



'Adopt-a-horse' probe widens

United Press International
TYLER — Federal authorities investigating the starvation of a herd of wild horses obtained through the government's "Adopt-a-Horse" program have subpoenaed four people to appear before a grand jury.

Agents working out of Tyler served subpoenas on four people, requiring them to appear before a federal grand jury which will investigate the case, John Gumert, a spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management, said Tuesday.

The grand jury is expected to meet in January and names in the subpoenas were ordered withheld by the court, Gumert said. He said BLM agents were continuing investigation of the case.

Northeast Texas rancher Joe Corbett of Pittsburg was charged last week with allowing the horses to starve. Forty-two of the horses have died.

Corbett, using power of attorney from 42 people, last December paid \$25 a head for the wild mustangs taken from federal lands in a program to control the size of herds in Nevada.

Corbett has been charged with state violations of cruelty to animals. Gumert said Multiple state charges likely will be filed later. Federal charges may also be filed.

BLM officials Tuesday con-

ducted a lottery for the remainder of the herd taken from Corbett's ranch about 100 miles northeast of Dallas. Gumert said 129 animals would be given to their new owners at no cost.

He said about 500 people had put in requests for the horses.

"We put all of the names in a box and selected them in a lottery this morning," Gumert said. "The first one picked has first choice and we expect to begin calling the first 40 or 50 people tonight."

"I just got a call and was informed that due to the emergency nature of the situation there would be no fee charged to the people receiving these horses," he said.

The order to give the horses away was issued by BLM Director Robert Buford, Gumert said, "based on the fact this is an emergency situation and these animals will require additional medical attention and veterinarian fees."

Prospective owners selected in the lottery can adopt up to two horses.

Hunters last month found many of the horses starving on an overgrazed pasture leased by Corbett 100 miles northeast of Dallas. Gumert said 36 animals died in Pittsburg and another six had died since being moved to a ranch outside of Tyler operated by Fund for Animals.



photo by Octavio Garcia

Video madness

Looking like a scene from the movie "Tron," a Texas A&M student is mesmerized by the flash-

ing lights of the video game "Centipede," located in the Memorial Student Center recreation area.

Claims: 'I am not guilty'

Liz Chagra makes plea

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Elizabeth Chagra, wife of the Las Vegas, Nev., gambler who prosecutors contend had federal Judge John Wood killed, broke down and cried during testimony in which she claimed her only involvement in the case was helping transfer the pay-off money to accused triggerman Charles Harrelson.

Mrs. Chagra testified Monday she had no prior knowledge of plans to have Wood murdered. She claimed tapes made by the FBI that recorded her talking to her husband Jimmy about the slaying merely caught her joking about Wood.

"I'm not a participant in this crime," Mrs. Chagra said. "I am not guilty of this."

Mrs. Chagra said she took \$250,000 from El Paso to Las Vegas and gave it to Teresa Starr, the stepdaughter of suspected hitman Charles Harrelson, but Mrs. Chagra testified she did not know what the money was for until her brother-

in-law Joe Chagra told her: "He said I paid Charlie Harrelson's daughter," Mrs. Chagra said. "He said Charlie was the man Jimmy had hired to kill Judge Wood."

Mrs. Chagra was charged with conspiracy and obstruction of justice in the 1979 slaying of Wood, who was killed in front of his San Antonio townhouse. Also on trial are Harrelson, charged with murder, and Harrelson's wife, JoAnn, who was accused of buying the gun that

killed Wood.

Prosecutors contend that Chagra hired Harrelson to kill Wood because the Las Vegas gambler was scheduled for trial before Wood, who was known for his harsh sentences in narcotics cases.

Mrs. Chagra said she was just joking when her husband asked her advice about whether to kill Wood. On the secretly made FBI recording, Mrs. Chagra replied "Yeah, do it."

"You can tell when you listen

to the tape we are making a joke," she told Assistant U.S. Attorney Ray Jahn. "Can't you tell? He laughs after I said that because he knows it's not true. I wanted to make light of the whole conversation."

Mrs. Chagra said her husband promised to plead guilty to the slaying but later refused.

"He always told me I didn't have to lie," Mrs. Chagra said about possible testimony. She said Chagra told her "if they didn't believe me, he would confess."

Theater is next best thing to being there

United Press International
FORT WORTH, Texas — An 80-foot-wide concave screen and 10 speakers around the theater will give people at the Fort Worth Museum of Science & History one of the most realistic film depictions of events available in the world, officials say.

"It's funny to watch the audience at these films sometimes," said museum spokeswoman Linda Baker. "It may be a shot from an airplane cockpit and the plane turns left and everyone in the audience leans to the left."

Scheduled for opening the first week of March, the 356-seat Omni Theater will utilize special Omnimax motion pictures projected onto a tilted dome screen to give the viewer a three-dimensional effect.

Baker said the sound is distributed through a \$250,000 audio system that follows the action on the screen. If, for instance, the picture is of a train moving right to left, the sound would be transferred from the right side of the theater to the left side.

"(It will be) far and away the largest and most technically adv-

anced entertainment and educational facility of its kind in the world," said museum executive director Donald R. Otto.

Only 11 other theaters using the Omnimax system exist in the world, he said. The Fort Worth theater is the largest and the first permanent Omni Theater in Texas.

Omnimax film is 70 mm wide with an image area three times that of the standard 70 mm film shown in conventional movie theaters.

The projector, developed by IMAX Systems Corporation in Toronto, is threaded on the ground floor then raised by an elevator to the second floor where the film is projected. The film stretches from horizontal reels up one story through the projector, then back down to the main floor where it is rewound.

Where the film in conventional cameras and projectors moves through vertically, the huge Omnimax system uses a rolling loop which advances the film horizontally in gentle caterpillar-like waves. The film is held firmly against the rear element of the lens by a vacuum for

optimum picture and focus steadiness.

The hemisphere screen, with its apex 40 feet from the floor, is tilted at a 30 degree angle to the audience.

The construction budget for the 30,000-square-foot theater is \$8 million, all provided by private donations, Ms. Baker said.

The first film planned is "To Fly," a history of flight.

"In our new Omni Theater you will begin to feel that you are actually participating in the film, not simply viewing it," Otto said. "Our greatest single challenge now will be to convey the reality of something that is almost impossible to describe through words or pictures alone. It must be experienced."

While Star Wars and other feature films are not available for Omni Theaters, Ms. Baker said people will enjoy the educational films planned.

"There are only about 30 films in existence right now which can be used on this system, with more being produced," Ms. Baker said. "We believe they are entertaining as well as educational."

Now you know

United Press International
A breath and saliva test soon may allow women to accurately predict their optimum fertile periods.

Chemists James Kostelc and George Preti of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia report in the December issue of Science Digest that they have found a correlation between levels of mouth odor and saliva chemicals and fluctuations in basic body temperature during the menstrual cycle.

Analysis of women's breath showed that volatile sulfur compounds or VSCs, which result from the breakdown of sulfur-containing amino acids, vary in concentration throughout the month.

"In a study of a dozen women through 18 monthly cycles, we found the concentration of the

compounds is highest within 48 hours of ovulation," Preti observed. The pair also has analyzed chemicals present in saliva and found that the levels of the substance are five to 10 times higher at ovulation than at other times.

The test now is done in a lab with a machine called a gas chromatograph. But Personal Diagnostics, a New Jersey firm, is working on a portable instrument that would enable women to monitor themselves.

United Press International
Computers are even replacing the old-fashioned two-way radios in some Canadian taxicabs.

Now a flashing message on a computer-linked video display terminal can tell a hack where to

pick up the next fare, according to a report in the December issue of Science Digest.

When a driver is ready to take on a fare, he punches in a code on his cab's computer terminal, which then radios the central dispatching office. This signals the computer to display on the cab's screen a list of all taxi zones and the number of empty cabs in each. The cabbie then decides which one to head for and alerts the computer of his intention.

If a call comes into the dispatching office and the driver is in the right zone, a buzzer sounds in the taxi and the fare's location flashes on the screen.

The system is in use in four Canadian cities. It's supposed to cut down on cruising time. The elimination of jarring sounds of a radio is supposed to be a lot easier on the ears and nerves of both drivers and passengers.

AGGIELAND PICTURES

(Jrs., Srs., Grad Students)

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