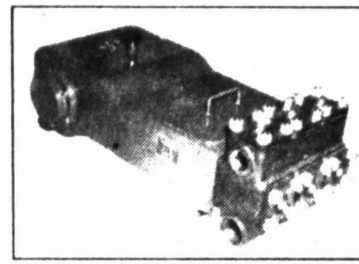


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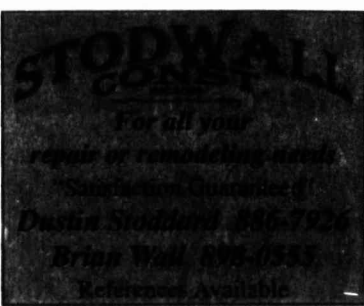


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THE Pampa NEWS

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2004

Daily • Sunday \$1
939 • Pampa, Texas

Two apply for ambulance service here

By MARILYN POWERS
STAFF WRITER

Two ambulance service companies have expressed interest in providing emergency medical services to Pampa and Gray County residents, according to Joe Wheeley, Precinct 1 county commissioner and a member of the ambulance task force.

Wheeley reported to Gray County commissioners during their regular meeting this morning on the task force's progress in providing ambulance service to area residents upon the departure of Rural/Metro Ambulance, which has announced it will close its

Pampa office on July 14.

All requests for proposals, or RFPs, had been due by May 1, Wheeley said, but one company asked that the deadline be extended because they felt they did not have enough time to prepare the paperwork. Wheeley said the task force voted to extend the deadline to May 10.

The task force met last Thursday to review RFPs that had been sent in by ambulance service companies. Wheeley did not name the two companies which he said were interested in providing local ambulance service.

"We also continued working on plans to take it over if necessary. It

would cost \$150,000 to start an ambulance service right now, including equipment and salaries," Wheeley said. The task force had discussed creating a joint city-county ambulance service, with costs split between the two governing bodies, if no ambulance service company was found to provide the services.

If the county and city create and administer a local ambulance service, Wheeley said options include leasing or buying ambulances and keeping the ambulance service in the same building it is currently in, with an eventual goal of relocating. The current ambulance service building on 120 N. Gray needs

roof repairs, Wheeley said. The current ambulances are aging and will begin to need replacement, he said.

Gray County Judge Richard Peet said the task force had decided it must come to a decision on future ambulance service for the area by June 1, in order to have enough time to implement the plan and have it in place by the time Rural/Metro leaves.

County commissioners deferred action on a Regional Emergency Preparedness Program mutual aid agreement, in which Texas Probation courts would sign a mutual aid agreement. (See COUNTY, Page 3)

Town celebrates Hamill's escape

MACON, Miss. (AP) — Thomas Hamill's father raised his hands skyward and proclaimed it "a beautiful day" upon hearing that his son, a civilian contractor kidnapped in Iraq, had escaped his captors and was safe.

Leo Hamill said he fell asleep Saturday night while watching a television news-cast and woke Sunday to a bulletin reporting his son's escape.

"I knew when I saw him on TV, I knew it was him," the

teary-eyed father said. "I hoped they would return him safe."

Leo Hamill promised when his son returned he would "grab and hug his neck."

Hamill, a truck driver for a subsidiary of the Halliburton Corp., was kidnapped during an attack on his supply convoy April 9. He escaped Sunday from a house south of Tikrit and ran to a nearby U.S. patrol, the U.S. military announced in Baghdad.

(See ES'CAPE, Page 3)

Deputies investigate cemetery vandalism

Gray County deputies were questioning several youths today in connection with weekend vandalism at the Lefors cemetery.

Vandals tore through the cemetery Saturday night, overturning tombstones and desecrating graves.

Lefors City Secretary Judy Williams said today that about 27 headstones in the cemetery had been damaged.

"Some were turned over,"

she said. "Some were shattered."

Williams said the cemetery was also littered with beer cans.

Deputies were called to the cemetery after Lefors resident Linda Stanton discovered the damage about 8 a.m. Sunday.

Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland said today that deputies were questioning several juveniles today in connection with the incident.

April showers, May dandelions



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

April showers bring May flowers... and a good crop of dandelions. Recent rains have resulted in numerous dandelions popping up on Pampa yards and parks.

Brown offers 'new perspective' to board

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
EDITOR

Greg Brown wants to bring a new perspective to the Pampa Independent School District's Board of Education.

On May 15, Place 7 on the school board will be decided in a three-way contest between Brown, Ken Cargill and Willie Nickleberry.

Brown believes his experience as a financial consultant, parent, and school volunteer provides a broad look at the issues the school board now faces.

"I thought about running for the school board for several years," Brown said. "With all the changes in the last couple of years, I felt like there needed to be a new way of looking at things."

Brown, a resident of Pampa for 16 years, first came to the community as an officer with First National Bank. His experiences at the bank, he said,



Greg Brown

with changes of ownership, budget cuts and downsizing in the bank business, prepares him for what is before the school district.

School officials predict a \$1 million shortfall for the 2004-2005 school year.

"Anything that is a revenue shortage, then it becomes a sacrifice on everybody's part," Brown said. "Everyone needs to find ways to meet the budget."

"It's tempting to point a finger at the other programs," he said. "That not only doesn't solve the problem, it creates disunity. We can't do that."

In a public forum, sponsored and cosponsored by the Pampa Independent Teachers Association, school board candidates were asked if they were willing to cut low participation sports to help balance the district's budget.

"I said I would if necessary, but I want to be clear that when I hear a budget you don't look at just sports cuts," Brown said. "I very much would like to be looked at."

He said he does not have any specific

changes in mind if he were to be elected to the board.

"I would withhold any specifics until I have a chance to look at it in depth," he said.

"I believe I could work with the current board," he added. "I know them. I've worked with them in many different ways. I think they all have the same goal and purpose in mind that I have."

He defined that purpose and goal in this way:

"I look at (the school) board to like a business. The product is the student," he said, adding that his goal is to protect the students.

"I feel like that is what their purpose is, too," he said.

Brown holds a bachelor of science degree from Texas A&M College of Agriculture, and has completed graduate courses in economics at West Texas

(See BROWN, Page 3)

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OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

SIMMONS, Horace Claude — 2 p.m., graveside, White Deer Cemetery, White Deer.

WALTER ARTHUR SHED

Walter Arthur Shed, 74, died Monday, May 3, 2004, at Amarillo. The body will not be available for viewing. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Shed was born July 2, 1929, in Lampasas to Jesse Thomas and Ida Mae Shed. He attended Ranger Jr. College in Abilene, earning an Associate Degree. He served as a tank commander in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, serving from April 1951 until 1953 when he received an honorable discharge. He married Jamie Meador on Jan. 16, 1976, at First Christian Church in Pampa. He was a real estate broker and co-owner of Shed Realtors from 1977 until the time of his death. He was an avid golfer, a hard-working businessman, a selfless giver, and a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church, serving in the church choir.

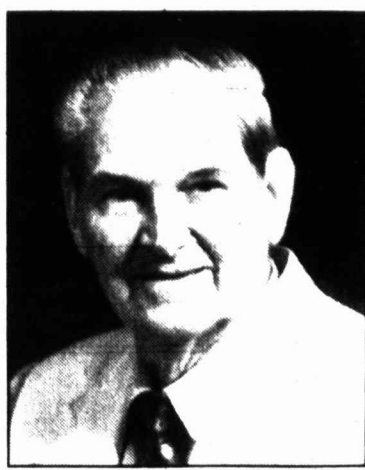
Survivors include his wife, Jamie, of the home; children, Donna Brown and husband Alan of Houston, Susan Herb and husband Ben of Abilene, Larry Shed and wife Marty of Houston, Gary Meador and wife Tanya of Amarillo, and Karen McGahen and husband

Dicky of Pampa; and grandchildren, Gillian and Patrick Brown of Houston, Rebecca, Emily and Daniel Herb of Abilene, Jeffrey and Sarah Shed of Houston, Kendall Meador of Amarillo, and Shelby and Shealyn McGahen of Pampa; two brothers, Hubert Shed and Clarence Shed, both of San Antonio; one sister, Mattie Mae Biem of Lampasas. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd, Pampa, Texas, 79065.

The family will receive friends at the home of Dicky and Karen McGahen, 1318 Mary Ellen.

— Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.



LILLIAN LUCILLE FOSTER
DALLAS — Lillian Lucille Foster, 92, died Sunday, May 2, 2004, at Plano. Mrs. Foster will be cremated. Memorial services will be announced at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Born Oct. 26, 1911 in Russellville, Ala., she attended schools in Alabama and Texas. She attended business college and worked in Amarillo prior to her marriage. She married Herman D. Foster in Childress. They lived in Childress, Amarillo and Borger before making their home in Pampa. Mr. Foster was a pharmacist who owned the Harvester Drug in Pampa, and co-owned B&B Pharmacy in Pampa. Mrs. Foster worked for the Medical & Surgical Clinic in Pampa, and was later co-owner and manager of B&B Pharmacy. She was a member of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, Omicron Chapter, and was active in

the B&PW. She loved to sing and dance and was involved in the Lion's Club Minstrels for many years. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Pampa. She had been a resident of Dallas since 1997 to be near her children.

Survivors include one daughter, Janis L. Chisholm of Dallas; one son, Dan Robert Foster and wife Amy of Dallas; two brothers, William Johnston of Borger, and J.E. Johnston of Clarendon; two grandsons, Dan Thomas Chisholm of Missoula, Mont., and Mark Foster Chisholm of Arlington; and one granddaughter, Kelli Colleen Chisholm of Long Beach, Calif.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman D. Foster in 1953, and a brother, Col. Henry R. Johnston of Arlington, Va., in February of 2004.

— Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

HORACE CLAUDE SIMMONS

AMARILLO — Horace Claude Simmons, 87, of Amarillo, died Sunday, May 2, 2004, at Amarillo. Graveside services are to be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, May 4, 2004, at White Deer Cemetery with Don McCall officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Simmons was born Sept. 2, 1916, in Celina. He has lived in Amarillo for the past 30 years. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Pampa.

Survivors include one sister, Frances Ann McKee of Amarillo; nine nieces and three nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ethel Simmons; one brother, Wallace Simmons; two sisters, Ethel Bentley and Mary Ellen Powers.

Memorials may be to Amarillo State Center, 901 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, Texas 79106.

— Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents:

Thursday, April 29

Injury to a child was reported in an assault in the 100 block of East Harvester.

Friday, April 30

The theft of \$700 was reported in the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Pampa Middle School.

A house in the 700 block of North Letors was hit with eggs.

Saturday, May 1

James Turner, 40, 809 Brunow, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, third offense. He was also being held today on war-

rants charging him with speeding, driving without a valid license and violation of a promise to appear in court.

Nathan Nabors III, 42, 1925 N. Dwight, was arrested on charges of interfering with an emergency call and assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Two pit bulls with an estimated worth of \$500 were reported stolen in the 600 block of North Frost.

A bicycle was found in the 1100 block of Barnes.

A domestic quarrel was reported in the 700 block of Hazel.

Monday, May 3

A domestic quarrel was reported in the 2400 block of Navajo.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's office today reported the following arrests:

Saturday, May 1

Steven Stamps, 23, 600 N. Dwight, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers on warrants charging him with driving while intoxicated, second and third offenses.

Larry Winget, 41, Las Vegas, N.M., was arrested by Gray County deputies on charges of assault causing bodily harm.

CORRECTION

An incorrect headline was printed for an article about Eric Cupp. Cupp will be keynote speaker at the Pampa High School honors banquet Tuesday, May 4, at the Pampa Country Club, not for the high school graduation as stated in the headline. The article is correct.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance Service responded to the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sunday, May 2

8:56 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Prison Unit east of Pampa and transported one patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

5:39 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Prairie Drive and transported one to PRMC.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following call during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, May 1

5:09 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at a residence in the 2500 block of Christine. No carbon monoxide was found in the home.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

Monday, May 3

A 1999 Pontiac Grand Prix, driven by Jennifer Wheeley Slatten, 33, 2114 N. Summer, struck a house early today. Officers said Slatten was northbound in the 600 block of North Gray about 12:40 a.m. today when the front right wheel struck the curb. The car swerved, crossed the street, jumped the curb, traveled across the yard and hit a tree and home belonging to Kennedy Doyle at 621 N. Gray. Slatten was cited for failure to maintain a single lane.

STOCKS

The following quotations are provided by Andrew Gram of Pampa:			
Wheat	3.54	Limited	20.78
Milo	5.11	Williams	10.20
Corn	8.77	MBD	27.34
Soybeans	9.83	NYM	43.22
		Almos	24.78
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:			
QXY	47.82	+0.02	Pioneer Nat
BP	52.89	+0.01	CVX
Cl Jones	41.91	+0.04	Wal Mart
Cl Jones Cap	34.01	+0.21	OKE
Cl Jones Oil Gas	45.77	+0.07	NSGrip
Cl Jones Coda	50.91	+0.34	
ALO	65.77	+0.01	
HAL	29.87	+0.07	New York Gold
Lead	34.49	+0.48	Silver
NOI	28.51	+0.39	West Texas Crude

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Tuesday, mostly sunny. Highs around 90. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Tuesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 20

mph. Wednesday night, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s. Thursday, mostly sunny. Breezy. Highs in the lower 90s. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the upper 50s. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows around 60. Saturday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the upper 80s. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows around 60. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

Federal judge overturns jury verdict against IPB

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A federal judge threw out a jury verdict in a class action lawsuit against the world's largest beef packer.

A lawyer for the cattlemen

suing the packer said they would appeal the judge's decision.

A federal judge said April 23 that cattlemen suing IPB, now Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc., as a matter of law did not prove their case.

U.S. Senior District Judge Lyle Strom entered a judgment in the case two months after an Alabama jury said that IPB manipulated cattle prices in violation of federal law and that IPB should pay cattlemen \$1.28 billion in damages.

During the trial, while the jury was out, the judge had indicated that he thought the cattlemen's case was weak, but an emotional appeal to the five-man, seven-woman jury resulted in their finding for the cattlemen.

Judge Strom overturned the jury's verdict Friday when he said

the cattlemen's attorney presented no evidence to indicate that the packer's use of marketing agreements with cattlemen was not a justifiable business procedure.

In March, the judge said he would not abide by the \$1.281,690,000 awarded by the jury.

Friday, Judge Strom said that evidence in the trial did not support such a damage award.

The lawsuit was initially filed by a handful of cattlemen against IPB in 1996. In December, 2001, it was certified a class action suit, which included an estimated

30,000 cattlemen who sold live-stock to IPB only in the cash market from Feb. 1, 1994, to Oct. 31, 2002.

The cattlemen claimed that IPB relied on captive supplies pledged through marketing agreements with various feed-yards when cash cattle prices were high and only bought in the cash market when prices were low. The lack of bids in the cash market when prices were high, the cattlemen's legal team argued, forced cattle prices down.

"This decision is a victory for U.S. cattle producers and our company," John Tyson, chairman and CEO of Tyson Foods, told the Associated Press. "It protects the freedom of producers to market cattle the way they want, and it affirms our strongly held belief that our livestock buying practices are proper."

City Briefs

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

CLOTHING ROOM

Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ (bldg across the street, south of Pampa High School) Tues., May 4th, 9-1. 665-2373, lv. msg.

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U.S. military likely to replace new Fallujah commander

NAJAF, Iraq (AP) — Militiamen pounded a U.S. base with mortars Monday in the most intense attacks yet on U.S. troops in Najaf, where the Americans have been holding back their full firepower to avoid enflaming the anger of Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority. Another American soldier was killed in Baghdad. American troops returned

fire, and their commander estimated that 20 Iraqi fighters were killed, based on bodies and "watching young men fall after being hit." The fighting came as Thomas Hamill, a truck driver from Mississippi who escaped from his Iraqi kidnappers after three weeks in captivity, flew to Germany on Monday for a reunion with his wife.

At a Najaf hospital, one slain Iraqi policeman and 16 wounded civilians were brought in, including a woman. Hospital officials said they were hit by American fire. After a volley of mortar fire on the Najaf base in the afternoon, U.S. troops and militiamen traded fire for several hours. Tanks joined the fight, and Apache attack helicopters

circled overhead, though they did not open fire. Clashes eased but small arms fire and occasional mortar blasts could be heard throughout the afternoon. In Fallujah, the U.S. military was moving to install a new commander for the Iraqi force taking control of the city, bringing in a general thought to have opposed Saddam Hussein to replace another general who

some allege took part in Saddam-era repression. Maj. Gen. Mohammed Latif, a former military intelligence officer, is likely to take command of the Fallujah Brigade, a senior U.S. official said. In Baghdad, insurgents Monday opened fire on U.S. soldiers guarding a weapons cache that was discovered the night before, killing one soldier

and injuring two, the U.S. military said. Outside the U.S. base in Najaf, a huge plume of smoke could be seen rising from a building where American soldiers said insurgents had been hiding. U.S. tank and machine gun fire left the building mostly destroyed. Before dawn Monday, militiamen shelled the troops with some 20 mortars, hitting in and around the former Spanish base that U.S. troops moved into a week ago. There were no casualties. The U.S. military has deployed at the base and outside Najaf to crack down on radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ESCAPE

Hamill's captors had threatened to kill him unless the United States lifted its siege on the city of Fallujah. His wife, Kellie Hamill, said she got a call at about 5:50 a.m. telling her that her husband was free. He later called home, "the best wake-up call I've ever had," she said. "He sounded wonderful, so wonderful. He said he was fine," she told The Associated Press. "He said he was more worried about his mom, his grandmother, me and our kids. The first thing he said to me was, 'How are you doing?'" Kellie Hamill said her husband told her he cried a door open at the house where he was being held after he heard a U.S. Army patrol nearby. "He said he ran half a mile down the road and got with the convoy. Isn't that something?" she said. Hamill, 43, was "in good health," said Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt. A gunshot wound to his left arm, possibly from when he was captured, appeared to be infected. Maj. Neal O'Brien said. Hamill was on his way to a military hospital in Germany for a checkup early Monday, according to a senior U.S. official in Iraq who wished to remain anonymous. Relatives

said Kellie Hamill left Monday morning for Jackson, where she was planning to fly to Houston and then on to Germany. Her children were not making the trip overseas. Hamill's mother, Phyllis Hammil, spoke to her son Monday morning. "He said he's doing good but that he had lost a little weight in all this. His kids looked at the picture on television and said with the beard and all, it didn't look like daddy," she said. "But he looks pretty good to me." Phyllis Hamill, 63, said her son told his wife he attempted an escape earlier and had managed to get out of the building where he was being held. "He said it was really dry and he had no food or water," she said. "He said he heard a helicopter flying around and tried to attract attention and couldn't do it. He felt his best chances was to go back where they had held him. They moved him to another place and left him alone and that's when he escaped." About 200 community members gathered Sunday night to celebrate Hamill's escape. Several pastors spoke and Kellie Hamill wept as those in attendance sang "Amazing Grace" to honor their native son and his eventual homecoming. Mayor Dorothy Baker

Hines said she told Kellie Hamill that as soon as her husband is back "we're going to have a parade that will not end." Earlier in the day, news of Hamill's escape spread rapidly around Macon, a town of about 2,500 people. Church deacon and Sunday school teacher John Gauntt, 36, said he was in bed when his wife ran down the hall yelling "Tommy is free!" "We believe that everything works for the good for those that trust him," Gauntt said. At church, well-wishers greeted Kellie Hamill with joyful hugs and tears. Worshipers at Calvary Baptist Church had prayed for Hamill around the clock, said choir member Shirley Battle. "I don't think anyone in this group had given up," Battle said. Kellie Hamill said their children were ecstatic and that Hamill's 12-year-old daughter, Tori, "is just bounding around the house. It's going wild here. It's calls, calls, calls and people at the door." President Bush learned of Hamill's escape Sunday morning. "It's great news for all Americans, and the president is happy for Mr. Hamill and family," White House spokeswoman Erin Healy said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

COUNTY

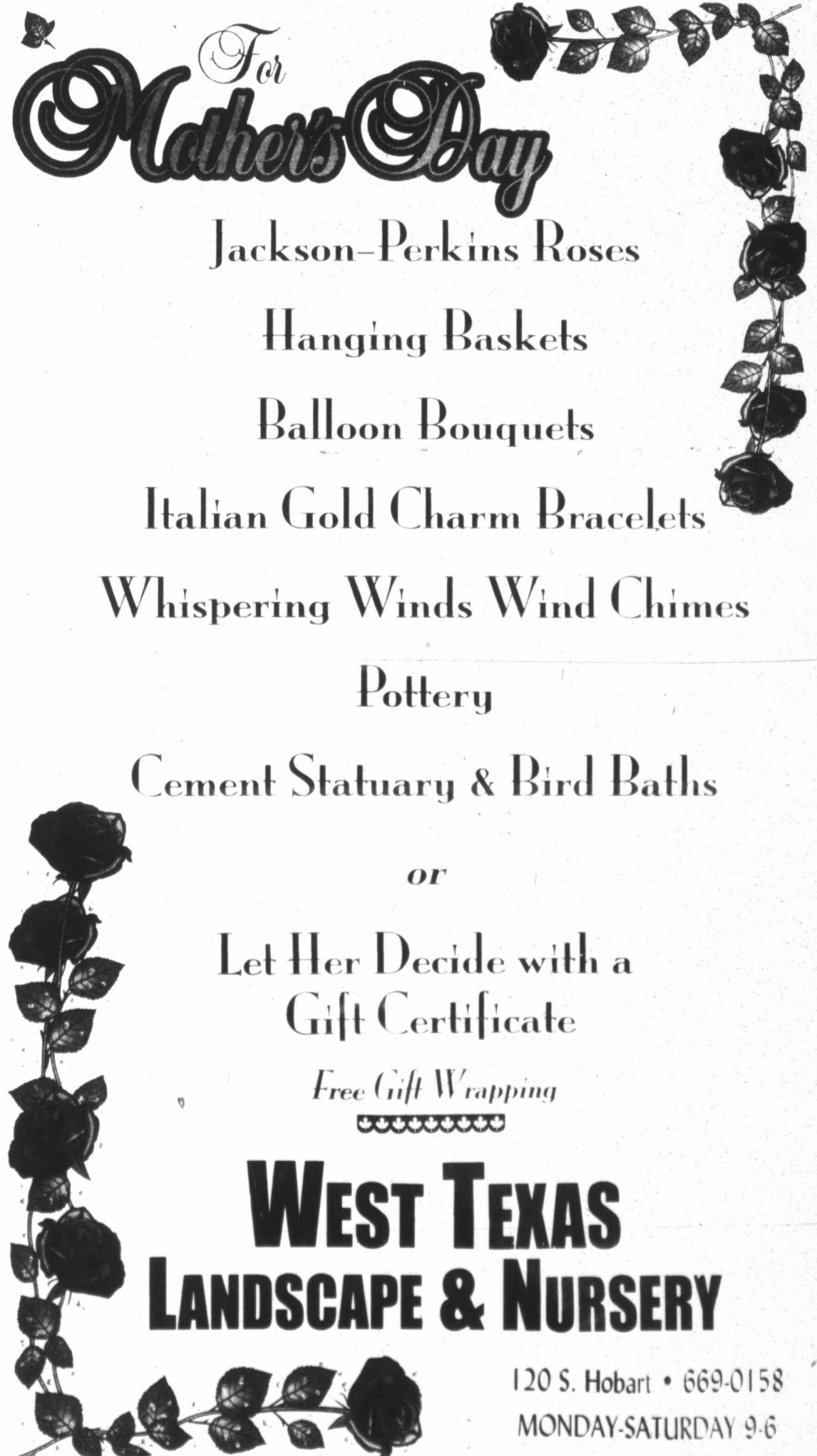
agreement. John Kiehl of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission told commissioners that the purpose of the agreement was to provide a source of mutual aid and assistance in times of declared natural and man-made disasters, such as tornadoes and large-scale chemical spills. Any aid given by another city or county participating in the agreement may or may not be billed to the entity requesting the aid, Kiehl said. Commissioners plan to place the mutual aid agreement on their next agenda as an action item, to allow time for all county commissioners and the county attorney to review the agreement. Commissioners heard a request by Nancy Coffee that three cross memberships be created between the White Deer Land Museum Advisory Board and the Museum Foundation Board. Commissioners voted to allow the advisory board to

change its by-laws to allow the cross memberships and then bring the by-law changes to the next commissioner's meeting for approval. County Extension agents Joan Gray and Brandon McGinty received approval to hire an office manager to replace Linda Smith, who is retiring at the end of May after 23 years' service. Commissioners also removed Julia Wood from the Sick Leave Pool Committee and appointed Karen Ellis, deputy county treasurer, to the committee. In other business, Peet announced that the county's auction, tentatively planned for May 7, will be postponed until at least May 21. Sharon Virden, a county building custodian, was presented with a gift of appreciation by commissioners for creating a compact disc that includes photographs of the county courthouse before, during and after restoration. Virden created the CD as a volunteer project and presented several copies to commissioners.

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

BROWN

A&M University in Canyon. He and his wife Renee have two sons: Tristan, 19, a freshman at Oklahoma State University and Shea, 17, a junior at Pampa High School. He is an active member of the community, holding memberships in the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, and First Baptist Church. He has been involved with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and has served on the City of Pampa Parks & Recreation Board. As school volunteer, he has served on the Pampa High School Leadership Committee and Dennis Cavalier "Unfinished Business" steering committee.



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MAY 03 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Teen Who Outgrows Shelter Searches For New Direction

DEAR ABBY: A year ago I was placed in an emergency shelter for seven months, until I graduated from high school. I turned 18 three weeks ago. Because of state guidelines, I was forced to leave the shelter and went to a foster home for a week.

The shelter has a policy that there be no contact between the staff and clients for 18 months, but I was allowed to call there. Last week, I got a call from the director of the shelter, saying I "needed to stop calling and move on with my life." My problem is, before I went there I had no positive support or role models, and now, when something good happens, I want to call and talk to one of them because I got real close to them.

Do you have any advice on how to move on with my life? -- LOST IN ALABAMA

DEAR LOST: It is unconscionable that children are dumped from the system with no skills, no one to confide in, and no one to mentor them.

Contact the foster youth program in your state. Ask to speak to a social worker and inquire about transitional counseling and support. You should also contact the YWCA and see if they provide mentoring. You have reached a point where you must decide where you want to go in life. Have you considered a vocational school or college? Their financial offices can provide suggestions about part-time employment while you're completing your education. Once you're enrolled, you'll meet other young people with positive goals and make friends.

DEAR ABBY: I am being married in the fall and have asked my niece to be the only musician and play her violin in my wedding. She agreed to do it as a gift to me.

I want her to purchase a bridesmaid's dress and shoes (together about \$220) so she'll match the bridesmaids,

as she'll be in the front of the church. Her family refuses to buy the dress or shoes. This has upset me and my family and caused a lot of tension.

It is my wedding, and I feel they should accommodate my wishes. Don't you agree? -- HURT IN KENTUCKY

DEAR HURT: Not necessarily. Two hundred and twenty dollars may not seem like much to you, but it may be to your niece. So be prepared to pony up the money and pay for her outfit if you're determined that she match the bridesmaids.

Look at it this way: You're getting a live musician at no cost. Consider the costume your gift to HER for participating in your dream wedding.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old high school student. My friend "Denise" has an almost insane crush on a friend of ours. Denise is so obsessed with him that she has hysterical fits of crying and rage if he pays attention to another girl. She talks about suicide if she can't be with him.

I know this is not normal, but I don't know what to do. I'm concerned Denise will hurt herself or someone else. -- CONCERNED FRIEND IN CALGARY

DEAR CONCERNED: Tell your parents, a teacher, or a counselor at school about her behavior, her threats and your concerns. Your friend has gone off the deep end and may need to be psychologically evaluated.

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.

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The Pampa News Comics

Crossword Puzzle

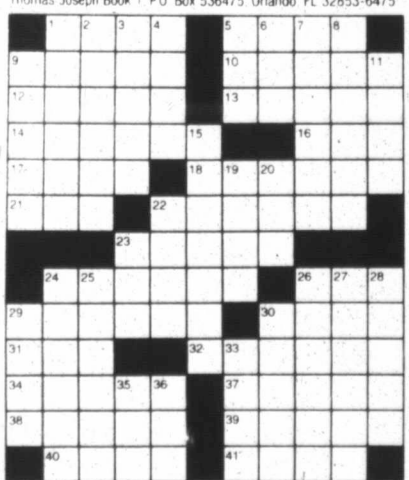
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Twist out of shape | 2 Sworn |
| 5 Rural spread | 3 Bike user |
| 9 Film | 4 Banana part |
| 10 Approves | 5 In support of |
| 12 Wear down | 6 Alias: Abbr. |
| 13 Kitchen fixture | 7 Became nearly depleted |
| 14 In addition | 8 Hit for the truth |
| 16 Avoid the truth | 9 Gettysburg general |
| 17 Woodland grazer | 11 Sights |
| 18 Tasks for Hercules | 15 "Goin' down" |
| 21 Finish writing | 26 Getting into |
| 22 Illegible | 28 rapper shape |
| 23 Hare-brained | 29 Florence river |
| 24 Black magic | 20 Cove |
| 26 Spinning toy | 22 Bar mixer sections |
| 29 Intellectual | 23 Parking place |
| 30 Fast food quaff | 24 Ship |
| 31 Dunder-head | 30 Eyelashes |
| 32 Be part of the fun | 25 Marked chow |
| 34 Writer | 35 Had lunch |
| 37 Breathing | 36 Roadster |
| 38 River feature | |
| 39 Fork parts | |
| 40 Lewd look | |
| 41 Droops | |

SWIM CROAK
HANOI HASTE
ARSON ONICE
FRO TIP RON
TELLON HISS
DEANSLIST
METAL
ONEDOLLAR
SPAR RASCAL
LET EEK TIE
INUSE ELIDE
MURAL ROVER
SPEWS BEDS

Saturday's answer



Marmaduke



"We were involved in a high-speed chase with a rabbit."

The Family Circus



"Know what? There's a dog named Rover on Mars sniffin' around for water."

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



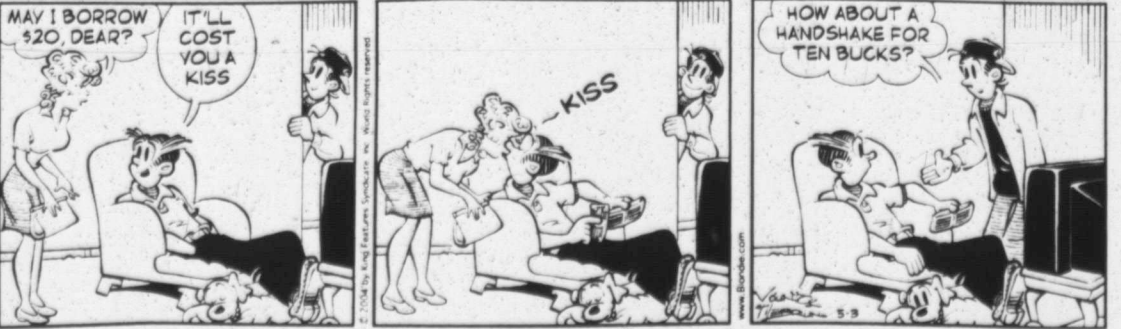
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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Sharon says he will not resign despite stinging defeat

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday he will rework his plan for pulling out of Gaza and four West Bank settlements in an effort to salvage the proposal following its resounding defeat in a ruling party referendum.

Sharon told a meeting of lawmakers from his Likud Party that he would submit the new version to the government and the parliament for approval, according to officials who attended the meeting.

"I want to say in the clearest fashion there will be another plan that I will come up with," Sharon said, according to the officials. "I will come up with a plan that will get wider support."

With a turnout of only half the 193,000 Likud members, 60 percent voted against the "disengagement plan," leaving Sharon politically weakened and scrambling for an alternative. "Crushing defeat," read a headline in the Maariv daily.

Sharon said Monday that he "respects" the outcome of the vote but would not drop the idea of a withdrawal. He defended his plan as the best way to get security for Israelis in the absence of peace moves.

He also said it would diffuse international pressure on Israel for greater concessions and help Israel escape the demographic problem that Palestinians will soon outnumber Jews in the area including the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

"The question is should Israel lead or be led, does time work in our favor or against us, and if what we are proposing could be accepted in

the world," Sharon was quoted as saying at the meeting. "I intend to present a plan to the government and the (parliament) that will push forward Israel's positions"

Sunday's voting was marred by violence. Palestinian gunmen killed a pregnant Gaza settler and her four daughters, ages two to 11, in an ambush on her car as she was en route from Gaza to Israel. Israel killed four Palestinian militants in the West Bank and destroyed a Hamas-affiliated radio station in Gaza in missile strikes.

Support for the plan lagged in the polls for several days, but analysts said the Gaza shooting attack and the low turnout gave a further boost to opponents.

The disengagement plan envisions an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, home to 7,500 settlers, and the evacuation of four small West Bank settlements by the end of 2005, along with the completion of a West Bank separation barrier.

The Bush administration said it would consult with Sharon on what to do next. "The president welcomed Prime Minister Sharon's plan to withdraw settlements from Gaza and a part of the West Bank as a courageous and important step toward peace," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

Palestinian leaders, who have dismissed Sharon's unilateral plan as an attempt to tighten Israel's hold over large parts of the West Bank, played down Sunday's vote as an internal Israeli matter.

Ordinary Palestinians didn't pay much attention. "If he (Sharon) had won, do you really think the war would end and tomorrow we

would have peace?" said Khalil Abu Ali, 48, a restaurant owner in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Early Monday, a 16-year-old Palestinian boy from Beit Lahia in Gaza died from Israeli gunshot wounds suffered on Saturday, hospital officials said. The boy, Khaled Abu Olba, was shot after entering a military zone, residents said. Also, 17-year-old Ahmad al-Khawaldi didn't decide the fate of the country," he told Israel Radio.

Vice Premier Ehud Olmert, a Sharon confidant, said disengagement is inevitable and the prime minister is determined to move forward.

Opponents celebrated their victory. Likud members chose "a no-compromise fight against terrorism" over "loyalty to the prime minister," Cabinet minister Natan Sharansky said.

The low turnout might help Sharon undermine the legitimacy of the result, analysts said. The referendum was not legally binding.

The referendum originally was conceived as a way to force hard-line ministers, including Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to support Sharon. With the party opposed, it is unlikely Sharon would get a majority in his Cabinet.

The prime minister could rearrange his Cabinet by bringing in the moderate Labor Party. Labor has said it would join only if the attorney general clears Sharon in two corruption probes. The rulings are expected in coming weeks.

Sharon also could opt for early elections, three years ahead of schedule. Or he could hold a national referendum, which would require

special legislation that could take months to move through parliament.

The vote also might strain Sharon's relations with President Bush. Last month, the president went out of his way to help Sharon, endorsing the disengagement plan and giving the Israeli leader unprecedented assurances that in a final peace deal, Israel would not have to withdraw from all of the West Bank.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat demanded Sunday that Bush withdraw his guarantees.

In the Israeli settlements in Gaza, elation was mixed with mourning for 34-year-old Tali Hatuel and her four young daughters.

Hatuel's husband, David, wept in front of the five graves during the funeral Sunday in the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon. "I am all alone, there is no one left," he said.

On Monday, Israeli settlers in Gaza began work on a new neighborhood in the Gaza settlement of Neve Dekalim. Settlers said the expansion was a response to Sharon's plan and the shooting attack.

Israeli troops also demolished 22 homes in Gaza, 14 near the site of the shooting. The demolitions left 75 people homeless, residents said.

Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees, another militant group, said they killed the family to avenge the assassination of Hamas leaders by Israel last month.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, four Palestinian militants from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades were killed in an Israeli missile strike. Some 10,000 Palestinians marched in a funeral procession for the men on Monday.

Foreigners make plans to leave after rampage in Saudi Arabia

YANBU, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Western oil industry workers finalized their plans Monday to leave Saudi Arabia after gunmen killed five of their colleagues in a shooting rampage in this industrial city and dragged one victim through the streets.

More than a dozen employees of Houston-based oil contractor ABB Lummus Global Inc. — Americans, Australians, Italians and Britons — gathered at the bullet-strafed Holiday Inn hotel in Yanbu to work out details for the departure of the entire staff of about 90 plus some family members. Company officials said earlier that foreign staff would be transferred out of Yanbu and U.S. diplomats in the kingdom have urged Americans to leave.

"We have all decided to leave — this was something that was decided in yesterday's meeting," said a Scottish employee who identified himself only as Doug. "All we're doing now is to decide when and how we will do it."

Journalists were barred from the meeting and participants were reluctant to speak or give their full names because of safety concerns. Company spokesman Bjorn Edlund said

the employees and their families would leave within days.

Saudi troops have deployed heavy weaponry to guard foreigners' houses and offices in Yanbu, 220 miles north of the Red Sea port of Jiddah. Troops patrol the streets in armored vehicles and government officials vow to hunt down terrorists who have struck four foreign targets in the past year.

After spraying the ABB Lummus offices with gunfire Saturday, the four bearded men tied the body of one of their victims to the bumper of a car and headed for the Ibn Hayyan Secondary Boys School.

Students said the attackers drove into their parking lot and fired into the air to attract attention to the bloody corpse attached to their car by its right leg. "This is the president of America!" the men screamed.

"God is great! God is great! Come join your brothers in Fallujah!" they shouted, referring to an Iraqi city where U.S. troops are battling insurgents.

Students and school officials said some of the boys ran crying from the scene.

Bomb attack on bus carrying Chinese workers kills three, injures 11

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A car packed with explosives detonated near a bus carrying Chinese engineers to a port project in remote southwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing three of them and injuring eleven other people, police and hospital officials said.

The attack occurred just after 9 a.m. local time while the bus

was taking at least 12 Chinese to the Gawadar port, about 300 miles west of Karachi, near the Iranian border, said Sattar Lasi, the chief of police in Gawadar.

"A car was parked near the port and it exploded as the bus reached the port," Lasi told The Associated Press.

"This is clearly terrorism. The aim was to terrorize the

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SPORTS

Pampa rips Caprock to end regular season

PAMPA — The score wasn't 30-21 this time around.

Pampa exploded for 11 runs in the second inning to rout Caprock 13-1 in the regular-season's final game Saturday.

In the first District 3-4A meeting back on April 15, the runs kept coming for both teams as Pampa had trouble putting Caprock away. Pampa put Caprock away in five innings in the second outing due to the 10-run rule.

In was also Senior Day Saturday at Harvester Field and Pampa's four seniors (Derek Lewis, Nick Story, Hunter Craig and Jed Martin) made their contribution to the victory.

Story had a triple, double and two RBI and Craig had a run-scoring single. Lewis had a base hit and Martin drew an RBI walk.

Pampa junior Tyler Doughty pitched a two-hitter for four innings to boost his record to 7-2 for the season. Doughty struck out

five and walked three.

Dusty Lenderman pitched the final inning and got himself out of trouble to end the game. Caprock had the bases loaded with one out when Ramon Fuentes hit a hard smash that carried off Lenderman's foot. Lenderman scrambled to his knees to field the ball and made an underhanded toss to catcher Shea Brown for the force at the plate. Lenderman, unhurt, struck out the last batter.

Lenderman also had a big day at bat with two doubles and four runs-batted in.

Other Harvesters with hits were Seth Foster (double, single, one RBI), Tyler Doughty (two singles, one RBI), Seth Brown (RBI single) and Tyson Hickman (single, two RBI).

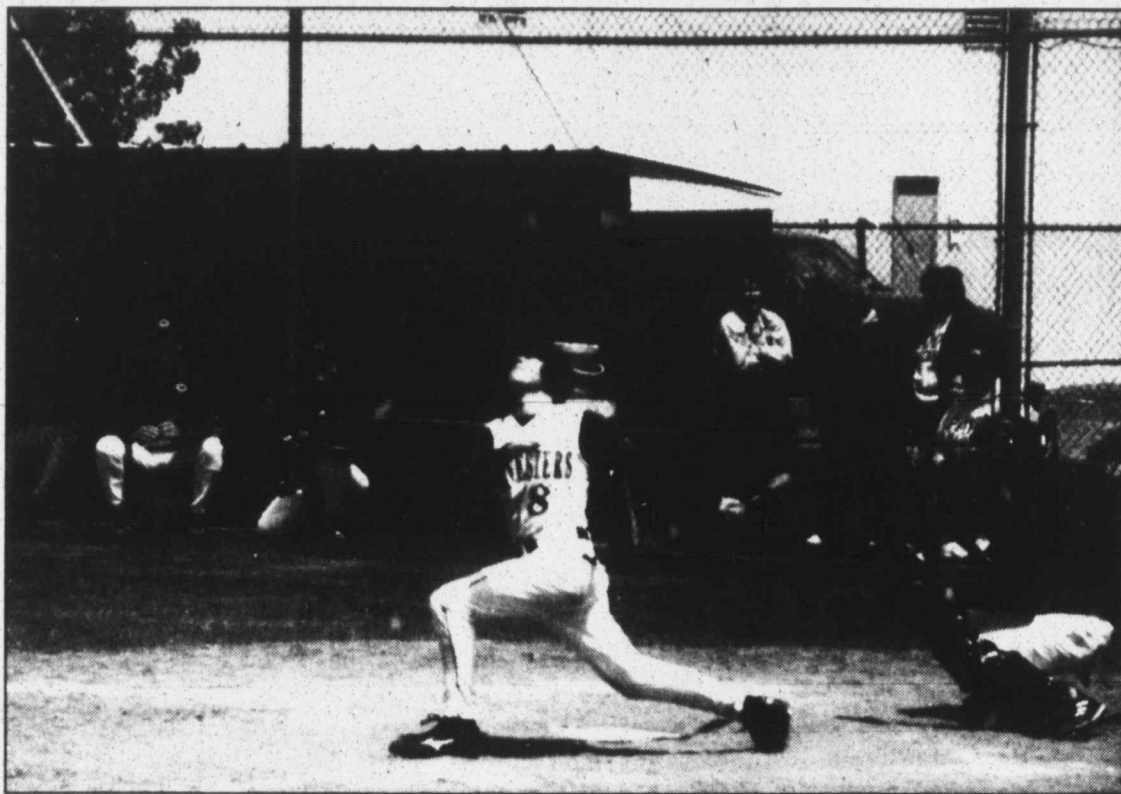
Fuentes and Mark Mendez pitched for Caprock with starter Fuentes taking the loss. Rico Mendoza's RBI-single in the fourth inning accounted for Caprock's only run.

The Longhorns were charged with the only error in the contest.

The Harvesters improved to 15-10 and 8-4 in district. They will represent 3-4A as the No. 3 seed in the bi-district playoffs. They play

either Lubbock Estacado or Andrews out of District 4-4A with the game tentatively scheduled for Friday at place yet to be determined. Caprock ends its season at 7-17 and 4-8. Randall beat Dumas 6-3

and Plainview blanked Palo Duro 10-0 to wrap other district games Saturday. District champion Randall drew a first-round bye. Second-place Plainview meets Levelland in bi-district this weekend.



Senior shortstop Hunter Craig sends a high pop to the infield in Pampa's 13-1 win over Caprock on Saturday.

Suicide squeeze gives Astros 6-5 victory over Reds

HOUSTON (AP) — Brad Ausmus' suicide squeeze scored Lance Berkman and capped a three-run rally in the eighth inning, giving the Houston Astros a 6-5 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Sunday.

The Astros trailed 5-3 when they loaded the bases with no outs in the eighth on consecutive singles by Jeff Bagwell, Jeff Kent and Berkman off Todd Jones. Pinch-hitter Mike Lamb followed with a two-run single before Ausmus' run-scoring punt.

The victory in Houston's fourth straight, while the Reds have lost five in a row.

Dan Miceli (1-1) allowed one run and one hit in two relief innings, and Octavio Dotel earned his fourth save in as many opportunities with a scoreless ninth.

Jones (1-1) took the loss, giving up three runs on four hits in one inning.

Houston cut its deficit to 4-3 in the fourth on an RBI

double by Bagwell and a two-run home run by Kent, his third of the season.

Adam Dunn hit his ninth homer in the eighth for the Reds to make it 5-3.

Cincinnati took a 2-0 lead in the second inning after Sean Casey led off with a single and moved to second when Dunn walked. Brandon Larson drove in Casey with a double, and Dunn scored on a sacrifice fly by Javier Valentin.

The Reds increased their lead to 3-0 in the third when Ryan Freel was hit by at pitch, stole second and scored when Ken Griffey Jr. singled and right fielder Richard Hidalgo mishandled the ball for an error.

Cincinnati moved ahead 4-0 in the fourth on an RBI double by Valentin that brought on Brandon Backe in relief of starter Tim Lincecum.

Notes: Craig Biggio is seven hits away from becoming the first Astro and the 80th major leaguer to record 2,500 hits. ...

Miceli pitched 13 innings over 11 appearances without giving up an earned run until Dunn's homer. ... Cincinnati

pitchers allowed less than 10 hits for the first time in nine games Sunday. ... Biggio was hit by a pitch for the

245th time in his career Sunday, the most ever in the NL and second all-time to Don Baylor (267).

Major League Standings

National League					American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	15	10	.600	—	Boston	15	9	.625	—
Atlanta	12	12	.500	2 1/2	New York	14	11	.560	1 1/2
Philadelphia	11	12	.478	3	Baltimore	12	10	.545	2
New York	10	15	.400	5	Tampa Bay	8	15	.348	6 1/2
Montreal	6	20	.231	9 1/2	Toronto	8	17	.320	7 1/2
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	15	9	.625	—	Chicago	15	9	.625	—
Chicago	14	10	.583	1	Minnesota	15	9	.625	—
Pittsburgh	12	11	.522	2 1/2	Detroit	13	12	.520	2 1/2
St. Louis	13	12	.520	2 1/2	Cleveland	10	13	.435	4 1/2
Cincinnati	12	12	.500	3	Kansas City	7	16	.304	7 1/2
Milwaukee	12	13	.480	3 1/2	West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB	Texas	16	9	.640	—
Los Angeles	15	9	.625	—	Anaheim	15	10	.600	1
San Diego	16	10	.615	—	Oakland	12	13	.480	4
San Francisco	12	14	.462	4	Seattle	9	16	.360	7
Colorado	11	13	.458	4					
Arizona	10	14	.417	5					

Saturday's Games	
Colorado 3, Atlanta 2, 1st game	San Francisco 9, Florida 8, 11 innings
Atlanta 11, Colorado 7, 2nd game	
San Francisco 6, Florida 3	
Houston 10, Cincinnati 4	
Pittsburgh 8, Milwaukee 7, 10 innings	
Arizona 6, Philadelphia 4	
Chicago Cubs 4, St. Louis 2	
San Diego 3, N.Y. Mets 1	
Los Angeles 5, Montreal 4	
Sunday's Games	
Philadelphia 6, Arizona 5, 11 innings	
Houston 6, Cincinnati 5	
Pittsburgh 4, Milwaukee 3, 11 innings	
St. Louis 1, Chicago Cubs 0, 10 innings	
Colorado 13, Atlanta 4	
N.Y. Mets 6, San Diego 2	
Montreal 6, Los Angeles 4	

Protecting the goal



David O'Rear of the Sharks keeps the ball away from the goal in a recent Pampa Soccer Association contest. The Sharks are in the Under 6 age group.

Glo-Valve tames DFB in Optimist baseball action

PAMPA — Glo-Valve Service, after losing to Celanese Corporation Tuesday 15-5, came back with a vengeance Saturday, defeating Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency 7-1 in an Optimist Official Opening Day game.

Using a trio of pitchers, Glo-Valve held DFB to five hits and one unearned run. Tyler Malone was the winning pitcher. He pitched the first two innings, allowing no runs and two hits. He struck out three and didn't walk a batter. Anthony Allen pitched the third and fourth innings, permitting one unearned run and two hits. He struck out four while issuing no walks. Alex Clendingen finished up by pitching the last two innings. He surrendered one hit while striking out five and not walking a batter.

Kade Wilson led Glo-Valve hitting, going three for four with a run scored. Allen had one hit, one RBI and three runs scored. Malone stroked two hits and had two RBI. Clendingen made a run, a hit and two RBI.

For DFB, Zachery Organ doubled twice and reached base on a two-base Glo-Valve error. Cody McIntyre singled twice and made it to first on an error. Braden Hunt doubled for the only other hit for DFB.

Glo-Valve scored single runs in the fifth and sixth innings. Clendingen opened the fifth with a single. He stole second and third. After Davis drew his second walk, Glo-Valve executed a double steal with Clendingen scoring on the play.

A walk to Allen opened Glo-Valve's half of the sixth inning. He went to second on a single by Wilson, to third on a walk to Malone and scored the final run of the game when Clendingen reached first on a fielder's choice. DFB threatened every inning. Organ doubled to lead off the bottom of the first, but died on third. McIntyre singled in the second, went to second and third on wild pitches, but was nipped at the plate by Wilson to Malone as he tried to score when the ball got away from the Glo-Valve catcher. Organ reached second on an error in the DFB third, but was left on base. Organ was again left on third

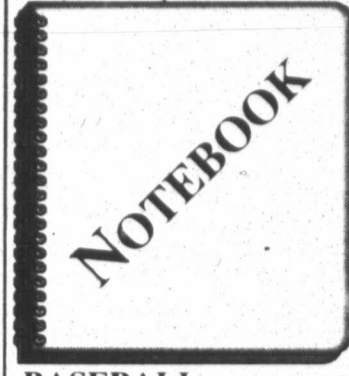
after a double in the fifth inning. Hunt and McIntyre reached base in the sixth inning on errors. Hunt was thrown out trying to second second. McIntyre was left on first.

The defensive play of the game was made by Glo-Valve's Clendingen with a diving catch of a soft popup to save a run in the first inning.

After a week of play, Cabot Corporation leads the 11-12 Cal Ripken League, with a 2-0 record. Cabot defeated Rotary 4-3 Monday, scoring a run in the bottom of the sixth inning on a passed ball to hand reliever Zach Shaw his first win of the season. They edged D.E. Chase Inc. Saturday 5-3.

Celanese Corporation is half a game behind in second place with a 2-1 record. Celanese, behind the pitching of Brent Green, bested Glo-Valve 15-5 on Tuesday, lost 6-5 to Rotary Club on Thursday and defeated Rotary 6-0 Saturday with Mitchell Killgo picking up the mound victory in relief of Green in the third inning. DFB is 1-1 with a 9-2 win over Chase Wednesday. Glo-Valve is 1-1, Rotary 1-2 and Chase 0-2.

Coming up this week Rotary challenges Chase today at 5:45 p.m. DFB and Celanese clash at 7:45. Cabot will be trying to keep its winning streak alive against Glo-Valve Tuesday at 5:45 p.m., while DFB and Rotary play in the late game.



BASEBALL

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — The Texas Tech Red Raiders put on an offensive show Sunday, sweeping two games from Kansas by scores of 11-4 and 18-7.

Home runs were the main offensive weapon in the first game. Josh Brady had two homers. Cameron Blair added another one for Texas Tech (31-13 and 11-6). The Jayhawks got back-to-back home runs from Sean Richardson and Jared Schweitzer in the sixth inning and a solo homer from Matt Tribble in the seventh.

In the second game, the Jayhawks (25-25-1, 2-15) allowed nine runs on five hits and one error in the first inning. Kansas responded with three runs in the second but Texas Tech added three more runs in the third inning and six runs in the last three innings in the 18-7 win.

HORSE RACING

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Splashing his way past Lion Heart in the stretch, Smarty Jones won the Kentucky Derby on Saturday.

Smarty Jones ran his record to 7-for-7 and became the first unbeaten Derby winner since Seattle Slew in 1977. Seattle Slew went on to win the Triple Crown. Imperialism finished third.

BASKETBALL

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal says his team got a good look at the San Antonio Spurs in Game 1 of their second-round playoff series. Next time the Lakers will be ready.

Los Angeles shot poorly in the first half Sunday, staged a bold rally in the third quarter, then collapsed in the fourth in an 88-78 loss to the defending champion Spurs.

"This game was a 'feel-out' game so we know how the series is going to go," said O'Neal, who made only one basket and had no rebounds in the fourth quarter. "We'll go back home and review some tapes, practice on a few things and we'll be ready."

Game 2 of the Western Conference semifinal is Wednesday in San Antonio, with the Spurs going for their 17th straight win.

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2329 Aspen	\$135,000	3/1 7/5 2-2671 SF GCAD
11024 Mary Ellen	\$113,000	4/2 2 2819 SF GCAD
1826 Hamilton	\$79,500	4/2 2 CP 2195 SF GCAD
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708 Mora	\$62,600	3/2 2 1425 SF GCAD
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1712 Chestnut	\$49,500	3/1 7/5 1 CP 1305 SF GCAD
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1710 Beech	\$34,000	3/1 1 1170 SF GCAD
2214 Mary Ellen	\$32,500	3/1 1 1148 SF GCAD
2035 Hamilton	\$29,900	2/1 1 1089 SF GCAD
1013 Mary Ellen	\$29,500	2/1 1 1280 SF GCAD
2630 Seminole	\$28,500	2/1 None 1020 SF GCAD
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310 N. West	\$57,500	4/1 7/5 2 1917 SF GCAD
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704 N. Wells	\$27,500	3/1 7/5 1 1100 SF GCAD
217 N. Faulkner	\$26,200	3/1 1 1020 SF GCAD
2221 N. Sumner	\$26,000	3/1 1 1064 SF GCAD

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420 Jupiter	\$46,500	3/1 5/1 1170 SF GCAD
1224 Darby	\$38,000	3/1 1 877 SF GCAD
500 Lowry	\$35,000	3/1 1 1153 SF GCAD
1304 Terrace	\$29,500	2/1 7/5 1 cp 1392 SF GCAD
525 Powell	\$24,900	2/1 1 972 SF GCAD
1330 E. Kingsmill	\$23,750	2/1 1 cp 1084 SF GCAD
1200 S. Finley	\$21,000	2 or 3/1 1 875 SF GCAD
500 Magnolia	\$20,000	3/1 None 1208 SF GCAD
523 S. Ballard	\$15,000	2/1 None 960 SF GCAD
922 E. Frederic	\$15,000	2/1 1 1068 SF GCAD

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9125 Houston Shamrock	\$71,000	3/2 2 1787 SF GCAD
1 Krowa Momi	\$65,000	3/1 7/5 2 CP 2968 SF RCAD
453 Harrah Miami	\$63,000	3/2 2 1176 SF GCAD
410 Omahunda White Deer	\$45,000	2/1 2 833 SF GCAD
300 W. 6th. Lot	\$47,250	5/3 None 2128 SF GCAD
509 Wilston White Deer	\$34,500	3/1 2 1257 SF GCAD
917 Elmone Borger	\$25,000	2/1 1 det 824 SF GCAD
702 Swift White Deer	\$23,000	4 or 5/1 992 SF + 832 Basement
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, May 3, 2004:
 This year you express unusual abilities and talents that help you create a better work and day-to-day life. Others admire your originality and willingness to take risks. Your creativity speaks for itself. Money well-spent will bring back yet more funds. You could develop into quite the high roller. Taking risks happens naturally, stemming from your confidence and innate abilities. If you are single, you might wave goodbye to that status and greet much more happiness and emotional well-being. This person could prove to be significant in your life history. If you are attached, the two of you will want to add to your mEnage or perhaps develop a more romantic and creative bond. Playfulness appears on tap. SCORPIO can be challenging, but only means to inspire you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ***** Others run with the ball. Go with the trends rather than reject what is going on. Defer, defer and then defer again. A talk late in the afternoon could clue you in to another's thought process. You make points through active talks. Tonight: Mellow out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ***** By focusing on work, you gain a sense of ease and relaxation. You might not be able to achieve everything you want, but you certainly succeed in most areas. Be sure of the funds you are spending. Don't spend what you cannot afford. Tonight: Others run with the ball.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ***** Your high energy allows greater creativity and playfulness. Pace your-

self with ease. Make appropriate professional choices. Dig into work later in the day. You'll accomplish a lot in very little time. Tonight: Hang in at work as late as you need to.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ***** Home in on a personal matter that might be preoccupying you. You need facts, and only facts. Avoid revengeful behavior or expressing yourself harshly. You might be likely to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. Tonight: Let go of work. Get into a pastime you enjoy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ***** You build a stronger friendship or work-related tie. Think about what you want from the here and now, as opposed to long-term goals and desires. You might want to let others run with the ball rather than argue your "rightness." Tonight: Center at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ***** Your finances need a strong review. A boss might take an inordinately strong stand, which could force your hand. Recognize when you need to pull yourself and your energy together. Discussions in the p.m. prove to be more successful than in the recent past. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ***** Resist revealing everything you know before you're ready. Intellectualizing might be nice but not particularly beneficial. Taking the high road to success doesn't mean detaching completely. Listen and share more moneymaking tips. Tonight: Gather your bills together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ***** Hold back and don't put your cards on the table until you feel like it. Pressure from another source could take you to new turf. Laugh and enjoy yourself in the late afternoon, even if

you are working. Work and play are not mutually exclusive. Tonight: As you like it, for a change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ***** Emphasize the daylight hours, when others seek you out. Apparently, you'll find common ground. Meetings, a congenial workplace and conversations draw the kind of interactions you want. Still, you might want and/or need some time alone. Tonight: Vanish if you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ***** Your ability to oil the cogs in the office machinery allows greater energy and enthusiasm. You have what it takes to lead others. Emphasize success and working as a team. A meeting could run late. Tonight: Take talks out of the office and into a favorite restaurant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ***** Sit down and return calls first thing this morning. What appears to be a problem might not be with some review and questioning. You opt to take a stand and express your creative and dynamic ideas. Tonight: Others finally listen.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ***** Deal with an associate on a one-on-one level before you make a major decision. Others share a lot of information, which you might need to digest. Home and personal matters come forward. Detach a bit in order to find answers. Tonight: Think and respond, but don't react.

BORN TODAY
 Singer James Brown (1933), singer Christopher Cross (1951), musician Pete Seeger (1919)

 Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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House ponders how to function if attack incapacitates members

By JIM ABRAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — A biological or chemical attack leaves hundreds of lawmakers too sick to show up at what may be a destroyed Capitol. Others are ready to carry on, but, under rules of Congress, they may be forbidden to act at a time of dire national emergency.

The House and Senate define a quorum, the number needed to do business, as a majority of members "chosen, sworn and living." In the House, that means 218 if all 435 seats are filled.

But what happens, asked House Rules Committee Chairman David Dreier, R-Calif., if 225 members are left alive but incapacitated by a catastrophe. The 210 remaining lawmakers, he said, would fail to constitute a quorum.

Dreier's committee met last week to discuss how to prepare for mass incapacitation, part of an ongoing effort in the post-Sept. 11 era to assure that

Congress will continue to function after a cataclysmic attack.

Earlier in April, the House passed legislation requiring affected states to hold special elections within 45 days after the House speaker declares that a disaster has left more than 100 seats vacant.

The bill dissatisfied many lawmakers. Some would rather have a constitutional amendment to allow the House, like the Senate, to temporarily fill seats by a governor's appointment so as to avoid lengthy gaps in its ability to pass laws.

The House-approved bill also deals only with vacancies created by death, not incapacitation.

The Continuity of Government Commission, a high-level nonpartisan group created in 2002, noted in a report last year that having a few nonfunctioning members is not new to Congress, but "the loss for weeks, months or years of tens or hundreds of incapacitated lawmakers is

another story."

As an example, it said, "a chemical attack might leave thousands in burn units or with respiratory and neurological injuries. If such an attack were centered on Congress, many members could be in hospital intensive care units for months."

The Rules Committee staff came up with a very preliminary draft suggesting that a quorum could temporarily be defined as a majority of those able to respond to the calls of the House. This would occur only after the speaker has determined that a disaster has occurred and after members are unable to respond to multiple summons to the House.

In such circumstances, "it would do well to focus on physical attendance as the measuring device," House Parliamentarian Charles Johnson told the panel.

That still leaves undefined when a member is incapacitated, what comprises a catastrophe and how long this "temporary" reduced quorum

should continue.

Dr. John Eisold, the attending physician to Congress, said incapacitation is a subjective judgment. As the personal doctor to members, Eisold said he would not make a statement to congressional leaders that a member is incapacitated.

"I would respect the member's wishes, even if job performance had deteriorated, and not discuss their health status," he said.

Walter Dellinger, a constitutional scholar and Duke University law professor, said any rules change must be precise enough to prevent political manipulation. "A rule aimed at safeguarding our country in extremis ought not to be drafted in a way that would permit its use by factions aiming for undemocratic results," he said.

On the Net:
House Rules Committee:
<http://www.house.gov/rules/>

Continuity of Government Commission: <http://www.continuityofgovernment.org/>

Construction spending jumps in March 2004; best month on record

WASHINGTON (AP) — Construction spending registered its best month on record in March, but manufacturing growth slowed a bit in April, weighed down in part by higher costs for materials.

The Commerce Department reported Monday that the value of buildings put in place jumped by 1.5 percent in March from February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$944.1 billion, the highest level on record.

The performance was three times bigger than the 0.5 percent increase that some economists were calling for and the gains were fairly broad based. The report also provided further evidence that the construction and housing market in the United States are in good shape. The value of residential projects being worked on by private builders clocked in at an annual rate of \$507.2 billion in March, also an all-time monthly high.

The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index registered 62.4 in April, compared with a reading of 62.5 in March. The new reading was below the expectations of analysts, who had forecast a reading of 62.7.

An index reading above 50 indicates expansion, while one below 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is contracting.

The institute said that the April figure still means the economy is growing, but companies responding to its survey said that higher prices of certain commodities, such as aluminum and steel, were causing some difficulties. The ISM's prices index came in at 88 percent, 2 percentage points higher than in March. It was the 26th consecutive month the index has increased.

In the construction report, the 1.5 percent increase for March came after a modest 0.4 percent rise in February, according to revised figures. That was better than the 0.1 percent dip previously reported for February. January's figure also was revised to show a 0.4 percent drop in spending, not as deep as the 0.8 percent decline previously estimated.

The economy grew at a healthy 4.2 percent annual rate in the January-to-March quarter of this year. Economists believe business growth will be even better in the current quarter, with estimates in the range of around a 4.5 percent to 5 percent pace.

Although the economic recovery is gaining traction, the labor market needs to build on those and get stronger, economists say.

Against that backdrop, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues are widely expected Tuesday to hold a key short-term interest rate at 1 percent, where it has been since last June. Greenspan recently told Congress that ultra-low short term rates, now at a 46-year low, must rise at some point to keep inflation in check, but he didn't say when that might be.

A growing number of economists believe the Fed will begin to raise rates this summer. Some, however, don't think rates will move higher until 2005.

The 1.5 percent increase in construction spending in March marked the largest monthly gain since a 1.6 percent advance posted in July 2003.

The strength in March not only represented brisk spending by private builders on residential and other projects but also stronger investment by government on public works. Spending by state and local governments on construction projects rose to a rate of \$205.1 billion in March, also the highest monthly level on record.

High-level Army investigation finds no evidence Iraq prisoner abuse widespread

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high-level Army investigation of prisoner interrogation techniques in Iraq has found no evidence that abuse by U.S. military police or intelligence officers is widespread, officials said Sunday.

The review continues, however, and the Army has not determined whether all six soldiers charged with abusing Iraqi prisoners will face a military trial.

The investigation, led by officials in the office of the Army's deputy chief of staff for intelligence, is looking broadly at interrogation methods in Iraq. It is not a criminal investigation of the cases that occurred last fall involving the Army Reserve's 372nd Military Police Company, officials said.

Among the most pressing questions is the extent of prisoner abuse and whether it is condoned or encouraged by U.S. military or civilian intelligence officials who have overseen the

interrogations.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, the Army Reserve commander who oversaw the prison system until recently, said in weekend interviews with the New York Times and Washington Post that she knew nothing of the alleged abuse until it was reported. She suggested it may have been encouraged by military intelligence officers, who kept tight control of the cellblock where the abuse occurred.

"I think there are bad people masquerading as soldiers doing bad things to detainees," she said in an interview Sunday evening on ABC News. She said when she first saw the photos of abuse, "I really had to take a couple of seconds because I thought that I might really get sick from it."

Attempts to reach Karpinski, who has returned from Iraq, were unsuccessful Sunday.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights

group, said it has uncovered a "pattern of torture" of Iraqi prisoners by coalition troops. The group called for an independent investigation into the claims of abuse and said it received "scores" of reports of ill treatment of detainees.

Dan Senor, spokesman for the U.S. occupation authority in Baghdad, said the reported abuse is being aggressively investigated by the military.

"Careers will be ended and criminal charges are going to be leveled," he told CNN's "Late Edition."

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he was confident that the vast majority of American soldiers involved in the Iraqi prison system are acting properly. He said it was clear from the high-level Army investigation under way that abuse is not widespread.

"I would say that categorical-

ly," Myers told ABC's "This Week."

"There is no, no evidence of systematic abuse in this system at all," including the U.S. military prison system at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where about 600 suspected terrorists are detained, he said.

"We review all the interrogation methods. Torture is not one of the methods that we're allowed to use and that we use. I mean, it's just not permitted by international law, and we don't use it," Myers said.

The Joint Chiefs chairman said that as soon as the initial allegations came to light, an investigation team was sent to Iraq at the request of Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz. The central focus has been the Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad, but Myers said the investigation is looking at prisons throughout Iraq to determine the extent of abusive or illegal handling of prisoners.

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