

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Sunday, March 21

Assault was reported in the 100 block of East Craven. Two women were fighting and fell on top of the victim, who was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center for treatment of possible extensive injury. No additional information was available from the police report.

Tuesday, March 23

Domestic violence was reported in the 1000 block of East Browning. Travis Scott Johnson, 23, 1008 E. Browning, was arrested for assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Two reports of domestic violence were received from the 900 block of Mary Ellen. Minor injuries were reported in each incident.

Harassment was reported in the 1200 block of East Foster.

Domestic assault was reported in the 1100 block of Neel Road. Minor injuries were reported.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of North Wynne. A window was broken on a house. Estimated damage was under \$50.

An information report was made in the 600 block of North Christy concerning a woman who was out of control. No offense was committed, according to the police report.

SHERIFF

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

Tuesday, March 23

James Glen Miller, 43, Amarillo, was arrested on copias pro fines for failure to maintain financial responsibility, two counts of displaying expired vehicle registration, possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid driver's license, and failure to signal.

Bobby Lee Weaver, 39, Amarillo, was arrested on bond forfeitures for Potter County charges of manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance, and possession in a drug-free zone.

Brandie Lee Smith, 22, 1815 Hamilton, was arrested for probation violation concerning a Potter County charge of forgery.

Clayton Johnson, 39, 1013 Neel Road, was arrested for a Collingsworth County charge of criminal mischief, and contempt of court in Harris County concerning non-payment of child support.

Michael McCormick, 24, 1815 Hamilton, was arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces.

FIRE

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

Tuesday, March 23

1:13 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1600 block of West Somerville.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	3.76	Limited	19.62	-0.07
Milo	5.10	Williams	9.24	-0.05
Corn	5.76	MCD	27.97	+0.21
Soybeans	9.76	XOM	40.77	+0.01
		Atmos	25.37	-0.03
		Pioneer Nat	32.23	-0.15

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXY	44.44	-0.29	Tenneco	11.40	-0.07
BP	49.16	+0.01	CVX	87.13	-0.34
Celanese	39.07	-0.24	Wal Mart	59.09	+0.88
Cabot Corp	32.72	-0.34	OKE	21.95	NC
Cabot Oil Gas	29.68	-0.35	NS Gp	11.67	-0.16
Coca Cola	48.43	+0.30			
VLO	58.60	+0.35			
HAL	28.75	-0.09	New York Gold	419.75	
Triad	30.82	-0.60	Silver	7.68	
NOI	27.57	-0.35	West Texas Crude	37.65	

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday, March 23

11 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

1:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1600 block of West Somerville and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Wednesday, March 24

1:37 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to N.W.T.H.

WEATHER FOCUS

LOCAL FORECAST

Today's forecast is calling for mostly cloudy to partly cloudy skies, a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon, highs in the upper 70s and south winds 20 to 25 mph. Tonight should fall on partly cloudy skies with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening, lows in the mid 50s and south winds 15 to 25 mph. Thursday should see partly cloudy skies. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Breezy. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Breezy. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 20 to 25 mph. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 15

to 20 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 50s. Saturday, partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Windy. Highs around 80. Saturday night, partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Windy. Lows in the lower 50s. Sunday, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Breezy. Highs in the upper 70s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Breezy. Lows in the lower 50s. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Pampa Area Singles dance set March 27

Pampa Area Singles Dance featuring Mike Proter begins at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 27, at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Cost is \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol. Bring snacks. For more information, call 665-7059.

Library to close on Friday

Lovett Memorial Library here in Pampa will close Friday, March 26 and reopen for regular hours Saturday, March 27. Work is required on its telecommunications and computer networks. No library materials are due Friday.

Austin Elementary plans family events

Austin Elementary School is planning two family events for next week. On Tuesday, March 30, the school will host "Doughnuts with Dads" from 6:45 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Thursday, April 1, will be Family Night from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Elementary school gears up for book fair

Austin Elementary School is sponsoring a scholastic book fair in the Austin school library from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 29 through April 1 and from 8 a.m. to noon, April 2.

College to host its 66th Alumni Reunion

CLARENDON — Clarendon College will hold its 66th annual Alumni

Reunion Saturday, April 3 at Bairfield Activity Center on its main campus in Clarendon.

The event will kick-off with registration and a reception at 10:30 a.m. and will conclude with an awards/honors banquet at 6:30 p.m.

All alumni will save \$5 by pre-registering for the banquet. Cost of one banquet ticket is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. For more information, call (806) 874-3571.

City Briefs

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

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customers, as of April 1, 2004 carrier collect customers must make checks payable to the carrier. Customers who would rather make the payment out to the Pampa News will have to become office pay of 3,6 or 12 months! For more information call the Pampa News 669-2525

HOUSE FOR Sale to highest bidder. 665-0842, 8-5 p.m.

NORTH FORK Antiques Partners' Birthday Celebration. 20%, 30%, 40%, 50% off selected items at North Fork Antiques Mar. 20 thru Apr. 3. Register once for every \$10 spent to win a Kenneth Wyatt framed print, \$170 value. North Fork Antiques, 211 N. Main, McLean, T-Sat. 10-6

WANT TO race lawn-mowers? Workshops Sat. 11 a.m. at Redneck Race Track, 1 mile east of Loop on Hwy. 60.

PAMPA NEWS Carrier needed immediately. Come by 403 W. Atchison & fill out application. No phone calls please.

CRIME STOPPERS

Caller #4545. Please contact Crime Stoppers at 662-1022.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following motor vehicle accidents.

Monday, March 15

1 p.m. — An unknown vehicle struck a legally parked 1992 Chevrolet Silverado pickup, owned by Alma Duarte, 120 N. Nelson, in

the 2200 block of North Hobart.

Tuesday, March 23

Unknown time — An unknown vehicle struck a legally parked 2000 Ford Taurus, owned by Connie Brown, 601 E. Browning, in the 2200 block of North Hobart.

OBITUARIES

R.T. 'TED' ALEXANDER, JR.

March 23, 1912-March 20, 2004

Ted Alexander was born in Canadian, Texas, into a pioneering ranching family. He was the grandson of Mary Jane Alexander (the founder of the Alexander Ranch) and Rev. C.W. Alexander, the first Presbyterian minister in the Panhandle, a graduate of Princeton University, who was sent to Mobeetie and Fort Elliott in 1884. His parents were Mae Palmer Alexander and R.T. Alexander.

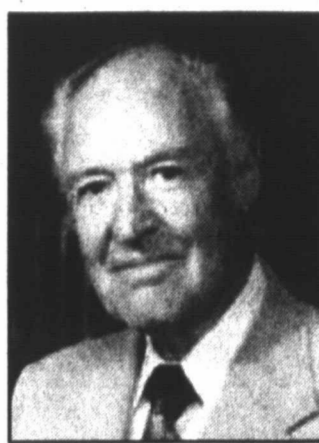
Rev. Alexander died of pneumonia in returning by horseback from his circuit riding visitations when he was trapped in freezing rain near a swollen river. Instead of returning to her home, Mary Jane Alexander moved her young family to a section of land on the Washita. Among the children, R.T. Alexander, Sr. became the rancher of the family. He and his mother filed on additional sections and he established the registered Hereford cattle herd in 1909. Ted gradually bought into the family business and managed the ranch from 1946. The Alexander show cattle won many awards in stock shows in Denver, Kansas City, and Fort Worth. Ranches throughout the country purchased breeding stock, including the Milky Way Ranch, owned by the candy manufacturing family.

Ted served two terms as President of the Texas Hereford Association. During his tenure, he originated the first World Conference of Hereford Breeders. Cattle were flown in from Argentina and other countries to the Fort Worth event. Amon Carter and the governors of three states made up his committee. He and his wife, Doris, established a permanent art collection through their gifts and others for the THA's Fort Worth Headquarters. Ted was named Honorary Life Member in 1986, 30 years to the date from his father receiving the same honor.

He graduated in 1934 from Texas A&M with a degree in Animal Husbandry. He was a member of a "F" Company in the Cadet Corps and held a U.S. Army reserve commission.

He was called into service as a First Lieutenant immediately following Pearl Harbor where he was assigned to the 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion. The Battalion became a component of Patton's Third Army. At the time of the D-Day Invasion, June 6, 1944, he was Operations Officer and held the rank of Major. He and his Battalion of 36 tank destroyers (a tank except higher velocity 90 mm guns) landed on Utah Beach, fought across France into Germany, wheeled with the crack 4th Armored to rescue Bastogne and the

Battle of the Bulge. He won five battle stars: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), and Central Europe. The Battalion met the Russians attacking from the East in Czechoslovakia. The Alexanders hosted the annual reunion of the 818th in Amarillo in 1999.



Ted enjoyed working with the arts. He served two terms on the Board of the Amarillo Museum of Art, with his wife as co-chair of the first Masked Opera Ball, co-hosted the Texas Commission of the Art meeting in Amarillo in 1997 of which his wife was a Commissioner, contributed and helped with the recently dedicated Rick Husband Memorial, and served several terms on the board of "TEXAS." They were co-chairs of the Golden Nail Awards in 1987 and recipients in 1991.

He married Doris Johnson May 22, 1981, in the First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe, N.M.

Survivors include his wife; his children, R.T. Alexander III of Canadian, Homer Alexander of Richardson, Sharon Alexander Hughes of Plano and Cindy Atkins of San Antonio; two stepchildren, Laura Johnson Farris of Floydada and Grant Johnson of Victoria, as well as eight grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will take place at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at Westminster Presbyterian Church with Rev. Jeff Conway and Rev. Marty Lohberg, both of Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Dr. David Jones, of United Methodist Church of Floydada, officiating. Graveside military services will follow at Llano Cemetery. Friends are invited to visit as his home following the service. The body may be viewed at Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors, 2800 Paramount, Amarillo.

Memorials in his honor may be made to Texas A&M University, Association of Former Students, Class of 1934, addressed to 505 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840, or to Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, 1514 4th St., Canyon, TX 79015 with a notation for Ted Alexander Memorial Fund.

REV. B.L. THORNTON

1917-2004

SULPHUR SPRINGS — The Rev. B.L. Thornton, 86, died Saturday, March 13, at the Carriage House Manor in Sulphur Springs. Services were Tuesday in Sulphur Springs Church of God with Kirk Routon, pastor, and the Rev. Otho Stegall officiating. Graveside services were held later that day in Rose Hill Cemetery at Pittsburgh, Texas. Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home of Sulphur Springs.

The Rev. Thornton was born Oct. 10, 1917, to Henry B. and Annie Elizabeth Freeman Thornton. He married Lucy Lea Murray on Aug. 8, 1944, at Meadville, Miss. A retired minister, he has pastored several churches in Mississippi and Texas, serving a church in Sulphur Springs from 1969 until 1974.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II, and belonged to Sulphur Springs Church of God.

The Rev. Thornton was preceded in death by a brother, Alton Thornton; a sister, Johnnie Nichelson; and a grandson, Steve Thornton.

Survivors include his wife, Lucy Lea; four sons, Raymond Thornton of Pampa, Wayne Thornton of Pittsburgh, Sam Thornton of Bedford and Bernie Thornton of Mesquite; five brothers, Pat Thornton, Barney Thornton, Burnette Thornton and Donald Thornton, all of Smithdale, Miss.; and Glenn Thornton of Jackson, Miss.; a sister, Lelia Mae Murray of Liberty; several grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

SERVICES TOMORROW

ALEXANDER, R.T. — 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Amarillo.

Bivins set to appear before Senate committee

ODESSA (AP) — Former state Sen. Teel Bivins, a top campaign fund-raiser of President Bush and his nominee for ambassador to Sweden, says he is preparing for a rigorous confirmation hearing.

Bivins of Amarillo is scheduled to appear Thursday before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington, D.C.

"I have to prepare as though I might be the most controversial guy they have come across," Bivins said Wednesday in Houston, where he now lives with his third wife, Patricia.

But Bivins added he is hoping for a friendly reception as he studies issues he might confront as chief diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm.

Kel Seliger, a former Amarillo mayor, took the oath of office as senator on March 2 after defeating Odessa businessman Kirk

Edwards in a special election runoff to fill the unexpired District 31 term for Bivins.

Bivins said ambassadors are called upon to deal with a broad range of issues. One likely topic is the status of a Swede being detained along with suspected Al Qaeda terrorists at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Sweden protests the indefinite detention of Mehdi Muhammed Ghezali; he has not been charged or been given access to an attorney. Unless charges are filed, he should be released, Sweden officials said.

"Every international issue that faces us will have some type of application to our relationship with Sweden," he told the Odessa American in Wednesday's editions.

He said trade issues will be important for Sweden as one of America's most important partners, sending high technology components, aerospace products, Volvos and Saabs to the states.

Jud

By DAVI
STAR

MONTGO federal judge \$1.2 billion the world's la of illegally cattle market

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Judge refuses to enter \$1.2 billion judgment against IBP

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A federal judge refuses to enter a \$1.2 billion judgment against the world's largest beef packer of illegally manipulating the cattle market.

Nobody who hoped to recover under the verdict and qualifies lost any ground with this order, said the lead attorney for the cattlemen who sued IBP, now Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tyson Meats.

In February, a five-man, seven-woman jury set damages at \$1,281,690,000 for cattlemen who sold livestock to

IBP between Feb. 1, 1994, and Oct. 31, 2002.

This week, U.S. Senior Judge Lyle Strom denied a motion by the cattlemen's attorney, David Domina of Nebraska, to enter a judgment consistent with the jury's verdict.

Judge Strom also said he was not ready to rule on a motion by IBP attorneys to set aside the jury's verdict with regard to whether IBP violated federal law and depressed the cash cattle market.

The cattlemen accused IBP of using captive supplies, cattle controlled by the packer more than seven days prior to slaughter, to unfairly depress

the live cattle market in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act, a federal anti-trust law.

Filed in 1996, the case was certified a class action suit in December 2001.

Citing a pre-trial hearing last December, Judge Strom said in his ruling that the jury's figure of \$1.2 billion overstates the packer's liability in the case.

"The Court will not enter judgment on that verdict," Strom said in his ruling.

"The class did not suffer all the damage that the cash market sustained because there are some people included in the loss amount who do not quali-

fy for class status, so this ruling of the judge is not a surprise," Domina said. "We made an argument that judgment should be entered for the full amount and that the portion that could not go to qualified class members should go to the states where the disqualified potential class members live under the states' unclaimed property laws or to the United States under a federal unclaimed property law.

"The judge's decision here is simply that there will not be a judgment entered now for that full amount."

Strom said a damage award based on total cash market sales would be inappropriate

when there are persons who sold on the cash market who are not members of the class.

Tom Green, IBP's lead trial lawyer in this case, said the court's ruling should correct factual errors that were reported after the jury's verdict.

"A number of media outlets reported that Tyson Foods was hit with a \$1.2 billion verdict in this case," Green said. "Based on the judge's rulings during the trial we knew this was not true, but it has been difficult to correct that initial misconception. We believe this recent ruling will help clarify the record."

"It is not an endorsement of Tyson's position," Domina said of the judge's ruling, "and his order is not a statement of any kind that the jury's finding of wrongdoing is incorrect. It simply recognizes the technical nature of

the class definition."

IBP's motion to reverse the jury's finding that the company violated federal law is still pending before the court. The cattlemen have until March 31 to respond to IBP's motion to set aside the jury's finding.

The IBP will then have until April 14 to file a reply brief, following which the court will rule on the motion.

Domina says that assuming the judge denies IBP's motion to set aside the jury's verdict as to the legality of the packer's actions, the next event will either be an immediate appeal by Tyson or a scheduling of the case on the injunction.

The judge could allow IBP to go ahead with an appeal and still schedule a trial date for the injunction.

"I don't think he'll do that," Domina said, "but he has the power to do that."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

GOLDSMITH

"You took my sister. There's three little girls without a mother now. You need to pray. You need to pray every day," said a brother of Ethel Goldsmith.

"I do," Goldsmith responded.

"I hope you're happy. You took my daughter's life. I hope you will never, ever be able to shut your eyes without seeing these babies and my daughter in your mind from now on.

"You're a yellow-bellied coward. You won't fight men. All you do is beat on women. A man doesn't beat women.

"I hate your guts and I hope you get the hell beat out of you every time you turn around, and I hope you get beat to death in jail," said the mother of the victim. She said after the hearing that she was satisfied with the plea and the sentence, "just as long as he goes to prison and never gets out."

After the hearing, which lasted less than 30 minutes, Goldsmith was escorted back across the street to Gray County Jail, where he will remain until he is transported to a Texas Department of Criminal Justice facility to begin serving his life sentence.

According to Texas law, a person sentenced to life in prison is not eligible for parole until they have served 30 years, said 31st District Attorney Rick Roach, who represented the prosecution at this morning's hearing.

"We looked at the case really closely and did a lot of research, and talked to local law enforcement officers. We felt that under the circumstances, and for the benefit of the family, if we could make a speedy resolution and get a just sentence, we would do so," Roach said.

The original charge of capital murder had been possible due to an associated charge of kidnapping, Roach explained.

"We weren't sure how proof of the kidnapping would be received by a jury," he said.

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

CITY

would just be putting a bandage on a serious problem.

"A bandage is better than nothing," Curry countered.

In the end, Dixon and Andrews voted to postpone a decision on the seal coating until the next commission meeting. Curry voted nay.

The three commissioners voted to accept Chris Smith's bid of \$100 for two lots, 632 and 634 Albert, being sold as tax delinquent properties.

The commissioners also voted to fill a maintenance pit at the McCarty-Hull Building, the old U.S. Bus building at an estimated cost of \$5,000. The cost of sand and cement will be about \$3,200. City employees will provide the labor, estimated at \$1,800.

"We feel the sentence was in the best interest of the victim's family and the citizens of Gray County."

The body of Ethel Goldsmith, 31, a licensed vocational nurse, was found in "a desolate area about 10 miles east of Wheeler," according to Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner at the time of the discovery, May 28, 2003.

"It appears that Mrs. Goldsmith was severely beaten during a domestic violence altercation at her home in Pampa," Pitner said.

City and county law enforcement officers began investigating when Ethel Goldsmith's co-workers reported to police that she had not shown up for work in the two days prior to discovery of the body. Police went to the

Goldsmith's home at 922 Oklahoma on a welfare check the morning of May 28, and found only Goldsmith and the couple's eight-month-old daughter at home.

Suspicious evidence had also been found in the area of the body in Wheeler County, according to Gray County Sheriff's Department, but the body was not found until on the afternoon of May 28. Goldsmith confessed to police and Texas Ranger officers that he had murdered his wife and dumped her

body in Wheeler County, Pitner said. A search of the area indicated by Goldsmith yielded the body of Ethel Goldsmith at about 11 p.m. that day.

A Gray County grand jury indicted Goldsmith in early August of 2003 on a capital murder charge, which includes a death sentence as possible punishment if the accused is found guilty. District Attorney Rick Roach announced in mid-September that he would not seek the death penalty for Goldsmith.

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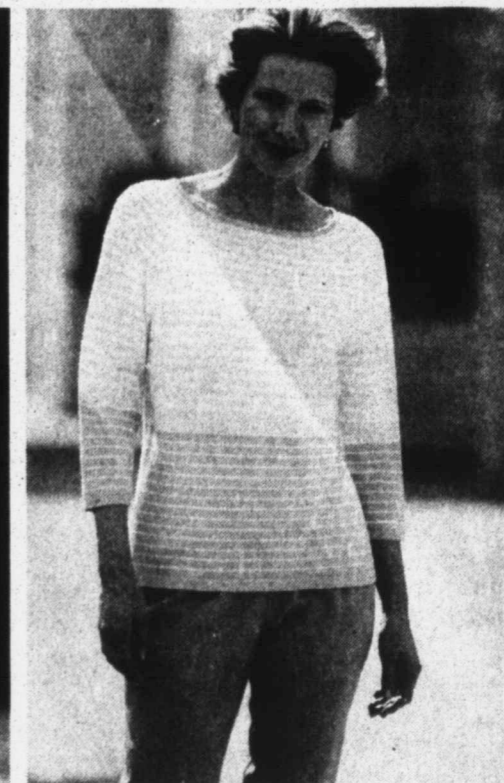
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Hamas leader says militants are not targeting United States

By LARA SUKHTIAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — The new Hamas leader in Gaza said on Wednesday the group had no plans to attack American targets, pulling back from retaliatory threats by the group's armed wing after Israel's assassination of the Hamas founder.

Another top Hamas political figure said the militant group would try to kill Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in retaliation for the death of Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

The Islamic group had made veiled threats it would retaliate against the United States for Yassin's killing, but it has rarely attacked American targets during the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a hard-liner named Tuesday as Hamas' new Gaza chieftain, said the group's militant activities were aimed solely at Israel, which it has pledged to destroy and replace with an Islamic state.

"We are inside Palestinian land and acting only inside Palestinian land. We are resisting the occupation, nothing else," Rantisi told reporters in Gaza. "Our resistance will continue just inside our border, here inside our country."

Rantisi also denied reports Hamas now would join with al-Qaida, calling the claims "Zionist propaganda."

The armed wing of Hamas issued a statement Monday saying America's backing of Israel had made Yassin's assassination possible. "All the Muslims of the world will be honored to join in on the retaliation for this crime," the statement said.

President Bush said after the statement that the United States took the threat seriously. On Tuesday, the State Department repeated a long-standing warning urging Americans not to travel to the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile Wednesday, Khaled Mashaal, Hamas' overall leader, who is based in Damascus, Syria, said the group's military wing would assess its abilities to kill Sharon.

"I hope that the holy warriors can retaliate against this awful crime by targeting the most prominent Zionist leaders ... including Sharon," Mashaal said in an interview posted on a Hamas Web site. "I hope they can succeed."

Israel has decided to target the entire Hamas leadership. Israel says Hamas has killed 377 Israelis in hundreds of attacks, including 52 suicide

bombings, over the past three and a half years.

Rantisi, who survived an Israeli assassination attempt last June, said Wednesday he was not concerned.

"It's death by killing or cancer," said Rantisi, a trained physician. "If it's cardiac arrest or an Apache (helicopter), I prefer to be killed by an Apache."

Rantisi, 54, has appeared in public frequently since Yassin's death, but always in large crowds that deter an Israeli attack.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians at a Gaza City soccer stadium cheered the announcement Tuesday night that Rantisi had been chosen leader. One by one, senior Hamas officials got up and swore loyalty to him.

Rantisi rejects even a temporary suspension of attacks on Israel.

Rantisi led about 1,000 people in noon prayers Wednesday at the stadium, where Hamas has organized mourning ceremonies. As he spoke to reporters afterward, he was surrounded by about 25 youths wearing green Hamas bandanas.

Several hundred women gathered in a mourning tent near Yassin's home in a run-down Gaza City neighborhood. Many wore Hamas headbands, and some wrapped themselves in long pieces of green Hamas flags. "Rantisi, give weapons to the women," they chanted.

Israel has gone on high alert since Yassin's death.

The Israeli military went on the offensive in Gaza and along the Lebanese border to prevent Palestinian attacks. A total of four Palestinian militants were killed in the fighting.

EU hits Microsoft with record fine, orders business changes

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Union declared Microsoft Corp. guilty of abusing its "near monopoly" with Windows to foil competitors in other markets and hit the software giant with a record fine of \$613 million Wednesday.

The EU's antitrust authority said that "because the illegal behavior is still ongoing," it was also demanding changes in the way Microsoft operates in Europe, with the aim of improving competition globally. Those sanctions go well beyond the 2001 U.S. antitrust settlement.

The regulators gave Microsoft 90 days to offer European computer manufacturers a version of Windows without the company's digital media player, which lets computer users watch video and listen to music and is expected to be an important market as multimedia content becomes more pervasive in coming years.

The European Commission also chastised Microsoft for trying to "shut competitors out of the market" in software for office servers, by hoarding code that would help competing programs work smoothly with Windows computers.

Microsoft now has 120 days to provide rivals in the server market with such code.

EU Competition Commissioner Mario Monti said the ruling was "proportionate" and "balanced," and said "dominant companies have a special responsibility to ensure that the way they do business doesn't prevent competition."

"We are simply ensuring that anyone who develops new software has a fair opportunity to compete in the marketplace," he told a news conference.

Monti said he limited the order to Europe "in deference to the competition authorities of the United States and other countries."

"We could legally have imposed explicitly a worldwide geographic scope, given the global nature of these markets," he said. "We have not done so."

He said limiting it to Europe "will not unduly undermine the effectiveness of the remedies."

given the size of the European market. Microsoft, which had \$32 billion in revenue last year, does about 30 percent of its business in Europe.

Microsoft's general counsel, Brad Smith, told reporters the company would appeal the decision to Europe's Court of First Instance and ask that "at least part" of Wednesday's ruling be stayed or suspended during the appeal, which could take years.

Settlement talks between Monti and Microsoft broke down last week over the EU's insistence that any deal also restrict what features could be added to future versions of Windows, such as a better search engine. The Commission is already investigating a complaint filed by competitors against the latest version, Windows XP.

Noting that the U.S. case was settled after an appeals court ruling, Smith said a similar scenario could play out in Europe, although no discussions are underway.

"Frankly we remain hopeful

that we may at some point ... reach a mutual solution to these issues," he said.

Microsoft was found guilty of similar monopolistic behavior in the U.S. case, but the EU order strikes deeper because it aims at the heart of Microsoft's business strategy.

The Redmond, Wash.-based company argues such "bundling" benefits consumers. Rivals call it unfair competition, given that Windows runs more than 90 percent of personal computers worldwide.

The EU regulators were concerned that bundling "deters innovation and reduces consumer choice in any technologies which Microsoft could conceivably take an interest in and tie with Windows in the future."

The EU said it was concerned that a stranglehold on media players could let Microsoft dictate future industry standards for how digital music and video files are encoded, distributed and played.

Pakistanis risk tribal backlash with operation

WANA, Pakistan (AP) — A bombing and a series of rocket attacks in regions surrounding South Waziristan have raised fears that a bloody offensive by Pakistani forces against al-Qaida militants could be provoking a broad backlash.

Pakistani forces reported no fighting with al-Qaida militants on Wednesday in South Waziristan, where thousands of troops have been battling hundreds of militants and their tribal supporters.

A roadside bomb exploded late Tuesday in northwestern Pakistan as an army vehicle passed as part of the military's sweep against suspected terrorists holed up in the rugged tribal regions along the Afghan border, police said.

Three rockets also slammed into Peshawar late Tuesday, wounding two people, a police official said. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack in the capital of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, said Mohammed Khan, a police inspector.

The attack illustrates the dangerous line President Gen. Pervez Musharraf is walking as he seeks to appease Washington without disrupting Pakistan's delicate balance of Islamic and secular concerns.

A 30-member delegation of tribal elders left Wana, the main town in South Waziristan, on Wednesday for the area where most of the fighting has taken place.

The elders will try to track down tribesmen wanted for sheltering terrorists and find out where several kidnapped troops and government officials were being held, said Malik Ba Khan, a member of the delegation.

"We will make every effort to find a solution through negotiations. We will make every effort so that the situation becomes normal," Khan said.

Elders from other tribal regions held a meeting with Zalikhel tribesmen and had them take oaths on the Quran, Islam's holy book, that they will cooperate with the government, said Brig. Mahmood Shah, the regional military chief.

He said house-to-house searches were continuing and that anyone not cooperating would be punished. "Homes of wanted people are being demolished," Shah said.

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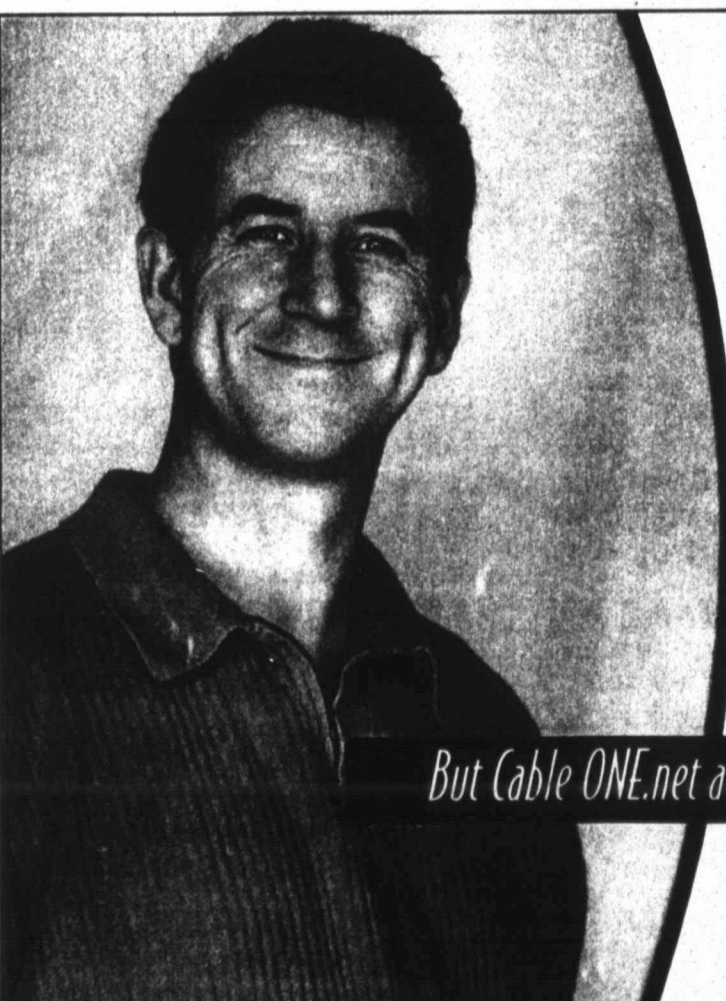
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Altrusa Style Show



(Courtesy photo)

Belinda Waldrip, left, and Mandy Waldrip, right, model for Images in preparation for the upcoming Altrusa Style Show March 27 at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

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Episco plan f

By RICHAR APRELI

Episcopal have offered a cile the denom the acceptance one cleric said "dead on arriv

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Clarendo to offer

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Students training will the state ce

Episcopal bishops offering plan for divisive gay issue

By RICHARD N. OSTLING
AP RELIGION WRITER

Episcopal Church leaders have offered a plan to help reconcile the denomination's split over the acceptance of gay clergy, but one cleric said the proposal was "dead on arrival."

The plan was produced in Navasota, Texas, in response to turmoil over the church's consecration of its first openly gay bishop last year.

Canon Kendall Harmon, South Carolina's delegate on the network steering committee, said the plan is "dead on arrival. It doesn't even come close to recognizing the crisis we face."

The views of conservative priests and parishioners were not sought before the gathering and several bishops in the network left Navasota in discouragement before Tuesday's final vote, Harmon said.

The head of the denomination, Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, said the decision shows the hierarchy's commitment to reconcile the two sides. "We are coming to a new place of mutual discovery and trust," he said.

The issue began last August when the denomination approved New Hampshire's election of an openly gay priest, V. Gene Robinson, as the local bishop. Robinson attended the Texas meetings this week.

Under normal Episcopal procedure, local bishops control all ministries in their dioceses but can decide to invite visiting bishops to substitute in cases of special need.

Clarendon College-Pampa Center set to offer nurse's aide training course

Clarendon College-Pampa Center, 1601 W. Kentucky, is offering a certified nurses aide training course from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., April 5-9, 12, 13, 19 and 20 in room 201 on the Pampa Center campus.

Registration begins Thursday, March 25 and will continue through Friday, April 2 at CCPC.

Students completing the training will be eligible for the state certification exam

In the current situation, congregations that cannot accept leadership by the resident bishop because of the denomination's split over gay clerics are asking to be led by visiting, conservative bishops.

Five retired Episcopal bishops pressed the issue by performing confirmation rites near Akron, Ohio, this month without required approval by the local diocese. The bishops implied that further disobedience would occur if conservative congregations were not given what they want.

Tuesday's plan calls on parishes that disagree with the local bishop over gay clergy to meet with the bishop. If a deal for visiting bishops cannot be struck, an appeal can be filed with the president or vice president of the region, or province.

The provincial bishop might consult in turn with two other bishops representing different views before deciding what to recommend.

The visiting bishops would serve temporarily "for a stated period of time" and church leaders would regularly review the situation.

At an emergency summit in October, the top leaders of the international Anglican Communion urged the Episcopal Church, the communion's U.S. branch, to grant dissenters "adequate provision for episcopal oversight."

Griswold and his Council of Advice then proposed a plan similar to Tuesday's that conservatives rejected last November.

for nurse's aides. Attendance in class and accompanying clinicals is mandatory.

Students must submit current immunization records to participate in the class.

For more information on this and other courses at CCPC, call 665-8801. Seating is limited, so early registration is advised. Additional certified nurses aide training courses will be scheduled during the months ahead.

Mars rocks formed at shore of long-gone body of saltwater, NASA researchers say

By ANDREW BRIDGES
AP SCIENCE WRITER

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — A salty pool of liquid water once sloshed on Mars, ebbing and flowing in an environment that could have supported life eons before a NASA spacecraft visited the now dry and frozen spot, the space agency said.

The Opportunity rover turned up the evidence while probing an outcrop of finely layered rock at its landing site on Mars, where the six-wheeled robot landed two months ago. Scientists said the rock likely formed in water, which evaporated to leave layer after layer of sediment behind.

"If we are correct in our interpretation this was a habitable environment," said Cornell University astronomer Steve Squyres, the mission's main scientist. "These are the kinds of environments that are very suitable for life."

Opportunity previously found clues that water once soaked rocks at Meridiani Planum, a broad and flat region of the planet. Those initial results left it unclear whether it was ground or surface water.

The new findings reveal those rocks likely formed at the bottom of a gently flowing body of saltwater. The rocks contain both ripple patterns and concentra-

tions of salt that scientists consider tell-tale signs that they formed in standing water.

The environmental conditions required to allow a pool of water to persist on Mars confirm the planet once was a wetter and possibly warmer place. Such conditions would be conducive to life, scientists believe.

"This is a profound discovery, it has profound implications for astrobiology," Ed Weiler, NASA's associate administrator for space science, told a Tuesday news conference in Washington, D.C.

The water body was shallow, forming a sea, desert basin or salt flat that periodically flooded with water to depths of at least a few inches before evaporating.

The evidence does not indicate when liquid water covered the broad and flat region where Opportunity landed, or for how long. Nor does it indicate if any organisms actually lived on Mars, Squyres cautioned.

If life did flourish at the site when it was awash in water, the type of rock now found at the site is very capable of preserving evidence of any biochemical or biological material that may have been in the water, he said.

Opportunity, however, does not carry instruments capable of revealing traces of microbial life.

NASA intends to send one or more unmanned missions to Mars every 26 months, including a lander in 2009 that would be capable of prospecting for life. A mission slated for launch in 2013 would collect samples of rock and soil and return them to Earth for even more detailed analysis.

President Bush recently proposed a crewed mission to visit the planet but did not set a timeline for such an undertaking, which likely remains decades away.

Opportunity's microscopic images of the rock outcrop revealed that the sediments that bonded together to form the rocks were shaped into ripples by gently flowing water that stood at least 2 inches deep, said mission science team member John Grotzinger, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Today, Mars is largely dry and cold. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory launched Opportunity and its twin, Spirit, on a \$820 million mission to probe Mars for exactly that type of evidence. A group of outside scientists reviewed the rover mission scientists' findings before they were announced.

On the Net: <http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.html>

Recording industry sues 532 for allegedly swapping music online

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The recording industry has sued 532 people, including many using computer networks at 21 universities, claiming they illegally shared digital music files over the Internet.

The latest wave of copyright lawsuits brought by the Recording Industry Association of America marks the first time the trade group has targeted computer users swapping music files over university networks.

The RIAA filed the "John Doe" complaints Tuesday against 89 individuals using networks at universities in 10 states. Lawsuits were also filed against 443 people using commercial Internet access providers in five states.

The recording group did not name which Internet access providers the defendants were using.

With the "John Doe" lawsuits, the recording industry must work through the courts

to find out the identities of the defendants, which at the outset are identified only by the numeric Internet protocol addresses assigned to computers online.

The defendants, which the trade group claims offered "substantial amounts" of music files, face potential civil penalties or settlements that could cost them thousands of dollars. Settlements in previous cases have averaged \$3,000 each.


"We are sending a clear

message that downloading or 'sharing' music from a peer-to-peer network without authorization is illegal, it can have consequences and it undermines the creative future of music itself," RIAA president Cary Sherman said.

Including Tuesday's filings, the recording industry has sued 1,977 people since launching its legal assault against online music piracy last fall, and has reached out-of-court settlements in around 400 of the cases.

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Wednesday • March 24, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Teen Who's Ready For Sex Isn't Ready to Talk to Mom

DEAR ABBY: I am 15 and dating a guy I'll call Ted. Ted has had sex, but I have not. He says he'll wait until I'm ready. Well, I'm ready! It's just that I promised my mother I would wait, and she knows everything I do. I can't keep this from her, but I'm afraid to tell her. What should I do? -- AFRAID TO TELL MOTHER

DEAR AFRAID: Continue to abstain. If you think you are mature enough to have sex, you should be adult enough to talk to your mother about it. You should also become fully informed about STDs. Call the Centers for Disease Control's National STD toll-free hotline, (800) 227-8922, or visit the American Social Health Association's special Web site for teens at www.iwannaknow.org.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in my booklet "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

The most difficult word to say in the English language is also one of the shortest. It's "no." Yet the inability to say that one simple word can complicate your life in ways you can't imagine, particularly when it comes to sex. So, I repeat -- talk to your mother.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a senior in high school. Until recently no guy I've ever liked has been interested in me. One guy I've liked for a few years -- "Marty" -- finally asked me for a date. It's a problem because my friend "Lori" has liked him a lot longer than I have.

Lori doesn't know it, but Marty told my other friend that even though they've hung out together a few times, he's not interested in her. Lori thinks I'm stealing Marty from her, but I'm not. I don't feel I'm stealing anybody, and I'm so excited. Am I wrong for wanting to go?

I think Lori is blowing this whole thing out of proportion. Does she have the right to be jealous? Shouldn't she be happy for me? I wasn't jealous when she hung out with him -- I supported her. But somehow, I can't help thinking I've betrayed her.

Abby, am I a horrible friend? -- CONFUSED IN OREGON

DEAR CONFUSED: No, but as it stands, you are an ex-friend. I hope he's worth it.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Justin," and I have been together for a little more than a year. We both work two jobs to support ourselves and make ends meet. I have student loans to pay off and so does Justin.

Abby, my birth control costs me \$30 every three months, and sometimes it's difficult to find the extra money to pay for it. We have both agreed that having children right now would not be in our best interests.

Would it be too crass to ask Justin to help pay the cost? -- WONDERING IN VERMONT

DEAR WONDERING: Crass? Not at all. Since the birth control is benefiting both of you, he should share the cost. Put it this way: Tell him it's time to pony up because of economic hardship. From my perspective, he's been getting a free ride for too long.

P.S. Planned Parenthood can provide you and your boyfriend with affordable birth control. To locate your nearest Planned Parenthood office, call toll-free (800) 230-7526, or log on to www.plannedparenthood.org.

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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Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Silvers on screen
- 5 Sweater type
- 11 Superb film
- 12 Severe speech
- 13 Singer Seeger
- 14 Swore MVP
- 15 Sturdy wood
- 16 Small songbird
- 17 Star reviewer
- 19 S&L offering
- 22 Show in
- 24 Scorpion product
- 26 Safari sight
- 27 Smasher bit
- 28 Sap
- 30 Sad sack
- 31 Struck out
- 32 Shop tool
- 34 Symbol of purity
- 35 Squirrel snack
- 38 Simon's "Blues"
- 41 Seduce
- 42 Sly, in a way
- 43 Sidle
- 44 Set one's heart on
- 45 Suppose

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HESSE	YODA

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Starkers
- 20 Space WKRP's
- 21 Shots Jennifer
- 22 Shortstop 36 Spur on
- 23 Shocking 37 Swarm
- 24 Singly 38 Say "one heart,"
- 25 Snake e.g.
- 29 Snake oil
- 39 Spleen
- 30 Sow site
- 40 Spanish article
- 41 Set the pace

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The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



SOCCE

ODESS

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GOLF

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SPORTS

Texas women advance to NCAA's third round

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Jamie Carey shook off a ferocious collision in the first half to lead Texas through a bruising 80-61 win over Michigan State on Tuesday night and into the third round of the NCAA tournament.

Carey had to leave the court for several minutes after running into a defensive screen but returned to score 20 points, hitting five 3-pointers.

Heather Schreiber had 23 points for Texas (30-4). The top seed in the West Regional has won 36 in a row at home but now must go to Seattle, where the Longhorns will play

Louisiana State. The Longhorns have reached the round of 16 in each of the last three seasons.

Kelli Roehrig scored 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead eighth-seeded Michigan State (22-9), which has never advanced past the second round in five NCAA tournaments.

The Spartans' bruising play twice cut the Texas lead to four in the second half before the Longhorns pulled away over the final 10 minutes.

While Texas' home crowd will get much of the credit for helping its team advance out

of the first two rounds, it was Carey who nearly single-handedly picked up the Longhorns in this one.

Before transferring to Texas in 2002, she missed two full seasons because of recurring symptoms from multiple concussions.

The crowd of 8,105 went silent when she crumpled to the floor after the Spartans ran her into a screen by burly forward Julie Pangel. Carey grimaced in pain and stayed down for several minutes before walking to the locker room under her own power.

Texas led 21-14 with 7:08

left in the half when she departed and stretched it to 26-16 on Schreiber's third 3-pointer.

Carey returned three minutes later to a standing ovation and immediately began mixing it up with the Spartans, drawing a hard foul on a drive and diving to the ground to force a turnover.

She scored eight points after returning, including two 3-pointers to give the Longhorns a 34-23 lead at halftime.

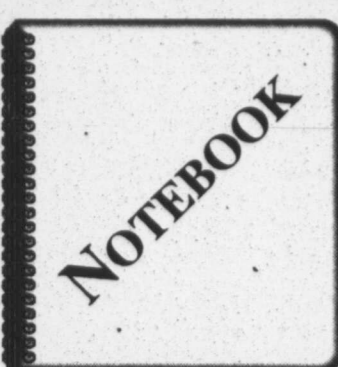
Michigan State rallied to make it 39-35 on Lindsay Bowen's free throws early in

the second half before Carey lifted Texas again. She scored nine points in an 11-0 run that built the lead to 50-35 with 13:18 to play.

She hit a fallaway jumper, converted a rare four-point play and swished another 3 from the left wing to put Texas in control.

That's when the Longhorns turned it into rout.

Schreiber hit her fourth 3-pointer, Carey followed it with another and Schreiber converted a fast-break layup on a sharp pass from Nina Norman to give Texas a 67-44 lead.



SOCCER

ODESSA — Pampa downed El Paso Riverside 1-0 in the Area round of the soccer playoffs Tuesday.

Jason Brown's first-half goal was all the scoring Pampa needed.

The Harvesters take on El Paso Bowie in the next round of the playoffs, tentatively scheduled for Saturday back in Odessa.

Palo Duro was shut out by El-Paso Del Valle 5-0 in other boys playoff action.

GOLF

PAMPA — Hidden Hills is hosting a Famous 3-person Scramble April 3, starting at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start.

Entry fee is \$40, which includes a cart.

Only one player with an 8 handicap or less is allowed per team. A certain percent of the entry fees will go into the cart trail fund.

The scramble will be flighted by total handicap.

Call 669-5866 to enter or come by the golf shop.

BASEBALL

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Adam Rogers went 2-for-4 and Lance Pendleton was 4-of-6 to lead Rice to a 15-10 victory over Texas A&M Tuesday night.

Rice (17-6) got five runs in each of the third and fourth innings to take a 11-2 lead. Rogers hit a three-run homer. Pendleton had a solo home run and Clay Reichenbach hit an RBI single in the third.

Rogers scored three runs on the night. Pendleton had three RBIs and scored two runs.

The two teams combined for 31 hits, 11 pitchers, five errors and three hit batters.

Texas A&M (21-5) scored four runs in the fifth and four more in the eighth to cut the Rice lead to 15-10. An A&M ninth-inning rally died when relief pitcher Jeff Niemann struck out both batters he faced with runners on second and third.

Austin Boggs led Texas A&M, going 3-for-5 with two RBIs. Cory Patton drove in four of the Aggie runs.

New E-Mail

The Pampa News sports department has a new e-mail address.

Articles and photographs from coaches or volunteer reporters should be e-mailed to sports@thepampanews.com

Photos must have a J-Peg format.

Articles may also be faxed to 669-2520 or left on the telephone message machine at 669-2527, ext. 321.

Optimist Baseball-Softball signups continue today

PAMPA - Excitement over Optimist Baseball-Softball 2004 mounted, sending registration near 500 mark Tuesday as 63 additional players signed up, according to Optimist Babe Ruth President Kevin Davis. Trout for new players and players moving up to a new league continue today from 5:30 to 7 at Optimist Park. Returning players need to register today as well.

Sandy Carry, a representative of the Miami Area Youth Organization, said, "We will be bringing a T-ball team, a pitching machine team and a girls 7-9 softball team to play in Pampa. "One of our teams will have 20 players. That represents all of the kids in Miami in that age group. Other kids from Miami will go through the draft and play on Pampa

teams."

The 11-12 Cal Ripken Baseball League continued to far exceed expectations.

"We had 38 new players trying out Monday, and then we had an additional 20 new players come out Tuesday," said Commissioner Ronnie Haynes. "That is more players than we had in the entire league last year. We are definitely going to add two Pampa teams and, perhaps, even a third team. We have the coaches available to handle three more teams."

Coaches are needed in the Senior Girls League for players 13 to 15 years of age.

"We have 146 girls who want to play, but we need adults to work with them," said league commissioner Sheri Tice.

Gillispie to become next Texas A&M basketball coach

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Billy Gillispie, who took Texas-El Paso from 24 losses to 24 wins and a close first-round loss to Maryland in the NCAA tournament, has accepted the coaching position at Texas A&M. UTEP officials said Wednesday.

"He decided that's what's best for him," Stull said. "This is his chance to coach at a higher level."

Gillispie met Tuesday with Texas A&M athletic director Bill Byrne. Texas A&M planned a news conference

Wednesday afternoon to officially name Gillispie as coach.

Terms of Gillispie's contract with Texas A&M weren't disclosed, but some reports put his base salary at \$700,000 that with incentives could escalate his annual pay to \$1.1 million.

Gillispie made \$145,000 annually at UTEP.

Gillispie will replace Melvin Watkins, who was 60-111 in his six seasons with the Aggies. The school last made the NCAA tournament in 1987 and has only been in the NIT once since then.

Randall ruins Pampa's district opener

PAMPA — Randall went away with a 10-4 win over Pampa in a District 3-4A baseball opener Tuesday at Harvester Stadium.

Dalton Rucker and Jonathan Huff combined on the mound with starter Rucker picking up the win.

Tyler Doughty pitched a complete game for the Harvesters. He allowed 11 hits while striking out four and walking four.

Randall's offense was sparked by Huff's two-run homer. Cort Johnson added a triple and Michael Cantu and Rucker each had a double.

Pampa's offense was highlighted by Tyson Hickman's grand slam home run over the right field fence in the second inning. Hickman also added a single to Pampa's nine-hit

attack. Hunter Craig had a double and two singles, while Shea Brown, Dusty Lenderman, Nick Story and Seth Foster had one hit each.

Pampa's defense prevented more Randall runs from scoring in the seventh when Foster at third base started a double

Texas Tech sneaks by Houston, 11-12

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — Midland native Josh Haney hit a solo home run over the center field wall in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Texas Tech a 12-11 victory over Houston Tuesday night.

Haney's homer, one of four by the Red Raiders, came after the Cougars had tied the game at 11-11 with three runs in the top of the ninth. Patrick Breen hit an RBI triple and Rob Johnson and pinch hitter Thanos Papvasiliou each had RBI singles.

Breen had hit a three-run

play on Kyle Snell's grounder.

Pampa has a 7-7 record for the season and Randall is 7-6. Pampa and Randall shared the district championship a year ago.

The Harvesters visit Plainview for more district action at 1 p.m. Saturday.

PHS girls lose exciting district softball clash against Dumas

PAMPA — Prior to the Pampa Lady Harvesters hosting the Dumas Deamonettes most of the talk around was what a match it would be. Both teams came into the contest hitting the ball extremely well and looking to hold on to first in district play.

Overlooked was the fact that both teams had good starting pitching and that held true to form as Pampa's Nicole Clark and the Deamonettes Jordan Gresham dueling to a scoreless game thru seven.

In extra innings Dumas got two singles in the top of the eighth, scoring two runs then Pampa went 1,2,3, in the bottom half keeping Dumas (14-5; 4-0) on top of the District



Shortstop Stacey Johnson had one of the Lady Harvesters' four hits, a single.

3-4A race edging Pampa by the score of 2-0.

Clark (4-1 district) did a superb job on the mound limiting Dumas to five hits, walking one and striking out seven

Dumas batters. Gresham was equally effective giving up only four hits, no walks and recording seven K's.

Amy Youree singled in the first, Teryn Garner singled in the second, Stacey Johnson singled in the fourth and Abbi Covalt singled in the fifth for Pampa's hits. With the loss the Lady Harvesters dropped their record to (11-8-1; 4-1 district).

Pampa JV and varsity softball teams host the Borger Lady Bulldogs on Saturday at Lady Harvester Field with a scheduled 1:00 p.m. start.

Caprook defeated Palo Duro 9-7 in other district action yesterday. Caprook boosted its district record to 4-0.

Kwan takes a tumble in World Championships

DORTMUND, Germany (AP) — Michelle Kwan got off to a wobbly start Wednesday in her bid to become the first American skater to win six world figure skating titles.

In her opening performance, Kwan turned a triple loop jump into a single and fell on her usually reliable triple lutz. She finished third in her qualifying group behind Japanese skaters Shizuka Arakawa and Miki Ando.

Kwan's U.S. rival, Sasha Cohen, skated a lyrical program and won her qualifying round.

Long regarded as the best female skater of her era, Kwan tied the U.S. record held by 1960 Olympic champion,

Carol Heiss, when she won her fifth world crown in 2003. But she needs to improve in Friday's short program for hopes of a sixth.

"I couldn't feel the ice. I was kind of stiff," the eight-time U.S. champion said. "I got into it in the middle but by that time, it was too late."

Her uncharacteristically low marks reflected her trouble: On a scale of 6.0 she was awarded between 4.9 and 5.6 for technical merit and between 5.6 and 5.9 — only one 5.9 — for artistic presentation.

"I can't say it felt like me out there," she said. "I guess that was sort of like a wake-up call. I wish I could do it over

again."

Kwan catapulted to fame at 13 when she was sent by the U.S. Figure Skating Association to the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics as a standby in case Tonya Harding was pulled from the games.

Two years later, she was world champion — she won in 1996, '98, 2000, '01 and '03.

Cohen revamped her "Swan Lake" program with a more dynamic opening and skated brilliantly with six clean triples, intricate but fast spins, and spellbinding spirals that showcase her exceptional flexibility. She received marks from 5.4 to 5.9 and looked more of a contender than Kwan did on Wednesday.

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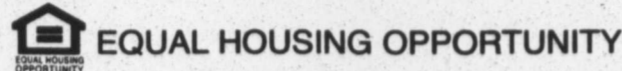
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For Rates And Additional Information Call 669-2525

1 Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING

Notice is hereby given that the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) is applying for grant funding from the Texas Water Development Board's Research and planning Fund to be used for the purpose of Supplemental Funding to address Changed Conditions during the development of the second Regional Water Plan. The application is being filed with the Executive Administrator of the Texas Water Development Board. The PRPC consists of the following counties: Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore, Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Oldham, Potter, Carson, Gray, Wheeler, Randall, Armstrong, Donley, Collingsworth, Hall and Childress. The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission serves as the designated political subdivision for the Panhandle Water planning Group (Region A) and is represented by Gary Pitner, Executive Director, and can be reached by mail at: PO Box 9257, Amarillo, Texas 79711-3231, Attn: Temple McKinnon. Individuals wishing to make comments regarding this notice of intent or the application for funds must file such comments with the Texas Water Development Board, Attn: Executive Administrator, and with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, Attn: Gary Pitner, within 30 days of publication or mailing of this notice.
 E-22 Mar. 24, 2004

1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of R.H. NENSTIEL, Deceased, were issued on March 15, 2004, in Cause Number 9068, pending on the Probate Docket of the County Court in and for Gray County, Texas, to LELAND W. WATERS, Independent Executor. The address of record for said Independent Executor is P.O. Box 1754, Pampa, Texas 79001-1754. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 22nd day of March, 2004.
 LELAND W. WATERS
 Independent Executor
 of the Estate of
 R.H. Nienstiel, Deceased
 E-21 Mar. 24, 2004

5 Special Notices

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LOST 6 mo. old female Pit Bull, white & fawn w/ green collar & tags. Cash reward if found. 665-1484 or 664-1161.

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14d Carpentry

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IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers, Inc. Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo.

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14n Painting

INT./EXT. painting, mud tape. 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

14s Plumbing/Heat

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JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115- faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

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19 Situations

The Alteration Shop Clothes alterations, pick up, delivery, laundry service, 8-3 p.m. 662-0932

EXP. caregiver looking for elderly or disabled person to help take care of. References. 669-2586

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

FAMILY SERVICE DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE OPENING

Memory Gardens Cemetery of Pampa will hire a family man or woman to assist families in making pre-arrangements in the Pampa area. This position requires an independent, competitive, and service oriented person. Full fringe benefits are available. On a national basis, persons working in this position have established an annual income of \$40,000 per year. If you have a sales personality and desire an above average income, call 806-669-7605.

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SIVALLS, Inc. is looking for a Lay-Out Fabricator and Welder/Fabricator. Welding and drug tests are required. 806-665-7111, Pampa, Tx.

LVN Charge Nurse needed full-time. Must be able to work 4 on/2 off. Benefits: insur., retirement, meals furnished. Apply in person, St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle.

21 Help Wanted

OFFICE clerk. Must have own transportation, computer skills, filing, organization, multi-tasked, general office equip.. Apply in person at West Texas Landscape, 120 S. Hobart, to Brenda Sircy.

CROW HOLLOW has the following position open: Cowboy / Pen Rider. Please fax resume to 806-856-5374, or apply 3900 County Rd. 23, Hedley, Tx. (2.5 mi. west of Hadley), or contact Cattle Manager, Danny Glasgow, at 806-662-1529. Crow Hollow offers great pay & good benefits.

SONIC Drive-In of Pampa is now accepting applications for assistant managers and crew members for all shifts and positions. Apply in person at 1404 Hobart, EOE

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DOGWOOD Apts. 1 bdr., furn. and 2 bdr. unfurn. References & deposit req 669-9817, 669-2981.

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts., 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3.6 mo.-lyr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875. 1/2 Off Deposit Special.

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HOUSEKEEPER / Janitor needed full time. Must be able to work Sat. Benefits, insur., retirement, meals furnished. Apply in person, St. Ann's, Panhandle.

69 Misc.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 25, 2004:

You have a special ability to hurdle over problems or to find the path that no one has thought of. Your humor and unpredictability serve you in many different ways. Realize that you are breaking past your normal thought patterns. Often, you will have startling insights, which you might not always choose to share. You take a proactive stance. You act on your word; however, be careful not to act on your emotions, as your impulsiveness could be a source of trouble. If you are single, you will meet someone important in the fall. If you are at the phase of your life where you want commitment and marriage, this could easily be the person. If you are attached, your relationship will flow, especially after the fall. Always share what is on your mind. GEMINI brings out your personality.

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) ★★ New beginnings could have an abrupt or rocky start. You might feel challenged by what is going on. What might be happening is that you are getting a stronger sense of commitment, despite the jolts. Tonight: Chat away.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★ Sometimes you might not be sure of what is going on between you and a loved one. Curb watching the ups and downs, and stay focused on what is. Listen well to an assertive associate, especially when his or her brainstorm involves your funds. Ouch! Tonight: Pay bills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★ You act driven, and in many

ways you are. Stopping you might not be possible. Still, don't assume the path is smooth, as you hit a pothole that could leave you grasping for air. Onward, my dear Twin. Tonight: Your wish is another's desire.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★ Knowing when to duck could make all the difference in your present circumstances, especially if you don't want to contribute to the uproar. Facts change, therefore opinions change. If this can happen once, why not again? Tonight: Get some extra rest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★ You drive a hard bargain today. You know what you want and where you are heading. You might be close to unstoppable, even if someone tosses a boomerang in your path. For sure, an associate does the unexpected. Tonight: Where your friends are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★ Bosses and those in charge push much harder than you would like. Consider an open rebellion, but know when you need to put a halt to this demonstration. After all, you know the lay of the land. You can only go so far. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★ Express what you want, but know that if you carry a heavy amount of emotion in your voice, your words might not be well-received. Use logic. Seek out answers. Detach, and you'll make a powerful argument that changes the course of events. Tonight: Read a good book while listening to music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★ You might not always agree with a partner, but that doesn't mean he or she is wrong. You'll gain insight if you fight off rigidity and listen to the

real message here. How you express your deeper feelings counts. Tonight: Go along with another's plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★ Others are firm in their commitments. You can rock the boat, but you might not like the reaction you get. Be smart and know who has the edge right now. Your time will come. Just play the waiting game. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★ No one might be in the mood to be efficient, so shortcuts are the name of the game. You blow through your paperwork, looking for what must be handled immediately. Take a walk on your break if you are fidgety. Tonight: Work off some steam.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★ You have a way of invigorating others. Take off and get through a project, using your famed ingenuity. You could be surprised by the end results. Continue to be careful around money. You pull the wild card here. Tonight: Fun and games.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★ Your family needs to be your highest priority. How you visualize a domestic arrangement might be very different from a roommate or family member. Come to an agreement before you take action if you want to keep the peace. Tonight: Talk about rearranging.

BORN TODAY Singer Elton John (1947), actress Sarah Jessica Parker (1965), singer Aretha Franklin (1942)

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

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Confusion hampered CIA efforts to stop bin Laden before 9/11

By **KEN GUGGENHEIM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA efforts to stop Osama bin Laden before the Sept. 11 attacks were hindered by confusion over whether intelligence officers were allowed to kill the al-Qaida leader, a federal commission said Wednesday.

The CIA also had depended too much on Afghan indigenous groups to attack bin Laden and CIA Director George Tenet understood its chances of succeeding were only 10 percent to 20 percent, the federal commission on the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks said in a preliminary report.

Tenet was appearing before the panel Wednesday, the second day of hearings with Bush and Clinton administration officials as the commission examines diplomatic, military and intelligence efforts to stop al-Qaida before the Sept. 11 attacks against New York and Washington.

The commission's findings are to be released this summer and are likely to provide fodder for both Republicans and Democrats in their fall election campaigns.

Also appearing Wednesday was Richard Clarke, counterterrorism adviser in both administrations. In a newly published book, Clarke accuses President Bush of ignoring the threat posed by al-Qaida until the day of the attacks.

Clarke's charges were strongly rebutted Tuesday by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell. They said they were going beyond past practices of carrying out retaliatory strikes and had been developing a strategy for defeating al-Qaida.

And on Wednesday, White House chief of staff Andrew Card took issue with the contention.

"One of the first directives that came out of the National Security Council, at the president's direction, dealt with eliminating the Taliban regime and having a more robust response to the al-Qaida network than the previous administration had," Card said on ABC's "Good Morning America."

The panel's report said the CIA's deputy director of operations, Jim Pavitt, told Bush shortly after he was elected that bin Laden was one of the gravest threats to the country.

"President-elect Bush asked whether killing bin Laden would end the problem. Pavitt said he and (Tenet) answered that

Comptroller three-week amnesty 'pay up' period

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn recently announced "Project: Pay Up," a three-week amnesty period aimed at collecting unpaid taxes owed by Texas businesses. Through March 31, taxpayers can come forward, pay their past due taxes in full, and the Comptroller will waive penalty and interest charges normally assessed against delinquent taxpayers.

Strayhorn estimates Project: Pay Up will bring in \$50 million in delinquent state tax revenue and an additional \$9 million owed to local governments.

The 78th Legislature authorized the tax amnesty, recommended by Strayhorn in her 2003 report Limited Government, Unlimited Opportunity.

"I'm looking out for Texas and looking out for the honest, hardworking Texans who pay their taxes and bear the burden when others don't pay their fair share," Strayhorn said. "This one-time waiver of penalty and interest will bring in tax dollars we might not collect otherwise. These are dollars we need to educate our children, to help our children who need medical care and to

Detroit hospital admits Franklin

DETROIT (AP) — Aretha Franklin remained hospitalized Tuesday after having an allergic reaction to antibiotics, the singer's doctor said.

Franklin was admitted to Detroit's Sinai-Grace Hospital after her blood platelet count dropped, Dr. Claud Young told WXYZ-TV on Tuesday. Franklin had said she was not feeling well after returning from a concert tour Saturday.

"It was an allergic reaction to some antibiotics that she took just shortly before ... and it gave her a rather severe reaction," Young said. "She is really doing well. ... It's nothing that's lasting as far as we can tell at this time."

Franklin said she was feeling better Tuesday.

"I am resting comfortably and responding very well," Franklin said in a statement released by her New York City-based publicist Gwendolyn Quinn.

killing bin Laden would have an impact but not stop the threat," the report said.

The CIA later told the White House that "the only long-term way to deal with the threat was to end al-Qaida's ability to use Afghanistan as a sanctuary for its operations."

Bush in late 2001 ordered U.S. military forces, with British assistance, to help Afghan's Northern Alliance depose the Taliban government that had been sheltering bin Laden. Bin Laden was not found, and sporadic military action has been ongoing there ever since against al-Qaida and Taliban remnants.

After intelligence agencies began seeing strong indications in June and July 2001 that a terrorist attack was likely, some CIA officials were frustrated when some policy-makers questioned the intelligence. But Tenet, who was briefing Bush daily, "told us that his sense was that officials at the White House had grasped the sense of urgency he was communicating to them," the report said.

High court takes up Pledge of Allegiance case, new poll shows support for salute

By **GINA HOLLAND**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans overwhelmingly want the phrase "under God" preserved in the Pledge of Allegiance, a new poll says as the Supreme Court examines whether the classroom salute crosses the division of church and state.

Almost nine in 10 people said the reference to God belongs in the pledge despite constitutional questions about the separation of church and state, according to an Associated Press poll.

The Supreme Court was hearing arguments Wednesday from a California atheist who objected to the daily pledges in his 9-year-old daughter's classroom. He sued her school and won, setting up the landmark appeal before a court that has repeatedly barred school-sponsored prayer from classrooms, playing fields and school ceremonies.

The pledge is different, argue officials at Elk Grove Unified School District near Sacramento, where the girl attends school. Superintendent Dave Gordon said popular opinion is on their side.

"It's not a popularity contest. If something is wrong, it should be corrected. No matter how many people support it," he said. "The argument that 'under God' in the pledge is pushing religion on children is wrong on the law. It's also wrong from a commonsense perspective."

God was not part of the original pledge written in 1892. Congress inserted it in 1954, after lobbying by religious leaders during the Cold War. Since then, it has become a familiar part of life for a generation of students.

The question put to the Supreme Court: Does the use of the pledge in public schools violate the Constitution's ban on government established religion?

Michael Newdow, the father who filed the lawsuit, compared the controversy to the issue of segregation in schools, which the Supreme Court took up 50 years ago in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

"Aren't we a better nation because we got rid of that stuff?" asked Newdow, a 50-year-old lawyer and doctor arguing his own case at the court.

The AP poll, conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs, found college graduates

were more likely than those who did not have a college degree to say the phrase "under God" should be removed. Democrats and independents were more likely than Republicans to think the phrase should be taken out.

Justices could dodge the issue altogether. They have been urged to throw out the case, without a ruling on the constitutional issue, because of questions about whether Newdow had custody when he filed the suit and needed the mother's consent.

The girl's mother, Sandra Banning, is a born-again Christian and supporter of the pledge.

"I object to his inclusion of our daughter" in the case, Banning said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America" show. She said she worries that her daughter will be "the child who is remembered as the little girl who changed the Pledge of Allegiance."

Absent from the case is one of the court's most conservative members, Justice Antonin Scalia, who bowed out after he criticized the ruling in Newdow's favor during a religious rally last year. Newdow had requested his recusal.

Medicare could go broke by 2019, officials dipping into trust fund this year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare will go broke by 2019 without changes, 11 years sooner than its trustees projected two years ago — a deterioration the White House blames on rising health care costs, but that Democrats attribute to failed economic policies.

The government health care program for older and disabled Americans will have to take \$7.5 billion from its reserves this year to meet its expenses, government trustees said Tuesday in their annual report.

Social Security's finances, by contrast, remained the same and the program's projected insolvency date remained 2042, the trustees said. A projected \$3.7 trillion shortfall over 75 years could be erased with a 15 percent increase in Social Security taxes, a 13 percent cut in benefits or some combination of a tax hike and benefit reduction, they said.

Medicare probably will require more substantial changes, they said. As recently as 2002, Medicare's projected insolvency date was 2030 and trustees said the program wouldn't need to tap its reserves until 2016. Last year, trustees advanced the dates to 2026 and 2013, respectively.

The six trustees — four of

whom are senior Bush administration officials — said that projected lower tax receipts devoted to the program and higher expenditures for hospital care have contributed to the growing financial problem for two years in a row.

In addition, aspects of the new Medicare prescription drug law signed by President Bush in December also will drain the program's trust fund, devoted primarily to paying beneficiaries' hospital bills.

The trustees painted a picture of an unsustainable program that over 75 years would require an additional \$27.7 trillion unless Congress makes unspecified changes.

The prescription drug benefit that begins in 2006 and other changes will swell program costs by more than \$500 billion over 10 years and more than \$8 trillion over 75 years, according to the report.

The new numbers provided fuel for an already hot political debate in which both parties are courting graying baby boomers in this year's elections for control of the White House and Congress.

Democrats said the lack of new jobs in the economy is responsible for lower receipts from wage taxes. Democratic candidate John Kerry blamed "George Bush's irresponsible tax breaks for the wealthy and his

giveaway to the prescription drug companies" and said the system would be broke by the time people 50 or younger reach retirement.

"After inheriting a strong economy and record surpluses, this president had the chance to stay the course of fiscal responsibility and shore up both the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Instead, he made a mockery of fiscal responsibility," Kerry said.

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