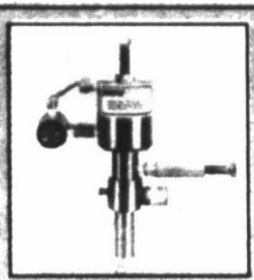


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Explosion kills dozens in Iraqi city

Truck bomb detonates near recruits lined up beside police station

By MARIAM FAM
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq (AP) — A truck bomb exploded Tuesday morning at a police station south of Baghdad as dozens of would-be recruits lined up to apply for jobs, and a hospital official said at least 50 people were killed and 50 others wounded.

U.S. officials in Baghdad reported 35 dead and 75 wounded but said those figures could be low since Iraqi author-

ities were handling the investigation. The local Iraqi police commander, Lt. Col. Abdul Rahim Saleh, said the attack was a suicide operation, carried out by a diver who detonated a red pickup as it passed by the station.

"We found its engine. It was a suicide operation and a cowardly act," Saleh said.

He said most of the victims appeared to be Iraqi civilians.

The explosion in this predominantly Shiite Muslim town reduced parts of

the station to rubble. The nearby street was littered with the wreckage of shattered vehicles as well as pieces of glass, bricks, mangled steel and pieces of clothing. Sand from bags reinforcing protective barricades was spread over the street.

It was at least the eighth vehicle bombing in Iraq this year and followed warnings from occupation officials that Iraqi insurgents would step up attacks against Iraqis who work with the U.S.-led coalition, especially in the runup to

the planned June 30 transfer of sovereignty to a provisional Iraqi government.

On Monday, U.S. officials said a letter seized last month from an al-Qaida courier asked the terrorist leadership to help foment civil war between Sunnis and Shiites to undermine the coalition and the future Iraqi leadership.

The purported author of the letter was Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Palestinian-Jordanian suspected of al-

(See BOMB, Page 3)

Valentine dilemma



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Tabitha Sharp ponders what to get her valentine from the assortment of chocolates and stuffed bears in Heard-Jones Health Mart, 114 N. Cuyler. The holiday, traditionally celebrated with cards and gifts for loved ones, will be observed this Saturday.

Odd 'powder' spurs hazard investigation

An unknown white powdery substance found in a Pampa resident's mail led to an investigation of potential bioterrorism by Pampa police officers Friday when the man brought the envelope to the police department. The substance later tested negative for anthrax or ricin.

The powder was in an envelope from the Pampan's insurance carrier, according to a news release by Lt. Fred Courtney of the city's police department. The resident had received other mail from the insurance company, but none of the previous mailings had contained a powder, Courtney said in the release.

A police officer placed the envelope, which had been

resealed with tape by the citizen, in an evidence bag and then in two additional containers, Courtney said. None of the powder was released into the police department, he said.

Police then notified Pampa Fire Department hazardous response personnel, who were called to prevent any spread of the powder, as well as the Pampa Post Office, Pampa/Gray County Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Hall, the nearest Federal Bureau of Investigation field office, the Texas Department of Public Safety special crimes unit, and the Texas Department of Health.

"For a brief while, the (See POWDER, Page 3)

Two PHS musicians in '04 All-State Band

Two musicians from the Pampa High School band will represent this community as part of the Texas All-State Band during the Texas Music Educators Association Clinic and Convention in San Antonio this weekend.

Shelley Smith and Adam Hagerman, along with "Pride of Pampa" band directors Bruce Collins and Jason Jones, will travel to San Antonio on Wednesday to participate in the TMEA's annual event.

This is Smith's third consecutive year to earn All-State honor and Hagerman is the second freshman in PHS history to be selected to the prestigious band.

While in San Antonio, the All-State students will participate in section rehearsals as well as many hours of full band rehearsals to prepare for the 2004 All-State Band concert on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 14. The students will also have the opportunity to attend college night and visit hundreds of exhibits.

Clarinetist Shelley Smith, a senior, is only the fifth member of the PHS band to receive All-State honors for three consecutive years. Her band honors include All-Region band for six



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa High School students, Shelley Smith, left, and Adam Hagerman, right, will perform with the All-State Band in San Antonio this weekend.

years, All-Area for four years, and first division on solos and ensembles since 7th grade. She is also a member of the All-Region Orchestra and the Amarillo Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Smith served as an intern for Marrowstone in the City sponsored by the Seattle Symphony Youth Orchestra

during the summer of 2003. She was the outstanding freshmen of the "Pride of Pampa" band for the 2000-2001 school year and also the outstanding member of the Symphonic band for 2002.

Smith served as junior and senior drum major for the marching band and

is currently first chair in the band for the third consecutive year. She was selected as Band Sweetheart by her fellow band members.

She is president of the Latin Club, and parliamentarian of the Student Council. She is also president of the ASTRA community service club.

A member of the First Baptist Church, Smith also participates in the church orchestra. She is the daughter of Duane and Evan Smith. Her future plans include attending McMurry University in Abilene.

Hagerman, a freshman at PHS, began band in fifth grade at Austin Elementary playing the clarinet and later the saxophone. In middle school, he learned to play the bassoon.

Hagerman has been a member of the All-Region band for three years and is also a member of the All-Region Orchestra and the Amarillo Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has earned numerous first divisions on solo and ensembles at UIL competitions.

Last summer, Hagerman attended band camp at Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he was a member of the Honor Band. He currently sits as first chair bassoon in the PHS (See BAND, Page 3)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

POWDER

police department was sealed off," Courtney said in the news release. After the envelope was bagged and then placed in the two additional containers, the department was reopened.

"The brief period of time that access to the department was denied did not interfere with any police operations," the police lieutenant said.

Fire department personnel went to the citizen's home and recovered some additional powder that had fallen out of the envelope when it was opened. The citizen was allowed to return home after taking the envelope to the police department.

All items believed to have been contaminated by the powder were taken to the City of Lubbock Health Department's bioterrorism response laboratory for examination. The laboratory tested the items for the presence of

bacillus anthracis (anthrax), and ricin.

"The examination of the powder proved it did not contain either of these biological agents," Courtney said.

The remaining specimen of powder will be sent to the DPS laboratory in Austin for further examination, Courtney said, to determine if possible what the substance is.

"Great-West Life and Annuity Insurance Company, Inc., of Greenwood Village, Colo., was very helpful in this investigation. About one year prior, they had a similar happening. The result showed that the powdery substance in an envelope at that time was what is called 'paper powder,'" Courtney said in the news release concerning the company believed to be the source of the Pampa resident's envelope.

Paper powder comes from the paper manufacturing process, he said.

"The Pampa Police

Department has also investigated one other incident of this kind. The powder in that instance was also proven not harmful," Courtney said.

Criminal charges in the incident are not being considered at this time, he said.

The police department asks citizens to follow these guidelines if they find mail or other items of this nature:

- Do not handle the letter or item after anything unusual is found.

- Leave the item and substance where it was found.

- Keep everyone away from the suspect item.

- Keep everyone together who has been exposed to the substance.

- Call 911.

"An officer, and probably the fire department, will be sent," Courtney said. "The one thing we would want to prevent is contaminating several places and other people if a substance is found to be hazardous."

Demo presidential hopefuls seek wins in two Southern primaries

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sen. John Kerry and his Democratic pursuers closed out their campaigns in primaries in Virginia and Tennessee on Tuesday, the front-runner hoping for his victory in the South while Sen. John Edwards and retired Gen. Wesley Clark sought upsets to prolong the race.

"Feeling good about today," Kerry told patrons at a diner in Memphis. "We want to do well down here."

In a fresh sign of growing strength, the Massachusetts senator also gained an endorsement from Sen. Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, one week ahead of that state's primary.

Clark made the rounds in Nashville, delivering doughnuts to volunteers at polling places around the city. "I'm helping the people who are helping me change the country," he said. "We can do it."

Edwards paid a visit to a morning polling place in northern Virginia and made plans to fly to Wisconsin later in the day in a show of deter-

mination to remain in the race. His campaign manager, Nick Baldick, told reporters the campaign has enough money to compete through the end of the month.

Howard Dean made little effort in the day's primary states, focusing his efforts on Wisconsin.

Campaigning in Superior, Dean said Democrats need "an outsider, someone with a real record of change." In a slap at Kerry, whom he didn't mention by name, Dean said the alternative to himself was "a Washington fixture who plays the inside game."

Virginia had 82 pledged delegates at stake in the day's primary, and Tennessee offered 69.

Kerry has won 10 of 12 Democratic primaries and caucuses to date, rolled to a huge lead in the delegate chase and is increasingly turning his attention to President Bush and the general election.

"This president has the worst jobs record of the last 11 presidents combined," the Massachusetts senator said Monday. "He has lost over 3 million jobs."

Bush adopts pattern of mingling with people during election-year

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — The strip malls, mom-and-pop restaurants and big-box stores are usually just part of the blurred landscape President Bush sees from his limousine when he sweeps into town. For three years, he and his motorcade blew past it all.

But this election year, Bush has taken a sudden interest in the people and places in between the airport and his speech sites.

Monday marked the fourth time in 2 1/2 weeks in which Bush and the rest of his motorcade pulled over for a "spontaneous" visit with some local citizens.

This time, it was Bass Pro Shop Outdoor World, a sporting emporium where Bush schmoozed about 100 customers in the shoes, socks and fishing supplies aisles.

"Which way to the worms?" the president asked.

Last week, it was Sticky Fingers restaurant in Charleston S.C.; Jan. 29, it was Swan Chocolates in Merrimack, N.H.; Jan. 22, it was the Nuthin' Fancy Cafe just outside Roswell, N.M.

"It's a good opportunity to visit with Americans and get some good food," White

House spokesman Scott McClellan said. Or, in Missouri, to get some worms.

The stops do allow Bush to mingle with ordinary citizens, but they are hardly spontaneous. The Secret Service lays the groundwork days in advance, in cooperation with White House officials. The business owners know the president is coming, though the customers at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World didn't.

White House officials strain to recall when Bush last did such an "off-the-record" appearance before the custom abruptly became part of his routine last month. On a couple of occasions, he has dropped by the gas and coffee joint a few miles from his Crawford, Texas, ranch.

But today, nine months before the election, these visits have become a fixture of the president's travels, and a formula has emerged as to how they transpire.

The stops occur as Bush is heading from a speech to the airport. They are shrouded in secrecy, omitted from his schedule. Even though the pattern has become clear, White House officials refuse to confirm they are taking place until the president is pulling into the parking lot.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BAND

Symphonic band. He is the son of B. Jay Hagerman. He attends Hobart Baptist Church where he is involved in the music ministry.

Smith and Hagerman began the audition process in August after the announcement of the All-State etudes during the Texas Bandmasters Convention. They then began

working on three etudes of varying tempo and style. They participated in combined region/area tryout before a panel of five judges on Dec. 4. They then advanced to the area audition at Odessa Permian on Jan. 10 and were selected as members of the All-State Band at that time.

While in San Antonio, the two PHS musicians will once again audition for chair place-

ment in the band. They will participate in the 4A All-State band under the direction of Frank Wickes from Louisiana State University.

Their program will include "Rise of the Firebird" by Reinecke, "Toccata Adagio and Fugue" by Bach, "An Original Suite" by Jacob, "Basque Rhapsody" by Shelton and "The Dam Busters March" by Coates.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BOMB

Qaida links. The author boasted of having organized 25 suicide attacks in Iraq.

U.S. paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division sealed off the area around the station and refused to allow journalists near the blast site about 30 miles south of Baghdad.

In Baghdad, Lt. Col. Dan Williams, a coalition spokesman, said no U.S. or other coalition forces were hurt.

Hospital director Razaq Jabbar said his facility had received 50 dead and 50 injured — all believed to be Iraqis. He said he had heard that three others died at another hospital.

"This figure might increase," he said. "There were some body parts that haven't been identified yet. Some more bodies may be trapped under the rubble."

Policeman Wissam Abdul-Karim said he was standing in front of the nearby courthouse when "I heard a very strong explosion" and "the blast threw me on the ground."

"It was the day for applying for new recruits," Abdul-Karim said. "There were tens of them waiting outside the police station."

Security for the facility included a checkpoint surrounded by sandbags and barbed wire, Abdul-Karim said.

Hussein Mohammed, 18, said he was standing in the

public market when he heard a tremendous explosion about 9:15 a.m. Another witness, who refused to give his name, described the blast as "really strong" and said body parts littered the street near the station.

"There was not one body in one piece," he said.

Jabbar said some of the victims were policemen "but many more were civilians applying for jobs, and passers-by."

Hours after the attack, police opened fire in the air to disperse dozens of angry residents who stormed the wrecked police station after hearing rumors that the blast was caused by an American rocket.

"No, no to America! The police are traitors; not Sunnis, not Shiites! This crime was by the Americans!" the crowd shouted before dispersing.

Insurgents have mounted a string of car and suicide bombings in recent weeks. The deadliest so far has been in the northern city of Irbil on Feb. 1 when two suicide bombers blew themselves up at two Kurdish party offices celebrating a Muslim holiday, killing at least 109 people.

On Jan. 18, a suicide car bomb exploded near the main gate to the U.S.-led coalition's headquarters in Baghdad, killing at least 31 people.

A car bomb exploded Aug. 29 outside a mosque in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Najaf, killing more than 85 people, including Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohammed

Baqir al-Hakim.

Meanwhile, the Baghdad Convention Center, which houses the U.S. military press center and other coalition facilities, was evacuated Tuesday after bomb-sniffing dogs detected something suspicious, Williams, the coalition spokesman, said. The center later reopened.

On Monday, a suicide bomber walked up to the house of brothers Majid and Amer Ali Suleiman in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, and detonated explosives strapped to his body, witnesses said.

Three guards were seriously injured but the brothers — who are among the city's most prominent tribal leaders working with coalition forces — were unhurt.

The bomber had approached the house earlier when the brothers were receiving callers, and was told to leave, the witnesses said.

Insurgents have repeatedly warned Iraqis not to cooperate with the Americans. The most recent threats were contained in pamphlets circulated in Ramadi and nearby Fallujah by a purported coalition of 12 insurgent groups.

Ramadi and Fallujah are located in the Sunni Triangle, a major center of resistance to the U.S.-led occupation.

It was the second instance of a suicide bomber carrying out an attack with explosives on his body, although suicide car and truck bombings are not unknown.

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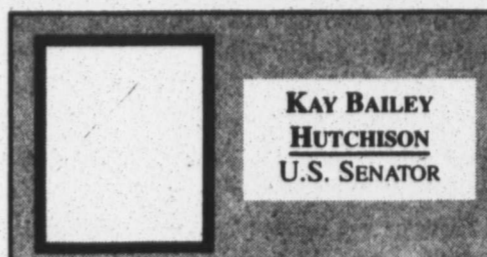
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2004

VIEWPOINTS

A look at Texas military bases

This week's column by U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison focuses on the upcoming round of military base evaluations. The senator is the chair of the Senate Appropriations Military Construction Subcommittee.



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
U.S. SENATOR

The first responsibility of the federal government is preserving our national security. A strong defense is also critically important to Texas and our economy.

So as we launch a periodic review of our national system of defense facilities, we must take into account the changing nature of our security challenges, particularly the new threat posed by terrorism. Decisions on troop strength, training, deployment and facilities should be based on conditions that fully assess current security needs.

The Pentagon has begun the 2005 Base Closing and Realignment Commission (BRAC), charged with adjusting our military capacity to meet realities of the 21st Century. The Defense Department started the process by publishing a set of draft criteria, seeking comment on the ground rules to be used in judging whether military facilities across the country are to be maintained or closed.

The Pentagon's draft criteria are very similar — almost identical — to standards employed by the 1991, 1993 and 1995 BRAC rounds. These are Cold War criteria. I believe that using old standards to face a new enemy is a mistake. The criteria should be improved, enhanced and updated to reflect the lessons we've learned after 9/11.

The current draft does not direct BRAC commissioners to take into account contributions a military base might make to our overall homeland

security effort. Nor does it require our extensive network of overseas facilities be included in the planning. I am urging that both omissions be corrected.

In the new war on terrorism, homeland security is the ultimate goal. They may be two separate federal departments, but Homeland Security and Defense are already working in tandem on numerous measures, from biochemical threats to port security. For example, if a military base such as Brooks City-Base in San Antonio can play an important role in medical and biological research that's vital to both homeland and national defense, that contribution ought to be weighed as part of the BRAC process. If Corpus Christi's Naval Station Ingleside can host Coast Guard infrastructure to help patrol the Gulf of Mexico, that should be considered as well.

Most of our overseas bases were established during or after World War II, and maintained to meet conventional Cold War threats. Even the Department of Defense (DoD) has acknowledged that several are poorly located to meet today's military needs. Some bases, particularly those in Europe and Asia, lack the land area and flying space to allow first-class training for our forces.

If an overseas training mission can be accomplished more efficiently, and at less expense, in the vast expanses of Ft. Hood or Ft. Bliss/White Sands, then BRAC commissioners should factor that

into the equation. The current criteria do not.

Let's be clear: The ultimate goal should be the strongest national defense and the most effective homeland security our tax dollars can buy. If all relevant factors are considered, I'm confident that Texas will fare very well in the BRAC process.

Our military men and women enjoy serving in Texas. They benefit both personally and professionally from our wide-open spaces, our weather, our reasonable cost of living and our facilities. The Texas Congressional delegation, Republicans and Democrats alike, have worked closely over the past decade to ensure that Texas bases are modernized and fully tasked. Over the past five years alone, we've been able to secure \$1.2 billion in federal appropriations for Texas base military construction to improve the daily lives of our service families.

I voted against starting the 2005 BRAC because I don't believe we've had sufficient experience in the terrorism war to evaluate all threats we may be facing. But now that it's underway, we have an obligation to make certain the criteria used in the base evaluation process are themselves updated and modernized.

Defense is important to Texas, and Texas is vital to our national defense. It's been said that "Texas defends America." That's true — Texas has more active duty than any state — and we're superb at it. Texans should welcome a thoughtful and politics-free BRAC process.

As Americans, we all have a stake in ensuring that our force structure and facilities are as efficient and effective as possible — and that the criteria used to judge those conditions reflect the changing threat we face at home and abroad.

THE Pampa NEWS

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Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Pampa News*.

TEXAS EDITORIAL

Battle to keep bases open

From the Jan. 24 Victoria Advocate:
Gov. Rick Perry is lobbying to protect military bases in Texas from the upcoming round of base closing and realignment, scheduled for next year.
In a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, "Perry said Texas has a leg up on other locations for the military because of a variety of factors — open land for training, extensive transportation, desirable climate and a skilled civilian work force," The Associated Press reported.

Those factors, however, did not protect San Antonio's Kelly AFB and Lubbock's Reese AFB in the 1995 round of base closures.

And with the Pentagon's determination that it has 25 percent excess capacity, Texas installations such as Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Ingleside Naval Station near Corpus Christi and Red River Army Depot in Texarkana will be at risk.

"Texas has 17 major military installations whose economic benefit is pegged by state officials at about \$43 billion a year. The sector employs about 232,000 uniformed personnel and civilians," according to the AP.

Cutting the Lone Star State's military installations and employment by 25 percent would have "a big impact on Texas," said retired Air Force Gen. Michael Smith, who heads the Texas Military Preparedness Commission.

The 78th Texas Legislature created that commission last year to try to alleviate such a hit on the state's economy. Last September, voters authorized a \$250 million state loan fund to assist host communities in upgrading infrastructure to retain military installations.

So Texas is well positioned to launch what Perry calls a "very proactive and offensive" effort to keep the state's bases and posts open.

The only problem with that is that the military installations Texas hosts do not belong to the Lone Star State. Nor is their impact on the Texas economy sufficient justification to keep any of them open.

Perry and the Military Preparedness Commission will have to demonstrate to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission that these facilities serve the national interest and that they do so better than competing installations anywhere else.

The "economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations" will be only one of eight criteria the panel will evaluate in determining which bases and posts should be retained and which should be closed. Chances are, it will not be anywhere near the top of the list.

The other criteria, Cox News Service reported, are "the impact on operational readiness, availability and condition of facilities and the cost of operations and the manpower implications," as well as potential financial savings for the Pentagon and environmental concerns.

A major component of many of these criteria will be the capacity for "jointness," whether the facilities can be used effectively and cost-efficiently by more than one of the services and how well they facilitate interservice cooperation.

When the base commission makes its recommendations to the Pentagon and Congress, they cannot be amended. The legislation for the process — written by former U.S. Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas, in the waning days of the Cold War — allows Congress only to accept or reject the entire package without amendment.

Texas leaders will have to prove that military installations in the state meet the Pentagon's criteria better than any others do.

TODAY IN HISTORY

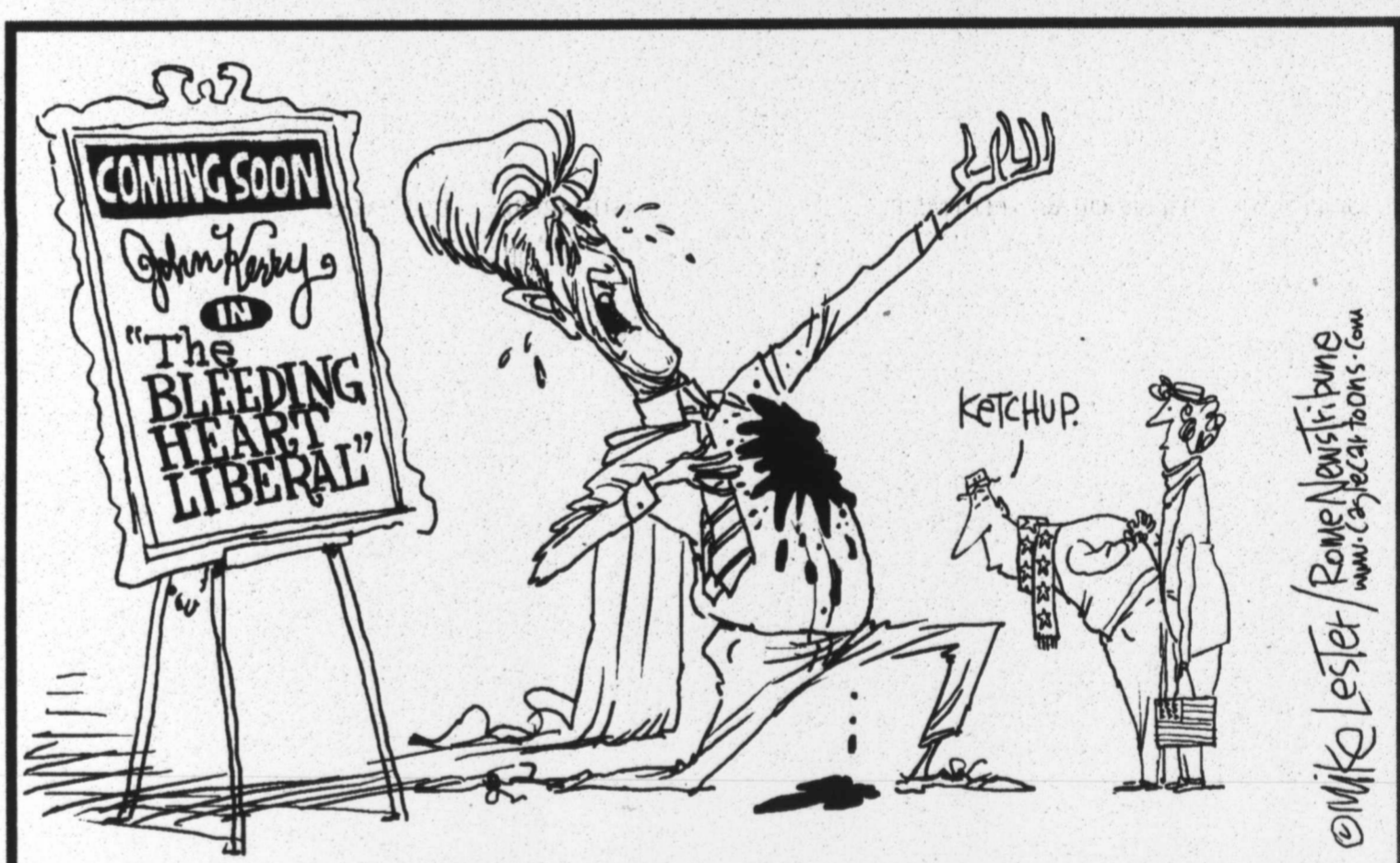
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2004. There are 325 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 10, 1967, the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, went into effect.

On this date:
In 1763, France ceded Canada to England under the Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War.

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.



Hillary seeks to win veepstakes

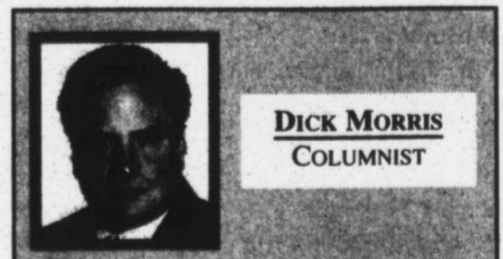
The demise of Howard Dean's candidacy opens the door to a Kerry/Clinton ticket in 2004. As long as Dean was favored to get the nomination, Hillary likely wasn't interested in the second slot on the ticket. With the Vermont governor almost certain to go down to a massive defeat, Hillary probably wanted no part in the ensuing carnage. But now that the Democrats have a real chance to win, it makes all kinds of sense to offer her the nomination and for her to accept it.

Very few vice-presidential candidates can actually win votes for the top of the ticket: Hillary can. She is the most popular Democrat in the nation. And a woman vice presidential candidate — particularly Hillary — would electrify the Democratic base and guarantee a huge turnout. It would transform a campaign into a crusade.

The voters she'd alienate? Already voting for Bush. And much as they might like to, they can't vote against Hillary more than once (one hopes).

Just as no presidential nomination in the 1970s was complete without a ritual offering of the VP slot to Ted Kennedy, so it is quite likely that whether Kerry, Edwards or Clark wins the nomination, he'll pick up the phone and call Hillary. Why should she accept?

First, it's a free shot on goal. She doesn't have to give up her Senate seat to run. If she wins, she's vice president. If she loses, she's still U.S. senator from New



DICK MORRIS
COLUMNIST

York until she has to run for re-election in 2006.

But the big reason Hillary should run is that the Democrats might well win in 2004. If a new president takes office in 2004 — and runs for a second term in 2008 — Hillary will have to keep fresh for eight years, a hard task in the best of times.

In the Senate, she would be, at best, an onlooker as the action moves to a Democratic White House. But as vice president, she would have the on-deck circle to herself and would be the presumptive nominee in 2012.

Remember that of the past 18 major-party presidential nominees, eight have run first for vice president (Truman, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Mondale, Bush, Dole and Gore).

If Hillary doesn't run for vice president on the Democratic ticket in 2004, the person who does will be a strong candidate against her in 2008 if the ticket loses and a presumptive favorite in 2012 if it wins.

Should Bush win re-election, it will likely not be by the massive margin by

which he would probably have defeated Dean. There would be no shame for Hillary in running for vice president on a ticket that narrowly lost.

In a sense, Hillary has already served as vice president and found it both enjoyable and rewarding. During the first two years of Bill's first term, she was a de facto chief of staff. But for the remainder of his White House tenure, she was, in effect, another vice president, roaming the world, speaking out on issues she cared about, and raising money for the party. It's not a bad job.

But Hillary has one other good reason to say yes: Rudy Giuliani. If the former mayor runs against her for the Senate seat in '06, polls indicate that she would face a very, very tough fight. Her first race against Rick Lazio would be a cakewalk next to a battle against Giuliani.

Rudy may run against Hillary — even though he'd rather be governor — in order to accumulate points with the Republican faithful so that they consider him for president in 2008.

Giuliani's pro-choice, pro-gun control, pro-affirmative action, pro-gay-rights positions won't endear him to the GOP right wing. But knocking off Hillary might engender the forgiveness he needs.

So, if Rudy might run, wouldn't it be the better part of valor to get out of the way of the charging bull and run for vice president instead?

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A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Valentine's Day

© 2004 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 20 No. 7

Get a Jump on Valentine's Day!

Jumping rope is fun and it is good exercise. It is a workout for your legs, your arms and your cardiovascular system (your heart and lungs)! Jumping rope is a sport you can do almost anywhere! Try it - you'll LOVE it!

Jumping for Dollars!

Each year millions of young people jump rope to help the American Heart Association fight heart disease and stroke. Kids get donations from friends and family to sponsor their participation in a fun fundraiser called "Jump Rope for Heart."

Last year 4.4 million students from 29,000 schools participated. They raised \$44.5 million dollars! French Road Elementary School in New York raised the most money.

How much did they raise? Follow each jump rope to find out.

- A. \$8,000
- B. \$80,000
- C. \$800,000



How fast can you find all of the letters of the alphabet in order?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Just My Size!

You will jump better if you have the correct size rope. Hold one end of the rope in each hand and step on the middle of the rope. The handles of the rope should be a little below your shoulders.



How many hearts can you find on this page?

I Wore My Crown

Read this funny jump rope rhyme and then number the pictures in order.

I wore my crown
To the alligator town,
I sat on a fence
And the fence broke down,
An alligator bit me
By the seat of the pants,
And made me do
the Hoochie-coochie dance.

The jump rope rhymes on today's page are from the book *Red Hot Peppers* by Bob and Diane Boardman. For more information on this book and jump rope rhymes, visit www.kidscoop.com.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Sequence steps, events, or observations.



Extra! Extra!

Words from the Heart

Look through the newspaper for seven words that make you think of Valentine's Day. Then write a paragraph about Valentine's Day using these words as part of the story.

Standards Link: Writing: Write brief expository descriptions.

Weekly Writing Corner

Mystery Valentine

On Valentine's Day I received a card and it said, "You are nice, you are sweet, I hope that we can meet." It was signed, "Your secret admirer."

Jamie, 6th Grade

On Valentine's Day I received a card. The card wasn't signed. It just said, "This is pretty just like you. I love you. Your love bug."

Lindsey, 3rd Grade

On Valentine's Day I received a card that said I had won a lifetime supply of chocolates. I was really excited and I called the number 555-CHOCOLATES. They said they would send a truckload right to my house. It turned out that the delivery was actually 555-LATE delivery. It took two years for the chocolate to arrive.

Scott, 5th Grade

My Valentine said, "I admire you. I don't want you to know who I am but I wish you would notice me. Someday you will! Love, Your secret admirer."

Tree, 4th Grade

My Valentine said, "Roses are red, Violets are blue, I like flowers because they remind me of you. Will you be my Valentine?"

Caroline, 7th Grade

I received a card and it said, "Your eyes are like the moon shining bright. Your face is like the morning star and your teeth sparkle like diamonds." My secret admirer was my mom.

Jesse, 7th Grade

On Valentine's Day I got a card and it said, "Will you be my Valentine? I love it when you talk to me. It sounds like baby birds chirping. I think you are cute and I love your hair. When I look at you every day, my heart says, cute, cute, cute! I know you love animals. I do to. I can't tell you my name because I would be embarrassed."

Jordan, 3rd Grade

Write On!

Chocolate Questions

What part of the chocolate bunny do you eat first? Why?

Deadline: March 7, 2004
Published: Week of April 4, 2004

Send your story to:

THE PAMPA NEWS
PO Box 2198 • Pampa, TX 79066-2198
Attention: Weekly Writing Corner

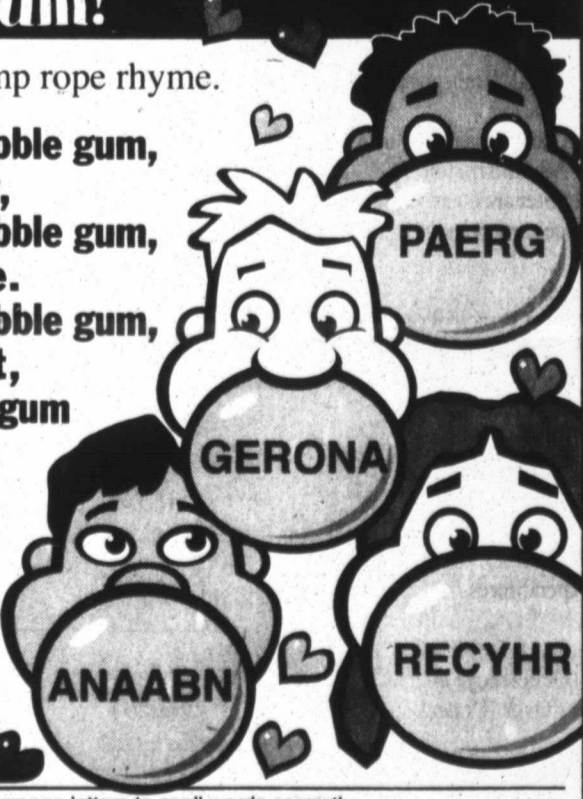
Please include your school and grade.

Bubble Gum!

Here is a sweet jump rope rhyme.

Bubble gum, bubble gum,
chew and blow,
Bubble gum, bubble gum,
scrape your toe.
Bubble gum, bubble gum,
tastes so sweet,
Get that bubble gum
off your feet!

Unscramble the letters on each kid's bubble to find out what flavor gum is being chewed.



Standards Link: Spelling: Rearrange letters to spell words correctly.

Double Double Word Search

- VALENTINES
- DANCE
- ROPE
- HEART
- HANDLES
- JUMP
- SCHOOL
- CROWN
- PARAGRAPH
- FENCE
- BETTER
- SYSTEM
- RAISE
- STORY
- LOVE

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

| | | | | | | | | | |
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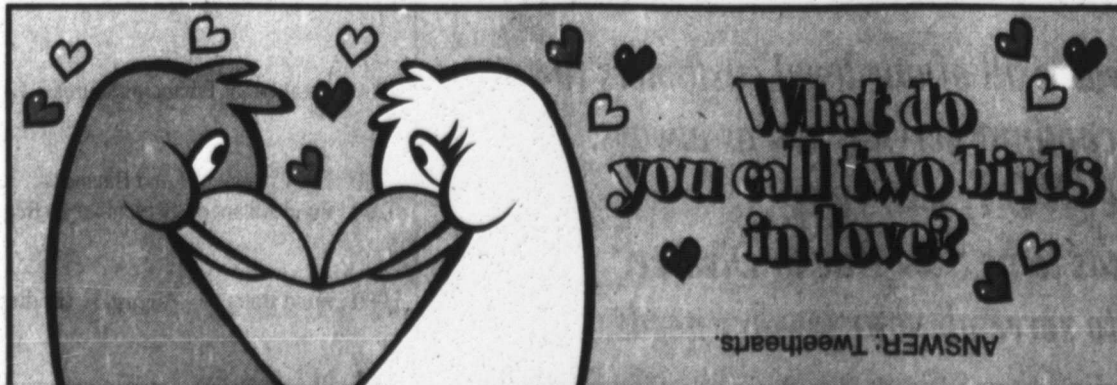
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Newspaper Jumps

When a newspaper story cannot be completed on one page, it is continued or "jumped" to another page in the newspaper. Find three or more stories that jump from one page to another in today's paper.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.



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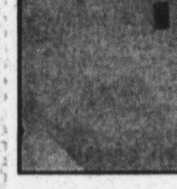
"We want po fortable and roo said Becky Smi each apartmen refrigerator and ing.

In addition, resident should signal for help. "We have a

▲ Apartm can appear



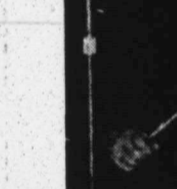
► Musicia music night



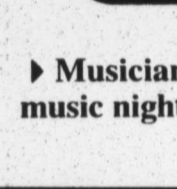
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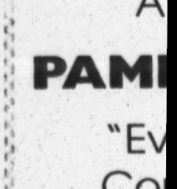
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BUSINESS REVIEW

Schneider House, a senior citizens community that feels like home — 'Senior Living at Its Best'

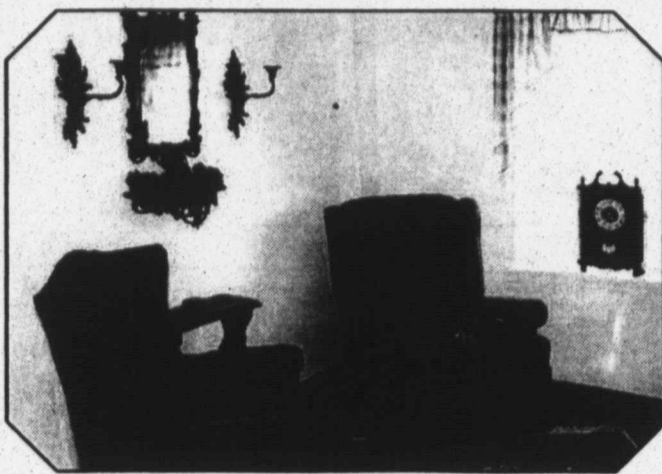
The Schneider House Apartments offers senior adults and disabled individuals a charming place to call home.

Located at 120 S. Russell, Schneider House Apartments in Pampa offers its residents all the comforts of home with a wide-variety of services and conveniences to make life easier and better.

"We want potential residents to see how comfortable and roomy our apartments actually are," said Becky Smith, apartment manager. Smith said each apartment comes furnished with a stove, refrigerator and central heating and air conditioning.

In addition, an alert system is provided to each resident should they get into difficulty and need to signal for help.

"We have a laundry room downstairs, and an



▲ The apartments at Schneider House are arranged to be cozy yet compact.

elevator to take you there," Smith said, adding that in addition to the laundry facilities Schneider House runs an indoor mail service and has a modern grande lobby on its ground floor as well.

Many Schneider House residents gather in the mornings for breakfast and fellowship. Besides a weekly movie night, residents may enjoy a multitude of fun and engaging activities such as the weekly country and gospel music night, craft days, parties, church services, cook-outs and much, much more.

Another advantage of living at Schneider House is that residents are within easy walking distance of downtown and have use of an attractive park directly across the street from the great, old-fashioned apartment building, the front of which has a long, sheltering overhang to shade residents who want to take to the air. A comfortable row of benches lines the shaded porch.

Rental rates are based upon income with medical deductions for disabled or senior citizens. The Schneider House is a surprisingly affordable, independent living facility with utilities included and no maintenance required, Smith said.

Schneider House is "Senior Living at Its Best!" For more information, contact Schneider House at 665-0415.



▲ Elizabeth Lynn, left, and Wyvon Griffin, right, enjoy the fresh air while relaxing on the covered portico at Schneider House.



▲ Apartments at Schneider House can appear quite homey.



(Courtesy photo)

▶ Musicians often entertain during music night at Schneider House.



Schneider House



▲ A room with a view ... Schneider House residents enjoy all the comforts of home.

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TUESDAY • February 10, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Readers Offer Ways to Give New Life to Old Neckties

DEAR ABBY: I read with interest the letter from the lady asking how to recycle her late husband's neckties. My daughter is a 16-year-old honor student who teaches Sunday school and volunteers at our children's hospital. She wears them as belts.

PROUD MOM,
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

DEAR PROUD MOM: Your daughter is an original thinker. When I printed that letter, I had no idea there were so many uses for old neckties. Hundreds of suggestions poured in! Read on for a sample:

"I have a friend who made her prom dress completely out of men's ties she bought from Goodwill. They were sewn together vertically. It was really cool."
JOY IN IRVINE, CALIF.

"She should cut the wide ends 18 inches to 20 inches long and sew them together at the long edges to make a colorful apron. The tapers will give it a nice flair, and the ends can be used for the waistband at the top and the strings at the back."
CLARENCE B., CLEMSON, S.C.

"Two ladies in our church, St. Christopher Episcopal in League City, Texas, gathered old ties from the parish and made them into beautiful altar cloths for use during Father's Day services."
O.H. STELTER JR., HOUSTON

"Old ties can be woven into beautiful, one-of-a-kind area rugs or wall hangings. Incorporated into clothing, they can become wearable art."
JEANNE S., SOUTHERN SHORES, N.C.

"My aunt owned a gorgeous mandarin-style jacket, which she informed me was made entirely from old silk neckties. They were laid side by side, sewn together, then finished off with embroidery overstitching."
DEBE, WILLOW GLEN, CALIF.

"She should use them to make a quilted Christmas wreath. It will become a family heirloom."
GINI M., OSHKOSH, WIS.

"One of the most precious gifts I ever received was a Christmas stocking made for my 6-month-old daughter when her grandfather died. A very special cousin made it from some of his ties for her first Christmas. It's a family treasure."
SHARON IN NEWBERRY PARK, CALIF.

"Here's an idea: With many ties, she's bound to have a picture of Grandpa wearing some of them. Why not mount a picture of Grandpa wearing the tie in a frame along with the tie? It would make a wonderful keepsake."
DAYNA IN LONGVIEW, TEXAS

"Discarded neckties can be used to make pot holders, table runners, teddy bears, pocketbooks, tote bags and more."
HENNIE C., SPARTANBURG, S.C.

"How about using them to make Christmas tree skirts? Stitch them together in a circle with the points facing outward."
CAROL P., SPARTANBURG, S.C.

"I use my husband's cast-off ties to make cases for my jewelry. Working with the wide ends, I cut them in 3-inch, 4-inch and 5-inch lengths and stitch them to form pouches. Then I fold the triangle tip down like the flap on an envelope and put a snap on the other side. Voila!"
ANNA MARIA S., SILVER SPRING, MD.

DEAR ANNA MARIA AND THE HUNDREDS OF WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO WROTE TO OFFER IDEAS: The dear lady who wrote asking for ideas is sure to be overwhelmed with your clever uses for ties. (I certainly was.) And if she isn't handy with a needle and thread, she can sell them on eBay or donate them to a thrift shop, a homeless shelter or college theater department.

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



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blonde



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 2 Give off
- 1 Danger
- 6 Doofuses
- 11 Acid type
- 12 Sports setting
- 13 Farm vehicle
- 15 Had lunch
- 16 Beaver's creation
- 17 Spot leader
- 18 Bike part
- 20 Less covered
- 23 Frasier's brother
- 27 First place
- 28 Circus sight
- 29 Succeed
- 31 Mac
- 32 Relent
- 34 Son — gun
- 37 Distant
- 38 Binary base
- 41 Accelerate
- 44 Zodiac ram
- 45 Exhausted
- 46 Pigeon's place
- 47 Transmits

DOWN

- 1 Hemingway nickname



Yesterday's answer

- 22 Field judge
- 24 Conducted
- 10 Benefit
- 14 Small tablet
- 18 Jail-related
- 19 Became cheerful
- 20 Plead
- 21 Fuss
- 26 Porker's pen
- 30 Garbage
- 31 Explodes
- 33 Spigot
- 34 Lustrous gem
- 21 Fuss
- 35 Blaze
- 36 Corrosive stuff
- 38 Seabird
- 39 Hoe target
- 40 Betting concern
- 42 Beer bash
- 43 Bakery buy

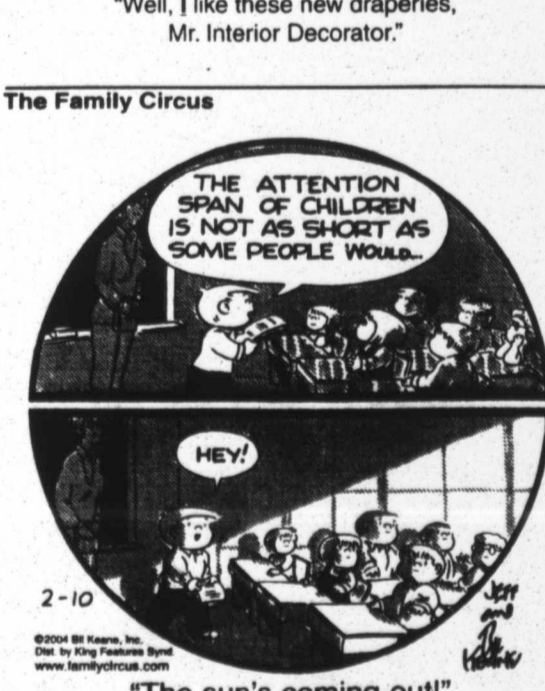
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Marmaduke



The Family Circus



File & Friends



Not

BASKET

PAMPA son's Opt boys' basket be introduced of the Pan Randall game Fri McNeely F The Op being spo Harvester Booster Cl

WELL Wellington Wheeler 7 2-1A gir weekend. Welling Archie w leading s points. Wheete ers were L with 17 McCaslan Samantha

FOOTB. PITTS Heisman 7 Larry Fitz the NFL di to Pittsbu year.

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for college The NF for Fitzge April dra three year year of hig

HOCKE HEND (AP) — ings migh complicat ties migh of the pas

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"Will regulatic coach dil can't coa make the meaning time. K and even NHL met as a hours b into fou potential topic wa about.

"I thi at everyt general Taylor's

Quotas hot topic at OPEC meeting

BY LAURENCE FROST
AP BUSINESS WRITER

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — OPEC members had feared a springtime oil glut, but a stronger U.S. economy and growth in China are boosting demand and making a production cut unlikely — at least for now, ministers said.

The delegates are expected to vote to maintain the production ceiling at a meeting Tuesday in the Algerian capital.

Most of the delegates said Monday upon arriving in Algiers that OPEC members should stop producing above their agreed limits, rather than reduce the quotas themselves.

When the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries last met in December, several oil ministers predicted that they would make cuts at this meeting to prevent prices from falling as a result of warmer weather and a reduced demand for fuel.

Since then, however, a recovering U.S. economy and vigorous growth in China have boosted demand more than many had anticipated.

Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh argued that OPEC needed to strike a delicate balance in steering a course through the April-June quarter.

"In this situation we should be very careful about the market. We have both high prices and over-supply," Zangeneh said. "It's probably better to wait and postpone any decision until March."

Oil ministers from Libya and Iraq agreed, saying they expected the cartel to defer any decrease in its official output target.

"I don't think there's going to be any change immediately — maybe (at the) next meeting," said Libya's Abdulhafid Mahmoud Zlitni.

OPEC's 11 members pump about a third of the world's oil, with an official production target of 24.5 million barrels a day excluding Iraq, which is exempted from the quota regime while it rebuilds its economy.

But OPEC countries are currently producing about 1.5 million barrels a day more than their output ceiling — a practice ministers say must end.

"A decision will be made to rein in this extra production at least through better discipline," said Algeria's oil minister, Chakib Khelil.

Although most oil ministers suggested they would not cut quotas on Tuesday, OPEC has taken the market by surprise in the past. In September, the organization defied predictions of an unchanged production target by announcing a 900,000 barrel cut in its output ceiling.

The group is still haunted by its 1997 decision to increase production just before an Asian financial crisis that sent oil prices plummeting to \$10 a barrel.

OPEC has ruled out increasing production in spite of prices remaining above its target range of \$22-28 a barrel for a benchmark blend of crudes.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said OPEC needed first to eliminate over-production, and then, at its next scheduled meeting on March 31, cut an additional 1 million barrels a day from its official target.

Whitehouse.com porn address seeking buyers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Whitehouse.com Web site, one of the best examples that the Internet isn't always what it seems, is getting out of the pornography business.

Its owner says he's worried what his preschool-age son might think.

"He'll be going to kindergarten next year," said Daniel Parisi, who started the Web site in 1997 that is frequently confused with the official government site, www.whitehouse.gov. Parisi, 44, said he worried that his son's classmates might taunt him about the family's business.

Parisi's decision to sell the Whitehouse.com name and more than 100 derivations comes amid signs pointing to a rebound in the market for reselling Web addresses. A Florida man sold men.com in December for \$1.3 million.

Parisi said he doesn't know yet how much the names will fetch; he claimed the Whitehouse.com site — it advertises pictures of "hot interns" and once included a "first ladies" section — earns more than \$1 million each year in revenues and said he's invested more than \$7 million since 1997.

The site currently features a picture of Democratic front-runner John Kerry with the message, "Our candidates are better looking."

Halliburton: Army changes story on award

WASHINGTON (AP) — After stating that a multi-agency team of government experts evaluated Halliburton Co.'s new Iraq contract, the Army Corps of Engineers now says it alone picked the company despite allegations that it overcharged U.S. taxpayers.

"The one person that made the selection was the source selection authority" — an official in the Corps of

Engineers — the Army unit told The Associated Press.

The AP had sought further information about assertions, on the Corps Internet site, that a contract evaluation team was assembled and included experts from five other federal entities.

While the team existed, the Corps now acknowledges what the public site never mentioned: The other agencies had no role in choosing

Halliburton for oil restoration work worth up to \$1.2 billion. Rather, the experts provided technical advice on the contract process.

The Corps said it considered the past performance of Vice President Dick Cheney's former company, but shrouded its decision-making in secrecy.

"We cannot discuss or release any of the conclusions, as that is part of the

evaluation process not releasable" under federal contracting rules, the Corps said on its site.

The site also advised readers not to bother filing Freedom of Information requests to get the information, saying it won't be publicly released under the law used to obtain government documents.

Two of the evaluation team members, the Air Force and the Small Business Administration, said they were not even part of the evaluation group and shouldn't have been listed at all.

The Jan. 17 Halliburton award, to restore the oil industry in southern Iraq, was controversial from the start. A Pentagon draft audit report the previous month said the company may have overcharged taxpayers up to \$61 million in its importation of oil to Iraq.

The Corps also said it wouldn't discuss the draft audit because the final version could change significantly.

Cheney's office says he severed relations with Halliburton when he ran for vice president in 2000. Halliburton said its KBR subsidiary delivered fuel to Iraq at the best possible price and has denied any wrongdoing.

Kuwait's energy minister has asked his nation's top prosecutor to investigate allegations of overcharging and profiteering in the fuel contract between the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp. and the Kuwaiti supplier of KBR.

Separately, U.S., French and Nigerian officials are investigating whether KBR was involved in the payment of \$180 million in bribes to win a contract in the 1990s for a natural gas project in Nigeria. Cheney headed Halliburton at the time. The company said it had no knowledge of wrongdoing in the joint venture.

FAA officers



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa Fine Arts Association recently elected the following officers for 2004: Sue Abbott, president; Janice Sackett, vice president; Roy Morriss, secretary; Glennette Good, treasurer; and Jack Reeve, Suzie Wilkinson, Janice Sackett and Goode, all board of trustee members.

Tears add drama to Martha Stewart trial

NEW YORK (AP) — In an abrupt collision of Martha Stewart's cooking expertise and her criminal stock-fraud trial, a secretary burst into tears on the witness stand while describing a gift of plum pudding from her boss.

Ann Armstrong, Stewart's secretary for six years, broke down while describing a phone conversation with Stewart on Dec. 27, 2001, the day she made her well-timed sale of ImClone Systems stock.

Stewart was calling from Texas during a refueling stop on her way to a vacation in Mexico. Armstrong said the two first chatted about the holidays, the first chance they'd had to talk since Christmas.

"I thanked her for the plum pudding she sent home," the secretary said — then began crying. Armstrong tried to continue, but the judge ended the trial 15 minutes early for the day.

But it was another message prosecutors were more concerned about. That same day Armstrong told Stewart that she had gotten a call from her stockbroker: "Peter Bacanovic thinks ImClone is going to start trading downward."

The government claims Bacanovic was trying to get word to Stewart that ImClone founder Sam Waksal was dumping his shares. Stewart and Bacanovic say they had a pre-existing deal to sell ImClone when it fell to \$60 per share.

Prosecutors, trying to undercut that theory, introduced two message logs that showed Bacanovic sometimes called Stewart to tell her the exact ImClone stock price. But Armstrong said Bacanovic left

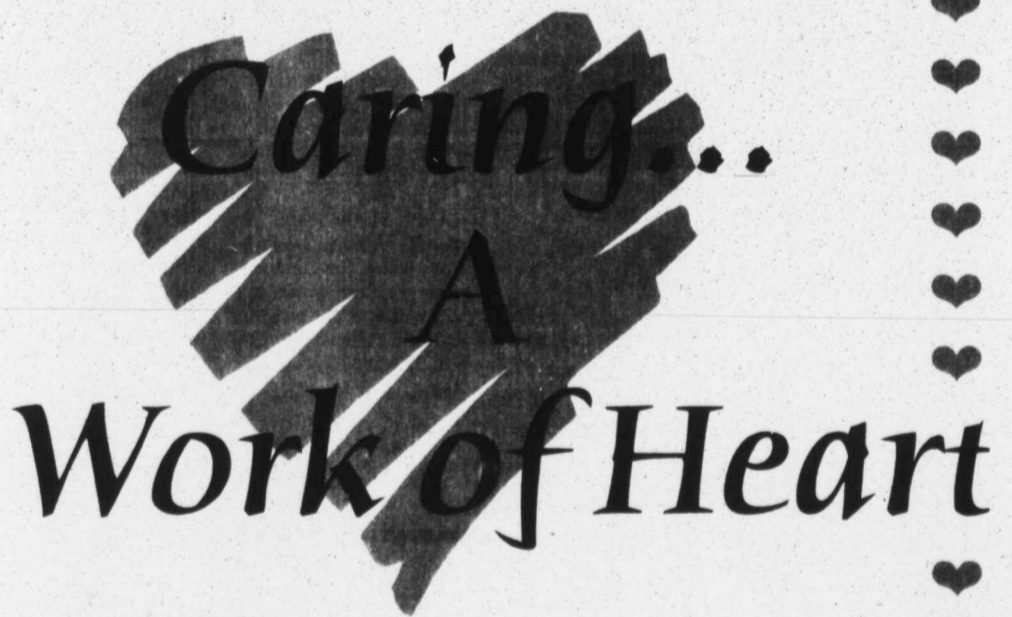
no such information on Dec. 27.

Just hours later, Stewart called Bacanovic's assistant and sold her 3,928 shares in the company — avoiding a steep drop in the stock price when the company announced negative news the next day.

Stewart and Bacanovic are accused of repeatedly lying to investigators about why Stewart sold her shares of ImClone. Stewart is also accused of deceiving investors in her own media company about the ImClone probe.

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