, 7, Perryton; and

(See ACCIDENT, Page 3)

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CHAMBER LUNCHEON
 April 15 • 11:45 AM • M.K. Brown Room Of The Pampa Community Building
 Speakers: Pampa City Manager - Mitch Grant & Pampa Police Chief - Trevlyn Pitner
 For Reservations 669-3241

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WAR

He also said that coalition forces "don't think that the fighting is over yet."
 "There are still options that are open to the regime, including weapons of mass destruction," he said. "We take that very seriously."

His position was echoed by a spokesman for British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who told his Cabinet Thursday not to expect a quick resolution to the war.

Another U.S. spokesman, Navy Lt. Mark Kitchens, said U.S. forces are seeing "strong and credible signs that the Iraqi forces are being overwhelmed and will soon collapse."

However, Iraqi authorities vowed to make a stand, raising the possibility that some units had been pulled into Baghdad for urban warfare rather than risk a head-on clash outside the city.

While some Marine units advanced toward the capital, others from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines battled building to building with Iraqi fighters in Kut, a military town on the Tigris. Three Marines were wounded, and Lt. Col. B.P. McCoy said 30 Iraqis were killed, including 10 to 15 gunned down when they attempted what he called a suicide charge against Marine tanks.

To the west, thousands of Army vehicles were crossing the Euphrates and moving toward Baghdad after an unsuccessful attempt by Iraqi forces to defend a bridge at Musayyib. Scores of blown-up Iraqi vehicles and dozens of bodies lined the roads as the U.S. troops passed by.

U.S. defense officials said two Republican Guard divisions were badly weakened by the approaching Americans on Wednesday. U.S. forces incurred minimal losses in those battles, but the Iraqi regime vowed that resistance would stiffen.

"Fight them with your hands, God will disgrace them," said a statement attributed to Saddam, and read by Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf on Iraqi satellite television.

"We're now trying to exhaust them," al-Sahhaf said of the invading forces, "making them more tired until our leadership decides the time and method to clean our territory of their desecration."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WALL

with blue fabric. Gold stars are on a white fabric and provide a frame for the pictures. A gold bow is at the bottom.

They are searching for more pictures to go up in the foyer of the church, as Father John began with the people they knew. Several displayed are members of the local church, but Sealman said the tribute is not limited to church members.

"Father John has worked so hard on this project," said Sealman. "He really wanted to recognize the members of the military."

She said the patriotic display is not limited to members of their church or Pampa residents.

"We want pictures of all the young people who are serving their country in Iraq and other foreign and stateside locations who are from here or who have local connections," she said.

"We also are putting up pictures of those who are not from here, but have relatives here. It is open to anyone serving their country in the military."

Sealman has more pictures which have arrived which she is putting on the board today. Below each picture lists the name, branch of service, rank, family members and where the military member is located.

"We have each of them on our prayer line," said Sealman. "It just helps to know their faces. We are getting their addresses and sending cards to them, too. We just want them to know we're thinking about them."

She welcomes anyone to contact her the church office, 665-8933, for additional information.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SMITH

"I think that's very important to make good economic decisions," Smith said.

The focus of those decisions, he said, must be the students.

"I think primarily the need is for the children's education to be the best that we can provide," Smith said. "Whether that's in a grass hut or a brand new school building at this point, I think, is irrelevant. Those are nice things if we can figure out a way to get them."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ACCIDENT

Katilyn Benton, 10, Perryton.
 Passengers in the Deleon vehicle were Steven Stamps, 22, 600 N. Dwight; Crystal Herrera, 17, 400 N. Roberta; and Rebecca Dudley, 17, 800 E. Craven. According to the police report, none were injured.

Deleon was cited for unsafe turn (left), no proof of financial responsibility, failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

According to the report, no air bags in either vehicle deployed.

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Sat., April 5th from 10:00 to 7:30 p.m.
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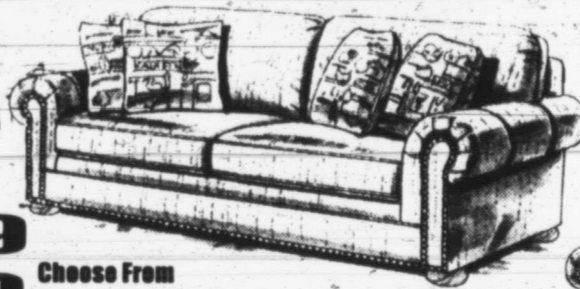
CASUAL STYLE



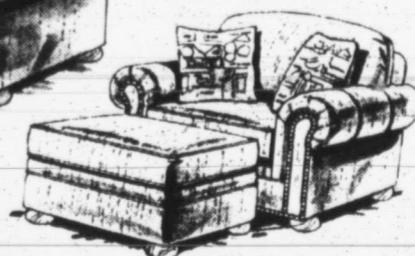
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VIEWPOINTS

Do we really stand united?

BY COURTNEY GAGAN

GUEST COLUMN

This morning I awoke to beautiful blue Texas skies and temperatures expected to reach the mid-70s. The perfect weather for a drive to a neighboring community, to dig up some cacti.

Getting into my American-made pick-up truck; my heart began to swell as I headed east. I passed several churches on my way out of town, all with parking lots packed with cars. All of course different makes and models, driven there by different people. But once inside the great halls of worship none of that matters, because they all are united for one common cause, to practice their freedom of religion. The one place that social status, education and race should not matter. One of the great things that the Pilgrims sailed across the ocean for, hundreds of years ago, and the founding beliefs of our country.

Heading east I turned the radio on looking for something to sing along to. Instead my radio landed on a news station. Usually I continue searching for music, but the reports on the war caught my attention. Some of them, booming through the speakers, sent chills up my spine.

The first report discussed the "pro-war" rallies. People were gathering to support the brave soldiers, young and matured, fighting on the other side of the world. The Pledge of Allegiance coming across loud and clear.

Unfortunately, the following news report was not quite so supportive or "united." Anti-war rallies were being summarized and the gist of the story that filtered in was not too pleasing. Protesters were making accusations that President George W. Bush has not tried to peacefully resolve the situation. Another protester was said to be marching with a sign stating "Support the Warriors not the War." What are warriors without a war? That is a question I would like answered.

this war just as much as President George W. Bush. We drive around in our foreign cars, become envious of movie stars that have every drop of water in their home imported, buy petroleum products produced in other countries and proudly march around in little circles chanting and holding up signs, none the less on national television. It is us, the citizens of the United States, that make our country appear "foolish" and "flaky" to other countries. Not one man.

In the meantime, while our proud soldiers are out fighting, take a good long look around you and really see the sacrifices others have made, for your freedom. I personally know that my father's joyous gift of malaria, that he permanently gained in Vietnam, surfaces every summer when the Oklahoma heat wave rolls in, but I have never heard him complain about serving his country. Pick up a history book at your local library, where we have the privilege of checking out free books, and do a little Sunday reading. I think those that take their freedom for granted need a refresher course on the numbers that have died in battle for you to live in the most glorious place on this earth, the United States.

If this is nothing except a bouquet of sentimentalities to you coming from someone who loves her country and you still believe that there are other options than war, I have a great suggestion. You go over to the war zone and create the peace that our government and armed forces have diligently worked on for quite some time now. I am sure the flights are pretty cheap, and first class seats probably aren't filled yet. If funds are a setback for you to initiate your personal "peace plan," don't fret, just put it on your American Express.

Editor's Note: Courtney Gagan is a graduate of Oklahoma State University. She teaches fourth grade at Woodrow Wilson Elementary.

THE Pampa NEWS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boycott station that plays The Dixie Chicks music

To the editor:
 This is in protest of the local radio station playing The Dixie Chicks when we have men and women from this town over there fighting to defend this country and the freedom of everyone in this country.
 I called the radio station and asked them not to play them any more. I was told they had no control over what they play, so I got the number of the station's owners in Denver, Colo., and called there. She hung up on me.
 I think all sponsors of this local station should withdraw their support until the station quits playing The Dixie Chicks.

Shirley Stephens
 Pampa

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- Today is Thursday, April 3, the 93rd day of 2003. There are 272 days left in the year.
- Today's Highlight in History:
 On April 3, 1860, the legendary Pony Express began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif.
- On this date:
 In 1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.
 In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo., by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang.
 In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, N.J., for the kidnap-murder of the Lindbergh child.
 In 1946, Lt. General Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed outside Manila.
 In 1948, President Truman signed the Marshall Plan, which allocated more than \$5 billion in aid for 16 European countries.
 In 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers.
 In 1968, North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.
 In 1982, Britain dispatched a naval task force to the south Atlantic to reclaim the disputed Falkland Islands from Argentina.
 In 1996, an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.
 In 1996, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski was arrested.
 Ten years ago: President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin opened a weekend summit in Vancouver, British Columbia, beginning their talks after a luncheon with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters must be **300 words or less**. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to *The Pampa News*, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.



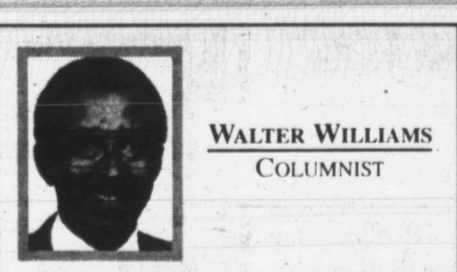
Report reveals constitutional ignorance

The March 10 issue of Human Events carried a special report on the 10 most outrageous government programs. Their 18 judges included conservative/libertarians such as former Rep. Dick Arney, R-Texas, former Delaware Gov. Pete Dupont, Mark Levin, president of the Landmark Legal Foundation, and David Boaz, Cato Institute's vice president.

The Legal Services Corp. headed the list, followed closely by the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Act and the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. Rounding out the list were: Americorp, Endangered Species Act, No Child Left Behind Act, Amtrak, Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards, Title X Family Planning Act, and the provision of welfare payments to non-citizens and illegal aliens.

Human Events, a conservative, Republican-leaning publication, unlike Democrats who protect scoundrels in their party, wasn't reluctant to list the presidents who sponsored or supported these outrageous government programs. Most of the programs were born during Republican administrations. Herbert Hoover was in office when the Davis-Bacon Act was written in 1931. Richard Nixon presided over the births of the Legal Services Corp. (1974), the Endangered Species Act (1973), Amtrak (1971) and the Title X Family Planning Act (1970). Gerald Ford sponsored CAFE standards (1975), and George W. Bush signed off on the No Child Left Behind Act (2002).

These laws interfere with and federalize



WALTER WILLIAMS
 COLUMNIST

our lives in harmful ways. The more federal control over education, the worse it becomes. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has attacked and trivialized private property rights. CAFE standards, by forcing auto companies to produce lighter, and hence less safe cars, have cost thousands of highway fatalities, and it goes on and on.

One of the more disgusting revelations of the Human Events report came when a simple question was put to high-level bureaucrats in charge of running these outrageous programs. Human Events asked them to state the constitutional authority for the programs. Warren Flatau, Federal Railroad Administration spokesman, said he wasn't a legal scholar but opined that the same question could be asked of other agencies. Chris Tollefson, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, answered that it was his understanding that authority for ESA "is based on the commerce clause." Former Rep. John Erlenborn, R-Ill., now president of the Legal Services Corp., answered: "Probably the same one that lets the federal government build highways. I don't know. The general welfare clause."

The correct answer to Human Events' question about the constitutional authority

for these outrageous programs is: There is no constitutional authority whatsoever. Grossly ignorant or conniving politicians tell constitutionally ignorant Americans that it is the general welfare clause that authorizes these programs. You figure it.

Here's what James Madison, the father of our Constitution, said about the welfare clause: "With respect to the two words 'general welfare', I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators."

Thomas Jefferson said, "Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare, but only those specifically enumerated." The detail or enumeration to which Madison and Jefferson refer is found mostly in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

Rep. John Shadegg, R-Ariz., has introduced the Enumerated Powers Act several times. It would require each act of Congress to contain a concise and definite statement of the specific constitutional authority relied upon for the enactment of each portion of that act or else the bill could not go forward. Shadegg's Enumerated Powers Act (HR 175) went down to three crushing defeats.

Can we ask for more compelling evidence of Congress's contempt for our Constitution, or do you think our congressmen are simply reflecting the constitutional contempt of the people?

CC
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Computer of Clarendon Pampa. He technology become Mic for Windows in Texas that study in the

"The adv college credi said Stephen

The first s port speciali networking plan, install, Microsoft W ment.

Stephens that will incl ing.

"To be a understand h system, netw ing, the infra bleshooting, servers, and said.

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Final actio after the off offered a ch rebuttal.

Smith alsu reprimands another offi Gary Tallma spokesman.

An acting

CCPC computer tech excited about certification program

By Darlene Birkes
FOR THE NEWS

Computer technologist DeWayne Stephens of Clarendon College-Pampa Center is new to Pampa. He is teaching the new information technology program to qualify students to become Microsoft certified systems engineers for Windows 2000. There are only 14 colleges in Texas that offer the two-semester course of study in the Microsoft IT Academy program.

"The advantages are that students can earn college credit as well as industry certification," said Stephens.

The first semester students learn to be a support specialist and in the second semester, a networking specialist. The student learns to plan, install, implement, manage and support a Microsoft Windows 2000 Network environment.

Stephens is scheduling a Summer I course that will include the fundamentals of networking.

"To be a network technician, one has to understand how computers work, the hardware system, networking, installation and configuring, the infrastructure design, as well as troubleshooting, configuring and optimizing servers, and many other aspects," Stephens said.

After passing the official Microsoft exams and the Comp TIA exams, the certified technician is equipped to find a job in the Panhandle. Stephens referred to a Panhandle Work Force development graph that estimated the need for technology certified students increasing to 1,000 jobs by the year 2010 in the Panhandle. Starting salaries begin at about \$30,000, said Stephens.

"There are so many types of positions as repair, customer service, maintenance, implementation and design," Stephens said. "There

is a big future in computers. I want this program to have a niche at Pampa Center, and I am going to work hard to see that it happens," said the enthusiastic instructor.

He added, "This can be adopted to other programs, even though most computers today are running some version of Microsoft Windows."

If students want to continue their education to acquire an associates of applied science degree, they can add two additional semesters of study with three electives and the required courses of English, math, fine arts, speech and social/behavioral science.

"There is no reason why a student can not attend college with the scholarships and grants available and even an IT loan," said Stephens. "A student can even apply for an IT loan to upgrade his home computer so that he can practice at home during his study with pay back not required for one year after he has completed the program."

Stephens had worked as a network technician before coming to Pampa Center. He worked for several school districts and a hospital as technical coordinator and systems administrator. He worked as a consultant in Phoenix, Ariz., but enjoys smaller towns.

"Some of my best days were working for a small school district where I did everything related to computers," Stephens said. "Pampa feels like home — a friendly, helpful town."

He is excited to be here, excited about the program, enjoys working in the new college building and with the staff "who treats me like family."

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Stephens or Counselor Jennifer Moore at CCPC, 1601 W. Kentucky. For more details, visit www.clarendoncollege.edu/programs/it on the Internet or call the campus at 665-8801.



(Courtesy photo) Computer technologist, DeWayne Stephens, currently heads up the Microsoft Information Technology program, new to CCPC. Students graduate as certified systems engineers after a concentrated course requiring two semesters of study.

No. 2 U.S. Interior Department official met with former associates

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The No. 2 official in the U.S. Interior Department participated in meetings on oil and gas leases involving companies that were clients of a lobbying firm he had worked for previously.

Clients of Deputy Interior Secretary J. Steven Griles' former lobbying firm had huge financial stakes in the leases off Florida and California.

Some of the meetings involving Griles figured in a dispute that ended with the Bush administration paying \$46 million to Chevron USA Inc. to abandon a natural gas drilling project in the Gulf of Mexico, just 30 miles from Florida beaches.

Before the Senate confirmed Griles in 2001, he promised to refrain for a year from involvement in any issue in which one of his former clients or employers had a financial interest.

Though Griles is listed as a lobbyist for Chevron in reports filed with Congress by his firm, he says he did no personal lobbying for the company.

While Griles' nomination was pending before the Senate, Chevron was paying Griles' firm \$80,000 to lobby the Interior Department, according to reports filed with Congress.

In September 2001, two months after he

was confirmed, Griles participated in the first of at least four meetings with Interior Department colleagues about the Chevron project, according to Griles' appointment calendars, which were obtained by news organizations and environmental groups under the Freedom of Information Act.

Interior spokesman Mark Pfeifle defended Griles' actions, saying he acted ethically.

Pfeifle said Griles participated in discussions about the dispute involving Chevron's leases, but made no decisions. The Justice Department negotiated a settlement with the company.

"Steve Griles made as many decisions for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to win the Super Bowl as he did on the Destin Dome buyout," said Pfeifle. Destin Dome is the name of the area of the Gulf where Chevron's leases were located.

Pfeifle said the Chevron settlement was negotiated by career employees who saved taxpayers more than \$285 million because Chevron and other oil companies had sued the federal government for far more than they collected.

After inquiries by The Associated Press, Griles' former lobbying partner Marc Himmelstein said the firm plans to change each of the three lobbying reports it filed with Congress to remove Griles' name.

National Guard Colonel relieved of duty after streaking incident

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — A National Guard battalion commander is being relieved of his command for running naked outside the barracks at Fort Bragg.

Lt. Col. J.D. Webster was one of several soldiers seen streaking on Feb. 18, the military said.

Maj. Gen. Zannie O. Smith, acting commander of the 18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, has told Webster he intends to take away his job as commander of the 1st Battalion of the 130th Aviation Regiment, an Apache attack helicopter unit. Final action will be taken after the officers have been offered a chance to give a rebuttal.

Smith also issued written reprimands to Webster and another officer, said Maj. Gary Tallman, a Fort Bragg spokesman.

An acting commander has

been appointed for the battalion, Tallman said.

Webster declined to comment through a spokesman.

Military officials wouldn't release any details on

Webster. His National Guard unit battalion is based at Morrisville, at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport, and is now training at Fort Hood, Texas.



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THURSDAY • APRIL 3, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Accommodating Mother-in-Law Gets Back What She Gives

DEAR ABBY Years ago, when I first became a daughter-in-law, it was a good lesson in how *not* to be a mother-in-law. So when our son became engaged, I told his chosen one I considered her "in-law" status only a legality, that I felt I was gaining a daughter, and that wives should always come before mothers. My husband and I offered advice only when asked and kept still when we saw them do something we thought was a mistake.

When our son had to travel out of town for additional job training, Dad and I moved into their home at their request. We had a great time with our grandchildren and made it possible for our son and his wife to have uninterrupted time for each other.

I am now a widow in my 90s and live in a lovely apartment my son and his wife built onto their home. They visit and help me whenever I need them.

When we drive places, I have always insisted on sitting in the back seat because I find it easier to get in and out of the car. (The kids often have things to discuss and I don't need to know everything.) Believe me, the back seat "ain't" all that bad!

My daughters live in Virginia and California and come to stay whenever my son and his wife want to get away. All of them keep me busy with my computer, getting my own meals, knitting and library

books. My girls call daily — California in the mornings and Virginia to say good-night. The kids here in town are in and out several times a day. When I tell each one how blessed I feel, my son always says, "Mother, you reap what you sow."
GRATEFUL MOM-IN-LAW

DEAR GRATEFUL MOM-IN-LAW: In most relationships, your son is right. Love and

respect are a two-way street. I receive so many letters about bad relationships that it's a pleasure to print one that details such an exemplary one.

And while we're on the subject, I'll reprint a favorite item that has appeared in my column before:

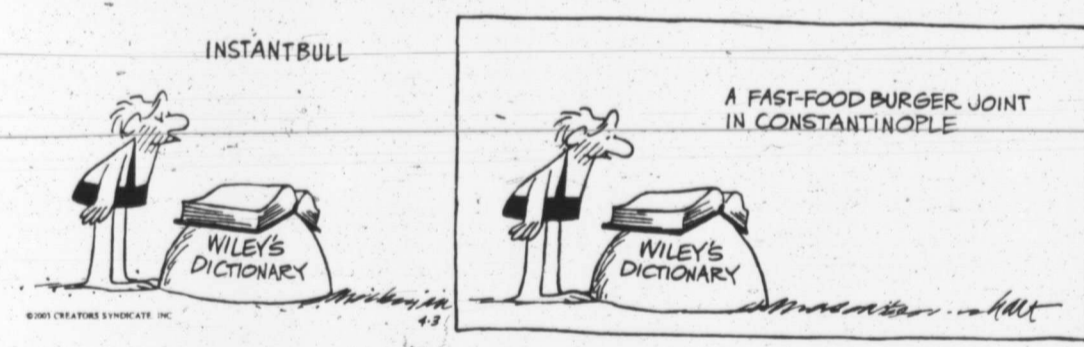
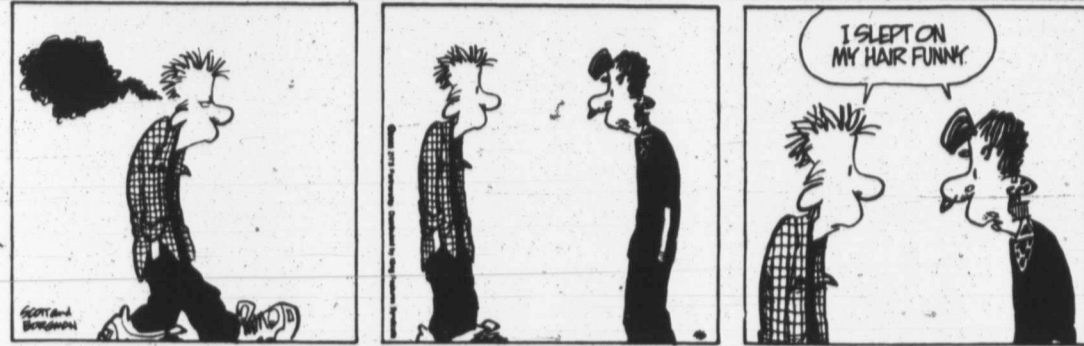
TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A MOTHER-IN-LAW

by Lola M. Irwin

- Thou shalt love, honor and respect the new couple.
- Thou shalt allow them complete independence.
- Thou shalt speak only kindly and loyally about them.
- Thou shalt not find fault.
- Thou shalt not visit them too frequently, and never enter their home without knocking.
- Thou shalt not expect them to visit you too often.
- Thou shalt not give advice unless requested.
- Thou shalt not mention how much you look forward to grandchildren.
- Thou shalt respect their taste in home decorating, though it differs from your own.
- Thou shalt petition daily the Heavenly Father, in whose love they abide, for their happiness.

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

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

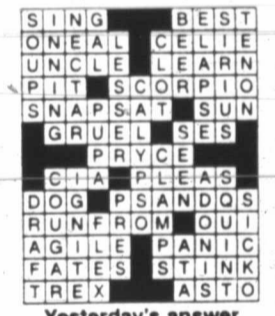


Crossword Puzzle

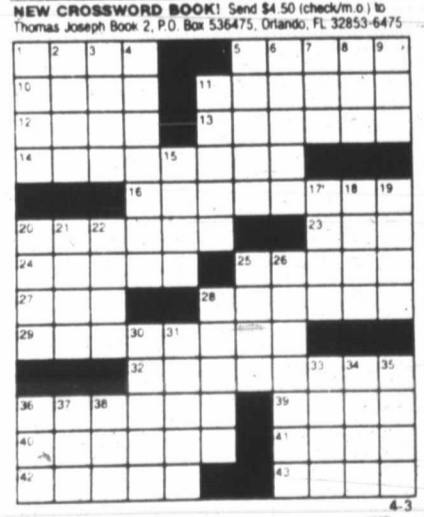
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rating unit
 - 5 Cousteau creation
 - 10 "Damn, Yankees" role
 - 11 Wasn't greedy
 - 12 First place
 - 13 Deemed a bomb
 - 14 Cargo worker
 - 16 Strike plays
 - 20 Attractive
 - 23 Japanese drama
 - 24 Different
 - 25 Africa's largest city
 - 27 "Treasure Island" monogram
 - 28 Added to a news-group
 - 29 Imperfection
 - 32 Halite
 - 36 Give
 - 38 Ice chunk
 - 40 Alaskan islanders
 - 41 Saudi Arabia neighbor
 - 42 Reach
 - 43 Put in order
- DOWN**
- 1 Downhill carrier

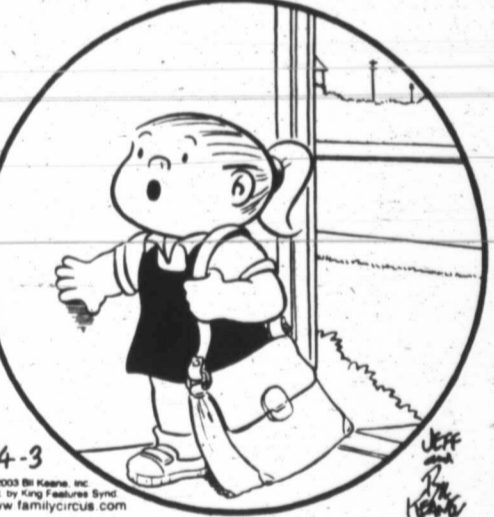


- Yesterday's answer**
- 21 Capital on a fjord, e.g.
 - 22 Assorted; Abbr.
 - 25 Bottle top
 - 26 Requests
 - 28 Duel
 - 30 Frank
 - 31 "Be pre-
 - 33 — mater
 - 34 Credit union offering
 - 35 Short race
 - 36 Follower of Trygve
 - 37 Bullfight call
 - 38 Catch



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SPORTS

NOTEBOOK

BASEBALL

ANAHEIM, Calif.
(AP) — Alex Rodriguez became the youngest player to hit 300 home runs, connecting for a three-run drive in the Texas Rangers' game against the Anaheim Angels.

Rodriguez is 27 years, 249 days old. Previously, the fastest to 300 was Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx at 27 years, 328 days. Foxx finished his career with 534 homers.

CORRECTION

Blake Helms of Pampa was listed as a junior on the All-District 3-4A Boys Soccer Team, which was published in the Amarillo Globe-News. Blake is actually a senior.

AUTO RACING

TALLADEGA, Ala.
(AP) — Driver Ryan Newman, crew chief Matt Borland and race engineer Mike Nelson have brought something new to Penske Racing South — an emphasis on technology.

All three have degrees on mechanical engineering and bring a different perspective to a job where learning was mostly by trial and error.

"In school we're taught an organized way to go about solving problems," Nelson said. "I think that's an advantage."

It's not a shock that technology is a priority on the team owned by Roger Penske. Penske's entries in the more technically sophisticated world of open-wheel racing have been dominant. Since 1969 they have 12 Indianapolis 500s, 11 open-wheel championships and 114 total victories.

"The cars, although they're very different, you're still trying to accomplish the same thing, which is to make all four tires work as best you can," said Borland, a graduate of the General Motors Institute, who came to NASCAR from an engineering position in CART.

"A lot of the strategy part is pretty different," Borland added. "Indy cars, you just keep trying to run as long as you can on fuel because the cars get faster on long runs. With these cars, you continually get slower on long runs. You have to think kind of opposite from what you grew up doing."

"And, in NASCAR, you get more involved in the car-building process, whereas in CART you buy the chassis from Reynard or another supplier. You pretty much just run the car, but here you're pretty much building the car and motor from the ground up and racing the car."

The Penske team switched from Ford to Dodge this year, and both Newman, last year's top rookie, and teammate Rusty Wallace, the 1989 Winston Cup champion, got off to slow starts.



Basketball player Valerie Velez of Pampa will playing in the Golden Spread High School All-Star Games at the Event Center in Canyon.

Velez will play in Golden Spread All-Star contests

PAMPA — Pampa's Valerie Velez has been selected to play in the annual Texas Golden Spread All-Star Basketball Games today through Saturday at the West Texas A&M Event Center in Canyon.

The Games feature outstanding area senior players from the Texas Panhandle and eastern New Mexico.

Velez will be a member of the East team, which plays the North girls at 6 p.m. Friday.

Velez was a second-team All-District 3-4A player this past season.

She led the Lady Harvester in scoring (10.1 pp), free throw percentage (73 percent) and steals (19) in district play.

Velez was second on the team in rebounding (4.1 rpg) and averaged 1.5 assists per game.

Golden Spread teams for both boys and girls are divided into North, South, East and West squads, which are coached by volunteers.

Tonight's action begins at 6 p.m. with the West girls playing the South girls, followed by the West boys and the South boys at 8 p.m.

Following the East-North girls game tomorrow, the East boys meet the North boys at 8 p.m.

The consolation games start at 1 p.m. Saturday beginning with the girls. The girls championship game starts at 6 p.m., followed by the boys at 8 p.m.

There will also be three-point shooting competition. An senior boy or girl, regardless of whether they are selected for the All-Star Games, is eligible to participate.

Astros notch comeback victory over Rockies

HOUSTON (AP) — The Astros hadn't done this in 11 years.

Not since April 9, 1992, had Houston trailed by four runs in the ninth inning and come back to win.

That's what happened Wednesday night, when Craig Biggio's two-run single capped a five-run ninth inning in an 8-7 win over the Colorado Rockies.

"When you're down by four with their closer on the mound, you don't expect to win," Biggio said. "But those guys ahead of me did their jobs and you never give up. We gave ourselves an opportunity to win and we'll sure take it."

The last time this happened was at the Astrodome, when Houston overcame a 5-1, ninth-inning deficit against Cincinnati and won 6-5 in 13 innings.

This also was the first time Colorado, which began play in 1993, ever lost on the road after leading by four runs in the ninth. The Rockies have lost twice at Coors Field after leading by four runs in the ninth.

Jose Jimenez (0-1) replaced Todd Jones with a 7-3 lead and gave up six hits while retiring just one batter. Jimenez waved off interview requests after the game.

"It's a lonely feeling for him right now," Jones said. "But you know if we're going to do anything this year, we're going to have to rely on him. It's just tough for him right now but those are the ups and downs of being a closer."

Houston's rally began when Jeff Bagwell, Lance Berkman and Jeff Kent loaded the bases with singles, and Richard Hidalgo hit a two-run single.

"He just got the ball up over the plate and they put the barrel on it," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said. "The first three balls were hit on the ground."

After Brad Ausmus bunted into a forceout at third, Orlando Merced pinch hit for Billy Wagner (1-0) and had an RBI double that made it 7-6. Jose Vizcaino was intentionally walked, and Biggio singled to left.

"It is just one game, but it

shows what we are capable of doing," Bagwell said. "We can build on that. It helps your confidence because you know that you did something like that before."

Houston, which outit the Rockies 14-13, won despite stranding 13 runners, and Colorado left 11. Bagwell had three hits and Biggio drove in three runs.

With Colorado ahead 3-2 and the bases loaded following walks to Ronnie Belliard and Jay Payton, Todd Helton singled to shallow right field. Chris Stynes scored on the hit off Wade Miller, and the ball rolled by Hidalgo for a two-run error that gave the Rockies a 6-2 lead.

"The first four innings were like two drunks fighting early in the morning," Hurdle said. "It took a long time to play, there were a lot of body blows, and it wasn't pretty."

A throwing error by Colorado catcher Charles Johnson cut the gap to 6-3 in the fourth, but Belliard had an RBI single in the fifth off Pete Munro.

Rockies starter Aaron Cook gave up three runs —

two earned — eight hits and four walks in four innings. Miller, who stayed in after he was hit by Chris Stynes' comebacker in the second, allowed five runs and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Colorado took a 3-0 lead in the second on RBI singles by Cook, Belliard and Jay Payton. Todd Helton followed with another single, but Hidalgo threw out

Belliard at the plate.

Notes: Ausmus, Houston's catcher, received his second straight Gold Glove award prior to the game. ... After two opening-night homers, Bagwell is tied with Frank Howard for 43rd place on the home run list with 382. ... Nelson Cruz is to start Thursday against his old teammates.

Plainview beats Pampa girls

PLAINVIEW — Plainview jumped out to an early lead and held off Pampa for a 6-3 victory Tuesday in District 3-4A softball action.

Pampa took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when Jennie Rogers scored. She doubled, advanced to third on a grounder, and stole home.

However, Plainview plated five runs in the bottom of the first on two hits, four walks and one error. The Lady Bulldogs added one more run in the second.

The Lady Harvesters scored the last two runs of the game in the top of the second

off two Plainview errors with Whitney Roden and Jackie Gerber reaching base. Rogers drive in one of the runs on an RBI single while the other run came on a Plainview miscue.

Rogers had two of the three Pampa hits. Roden had the other one.

Pampa pitcher Dusti Wilson after the first two innings retired 14 batters in a row. Her record is 10-2.

The Lady Harvesters are 5-3 in district and 18-8 for the season. They host Hereford at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Plainview is 1-7 in district and 4-14 for the season.

St. John's, Georgetown go for NIT championship

NEW YORK (AP) — St. John's coach Mike Jarvis walked into the room, picked up his cell phone and started talking to no one.

"What's that? Do you want me to tell him that?" Jarvis joked. He closed his phone and announced, "It's all set. Coach Esherrick won't be here tomorrow."

Playing a conference rival in the National Invitation Tournament can provide such moments of levity. The Red Storm play Craig Esherrick's Georgetown squad Thursday night in the NIT final, and St. John's (20-13) hopes to add another title to its tournament-record five championships.

Perhaps Jarvis should have joked that Georgetown big man Michael Sweetney won't be able to make it. Sweetney saved his best performance of the season for the end, dominating teams down low during the Hoyas' recent resur-

gence. He had 32 points against Minnesota in the semifinals Tuesday night.

Sweetney averages a double-double (22.8 points, 10.4 rebounds). He also is a junior, and he has given no indication whether he will leave school to enter the NBA draft.

"He's got to be if not the best big man in college, one of the best," St. John's guard Marcus Hatten said.

Hatten also has been the Red Storm's best player throughout the season. He scored 14 of his game-high 34 points in the final 3:17 to help St. John's erase a 16-point deficit in the final seven minutes and beat the Hoyas 77-72 on Jan. 18.

St. John's entered its game against Duke on March 2 at 12-12. But the Red Storm upset the Blue Devils 72-71 on Hatten's free throw with no time left, starting a string of eight wins in nine games.

Hatten also won the game against Texas Tech in the semifinals, hitting a layup with 16 seconds left to give the Red Storm a thrilling 64-63 victory.

Georgetown (19-14) also has won five of its last six after struggling throughout the regular season.

"St. John's went through some of the same growing pains we went through," Esherrick said. "(Recently) our defense has picked up and we've played extremely good defense in the NIT."

Just one year ago, the Hoyas turned down a bid to the NIT because they would have had to play on the road and miss classes. Now Esherrick is happy to represent the Big East in the postseason.

Aside from having two league teams play for the NIT title, four Big East squads made the round of 16 and Syracuse is in the Final Four.

"There were a lot of teams in our league that were better than people thought in terms of the national press," Esherrick said.

Georgetown has never won the NIT title. The Hoyas played in the final in 1993 but lost to Minnesota 62-61. Aside from having the chance to coach in the NIT, Esherrick played at Georgetown in 1978 when the Hoyas made the semifinals and lost to North Carolina State, then lost again in the consolation game to Rutgers.

St. John's is no stranger to going to the championship game. Aside from having five titles — the last in 1989 — the Red Storm have the most wins in the tournament's history (44).

In the locker room, a simple message is posted: "Know your ring size. St. John's goes for No. 6."

"We had a lot of games that could have been our last, but

this is a grand finale," Hatten said. "We look forward to doing something special."

The win over Texas Tech gave the Red Storm the 37th 20-win season in school history. It wasn't easy to reach that mark.

"After we beat Duke, we realized we could play with anybody in the country," said junior guard Willie Shaw, who bruised his shoulder against the Red Raiders but expects to play against Georgetown. "The world thought we were going to get blown out, but that has been the turning point of the season."

Minnesota (19-13) and Texas Tech (21-13) play in the consolation game. Coach Bob Knight saw the Red Raiders blow a 10-point lead against St. John's in his bid to win a second NIT title. Knight led Indiana to the championship in 1979.

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Jobless claims soar to highest level in nearly year

WASHINGTON (AP) — New claims for unemployment benefits shot up last week to their highest point in nearly a year as businesses made work forces leaner amid a muddled wartime economic climate.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new applications jumped by a seasonally adjusted 38,000 to 445,000 for the week ending March 29. That represented the highest level of new claims since the week ending April 13, 2002.

Thursday's report highlighted the difficulties both companies and workers are facing, not only because of war but also because of a muddled economic climate.

"It is the pall of the Iraqi war, higher energy prices and lower stock prices just weighing on the willingness of companies to maintain jobs," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. "The uncertainty is so high they just can't think about expanding their businesses at this point."

The pace of layoffs last

week was worse than economists were predicting. They were forecasting claims to rise to around 410,000.

Economists say claims above the 400,000 mark generally depict an extremely weak job market.

The more stable four-week moving average of new claims also rose last week to 426,250. The moving average has been above the 400,000 level for five straight weeks.

Uncertainties surrounding the war and lackluster profits are among the forces that are

making businesses step up layoffs. Those same forces also are making companies reluctant to aggressively hire and to invest heavily in capital projects, major forces restraining the economy.

After falling into a recession in 2001, the economy has been struggling since then to get back on firm footing. The road to recovery has been bumpy.

With economists forecasting sub-par economic growth for both the first and second quarters of this year, the

nation's labor market is likely to deteriorate further, they say.

The nation's unemployment rate rose to 5.8 percent in February. Economists believe it could move to 5.9 percent or 6 percent for March, and higher in the months ahead. The government reports on the employment situation for March on Friday.

Economists also believe the economy lost 40,000 jobs in March alone. That wouldn't be good, but it wouldn't be as bad as February when payrolls were slashed by 308,000.

To energize the economy and help job creation, President Bush has called on Congress to enact a fresh round of tax cuts.

His chief spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said Thursday: "Today's bad news makes it even more important for Congress to act and pass the president's proposal."

Federal Reserve policymakers have been keeping interest rates at very low levels, with the hope that might help cushion the negative impact of the ailing job market, a turbulent stock market, higher energy prices and war worries.

A big fear is that a worsening labor market will make consumers turn more cautious, slowing the economy further.

New jobless claims fell by 20,000 two week ago, but that

left the level of claims at a still high 407,000.

New claims have been running above the 400,000 mark for seven weeks in a row.

The number of workers continuing to draw unemployment benefits soared by 107,000 to 3.61 million for the work week ending March 22, the most recent period for which that information is available.

That sharp rise left the level of continuing benefits at their highest point since Nov. 16, 2002. The high level of claims suggest that not a lot of hiring is taking place, economists say.

"If you get caught losing your job, this is an extremely difficult market to find another one and it is getting worse," Zandi said.

The number of workers continuing to draw unemployment benefits soared by 107,000 to 3.61 million for the work week ending March 22, the most recent period for which that information is available.

House passes bill to deny Social Security to felons

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fugitive felons and parole violators would be denied Social Security benefits in legislation headed to the Senate.

The bill, approved by the House 396-28 on Wednesday, also increases protections for Social Security recipients who have a legal financial representative in charge of their benefits, such as minors and the disabled. Those who abuse their positions would face a \$5,000 fine.

The bill also disqualifies as such representatives people who have been convicted and imprisoned for more than a year, and fugitive felons.

Kidnappers, drug users and car thieves are currently among those permitted by the Social Security Administration to be representatives. An audit by the agency's inspector general found 3,473 cases in which fugitive felons were serving as financial representatives in 10 states that auditors checked.

The Senate could take up the bill later this spring.

Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chairman of the House Ways and Means Social Security subcommittee, inserted a measure that would end a provision used by Texas teachers to increase their retirement benefits.

Democrats, after intense lobbying by teachers unions, defeated the bill last month when it came to the House floor. Many lawmakers changed their mind since then, leading to Wednesday's success.

Spouses of retired, disabled or deceased workers usually receive Social Security benefits. But a 1977 law reduces those benefits for employees of some state and local governments who do not pay into the Social Security system and do not collect benefits, and are covered by their own retirement systems.

The provision that Shaw's measure would end allows those workers to

avoid the reduction in benefits if they are covered by both Social Security and their government pension during their last day on the job.

Congressional investigators found that 4,795 teachers in Texas and 24 in Georgia had taken advantage of the provision as of June 2002, transferring briefly to other jobs before retiring. For as little as about \$3 paid to Social Security, those teachers will receive on average an extra \$4,800 a year.

Some school districts also started charging processing fees ranging from \$100 to \$500 to make the switch. One district collected an additional \$283,000 in revenue from the fees.

The provision is costing the federal government about \$450 million. Social Security officials say the practice could grow as more people become aware of it.

The bill, H.R. 743, can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov>

Altrusa fund-raiser



(Courtesy photo)

Altrusa International Inc. of Pampa recently held its largest fund-raiser of the year, the annual Altrusa Style Show. Present at the event were (left-right) Maxine Freeman, Mary Nelson, Virginia Stavenhagen, Dorothy Stowers, (standing) and Eleanor New.

Terrorists may try something, FBI warns

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI says terrorists could use common household items to improvise chemical or biological weapons and then hide them in food.

Using materials available at stores, on the Internet or through mail-order firms, terrorists could make cyanide compounds, grow salmonella bacteria and botulinum toxin, or distill the poison ricin from castor beans, the FBI said Wednesday in its weekly bulletin.

The memo, sent to 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies, said there is no specific threat or indication that an attack is imminent. But it detailed several past attacks using such weapons, including

an Oregon cult's contamination of local restaurant salad bars with salmonella bacteria that sickened 751 people in 1984.

Yeast, infant formula, sugar, epsom salts, cheesecloth, blenders, masks and gloves are among the items widely available that terrorists could use to set up a laboratory to make crude chemical and biological weapons, the bulletin said. A key tool is the agar plate, which is used by scientists and doctors to grow cultures.

"Large numbers of agar plates can be inoculated and harvested by an individual possessing minimal training," the FBI bulletin says. "These agar plates could produce sufficient quantities of bacteria to sicken

or kill large numbers of people."

The FBI last week warned that terrorists could make simple chemical and biological weapons with materials available nationwide. That bulletin noted that the capture of al-Qaida operations' chief Khalid Shaikh Mohammed has provided fresh evidence of the terror network's experiments with such weapons.

Officials at the National Institutes of Health are also worried about the threat from botulinum toxin, which occurs naturally.

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