



WEATHER WEATHER
High 52
Low

LOCAL
Parks board to meet

Pampa Parks, Recreation and Auditorium Advisory Board plans to meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, in the second floor conference room at City Hall, 200 W. Foster.

STATE
Perry: Fourth session possible, but unlikely

Legislators don't get congressional redistricting accomplished in this third special session, a fourth one will be needed, Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday.

DEATHS
Patricia Kathy Huffhines, 65, services pending

Classified9
Comics6
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Assault on officer trial goes to jury

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

Charles Emil Robinson's fate rests in the hands of a jury of his peers. Shortly after 11 a.m. today, a jury in 223rd District Court retired to consider the charges against Robinson, 36, for aggravated assault against a police officer.

Morris was called back to the stand today to describe Robinson's resistance when he was being handcuffed. Robinson was shot after barricading himself in his home that summer evening and threatening suicide. Monday and Tuesday, witnesses testified how Robinson would come to the door of his home carrying a shotgun and order police officers to leave. Three Pampa police officers testified Tuesday that they were looking down the barrel of a shotgun when Morris shot and wounded the man holding it.

The three police officers, Morris, Tom Pickering and Alvin Johnson, testified Tuesday that they answered an attempted suicide call the night of July 28, 2002, at Robinson's home at 441 Pitts. The trio said when they each arrived, they were told by Robinson's brother Jack that he was in the house armed with a shotgun. Each of the officers testified that Robinson came to the door of the house twice carrying the shotgun in a non-threatening manner, but the third

time he came to the door, each said he pointed the shotgun at the officers. Morris responded by firing three rounds from his pistol. One of Morris' bullets went through a storm door and struck Robinson in the legs. Morris said that as he saw Robinson point the shotgun at him, there was no doubt in his mind that Robinson meant to shoot him. Sgt. Johnson said things happened so quickly when Robinson came to the door with his shotgun raised, he heard only one shot, although he later found

(See TRIAL, Page 3)

TDH reports human West Nile case here

By MARILYN POWERS
STAFF WRITER

The first confirmed incidence of a human contracting West Nile virus in Gray County was reported to County Judge Richard Pect yesterday by the Texas Department of Health.

Two other county residents were previously confirmed but included in Potter County's totals, said Dr. James Alexander, zoonosis control officer for Texas Department of Health Region 1 in Canyon.

have gotten a sample to our labs in Austin," Alexander said of the previous residents. Also, if testing was done by a commercial laboratory, the test could be more generic and not have differentiated between St. Louis encephalitis and West Nile virus, he said.

Another factor affecting test results is that if the sample tests either high enough or low enough on one of the two, results are unclear and are labeled "flavivirus." "Then we send them to the Centers for Disease Control for further testing to pinpoint the type of virus present,"

Alexander said. A blood sample is used to test for West Nile virus. One horse has also tested positive for West Nile virus in Gray County and confirmed by TDH, Alexander said. Known ways to contract West Nile virus are through mosquito bites and through transfusions of blood containing the virus. Blood banks test donated blood for the virus and discard blood infected with it. "They've pulled 600 donors so far this season," Alexander said.

(See VIRUS, Page 3)

Water, sewage changes fail on second readings

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

Water and sewage split the Pampa City Commission Tuesday evening.

Although they had been approved by the commission initially, ordinances changing the minimum water and sewage use stalled on their second and final reading.

Under the proposed ordinances, which had been designed to go into effect Oct. 1, the minimum bill would be based on 1,000 gallons.

Commissioner Jeff Andrews said he disliked the fact that those residents on fixed incomes with minimum use would still be affected. He said he felt there had to be a better way to handle the situation, Andrews said he would rather see the minimum set at 9,000 or 10,000 gallons. The minimum is presently 8,000 gallons.

"Every occupied place," Andrews said, "is going to have a rate increase. It's going to effect everybody."

Commissioner Robert Dixon said the change was designed to raise \$100,000 for

water and wastewater repairs. Dixon said the estimated costs would probably be twice that.

The ordinance setting the water minimum died in a tie vote of 2-2 with Commissioner Faustina Curry absent. Commissioners Jeff McCormick and Andrews voted against it. Mayor Lonny Robbins and Commissioner Dixon voted for it.

The ordinance setting the sewage minimum failed on a 3-1 vote with Commissioners McCormick, Andrews and Dixon voting against it. Mayor Robbins voted for it.

In other business, the commission deferred a resolution suspending a gas utility rate increase by Atmos Energy. Commissioners said they want to explore joining with Lubbock in a rate case, rather than with other cities as they have done in the past. Commissioner Andrews, during the commissioner's 5 p.m. work session Tuesday, said that the last time the city became involved in a rate case, they withdrew in an effort to avoid legal fees, but the Texas Public Utilities Commission ordered them to help pay the legal fees anyway. The city has until Oct. 16

(See CITY, Page 3)

Sales tax figures offer note of optimism

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

Pampa city financial officials were smiling this week.

John Horst, director of finance for the City of Pampa, said that the city has had a good year when it comes to sales tax revenue this fiscal year.

The city's fiscal year ends this month. The new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

With the latest sale tax revenue figures in for September, Horst is smiling broadly, despite misgivings last fall as the 2002 fiscal year began.

"For the month of September," Horst said, "which are collections from the month of July, the City of Pampa was up five percent from what we had budgeted for September.

The city was over last year's September, he said, by 1.45 percent. Last year, the city received

\$160,463.90 in sales tax revenue. This year it was \$162,791.

"We budgeted a total of \$2,050,000 for this fiscal year," Horst said.

The city received \$2,096,331.45, putting the city over budget by \$46,331 in sales tax income for the year, or about 2.26 percent above the projected budgeted revenue.

Horst said, however, that comparing FY2002 to FY2003, Pampa is down 1.3 percent, or about \$27,600.

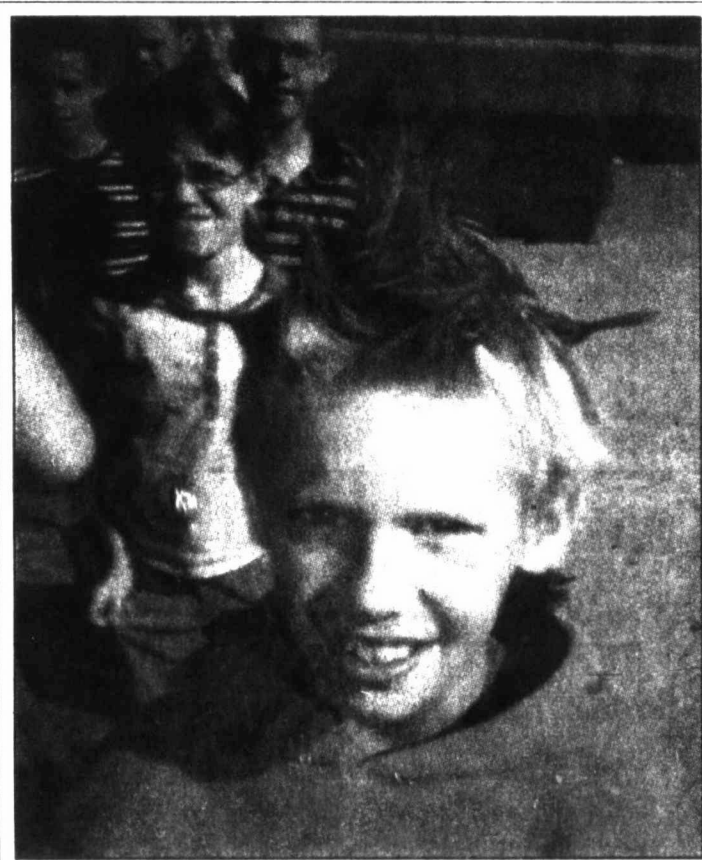
Last year, sales tax collections were \$2,123,928.08.

The year started off slowly, Horst said.

"We were kind of concerned because collections for the first four months of the fiscal year, October through January, we were under budget," Horst said, "and then in February it started picking up."

In February, the sales tax receipts

(See SALES, Page 3)



(Courtesy photo)

Cory Phillips, a third grader in Mrs. Casa's class at Austin Elementary, sports an orange spike "do" for Crazy Hair Day, one of a week of special days observed at the school to help raise money for the Pampa United Way campaign.

Fun for funds
Austin 2nd, 3rd graders raise money for 2003 United Way

Students at Austin Elementary School combined fun with funds to help raise money for the 2003 Pampa United Way campaign.

Second and third grade students at Austin set aside three days for the event: Wednesday - Hat Day, Thursday - Lake Shoes Off Day, Friday - Crazy Hair Day. By paying a quarter on each of those special days, students could go against the school's dress code policy by wearing hats, going barefoot, or fixing their hair in some strange way.

As a result, Austin students raised \$141 for the Pampa United Way.

Their donation will be added to the current campaign total of \$102,653.38, reported at the fourth check-in meeting last Thursday. This amount is just shy of one third of this year's goal of \$311,600, United Way officials said.

Thursday, Sept. 25, is the last check-in luncheon for United Way volunteers. Hosts for the last luncheon in the Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard, are local United Way agencies - Pampa Meals on Wheels, Community Day Care Center, and Pampa Optimist Youth Club.

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ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Monday, Sept. 22

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 2100 block of North Wells. The home was entered, but nothing was taken.

Nathan Nabors, 41, of 355 Miami, was arrested for violating a protective order.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

Injury to the elderly and interference with emergency communications was reported in the 1400 block of North Charles, with unknown injuries.

Found property was reported in the 1500 block of North Hobart. One check was booked into evidence to be returned to the owner.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Sierra. A gun was taken, with estimated value of \$400.

Injury to a child and assault by contact were reported in the 100 block of South Faulkner. Minor injuries were reported. The case is under investigation.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 1000 block of West Crane Road. The house was unlocked. A jewelry box was taken, with amount of loss unknown.

A forged prescription was reported by Albertson's, 1233 N. Hobart.

Domestic violence was reported in the 800 block of East Campbell. No injuries were reported. Charges have been filed.

Dwight Allen Fiveash, 59, of 1717 Charles, was arrested for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. A report was received from the 900 block of Cinderella that Fiveash was pointing a weapon at someone and threatening to shoot.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Department today reported the following arrests.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

Rick Allen Basden Jr., 24, of 1601 W. Somerville #64, was arrested for Pampa Police Department on *capias pro* fines for no seat belt and an open container.

Danny Dexter Tackett, 51, of 126 S. Faulkner, was arrested for injury to a child and assault by contact.

Joe Ervin Kilgore, 48, of 1004 Perry, was arrested for bond surrender on a charge of possession of a controlled substance under one gram.

Kermit Hartley Jr., 34, of 1133 Dwight, was arrested for motion to revoke on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Reynaldo Wilson, 28, of 1117 Starkweather, was arrested for motion to revoke on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday, Sept. 23

5 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Brown and Cuyler streets. No patient was transported.

6:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of Llano and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

7:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of South Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Paris:	NOI	18.78	+0.45
Wheat	KMI	53.89	+0.65
Milo	XCEL	15.46	-0.07
Corn	Kerr McGee	45.03	+0.53
Soybeans	Larated	15.54	-0.26
	Williams	9.43	+0.02
	MCD	24.06	+0.16
	XOM	37.34	+0.28
	Atmos	24.31	-0.07
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:	Pioneer Nat	25.51	+0.41
OXY	JCP	23.08	+0.18
BP	COP	56.30	+0.45
BP	SLB	51.45	+0.75
Celanese	Tenneco	7.09	-0.25
Cabot Corp	CVX	73.01	+0.49
Cabot Oil Gas	Wal-Mart	57.26	-0.36
Coca Cola	OKE	20.93	-0.02
VLO	NS Grp	6.94	-0.03
HAL	New York Gold	384.95	
Triad	Silver	5.21	
	West Texas Crude	26.93	

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accident.

Tuesday, Sept. 23

4:58 p.m. — A 1991

Oldsmobile Cutlass driven by Leon Martin Rich, 55, of Clinton, Okla., and a

1978 F-150 Ford pickup,

driven by Brent Vinson

Tuttle, 23, 324 Jean, collided at Brown and Cuyler streets. Rich was cited for following too close and unsafe speed.

FIRE

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

Tuesday, Sept. 23

2:52 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a report of a gas odor in the city water department, 200 W. Foster. No problem was found.

5:01 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a collision with a victim reportedly trapped in one of the vehicles at Cuyler and Brown streets. The collision turned out to be minor with one minor injury and no hazardous material spills.

7:26 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1200 block of South Hobart.

PATRICIA KATHY HUFFHINES

1938-2003

Patricia Kathy Huffhines, 65, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2003. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

A lifelong Pampa resident, Mrs. Huffhines was born July 23, 1938, at Wichita, Kan., and graduated from Pampa High School. She married Tom Huffhines on June 5, 1959, at Pampa.

She was a member of Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship Church, formerly Highland Pentecostal Holiness Church.

She was a wife and a mother.

Mrs. Huffhines was preceded in death by a son, Trent Huffhines, and a sister, Marlene Myles.

Survivors include her husband, Tom, of the home; three daughters, Vanessa Vick and

Valorey

Foreman, both

of Pampa, and

Valinda Adams

of

McDonough,

Ga.; a brother,

Billy Lee

Martin of

Houston; and

eight grand-

children.

The family requests

memorials be to

Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship Church,

1733 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at

www.carmichael-whitley.com.



Translator charged with trying to give classified material to Syria

By MATT KELLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — A military probe of possible security violations at the U.S. prison camp for terrorism suspects is expanding after the arrests of two members of the military, with a third military member under investigation, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

The cases have raised concern in the Defense Department about security at the base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"We don't presume that the two we know about is all there is to it," Pace told reporters Wednesday morning.

An Air Force translator and a Muslim Army chaplain at the prison camp have been arrested in the security probe.

Senior Airman Ahmad L. al-Halabi is behind bars at a California Air Force base, facing 32 criminal charges. The most serious charge could carry the death penalty.

Pentagon officials said a broader investigation into possible security breaches at the Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba was continuing. One suspect, a member of the Navy, is under investigation but has not

been arrested, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

Military authorities accuse al-Halabi, 24, of sending e-mail with information about the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay "to unauthorized person or persons whom he, the accused, knew to be the enemy." The Air Force documents detailing the charges do not say who "the enemy" is.

Al-Halabi also is accused of planning to give classified information about the prisoners as well as more than 180 written messages from detainees to a person who would then go to Syria.

A military attorney representing al-Halabi, Air Force Maj. James E. Key III, denied the charges, telling The Washington Post: "Airman al-Halabi is not a spy and he is not a terrorist."

And in Damascus Wednesday, the Syrians denied that they had any links to the Air Force translator. Information Minister Ahmed al-Hassan said the accusations were baseless.

Al-Hassan spoke to reporters at an introductory meeting as he has just taken over the information portfolio in this month's Cabinet reshuffle. He did not know of al-Halabi's arrest in the United States, but after the journalists

told him about, he said: "How could Syria have a spy in Guantanamo?"

"Any allegations that al-Halabi has any kind of connection with Syria are baseless," al-Hassan said.

The Pentagon's disclosure Tuesday of the case against al-Halabi came three days after officials said a Muslim chaplain at the base had been arrested. The chaplain, Army Capt. Yousef Yee, has been held without charge since his Sept. 10 arrest.

The two men knew each other, an Air Force spokesman said, but officials said they didn't know whether there had been any conspiracy to breach security at the prison camp.

The charges against al-Halabi include an allegation that he failed to report unauthorized contacts between prisoners and other military personnel. The others were not identified.

Al-Halabi worked for nine months as an Arabic language translator at Guantanamo Bay, a job that ended shortly before his July 23 arrest as he arrived in Jacksonville, Fla., on a flight from the prison camp.

When he was arrested, al-Halabi was carrying two handwritten notes from detainees that al-Halabi intended to turn over to someone traveling to Syria, the charging documents say. He also was carrying his personal laptop computer containing classified information about detainees and 180 messages from detainees he intended to send to Syria or Qatar, it was alleged.

The documents also allege that al-Halabi:

- Took pictures of the prison camp.

- Had unauthorized contact with the inmates, including giving them baklava desserts.

- Had contacts with the Syrian Embassy in the United States which he failed to report as required.

- Lied to the Air Force by falsely claiming to have become a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2001. Al-Halabi, who joined the Air Force in January 2000, is Syrian.

City Briefs

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

2002 CHEVY Malibu, low miles, exc. cond. 665-7012.

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MONA'S GROOMING, 665-2771.

QUEEN SWEEP Chimney Cleaning, has gone out of business. Thank You.

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HOME COMING MUMS at Cottage Collection.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

The forecast today is calling for partly cloudy to clear skies, highs in the upper 80s and southwest winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts up to 30 mph, shifting to the northwest 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Caution is advised on area lakes. Tonight should fall on mostly clear skies, breezy with northeast 15 to 25 mph winds, and lows in the lower 50s. Thursday should see mostly sunny skies. Highs in the mid 70s. East winds 5 to 15 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows around 50. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s. West winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the north 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. Saturday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

STATEWIDE

By The Associated Press

Weather will be fair over the state this week, with scant chances of rain. Highs will mostly be in the 80s, with partly cloudy skies.

Areas of north and West Texas will see highs today in the 90s before a cool front moves in, bringing temperatures down to the 80s on Thursday. Storms are possible in central West Texas this afternoon and tonight. North Texas may also see some rain the next few nights.

The West Texas forecast today calls for highs in the 80s north, and highs in the low to mid 90s elsewhere. The cool front moving in tonight will drop Thursday

highs to the mid 70s in the north, the upper 70s in the south, and 80s elsewhere.

This weekend, high temperatures will be in the 80s, with a few areas slightly cooler or warmer. The only rain in the forecast through Saturday is a slight chance this afternoon and tonight, in central and western areas of West Texas. Strong north winds are expected behind the front. Lightning will be the main hazard in any storms that develop. The next chance for rain will come Sunday as another cold front enters the state.

South Texas will be partly to mostly cloudy through the weekend, with slight

chances of rain each day. Highs will be in the mid to upper 80s.

In North Texas, the warm temperatures will continue today; highs in the upper 80s to low 90s. A weak cool front tonight will bring Thursday temperatures down into the 80s, where they will remain through Saturday. On Sunday, highs in the north will dip to the 70s.

Gusty winds are likely tonight when the front hits. Rain chances will be slight, with some possibility in the west today and south on Thursday, with best chances at night. Slight chances of rain move back into the forecast Saturday and Sunday.

Suspended workers blame hierarchy for Houston crime laboratory woes

HOUSTON (AP) — Two Houston Police Department DNA analysts, speaking publicly for the first time about the department's troubled lab, say they were led by an unqualified manager and were not kept abreast of the latest technology in the field.

Christy Kim and Joseph Chu appeared Tuesday before the Civil Service Commission to appeal 14-day suspensions they each received after an internal police review of problems in DNA division of the crime lab.

Kim and Chu were disciplined because of errors in four cases, while several other analysts were also recommended for seven-day suspensions after the June review. Two top crime lab officials also resigned.

Kim also faces possible discipline for errors in case of Josiah Sutton, whose 1999 rape conviction was overturned in March after retesting found the crime lab's DNA faulty.

The commission was expected to make a

decision on the appeals Wednesday.

During testimony, Kim, Chu and a third analyst, Raynard Cockrell, described heavy workloads and how they received insufficient help from supervisors.

"Because of our caseload, we could only check each other's work to see if there were any misspelled words or grammatical errors," Cockrell said. "We did not double-check the work."

They also told the commission how the lab's needs were ignored, citing the lab's leaking roof as an example, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Wednesday's edition.

Chu told members of the commission that he didn't learn to how use the latest scientific procedures until after the lab was closed.

"I had no official training for mixture interpretations until March 2003," he said. "We did not use those in our lab. We are all analysts, but we rely on the city and the PD to train us and set policy."

TRIAL

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"He came thr with the weapo us," Johnson sai

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CITY

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SALES

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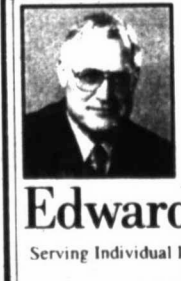
"We've pretty trend of being ov the remainder Horst said. "It good sales tax ye in Pampa."

Texas Compt Keeton Strayh reported that her ered some \$30 sales tax payme cities, counties, tems and special ing districts. Tha a one percent i pared to Septem

The state's s tax revenue fo year, which end was down abou compared to a ye down for the August. Strayh about a half a p

Horst said t reflects fewer sa biles, an area in

-Stocks - Bon - Mutual Fund



Edward

Serving Individual I

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

TRIAL

out that Morris, standing next to Johnson, had fired a burst of three shots from his .357 automatic pistol.

Johnson testified that he thought the shot had come from the house.

The police sergeant described how, following the shooting, he had moved up behind the pickup parked in the Robinson's front yard and how Robinson had called out from inside the house, "Is that you, Alvin?" Robinson then held the 20-gauge shotgun, broken open, out the door.

Johnson said that he, Morris and Pickering took Robinson to the ground and handcuffed him. Johnson said he didn't remember anyone accusing Robinson of shooting at the police officers.

Johnson admitted there were details from the incident he didn't remember, but he said that in such a situation it is normal to develop tunnel vision and focus only on what appears important at the time.

"It's called self preservation," Johnson said.

The police sergeant testified that he didn't know Robinson was shot until after they had turned him over to arriving Gray County deputies and Robinson was taken to the ambulance for treatment.

Johnson insisted, as did Officers Morris and Pickering, that the third time Robinson came to the door of his house, he pointed his shotgun at the officers.

"He came through the door with the weapon pointed at us," Johnson said.

Johnson said that having a shotgun pointed at you is something you don't forget.

"It's scary for someone to pull a knife or gun on you," said Pickering, who testified earlier Tuesday afternoon. "Real scary."

Pickering described for the jury how he was behind a patrol car talking to Robinson's brother, Jack, when out of the corner of his eye he saw Robinson open the storm door of the house and raise his shotgun. Pickering testified that he thought he saw a muzzle flash from the shotgun. He said he grabbed Jack Robinson, and they dropped behind the patrol car.

"My mind says I heard and saw his gun go off," Pickering said.

Pickering said that after the incident, he even checked his car to see if it had been hit by shotgun pellets.

Pickering, when told that the shotgun was not loaded, said maybe he heard and saw a firecracker. He said he found firecrackers in Robinson's house after the shooting.

"I thought that was strange," he says.

Under questioning by David Holt, Robinson's attorney, Pickering said that whether Robinson had fired or not, he would have shot Robinson as soon as Robinson pointed the shotgun at him.

Earlier Tuesday, the jury saw videotapes of the incident taken from cameras mounted in patrol cars. The tapes showed little other than the grass in Robinson's front yard, but one of the cameras recorded audio from a microphone worn by Officer Morris.

The jury heard, but did not see, Morris firing, then saying "I got him. I got him."

They also could hear Robinson, as he was being handcuffed, protest that the shotgun wasn't loaded. Robinson could also be heard on the tape saying he was shot in the legs.

The rounds from Morris' pistol were heard, but there was no apparent gunshot prior to Morris' fire.

Morris testified that he

heard what he thought was a shot from Robinson's shotgun and returned fire. Morris said that after the firing, he even checked to make sure he had not been wounded.

On Monday, Robinson's brother, Jack, also testified that he heard what he thought was a shot before Morris fired.

Texas Ranger Danny Young testified that he investigated the shooting. He said of the three shots fired by Morris, one went through the screen door and hit Robinson in the legs. One struck near the door to the right. The other round struck near the door high and to the left.

Young said that in searching the house, he found a suicide note written on a mirror in the bathroom, signed by Robinson, but he did not find any shotgun shells in the house.

The Ranger told Holt that he did not question any one other than the officers involved in the shooting and did not test Robinson's hands to see if he had recently fired a gun.

Young said that based on his investigation, a Gray County grand jury indicted Robinson for aggravated assault on a police officer and no-billed the officer in the shooting.

VIRUS

Alexander said.

The incidence of contracting West Nile virus through a blood transfusion has dropped since last year.

"One in Nebraska and one in Texas have been infected this year via transfusions. There were 23 last year at this time," Alexander said.

West Nile virus can infect "just about anyone. Last year, there were patients from 6



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa High School Choir members, from left, Anna Schafter, Aaron Simon, Krissy Holman, Michael Martinez, Stacy Pepper, and Carissa Snelgrooes, get their clubs ready for the annual Hole-In-One Shoot-Out fundraiser set for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 27 and 28.

Choir's Hole-In-One Shoot-Out winner could win \$50,000 or car

Pampa High School Choir plans its annual Hole-In-One Shoot-Out this weekend. Sept. 27 and 28, to help raise money for the choir's trip to San Antonio this spring.

Preliminaries begin at 9 a.m. and go on until 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27, at Pampa Middle School on the corner

of 23rd and Perryton Parkway. Finals will be held at Hidden Hills Public Golf Course on Sunday, Sept. 28.

Grand prize will be \$50,000 or a new car. The top 10 finalists will be awarded cash prizes donated by area businesses and supporters.

Tickets are available from choir students or may be purchased at the middle school on Saturday.

Tickets are \$5 for the first three balls and \$1 per ball after the initial \$5 ticket.

All proceeds go into students' accounts for the spring choir tour.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

months to over 90 years of age," he said.

"The majority don't know they've been infected. Roughly 20 percent have the less severe form, ranging from a mild headache to extreme back pain and a rash over the entire body, along with extreme fatigue," Alexander said.

The more severe form involves 39 symptoms. The least significant of these is fever, and the most significant is coma. West Nile may also result in death.

"One person said they felt like someone was sitting on their head. Another said their head felt like it weighed 50 pounds," Alexander said.

Other symptoms of the

severe version include severe eye pain, trouble swallowing, abnormal walking, facial twitches, nausea and vomiting, hypersensitivity of the skin surface, paralysis on one side, seizures and dizziness.

Estimated recovery time is no less than two weeks, and more often four to six weeks. Some patients take even longer to recover.

"One man was in the hospital for nine months, and he still can't walk," Alexander said.

Antibiotics do not treat the virus, and would only treat any secondary infections the patient develops. The only treatment is to treat symptoms and provide supportive therapy while trying to prevent sec-

ondary infections. Anyone with autoimmune system problems is more susceptible to West Nile virus complications.

Alexander suggests remembering the "four Ds" to avoid getting the virus:

- Deet - Use a product with at least 30 percent concentration for adults, and follow label recommendations for children.
- Dusk and dawn - Avoid being outside at these times, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Dress appropriately - Wear long sleeves and long pants.
- Drain standing water - Mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CITY

to decide what they want to do.

In their regular 6 p.m. session, the commission authorized the submission of a Law Enforcement Block Grant and establishment of a brokerage account for the city's deferred compensation plan.

They also approved the city's budget on second and final

reading and approved the ad valorem tax rate for the next fiscal year.

The commission authorized the city manager and public works director to negotiate an engineering contract on Cell 3 of the landfill and authorized the mayor to execute a new fire services contract with Gray County.

Commissioners reappointed Gary Sutherland and Dalton

Lewis to the PEDC board.

They reappointed Dick Stowers and Durward Williams to the Board of Adjustment and reappointed Loralae Cooley and Doug Pollack to the Park, Recreation and Auditorium Board.

The commission reappointed Sarah Carmichael, Sharon Haynes and Ed Cooley to the Lovett Memorial Library Board. They also appointed Jeri Erickson to the library board.

Janie Shed, Ray Boring and Harold Price were all reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The commission deferred any appointments to the Construction Board.

CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

SALES

were 2.48 percent over budget.

"We've pretty well held that trend of being over budget for the remainder of the year," Horst said. "It was a very good sales tax year for us here in Pampa."

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn this month reported that her office delivered some \$306 million in sales tax payments to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts. That, she said, is a one percent increase compared to September 2002.

The state's share of sales tax revenue for their fiscal year, which ended in August, was down about 1.7 percent compared to a year ago. It was down for the month of August, Strayhorn said, by about a half a percent.

Horst said that probably reflects fewer sales in automobiles, an area in which all the

sales tax goes to the state and is not shared with cities.

The state reported their sales tax revenues at \$1.32 billion in August and \$14.2 billion for the fiscal year.

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Report: U.S. aviation needs major changes to meet demand

By LESLIE MILLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major improvements to aircraft are needed for the U.S. air transportation system to get where it needs to go in the next 35 years, according to a report by the National Research Council.

The whole system, in fact, needs an overhaul if it is to meet a doubling of demand for air transportation, said the

report, released Tuesday. Cleaner, quieter aircraft are keys to increasing the system's capacity, the report said. Otherwise, it said, public objections to the noise and pollution caused by airplanes will limit airport growth.

The council recommended investments in improved aircraft design and new propulsion technologies, such as hydrogen fuel and advanced fuel cells.

"Business as usual, in the form of continued, evolutionary improvements to existing technologies, aircraft, air traffic control systems and operational concepts, is unlikely to meet the needs for air transportation that will emerge over the next 25 to 50 years," said the report, which was sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Steve van Beek, spokesman for Airports Council International, said the airport advocacy group agreed with the report's conclusions.

"We have fought a long and sometimes lonely battle for higher standards to promote quieter aircraft," said van Beek.

Other kinds of aircraft that could contribute to a more efficient air transportation system include supersonic business jets; giant flying wings for carrying cargo; and aircraft that can take off and land vertically without runways, the report said.

The report said the United States ignores an important goal for civil aeronautics that Europe recognizes: satisfaction of consumer needs.

"This could be a major oversight, given the large role that consumer demand for

low cost and convenience (e.g., frequent departures) plays in business decisions made by industry," the report said.

Another flaw in the U.S. vision for aviation is that it doesn't aim to continue its dominance of the aeronautics industry, while Europe is intent on overtaking the United States, the report said.

The report, written by representatives of industry, academia and the government, notes that a group named by the European Commission set forth a vision for European aviation in the year 2020. Among its goals was primacy of the European aeronautics industry, a supersonic aircraft that would carry 1,200 passengers and an air traffic system that would set the world standard for efficiency.

"They have a strategy, and we don't," said John Hansman, director of the International Center for Air Transportation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who reviewed the research council's report.

The report noted that satisfying security requirements will become more difficult in the future. The authors didn't delve into the problem, though, because they felt other people are taking a hard look at aviation security, said Alan Angleman, the council's study director.

The report said problems with the air traffic system should be dealt with by manufacturers, airlines, pilots, passengers and government agencies, working together.

The government recently acknowledged the need for a unified approach to aviation policy by establishing a joint

office led by Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and involving the FAA, NASA and the departments of Commerce, Defense and Homeland Security.

"The council raises valid questions and the Transportation Department and FAA are applying the same foresight to answer the question of what a future aerospace system might be," said FAA spokesman Greg Martin.

The Research Council is part of the National Academies, which advise the government on science, technology and health policy.

On the Net:
National Research Council: <http://www.nationalacademies.org/nrc/>
Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov>

Cub Scout drive now under way

This month and next Golden Spread Council of Boy Scouts of America is holding a membership drive to promote its Cub Scouting program.

Cub Scouts is a neighborhood-centered program that combines fun with educational activities in an effort to teach boys to be self-reliant, dependable and caring individuals.

"The Cub Scout program provides a forum in which parents and sons spend quality time together going places, doing projects, talking, reading, and learning together," said Barry Oxley, scout executive for the council. "Remember that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders."

The Golden Spread Council will be hosting neighborhood informational meetings on Cub Scouting and invites families to visit its web site at www.goldenspread.org or to call its Amarillo office at (806) 3358-6500 for more information.

The council serves 82 communities throughout its 27-county region.

DRILLING INTENTIONS

Intentions to Drill

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & FELDMAN Tonkawa) J-Brex Co., #1 J-Fel, 1074' from South & 1083' from West line, Sec. 9,4,3,H&TC, PD 7800'.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Cimarex Energy Co., #8069 Hobart Ranch, 1980' from North & 1660' from East line, Sec. 69,A-2,H&GN, PD 11350'.

HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #7 Hobart Ranch '50', 1998' from North & 642' from East line, Sec. 50,A-2,H&GN, PD 12500'.

HUTCHINSON (WEST PANHANDLE) Amanda Energy, Inc., #2 A.M.

Spurlock, 330' from South & 951' from East line, Sec. — J.Gregoria Martinex, PD 3600'. Replacement well.

HUTCHINSON (WEST PANHANDLE) J.M. Huber Corp., PD 3600'. Replacement well for the following:

#3 Carver 'A', 330' from South & East line, Lot 12,4, W.M. Neil Survey.

#B-15 Herring 'B', 41' from South & 1500' from West line, R. Walters Survey.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & LIPS Mississippian) Range Production Co., #2134 Courson Ranch, 1087' from North & 1273' from East line, Sec. 134,C,G&M, PD 9500'.

WHEELER (WEST BRITT Granite Wash 'A') Stallion Energy, Inc., Britt,

PD 12750', for the following wells:

#2-27, 592' from North & 660' from East line, Sec. 27,A-3,H&GN, #3-14, 500' from North & 2140' from West line, Sec. 25,A-3,H&GN.

WHEELER (STILES RANCH Granite Wash 'A') Stallion Energy, Inc., #4-25 Stiles, 820' from North & 1600' from East line, Sec. 25,A-3,H&GN, PD 12750'.

Application to Re-Enter WHEELER (MILLS RANCH Atoka) BP America Production Co., #4301-A E.T. Davis, 2303' from South & 1969' from East line, Sec. 43,A-7,H&GN, PD 15100'.

Gas Well Completions GRAY (WEST PANHANDLE) Gruy Petroleum Mgmt.

Co., #3 Cousins, Sec. 1,30,H&GN, spud 3-10-03, drlg. compl 3-12-03, tested 4-17-03, potential 24 MCF, TD 2457' —

GRAY (WEST PANHANDLE) Gruy Petroleum Mgmt. Co., #3 Major 'A', Sec. 10,30,H&GN, spud 3-15-03, drlg. compl 3-17-03, tested 4-14-03, potential 580 MCF, TD 2387' —

HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Chevron U.S.A., Inc., #1 Chifford, Sec. 30,M-1,H&GN, spud 3-15-03, drlg. compl 6-23-03, tested 7-31-03, potential 91 MCF, TD 20733' PBTD 12465' — Plug-Back

HEMPHILL (HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #9072

Howell, Sec. 72,A-2,H&GN, spud 5-30-03, drlg. compl 6-13-03, tested 7-13-03, potential 2162 MCF, TD 13050', PBTD 10990' — Plug-Back

Plugged Wells

HEMPHILL (HEMPHILL Douglas) Bracken Operating, L.L.C., #1049 Donaldson, Sec. 49,A-1,H&GN, spud 12-26-99, plugged 8-19-03, TD 8250' (oil) —

WHEELER (PANHANDLE) Vernon Davenport, #9 M.S. Bills, Sec. 45,15,H&GN, spud unknown, plugged 6-9-03, TD 2203' (oil) — Form 1 in Texaco

WHEELER (PANHANDLE) Questa Energy Corp., #1 Johnston, Sec. 27,17,H&GN, spud unknown, plugged 9-3-03, TD 2045' (oil) — Form 1 in Glen Cope

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Iraq

VIENNA — Iraq joined OPEC members to discuss oil production at the first meeting of the

Iraqi delegation at the table at the headquarters of the United Nations in talks on a strategy

Venezuela cleared the Organization for Exporting Crude Oil on the nitty-gritty global supply

crude during the month. OPEC's meeting is a formal agreement

OPEC support of the world's oil

Venezuela, Iraq, a four-member OPEC, should

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member has not by the United

oil minister in Uloum, Baghdad

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Iraq joins OPEC talks after Venezuela relaxes opposition

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Iraq joined its 10 fellow OPEC members for talks on oil production Wednesday for the first time since the toppling of Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi delegates returned to the table at the cartel's Vienna headquarters after Venezuela backed down from its opposition to Iraq's full participation in talks on OPEC's output strategy.

Venezuela's reversal cleared the way for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to focus on the nitty-gritty of assessing global supply and demand for crude during the coming winter months.

OPEC's members were to meet again later Wednesday in a formal session to ratify an agreement on oil output. OPEC supplies about a third of the world's crude.

Venezuela had argued that Iraq, a founding member of OPEC, should not attend the group's formal meeting because its interim government has not been recognized by the United Nations. Iraqi oil minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Uloum, backed by OPEC's

Photos land Wal-Mart in hot water

SALINA, Kan. (AP) — Police officers and the city of Salina have been dismissed from a lawsuit filed by a woman interrogated last year about photos processed at a Wal-Mart store that included partially nude images of her 3-year-old daughter.

In the lawsuit, Tamie Dragone claims she was humiliated and her family's privacy was invaded when police called by store officials questioned her about the photos, which included a picture of her daughter playing topless in a swimming pool.

Dragone was approached by police as she waited for the photos to be developed and was questioned for about 45 minutes. She was eventually allowed to leave, but without the pictures.

Dragone is seeking damages of \$262,473 for medical expenses and pain and suffering.

Attorneys for both sides agreed to dismiss the city defendants at a hearing last Friday. Dragone's attorney, Tom Boone, said Tuesday that the suit contends negligence by Wal-Mart caused the incident.

Salina Police Chief Jim Hill said in a statement the dismissal "reinforces our strong belief that her claims ... were entirely without legal merit."

other members, maintained his country had a right to participate as a full voting member.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said he would respect the consensus of his fellow OPEC members, though he would register an objection.

"We also will attend the meeting, because we don't want to provoke a crisis within OPEC," Ramirez told reporters.

OPEC representatives conferred over breakfast with delegates from six independent,

non-OPEC producers including Russia and Mexico. OPEC is seeking a commitment of cooperation from independent producers to help keep oil prices stable as an imbalance between supply and demand looms early next year. OPEC Secretary-General Alvaro Silva said after the breakfast meeting.

Iraq's presence at this week's talks is seen as a sign of growing international acceptance of its U.S.-backed interim government.

OPEC had struggled Tuesday to prevent the dispute

over Iraq's participation from causing a damaging rift and impeding its plan to set production targets for the year's busy fourth quarter. Venezuela's reversal came after the group's 10 members, excluding Iraq, failed to resolve the dispute late Tuesday night in a meeting.

Despite a recent slide in crude prices and OPEC's forecast of a buildup in oil inventories this autumn, the cartel's members seemed to agree that they should hold oil output steady for the next few months. OPEC should meet

again in December to consider cutting production ahead of an expected seasonal downturn in spring demand. Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheik Ahmed Fahd al-Ahmed Al-Sabah said earlier.

Earlier fears that Iraq might quickly restore its prewar output and flood the market with crude have all but disappeared. Sabotage of Iraq's oil pipelines continues to hamper its exports, and Iraq's recovery is taking much longer than expected.

Silva predicted that OPEC would hold its output ceiling

steady at 25.4 million barrels a day for the rest of the year.

A decision by OPEC to do anything different now would be "irresponsible," said Yasser Elguindi of Medley Global Advisors, a New York-based consultancy.

"It would take something dramatic at this point for them to change their position, and the market would not appreciate it," Elguindi said.

OPEC's benchmark crude price stood at \$24.82, the lowest since May 8. Despite falling, prices remain within OPEC's target \$22-\$28 price range.

Iraq hasn't attended an OPEC meeting since Saddam was ousted by the U.S.-led coalition in April. It hasn't participated in OPEC quota agreements since the United Nations imposed sanctions in 1990 to punish Baghdad for invading Kuwait.

Hillary's memoir altered by Chinese publisher

By AUDRA ANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP) — For weeks, the translation of Hillary Clinton's autobiography has been one of China's hottest books. But some portions of the senator and former first lady's original text have been censored or shortened in the mainland version, and the U.S. publisher is demanding a recall.

Clinton's memoir, "Living History," runs 466 pages in Chinese and contains at least 10 segments where sensitive topics have been changed or deleted. They include material on Harry Wu, a Chinese-American human rights activist, and the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests.

Such retooling is a common practice by Beijing's authoritarian communist government, which tightly controls all media and the Internet despite promises of growing openness in an increasingly free-market economy.

"We have made technical changes to the content in some parts of the book in order to win more Chinese readers," said Liu Feng, deputy editor-in-chief of Yilin Publishing House, the publisher of the Chinese version.

"But," Liu insisted, "the changes do not hurt the integrity of the book."

He didn't specify exactly what was altered. Since the memoir was released in China on Aug. 3, more than 200,000 copies have been printed in at least four editions.

Clinton, who signed a \$8 million deal to write the book, was "amazed and outraged" by the changes, The New York Times reported in Wednesday's editions.

The Times said Clinton and Simon & Schuster, the memoir's American publisher, had sent a letter to Yilin demanding it recall the Chinese edition. The letter also calls for a new translation that faithfully follows the original, the newspaper said.

Simon & Schuster's Web site posted a page flagging the changes in red.

"The Chinese edition of Hillary Clinton's 'Living History' published by Yilin Press ... includes changes to the original text in various sections in the book," the site says. It provides English and Chinese versions of what was missing or altered.

On its Web site, Simon & Schuster offered no editorial comment or assessment of the changes.

One section in the Chinese version says Wu had been detained and was awaiting sentencing for spying. The original version says Wu is a "human rights activist who had spent 19 years as a political prisoner in Chinese labor camps," according to the Web site.

Simon & Schuster released the book in the United States on June 9. First-day sales topped 200,000 as people rushed to buy the memoir, in which Clinton recounts, among other things, her pain and shock at her husband's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Liu said Yilin had received an English copy of the book on June 2 and had rushed to put out a translation to beat the counterfeiters and stem the almost inevitable slew of illegal copies.

"It is our fault that we did not contact Simon & Schuster and inform them about the changes in time," Liu said.

"In order to fight piracy and protect the rights of both Simon & Schuster and ourselves, we had to speed up our effort to publish the book," he said. "The only thing in our mind at that time was to get the book published as soon as possible."

On Wednesday afternoon, at the Xinhua Bookstore in Beijing's Xidan shopping district, customers said they were unaware of any changes made in translation. But they seemed enthusiastic about the memoir by the wife of a president many Chinese admire.

Dean gets financial push from New York union leader

NEW YORK (AP) — The head of one of New York state's most politically powerful labor unions helped Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean raise \$30,000.

"We have been incredibly impressed with him and particularly his campaign," president Dennis Rivera told about 100 union members gathered Tuesday evening at the headquarters of Local 1199, Service Employees International Union.

Officials said Rivera's fund-raising aid did not amount to a formal union endorsement for Dean.

Stressing his support for a national health insurance program and the need to create new jobs, Dean told those

gathered that he shares many of their concerns.

"The SEIU is the labor union that has an intersection with the two things that I care about the most," Dean said. "The first is health care and the second is the rights and ability of low-income workers to earn a decent living."

Jennifer Cunningham, Rivera's top political adviser and executive director of the health care workers' local, which has more than 200,000 members, said the union was trying to help but, "We're not anywhere near an endorsement."

The national leadership of the SEIU also has said it is too early to offer an endorsement. Rivera is a key member of the national.

The event came as Dean makes a final push, approaching the Sept. 30 filing deadline for campaign reports, to retain his status as the top fund-raiser among the 10 candidates for the Democratic


presidential nomination. Dean aides have estimated he will raise at least \$10.3 million this quarter.

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WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 24, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Dad Disconnects Teen's Plan To Ask His Daughter For A Date

DEAR ABBY: I am a junior on the high school football team. "Amy" is one of our school's cheerleaders. We get along great and I want to ask her out. The problem is, I called Amy's house and asked to talk to her, but her father wouldn't let her come to the phone until I gave him my full name and told him where I was from. He made me nervous, and before I could answer, he hung up on me. Did I do anything wrong?
JACK THE JOCK IN JERSEY

DEAR JACK: You didn't "do" anything wrong. However, there are certain rules of telephone courtesy, and you failed to follow them. I list them all in my booklet, "What Every Teen Should Know." This booklet may be ordered by sending a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Some telephone tips from my teen booklet:

1. When you call, identify yourself immediately and ask for the person with whom you wish to speak. ("Hello, Mrs. Jones. This is Jack Smith. May I please speak to Amy?") Remember to speak up and sound confident. Don't mumble. Don't make anyone guess who you are; that's childish. If you are afraid you'll be so nervous you'll forget your telephone manners, write down what you want to say before you call. Then read it!

2. Always make the call yourself. If you haven't the courage to call and ask for a date yourself, then you aren't old enough to date.

3. If you're calling to ask for a date, specify the day and time, and explain what you have in mind so the person you are inviting will know what to wear.

4. Do not call at the last minute. It reduces your chances for an acceptance. ("Gee! You should have called sooner. I've promised to baby-sit tonight.")

Pay attention to these basic rules. They will come in handy for the rest of your life and the telephone will be your ally.

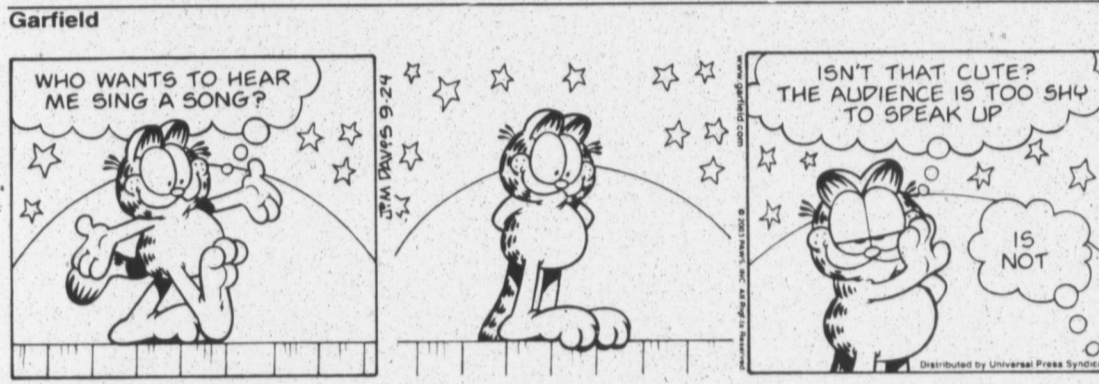
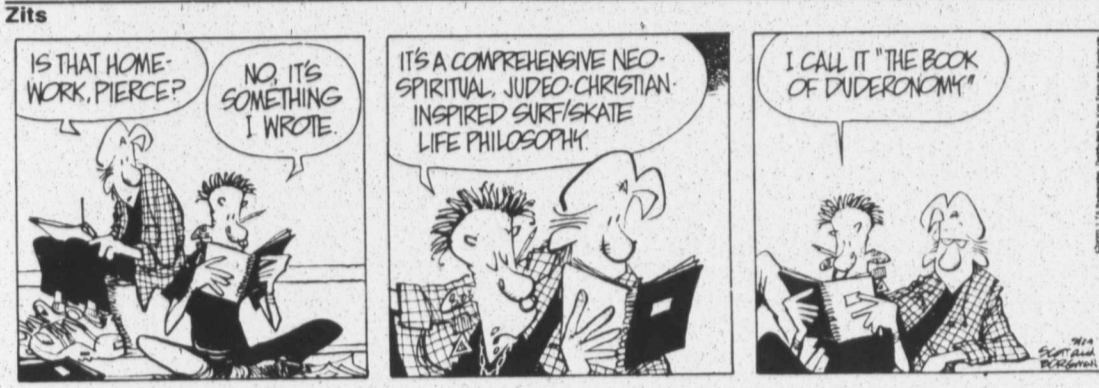
DEAR ABBY: I am 27 years old and I'm having flashbacks. At night, when I try to go to sleep, I see my ex-husband beating me, and other nights I relive my miscarriage. It has been six years since it happened, and I don't know why it is still bothering me. My nightmares are worse now than they have ever been.

Abby, I don't know how to stop these pictures in my head. Shouldn't I have gotten over these things by now?

I am now engaged, and my fiancé is the greatest. I don't want to hurt him by obsessing about my hurtful past. Is there anything I can do?
CONFUSED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CONFUSED: Sometimes, when someone has experienced extreme trauma — physical violence and a miscarriage would both qualify — that person needs professional help to put it to rest and get past it. Pick up the phone and ask the operator for the number of the nearest rape crisis hotline. They offer counseling for the kind of physical and emotional battering you received, and it won't matter that it happened six years ago. Please don't wait to make the call. Help is available for you.

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.



Crossword Puzzle

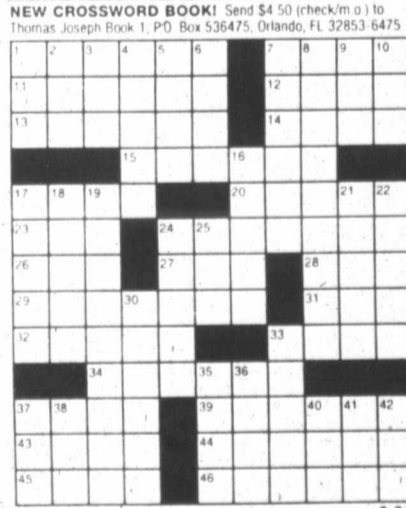
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

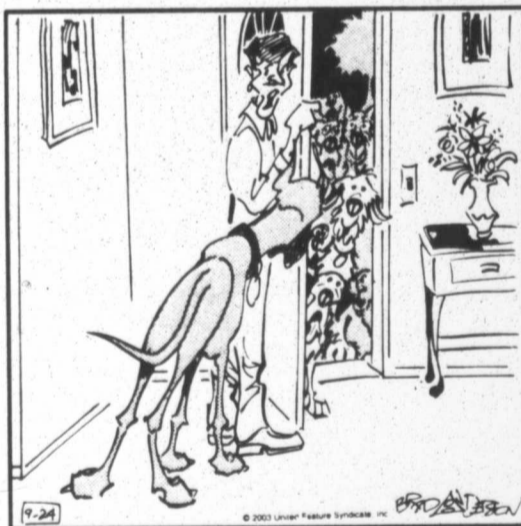
- ACROSS
- 1 Sense of taste
 - 7 Movie dog
 - 11 Lens cover
 - 12 Go across
 - 13 Changed completely
 - 14 Hair line
 - 15 Foil user
 - 17 Historian's concern
 - 20 Mermaid's home
 - 23 Dadaist
 - 24 Make wooden art
 - 26 Writer Levin
 - 27 Skedaddle
 - 28 Lupino of film
 - 29 Boulder setting
 - 31 Convened
 - 32 Dear
 - 33 Carson's successor
 - 34 Pact
 - 37 April weather
 - 39 Rector's charge
 - 43 High point
 - 44 "Twelfth Night" heroine
 - 45 Banana leftover
- DOWN
- 1 Apiece
 - 2 Ensign's answer
 - 3 Went ahead
 - 4 In the air
 - 5 Fork
 - 6 Perfect place
 - 7 Facet
 - 8 Leisure
 - 9 Road gunk
 - 10 Tiny worker
 - 16 Change
 - 17 Skating category
 - 18 Pointer
 - 19 Four-dimensional
 - 21 John of system
 - 22 "Keen!"
 - 24 Use a pen
 - 25 Tint
 - 30 Popcorn unit
 - 33 Song bit
 - 35 "... like peas in ..."
 - 36 Yarn
 - 37 Eminem offering
 - 38 Good service
 - 40 "... got it!"
 - 41 Sermon topic
 - 42 Bowler, for one



Yesterday's answer



Marmaduke



The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



VOLLEY

PAMPA - volleyball squeaked its Texas Girl Association's 4A high school poll released.

The Lady tied with Mount Morris for the 10th spot. Dumas still held the 4A No. 2 rank behind defending champion Republic. Pampa met Tuesday and defeat, 25-12, 20. It was Harvesters' first four victories. Demonettes unbeaten in 4-0.

BASEBAL

PAMPA - High school FFA are joining an all-you-can-eat dinner 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the cafeteria.

Tickets are available for adults and children under 12. Tickets can be bought by calling 666-0618.

FOOTBA

COLLEGE

Texas (AP) - has a high total and a short list of ties that have gain respect from his Texas mates as the safety.

Appel suffered hand in the second round. Utah Sept. 6 rest of the game. He underwent surgery next day that screws be in hand. He was meeting three surgery.

Appel, who was field last week, was in a 35-19 Tech, boosted total to 45 for average of 1.2 in the second round.

"The doctor doesn't work my body to me is a high total," Appel said. "I'll be playing basketball. I can't and I couldn't."

Kids Cl

PAMPA - Youth Club volleyball signups, Sept. 27 at B Gym, located at South Bay.

Signup time p.m. Sept. 25 to 2 p.m. Sept. 26. Other signups.

ST

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WEL 1

SPORTS

Harvesters shock state-ranked Palo Duro

AMARILLO — Pampa's tennis team hung tough and pulled out a 10-9 win over No. 8 state-ranked Palo Duro last weekend. With the victory, the Harvesters improved to 4-0 in district play.

"Palo Duro was definitely the toughest team we've played so far, but we managed to pull out the victory by winning some very tough matches," said coach Travis Eggleton. "The boys won all three of their doubles matches, the girls won one of their three, and we lost the mixed doubles match, so that put us up 4-3 before the singles matches began."

Sophomore Myca Vinson and senior Zach Hucks both lost their first set, but then turned their matches around by winning both of their next sets.

Erin Norris took the 10th match with an easy 6-2, 6-2, win over her opponent.

"This was a tremendous

Tennis

victory for Pampa. Coach (Starla) Kindle and I are very proud of the effort shown by our players," said coach Eggleton.

Players of the week are senior Zach Hucks and sophomore Myca Vinson.

Pampa 10, Palo Duro 9 Individual Results

Boys Singles

Britton White (P) def. B.J. Luangpraseuth 6-3, 6-4.

Zach Hucks (P) def. Patrick Gibbs, 2-6, 6-1, 6-0.

Adam Etchison (P) def. Peter Chantharaj 6-1, 7-6 (7-3).

Viet Le (PD) def. Mitchell Crow, 6-3, 6-3.

Noah Keever (PD) def. Nick Robbins, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Julio Perez (PD) def. Sunil Kamnani, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

Girls Singles

Tara Jordan (P) def. Kim Lao, 7-5, 7-6 (7-0).

Kay Van (PD) def. Lacie Long, 6-1, 6-0.

Myca Vinson (P) def. Zuleyma Rogel, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Erin Norris (P) def. April Sihaphoni, 6-2, 6-2.

Sarah Nguyen (PD) def. Ashlee Lucas, 6-2, 6-1.

Bee Inthavong (PD) def. Payton Baird, 6-3, 6-2.

Boys Doubles

White-Hucks (P) def. Luangpraseuth-Gibbs, 6-7, 6-2, 6-2.

Etchison-Crow (P) def. Chantharaj-Le, 7-5, 7-5.

Robbins-Smith (P) def. Perez-Mingboupaha, 7-6 (7-3) 7-5.

Jordan-Lucas (P) def. Lao-Rogel, 6-3 7-6 (7-3).

Van-Nguyen (PD) def. Long-Vinson, 6-0, 6-2.

Inthavong-Pham (PD) def. Baird-Denney, 6-4, 6-4.

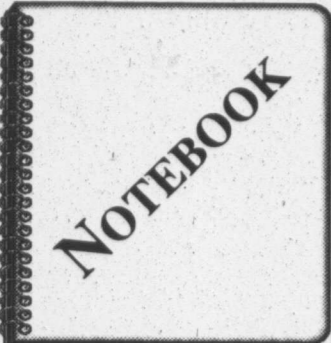
Mixed

Keever-Sihaphon (PD) def. Norris-Kamnani, 7-5, 6-2.



(Photo by Ben Briscoe)

Pampa's Payton Baird returns a serve in her District 3-4A match with Dumas' April Coon on Tuesday. Baird won 6-2, 6-1 and so did the Pampa team, 17-2. Complete results will be published in Thursday's edition.



VOLLEYBALL

PAMPA — The Pampa volleyball team has squeaked its way into the Texas Girls Coaches Association's latest Class 4A high school volleyball poll released Tuesday.

The Lady Harvesters are tied with Montgomery for the 10th spot. Meanwhile, Dumas still holds the Class 4A No. 2 ranking, one spot behind defending state champion Red Oak.

Pampa met Dumas on Tuesday and went down to defeat, 25-12, 25-15, 25-20. It was the Lady Harvesters first district loss four victories. The Demonettes remain unbeaten in district play at 4-0.

BASEBALL

PAMPA — The Pampa High baseball program and FFA are jointly sponsoring an all-you-can eat sirloin steak dinner Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 in the PHS cafeteria.

Tickets are 10 dollars for adults and five dollars for children under 8. Tickets can be bought at the door or by calling 665-6689 or 665-0618.

FOOTBALL

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Jaxson Appel has a high tolerance for pain and a short memory, qualities that have helped him gain respect and admiration from his Texas Aggie teammates as the starting free safety.

Appel suffered a broken hand in the first quarter of the second game against Utah Sept. 6 but played the rest of the game anyway.

He underwent surgery the next day that required eight screws be inserted in his hand. He was back at a team meeting three hours after the surgery.

Appel, who was back on the field last week made 18 tackles in a 35-19 loss to Virginia Tech, boosting his tackle total to 45 for the year for an average of 15.33 per game, the second best total in the nation.

"The doctor said my nerves don't work very well from my body to my brain so there is a high tolerance for pain," Appel said. "When I was little we played Little League basketball. I couldn't dribble and I couldn't shoot."

PHS athlete leaves Thursday to begin rehabilitation

Jennie Rogers fund-raiser is Friday at high school

PAMPA — Pampa High junior Jennie Rogers leaves Thursday for Dallas to begin the rehabilitation process; reported her father, Stephen Rogers.

The 16-year-old Rogers suffered spinal injuries in a

one-car accident on Sept. 15. She underwent two operations at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo last week.

"Jennie's much improved after back surgery. She's paralyzed from the waist

down, but she does have some reflexes," Stephen said. "That's good news."

He said Jennie was able to wiggle her toes a little bit after the second surgery.

"We appreciate the prayers. It's really helped," Stephen said.

Jennie enters Our Children's House at Baylor, located at 3301 Swiss Avenue 75204 in Dallas.

The Pampa High Athletic Department is sponsoring a fund-raising event with proceeds benefitting Jennie and her family.

Jennie is an outstanding player on both the Pampa volleyball and softball teams. She was all-district in softball.

The event, "Wreck the Raiders" will be held in the parking lot north of the

MPAC building following the pep rally until the Pampa-Randall kickoff at 7:30 Friday night in Harvester Stadium.

The fund-raiser features a van donated by Bill Allison Auto Sales. For two dollars, participants can take three swings at the van with a sledge hammer.

All proceeds go to the Rogers family.

Pampa and Randall could decide District 3-4A title

PAMPA — It's just the District 3-4A opener, but the outcome may just decide the championship when Pampa and Randall clash at 7:30 Friday night in Harvester Stadium. Both finished the non-district season with perfect 4-0 records, the only district teams to do so.

Randall has been compiling a lot of points and offensive yardage under the leadership of coach Alan

Cornelius. The Raiders are averaging 49 points per game and 430 yards per game.

Senior running back Kiel Anderson has been doing most of the damage behind a solid offensive front line. Anderson rushed for 167 yards and scored three touchdowns in last week's 40-13 win over Tascosa. Anderson, who has rushed for over 700 yards, missed all the district season a year

ago because of injuries.

Steven Coursey (5-11, 195-pound senior) is a smart signal-caller who knows how to operate a spread offense.

Senior wide receiver Jake Butler has snared five touchdown passes and is averaging 25 yards per catch.

All-district center Ty Parker (210-pound senior) anchors the offensive front. Kyle McGuire, on the

offensive line, is 6-3 and 280 pounds has a lot of quickness for his size.

Leading the defense is Randall senior safety Clay Britten, who has been one of the top tacklers on the team. He was all-district a year ago.

Randall is the defending district champion despite a 32-21 loss to Pampa in last year's 1-4A opener.

Pampa's 32-0 win over Borger last weekend took a

toll on the Harvesters. Tight end Brittin East suffered a knee injury in the first quarter and running back Andrew Curtis came away with a hip pointer. Coach Heath Parker said Curtis is expected to play Friday night while East may be sidelined until next week.

"Borger was a very physical game. Borger's only chance against us was to be physical and they certainly were," coach Parker said.

Giants knock Astros out of first place in NL Central

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's Geoff Blum summed up the Astros' late-season slide perfectly.

"We're kind of like ducks on a pond right now," the third baseman said. "On the surface we might look all calm and collected. Beneath the water, those legs are kicking. Our legs are kicking pretty hard right now."

The Astros fell out of first place in the NL Central on Tuesday night with a 10-3 loss to San Francisco that featured Edgardo Alfonzo's grand slam in a 10-run second inning.

The Giants roughed up Wade Miller (14-13) and sent

the Astros to their fourth consecutive loss, matching their longest losing streak of the year. Houston fell a game behind the Chicago Cubs — 6-0 winner in Cincinnati — after holding at least a share of the division lead since Sept. 8.

"We've been playing our hearts out trying to do something we've wanted to do since April," Jeff Kent said. "You're going to lose, you hope you don't lose enough to put you out."

Jason Schmidt (17-5) benefited from all the San Francisco offense. The right-hander, slated to start Game 1 of the playoffs for the NL

West champion Giants, gave up only two runs and three hits in seven innings.

He has won five straight decisions and 12 of his last 14.

Jason Lane homered twice for Houston, the first multi-homer game of his career.

The Giants lead Atlanta by two percentage points in the race for the best record in the NL and home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

After Wednesday's series finale, Houston closes at home with four games against Milwaukee. The Cubs play at Cincinnati on Wednesday and Thursday, then go home for a

three-game series against Pittsburgh.

Roy Oswalt (9-5) will pitch for Houston against Sidney Ponson (3-5) on Wednesday.

The Astros went down meekly against Schmidt, who retired 14 in a row at one point.

The Giants tagged Miller and Ricky Stone in taking a 10-0 lead in the second. It was San Francisco's biggest inning since scoring 11 runs in the sixth in Milwaukee on May 21, 2000.

The last time the Astros allowed at least 10 runs in an inning was Aug. 3, 1989, at Cincinnati, when the Reds

scored 14 times in the first.

"We're definitely not done yet," Miller said. "We've got five games left. Maybe we're a little tired, but we're not done."

It was the third slam of Alfonzo's career, and second this season. He hit one off Chicago's Kerry Wood on July 30. The Giants have six grand slams this year.

"No matter how it looks, it's a home run," Alfonzo said. "You can't hit them that easy in our park. You have to enjoy every moment out of Pac Bell. It's not as easy to hit home runs there."

Marquis Grissom started the rally with a solo homer.

Kids Club having basketball signups

PAMPA — Pampa Kids & Youth Club will have basketball signups, Sept. 25 through Sept. 27 at Baker Elementary Gym, located at highway 60 and South Barnes Street.

Signup times are from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 25-26, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 27.

Other signup date are Oct. 2

through Oct. 4 at Baker Gym. Signup times are from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 2-3, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 4.

The basketball program is for both boys and girls kindergarten through high school senior.

For more information, call 669-0535 or 669-1740.

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Lake McClellan fish



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa anglers Anthony Villarreal, Adam Felix and Jason Thomas with a stringer of 11 catfish (5.5 to 9.5 pounds) they caught recently at Lake McClellan. Using salamanders, waterdogs and crawdads as bait, they brought in the batch of fish in approximately three hours.

Golf still means something to somebody

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Golf is a tough sell this time of year.

One of the more amusing sights on the PGA Tour last fall was at Callaway Gardens during the Buick Challenge, a tournament that no longer exists. The only "gallery" behind the 11th green in the second round consisted of an elderly couple working as marshals and a volunteer in the tower charting shots.

As one of the players stood over his putt, the marshals dutifully raised signs that read, "Hush, Y'all."

Indeed, there is a hush over the PGA Tour.

Television ratings are at their lowest point of the season. The fields are thin: only one player among the top 20 on the money list (Chris DiMarco) played in the 84 Lumber Classic last week. The German Masters on the European tour was worth more world ranking points than the PGA Tour event.

What's the point in playing?

Plenty.

T.L. Lewis, a runner-up the previous week at the John Deere Classic, was thinking about taking the week off when he decided to head for the hills of western Pennsylvania.

"I had aspirations of doing well, but I didn't know it was going to be this good," Lewis said. "I'm sure glad we came. I enjoyed myself."

He played 36 holes Sunday in 14 under par, and his 62 was the lowest final round by a winner this year.

Those are just numbers.

What made the week so valuable to Lewis was a \$720,000 check that moved him up to 17th on the money list, which might be enough to get him into his first Tour Championship and locks up his first trip to the Masters.

"I think we drove by (Augusta National) one

time, but I've never actually been to the course," Lewis said. "I'm really looking forward to that. That's a lifetime experience."

Cameron Beckman couldn't make a putt in his final round of 74, but a tie-for fifth was his best finish this year, shot him up to 95th on the money list and will spare him the aggravation of Q-school in December.

Craig Barlow (No. 103) and Robert Damron (No. 108) also might be safe after a good week at 84 Lumber.

Yes, the majors are over. But the drama is just starting to unfold.

Over the next seven weeks, every putt will matter for players trying to keep their cards by finishing in the top 125 on the money list: trying to get into the Masters by finishing in the top 40; trying to get into the Tour Championship by finishing in the top 30; and trying to get into the British Open and U.S. Open by finishing in the top 20.

It's even better at the top, where a half-dozen guys have a chance to win Player of the Year.

Tiger Woods, who has been working with a new Nike driver during his month off, returns to work next week at the American Express Championship outside Atlanta.

He has not won in nearly three months, and for the first time in five years his name does not immediately come to mind when talking about player of the year.

Then again, Woods is tied with Davis Love III with most PGA Tour victories at four; has essentially locked up another scoring title; and with two \$6 million events remaining, is within reach of a fifth straight money title.

"I've got a chance at player of the year, stroke average and money list," he said. "A lot of different things are up for grabs."

Think this time of year doesn't matter to Vijay Singh?

He won the John Deere Classic two weeks ago and moved to the top of the money list, and now has a chance to become only the fourth foreign-born player to win the money title. The others were Gary Player, Greg Norman and Nick Price.

With one more victory, Masters champion Mike Weir might be able to wrap up player of the year, which has gone to a player with a major championship each of the last seven years. He had top 10s in two other majors, helping his cause.

Love and U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk will need another win to be considered, while Kenny Perry probably has to run the table.

Not on the list of candidates is Phil Mickelson, who has been missing in action since Firestone.

Mickelson is 34th on the money list and winless for the first time since 1999. If he doesn't play well next week in Atlanta, he might miss the Tour Championship for the first time in his career.

The good news? He'll have more time to work on that 68 mph fastball.

Also worth watching are the Cinderellas, British Open champion Ben Curtis and PGA champion Shaun Micheel.

John Daly ('95 British Open) was the last full-time PGA Tour player to win a major and fail to qualify for the Tour Championship.

Micheel is at No. 23 on the money list, while Curtis is at No. 39.

Both are exempt into Augusta National for the next five years.

Not so for Ben Crane, who won the BellSouth Classic the week before the Masters, but now is at No. 44 on the money list and needs to move up four spots in the final seven weeks.

Stay tuned. TV ratings might be flat. Crowds may be sparse. Fields are weak. Some guys are still grinding as hard as ever.

Robinson to become minister at San Antonio church

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Robinson, who retired from the San Antonio Spurs after the 2002-03 championship season, will reportedly become a minister at his longtime church.

Max Lucado, pastor at Oak Hills Church, told worshippers Sunday that Robinson will be joining the church's staff as a "minister at large," with duties yet to be determined.

Lucado went on to say that he

and Robinson may teach a weekly Bible study together.

The announcement was made in the church's vast worship area, which doubles as a basketball court.

"He is a great teacher and a great builder," Lucado told the San Antonio Express-News on Monday's editions.

Robinson, who retired in June after 14 NBA seasons, could not be reached for com-

ment.

During the Spurs' title run, Robinson had said several times that he was considering ministry after his retirement.

He also said he planned to devote much of his time to fundraising for the Carver Academy, a private elementary school in a struggling inner-city neighborhood that he founded and endowed with nearly \$10 million of his own money.

Yankees, Twins, Athletics clinch AL division crowns

By The Associated Press

It was a night of clinches in the American League, with the New York Yankees, Minnesota Twins and Oakland Athletics wrapping up the three division titles in a 2 1/2-hour span.

The Yankees began Tuesday night's celebrations, clinching their sixth straight AL East title as Jason Giambi hit a grand slam in the ninth inning and Jose Contreras struck out a career-high nine in a 7-0 victory in Chicago.

Of course with the Yankees, a division title isn't all that much to get excited about.

"Enjoy it for a couple of days," captain Derek Jeter told his teammates. "But we've got three more steps to go, fellas."

In Minneapolis, the Twins beat Cleveland 4-1 for their 10th in a row, then had to wait for Chicago and Kansas City to lose before they could celebrate their second straight Central title.

The Twins overcame a 7 1/2-game deficit at the All-Star break, going 45-20 in the second half — the best record in baseball.

"We fought each other, we yelled at each other, we did everything we possibly could to motivate each other," first

baseman Doug Mientkiewicz said. "We've been through a lot together."

At Oakland, the Athletics tied it in the ninth and beat Texas 4-3 on Adam Melhuse's RBI single in the 10th.

The A's clinched their second straight AL West title and fourth playoff trip in a row

about 20 minutes later when second-place Seattle lost 2-1 in 11 innings in Anaheim.

"I hope you guys are ready for us to do something we haven't done the last couple years, and that's win a championship," pitcher Tim Hudson said. "Maybe this the year we stumble to the finish line and win it all."

Fall 2002 City Softball League Standings

Men's Open		
Team	Won	Lost
A.S.S.I.	3	0
The End Zone	3	0
Shockers	3	0
Domino's	2	1
Pop's Boys	1	2
NBC Bank	1	2
Los Chinacos Puma	1	2
Jerry's Remodeling	0	2
Southwest Collision	0	3
Pampa Fire Fighters Assn.	0	3
Mixed Open		
Team	Won	Lost
Rasco Construction	6	0
Easy's	6	1
Pampa Cyber Net	3	1
Jailbirds	3	2
Jay's Drive Inn	2	2
Duncan, Fraser & Bridges	3	3
N&T Productions	3	5
WW Sports Bar	2	4
Peggy's Place	1	4
Totally Wireless	1	4
PRMC	1	5

— Standings as of Sept. 22

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL					NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE				
National League East Division Atlanta 98, Florida 87, Philadelphia 85, Montreal 81, New York 64 Central Division Chicago 85, Houston 84, St. Louis 82, Pittsburgh 73, Cincinnati 67, Milwaukee 66 West Division San Francisco 97, Los Angeles 83, Arizona 81, Colorado 72, San Diego 62 x-clinched division Monday's Games Florida 6, Atlanta 3 San Francisco 6, Houston 3 San Diego 9, Los Angeles 5 Tuesday's Games Florida 5, Philadelphia 4 N.Y. Mets 1, Pittsburgh 0 Chicago Cubs 6, Cincinnati 0 Atlanta 2, Montreal 0 St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1 San Francisco 10, Houston 3 Colorado 20, Arizona 9 Los Angeles 2, San Diego 1 Wednesday's Games San Francisco (Ponson 3-5) at Houston (Oswalt 9-5), 2:05 p.m. Montreal (Day 9-7) at Atlanta (Ru-Ortiz 20-7), 7:05 p.m. St. Louis (Morris 10-8) at Milwaukee (Kinney 10-12), 7:05 p.m. Philadelphia (Myers 14-8) at Florida (Beckett 8-8), 7:05 p.m. Pittsburgh (D'Amico 9-15) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 15-10), 7:10 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Estes 7-11) at Cincinnati (Hall 0-1), 7:10 p.m. Arizona (Johnson 5-8) at Colorado (Jimenez 2-9), 9:05 p.m. Los Angeles (K. Brown 14-9) at San Diego (Howard 1-3), 10:05 p.m. Thursday's Games Arizona (Battista 10-9) at Colorado (Elarton 4-4), 3:05 p.m. Philadelphia (Wolf 16-9) at Florida (Penny 13-10), 7:05 p.m. Pittsburgh (Vogelsong 2-1) at N.Y. Mets (Glavine 9-14), 7:10 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 13-10) at Cincinnati (Van Poppel 1-1), 7:10 p.m. Milwaukee (D. Davis 3-1) at Houston (Redding 9-14), 8:05 p.m. Los Angeles (Nomo 16-12) at San Diego (Lawrence 9-15), 10:05 p.m.					Baltimore (Hengen 6-8) at Boston (Burkett 11-8), 7:05 p.m. Tampa Bay (Wachter 3-1) at Toronto (Escobar 12-9), 7:05 p.m. Cleveland (Sabathia 13-9) at Minnesota (Lohse 14-11), 8:05 p.m. Detroit (Loux 0-1) at Kansas City (Gobble 4-4), 8:05 p.m. Thursday's Games Baltimore (Daal 4-10) at Boston (Lowe 16-7), 7:05 p.m. Tampa Bay (Sosa 5-12) at Toronto (Walker 2-2), 7:05 p.m. Minnesota (Santana 12-3) at Detroit (Robertson 1-2), 7:05 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Garland 11-13) at Kansas City (B. Anderson 13-11), 8:05 p.m.				
American League East Buffalo 2, Miami 2, New England 2, N.Y. Jets 0 South Indianapolis 3, Tennessee 2, Houston 1, Jacksonville 0 North Baltimore 2, Pittsburgh 2, Cleveland 1, Cincinnati 0 West Denver 3, Kansas City 1, Oakland 1, San Diego 0 NATIONAL EAST W L T Pct PF PA N.Y. Giants 2, Washington 2, Dallas 1, Philadelphia 0 South Carolina 2, Tampa Bay 2, Atlanta 1, New Orleans 1 North Minnesota 3, Detroit 1, Green Bay 1, Chicago 0 West Seattle 3, Arizona 1, San Francisco 1, St. Louis 1					Sunday's Games Minnesota 23, Detroit 13 Tampa Bay 31, Atlanta 10 Kansas City 42, Houston 14 Tennessee 27, New Orleans 12 New England 23, N.Y. Jets 16 Indianapolis 23, Jacksonville 13 Pittsburgh 17, Cincinnati 10 Seattle 24, St. Louis 23 N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 21, OT Arizona 20, Green Bay 13 Baltimore 24, San Diego 10 Cleveland 13, San Francisco 12 Miami 17, Buffalo 7 Open: Dallas, Philadelphia, Chicago, Carolina				
Monday's Game Denver 31, Oakland 10 Sunday, Sept. 28 Arizona at St. Louis, 1 p.m. Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. Jacksonville at Houston, 1 p.m. Philadelphia at Buffalo, 1 p.m. New England at Washington, 1 p.m. Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m. San Francisco at Minnesota, 1 p.m. Kansas City at Baltimore, 4:05 p.m. San Diego at Oakland, 4:05 p.m. Dallas at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m. Atlanta at Carolina, 4:15 p.m. Detroit at Denver, 4:15 p.m. Indianapolis at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m. Open: Miami, Seattle, N.Y. Giants, Tampa Bay					Monday, Sept. 29 Green Bay at Chicago, 9 p.m.				

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Visa-checking system crippled by computer virus

By TED BRIDIS
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — A computer virus disrupted systems at the State Department for checking every visa applicant for terrorist or criminal history, leaving the U.S. government unable to issue visas for roughly nine hours.

The virus crippled the department's Consular Lookout and Support System, known as CLASS, which contains more than 15 million records from the FBI, the State Department and U.S. immigration, drug-enforcement and intelligence agencies. Among the names are those of at least

78,000 suspected terrorists.

In an internal message sent late Tuesday to embassies and consular offices worldwide, officials cautioned that "CLASS is down due to a virus found in the system." There was no backup system immediately available, and officials said they could not predict how long the outage might last.

Hours later, a terse update was sent worldwide: "CLASS is up." A spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy in Seoul, Maureen Cormack, said it was a "short outage" and "not a major problem." She said interviews for visa applicants continued during the outage

but decisions were delayed until the system was back up.

The disruption occurred after officials deliberately shut down the State Department's unclassified network to disinfect computers.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Joanne Moore said the agency experienced some computer problems but could not confirm the visa-checking system was affected.

"We did have some computer problems," she said. "They're working on it."

Every visa applicant is checked against the names in the CLASS database. The State Department's automated

systems are designed to not even print a visa until such a check is completed.

It was unclear which computer virus might have affected the system. A separate message sent to embassies and consular offices late Tuesday warned that the "Welchia" virus had been detected in one facility. Welchia is an aggressive infection unleashed last month that exploits a software flaw in recent versions of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows software.

Collectively, Welchia and a related virus, "Blaster," have infected hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide, including computers at

the Federal Reserve in Atlanta, Maryland's motor vehicle agency and the Minnesota Transportation Department.

The State Department has invested heavily in the CLASS system since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, more than doubling the number of names that applicants are checked

against. One provision of the Patriot Act, passed just weeks after the attacks, added FBI records, including the bureau's violent gang and terrorist database. The list also includes the names of at least 20,000 people accused of serious Customs violations and the names of 78,000 suspected terrorists.

The disruption occurred after officials deliberately shut down the State Department's unclassified network to disinfect computers.

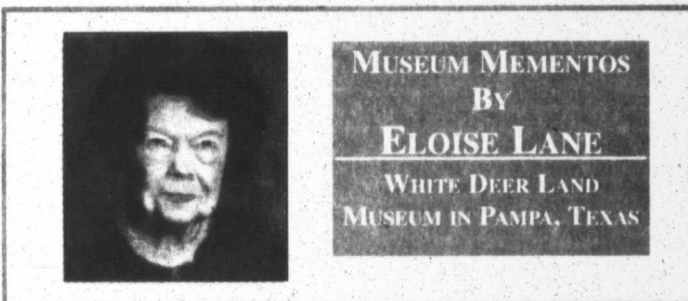
Teen designs present version of Old Glory

On a Friday afternoon in the spring of 1958, 17-year-old Robert G. Heft was riding the bus home from school and thinking about the assignment given by his history teacher — to present something visual and original that would show an interest in history. As the bus passed the city hall of Lancaster, Ohio, Robert saw the American flag on top of the building and decided that he would design a new flag. He knew that Alaska would soon become the 49th state and that Hawaii was likely to follow as the 50th state.

At home that night, Robert sketched out a grid for 50 stars — five rows of six stars with four alternating rows of five stars. The next morning, he sat on the living room floor with scissors and began to cut out the blue canton of the family flag. His mother was horrified and screamed at him for desecrating the flag, but he assured her that it was all right because he was working on a history project.

He rode his bike to a store and bought a new piece of blue cotton broadcloth and some iron-on mending tape. Using a cardboard pattern, he traced 100 stars on the tape and cut them out — he needed to have stars on both sides of the fabric. His mother refused to sew the new blue canton to the old flag, so he got out her old foot-operated Singer, sewed on the new blue background and ironed on the stars.

The history teacher was not impressed with Robert's flag, saying it lacked originality, and gave him a low grade. After Robert protested, the teacher agreed to improve the grade if the U.S. Government accepted Robert's design. Then Robert asked his Congressman to submit his



flag to the Washington committee in charge of selecting a design for a 50-star flag.

In early June of 1960, Robert had graduated from high school and was working as a draftsman for an industrial firm and going to school at night when he received a call from his Congressman: "I'm proud to tell you that President Eisenhower has selected your design for our nation's new flag. Congratulations!"

(Thousands of others had submitted the same design, but Robert's had been received first, and it was an actual flag — not just a sketch.)

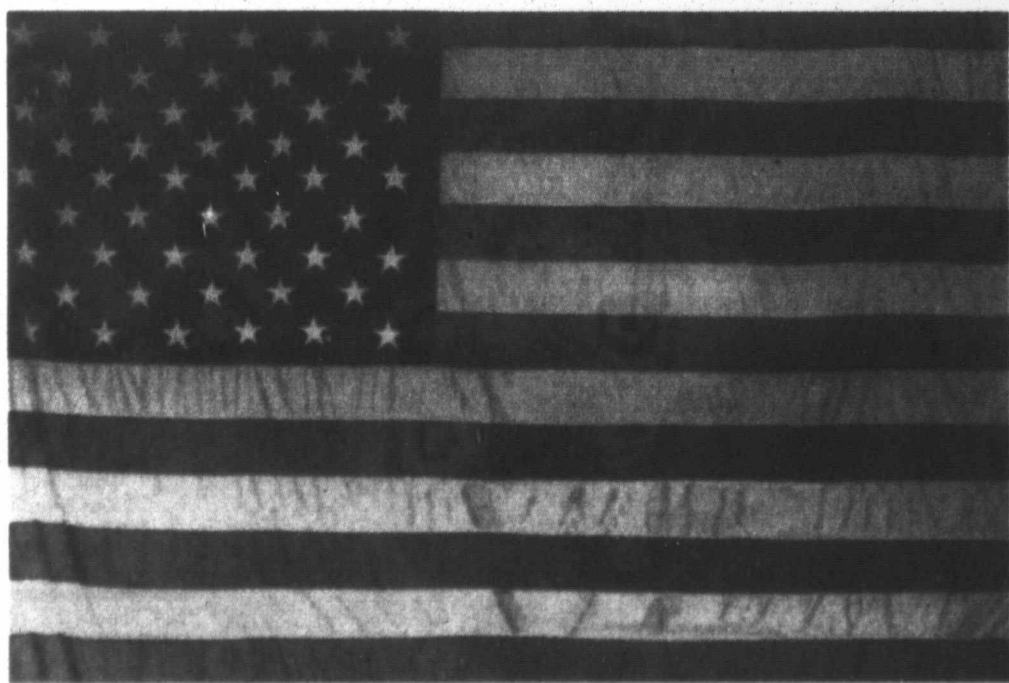
On July 4, 1960, Robert stood at attention by the side of President Eisenhower and Congressman Moeller as he watched his handmade flag being raised over the U.S. Capitol dome. Since then, that same flag has been flown over every state capital building and over 88 foreign embassies. It is the only flag in American history to have flown over the White House under five administrations.

Heft has turned down any all offers to purchase his original flag. He now works with youth in Saginaw, Mich., and travels extensively throughout the United States speaking to civic, community and school groups about the American flag.

In his book, "Stars and Stripes Forever," Richard H. Schneider gives directions for folding a piece of paper so that a perfect five-pointed star can be cut with only one snip of scissors.

Stories and articles about our American flag contained within the book include these: "The Spirit of '76" (painting of a drummer boy, a bandaged fife player and an old man marching beside a Betsy Ross flag); Betsy Ross, Did She or Didn't She?, The Story of Flag Day; Our Nation's Anthem ("The Star Spangled Banner"); Confederate Flags, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (designated as the national march of the United States on Dec. 10, 1987), The Pledge of Allegiance, The American Creed, The Flag That Survived D-Day, The Flag of Iwo Jima, The Flags of 9/11, The Days to Display Your Flag, The Only Place to Fly Old Glory at Night, The Flag Folding Ceremony (illustrated) and The Federal Flag Code.

There are a number of poems inspired by the flag, the heart-felt recollections from celebrities and ordinary citizens whose lives have been touched by our flag. Some of the celebrities are Hugh Downs (television and radio commentator), Bernie Kopel (star in "The Love Boat"), John Philip Sousa (composer of "The Stars and Stripes Forever"), Dr. Henry Heimlich (inventor of the Heimlich maneuver), Cliff Robertson (Academy Award-winning actor), Willard Scott (television personality), Charlie Drake (module pilot for the Apollo 16 crew), Gail Devers (Olympic gold medalist, 1992 and 1996) and Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senator, N.Y.



The arrangement of the 50 stars in our present-day flag was designed by Robert G. Heft when he was a 17-year-old high school student in Lancaster, Ohio.

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