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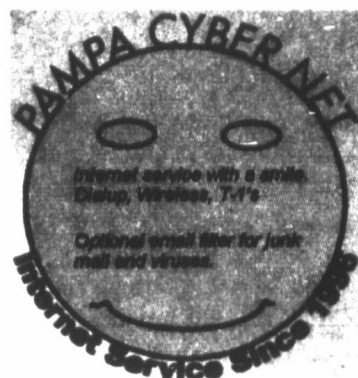
THE Pampa NEWS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2003

NEWS

Vol. 53 No. 15 Pampa, Texas
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HIGH 72
LOW 44

LOTTERY

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-33-37-41-45-49.
Estimated jackpot: \$25 million.
Number matching six of six: 0.
Matching five of six: 78. Prize: \$2,549.
Matching four of six: 4,369. Prize: \$112.
Matching three of six: 94,097. Prize: \$5.
Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.
Estimated jackpot: \$29 million.

DEATHS

Maurine Brotherton, 70, retired businesswoman.
Lydia Marie Eppison, 81, former business owner.
Juanita McCarthy, homemaker.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE

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(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Shannon Campsey of SBC addresses County Commissioners Tuesday.

Business as usual

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

Internet service providers and signatures on county checking accounts were the thrust of the Gray County Commission meeting Tuesday.

Discussion at the meeting Tuesday centered around who the internet service provider will be when county employees move back into the recently restored courthouse on May 27.

Representatives of CentraMedia and South Bell Communications were in commissioners court to answer questions about the procedure.

Both companies presented the services they would offer if they get the contract. Discussion of dedicated lines and fire walls, along with DSL and wireless service was discussed.

County Tax Collector Sammie

For story and photos of the courthouse rededication, see "Better than Ever" on Page 12

Morris urged the commission to retain CentraMedia. "I've had wireless and DSL," she said. "And there's no difference."

Morris went on to say that the service provided by CentraMedia was more acceptable to her than SBC.

"CentraMedia is right here in town and they are always here in a short period of time if I need assistance," she said. "I've not had that good of luck with SBC. I urge you to keep the business in Pampa."

Commission members also asked about the fiber optic line between

Borger and Pampa which was cut several times last year by contractors causing Pampans to lose both phone and computer service.

Both companies have looked at the areas in the courthouse to need wiring. SBC representative Chris Icles said he would have the needed wiring installed in 16 business days while CentraMedia's Jim Seeley said the time frame for his company would be seven to ten days.

Icles with SBC said monthly internet charge would be \$600 a month and Seeley of CentraMedia said \$79.95 would be their charge.

Commissioners made no decision at the meeting. Each of the five members of the commissioners court received a printed projection from the ISPs and said they would talk with specialists in the field before

(See COUNTY, Page 3)

Early voting starts light, officials say

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

Early voting got off to a slow start in the May 3 city and school elections on Wednesday.

City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers said only nine voters braved the high-flying Texas Panhandle winds on Wednesday to cast their votes in early balloting.

She said early balloting will continue through April 29 in her office, Room 205 at City Hall. Hours to vote in the city races are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. City offices are closed Friday, April 18, for Good Friday.

Five candidates are seeking the mayoral position in Pampa. Jeff Andrews, Mike Rummerfield, Norman Stephens, John Goddard are challenging the current mayor, Lonny Robbins.

Ward 1 Commissioner Jeff McCormick is challenged by

Doug Locke while Ward 3 Commissioner Bob Dixon is challenged by Ed Robinson.

There were 11 voters in the first day of voting in the Pampa Independent School District trustee election on Wednesday, said Kay Hopper, school personnel office employee at Carver Center.

Place 4 PISD Board Member Nancy Coffee has two challengers. They are James Goode and Charles Smith.

Lee Porter, Place 5 board member, is unopposed in the May election.

Early voting in the school races is at Carver Center in the personnel office.

Hopper said the voting will be conducted during office hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She added that the voting will be conducted on Friday, but will not be held Monday as Monday is a school holiday.

Terror alert level: Yellow

By ANGIE WAGNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The terror alert has been lowered and the government says the heavy fighting in Iraq is finished, but Robin Taliencich still doesn't feel any safer.

In fact, the truck driver from Corpus Christi, Texas, feels the opposite: "It's just like boxing: You let your guard down and someone's going to come in with a left hook and hit you again," Taliencich, 30, said.

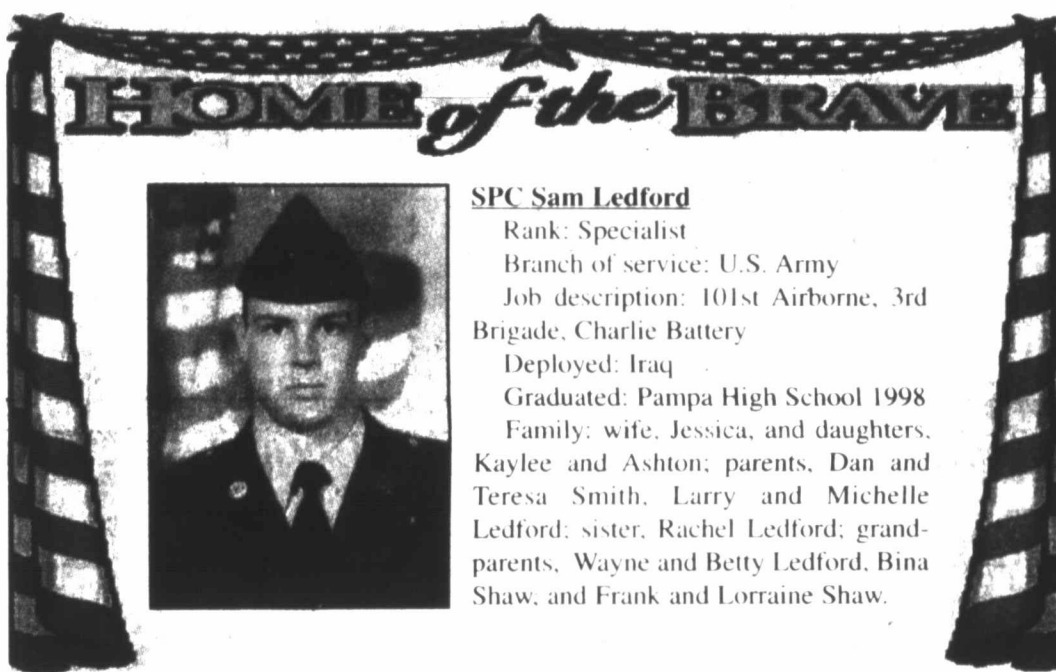
The Bush administration, citing the winding down of the war in Iraq, dropped the terror alert level from orange to yellow — high to elevated — on Wednesday, saying there is a diminished threat of terrorism in the United States.

But some Americans weren't convinced anything has changed. Others said they were never really worried anyway or felt reassured by the change.

"I feel about the same," said Jeff Wiles of Oklahoma City.

The war in Iraq, he believes, will only invite more ter-

(See YELLOW, Page 3)



SPC Sam Ledford

Rank: Specialist
Branch of service: U.S. Army
Job description: 101st Airborne, 3rd Brigade, Charlie Battery
Deployed: Iraq
Graduated: Pampa High School 1998
Family: wife, Jessica, and daughters, Kaylee and Ashton; parents, Dan and Teresa Smith, Larry and Michelle Ledford; sister, Rachel Ledford; grandparents, Wayne and Betty Ledford, Bina Shaw, and Frank and Lorraine Shaw.

Experts: Museum looters organized, knowledgeable

Special forces capture Saddam's half brother in Baghdad

By DAVID CRARY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Some looters emptying Iraq's museums of centuries-old treasures were possibly professional thieves who used keys to enter locked safes and vaults, experts said Thursday. On the military front, U.S. special forces captured a half-brother of Saddam Hussein and another Navy aircraft carrier departed the Persian Gulf.

A gathering of 30 art experts and cultural historians in Paris said that while much of the looting in Iraq was haphazard, some of the thieves clearly knew what they wanted and where to find it.

"It looks as if part of the looting was a deliberate planned action," said McGuire Gibson, a University of Chicago professor and president of the American Association for Research in Baghdad. "They were able to take keys for vaults and were able to take out important Mesopotamian materials put in safes."

With the air campaign winding down and the Saddam regime toppled, the USS Constellation left the Gulf on Thursday. One day earlier, the carrier USS Kitty Hawk departed for its homeport in Yokosuka, Japan.

Both the Navy and the Air Force were bringing aircraft home to grant pilots and crews a respite after one of the most intense air campaigns in history.

In a briefing at U.S. Central Command, Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks said Barzan Ibrahim Hasan, a top adviser to Saddam as well as his half brother, was captured alone in Baghdad. No casualties were sustained by the special forces or the U.S. Marines who provided support.

Brooks declined to give details about the operation, but said it resulted from information provided by Iraqis. The U.S.-led coalition is "relentlessly pursuing the scattered members of a fractured regime," Brooks said.

Barzan Hasan was head of

Iraq's secret police, the Mukhabarat, and later served as Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations agencies based in Geneva, Switzerland, where he reportedly ran Iraq's intelligence operations in Europe.

Another of Saddam's three half brothers, Watban Ibrahim Hasan, was captured previously; he once served as Iraq's interior minister. Both are considered likely to have information about any weapons of mass destruction developed by Saddam's regime.

The third half brother, Sab'awi Ibrahim Hasan, reportedly took refuge in Syria.

In Baghdad, a riot erupted Thursday outside a branch of the al-Rashid bank after robbers blew a hole in the vault and dropped children through the opening to bring out cash. Hearing that the robbery was under way, hundreds of people converged on the bank, demanding that the thieves give them the money.

(See IRAQ, Page 3)

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Car Olympians



(Courtesy photo)

High Plains Cruiser Car Club hosted a Car Olympics April 12 at M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium parking lot. Pictured are winners Bob Ousley, Johnny Harper, Cindy Harper, Mildred Dawson, Kenny Dawson, Austin Bruner, Cleo Meaker, Dexter Hacker and Kent Jones. (Not Shown Raymond Swaney). The results of the "Olympics" are as follows: Obstacle Course: Gold-Raymond Swaney, Silver-Kenny Dawson, Bronze-Johnny Harper; Tire Pressure Check: Gold-Austin Bruner, Bronze-Raymond Swaney, Bronze-Mildred Dawson; Dip Stick: Gold-Raymond Swaney, Silver-Austin Bruner, Bronze-Dexter Hacker; Brake Before You Break: Gold-Bob Ousley, Silver-Kent Jones, Bronze-Cleo Meaker; Speedy Start: Gold-Kent Jones, Silver-Cindy Harper, Bronze-Kenny Dawson. The club reports 21 participants for their first-ever Car Olympics.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

COUNTY

holding a special meeting next week to take action.

County Attorney Todd Alvey asked that all signatures but his on the hot check bank account signature card be deleted.

Commissioners approved having only Alvey on the signature card. He said there were several people on the card from years past.

County Auditor Elaine Morris said this morning there were two signatures of former employees on the signature

card. She explained that all offices have been updating the signatures on the signature cards and eliminating all former employees off of the cards.

New signatures approved in the Tax Assessor-Collector's accounts will be Christie Brown, Dona Kitterman and Nancy Hollingwood.

Gaye Whitehead will be assuming the position of Tax Assessor-Collector on May 1 when Sammie Morris retires.

Only her signature will be required to sign checks unless deputies in that office are

signing them. Then, it will require two signatures.

Molly McDowell of the McLean Tax office was appointed to be on the signature card in that office.

District Clerk Gaye Honderich was given approval to hire a part-time employee to set up a new filing system.

She explained there would not be a cost to the county as the salary would come from a special fund she has from monies she has received from the Attorney General's office for past collection of child support.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

YELLOW

ronism. "I think it's going to open up a big can of worms," Wiles said.

The new alert status means a number of security measures around the country will be relaxed. That will come as welcome news to local authorities who have complained about the high cost of providing extra security.

Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Mayors' homeland security task force, said cities can stop paying high overtime costs for extra policing of infrastructure like ports, tunnels and bridges.

But he said the government has still done little to help local governments pay for the additional security that the heightened alerts make necessary.

"In the long term, we think the federal government must put a mechanism into place so

that when we are asked to spend more dollars to cover critical infrastructure, we don't go bankrupt in the process," he said.

The federal "Operation Liberty Shield" — the code name for security measures keyed specifically to the war on Iraq — will be terminated. It called for National Guard or state police to be posted at nuclear power plants and other critical facilities.

The Transportation Security Administration told airports they could discontinue the ran-

dom vehicle inspections and parking restrictions put in place at code orange.

But in New York, the city remains on orange alert, its level since terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in 2001.

"Nothing has changed," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly. "The reality is that New York City has been targeted four times in the past decade."

Las Vegas tourist Wendell Bruns expressed the same cau-

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

National-Oilwell, L.P. has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of Air Quality Permit No. 54554 which would authorize the Surface Coating and Preparation Operations at the Pampa Plant located at 11561 US Highway 60 West, Pampa, Gray County, Texas. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

C-22

April 17, 2003

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

IRAQ

Guns were fired, and a U.S. Army unit arrived, arresting a dozen men and youths inside the bank while many in the crowd chanted their approval. The U.S. soldiers recovered about \$4 million in U.S. currency, which they took away in burlap bags for safekeeping.

In three cities in northern Iraq, including Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, gunbattles and ethnic feuding were complicating reconstruction efforts.

U.S. officials said members of Saddam's clan in Tikrit twice attacked people from outlying villages coming to warehouses in search of food. Each time Marines intervened to disarm the attackers and separate the sides, said Lt. Col. Freddie Blish of Marine Wing Support Group 37.

In Mosul, the largest city in the north, U.S. commanders tried to ease anti-American anger after two days of confrontations involving U.S. Marines. Local hospital officials said 14 people died Tuesday, while three more were shot dead Wednesday.

The U.S. Central Command said a gunbattle Tuesday killed about seven Iraqis, some of whom were trying to storm a U.S. position.

Brooks said the violence Wednesday involved an exchange of fire between Marines and some suspected bank robbers. But residents said some of those hit by bullets were doing no wrong, including a police officer trying to maintain order.

"They are killing us and no one's talking about it," Zahra Yassin said at a hospital with her wounded son. "We want Saddam back. At least there was security."

In Kirkuk, the second-largest city in the north, Arab families complained that they have been forced out their

homes by a group of Kurds claiming ownership in the largely Kurdish city.

The new Kurdish occupants took over in the confusion immediately after the April 10 collapse of Saddam's authority in Kirkuk. They claim the land was theirs before Saddam evicted them in the 1980s, but Arabs claim the Kurds have been taking the law into their own hands.

"If this humiliation against us continues, we are going to defend our properties and our homes ourselves," said Seyed Aqel Musawi, a civic leader in one of the Arab neighborhoods where homes have been seized.

In Baghdad, U.S. troops and Iraqi police broadened efforts to restore law and order. A Marine unit went on an overnight patrol in one of the capital's roughest neighborhoods and exchanged fire at one point with suspected looters, one of whom died of his wounds Thursday.

At Baghdad's police academy, motorists formed a line outside the front gate after word spread that some recently stolen cars had been recovered by the newly re-formed police force.

The top war commander, Gen. Tommy Franks, said 2,200 civilians in Baghdad have volunteered to serve as police officers.

At a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, the seven

U.S. prisoners of war freed in Iraq earlier this week were examined Thursday by military doctors, who said they were in good health.

Five of the freed prisoners belonged to the same unit ambushed in southern Iraq as rescued POW Jessica Lynch, who returned to the United States last weekend. The other two were Apache helicopter pilots downed in central Iraq.

On the diplomatic front, President Bush urged the United Nations to lift sanctions that have choked Iraq's economy for nearly 13 years. Debate on the issue could be divisive; some Security Council members may insist on getting detailed assurances about the U.N.'s future role in Iraq before agreeing to lift the sanctions.

The European Union, at a summit Thursday in Greece, said the U.N. must play a central role in rebuilding Iraq. Bush administration officials have suggested the U.N. could take the lead in humanitarian efforts, but they want the United States and Britain to control the political and economic reconstruction of Iraq.

The EU statement signaled a desire to find common ground after months of acrimony over the U.S.-led war. Britain and Spain supported the war; France and Germany opposed it.

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4-H Consumer Contest



(Community Camera photo by Emily Elliott)

(Left-right) Intermediate 4-Hers Garrett Coutts, Julie Schuneman and Meagan Crawford evaluate different sunscreen products in preparation for District 1 4-H Consumer Decision-Making Contest held recently in Amarillo.



(Community Camera photo by Emily Elliott)

(Left-right) The third place Senior Team of Courtney Crawford, Drake Jackson and Ashlee Lucas placed third at District 1 competition held recently in Amarillo.

Report traces SARS likely point of origin

HONG KONG (AP) — A SARS patient with diarrhea infected other people in a Hong Kong apartment complex as the disease apparently spread into homes through a sewage pipe linked to poorly sealed water drains, an official report said Thursday.

More people who came down with severe acute respiratory syndrome in Block E of the Amoy Gardens apartments also got diarrhea, creating huge amounts of contaminated feces that spread the virus through pipes in Hong Kong's biggest outbreak of the flu-like illness, said the health secretary, Dr. Yeoh Eng-king.

Rats and cockroaches also may have spread SARS, but only incidentally after they picked it up around the apartments, Yeoh told a news conference.

"They were just passive, mechanical carriers," Yeoh said, adding that rats captured by the investigators did not come down with SARS symptoms.

There is no evidence of airborne transmission, Yeoh said.

At least 324 people were infected in Amoy Gardens, where SARS also was apparently spread through person-to-person contact and in common areas, such as elevators, lobbies and staircases, according to the report made by several Hong Kong government agencies.

The SARS outbreak in Amoy Gardens has been the most alarming in Hong Kong, where the disease has infected 1,297 people and killed at least 65. Four new deaths and 29 new cases were reported Thursday.

About 40 percent of the SARS cases in Amoy Gardens came from one building, called Block E, that was evacuated at one point with all of its residents moved into holiday camps that were turned into makeshift quarantine centers.

The disease was brought to Amoy Gardens by an infected man who visited his brother there on March 14 and March 19, Yeoh said. The outbreak peaked in Block E on March 24 and three days later spread to residents of other blocks.

Yeoh said that once the virus got into the waste pipe in Block E, droplets carrying it apparently moved up through people's bathroom drains when U-shaped water seals dried out. Fans apparently helped suck the virus particles into homes, he said.

One resident of Block E told The Associated Press the report's findings sounded right and she called on officials to focus on calming the public and stopping the spread of SARS.

"We have long suspected it could be problems with the sewage system — the apartments are so close together,"

said Anna Yuen, 45, who lives in Block E with her husband and three children.

"We were scared at first but after the isolation, we haven't seen any outbreak like what we had before," Yuen said by telephone. "I believe the situation has come under control."

The pneumonia-like illness has killed at least 166 people and infected more than 3,000 worldwide. Mainland China and Hong Kong have reported 65 deaths each. Singapore has 15 SARS deaths, Canada 13, Vietnam five, Thailand two and Malaysia one.

The world's second most populous nation reported its first SARS case Thursday.

Authorities in India said a 32-year-old man in the western state of Goa contracted the disease after traveling to Hong Kong and Singapore, S.P. Agarwal, the government's director-general of health services, told a news conference.

Prashil Varde, an Indian marine engineer, returned home to Goa on April 3, he was treated by a private doctor for cough and fever, two of the symptoms of SARS, said Dr. Shivlal, director of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases. He uses only one name.

The man and his wife, who has not tested positive for the virus, have been isolated, Agarwal said.

EU leaders settle on role for United Nations in Iraq

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — European leaders called Thursday for a "central" U.N. role in rebuilding Iraq as they sought to put behind the bitter split over the U.S.-led war.

At an EU summit, pro-war Britain and Spain and anti-war France and Germany jointly drafted a statement on bringing swift assistance to the Iraqi people.

"What we are doing is talking about the new Iraq. We are trying to put behind us the argument about whether or not the coalition should have taken military action," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told reporters.

The EU draft statement urged the United States to act quickly to restore law and order in Iraq, and to publish its much-anticipated "road map" for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The also urged Palestinian

leader Yasser Arafat to act more decisively in encouraging a Palestinian government. "It is essential that there is an early endorsement by Chairman Arafat" of a cabinet that Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas is putting together, the EU draft statement said.

The statement said the U.N. "must play a central role" in reconstruction, starting with coordinating humanitarian aid and eventually including assistance for Iraqi self-government.

For now, U.S.-led coalition forces that toppled the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein have "the responsibility to ensure a secure environment," the EU statement

said. European leaders also met with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the sideline of the summit and discussed "practical measures" concerning Iraq.

The war in Iraq largely overshadowed the summit's main event — a treaty signing ceremony formalizing the entry of Cyprus, Malta, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia into the EU by May 1, 2004.

French President Jacques Chirac told reporters the EU planned to take charge of airlifting Iraqi war wounded, especially children, to European hospitals.

Denmark, the Netherlands and Spain — three backers of the U.S.-led war — announced they may send peacekeeping troops. Poland and the three Baltic states had similar plans.

Outside the meeting, police clashed with several hundred anti-war protesters. More than 100 people were detained.

Pope says only priests should celebrate Mass

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II issued a stern reminder Thursday that only priests can celebrate Mass and divorced Catholics who remarry cannot take communion, expressing alarm over what he called unacceptable practices in his flock.

John Paul also warned Catholics against receiving communion in non-Catholic churches, an admonition that is likely to stir up protests in the United States and other countries where interfaith services are a fundamental part of efforts to bring Christians closer together.

The denunciations of practices which clash with Vatican teaching were contained in an encyclical issued on Holy Thursday, a commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper with his apostles.

Encyclicals are a special kind of letter dealing with matters of extreme importance to the Church.

The 78-page document is aimed at combatting abuses related to the Eucharist, commonly called communion, a sacrament central to the life of the Church.

"It is my hope that the present encyclical letter will effectively help to banish the dark clouds of unacceptable doctrine and practice," the pope wrote.

Added John Paul: "In various parts of the Church abuses have occurred, leading to confusion with regard to sound faith and Catholic doctrine concerning this wonderful sacrament."

In parts of Western Europe, as well as in the United States, many divorced Catholics who have remarried have been clamoring for the Church to allow them to receive communion.

John Paul cited centuries-old teaching that all faithful must confess grave sins before taking communion.

"The judgment of one's state of grace, obviously belongs only to the person involved, since it is a question of examining one's conscience," the pope said.

"However, in cases of outward conduct, which is seriously, clearly and steadfastly

contrary to the moral norm, the Church, in her pastoral concern for the good order of the community and out of respect for the sacrament, cannot fail to feel directly involved," wrote John Paul.

He reiterated Church law that those who "obstinately persist in manifest grave sin" be denied communion.

The Vatican does not permit divorce and teaches that those who remarry after divorce are living in sin unless couples refrain from sex.

While the pope didn't name any sins, his reference to divorce was unmistakable since the Church considers remarried Catholics living in a state of continued sin, and experts said his intent was clear.

"That is what the Vatican is saying for years about the non-admission of public sinners to the Eucharist whether they be divorced or Mafia or people who are notorious criminals," said the Rev. Thomas Reese, editor of America, a Jesuit magazine.

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Sec. Powell optimistic of Korean peace talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell welcomes North Korea's agreement to join the United States and China in three-way talks but sees little hope that the discussions will lead to a speedy resolution of U.S. concerns about Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programs.

Powell, in an interview Wednesday with Associated Press Television News, also said he intends to go to Syria for talks with President Bashar Assad, whose country was a wartime ally of neighboring Iraq.

Insisting anew that Syria expel officials of the fallen Iraqi government who crossed the border, Powell said, "Syria does not want to be a safe haven in the aftermath of Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Imad Moustapha, deputy Syrian ambassador to the United States, said Thursday "we will welcome Secretary Powell in Damascus."

"We don't want any more inflaming of this region," he said in an interview on CBS's "The Early Show." "Isn't this enough. Isn't one war enough?"

On North Korea, Powell described as good news forthcoming three-way talks in Beijing. But, he said, it was only "the beginning of a long, intense process of discussion."

"We will lay out clearly our concerns about their (the North Koreans') nuclear weapons development programs and other weapons of mass destruction, of their proliferation activities, missile programs," among other issues, he said.

No date has been set for the talks. The U.S. delegation will be led by Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly.

It was Kelly who was informed by North Korea in Pyongyang in October that the communist country was engaged in a uranium-based nuclear weapons program, a development that produced concerns about an arms race in the region.

It also led to demands from some in Congress that President Bush give North Korea a higher priority than Iraq — advice that the president ignored. He has stood by his view that the North Korea problem could be solved diplomatically.

North Korea had committed itself in various international agreements over the years to forswear nuclear weapons.

The United States has been pushing for multilateral discussions with North Korea for months but Pyongyang had been holding out for face-to-face talks with Washington, leading to a nonaggression treaty.

The Bush administration has been seeking a broad international process to discuss the issue and sees the Beijing meeting only as a starting point. It will press for the eventual inclusion of Japan, South Korea, Russia and perhaps other countries over time.

Gephardt wanting repeal on tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Dick Gephardt wants to repeal President Bush's income tax cuts to help employers provide health insurance for their workers.

The Missouri congressman said he is trying to determine which parts of Bush's \$1.3 trillion tax cut should be eliminated to pay for his health care plan, which he plans to detail in a New York speech next week. He said he is trying to keep all or part of the child tax credit and the increased deduction for married couples.

"I do not believe that we can retain any of the relief on (income tax) rates," Gephardt said during a conference call with reporters Wednesday. "But I will argue, as I have throughout, that my tax cuts will be of more benefit to all taxpayers, and certainly with middle-income and low-income taxpayers, than with the president's tax bill."

Jim Dyke, spokesman for the Republican National Committee, said Gephardt's "tax increases will pay for his government spending, but they won't stimulate our economy or create jobs."

Gephardt said that if elected, he would ask Congress during his first week in office to repeal the income tax rate cuts that Bush signed into law two years ago. The law created a new 10 percent rate for the first \$6,000 of each person's

income and reduced the top 39.6 percent rate to 35 percent. Most other rates dropped by 3 percentage points.

The cuts have been phased in partially, but are not to take full effect until 2006. Gephardt would not require taxpayers to return money already received from the tax changes.

In place of the income tax cut, Gephardt would give tax credits to businesses that would cover 60 percent to 65 percent of their employees' health care costs.

"It would put money into corporations to hire new people or to make capital investments," he said. "It would get money into the pockets of individual workers. And it would cause the hiring of more people in the health care industries, which are pretty good jobs in this country."

Bush has proposed a new tax cut plan of \$726 billion over 10 years — largely by eliminating individuals' taxes on corporate dividends. But resistance in Congress, especially among his fellow Republicans, has forced the president to pare back his proposal.

Last week, the House approved cuts of \$550 billion over a decade. The Senate, with several key Republicans breaking ranks, agreed to no more than \$350 billion in tax cuts. Congress hopes to work out the final details in May.

Drug companies agree to landmark settlement

BOSTON (AP) — Whistleblower George Couto didn't live to see the resolution of the investigation he set in motion.

The Bayer AG marketing executive approached the Justice Department in 1999 with allegations the drug giant was overcharging the federal Medicaid program.

That probe culminated Wednesday with the largest-ever settlement for Medicaid fraud. Bayer and another pharmaceutical company, GlaxoSmithKline, agreed to pay nearly \$345 million to settle the claims, said Michael Sullivan, U.S. Attorney for Boston.

Bayer will pay more than \$250 million and Glaxo will pay almost \$88 million, said Sullivan, whose office helped negotiate the settlement. The money will be shared by the federal government, the District of Columbia and every state except Arizona.

Couto died of pancreatic cancer in November. Under the federal whistleblower statute, his estate will be awarded \$34 million out of

Bayer's civil settlement. He first reported his concerns to his boss, according to his attorney, Neil Getnick. After the company took no action on his complaint, Couto took his claims to federal authorities, Getnick said.

Companies that participate in Medicaid must offer the government the lowest price available to other customers. If a company charges anyone less than the government, it must pay Medicaid a rebate.

According to Sullivan, Bayer and Glaxo used a "lick and stick scheme," offering drugs at discount prices to Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest health maintenance organization.

The discounts were not reported and were difficult to track because Kaiser was allowed to put different labels on the drugs it was giving to its customers, Sullivan said. He said the scheme allowed the two drug companies to avoid paying millions of dollars in Medicaid rebates.

Sniper suspect in hot water over letter

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — Sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo is facing more disciplinary action in jail after allegedly writing a letter to another inmate saying that a deputy sheriff should be "fatally injured," jail officials said.

Malvo, 18, is being held at the Fairfax County jail on capital murder charges in the Oct. 14 shooting of Linda Franklin, 47, outside a Home Depot store.

Malvo and John Allen Muhammad, 42, have been linked to 20 shootings last year, including 13 deaths, in Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana and the District of Columbia. They face trial in Virginia first.

Jail officials disciplined Malvo last month for writing "Muhammad" on his cell floor

and drawing on his shoes. This time, jail officials said, Malvo sent a letter to another inmate, violating a policy prohibiting such communications.

The letter was mailed out of the jail to a phony address and used the other inmate's name as the return address so it would be sent back to him to circumvent the rule, Maj. James Whitley said.

In the letter, Malvo wrote of a deputy that "someone should ensure that boy is fatally injured."

Malvo is accused of violating prison rules by threatening a jail employee and writing another inmate a letter. He faces an administrative hearing next week, with his lawyer present.

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THE Pampa NEWS COMICS

THURSDAY • APRIL 17, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

'Prenup' Offers Protection, But It First Must Be Read

DEAR ABBY: I hope the woman whose niece is marrying the rich doctor who wants her to sign a prenup sees my letter. When "Harold" and I married, he had considerably more property and a bigger income than I did. I wanted him and his adult children to know I wasn't after his money, so I volunteered to sign a prenuptial agreement.

Harold's attorney drew up the agreement, and I foolishly signed it without reading it. I assumed that anything either of us owned prior to our marriage would remain our respective personal properties — but that after we married, we'd accumulate assets together.

Early on, it became clear that Harold wanted our finances kept separate. We never had a joint checking account, and he made me feel like I needed his permission to spend a penny. So I kept my job and never once asked Harold for money.

Well, I finally got around to reading the agreement I had signed. To my astonishment, it specified that we would never own anything jointly, nor have access to anything the other acquired during our marriage. I was crushed. In my eyes, that document made a mockery of our union. I told Harold I didn't know I had married someone who cared so little about my welfare. He maintained that the agreement was a standard prenup.

After that, I knew I had to "make my own way." I divorced Harold, got a higher-paying job and bought a home. I feel more secure now than I did during our entire marriage.

The sad part is, Harold and I always got along great. It was only our difference of opinion about

money that wrecked our marriage. Now I am asking myself if I made too big a deal over the whole thing. Abby, your opinion, please.

ON MY OWN IN TEXAS

DEAR ON YOUR OWN: A prenuptial agreement is supposed to be a pact that is satisfactory to both parties regarding the division of property should anything happen to either one of them or to the marriage. Such agreements are usually negotiated, and as with any legal document, should not be signed unless it has been

carefully read and understood — and checked by an independent attorney. Your mistake was not taking the document to a lawyer of your own and having it explained to you before signing it.

In my opinion, Harold took advantage of your trust. And no, you did not make "too big a deal" out of the whole thing.

DEAR ABBY: I used to be against prenuptial agreements. Now, after a nasty divorce from my ex, who bilked me out of my inheritance from my grandmother and walked away with 90 percent of the assets we acquired during our marriage, I'm sorry I didn't insist on one. I have since remarried, and thought you'd like to know how my current husband describes a prenup: He says the agreement is like saying, "I love you so much that I'm willing to protect you from what I might do if we ever split up." In

essence, you are protecting not only yourself, but the person you love. A noble sentiment to be sure.

HAPPILY MARRIED WITH TWO KIDS

DEAR HAPPILY MARRIED: The document actually does more than that, but I like your husband's definition. Read on:

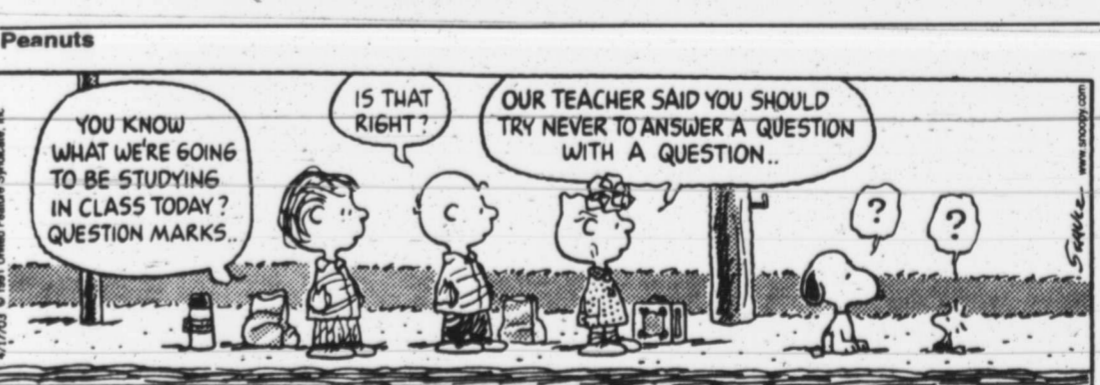
DEAR ABBY: I signed a prenup with my fiance before we married. It was nerve-racking, but we worked it out. The document protects us both: It gave my fiance the peace of mind that I loved him, not his money. And it protects me because I know I'll have financial stability should we ever divorce. My parents thought I was foolish to sign it, but I think they were foolish to object.

SECURE AND HAPPY

DEAR SECURE AND HAPPY: You're not only secure and happy, but you are also a smart woman.

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
- 2 Noted Chair-
 - 1 Stroll
 - 6 Purse part
 - 11 Cohort of
 - Cleese and idle
 - 12 Fuming
 - 13 Increase
 - 14 Horse opera
 - 15 Become chatty
 - 17 Say further
 - 19 Writer Stout
 - 20 Saloon
 - 23 American finch
 - 25 Soothing plant
 - 26 Targets of some drives
 - 28 Field unit
 - 29 Completely
 - 30 So far
 - 31 Nodder's answer
 - 32 Pop
 - 33 In a way
 - 35 White's cohort
 - 38 Districts
 - 41 Wise words
 - 42 Measure
 - 43 Wise words
 - 44 Supply with a grant
- DOWN
- 1 PD alert

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Yesterday's answer

- 21 Heart
- 22 Fix a
- 23 According to
- 24 Garden
- 25 Crumb
- 26 Vendetta
- 27 Facing the
- 28 Hick
- 33 Long
- 34 Algerian
- 35 Frodo's
- 36 Hoopla
- 37 Jostle
- 38 Before
- 39 Today
- 40 Baste

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Marmaduke



"We won't be bothered by him anymore. I just sprayed him with perfume."

The Family Circus

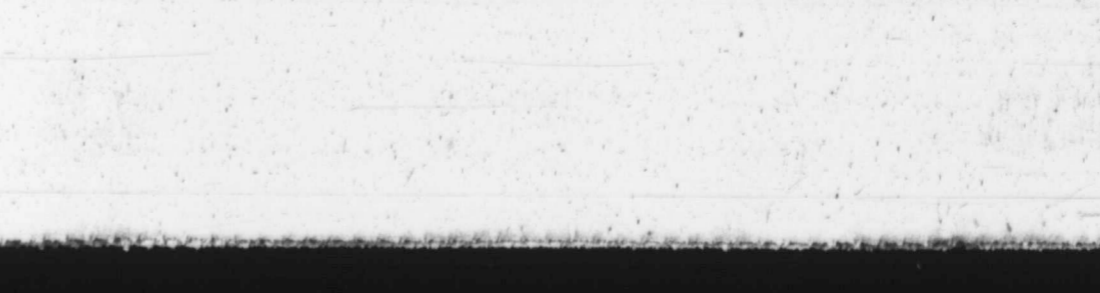


"Jeffy, jokes aren't funny if you can't remember the punchline."

Flo & Friends



Blondie



GOLF

PAMPA American R County Ch golf scran played at H May 3.

Shotgun four-person begin at 9 a.m. is \$40 per includes, gr cart, breakf. There will b tunities to w People w up or enter call David (806) 669-58

All proc used by the Chapter to pu on a local ba information obtained b Jana Gregory This year sponsored Warner, P Services Compressor

PAMPA urged to con with the I Ladies Golf which starts day on May 5:45 p.m. e throughout th For more call Jackie F 5790 or Bre 665-8000.

BASEBALL

CHICAG Sandy Alder was clear. baseball is fe violence and thing in its p nate the prob "We will expenses," A president of f ations in the er's office Wednesday.

"We will c necessary to consequence individuals v the field or a any attempt t umpires, play es or fans in Alderson security c Hallinan me and officials White Sox ar Royals and enforcement, umpire Laz attacked at field.

It was episode of lence on the seven m Alderson sa status as ho All-Star gam ardzied.

"Given th happened to concerned? have discus White Sox." "Sometim and executio nate these k dents. We ar cross the bo baseball to re ber, if not eli Baseball Bud Selig extremely added that s parks will be

GRAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

By **NANCY YOUNG**
MANAGING EDITOR

It was a perfect day for the rededication of the Gray County Courthouse Saturday. The weather was gorgeous and more than 250 people turned out to see the newly-restored historic building.

State dignitaries and retired officials joined with residents from Pampa and the area to celebrate the completion of the project which began in 1999.

State Rep. Warren Chisum explained the grant process the county commission followed in becoming the county to receive the largest grant for restoration. The state awarded a \$3.8 million matching grant to Gray County. The project totaled \$5,418,769.

Chisum explained how the restoration began with the county hiring ArchiTexas, an architectural and restoration firm, to develop a master plan and oversee the project.

The courthouse preservation program was a pet project of former Texas Gov. George W. Bush who is currently U.S. President.

Built in 1929 during the depression, Gray County Courthouse still had its original electrical wiring. Today, the building is ready for the computer-age employees to return with all new wiring.

The county moved into the courthouse in 1930. The building had not undergone a significant changes since it was built.

Larry Oaks of the Texas Historical Commission in Austin was also in Pampa for the rededication. He has been active in the restoration of the local historic structure throughout the four-year period.

He told the crowd that the people of Pampa should be proud of the county commission to have the foresight to spend the money to have the building last another 75 years.

Oaks told the gathering that the town and county should also be proud of the unique "Million Dollar Row" of buildings in downtown Pampa. Pampa City Hall and Schneider House were included in the Million Dollar Row.

"You have a lifestyle here that you can't find in most places," commented Oaks.

He also presented a plaque to the county commission recognizing their efforts on the funding of the project.

The original courthouse was completed in 1929 and dedicated April 19, 1930. Cost of the building when it was built was \$267,974.

Local artist Grant Johnson had several pieces of his work displayed inside the courthouse when the public made their tour of the building.

Sandra Martin, Gray County Court Coordinator, said she was honored to give a tour of the building to former county official Don Cain who is now in his 80s. Cain served Gray County in the courthouse as county attorney, county judge and district judge.

"It was just such an honor and enjoyable experience to accompany him on his tour," said Martin. "He was so pleased with the restoration and had so many interesting comments."

Martin said at one time she was standing in the District Courtroom with current district judges Lee Waters and Stephen Emmert as well as Cain. "That courtroom is beautiful," she said.

Beautifully-restored medallions in the ceiling of the courtroom were the centerpiece of the tour the public made through the building.

Martin said local historian Eloise Lane related to her that a cousin of hers, Betty Lutz, was the niece of the builder of the courthouse, H. L. Case. Ironically, he was also the first baby born in Gray County, said Lane.

The Texas flag flying over the courthouse at the rededication also flew over the state capitol on Veteran's Day of last year.

When the time-capsule was opened, items placed in it in 1991 were revealed. *The Pampa News* clippings and copies of *Focus* magazine were there along with Bible verses and other items. One magazine article was titled, "Is Desert Storm the beginning of Armageddon?" The Persian Gulf War was in 1991.

Boy Scouts posted the colors and the Pampa High School band played the National Anthem. Mayor Lonny Robbins gave the invocation and Carol Peet, wife of County Judge Richard Peet, gave the closing invocation before the crowd toured the building. Contractor on the structure, Phoenix I, cooked hamburgers and hot dogs on the courthouse lawn for the people who attended the rededication.

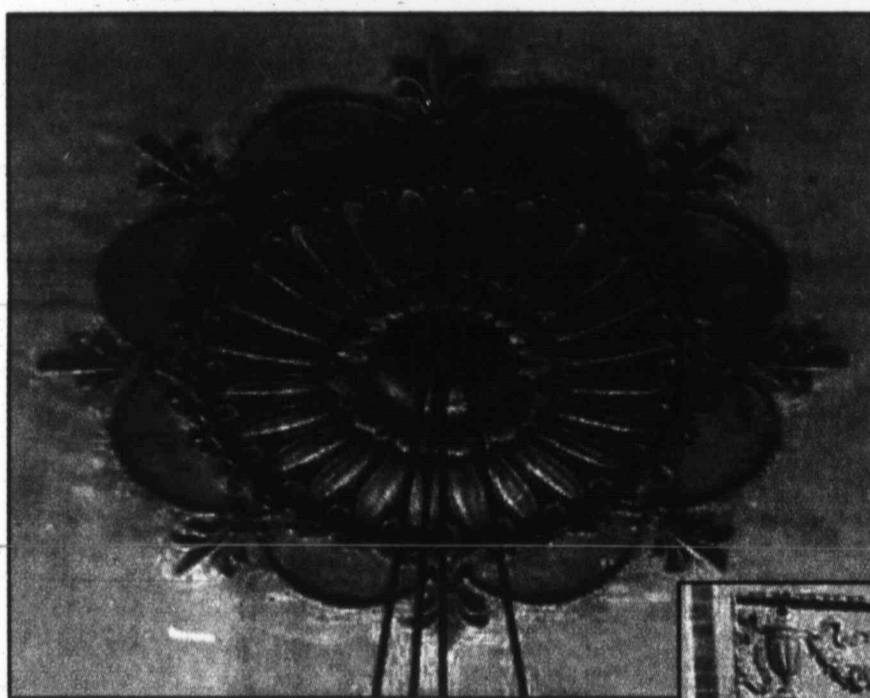
Coordinating the rededication was Barbara Hahn. Courthouse employees plan to move back in the courthouse and be ready for business on May 27, officials say.



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

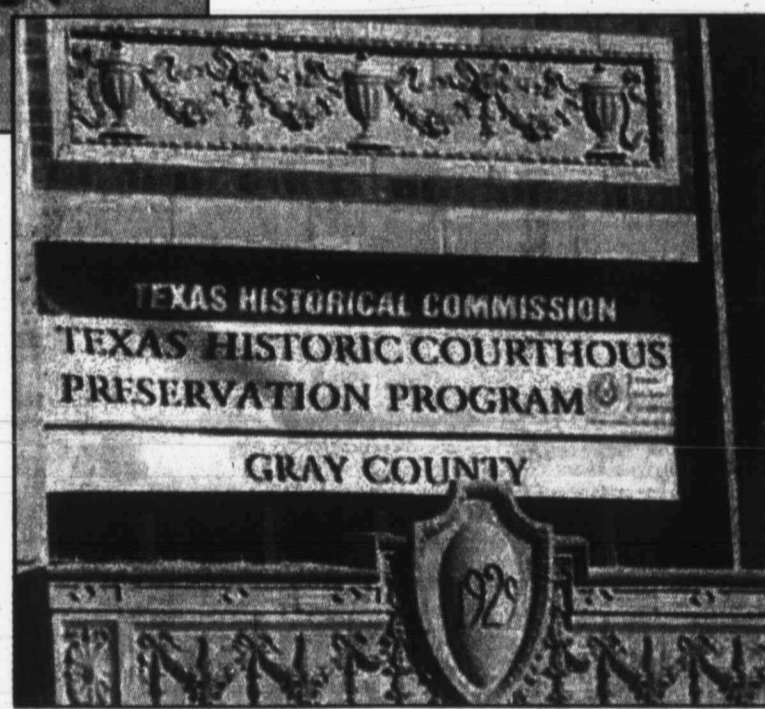
Completed in 1930, the Gray County Courthouse has been completely restored in the \$5.2 million project. The exterior grounds of the courthouse building will be revitalized in the next seven years as the last phase of the project is finished.

1929
to
2003



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Medallions on the ceiling of the district courtroom were the focal point of the district courtroom. When workers removed the lowered ceiling in the district courtroom which was put in 25 years or more ago, handcrafted medallions on the ceiling and decorative wall emblems were revealed.



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Gray County's Courthouse was restored as part of the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. Begun by then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the program awarded \$3.8 million to Gray County for the project.



(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

ArchiTexas architect Larry Irsik and Courthouse Restoration Project Director John Kiehl of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission smilingly admired the restoration of the Gray County District Courtroom during the open house Saturday. The restoration project of the Gray County Courthouse began in 1999.



(Pampa News photo by Dean Lynch)

Larry Oaks, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission which provided major funding for the courthouse renovation, expresses his satisfaction with the multi-million dollar project.



(Pampa News photo by Dean Lynch)

Gray County Commissioners Court, from left, James Hefley, Gerald Wright, Joe Wheeley, Gary Willoughby and County Judge Richard Peet, saw months of work come to fruition at the rededication ceremony.