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THE Pampa NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2003

NEWS

3, Texas
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WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH	LOW
32	25

STATE

Man accepts deal to stay in doghouse

ORANGE (AP) — A Southeast Texas man accused of forcing his stepson to sleep in a doghouse as a form of discipline has agreed to accept the same punishment in a plea deal with prosecutors.

Curtis Robin Sr. of Vidor was indicted by an Orange County grand jury in August 2001 on charges of injury to a child and faced up to 10 years in prison if convicted before he accepted the plea bargain.

Orange County prosecutors said Robin allegedly whipped his 11-year-old stepson with a car antenna and made him sleep in a doghouse for several days and possibly weeks as punishment. He also forced the boy to chop wood for hours, they said.

In the deal, Robin agreed to plead guilty in exchange for a choice of punishment -- 30 days in the Orange County Jail or 30 nights inside a doghouse.

According to the plea agreement signed Feb. 17, Robin chose the doghouse.

DEATHS

Levi C. Bailey, Jr., 81, retired railroad engineer.

Lou Hestell Killingsworth, 95, homemaker.

James C. Martindale, 66, minister, farmer and rancher.

James Robert "Bob" Moore, 70, sales manager.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE
 It's Tree Planting Season ...
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Ice covers much of Texas; 9 dead

By JAMIE STENGLE
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DALLAS (AP) — A reprieve may be on the horizon for much of North and Central Texas after two nights of sleet, freezing rain and frigid cold that have killed at least nine people.

Authorities said at least six people died in weather-related traffic accidents on icy or rain-slicked roads, and three immigrants died of exposure to the cold in South Texas.

The National Weather Service said more freezing rain is possible Wednesday before temperatures begin

to lift slightly above freezing later in the day. Nevertheless, freezing drizzle was expected Wednesday morning in North and South Central Texas, and many schools will remain closed for a second day Wednesday.

Interstates 20, 35 and 45 south and east of Dallas-Fort Worth were closed all night by jackknifed tractor-trailer rigs, stranding hundreds of motorists in their cars, state officials said.

"As soon as they clear one collision, another was happening," said Senior Corporal Robert White of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

About 350 to 400 drivers were

stranded on Interstates 35-E and 35-W, just north of Hillsboro. They were offered shelter at a church in Hillsboro.

Some sand trucks were stranded, and even tow truck operators were having problems. Gerard Gonzalez said it took him about three hours to drive 25 miles.

"I spun out in my little old car and hit a tree," said the 59-year-old who braved the roads Tuesday night with his wife in his sedan to retrieve a large truck from his company. He recovered, though, and made it to his office.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, at least 36 flights were can-

celed Wednesday morning as freezing drizzle forced aircraft and runways to be deiced. Airport spokesman Ken Capps said the airport train remained shut down Wednesday morning.

At DFW Airport, the temperature Tuesday never topped 28, a record-low maximum for the day breaking the 1960 record of 35, said National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Robbins. In South Texas, Corpus Christi set a daily record for the lowest high temperature: 38. The previous record for the day was 48 in 1960, said National Weather Service meteorolo-

(See ICE, Page 5)

Breakfast banter



Omega Chisum, wife of Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa, visits with Carolyn Witherspoon of Amarillo and Ginger Walton of Fritch during a breakfast hosted by Panhandle communities Tuesday morning for legislators in Austin.

(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Pampa PD issues alert for suspect in break-in

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Pampa Police Department officials urge residents report any information they might have regarding an assault of a local woman on Thursday, Feb. 20.

During the late evening on that date, a man entered a residence without consent and assaulted the lone female resident in one of the city's northeast neighborhoods.

The male was dressed in a black ski mask, black shirt and pants. The only description of the male is that he is possibly white, tall, and has a thin but muscular build, according to police officials. Caution is urged by local police.

Citizens are urged to be aware of their surroundings and to secure their doors and windows properly.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Det. Connie Ogle Lockridge with the Pampa PD Criminal Investigation Division at 669-5700.

War plans include targeting Saddam Hussein

By BARRY SCHWEID
 AP DIPLOMATIC WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush called Saddam Hussein "a master of disguise and delay" Wednesday and mocked the Iraqi leader for disclosing some weapons that he'd previously denied were in his arsenal.

On a day in which the White House threatened Saddam with trial as a war criminal in the event of war, Bush said, "The danger with Iraq is that he can strike in the neighborhood and the danger

with Iraq is that he has got the willingness and capacity to train al-Qaida type organizations and provide them with equipment to hurt Americans."

Saddam "will be disarmed one way or the other," the president declared as his administration prepared for another faceoff at the United Nations on a resolution designed to bring about the disarmament of Iraq.

In remarks before the Latino Coalition, however, Bush stopped short of repeating previous claims of an already existing link between

Iraq and al-Qaida terrorists. But he did say, "The world has waited a long time for Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm."

From the speech, Bush stepped into a meeting with President Geidar Aliev of Azerbaijan, a country 250 miles northeast of Iraq, which has backed the U.S. call for Iraq's disarmament.

On Tuesday, Bush said that if the Iraqi president and his generals "take innocent life, if they destroy infrastructure, they will be held accountable as war criminals."

In other developments:

—French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said waging war against Iraq now — without exhausting all peaceful means for disarming Saddam — would split the international community and "be perceived as precipitous and illegitimate."

—U.S. warplanes bombed two military communications sites in southern Iraq Wednesday, marking the fourth American strike on Iraq in two days.

The U.S. Central Command said American planes bombed the two communications sites,

which help tie together Iraq's air defense network, at about 8:35 a.m. EST.

—Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman was dispatched to Brussels to confer with members of the NATO alliance.

Bush was to give a speech on Iraq later Wednesday at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank from which he drew many of his aides.

He was expected to argue that Saddam is a menace to the Iraqi people and that getting

(See WAR, Page 5)

City Commission to meet

Pampa City Commission will consider the future of two city advisory boards when they meet in regular session Thursday.

Commission members will discuss eliminating both the Traffic Commission and the M.K. Brown Auditorium advisory boards when they meet in their 5 p.m. work session on the second floor of Pampa City Hall on Thursday.

Discussion on adopting a resolution to authorize a grant application for Pampa Middle School Resource Officer program will also be held. The application will be to the Criminal Justice Planning Fund.

Also, a resolution approving regulations for antenna use on reservoirs and lease form will be discussed.

Police chief Trevlyn Pitner will present the Pampa Police Department's racial profiling policy.

A first reading of an ordinance providing

for a fee for the Municipal Court Building Security Fund will be considered.

Second and final reading of two ordinances will be discussed. One ordinance is to amend the 2002-2003 City of Pampa operating budget while the second deals with revision of the penalty for late payment on utility bills, fees for reconnection of discontinued services and providing for a returned check charge.

Consideration of the appointment and/or reappointment of members to the Cable Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Hidden Hills Golf Advisory Board and the Lovett Memorial Library Board will be given.

Options regarding a correction to Texas Municipal Retirement System for four employees will be considered.

No action will be taken in the work session. Action is taken in the regular meeting at 6 p.m. in the Pampa City Commission Chamber.

Storm spotter training offered next Tuesday

Tornado season will soon be arriving in the Texas Panhandle and storm spotter training is just around the corner.

Hoover Volunteer Fire Department will host a severe storm spotter session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, and is encouraging anyone interested in wanting to learn about tornado watching to attend.

Steve Drillette, who is the warning coordinator meteorologist for the National Weather Service of Amarillo, will be the guest speaker. He serves the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles.

The two-hour program will be at Hoover VFD Station 2 on Price Road and Highway 152.

This program is for serious storm spotters as well as beginners. Rural residents of Gray and Roberts Counties are especially encouraged to attend.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting 669-8297.

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OBITUARIES

LEVI C. BAILEY, JR. 1921-2003

Levi C. Bailey, Jr., 81, of Pampa, died Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2003. Services will be at 10 a.m., Thursday in First Christian Church with the Rev. Barry A. Loving, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Bailey, a lifelong Pampa resident, was born April 13, 1921, at Southmayd, Texas. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1939 and married Rachel Ray Barnett on June 3, 1958, at Pampa; she died May 22, 2001.

He retired from Santa Fe Railroad as an engineer in 1985 and was a HAM operator. His call numbers were W5EZT.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in the Philippines with the 37th Division during World War II.

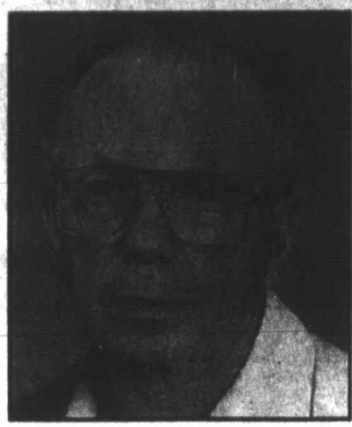
He was a member of First Christian Church and Santa Fe UT Union.

Survivors include three sons, Raymond Bailey of Leadville, Colo., Levi Bailey, III,

of Lafayette, La., and Brent Bailey of Duncanville; five daughters, D i a n n e Widener of Moore, Okla., Joyce Hadley and Helen Barnett, both of Pampa, Debrah Taylor of Kaw City, Okla., and Charlene Williams of Denver, Colo.; four brothers, Carl Bailey of Lubbock, Eddie Bailey of Fritch, Roy Bailey of Amarillo and Ray Bailey of Stinnett; 16 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First Christian Church Roof Fund, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



JAMES C. MARTINDALE 1936-2003

SHAMROCK — James C. Martindale, 66, died Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2003, at Elk City, Okla. Services will be at 2 p.m., Friday in First Baptist Church of McLean with the Rev. Truman Ledbetter, of Clarendon, and the Rev. Lewis Ellis, of Pampa, officiating. Burial will be in Dozier Cemetery at Dozier under the direction of Wright Funeral Directors of Shamrock.

Mr. Martindale was born Oct. 5, 1936, at Lone Mound, to Bart and Lillie Martindale. He married Sherrie Grogan in 1955. A minister for 25 years, he pastored churches in Samnorwood, Howardwick and Adrian. He moved back to the Shamrock area in 1995 and had been involved in farming and ranching and had worked as cotton ginner and an oil field driller.

He was a Samnorwood School Board member, a former member of Samnorwood Lions Club and belonged to McLean First Baptist Church where he was a deacon.

Survivors include his wife, Sherrie, of Shamrock; three sons, Kim Martindale and Scot Martindale, both of Wellington, and Gib Martindale of Clarendon; a daughter, Leitha Watson of Clarendon; a brother, Kenneth Martindale of Shamrock; two sisters, Joy Uselton of Amarillo and Judy Abernethy of Keltos; nine grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m., Thursday at the funeral home. The family will be at 901 S. Houston in Shamrock and requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

LOU HESTELL KILLINGSWORTH 1907-2003

WHEELER — Lou Hestell Killingsworth, 95, died Monday, Feb. 24, 2003. Services will be at 2 p.m., Thursday in First Baptist Church with Dr. Toby Henson, pastor, and the Rev. Bill Stiles officiating. Burial will be in Wheeler Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Home.

Mr. Killingsworth was born July 20, 1907, at McAlester, Okla., to Walter Allen and Minnie Olar Kelley Thompson, and attended McAlester schools. She married Jesse D. Simmons on Aug. 17, 1928, in Collingsworth County; he died in 1935. The couple moved to Wheeler County in 1928.

She married Clarence O. Killingsworth on

Feb. 11, 1937, at Wheeler; he died in 1981.

She belonged to First Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school and served on the Hostess Committee. She was president of Wheeler County Gospel Singing Convention and North Wheeler County Garden Club.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, Jesse L. Simmons, in 1999.

Survivors include a son, Virgil Simmons of Wheeler; a daughter, Elwanda Gille of Littleton, Colo.; six grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Crown of Texas Hospice, 1000 S. Jefferson St., Amarillo, TX 79109; or to a favorite charity.

SERVICES TOMORROW

BAILEY, Levi C., Jr. — 10 a.m., First Christian Church, Pampa. KILLINGSWORTH, Lou Hestell — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Wheeler.

JAMES ROBERT 'BOB' MOORE 1932-2003

WHEELER — James Robert "Bob" Moore, 70, died Monday, Feb. 24, 2003. Graveside services were to be at 2 p.m., today in Wheeler Cemetery with Dr. Toby Henson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wheeler, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Wright Funeral Home.

Mr. Moore was born Sept. 10, 1932, in Wheeler County, to J.C. and Jewel Kerr Moore, and attended Wheeler schools. He was a salesman and manager for 30 years and lived for Virginia for 12 years prior to moving back to Wheeler in 1979.

He was a member of Wheeler First Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Earlene Moore; his father, J.C.; and three sisters, JoRear Hubbard, LaVeta Williams and Sherry Moore.

Survivors include a daughter, Vicki Gurley of Perryton; his mother, Jewel of Wheeler; a sister, Jerrie Moore of Wheeler; and two grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Crown of Texas Hospice, 1000 S. Jefferson St., Amarillo, TX 79109.

ON RECORD

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents.

Monday, Feb. 24

5:40 p.m. — No citations were issued when Michael Ryan Eskridge, 18, 2402 Charles, backed a 1989 Dodge Ram Van from a driveway in the 2400 block of Charles, striking a 2000 Dodge Neon owned by Misty Dawn Jimenez, 32, 843 Murphy. The Neon was stopped along curb on the west side of Charles.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

3:19 p.m. — Wilhelma Kuhr Beck, 78, 1940 Fir, was cited for failure to yield right of way at a yield sign when the 2001 Chevy Suburban she was driving continued through the intersection of Evergreen and Dogwood striking a 1996 Cadillac driven by Meagan Michelle Craig, 18, 2619 Navajo.

3:25 p.m. — A hit and run was reported when a residence owner reported fence damage to the police. An unknown vehicle was believed to be westbound on Montasu when it struck a fence at the residence of 501 North Wells, according to the police report. The report stated no debris from the vehicle was found, and the owner said the damage to the fence had been within the previous two days.

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents.

Monday, Feb. 24

Theft of 31 CDs and 26 books was reported stolen in the 1600 block of Fir. Estimate of loss was \$965.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Report of criminal mischief was made in the 2200 block of North Russell. A vehicle was egged. A window in a vehicle was reported broken out in the 1600 block of Fir. Estimate of loss was \$250.

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday, Feb. 25

7:38 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Christine; one patient was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

2:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Chestnut; one patient was transported to PRMC.

STOCKS

Table with 2 columns: Stock name and price change. Includes items like Halliburton, Triad Hospitals, NOI, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock name and price change. Includes items like Exon Mobil, Atmos, Pioneer Nat, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock name and price change. Includes items like Stock Market quotations, Wal-Mart, OKE, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Stock name and price change. Includes items like Cabot Corp, Cabot Oil Gas, Coca Cola, VLO, etc.

SHERIFF

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

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Wade Ray Wood, 30, 731 Naida, was arrested on four issuance of bad check warrants out of Justice of Peace Precinct Two. He was also arrested on Ochiltree County warrants for speeding and unsafe passing, and three municipal warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, running a red light and failure to appear.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Pat Jarrett Helton, 30, Allison, was arrested on a district court warrant for delivery of a controlled substance.

Frank Jeffery Walker, 47, 2233 Hamilton, was arrested for violation of probation. Original charge was theft by check.

FIRE

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

Tuesday, Feb. 25

1:15 p.m. - Two units and six firefighters

responded to a fire alarm at One Medical Plaza. The call was canceled enroute. The alarm had been activated for a fire drill.

5:39 p.m. - One unit and two firefighters responded to a dumpster fire in the alley of the 700 block of Faulkner.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for cloudy skies, a 50 percent chance of precipitation (chance of freezing rain and rain in the afternoon), highs in the lower 30s and light winds. Tonight should be mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow, lows in the mid 20s and east winds 5 to 15 mph. Thursday should be mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Thursday night...Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow. Lows in the upper 20s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Chance of snow 20 percent. Friday...Mostly

cloudy. Chance of rain and snow. Highs in the mid 40s. East winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain and snow 30 percent. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Saturday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Tuesday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

STATEWIDE

Light freezing drizzle this morning was forecast over nearly all of the state, compounding an already icy situation in north Texas.

Extreme northeast Texas may see a little accumulation of frozen precipitation this morning. The Panhandle may see some snow this afternoon and tonight, and far northwest Texas may see some freezing precipitation tonight.

But elsewhere no more sleet, snow or freezing rain is expected through the weekend. Temperatures were expected to warm to above freezing by midmorning in Central Texas and creep toward that mark in North Texas this afternoon.

The entire state felt the chill Tuesday. The city recording the highest temperature was El Paso with 58 degrees. Last

night's low was 10 in Dalhart.

In West Texas today, areas of light freezing rain are forecast this morning in the southern Panhandle, South Plains and further south. Rain or snow is possible in the Panhandle this afternoon and tonight. Highs today may linger in the 20s in parts of the Panhandle but it will be warmer south and west, with highs mostly in the 50s. On Thursday and Friday, no precipitation is forecast and temperatures will remain in the same range as Wednesday, but warming some in the Panhandle and southern parts of West Texas. Skies should begin to clear. The weekend looks free of precipitation, with skies clouding up by Sunday in many areas, and high temperatures ranging from the 40s in the north to the 60s south and west.

South Texas will see freezing drizzle early this morning in all but the deep south, but it should end by midmorning. Otherwise today it will be cloudy and cool with rain or drizzle likely southeast and afternoon drizzle possible in the Coastal Bend and Rio Grande Plains. Highs will be chilly today, mostly in the 40s except warmer deep south and coast. Thursday and Friday will continue cloudy and warm up some, with highs in the 50s southeast and 60s elsewhere. A chance of rain moves back into the forecast Friday north and southeast. The trend Saturday and Sunday will be for increasing clouds and a chance of rain over most of South Texas by Sunday. It will warm into the 60s in Southeast Texas Saturday and Sunday.

TEXAS ROUND-UP

Houston man executed for stabbing disabled woman

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Condemned killer Richard Head Williams acknowledged his crimes and asked for forgiveness before he was put to death for fatally slashing and stabbing a wheelchair-bound woman in Houston less than a month after he got out of prison six years ago.

In a written statement released after his death Tuesday night, however, he criticized the Texas criminal justice system for being "just as crooked as I am said to be."

"Now I lay here dead," he wrote.

"But we have gave all Texans the sign that in some instances and some cases, 'Killing is alright to do as long it's for justice of the American people,'" he printed in capital letters. "So who win? No one do!"

He was more reserved in his spoken words from the Texas death chamber gurney, apologizing for the pain he caused his family and saying he was sorry for killing 44-year-old Jeanette Williams.

A San Antonio family is mourning the loss of one of four Army soldiers killed in the crash of a U.S. Army helicopter.

Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez, 26, of San Antonio had been in Kuwait for three weeks, the San Antonio Express-News reported in Wednesday's editions: He was killed with three other soldiers Tuesday when their Black Hawk helicopter crashed during night training in the Kuwait desert.

The aircraft, which belonged to the Army's V Corps, was part of the force that has massed in this Persian Gulf emirate for a possible invasion of Iraq.

Tuesday night, members of Gonzalez's family gathered in the front yard of their home on San Antonio's West Side.

"I loved him. I love him," said his tearful father, Ramiro Gonzalez Sr. "What happened hurts. There are no words for this."

City Briefs

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

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FOR ALL your travel needs, call Complete Travel, 669-6110.

AS PART of our continued commitment to the Citizens of Pampa, the Police Dept. is offering extended hours of operation for the Records Office. Beginning Mon., Feb. 17th, the Records Office at the Police Dept. will be open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday thru Thursday. The Records Office will be open 7 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays.

KNIGHTS OF Columbus Polish Sausage Dinner March 2, 11-3, 318 N. Cuyler. \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door. For tickets contact Jack Albracht @ 665-7161, 665-5745.

SALE WINTER Clothes. Out. Great Bargains! Many items \$1 & up. Twice Is Nice

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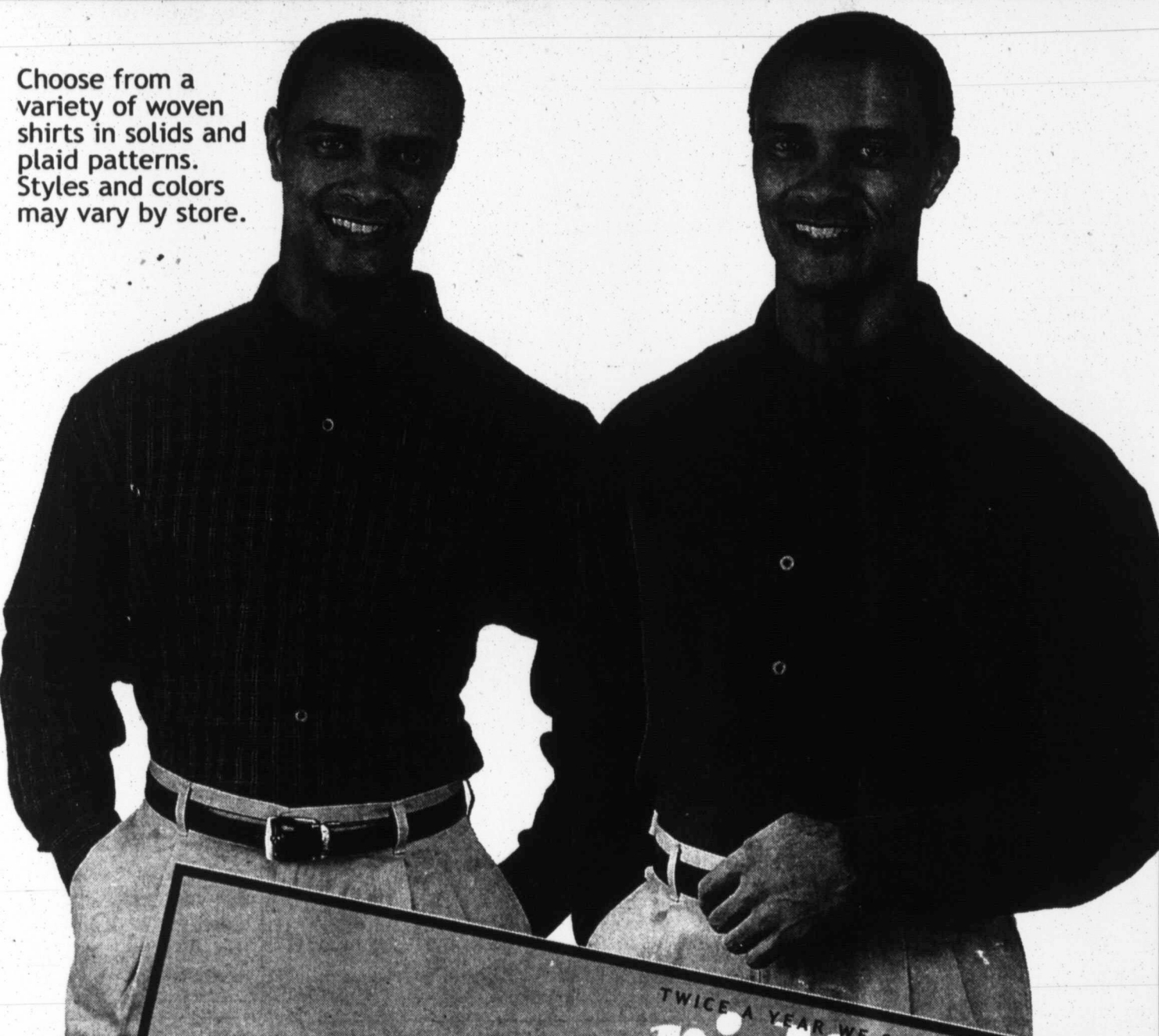
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MENS WOVEN SHIRTS

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SALE 29.99

SELECT WOMENS SHOES

Mia leather slides and thongs in a variety of styles and colors Reg. 46.00
Life Stride closed back, open toe flat available in black, navy, tan, red and bronze Reg. 40.00



Moda Spana strap wedge available in black, bronze and taupe Reg. 60.00

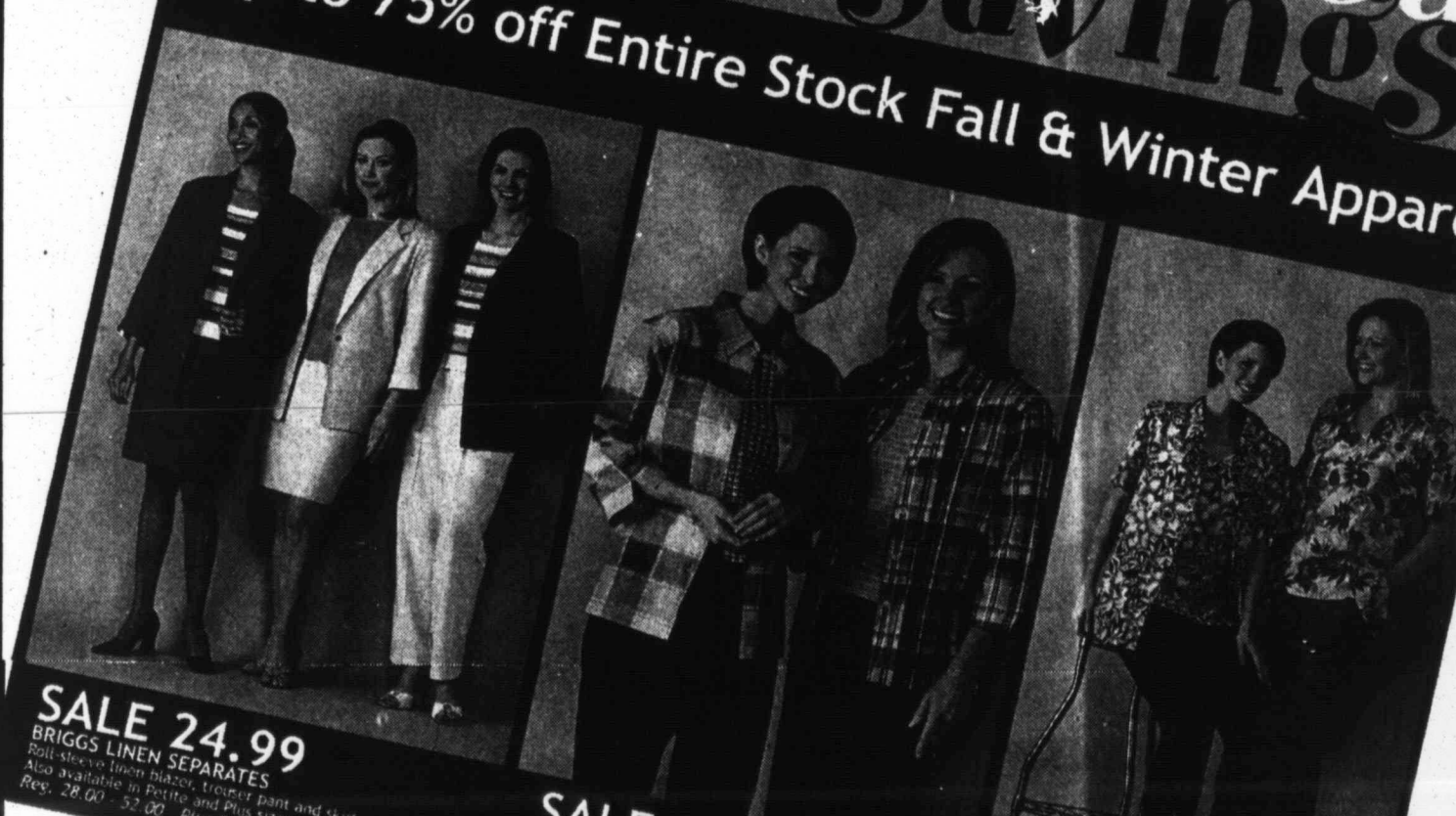
SALE 7.99

ALBUMS & FRAMES

Assorted 4x6 photo albums Reg. 24.00
Assorted 4x6 photo frames Reg. 20.00



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SALE 24.99

BRIGGS LINEN SEPARATES

2001-2002 linen blazer, tunic, pant and skirt. Also available in Petite and Plus Sizes. Reg. 28.00 - 52.00 Plus Size Reg. 34.00 SALE 26.99

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ANGELIQUE SHIRTS

Long-sleeved, plaid button-down with pocket detail. Reg. 26.00

SALE 26.99

3-PIECE PANT SET

Mens, fleece, 3-piece pant set. Print tops with solid pants. Sizes S, M, L, XL. Reg. 50.00

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YOUNG ATTITUDE

and winter knit misses sweater now 19.99. Great selections now from up to 54.00

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JACKET DRESS

Short-sleeve, lightweight denim jacket dresses in a variety of embroideries. Reg. 48.00

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Assorted prints and colors in 4-in Jacquard. Reg. 34.00 - 38.00

DUNLAPS

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Monday - Saturday 10-6; Sunday 1-5

Coronado Center

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At least 10 die in Hartford nursing home fire

By NOREEN GILLESPIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A fire tore through part of a Hartford nursing home early Wednesday, killing at least 10 people and injuring 20. Officials said the fire was considered suspicious, and one person was arrested.

The fire broke out at the Greenwood Health Center at about 2:30 a.m., forcing dazed elderly residents out on the street in single-digit temperatures as firefighters tried to save those left behind. Many residents are bedridden or confined to wheelchairs. Others are blind or mentally retarded.

"Upon my arrival, it became apparent that all

hands would be needed," said Hartford Fire Chief Charles Teale. "It's not just the fire that kills, it's the smoke."

Teale said 20 people were taken to hospitals, five of them in critical condition. More than 100 people were evacuated, he said. Matt Hennessy, an assistant to Mayor Eddie Perez, said at least 10 people had died.

Arson investigators were on the scene, and Teale said one person had been arrested. He declined to comment on the possible cause of the fire, but said: "We do have substantial leads regarding that matter. We do have someone in custody at this time."

Family members rushed to the fire to see if their loved ones were safe, and confused

residents were seen seeking shelter.

State Rep. Minnie Gonzalez said one woman pleaded, "Please take me to my room. I'm cold."

One woman looking for her mother ran up the street sobbing, holding her temples and yelling in broken English.

"Where is the fire, where is the fire?" she cried.

The fire affected only one of the building's three sections. Family members looked through the windows of undamaged sections to try and find loved ones.

Donna Smith saw her father, Charles Harrison, through a window.

"Oh, Lord!" she screamed. "Thank you, Jesus." She bent down to kiss the snow.

Others were still searching. Jolie Marrero was looking for her uncle, 54-year-old Juan Sanchez. "He couldn't even have gotten out if wanted to. He's blind," she said.

The injured were taken to hospitals around the state, and many had respiratory injuries and burns, officials said.

The fire was extinguished a few hours after it started.

Streets around the home were blocked off except for emergency vehicles.

Chris Cooper, a spokesman for Gov. John G. Rowland, said the state fire marshal and Department of Public Health were responding.

"The critical issue now is to make sure of the safety of the other patients," Cooper said.

Nine victims had been identified, but no names were immediately released, Hennessy said.

The first alarm was at 2:35 a.m. and followed by a second alarm five minutes later.

Philadelphia black officers filing lawsuit

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Three black police officers who said they were assigned to desk jobs for growing beards have filed a lawsuit, claiming the dispute was symptomatic of pervasive racism in their station house.

The men said they are among 10 black officers in the same division who filed complaints with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency that investigates discrimination claims.

The federal lawsuit said white commanders at the officer's station created an atmosphere of "pervasive and relentless discrimination, harassment and retaliation" by refusing to authorize overtime pay for black detectives and penalizing blacks more severely for minor workplace infractions.

The suit, filed by Detective Terrance Anderson, Detective Darryl Pearson and Officer Terrence Davis, said the problems began when they were diagnosed with pseudofolliculitis barbae, a skin condition common in black men that makes shaving painful.

Doctors told the officers the irritation would subside if they grew short, neat beards. But the officers said white supervisors refused to believe the condition was real, and retaliated by transferring them to clerical jobs.

CCPC open house



(Courtesy photo) Clarendon College-Pampa Center held an open house recently for area high school students. Included in the tour was the computer lab and the ITV rooms. Instructor DeWayne Stevens, right, explains the requirements for an associates of applied science degree in computer networking technology to Robert Germany, left, and Chase Mynear, both students at White Deer High School.

THE Pampa NEWS

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Turkish legislators urged to approve U.S. troop deployment

By JAMES C. HELICKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's foreign minister urged legislators Wednesday to approve an agreement to let in U.S. troops to open a northern front in a possible war with Iraq. Secretary of State Colin Powell warned that time was running out for a decision.

Foreign Minister Yasar Yakis' comments came at a tense meeting of his Justice and Development Party, which is discussing a government proposal to authorize the deployment of 62,000 U.S. combat troops, 255 warplanes and 65 helicopters.

Powell called Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul Tuesday night and emphasized that a decision needs to be made quickly, the Anatolia news agency reported. The U.S. Embassy confirmed that the call took place but gave no details.

The head of the governing Justice party said the troop deployment bill will likely be approved after it is debated in parliament on Thursday.

"I trust my friends," Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is seen as the power behind the scenes in

Turkey, said in an interview with CNN-Turk television.

Some 60 deputies in Erdogan's Islamic-rooted party oppose authorizing the basing of U.S. troops, according to reports. The Justice Party has 362 seats in the 550-member legislature. Most analysts expect the deployment to win approval.

Also Wednesday, Turkey evacuated its Baghdad embassy.

"There is the possibility that there may be reactions in Baghdad. In order to prevent this, we reached the conclusion that it would be better to evacuate our Baghdad embassy," Yakis told reporters.

Some Turkish lawmakers have hinted that they will vote against the bill.

U.S. ships carrying tanks and armor for the U.S. 4th Infantry Division already are off the Turkish coast and some 500 jeeps and tank transport trucks have been unloaded in the southern port of Iskenderun. U.S. officials say a northern front is a critical part of their war strategy, which calls for dividing Iraqi forces between the north and south.

The trucks and jeeps have been unloaded over the past week, but have not been moved out of the port. U.S. soldiers in fatigues but bearing no guns were seen checking the vehicles.

"The authorization must be accepted so that Turkey can have a say in Iraq," Anatolia quoted Yakis as telling lawmakers.

The party debate ended Wednesday afternoon and is expected to resume Thursday. A parliamentary vote is extremely unlikely before Thursday.

Turkey fears that Iraq could fragment during a war, with Kurds in the north declaring independence. That could encourage separatist sentiments in Turkey's own Kurdish minority.

Yakis also expressed reservations about the Kurdish question and warned that letting in the U.S. troops would harm relations with Arab states and "terror acts could occur."

But he urged legislators to vote in favor of the bill to ensure that Turkey maintains influence in a post-war Iraq.

During a break in the debate, legislator Husamettin Baser urged party leader Erdogan to vote against the U.S. troop deployment.

"It isn't always beneficial to say no," Erdogan told him, pointing out that Turkey had to pay back billions in international loans this year.

U.S. and Turkish negotiators have been working to iron out details of an economic package designed to cushion the Turkish economy if there is a war.

Diplomats say the economic package includes \$5 billion in grants and \$10 billion in loans, but some of the grants could be exchanged for far larger loans.

Most analysts predict the measure will pass. Although many Cabinet members expressed reservations about the bill, all signed the proposal.

Rejecting the bill would almost certainly mean losing U.S. support at a time when Turkey is starting to emerge from a deep recession.

Washington's support has been crucial in winning loans from the International Monetary Fund and the United States has pushed Turkey's candidacy for the European Union.

"The important thing is our national interests," said legislator Erdogan Ozege, who supported the bill.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ICE

gist Bob Burton.
"It was a very cold day in South Texas," Burton said Tuesday evening. "We usually don't see temperatures confined to the 30s for day-time highs."
U.S. Border Patrol agents from Falfurrias apprehended five immigrants Tuesday morning who told them they were desperately searching for help for a friend who had become sick in the brush. Agents found the man dead of exposure. Fifteen minutes later, agents found two more bodies nearby. It wasn't immediately clear where the men were from.
The sleet and ice that hit

Monday night remained on the ground Tuesday to bedevil motorists in North Texas, and another round of icy weather forced the closing of portions of Interstates 35 and 10 leading out of San Antonio late Tuesday night.
The Texas Department of Public Safety reported weather-related traffic fatalities including Fannin, Colorado, Kendall and Fayette, spokeswoman Tela Mange said. A traffic death also occurred in San Antonio.
Ramon Saenz Flores, 34, who was fifth in the trainer standings at Sam Houston Race Park near Houston, was killed Tuesday morning when his pickup hit an icy patch on an Interstate 10

overpass in Schulenburg, a DPS spokesman said. His passenger, animal groomer Rafael Hernandez, 40, of Fort Worth, was in stable condition at Fayette Memorial Hospital with minor head and internal injuries, DPS said. Track officials said the horses were in good condition.
Kendall County Sheriff's Deputy Charles Motz found the body of Trudy Harris, 76, of Fredericksburg, beside her crumpled vehicle about 9 a.m. Tuesday under a bridge on I-10 near Comfort.
In northeastern Bexar County, Modesto Garza Jr., 49, died about 8 a.m. after he lost control of his vehicle on an icy Salitrillo Creek bridge near I-10.

Several residents of an apartment complex in Mesquite weren't able to drive after carpools collapsed under the weight of ice, trapping about 50 vehicles in their parking spaces.
Officials at Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services said they have mobilized private ambulance services to help answer the many calls from people injured in falls on icy walks and steps. They also have asked fire trucks to help transport people to hospitals.
The storm shut down hundreds of school districts throughout North, Central and East Texas on Tuesday, Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe estimated.

Some students perhaps rejoiced at the news, since Tuesday was the day they were scheduled to take the new Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) examinations across Texas.
Schools that were open by 10 a.m. were advised to give the test, while those whose doors remained closed were to give it on the next full school day, Ratcliffe said.
Most of Waco's Baylor University shut down Tuesday, but 70 law school students went to class anyway to start taking the three-day state bar exam, which is given twice a year. Because the same exam is given at several locations in Texas, any delay of even a day

could threaten the test's security, officials said.
"It's tough out there in (law) practice, and we try to get them ready for that here," said Baylor law school dean Brad Toben. "You know, courthouses don't always close because of inclement weather."
The University of Texas at Austin was set to open late, at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

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Jungle Book 2 Starts Friday 2-28-03

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WAR

rid of him would make the Middle East — including the volatile Israeli-Palestinian conflict — more stable.
Bush also was to stress the prospects for democracy in a post-Saddam Iraq and the United States' intention to address humanitarian needs caused by possible war, said his spokesman, Ari Fleischer.
Offering Congress and the American public a peek into war and postwar preparations, the Army's top general said Tuesday that a military occupying force could total several hundred thousand soldiers.
Iraq is "a piece of geography that's fairly significant," Gen. Eric K. Shinseki said at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Any postwar occupying force, he said, would have to be big enough to maintain safety in a

country with "ethnic tensions that could lead to other problems."
Shinseki said he couldn't give specific numbers of the size of an occupation force but would rely on the recommendations of commanders in the region.
"How about a range?" asked Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the senior Democrat on the committee.
"I would say that what's been mobilized to this point, something on the order of several hundred thousand soldiers," the general said.
"Assistance from friends and allies would be helpful."
Afterward, Levin called Shinseki's estimate "very sobering."
On Wednesday, the White House sought to minimize the impact of Shinseki's testimony, with Fleischer declining to repeat his estimate. "It's impossible to guess the exact

numbers of people that would be involved in any longer-term effort," he said.
In a speech prepared for Wednesday delivery to the Council on Foreign Relations, Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., was calling on the Bush administration to work with the United Nations to name an international administrator to oversee reconstruction of Iraq.
A U.S. civilian administrator "would put America in the position of an occupying power, not a liberator," said Lieberman, who is running for the Democratic nomination for president in 2004. "And it may well widen the gulf between the United States and the Arab world."
In northern Iraq, which was pried from Saddam's control to protect Kurdish civilians after the 1991 Persian Gulf war, White House and State Department officials were holding a meeting with politi-

cal opponents of Saddam's government. The aim was to help plan the kind of govern-

ment that would take over in Baghdad after an ouster of Saddam.

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THE Pampa NEWS COMICS

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 26, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

For Diabetics, Heart Health Is Matter Of Life And Death

DEAR ABBY: February is devoted to "matters of the heart." As president of the American Diabetes Association, I offer this message to your readers and to the 17 million Americans with diabetes: The "heart matters" when treating diabetes — much more than people realize.

Two out of three people with diabetes will die from heart attack or stroke unless they manage their blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol. The following are the ABCs of diabetes:

(A) **ALC**, the test that measures average blood sugar over the past three months, should be less than seven, and checked at least twice a year.

(B) **BLOOD PRESSURE** should be below 130/80 and measured at every visit with your doctor.

(C) **CHOLESTEROL** (LDL or "bad") should be below 100 and checked once a year.

It's imperative that people with diabetes work closely with their health-care provider to determine what steps they can take to reach their ABC goals. Some people may have to make changes in their meal plans or exercise routines. In many cases, medicines are needed to keep the ABCs on track.

The American Diabetes Association and the American College of Cardiology have launched a major assault on diabetes and cardiovascular disease through an initiative called "Make the Link! Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke." Abby, please encourage your readers to learn more about this effort by calling (800) 342-2383 or visiting our Web site: www.diabetes.org/makethelink. **FRANCINE KAUFMAN, M.D.**

DEAR DR. KAUFMAN: Thank you for an important letter. Out of the 17 million Americans with diabetes, almost 6 million don't know they have it. That's because diabetes develops gradually, often without obvious signs or symptoms.

The most common symptoms of Type 1 diabetes are: frequent urination, unusual thirst, extreme hunger, unusual weight loss, extreme fatigue and irritability. Type 2 diabetes symptoms are the same as Type 1, plus: frequent infections, blurred

vision, cuts/bruises that are slow to heal, tingling/numbness in the hands or feet, and recurring skin, gum or bladder infections.

There is a quick and easy test to see if you are at risk on the Web site: www.diabetes.org/risktest.

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Alicia," and I were married three months ago. We have a large circle of friends who gave us wonderful wedding gifts.

Yesterday, a package arrived in the mail. It was addressed only to Alicia, but we opened it together. Inside, we found a beautifully framed photograph of Alicia with her old boyfriend, "Enrico." It had been taken several years ago on Maui. They were laughing with their arms around each other (in wet bathing suits) in front of a beautiful tropical sunset. I was very offended. I took the photograph out of the frame and tore it up. Alicia thinks I overreacted, but I couldn't

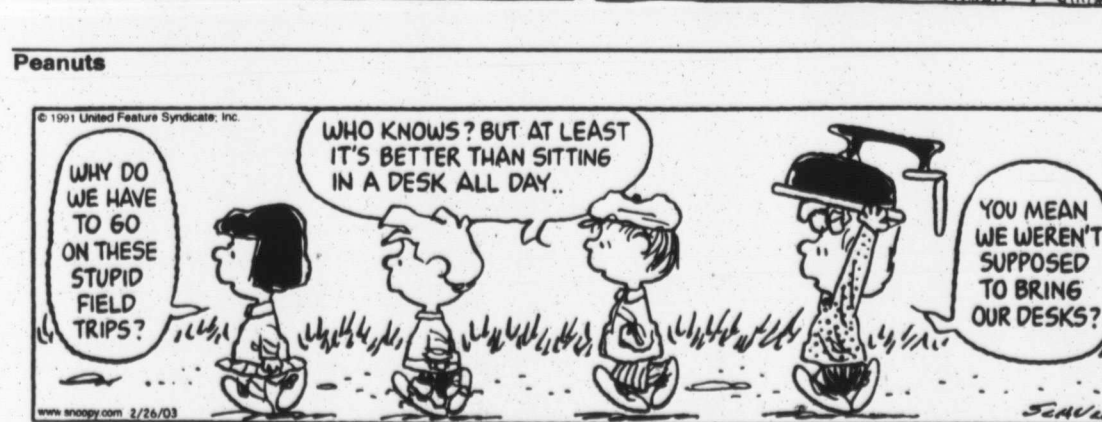
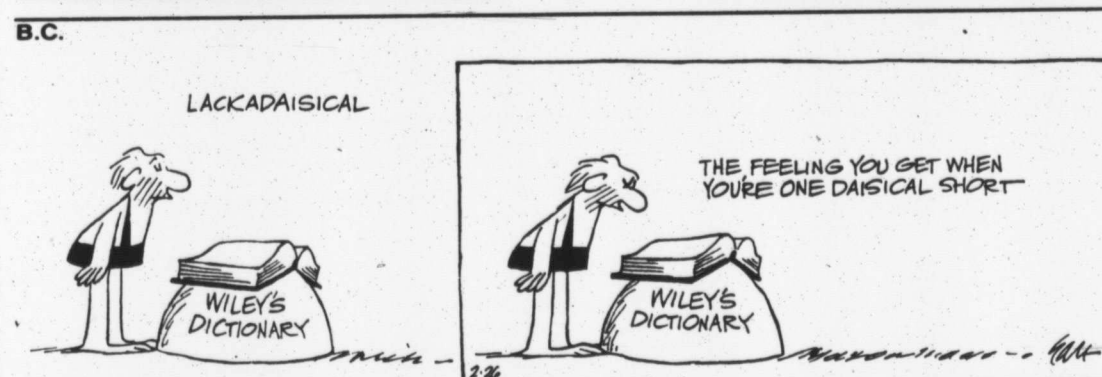
help myself. Enrico has never liked me because "I took Alicia away from him." I believe he intentionally wanted to push my buttons — and he succeeded. I totally trust Alicia, but feel my anger was justified. What do you think?

BUMMED BY THE BEACH PHOTO

DEAR BUMMED: I think you played right into Enrico's hands. Look at it on the positive side: You have Alicia and a nice picture frame. All poor Enrico has are his memories — and the negative.

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 an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Crossword Puzzle

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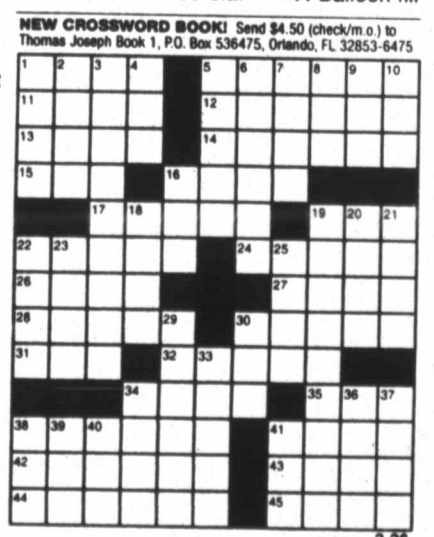
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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 - 11 Director's cry
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 - 13 Plans a play
 - 14 Scads
 - 15 Cincinnati team
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 - 17 Almanac fill
 - 18 Picnic pest
 - 19 Plateau of Arkansas
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 - 22 Robin's love
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 - 24 Without delay
 - 25 Glow
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 - 2 "Waterloo" band
 - 3 Before long
 - 4 Distantly
 - 5 Comfort
 - 6 Like the Beatles
 - 7 Districts
 - 8 Bob's co-star
 - 9 Balloon fill
 - 10 First fellow
 - 11 ___ du pays (home-sickness)
 - 12 Had lunch
 - 13 Angling aid
 - 14 Balloon fill

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Yesterday's answer

22 "Waterloo" band
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 38 ___ du pays (home-sickness)
 39 Had lunch
 40 Angling aid
 41 Balloon fill



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The Family Circus



"Jeffy made up a game for us to play, but he won't tell me what the rules are."

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SPORTS

NOTEBOOK

BASKETBALL

Frenship defeated Pampa 49 to 40 in a regional quarterfinal game Tuesday night. More details will be available in Thursday's edition.

SOCCER SIGN-UP

Registration for the Spring 2003 season of the Pampa Soccer Association is set for Saturday, March 1.

This registration is only for players who did not sign up last August for the fall season. New players may sign up at T-Shirts & More, 111 W. Kingmill, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Team practices begin Monday, March 3, with the first game set for Saturday, March 22. The season will run seven weeks with final games scheduled on May 3. No games will be held the weekend of April 19.

For more information, call 665-3036.

BASEBALL

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The widow of Steve Bechler plans to sue the manufacturer of a dietary supplement the Baltimore Orioles pitcher was believed to be taking before his death.

Bechler, 23, died Feb. 17 from heatstroke after collapsing during a workout at training camp. In his preliminary autopsy report, Broward County chief medical examiner Dr. Joshua Perper linked Bechler's death to a diet supplement that contains ephedra.

A bottle of Xenadrine RFA-1, an over-the-counter weight-loss product containing ephedra, was found in Bechler's locker after he collapsed.

SOCCER

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Torino must play its next five home games at another stadium because of fan violence that forced the suspension of an Italian league soccer game.

The league also awarded AC Milan a 3-0 victory in the Saturday night game. Play was suspended in the 63rd minute after a large group of fans confronted police.

It has not been decided yet where Torino will play during the suspension.

Dozens of Torino fans ripped seats from the stands and hurled them onto the track ringing the field. The fans then tried to force their way onto the field by smashing Plexiglas panels separating them from the playing area. Police, armed with shields and batons, charged and fired tear gas to disperse the attacks.

CHICAGO (AP) — Freddy Adu, a 13-year-old forward from Ghana who gained U.S. citizenship this month, was among 18 players picked for the American team that will attempt to qualify for the FIFA Under-17 World Championship.

Adu came to the United States when he was 8 and has been training with the Under-17 team in Bradenton, Fla. He became a citizen on Feb. 13 when his mother gained citizenship.

Lady Harvesters play in area softball classics

Pampa High School's Lady Harvester softball team finished fifth in the 2003 Tiger Classic at Wolforth this past weekend, winning five of six games.

The fifth place game pitted Pampa against Lubbock Cooper with Chelsey Davis (2-3) getting a complete game win. Also highlighting tournament play was a grand slam homerun by Skye Niccum in the first round game to lead the Harvesters to another victory.

Tiger Classic Results

Pampa 22	Lubbock Estacado 0
Pampa 4	Amarillo Tascosa 3
Pampa 14	Frenship JV 0
Borger 7	Pampa 3
Pampa 8	Lamesa 6
Pampa 14	Lubbock Cooper 5
*Borger 5	Frenship 3

*Tournament championship game

Currently Pampa is 7-3 in non-district play. The softball varsity team is entered in this weekend's Prairie dog Classic in Lubbock.

On Valentine's Day weekend, the Lady Harvesters competed in the Borger Winter Classic, the Lady Harvester won two of four games to open up their softball season. The tournament is held each year in Borger as the opening play for many teams.

Other high schools from District 3-4A also entered included Caprock, Randall, Dumas, Hereford and Palo Duro. The winner this year was Amarillo High School, with Borger finishing as runner-up.

Borger Winter Classic Results

Pampa 24	Dalhart 0
Randall 7	Pampa 5
Pampa 13	Childress 2
Levelland 7	Pampa 0

Lefors Lifters



(Courtesy photo)

Lefors High School powerlifting team brought home three second place wins and a third place in competition at White Deer recently. Pictured, front row from left, are Ryan Lewis, Brandon Parsley, Matt Daughtery, and Richard Kidwell; and back row from left, Blake King and Mase Furgerson. Lewis placed second in the 220 weight class, Kidwell placed second in the 114 weight class, and Furgerson placed second in the 181 weight class. King earned third in the 181 weight class.

Texas lawmaker files stipend bill for scholarship athletes

AUSTIN (AP) — Saying college athletes should cash in on at least some of the millions of dollars they generate for their schools, a Texas lawmaker has proposed letting state universities give them up to \$200 a month.

A bill filed this week by Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, would allow the schools to set up grant programs to give the money to scholarship athletes.

It's only fair, Wilson said, to give something back to the football, basketball and baseball players who put on the uniform and represent their schools.

"These kids are raising a lot of money for the schools," Wilson said Tuesday. "(Many) of them won't graduate and the schools know it. They're being used for the schools' benefit without any kind of compensation."

Wilson has filed the bill in previous sessions with no success. But this time, it comes on the heels of legislative action in Nebraska, where lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow the University of Nebraska to pay its football players a stipend.

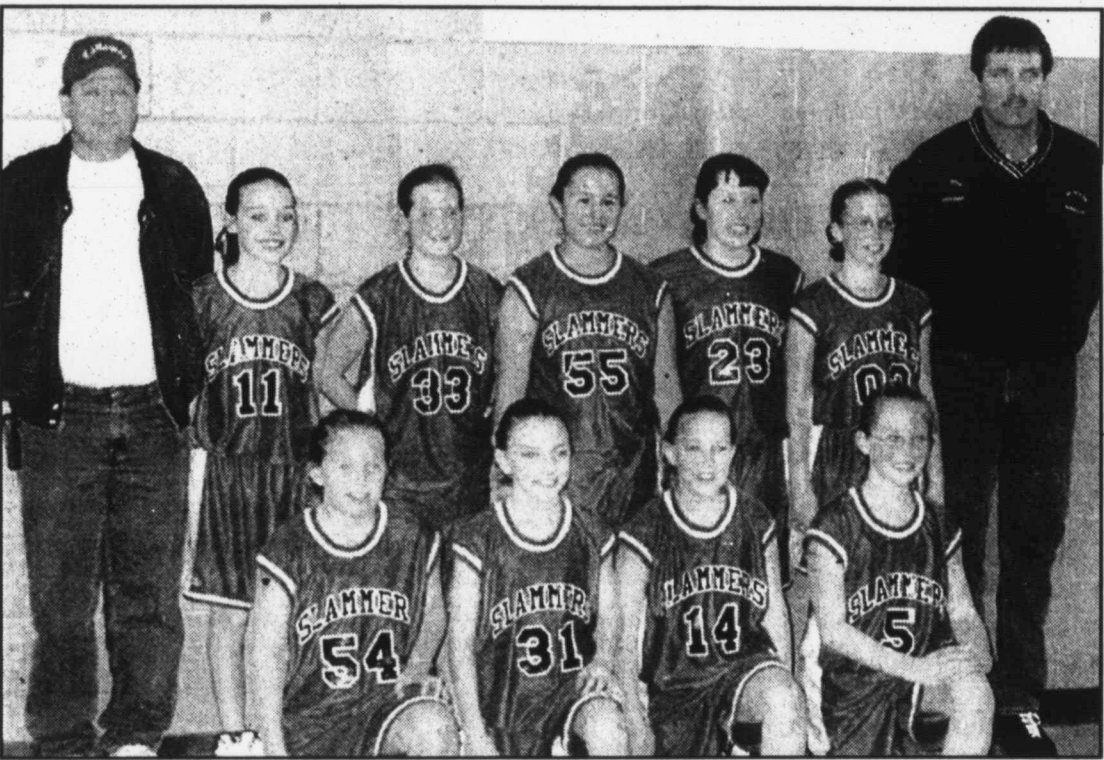
There are some big hurdles for Wilson's bill, the biggest being the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which doesn't allow such payments.

The stipend for a scholarship athlete would be considered a special benefit, said NCAA spokesman Wally Renfro. Any school that paid it would put the athlete's eligibility at risk as well as face potential penalties for the entire program.

"You're basing it on the selection of them as a scholarship athlete," Renfro said. "It's an extra benefit and not permissible."

Renfro also noted financial aid programs available for athletes who are strapped for cash, including Pell Grants (which pay up to more than \$3,000 a year), and other NCAA assistance programs.

Typically, a full scholarship at a Division I school provides the student athlete with tuition, room and board and books.



(Courtesy photo)

Slammers team members include, front row from left: Shelbie Watson, Serina Wagner, Kelsey Watson, and Ashley Schroeder. Back row, from left, are Coach David Teichmann, Kara Stephens, Carlyn Teichmann, Ashley Facio, Brooklyn Barker, Emilie Troxell, and Coach Jimmy Barker. Not pictured is Coach Bino Facio.

Slammers make good showing in weekend's Bi-State Shootout

The Slammers made a good showing at the Bi-State Shootout over the weekend by winning two of four games.

Their first win came with a forfeit against the Yukon Comets who forfeited all three games because of three allegedly illegal players.

The Slammers were defeated by the

Oklahoma Sharpshooters and the Lawton Shockers in the next two games.

The Slammers finished three seed in pool B, one of two pools of four teams. The team played the number 3 seed out of pool A in the fifth place game on Sunday, pulling out an exciting two-point victory over the Oklahoma Storm's strong defense.

SLAMMER TEAM STATISTICS

	PT	RB's
Emilie Troxell	2	6
Ashley Schroeder	17	11
Kara Stephens	4	2
Kelsey Watson	0	4
Brooklyn Barker	3	11
Serina Wagner	2	3
Carlyn Teichmann	12	18
Shelbie Watson	1	5
Ashley Facio	20	24

No Title IX policy changes needed, minority report says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Education should focus on using those policies to educate schools and the public about the importance of equal opportunity," said the minority view expressed by soccer player Julie Foudy and former Olympic swimmer Donna de Varona.

"Women and girls who play sports — and the fathers and brothers who support them — deserve no less," they wrote.

The commission's chairman, Stanford University athletic director Ted Leland, had hoped to avoid the awkwardness of competing reports by negotiating with his two dissenting members. But several phone calls failed to help. Leland viewed the commission's work as centrist while Foudy and de Varona said it would "critically weaken this important civil rights law."

Education Secretary Rod Paige was due to receive those recommendations, compiled by his Title IX review commission, as well as the two members' minority report Wednesday.

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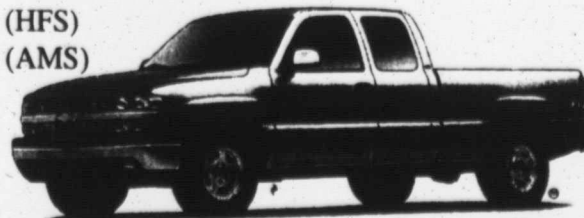
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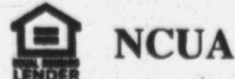
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UN reduces global population estimate for 2050

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations on Wednesday reduced its estimate of what the world's population will be in 2050 by 400 million, primarily because of the impact of the AIDS epidemic and lower than expected birth rates.

At the dawn of the new Millennium, the U.N. Population Division forecast that 9.3 billion people would inhabit the Earth at mid-century but a new revision of the estimate projects a lower population of 8.9 billion.

About half the 400 million drop is a result of an expected increase in the number of deaths, primarily from AIDS, the forecast said. The other half is due to a reduction in the projected number of births,

mainly as a result of lower expected fertility rates.

"For the first time, the United Nations Population Division projects that future fertility levels in most developing countries will likely fall below 2.1 children per woman, the level needed to ensure the long-term replacement of the population, at some point in the 21st century," said the forecast.

By 2050, it projects that three out of four countries in less developed regions will have fertility levels below replacement levels.

The report, "World Population Prospects: The 2002 Revision," confirms key conclusions from previous revisions about population growth.

Despite expectations of lower fertility levels and increased death risks, global population is still expected to increase from 6.3 billion today to 8.9 billion in 2050, it said.

The Population Division warned, however, that the latest projections depend on ensuring that couples have access to family planning.

If fertility in all countries remained at current levels, it said, "the total population of the globe could more than double by 2050, reaching 12.8 billion."

But based on the new estimates, the forecast predicts that the population of more developed regions, currently at 1.2 billion, will change little during the next 50 years.

Thirty three countries are projected to be smaller at mid-century than today — Japan losing 14 percent of its population, Italy 22 percent of its population, and Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Russia and Ukraine between 30 and 50 percent of their populations.

By contrast in less developed regions, the population is projected to rise steadily from 4.9 billion in 2000 to 7.7 billion in 2050, according to the forecast.

The populations of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Uganda and Yemen, are projected to quadruple because of expected annual growth rates of more than 2.5 percent between 2000 and 2050, it said.

In the most populous countries,

large population increases are expected even if fertility levels are projected to be low.

Between 2000 and 2050, the forecast said eight countries are expected to account for half the world's projected population increase — India, Pakistan, Nigeria, the United States, China, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Congo.

The 2002 Revision indicates a worsening of the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in terms of disease, deaths and population loss.

In the current decade, 46 million people are expected to die of AIDS in the 53 most affected countries, "and that figure is projected to ascend to 278 million by 2050," the forecast said.

Death toll of South Korean subway fire rises to 189, authorities say

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean authorities raised the death toll from last week's subway fire to 189 on Wednesday after forensic experts found 56 more sets of remains in the debris of the two scorched trains.

Most of the newly discovered bodies were so heavily burned and disintegrated as to make immediate identification impossible, said Choi Chong-hoon, an official at the Central Disaster Center. He put the new death toll at 189, up from a previous estimate of 133.

More than 300 people are still listed as missing, but officials said that the number was greatly inflated by double reporting and confusion over the identities of the dead. The missing likely include remains of those that have been found but not identified.

Relatives of the victims and those missing were infuriated after forensic experts found four pieces of scorched human

remains in bags of garbage collected from the subway station.

All-news cable channel YTN showed a blackened human hand found in a garbage bag.

"How can things like this happen?" the victims' families said in a statement. "This shows that authorities hurried to clean up the subway station, paying little attention to our agony."

They demanded that Daegu mayor Cho Hae-nyong resign to take responsibility for the lapse.

Kim Dae-han, 56, a mentally ill man who allegedly started the fire by igniting a carton filled with gasoline, faces a charge of manslaughter and could be executed if found guilty. Six subway officials face charges of negligent manslaughter, which carries a maximum of five years in prison.

The seven people have been under police custody pending their interrogation. Late Tuesday, a court issued warrants to make their arrests formal.

Last week's blaze gutted two subway trains in Daegu, South Korea's third-largest city. The fire quickly engulfed a six-car train and then spread to another train that had pulled into the station a few minutes later.

Critics said the tragedy revealed problems with the nation's emergency response system. The train's seats and floor tiles were highly flammable, and the lack of adequate emergency lighting left victims groping in the dark.

Yemen native caught in terror sweep says he feels 'unsafe'

DETROIT (AP) — A man caught in a post-Sept. 11 terror sweep — but quickly cleared of fraud charges — said he's lost his job, never received an apology from the government and now plans to return to his native Yemen.

On Saturday, Mohamed Nasser Alajji, 31, will head to the airport in Detroit, where an FBI agent will give him his passport so he can leave on a Royal Jordanian flight to Yemen, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

"I don't feel safe anymore," Alajji told The Detroit News in an interview published Wednesday. "I think all Muslims are under suspicion. These accusations are totally false."

Though Alajji has had a green card allowing him to live in United States legally since 1995 he said he's had enough.

"I don't plan to come back to the United States until the laws change," he said.


State police and federal agents arrested Alajji on Dec. 19 at a truck stop near Springfield, about 120 miles west of Detroit, charging him with providing false information to obtain a Social Security card.

New York police had gotten a call two days earlier from a man identifying himself as

Alajji's ex-brother-in-law, and alleging Alajji was a terrorist plotting a "bin Laden al-Qaida" terror attack.

On Dec. 27, U.S. Magistrate Judge Steven Pepe ruled the government failed to build a sufficient case, terrorism or otherwise, against Alajji. Pepe said he had to look past the pressures of the post-Sept. 11 environment when making his decision.

Coloring contest winners



(Courtesy photo)

Kelly Silva, 6, displays her brightly colored leprechan in the 4-to-6-year-old division of The Pampa News coloring contest. As winner, she received a cash prize of \$25.

Pilots union fears bankruptcy looms for AMR

DALLAS (AP) — AMR Corp., the parent company of American and American Eagle airlines, could be forced into bankruptcy as soon as May, according to the union representing American Airlines' pilots.

An independent analysis of AMR finances by the Allied Pilots Association found that the Fort Worth-based company has just three months' worth of cash reserves.

The analysis, reviewed by The Dallas Morning News for a story in Wednesday's editions, concluded that the \$1.8 billion in annual employee concessions American has sought might not be enough to save the world's largest airline.

"Realize that the \$1.8 billion 1/8 is a minimum figure," a posting on the union's Web site says. "There is no guarantee that AMR won't ask for more. AMR states the alternative is bankruptcy."

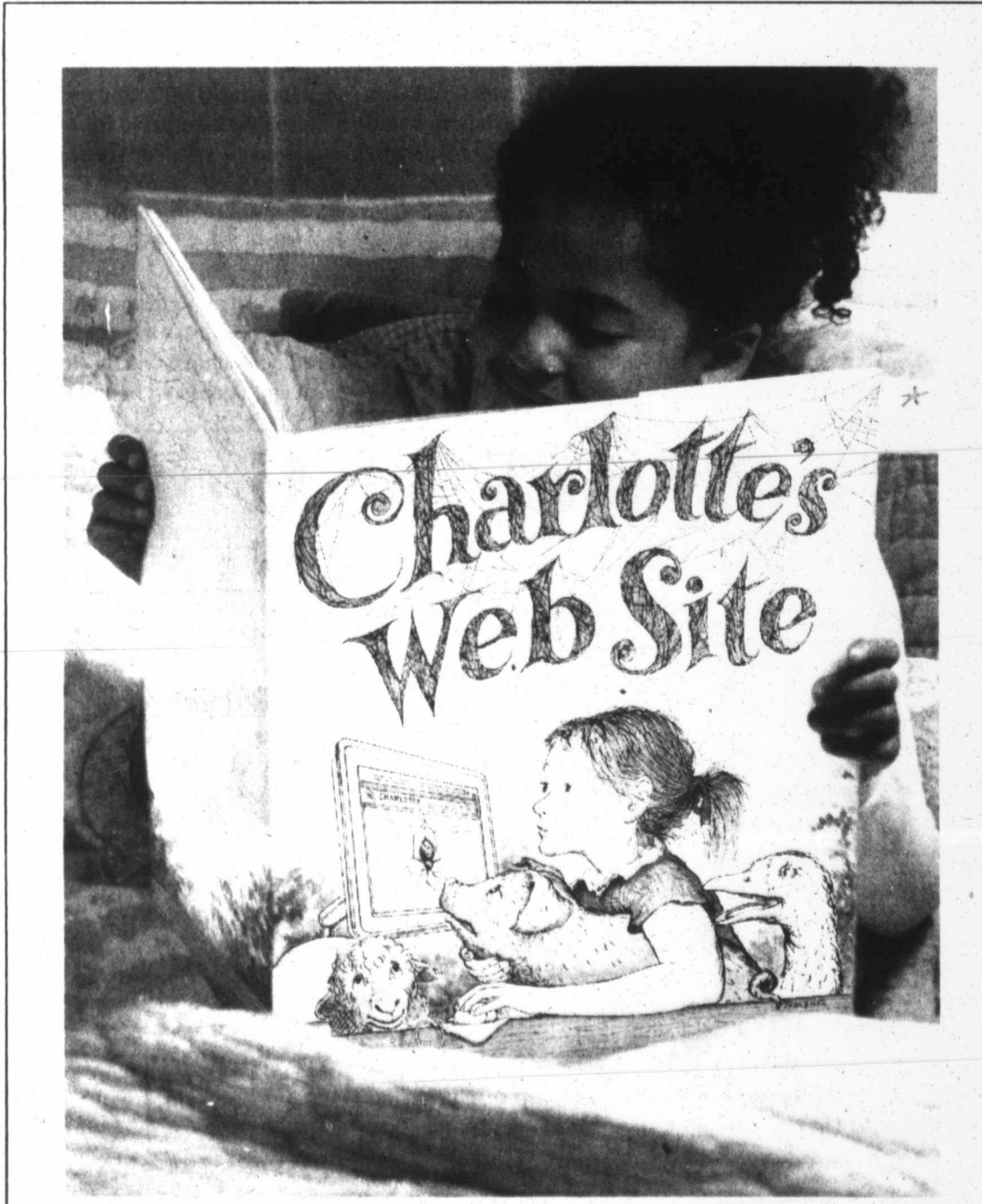
American spokesman Bruce Hicks told the newspaper that the airline will not comment on specifics of the union's findings, but he said American's talks with its unions were productive.

"They understand the sense of urgency that we need," he said.

The APA said it reached its findings after receiving full access to AMR's accounting books and discussing the matter thoroughly with AMR chief executive Don Carty and president Gerard Arpey. The union outlined the grim financial picture in board meetings and discussions over the past few days, the newspaper reported.

The union said it found that although American began the year with \$2.7 billion in cash, \$775 million of that is restricted, meaning it cannot be used to pay bills. That would leave \$1.9 billion in ready cash, but American will be forced to refinance some debt this spring. The pilots said that move will cost \$200 million, lowering the balance to \$1.7 billion.



The union said it believes that \$1 billion is the minimum American needs to keep flying, a figure affirmed by analysts. United Airlines entered bankruptcy Dec. 9 with about \$800 million in cash, and most analysts think it should have filed far earlier, the newspaper reported.



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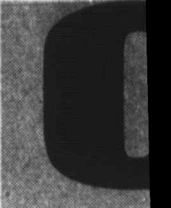
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(Courtesy photo)
Kelly Silva, 6, displays her brightly colored leprechan in the 4-to-6-year-old division of The Pampa News coloring contest. As winner, she received a cash prize of \$25.



(Courtesy photo)
Reena Patel, 7, won \$25 cash in the 7-to-10-year-old division of The Pampa News coloring contest with her leprechan artwork.



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NICE large 1 bdr. apt. Bills paid. \$300 mo. 665-4842.

96 Unfurn. Apts.

Bent Creek Apartments *Lovely 2 & 3 bdr. apts. *All single story units *Electric Range *Frost-free Refrig. *Blinds & Carpet *Washer/Dryer connec. *C/H/A, walk-in closets *Exterior Storage *Front Porches HUD Accepted 1400 W. Somerville Pampa 806-665-3292

CLEAN 1 bedroom, stove, refrig., all bills paid. 669-3672, 665-5900

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts., 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3, 6 mo. -1yr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

NICE 2 bedroom, gas & water paid, HUD, 417 E. 17th. Call 669-7518, or 1-806-355-5049.

FOR Sale By Owner, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, basement, 128 Walnut. Call 669-7043.

HOUSE for sale N. of Wheeler, outside of city limits, 1856 sq. ft. 4 bd., 2 ba., pool, c. h/a, (16x16 bldg). Lots of extras (carport 25x25). Call for appt. 806-665-0346 lv. name & number, 800-886-5126, Ready to move in!

SEVERAL 2 & 3 bd houses for sale by owner. Use your tax refund for down pymnts. 665-4842.

WE are moving & need to sell our neat & spacious 2 story, 4 bdr., 2 full ba., 2 liv. areas home. Must see to appreciate. 901 E. Francis. Call 665-7815.

114 Recre. Veh.

24 ft. 1983 Terry travel trailer w/ awning & ac, bunk style beds. \$3000. 665-5360, 663-9476.

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TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg, avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

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CULBERSON-STOWERS Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick GMC-Olds-Cadillac 805 N. Hobart 665-1665

1987 Olds Regency, straight body, loaded, bad engine. \$200 obo. Call 665-0328.

1986 Chev. Caprice Classic, 1 owner, new tires & battery, 84,000 mi., \$1300, good cond. See at 623 W. Foster. Call 665-6815 or 665-1165.

FOR Sale 1985 Cutlass, nice paint job. \$1800, call 669-6833 or 664-2883 lv. message.

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Feb. 27, 2003:

New beginnings become possible through a special friendship. Networking takes you in a new direction as well. You become extremely attached to a friend who will make a difference in the quality of your life. Emphasize your goals and long-term needs. Take your time making decisions. Sit back and do nothing when you're unsure of yourself. If you are single, you will meet someone of significance in late 2003. You will learn a lot from this person. If you are attached, your relationship will flourish, especially if you opt to take weekends off together. Add an element of romance back into your bond. **AQUARIUS** reads you cold.

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)

***** Efforts to go far touch you on many levels. You find out where a key person falls with his or her feelings. Network and reach out for the many around you. Open the door and explore your options. Don't move too quickly, look around. It's time to smell the flowers! Tonight: Enjoy your friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Move in the morning, when you can make firm decisions and others are responsive. Responsibilities drop in your lap, creating new possibilities. Make sure you have the funds available to wave the green flag. Consider what you need from a loved one. Tonight: You could be out late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Visualize more of what you expect from a partnership and allow others to share this glimpse. Detach more

and see what others want as well. You might want to rethink a decision more carefully that involves a pending trip.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** A partner demonstrates his or her softer side. You might want to listen to him or her more often. This person can be full of energy at times. Working on an individual level brings the best out of a partnership. What a team you make! Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Give 100 percent at work or with a project. By afternoon, you will have cleared out the majority of what needs to be done. You will find someone far more in touch with his or her feelings than he or she has been in a long time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Make the most out of the morning hours, when all seems well in your world. Schedule some special time in the near future for a loved one or child. Dig into work with your innate enthusiasm in the afternoon. You don't need to agree with someone. You just need to work with him or her. Tonight: Work through stress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Your soft side emerges with a family member. You're able to relate on a far deeper level than you have in the past. Stretch and share these feelings with a child or loved one. You can mend bridges at this particular moment. Now counts. Tonight: Where the fun is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Understand what might be going on with a neighbor or sibling. Realizing what is happening with this person might help you meet his or her needs more easily. Family and security gain a higher pri-

ority. Set aside work. Tonight: Happy at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Buy a card or opt for a simple indulgence this morning. You really don't need to break the bank. By afternoon, focus on excellent communication. You might have a lot to get done before the weekend. Plunge right in. Tonight: Visit with a friend on the way home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Your best efforts do make a difference, whether you realize it or not. Do something special for a loved one in the morning. Focus on the financial aspect of your life in the p.m., whether it means working harder or dealing with other money issues. Tonight: Where the action is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Feelings easily could be hurt, whether you intend it or not. You might not really understand where this person is coming from. By afternoon, you have pulled yourself up by your bootstraps, making the necessary changes. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Handle whatever you can in the morning. Your vision of what might be right will help you in your dealings with an emotional tie or dear friend. Key in to a loved one who means a lot to you. Try walking in his or her shoes. Tonight: Rest up for the weekend.

BORN TODAY

Ballerina Antonette Sibley (1939), racecar driver Peter Revson (1939), guitarist author John Steinbeck (1902)

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



(Courtesy photo)

Kindergarten student Laura Zubia, daughter of Patricia and Ricardo Gonzalez, shows off her Groovy Grape portable CD system she won while participating in a drawing at Lamar Elementary School. Only girls with perfect attendance for the fall semester at Lamar were eligible for the drawing. The prize was presented during a morning assembly. Laura's kindergarten teacher is Marsha Coffee.



(Courtesy photo)

ESL teacher Diana Watson and first grade teacher Kim West congratulate Jose Lopez after he won an Electric Blue portable CD system while participating in a drawing at Lamar Elementary School. Only boys with perfect attendance for the fall semester at Lamar were eligible for the drawing. Jose is the son of Irene and Mauro Lopez.

New corn receives EPA okay

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency gave approval to Monsanto Co. to market a new variety of corn genetically designed to resist rootworm.

Monsanto, which is based in a St. Louis, developed the corn to produce its own insecticide to fend off rootworm, a pest whose larvae feed off the plant's roots. The plant's pesticide is derived from a protein contained in a natural soil bacterium called Bt, or *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

"This new variety of corn pest control holds great promise for reducing reliance on conventional insecticides now used on millions of acres of corn in the U.S.," Stephen L. Johnson, an assistant administrator at the EPA, said as the agency approved the corn Tuesday.

Farmers have had to depend on chemical insecticides and alternating soybean and corn crops every other year to control rootworm.

Monsanto officials said the government's approval came just in time for the 2003 planting season. The variety will be sold as YieldGard Rootworm corn.

"The registration of YieldGard Rootworm corn is great news for the hundreds of seed companies and tens of thousands of U.S. farmers who are seeing the benefits of biotech products," said Jennifer Ozimkiewicz, a Monsanto spokeswoman.

Legislation to improve Medicare services to patients

By JANELLE CARTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chicago spinal surgeon Stephen Ondra tries to keep his elderly patients mobile, but he says outdated Medicare rules are preventing him from getting new technology for them.

Some lawmakers want to address the problem with legislation to reduce the time it takes to get new technologies covered by Medicare.

"We have a population that's living longer and aging and still wants to be active," Ondra said. "These are healthy people that would lead active lives for a long time, so there's a big return on the investment."

Unfortunately, Ondra said, "We're losing so much money on Medicare patients we can't deliver that care."

Reps. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., and Jim Ramstad, R-Minn., hope the bill they are introducing Wednesday will

modernize the 38-year-old program to keep pace with changing health technology.

The legislation would make a number of regulatory changes to speed new medical treatments to patients, including six- to 12-month deadlines for Medicare to implement coverage and payment for new technologies. It would also create a Council for Technology and Innovation to improve coordination of coverage and payment decisions for new technologies.

Medicare would also be directed to provide reimbursement for routine costs of care incurred by the elderly while participating in clinical trials that involve breakthrough technologies like artificial hearts or bionic eyes.

The bill also would order the Medicare agency to develop a better system for appeals of claims denials. Currently Medicare patients appealing

Eshoo said the legislation would "make things happen" in the area of innovative treatments.

claims decisions wait months — sometimes longer than a year — to have an appeal heard.

Eshoo said the legislation would "make things happen" in the area of innovative treatments. She cited the reimbursements for elderly patients participating in clinical trials as key.

"It's very difficult to do testing on the elderly. It's a different kind of population. The risks can run higher and when the reimbursement is not there it gets to be kind of hands-off," Eshoo said. "This bill would change

all of that."

Ondra said improved coverage of the new technologies would make a difference in his medical practice.

For instance, he has been unable to get Medicare to pay for the infusion bone graft device, which was approved by the Food and Drug Administration last year for certain back pain sufferers. The device contains a genetically engineered protein that eliminates the need from a hip graft, where bone is culled from a patient's hip to use in spinal surgery.

The newer technology, which costs about \$3,000 a dose, "will give us the same result without the morbidity to the patient," Ondra said, adding that there is less discomfort and potential for infection.

"Are we going to create second-class citizens in the Medicare population?" Ondra asked. The legislation, he said, will "help maintain their access to care."

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