

WORLD:
U.S. evacuating diplomats,
families from Sudan, Page 7

GOOD EVENING
Thursday, February 1, 1996

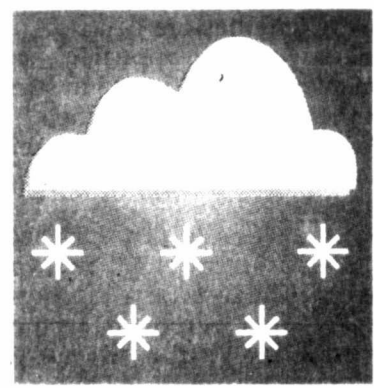
SPORTS:
PHSOF to induct former
McLean basketball star, Page 9

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 88 NO: 257

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight near 10,
high tomorrow in mid
teens. See Page 2 for
weather details.

PAMPA — Former students of Pampa High School are organizing an alumni association that they hope will result in support for the "whole school, not just activities," according to one organizer.

"It seems like most of the support for the high school or the school district ... comes from whoever has a son or daughter in football or basketball or band or whatever," Denver Bruner, school facilities manager and alumni organizer, said.

The association plans to establish scholarships for graduating seniors, coordinate a data base for all alumni, broaden alumni support for all aspects of PHS and serve as an information center to distribute alumni news, he said.

Beginning at Friday night's home basketball games, members will distribute fliers and seek donations. Within the next two weeks, Bruner said, an organizational meeting will be held.

AMARILLO (AP) — The federal government plans to negotiate a contract extension for management and operation of America's nuclear bomb disassembly plant.

Negotiations to extend Mason & Hanger-Silas Mason Co.'s contract could begin soon, although company officials have not received formal notification from the Energy Department, agency spokesman Tom Walton said.

The department plans to negotiate a one- to five-year extension of the contract, officials said this week.

Bob Barton, a Mason & Hanger spokesman, said the company has not received formal documentation from the federal agency on the move, but Mason & Hanger anticipated it would not face competition for the contract.

The decision to negotiate solely with Mason & Hanger instead of competing the contract is expected to bring millions to the Lexington, Ky.-based weapons contractor.

Walton said Gerry Johnson, manager of DOE's Amarillo Area Office, had recommended that the contract be extended.

AUSTIN (AP) — No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas game Wednesday night.

The jackpot was worth \$22 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were 17, 25, 26, 42, 44 and 50.

Lottery officials estimate the jackpot for Saturday night's game will be \$30 million.

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Prison inmate dies; JP orders autopsy report

By CHERYL BERZANSKIS
News Editor

An autopsy was scheduled today in Lubbock on the body of a Gray County inmate who died Wednesday at Coronado Hospital after refusing insulin for a period of time, according to Sheriff Randy Stubblefield.

Jody Edward Brunson, 24, was rushed about noon Monday to Coronado Hospital, where he had remained in intensive care on life support systems, Stubblefield said.

"His life support was removed and he was pronounced dead at 3:40 p.m. by Dr. (Laxman) Bhatta," said Justice of the Peace Bob Muns, who ordered the autopsy.

Brunson was accused of raping a Pampa woman after kidnapping her and two children in late July, 1995. He had been in custody since July 26, 1995 in lieu of \$120,000 bond.

The autopsy was to be conducted by Dr. R. Frost of Pathology Associates of Lubbock, said Muns.

"This department has invited and requested an independent investigation by an outside law

enforcement agency concerning the incident involving Brunson and his subsequent death," Stubblefield said in a prepared statement.

"Gary Henderson, a Texas Ranger of Company C, has worked round the clock for the past two days, reviewing documents and interviewing any and all persons, law enforcement and inmates alike, having knowledge of the circumstance surrounding Brunson's incarceration and his refusal to take his medication as was prescribed by the physician in charge of his care," the statement continued.

Muns said Wednesday he had not decided whether a formal inquest will be held.

"I'm just operating right now on real limited information," he said.

Autopsy results are expected in four to six weeks, Muns explained.

District Attorney John Mann said Henderson's report will be reviewed for action necessary by any other agency.

Stubblefield said earlier Brunson had refused insulin for his diabetes, though he did have a dose Monday prior to passing out.

Thornberry joins others in signing 'civility pledge'

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Amarillo) and a group of conservative Republicans and Democrats voiced their support for a "civility pledge" aimed at making public policy, not partisan politics, the focus of congressional debate during a Wednesday morning press conference.

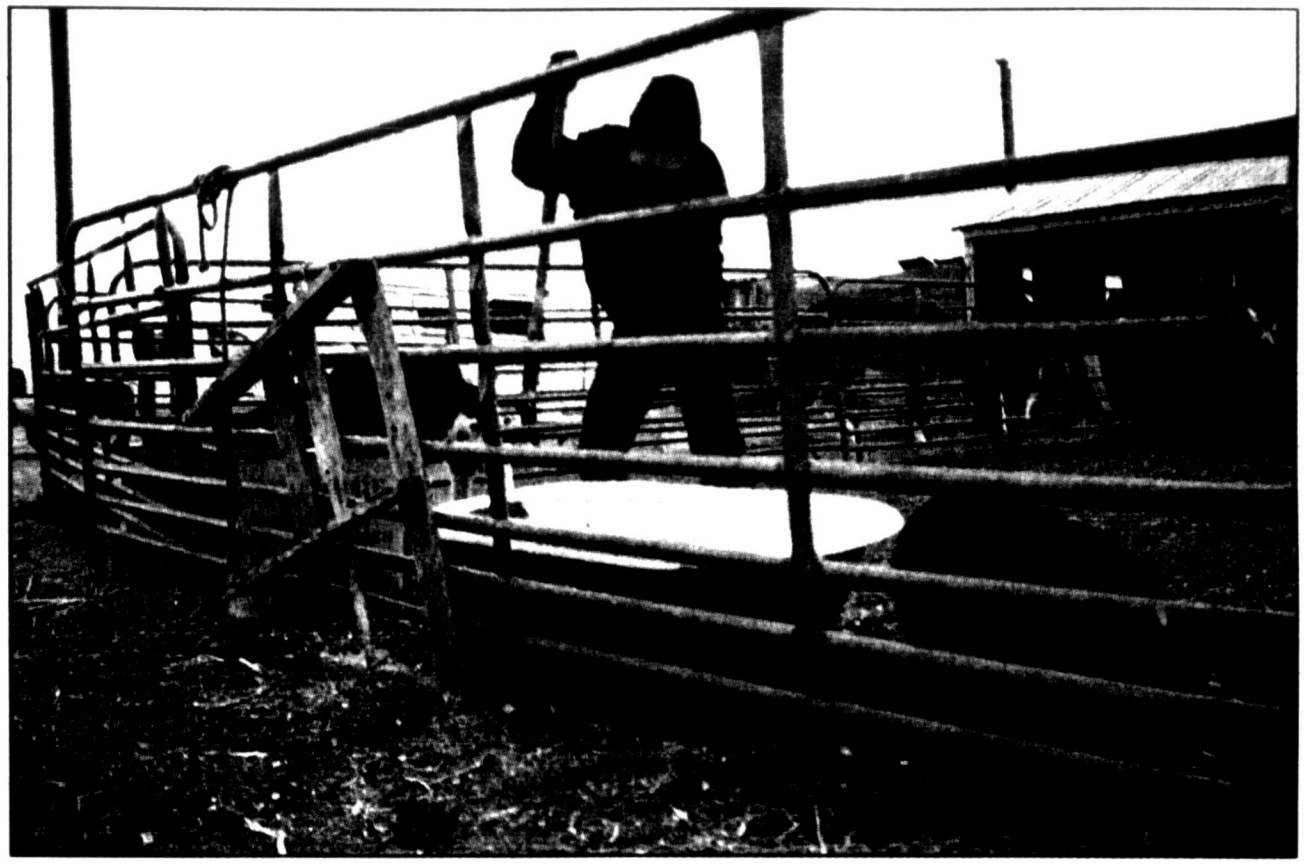
"Like many other conservative Republicans and Democrats, I strongly believe we were elected to change Washington and put an end to business as usual," Thornberry said. "And, for the most part, I think we have succeeded."

"But in bringing about an end to the era of backroom deals, there are some who say that we may also have contributed to the loss of civility in Congress. This may be true. After all, in the past, whenever members of opposing parties had a difference on the House floor, they

would take this difference out of the chamber and work it out after hours. In the process, they would become friends, the differences would be resolved and policy would win out over politics," he said.

"Unfortunately, backroom deals make for good politics but bad policy. It was 60 years of backroom deals that gave us exploding deficits. It was 60 years of backroom deals that gave us runaway spending. And it was 60 years of backroom deals that gave us an oppressive tax system that is in desperate need of reform," he claimed.

"In signing this pledge, we are saying that while the era of backroom deals has come to an end, the need for civility in Congress has not. The American people did not elect us to represent the Republican or Democratic party in Congress. They elected us to represent them," he said.



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Wade Helton breaks ice for his livestock this morning south of Pampa on the Bowers City highway as frigid cold weather maintains a grip on the Panhandle.

Freeze sweeps across state

From AP and Staff Reports

A winter storm warning was in effect through tonight for a vast area of North Texas where as much as 6 inches of snow could accumulate by early Friday.

And temperatures were expected to plunge below freezing over all but extreme South Texas.

The latest cold front dropped temperatures into the single digits for the Texas Panhandle area this morning, with freezing rain reported in western regions and light snow falling by mid morning in the eastern areas.

Bitterly cold weather is expected for the Panhandle areas again tonight, with a strong chance for continued light snow into Friday and possibly into the weekend.

Pampa's high Wednesday was 22, with an overnight low of 9. Temperatures remained in the low teens shortly before noon.

A winter storm watch was in effect for western areas of the Big Country, Concho Valley and Edwards Plateau.

Freezing rain could fall as far south as the Hill Country. Some light freezing drizzle was reported in that area before dawn today.

The winter storm warning for North Texas covered the area north of a line from Stephenville to Canton to Atlanta and included the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Denton, Greenville, Mount Pleasant, Paris and Sherman.

A winter weather advisory was posted for the area of North Texas north of an Abilene to Stephenville line where a mix-

ture of sleet and snow will accumulate 1 to 2 inches from late morning through tonight. Snowfall in those areas will taper off to flurries by early Friday.

The freezing drizzle had extended into southern areas of Dallas County by dawn today.

In West Texas, there is a chance of snow, sleet and freezing through Friday from the Panhandle to the Concho Valley. Rain and thunderstorm activity is forecast in the Big Bend area of Southwest Texas.

In North Texas, forecasters said the freezing will precipitation was to begin as sleet and freezing rain during the early afternoon and change to snow. As much as 6 inches of snow could accumulate by midnight when the snow was expected to diminish to flurries.

Tips for surviving cold weather conditions

With snow falling and temperatures tonight expected to fall near single-digit levels, local experts are offering tips to survive the winter cold.

Water Superintendent Charlie Smith advises residents to leave one faucet dripping to prevent freezing of water lines. Meters are generally well insulated, he said, but residents should take action to protect their own lines.

Dale Brown of Dale R. Brown Automotive recommends drivers check to be sure they have a

sound car battery, as well as getting an engine tune up and regularly changing oil filters.

He also said people should allow their car to warm up for five to ten minutes in the morning.

Department of Public Safety Trooper Jim Bishop cautions travelers to pack extra blankets and coats before setting off on excursions in the weather. He also advises that people carry survival kits of food and water, as well as calling ahead to check

travel conditions.

Veterinarian Dr. Kenneth Royse counsels that pets should be protected from the weather, but for the most part can survive well.

"Of course they do come equipped with fur coats," he said. "But, he said, pets that are used to being inside should not be left out in this weather."

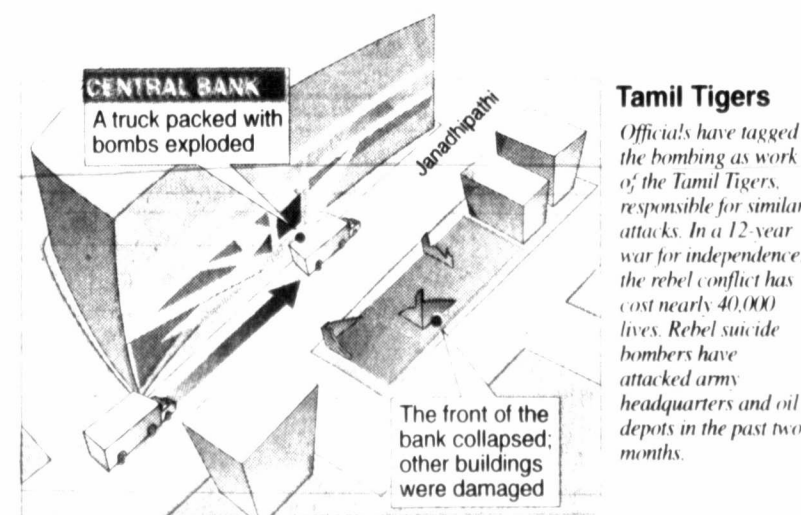
Also, a source of continual melted water should be supplied, preferably not in a metal pan, he said.

Suicide bombing leaves 73 dead in Sri Lanka city

Sri Lanka bombing

A blast at a Colombo bank set off a string of high-rise fires in the city center.

- 1 Central Bank — Blast site
- 2 Ceylinc Building — Destroyed
- 3 Ceylon Intercontinental Hotel — Damaged
- 4 Bank of Ceylon — Damaged
- 5 Le Galadani Meridien Hotel



Tamil Tigers

Officials have tagged the bombing as work of the Tamil Tigers, responsible for similar attacks. In a 12-year war for independence, the rebel conflict has cost nearly 40,000 lives. Rebel suicide bombers have attacked army headquarters and oil depots in the past two months.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Rescuers dug out 13 more bodies today from the charred wreckage left by a suicide bomber who turned Colombo's business center into a knot of towering fires. The death toll from the blast, blamed on Tamil rebels, stood at 73 and was expected to rise.

Distraught residents, desperate to find out if relatives survived Wednesday's blast, flocked to the scene today, but heavily armed soldiers sealed off the area and refused to let them in.

Soldiers and rescue workers said they didn't expect to find any more survivors in one of the worst attacks in Sri Lanka's 12-year civil war.

More than 1,400 people were wounded after a blue truck packed with explosives rammed into Sri Lanka's central bank Wednesday morning, and dozens remained in critical condition in hospitals today. The blast ignited a string of fires in Colombo's business and tourist district.

The driver of the truck died instantly. Two suspected accomplices were arrested as they tried to flee the scene, police said.

Bulldozers worked under floodlights and clear skies

tonight to clear away slabs of concrete that once were floors and walls. Rescuers had reached all areas except the basement of the bank, and police said they did not believe large numbers of bodies would be found in any of the devastated buildings.

Of the 1,400 civilians who were wounded, 1,000 remained hospitalized today and nearly 100 were listed in critical condition, police spokesman Lal Gunawardene told The Associated Press. Most of the casualties worked in the state bank.

Many of the victims were taken to National Hospital, where all beds were filled and the injured lay on trolleys cramming the corridors.

Dozens of anguished relatives and friends crowded around the casualty lists posted outside the emergency room. The scene at the hospital was orderly and somber.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga said Tamil separatists attacked in desperation after military setbacks and indications that Tamil civilians support a government peace plan.

"This unfortunate incident has once again reminded us that the threat to Sri Lankan society by

terrorism must be firmly dealt with," and terrorists "must be eliminated," she said in a statement faxed today to reporters in Colombo.

Tamil Tiger rebels accuse the Sinhalese majority of discriminating against the Tamil minority. More than 40,000 people have died since civil war broke out 12 years ago.

Tamil suicide bombers have been blamed for many other attacks, including the assassinations of President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993 and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

The rebels rarely claim responsibility for such attacks, and no claim has been received for the central bank bombing. Clandestine Voice of the Tigers radio reported the bombing today but didn't say who carried it out.

The driver of the truck died instantly. Police said they later arrested two heavily armed accomplices fleeing the scene.

Police said the suspects confessed to planning the attack under the guidance of Tamil rebels, and identified them today only as Ragu and Dharma Ruben from the northern rebel-held town of Kilinochchi.

AP/Wm. Castello, Tonia Cowan, T. Tso

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PUC: 'Please, please' support us on area-code decision

HOUSTON (AP) — The state Public Utility Commission pleaded for patience and understanding from telephone users Wednesday as it wrestles with a decision on new area codes in Houston and Dallas.

The three commissioners' closely watched decision, due at a meeting in Austin next week, could determine whether millions of consumers in Texas' two largest cities become the first in the nation required to dial 10 digits for local calls.

The PUC was in Houston for a second round of public hearings on the matter. Similar hearings were planned in the Dallas area on Thursday.

"Please, please give us your patience, your understanding and ultimately your support for whatever decision we're about to make," commissioner Robert Gee said.

"The issues involved are not clear-cut ... and the facts themselves aren't exactly clear-cut. This is a very difficult decision for all of us to make. It is a

decision that we do not approach lightly because we know that both in Houston and Dallas it's going to control and dictate how people use their telephones."

Because of the proliferation of cellular telephones, computer modems and fax machines in recent years, Houston and Dallas are running out of telephone numbers in the 713 and 214 area codes. To fix that, Houston's second area code will be 281, while Dallas will pick up 972.

The point of contention is how the new codes will be assigned to customers.

Commissioners are weighing two options. One is to split the cities geographically, which would require more than a million customers in both cities to change their numbers. That's the way area codes have traditionally been implemented.

The other plan, called an overlay, would scatter the new area code at random around the cities and would require residents to dial the three-digit code

plus the telephone number for all local calls. No city currently has 10-digit dialing for local calls.

Administrative law Judge Rick Guzman last year recommended that the PUC order the overlay plan for Houston and the geographic split for Dallas.

Southwestern Bell, which administers telephone numbers for all companies in Texas, favors the overlay, saying it is a longer-lasting solution that wouldn't require people to change their phone numbers.

But companies such as MCI that want to compete for local telephone service say the overlay will give Bell an unfair advantage, a claim backed up by the Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel.

Bell attorney Joseph Cosgrove said Wednesday that the overlay plan is designed to keep the company from getting an advantage over its competition. Although Bell would be the only company with the ability to issue the roughly 140,000 remaining 713 numbers to new customers, it would be

prohibited from doing so for two years, he said.

The PUC had been scheduled to vote on the issue three weeks ago but put off the decision after holding hearings and discovering that the public still had significant questions about both plans.

Most business owners who attended the earlier hearings said they supported the overlay so they wouldn't have to change their telephone numbers. Many residential users, however, didn't want to dial 10 digits and feared the possibility of having a different area code than their next-door neighbor.

PUC Chairman Pat Wood said the panel and its staff benefited from the additional time.

"It gave us a chance to gather the evidence on a number of questions that were raised by the citizens," Wood said. "I think we've used those three weeks productively."

The commissioners offered no hint of which way they were leaning, but Gee said the public hearings revealed strong feelings on both sides of the issue.

Baker Science Fair winners



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Blue-ribbon winners at the Baker Elementary Science Fair include, front, Jeanet Sanchez, Cody Hext, Jennifer Bryan and Omar Chavez, and back, Jatin Patel, Raquel Ramirez, Jasin Cordova, Drew Wilson, Ramona Perez, Rosa Estrada and Juan Carlos Quiñones. The ribbon winners automatically advance to the regional science fair in Amarillo.

Reno: U.S. expelled record number of 31,500 criminal aliens last year

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States expelled a record 31,500 criminal aliens during 1995, Attorney General Janet Reno said Wednesday. She gave states \$87 million to help pay prison costs for others still here.

Preliminary data showed that 2,140 criminal aliens were taken from federal, state and county prisons and jails last December and expelled, pushing the year's total past the 1994 record of 30,000 expulsions. The number should climb even higher, because December's data is incomplete due to compilation delays from the two recent federal government shutdowns.

Reno said 44 states and the District of Columbia would share the \$87 million under the 1994 crime law, which for the first time provided federal dollars to states for imprisoning criminal aliens. The attorney general is locked in a continuing struggle over the question with California Gov. Pete Wilson, a Republican, who says his state spends \$400 million a year imprisoning alien criminals and needs federal money to pay the cost.

Wilson sued the federal government in April 1994 for failing to reimburse the state for imprisoning illegal aliens. The lawsuit also demanded federal money to help finance construction of pris-

ons to hold illegal immigrants. California lost in the federal trial court and has appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

As in an advance grant made in October 1994, California gets the largest share of the latest federal aid.

Reno said the available aid money was divided in proportion to the number of incarcerated aliens and costs incurred by each state. Justice Department figures show California houses more than 18,000 of the estimated 37,000 alien inmates in all state prisons, and nearly all the \$87 million will be divided among only 11 states.

They are California, \$30.5 million; Texas, \$14.8 million; New York, \$9.5 million; Florida, \$5.5 million; Illinois, \$3.8 million; Arizona, \$2.7 million; New Jersey, \$2.2 million; Washington, \$2.1 million; Michigan, \$1.9 million; Massachusetts, \$1.1 million; and Oregon, \$1 million.

Including the \$42.9 million distributed in late 1994 to seven states, the Justice Department said, the first year of federal aid totaled \$130 million. It covered 16 cents out of every \$1 in costs claimed by the states.

October's money was split between Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Texas.

The Clinton administration has

requested \$300 million in federal aid for the program's second year, but the Justice Department budget has been caught up in the dispute between President Clinton and Congress over future spending.

Reacting to the new grant, Wilson said, "The \$30.5 million is not even enough money for us to keep our undocumented alien felons behind bars for a month." He argued that Reno has authority under a continuing resolution, which funds the Justice Department through March 15, to give California as much as \$300 million now.

Reno said the federal government is stepping up programs to identify and deport criminal aliens as soon as they finish their sentences. Deportation can come earlier if states opt to commute sentences to rid themselves of the responsibility and cost, as Florida has done in some cases.

One new idea to clear out illegals is to hold deportation hearings in state prisons and jails, an innovation pioneered in the Los Angeles County Jail.

On Tuesday, California prison officers attempted to deliver a Mexican prisoner to a federal detention center, a tactic designed to force the federal government to take custody of criminal aliens. The Immigration and Naturalization Service would not accept the 25-year-old drug dealer.

State briefs

Bar owner fights Elvis empire over rocker's name

HOUSTON (AP) — Barry Capece doesn't consider himself an Elvis Presley fanatic. That's a good thing, because the King's estate isn't overly fond of Capece, either.

The Houston bar owner is locked in a legal tussle with the Memphis, Tenn.-based Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. over the name of his 5-year-old nightclub, Velvet Elvis.

Lawyers guarding Elvis' multi-million-dollar marketing empire say Velvet Elvis, which has gained notoriety here as a live music venue, is illegally using the rhinestone-studded rocker's name.

Capece, however, says the cadre of corporate attorneys that dragged him into federal court last year is missing the point — Velvet Elvis is named not after the seminal singer but the cheesy black velvet art that commonly features bullfights and dogs playing billiards as well as Elvis.

Miss USA officials take competition on-line

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, (AP) — They aren't putting the swimsuit competition to a vote, but Miss USA officials are taking

another route into the 21st century of beauty pageants: the Internet.

The Miss USA pageant has gone on-line for the first time. Visitors to the new site on the World Wide Web can learn everything from how to become a contestant themselves to the occupation of their favorite delegate to this year's pageant, which takes place here on Friday.

"We've been talking about getting on the Internet for the last couple of shows," said pageant spokeswoman Kellie Totten. "We see it as the wave of the future."

Miss USA isn't the first beauty pageant to go on-line. Ms. Totten said. Miss America had a home page during that contest last year.

But Miss USA is the first pageant to interact with its fans through the Internet, she said. The pageant is using the home page to allow computer users to vote for this year's most photogenic contestant.

Judge accused of bilking dying man, charity of \$64,000

HEMPHILL (AP) — Sabine County Judge Larry Hyden has stepped down pending resolution of two indictments alleging he bilked a 76-year-old dying man and the Shriners Children's hospital out of \$64,000.

Hyden, 53, left his office Wednesday morning, after telling the county commissioners court that he is suspended until the cases are disposed of. He is free on \$1,000 bond on each charge.

Hyden persuaded retired chemical plant worker Nolton J. LeJune to buy 10 percent of Hyden's company, Production Analysts Inc., on Feb. 4, 1991. The company performs consulting work for chemical plants.

In exchange for buying the stock, LeJune was to have gotten \$600 to \$700 a month for the rest of his life, with the stock going to the Shriners hospitals after his death.

Five months after purchasing the stock, LeJune died.

Disabled voters petition for relief after suing state

EL PASO (AP) — Disabled voters who successfully sued the state over alleged discrimination in the polling place are now trying to find out what it is they actually won.

The plaintiffs in the class-action suit filed against Texas' chief elections officer returned to U.S. District Judge David Briones' courtroom Wednesday to seek a final order in the case.

Briones ruled in the plaintiffs' favor last November after finding that the Secretary of State's Office had discriminated against the disabled by failing to ensure polling places are fully accessible to the blind.

But he imposed no remedy pending a possible agreement between the two sides. No such settlement was reached, however, setting the stage for the two-day remedy hearing that is scheduled to continue this morning.

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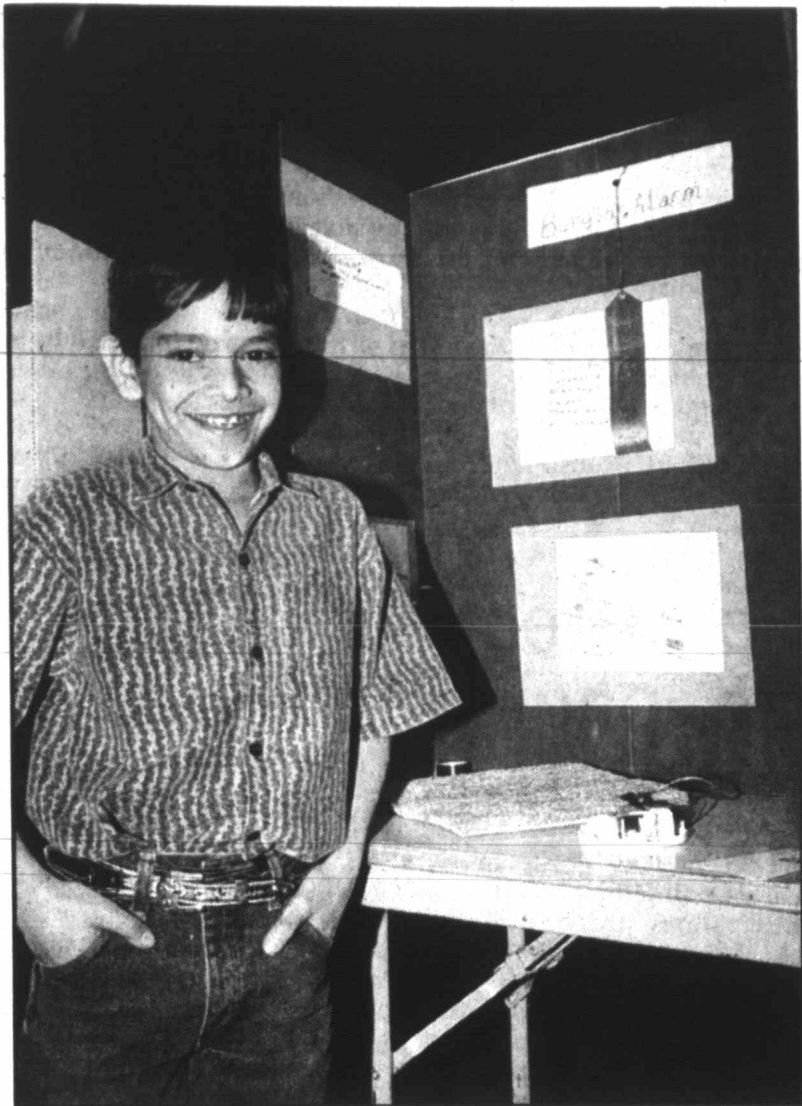
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Home-made burglar alarm



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Omar Chavez poses with his blue-ribbon winning home-made burglar alarm during an exhibition of winners at the Baker Elementary Science Fair. Chavez and 10 other third through fifth graders won blue-ribbons, qualifying to advance to regional competition in Amarillo. Chavez rigged pressure-sensitive wires underneath a patch of carpet that set off an alarm when tripped. He said he has not yet installed the system at his home, though.

Forbes takes lead, according to poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new poll suggests Steve Forbes is surging ahead in New Hampshire, just three weeks before the state's influential Republican presidential primary.

The Federal Election Commission reportedly is questioning whether his campaign received improper contributions from his family's company, Forbes Inc.

The poll released today by *The Boston Globe* and WBZ-TV showed Forbes would receive 31 percent of the vote if the primary were held today to 22 percent for Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

Dole, the front-runner for the past year, has been struggling to put a lackluster response to President Clinton's State of the Union address behind him on the campaign trail.

The poll has a margin of error

of plus or minus 5 percentage points and came on the heels of recent polls showing contradictory trends.

The Washington-based Pew Research Center for People and the Press earlier this week said Forbes was leading Dole, by 29 to 24 percent. But the New Hampshire-based American Research Group found Dole holding steady at 33 percent and Forbes at 16.

The latest poll, conducted Monday and Tuesday by KRC Communications Research, included 400 likely voters in New Hampshire's primary. Pollsters said 292 of those surveyed identified themselves as Republicans and 108 as independents, who are allowed to participate in the Feb. 20 primary.

That ratio of independents — 27 percent — is considered high by

some New Hampshire election watchers who say past primaries suggest independents make up no more than 16 percent of the electorate. Forbes, popular among independents, is hoping for a surge in turnout among those voters.

Forbes said Wednesday he'd settled for "a strong fourth or a good third" place showing in the Iowa caucuses Feb. 12 and "we're going for a third or second" in New Hampshire's primary.

Asked on CNN where he hoped to chalk up his first win, Forbes said, "We're looking to do it in Arizona" in a Feb. 27 primary.

The poll also showed commentator Pat Buchanan with 11 percent, former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander at 9 percent, Texas Sen. Phil Gramm at 7 percent and Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar

at 3 percent. The rest of the GOP field received 1 percent or less.

As Forbes gains ground, *The Washington Post* reported today that the FEC is questioning whether Forbes Inc. gave him improper corporate contributions that were later repaid by the campaign.

In its filings with the FEC, the campaign showed numerous reimbursements to the company for travel, totaling \$6,575, and a payment to the company of \$36,136.61 for rent and telephones.

The campaign's general counsel, Paul Sullivan, said the campaign actually made payments for the use of corporate aircraft before the flights, as the FEC requires, even though it called them reimbursements in its report.

Stent variation successful in bolstering procedure

DALLAS (AP) — A variation on the stent, a medical device that holds open clogged arteries, may improve the instrument's efficiency and solve the problem of excessive bleeding sometimes associated with its use, a Dutch study suggests.

Stents can reduce angioplasty failure by up to a third, earlier studies have shown. But their implantation also attract blood clots, so doctors have had to prescribe blood thinners that cause bleeding complications in a significant number of patients.

A new pilot study found that stents coated with heparin, a natural clot-resistant substance, were 99 percent effective in keep-

ing patients' clogged heart vessels open without clot-related complications in the first 30 days after the procedure.

The study is reported in Thursday's edition of the *American Heart Association journal Circulation*.

More than 300,000 Americans undergo angioplasty annually to open clogged heart arteries and relieve chest pain. About 40 percent of the time, however, the arteries squeeze shut again within a few weeks.

The heparin-coated stents appear to reduce the risk of that complication, known as restenosis, even more than non-coated stents, said Dr. James T. Willerson, editor-in-chief of

Circulation and chairman of internal medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston.

"Now there's a new technology that looks like it may reduce that maybe close to single digits," said Willerson, noting that only 7 percent of one group of patients in the new study suffered the complication.

That is far less than the 29 percent restenosis rate found in a 1993 U.S. study of non-coated stents and the 20 percent rate in a European study. The overall rate of restenosis in the new study is about 14 percent.

Willerson noted that the new study included only 203 patients and that larger, randomized trials

are needed. One is already under way.

The Palmaz-Schatz stents used in the study are \$1,600 stainless-steel mesh-like cylinders approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1994 for use in heart patients. A spokesman for maker Johnson & Johnson, which financed the new study, said that some 100,000 of its uncoated stents have been implanted in U.S. patients.

During surgery, the stent is folded like scaffolding and maneuvered into place on the tip of a balloon-tip catheter in the clogged artery. When the balloon is inflated, the stent locks in place and keeps the artery from closing up.

Florida appeals court gives go-ahead for class action suit* against tobacco industry

MIAMI (AP) — In a major setback for the tobacco industry, a Florida appeals court on Wednesday gave class action status to a lawsuit filed on behalf of people who are addicted to cigarettes or whose health has been impaired by smoking.

The lawsuit, one of several such actions against the tobacco industry, applies only to residents of Florida. It seeks to force the industry to pay billions of dollars in damages, and create a fund to diagnose and treat smoking-related illnesses.

"This is a very significant lawsuit, one of perhaps five lawsuits that are pending," said John Banzhaf, a law professor at George Washington University in

Washington, D.C. He is executive director of the anti-smoking organization, Action on Smoking and Health.

"It is significant because as far as I know it is the highest state court to rule on this so far as a class action ... and because it opens the way for class action lawsuits in most of the other states," he said.

A class action in the lawsuit means that any Florida smoker who believes he became addicted to cigarettes or whose health was harmed by smoking could join in any benefits that might come out a settlement.

Other similar lawsuits against the tobacco industry have been filed in Minnesota, Mississippi and West Virginia.

A federal district court in New Orleans has certified a lawsuit against the tobacco industry as a class action, but that appeal has not been heard.

The Florida lawsuit, certified as a class-action by the Third District Court of Appeal in Miami, is against 13 cigarette manufacturers and industry organizations.

One of the largest, R.J. Reynolds, will challenge the ruling in court, said the company's senior vice president, Daniel W. Donahue. "It's too early to decide, but we'll do something," he said.

Philip Morris said it would ask for a rehearing by the appeals court, and failing that, appeal to the Florida Supreme Court.

The Miami attorney who filed the lawsuit, Stanley M. Rosenblatt, said he believed the case will be tried by early 1997.

Rosenblatt also filed a class action lawsuit in 1991 on behalf of airline flight attendants, nonsmokers who said their health had been damaged by working in a smoking environment. That case is still pending.

The lawsuit charges that cigarette manufacturers have known for more than 25 years that nicotine is addictive and that smoking causes disease, but have "intentionally suppressed scientific and medical evidence."

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Telecommunications legislation rewrite up for final vote

By JEANNINE AVERSA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Refusing to change a key provision opposed by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, House leaders intend to bring a historic rewrite of U.S. telecommunications law up for a final vote.

"I am delighted to announce that the logjam ... has now been broken," Rep. Thomas Bliley, R-Va., one of the bill's primary authors, said Wednesday, adding that the bill will move forward "without significant changes."

The House was expected to approve the measure as early as today.

As it stands now, the massive rewrite of the 1935 Communications Act would let local and long-distance telephone companies and cable companies into each others' businesses, deregulate cable rates and restrict smutty materials on computer net-

works and on television. It also would make it easier for media companies to expand their holdings. The White House has said President Clinton would sign the bill.

House and Senate leaders agreed not to go along with Dole's proposed changes, allowing them to sidestep for now a dispute over how new digital TV licenses are awarded to broadcasters.

Instead, key lawmakers pledged to explore Dole's concerns in hearings later this year and possibly address them in a separate bill.

Sen. Larry Pressler, R-S.D., another of the bill's primary authors, said Dole was satisfied by these assurances and would not block the bill. Dole was not as clear.

"Any agreement to bring telecommunications reform to the Senate floor hinges on receiving a commitment from FCC Chairman Reed Hundt that the FCC will not short-circuit Congress by issuing licenses or permits for advanced television services

before Congress had resolved the spectrum issue," Dole said in a statement.

Asked whether he could offer such a commitment, Hundt said: "I'm sure all the commissioners will be very pleased to respond." But he would not speculate how they would respond.

Though Pressler said he would like the Senate to vote today also, Dole's comments made that less than certain.

Dole, the GOP presidential front-runner, opposes a provision in the telecommunications bill that would give TV broadcasters free use of extra channels they'll need to provide higher-quality digital television. Dole is being blocking the bill because of that provision, saying it amounts to a huge giveaway to the TV industry. If the channels were auctioned, they could bring anywhere from \$11 billion to \$70 billion, according to government estimates.

Though Dole had demanded the provision be rewritten, more recently aides close to the leader

have said he was open to a remedy outside the telecommunications bill.

Pressler said he would urge the FCC not to issue the extra channels to broadcasters until Congress decides whether they should be auctioned or allocated some other way.

FCC officials said this should not delay a transition to digital television in the United States because the commission does not expect to issue licenses for the extra channels until the end of the year.

The National Association of Broadcasters, which supports the bill as written, "is very pleased the bill is going through as originally put together," spokeswoman Lynn McReynolds said.

Bradley Stillman, legislative director of the Consumer Federation of America, which doesn't like the bill, accused Dole of "selling out for nothing. He backed down. He was unwilling to go to the mat on this \$70 billion issue."

Festival of Christmas Trees donation



(Special photo)

The Festival of Christmas Trees & Gift Boutique raised \$2,500 for its 1995 project, with the money presented to Shepherd's Helping Hands. Gathering for the presentation of the funds to the agency are, from left, Dee Barker, Amy Kotara, Teresa Henson, Dauna Sue Wilkinson, Chrys Smith, Forrest Cloyd, Carrie Duroy, Peggy Cloyd, Pam Dalton, Glenn Knight and Mildred Night. The Festival of Christmas Trees raised the money from selling booth spaces and from the food booth profits. Decorated Christmas trees were also given to 36 elderly and needy families in the community. The Festival organization is a chartered, non-profit, volunteer organization, with the objective of working toward the betterment of the community. The annual show is held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the first full weekend of December. The organization encourages community participation and support as a means of helping others less fortunate.

Federal Reserve cuts interest rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve cut interest rates for the second time in two months Wednesday, hurrying to the rescue of a faltering economy. Major banks immediately reduced their own lending rates, meaning lower borrowing costs for millions of Americans.

The stock market, which had surged on Tuesday in anticipation of the Fed's credit relief, set another record on Wednesday. The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 5,394.94, up 13.73.

Private analysts said further rate reductions were likely as the Federal Reserve tries to stave off recession.

The Fed said it was cutting its target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans, from 5.5 percent to 5.25 percent. It also reduced its largely symbolic discount rate, the interest it charges on direct loans to banks, to 5 percent.

The actions should stimulate economic activity by lowering the cost of credit. But the Fed's statement said merely that the reductions could be made because "moderating economic expansion in recent months has reduced potential inflationary pressures."

Chase Manhattan was the first major bank to announce a cut in

its prime rate, and other banks quickly followed suit. The prime rate, the benchmark for many business and consumer loans, was cut to 8.25 percent from 8.5 percent.

Private economists, who had been urging the central bank to act, said they believed Wednesday's reduction in the funds rate, the third since July, would not be the last.

"Given how soft the economy is, we are going to see more easing," said Lawrence Chimere, chief economist at the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington. "The Fed overtightened a year ago and they have been moving too slowly to reverse that. We have a threat of a recession."

The central bank from February 1994 to February 1995 was increasing interest rates, doubling the funds rate from 3 percent to 6 percent in an effort to slow the economy enough to keep inflation in check.

The economy did slow. But when the Fed's hoped-for "soft landing" threatened to turn into something worse, the central bank reversed course and trimmed the funds rate by a quarter point last July. While many economists expected a series of rate cuts, the central bank waited until December to trim again.

The Clinton administration, which is hoping for a strong economy in this election year, was cautious in its reaction. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Joseph Stiglitz, the president's chief economist, sought to emphasize the economy's strengths at present rather than any recession threat.

"Although growth rates always vary from quarter to quarter ... we believe the economy will remain healthy in 1996," the two officials said in a statement.

But many analysts said the central bank will be forced to play catch-up now. They said Fed decision-making, which is never easy when the economy is at a turning point, was complicated this time by the lack of economic data due to the government shutdown.

"I think the Fed will keep us out of a recession. But it is going to be dicey," said Martin Regalia, chief economist at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "The retail sales and consumer confidence numbers suggest a broad-based weakness in the economy."

Many economists believe the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, has downshifted to an anemic growth rate of about 1 percent, a marked drop from the 3.2 percent rate last summer.

Some envision bombers without 'bomb,' pilots

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the Air Force of the 21st century some "bombers" won't carry bombs. Some won't even carry pilots. Those with a human in the cockpit may be steered not by hands on a wheel but by brain waves in a computer.

These are some of the notions the Air Force is considering as it looks to a future with less money to spend and fewer people in uniform.

The Air Force boasts that it already is the most powerful in the world. What it wants now is to find ways to stay ahead, to imagine how it can adapt to the post-Cold War era and compete with the other military services for war missions.

Some of the answers are sketched out in a 2,000-page report, "New World Vistas," Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall said Wednesday. An advisory group of outside experts — mostly scientists and engineers — compiled the 15-volume report at Widnall's request. One volume is classified secret.

"The changes will be as profound as those experienced by

the Army in moving from horse to tank or by the Navy in converting from sail to steam," a summary volume says.

Widnall said the Air Force is setting aside money to pursue these ideas, which apply to a broad range of Air Force activities from collecting and transmitting information in space to airlifting supplies in peacetime and war.

Prominent among the "Vistas" ideas: Use unmanned aircraft to do more than the spy missions they perform now; let them take the place of some combat planes. Guided from control centers inside the United States, robot planes could roam the world with laser weapons to destroy ground and air targets.

Although it goes against the grain of traditional Air Force people, the idea of pilotless combat aircraft has inherent advantages over manned warplanes.

Unmanned craft could be more survivable, for starters. Shape and function need not be constrained by a cockpit, a human body or an ejection seat.

Gene McCall, who directed the "Vistas" project, told a Pentagon news conference an unmanned strike plane could be designed to accelerate at 20 times the force of gravity, or double what a pilot can withstand.

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Study focuses on effects of laughter: Paging Dr. Bozo, paging Dr. Bozo

NEW YORK (AP) — A new study is focusing on an unexplored avenue of health care: the curative power of greasepaint.

The yearlong investigation of clowns visiting children in hospitals aims to find out if laughter really is the best medicine.

The study, to begin within weeks, is believed to be the first to assess "the medical impact of clowns," according to a news release announcing the research. No joke.

"We have plenty of anecdotal evidence that our work has positive effects, but now the scientists will objectively measure it," Michael Christensen, founder of the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit, said Wednesday.

The \$150,000 study, financed by the Richard and Hilda Rosenthal Center for Alternative-Complementary Medicine, will monitor the

clowns' regular visits to six metropolitan hospitals.

Seriously.

The 35-member group heads out in its painted faces and size 18-EEE shoes three times a week, 50 weeks a year. The troupe — founded in 1986 — tries to make light of the kids' medical problems, conducting "clown rounds" of all patients and providing red nose transplants and chocolate milk transfusions.

The group works with many seriously ill patients, stopping by intensive care units and AIDS clinics. Clown doctors are selected after intensive auditions and undergo six months of training — not quite medical school, but the closest a clown can get.

For Christensen, the uplifting work has special resonance: His brother died of pancreatic cancer, inspiring him to create the

Clown Care Unit. His character, Dr. Stubbs, is a staple of the group.

An actual doctor — Dr. John M. Driscoll Jr. of Babies & Children's Hospital at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center — expects the study to turn up evidence that the clowns do help cure kids.

"When a child begins to laugh, it means he's probably beginning to feel better," Driscoll said. "I see the clowns as healers."

Are there any concerns that people might take this lightly or wonder if the money might be better spent elsewhere?

"Sure," said Big Apple spokesman Brian Worthy. "People think, 'It's clowns.' But we like to think we provide real medical value. People can get so focused on the high technology and drugs, they miss out on the human touch."

Researchers identify virus that killed 1,000 lions

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have identified a virus that killed an estimated 1,000 lions in Africa in 1994, and they've started a campaign to prevent another outbreak.

The animals died in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park and surrounding areas, including Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve, dropping the area's lion population to 2,000.

"This is the most dramatic die-off of lions I think anyone has ever seen," said researcher Craig

Packer of the University of Minnesota.

Analysis of tissue from dead animals showed the germ was canine distemper virus, Packer and colleagues from several countries reported in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature. The virus strain closely matched that from a dog in a local village, suggesting that dogs were the source of the outbreak.

The lions probably didn't come into direct contact with the dogs, researchers said. Instead, the

virus may have been carried into the lion populations by spotted hyenas, which scavenge in village dumps, Packer said. Jackals or leopards may have also carried in the virus, he said.

The virus gave some lions seizures, with uncontrolled thrashing and flailing of limbs before death.

About 60 percent of infected lions survived, Packer said, and they "are in fine shape and they started breeding, so the population is coming back rapidly already."

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BEALLS

Blue quail



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

While many Panhandle area residents may have been turning blue this week from the cold, this group of blue quail calmly go about their business of finding food on a patch of land near Bowers City on Monday morning. While humans can duck into their warm homes and businesses to escape the frigid air, the wildlife in the area must continue their daily tasks of living in the outdoors, no matter the weather conditions.

Clinton lawyer 1, Clinton press secretary 0

WASHINGTON (AP) — With tensions rising in the Clinton camp, the president's personal attorney tangled this week with the White House press secretary over the travel office affair — and won.

Press Secretary Mike McCurry on Wednesday retracted critical remarks he made about lawyer Bob Bennett, hoping for a quick end to an episode that proved how quickly your words can be used against you in Washington.

The dispute also highlighted deep divisions among Clinton aides struggling to determine how forcefully the president should be defended.

It began innocently enough, in the middle of a contentious White House briefing Tuesday afternoon. A reporter told McCurry, "you've had people ... on talks shows and elsewhere" boasting of improvements in the

travel office since the staff was abruptly sacked in 1993. A defensive McCurry fired back before the reporter got around to the question.

"People have said some things and, frankly, the president finds some statements that have been made objectionable," McCurry said. "I am referring specifically to comments on plea bargaining."

And he was referring specifically to Bennett, who noted in a Jan. 11 television appearance that former travel office director Billy Dale offered a plea bargain before his acquittal on embezzlement charges. He did not mention that Dale had refused to confess to misusing travel office funds.

"We didn't put Bennett out to say anything bad about Billy Dale, that's the bottom line," McCurry said Tuesday. "We made it pretty clear after that

happened that we didn't appreciate that type of commentary."

Clinton aides say Bennett was outraged by the comments and made several calls Tuesday night and Wednesday to the White House. By the end of the day Wednesday, McCurry had retracted most of what he said about Bennett.

"It is not objectionable for the president's attorney to defend the president once he is under attack during some of these television talk show programs," he said. Referring to published reports about the Dale plea bargain offer, McCurry added, "And it is not objectionable for Mr. Bennett simply to repeat something that has been published."

McCurry also said he did not know for sure whether Bennett was admonished after the talk show appearance. Indeed, the

opposite appears more likely: Several White House officials said Clinton called Bennett after the Jan. 11 appearance and told him he did "a great job."

What happened? White House officials said their press secretary felt cornered in the briefing and tried to make it clear that Clinton wanted a hands-off approach to Dale — if for no other reason than politics. The former travel office aides won sympathy in congressional testimony and TV appearances, making White House attacks look like bullying.

McCurry himself said: "There was a notion ... that the White House has a campaign out there to tar and feather Billy Dale. I'm satisfied that's not true. I'm satisfied that the president would find that objectionable if that were true."

World briefs

Indian leaders end summit with warning to president

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Twenty Indian tribe leaders ended a three-day summit in Brazil's capital with a blunt message to the president: "You betrayed us."

The Brazilian Indian Village Council, representing 270,000 Indians, met to respond to a presidential decree that allows the government and citizens to reclaim lands granted to Indians under the country's 1988 constitution.

The Indians say the decree has led to at least 20 raids by mining and timber prospectors on their mineral-rich land, and is contributing to the destruction of their cultures.

Justice Minister Nelson Jobin met Wednesday with ambassadors from the United States, Japan and Western Europe to discuss the new policy.

"The government feels that citizens who claim that demarcations have hurt them in some way have the right to protest," Jobin said. "This does not mean we're going to randomly take lands from the Indians."

The Jan. 8 decree allows citizens and state and local governments to file lawsuits to regain land granted to Indians.

Eavesdropper apologizes for taping conversation

LONDON (AP) — After intercepting, taping and marketing a private telephone call by Prince Philip, a Norfolk man received his pay-off Wednesday — unemployment and public humiliation.

"I am ashamed of myself," Neville Hawkins told reporters waiting outside a police station, where officers questioned him for 90 minutes.

Hawkins, 47, told *The Sun* newspaper he used a radio scanner to capture a phone call that the queen's husband made Dec. 21 to a woman.

U.S. evacuating diplomats and families from Sudan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has decided to suspend its operations in Sudan and will evacuate its diplomats and their families from the African country, Clinton administration officials said Wednesday.

The decision was taken on the advice of the U.S. ambassador, Timothy Carney. Some 30 Americans will be evacuated via commercial airlines, said one U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The airlift follows a U.N. Security Council call Wednesday for Sudan to extradite three suspects in the attempted assassination of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak when he attended a African summit meeting in Ethiopia.

Sudan is led by Muslim fundamentalists and its relations with neighboring Egypt, an ally of the United States, are tense. The State Department also includes Sudan on a list of six nations that the United States contends are sponsors of terrorism.

The officials said only that the step was being taken for security reasons. They stressed it was not a break in diplomatic relations, but a suspension of ties to Sudan.

A formal announcement is expected today. Earlier Wednesday, the Security Council voted unanimously to

The *Sun* on Thursday identified the woman who chatted with Philip on his mobile phone as Lady Penny Romsey. It said she had been a close friend of the royal family for close to 20 years.

The *Sun* said Hawkins asked for \$75,000 for the taped conversation, which the newspaper described only in broad terms. After milking two days of front-page stories out of the 17-minute conversation, the *Sun* said Wednesday it won't pay Hawkins.

The newspaper identified Hawkins by name on Wednesday, and the hospital where he works as a hospital maintenance worker promptly suspended him.

Bone marrow donor found for U.S. Air Force cadet

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — After a nationwide search spurred by television and newspaper campaigns, the Red Cross today announced it has located a bone-marrow donor for a U.S. Air Force cadet ill with leukemia.

The chances of finding a donor for the Korean-born airman, 21-year-old Brian Bauman of Pine City, Minn., were only 1 in 20,000, and South Korea has only 7,000 registered potential donors.

But after failing to find a donor in the United States or a relative in South Korea, Bauman's luck improved: Officials found a South Korean soldier whose marrow is a perfect match.

"Considering the relatively small number of people registered with our bone-marrow bank, we are very happy that we have found a match for Bauman so soon," the Red Cross said today in a statement.

The society refused to identify the soldier, but said he agreed to go through the procedure. The Red Cross has said it would pay for the soldier's trip to the United States.

demand that Sudan hand over the three suspects in the June 26 attempt on Mubarak and to stop supporting "terrorist activities."

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said the attack was carried out by Egyptian nationals who had been based in Sudan for two years. She called evidence of Sudanese involvement "compelling and convincing" and termed Sudan's offers of cooperation "transparently insincere."

Ali Mohammed Osman Yassin, Sudan's ambassador to the U.N., repeated denials of Sudan's complicity before the council vote.

"The Sudan condemns in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," Yassin said. "We have consistently stated the Sudan will not allow its territory or nationals or institutions to be used for direct or indirect terrorist activities."

In a letter to the Security Council, Ethiopia had said the assassination attempt on Mubarak was carried out by members of the Egyptian Islamic extremist group, al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, with the assistance of Sudan's government.

Ethiopia also alleged that Sudan Airways shipped weapons and explosives to Addis Ababa in a box with markings of the Sudanese intelligence service.

International crime organizations active in America

WASHINGTON (AP) — Crime organizations from all of the world have operatives inside the United States, but the most dangerous are the Russians, an FBI official told Congress.

"If they continue in the United States unchecked, I think there's a possibility they could become the major threat to us because of the expansion they're doing across the border in all types of organized crime activity and in drug-trafficking activity," said Jim Moody, a deputy assistant director of the FBI's criminal investigative division.

Moody told the House International Relations Committee on Wednesday that Russian organized crime figures in the United States are largely "very educated and multilingual" and "very violent," and they have "no fear of our penal system."

"When there is no fear, you're never going to get crime under control," said Rep. Toby Roth, R-Wis.

U.S. and Russian law enforcement officials have worked together to combat the groups, which are known as "the Russian mafia." Moody said that even in

countries where the lure of ill-gotten gains might be considered overwhelming, honest people have been found to fight crime.

He estimated there are about 4,000 active, hard-core members of the Russian mafia in the United States. Pressed by the panel to estimate the total number of active members of international crime organizations in the United States, Moody came up with the figure of 29,000, stressing that it was an estimate.

Moody said they came primarily from Russia and Eastern

Europe, Mexico, Colombia, Italy, Asia and Nigeria.

Internationally, said Phil Williams of the University of Pittsburgh, there is "no global, monolithic conspiracy ... If there was, it would be much easier to deal with."

However, leaders of various international crime groups have met at least three times on cruises in international waters, said Arnaud de Borchgrave, who directs a program on global organized crime at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

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Mother's Rules For Marriage Brought Lifetime Of Happiness

DEAR ABBY: I lost my mother several months ago after a lengthy illness. She and Dad had a beautiful marriage that spanned almost 50 years. I never heard them say an angry word to each other.

While sorting through some of Mother's papers, I came across the enclosed "Rules for a Happy Marriage." I don't know where she got it or how long she had it, but the list contains some excellent advice. I hope you'll think it's worth sharing with your readers.

MARLENE'S DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: I do. Thank you for sending it.

RULES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

1. Never both be angry at the same time.
2. Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire.
3. If one of you has to win an argument, let it be your mate.
4. If you must criticize, do it lovingly.
5. Never bring up mistakes of the past.
6. Neglect the whole world rather than each other.
7. Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled.
8. At least once every day say a kind or complimentary word to your life partner.
9. When you have done something wrong, admit it and ask



Abigail Van Buren
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

for forgiveness.
10. It takes two to make a quarrel, and the one in the wrong usually is the one who does the most talking.

DEAR ABBY: My wife, our 4-year-old daughter, "Betsy," and I went to my in-laws' for dinner recently. Within 30 minutes of our arrival, my mother-in-law had called her husband "stupid" and "dummy." Everyone heard it, including Betsy. Now, she uses those words when speaking of her grandfather.

My wife tolerates her mother's behavior, but I find it humiliating to witness. At home I am able to discipline Betsy, but I don't want to have to discipline her when she's at her grandmother's.

I have mentioned this to my in-laws on several occasions, but the situation recurs. We live only a few blocks from them and frequently

eat together. Should we sell our house and move 10 or 20 miles away?

A FATHER IN TACOMA

DEAR FATHER: Moving should not be necessary. Talk to your mother-in-law again, and make it clear that her name-calling sets a very bad example for her grandchild. If your suggestion falls on deaf ears and she continues the name-calling, just limit your daughter's exposure to her grandmother.

DEAR READERS: Concerning finding a mate: Friends of Edna Ferber, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, could not understand why she had remained single over the years.

"Surely, you must have met someone you would have married," suggested a friend.

"I have," admitted the famed novelist, "and I met one man who would have married me ... but unfortunately it wasn't the same man."

HIGHWAY SNOBBERY: "In Boston, they ask, 'How much does he know?' In New York, they ask, 'How much is he worth?' In Philadelphia, they ask, 'Who were his parents?'"

MARK TWAIN

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Friday Feb. 2, 1996

In the year ahead you may become involved in several potentially successful interests. These activities may seem unrelated, but a unique network will link them together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) The results should yield rewards today if you produce to the best of your abilities. However, don't think you must build Rome in one day. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that will govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make

sure to state your zodiac sign.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If you participate in a fun competition with friends today, it will be wise to keep betting out of the picture. Lock horns just for the thrill of the game.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A matter that affects loved ones should work out satisfactorily today. However, this will be due to the efforts of others, not to your own efforts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your popularity is presently at a high point, but you might have a hard time believing it. You may have misread the intentions of your pals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Material advantages you weren't expecting might suddenly develop for you today. Do not disclose what occurs to a person who may resent your good fortune.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Conditions pertaining to your commercial affairs look reasonably favorable for you today. Emphasize your strengths, not your limitations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A confidential matter should be discussed only with per-

sons directly involved today. Try to keep this in mind if a curious associate gives you the third degree.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today, take care not to let your maternal motives and desires override your innate generosity. If you treat others fairly, you'll have nothing to fear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) The probability of achieving your ambitious objectives today looks strong, provided you're not unduly influenced by a weak cohort.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) If it is your turn to run the railroad today, assign tasks to people you trust. However, once you do, let go and let them do things their way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Collective endeavors will have a good chance for success today, but everyone must do exactly what is expected of him or her.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Friends who usually give you support should do so again today. However, avoid someone who has never been your ally. This person may have a hidden agenda.

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For Better or For Worse



Ario & Janis



Garfield



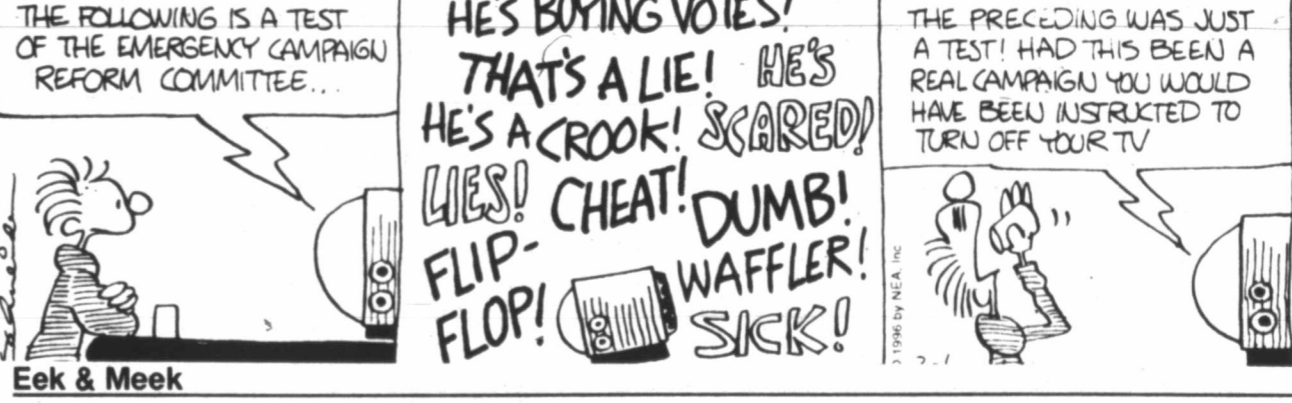
Walnut Cove



Marvin



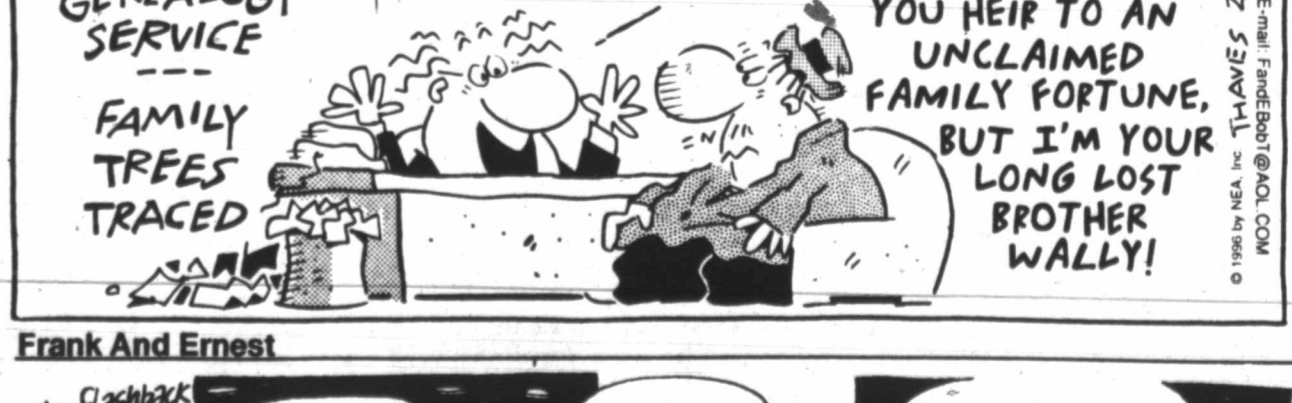
B.C.



Eek & Meek



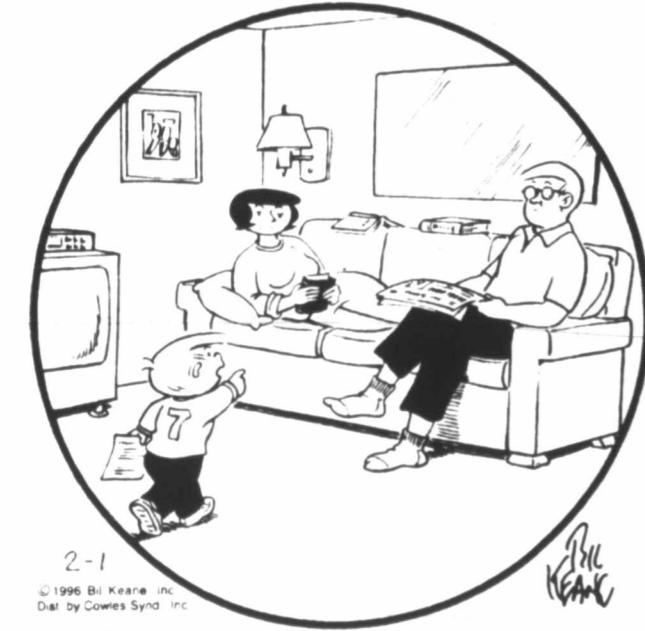
The Born Loser



Frank and Ernest



The Flashback Continues



"I've got a problem. Which one of you is on duty?"



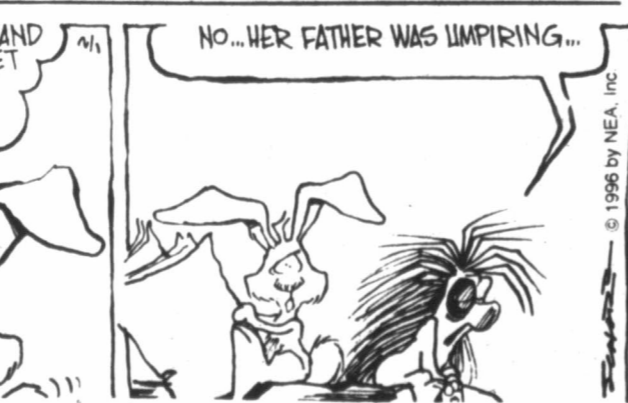
"Where does it say we have to go through life sharing everything?"

The Family Circus



The Family Circus

Marmaduke



Marmaduke



Alley Oop



Peanut

Fierce, sub-zero cold grips the Plains states

By STEVE KLINE
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Just a week ago, Linda Kearns was basking in the sunny Caribbean. On Wednesday, the temperature in her hometown of Ord dropped to 28 below zero and Mrs. Kearns wondered why she ever came back.

"If we had wind, this would be unbearable," she said, wistfully recalling 90-degree days aboard a cruise ship.

Arctic cold gripped much of the Northern and central states, with record low temperatures across the northern Plains and upper Midwest. Temperatures were still below zero during the afternoon from Idaho into Illinois.

"I have to say I have never been so sick of winter. I have had it," said Marvel Sjostrom at Seeley, Wis., where her home thermometer showed a temperature of 48 below zero.

Tower and Embarrass, Minn., were coldest of all, with readings of 55 below. A wind-chill reading of 74 below was reported at Hallock, Minn.

At least one death was indirectly attributed to the cold. In West Point, an 89-year-old man died Wednesday in a house fire that investigators said was started by a space heater being used to thaw frozen water lines.

It was even cold for International Falls, Minn., which celebrates itself as the nation's icebox. The city's minus-35 reading tied its record for the date, and it was the 10th straight day of temperatures of 30 below or worse.

"We were hoping for that. Our image has been bad for the last couple of years because it's been too warm," said Sonny Nesbitt, 69, a retired state trooper in International Falls.

Record lows for the date were tied or broken in Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois.

"You wear tights, and you wear your jeans, and you wear your pants, and you wear double insulation, and just wear the warmest clothes you got," said Carmen Barretto, a teacher in Chicago, where the low was 11

below zero. "You don't think about how cold it is, because the more you think about how cold it is, the colder you're going to feel."

In Alaska, where it's supposed to be cold, Wednesday's high at Anchorage was 35 — above zero.

"That's not hardly fair," said Gary Howard, part owner of a service station in Ord. He spent Wednesday morning starting vehicles that wouldn't turn over in the cold.

Getting the engine started isn't the only problem.

"The tires kind of go thump, thump because they are pretty hard," said Darin Knowlton of Hayward, Wis., which was 42 below zero. "Sitting on that old seat in the car is just like sitting on a park bench. Those seats get pretty hard at 40 below."

The cold was blamed in a fire that destroyed or damaged three buildings in Sterling, Neb. Maintenance workers had been using hand-held propane heaters to thaw frozen water pipes, said School Superintendent Robert Norton. One of the buildings housed school shop classes. No one was injured.

"We've had water pipes freeze where they've never frozen before," Norton said. "It's just been that cold."

A similar effort by an apartment manager in Kaukauna, Wisc., left eight families homeless Wednesday. The manager tried to thaw a frozen bathroom water pipe with a blowtorch, and caught the wall on fire, officials said.

Forecasters said the bitter cold would hang on through the weekend over the northern and central Plains, the Midwest and New England.

Cattle producers are working round-the-clock, looking out for newborn calves.

"I have a calf that's a week old, and when I went out to check him this morning at 6 o'clock his ears were frozen," said Janet Melia, who raises cattle with her husband north of Ord.

A Kearney travel agent said there had been a surge of bookings for vacations in warmer climates, with Mexico and cruises among the most popular.

Nation briefs

Lawmaker joins reserves in Bosnia deployment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Steve Schiff, an opponent of the U.S. military presence in Bosnia, said Thursday he will serve in his capacity as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve at the Bosnian mission operation center in Italy.

Schiff, a New Mexico Republican, said he is being deployed for 10 days at the Aviano Air Base in northern Italy as a Judge Advocate General. He said he expects to address questions of international law.

"Though I voted against the Bosnian deployment, I feel it is important to fulfill my duty to the Air Force since we are, in fact, deployed over there," Schiff said. "I believe my military service time will also help me better address the issue when Congress reconvenes."

IBM to purchase Tivoli Systems Inc.

NEW YORK (AP) — IBM will pay \$743 million to buy the Tivoli Systems Inc., a mid-sized software company that helps companies switch from mainframes to networks of smaller computers.

The purchase announced Wednesday underscores the tidal shift in the way IBM's biggest customers design their computer systems, relying less on large mainframes as the focus

of their data processing.

Combined with last year's purchase of Lotus Development Corp. and its flagship Notes software, IBM is trying to expand its presence in computer networking.

IBM said it would pay \$47.50 per share, a 26 percent premium over the Austin, Texas company's closing price of \$37.75 Tuesday on the Nasdaq Stock Market. After a one-hour delay Wednesday morning, Tivoli's shares immediately shot up to match IBM's offer.

Budget stalemate squeezes tribal colleges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some of the nation's tribal colleges are in danger of closing because of the stalemate over the Interior Department budget that squeezed their major source of funding, college officials say.

Colleges report laying off staff and cutting courses to cope with the shortfall. The schools have received only 20 percent of their federal funding for the 1995-96 school year even though it is halfway over.

"We are teetering on the brink of crisis and of actually closing," said Janine Pease-Pretty on Top, president of Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, Mont.

There are 29 tribally controlled colleges, including 15 in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Judge blocks transfer of inmates

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — A federal judge on Wednesday ordered the state Corrections Department to stop sending New Mexico prisoners to Texas jails.

U.S. District Judge John Conway granted a temporary restraining order sought by attorneys representing inmates in a pending lawsuit.

Conway declined to rule on whether the 253 inmates already housed in Texas jails should be returned to New Mexico. The judge said that issue would be addressed as the lawsuit progresses through the court.

A preliminary hearing in the lawsuit hasn't been scheduled.

During the motion hearing on

the restraining order, inmates' attorney Mark Donatelli argued that prisoners housed in Texas jails were being denied access to educational programs, recreational facilities and visits with their families and attorneys.

Donatelli also said the Corrections Department's decision to transfer the inmates was an apparent violation of the Duran Consent Decree, a federal court order governing prison conditions in New Mexico. The document stems from 1980 prison riots at the state penitentiary near Santa Fe.

Robyn Hoffman, representing the Corrections Department, said the transfers were ordered as a way to save money.

Judge rules out holding bombing trial in Lawton

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Citing "obvious deficiencies" in its tiny courthouse, a federal judge said Wednesday he has serious doubts about holding the Oklahoma bombing trial in Lawton, where it had been scheduled.

In another development, a woman whose two young sons were killed in the April 19 blast is suing bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh and other unknown individuals for \$30 million in a wrongful death suit.

McVeigh and Terry Nichols are charged with murder and conspiracy in the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building, which killed 169 people and injured more than 500 others. They could get the death penalty if convicted.

This week, U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch has been considering a request by defense attorneys to move the trial out of Oklahoma.

The defense claims that pretrial publicity will make it impossible for the defendants to get a fair trial; prosecutors want the trial to remain in the state so the survivors of bombing victims can attend.

Lawton, a military town 90 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, was originally chosen as the trial site by U.S. District Judge Wayne Alley.

But Alley was subsequently removed from the case because his courtroom and chambers in Oklahoma City were damaged in the blast, and an appeals court said that the damage could have raised doubts about his impartiality.

During testimony Wednesday about the suitability of Lawton for the trial, prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed it would cost at least \$1 million to renovate the tiny federal courthouse there to handle the bombing trial.

The defense noted the small size of the courtroom and the fact that the holding cell in the courthouse is only big enough for one person.

"I think it's a waste of time to even talk about Lawton," Matsch said.

"I'm wondering if Lawton should be seriously considered," the judge added. "There are obvious deficiencies there that need to be corrected before the trial could be held there."

It wasn't known when the judge would rule on the defense motion.

Tedin conducted a survey of about 2,400 people in Lawton, Tulsa, Denver, Kansas City, Kan., Albuquerque, N.M. and San Francisco. He found that 48 percent of respondents in Lawton and 38 percent of those in Tulsa think about the bombing every day or a few times a week.

By comparison, only 9 percent of those surveyed in Denver and 6 percent of those in San Francisco think about the bombing that frequently.

On Tuesday, the judge heard from prosecution witnesses who testified that it would be possible to hold a fair trial in Oklahoma.

The wrongful death lawsuit against McVeigh was filed Friday by Edey Smith, whose sons, Chase, 3, and Colton, 2, were in the day-care center on the second floor of the building when the bomb exploded.

At least five other wrongful death suits have been filed in the case.

Also Wednesday, CNN reported that McVeigh was wearing a T-shirt when he was arrested that bore the famous line from Thomas Jefferson, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants." The shirt was confiscated by the FBI, CNN said.

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