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HELP WANTED

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Rapid strep test will be done to confirm.
Volunteers will be compensated.
G & S STUDIES, INC.
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G & S Studies, Inc.
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SERVICES

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G & S Studies, Inc. is participating in a study on acute skin infection. If you have one of the following conditions call G & S Studies. Eligible volunteers will be compensated.
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No Questions asked.
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CALL NOW FOR DETAILS
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NOTICE
Need extra Arkansas and Texas tickets for visiting relatives. 696-7326. 48/11/25

THE BATT DOES IT DAILY
Monday through Friday

Birthmarks can disappear with new laser treatment

By Mia B. Moody

Of The Battalion Staff

A breakthrough in laser treatment has proven effective in removing dark purple or dark maroon birthmarks called port wine stains. "Before this type of laser was developed, there was no acceptable treatment for port wine stains," said Dr. Lynne Roberts, an assistant professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. In addition to the medical implications, which include soft tissue deformity and vascular tumors, port wine stains are unsightly and often cause psychological problems, he said.

He said they are among the first five health-care institutions in the United States to experiment with a tunable dye argon laser to remove the birthmark.

Because the dye laser affects only the stained area, the risk of scarring, formerly between 50 to 60 percent with other types of laser treatments, is virtually remote, Roberts said.

Light energy is absorbed by the red color of the stain and the energy from this absorption is converted to heat.

The heat seals the inflamed blood vessels of the birthmark, said Amy Dick, a writer for the office of medical information at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Dick also said 3 out of 10,000 infants are born with port wine stains.

Though the operation can be performed on children of any age, anesthesiologists prefer not to let children under three have the operation.

The treatment takes four to eight treatments with a two-month wait in between, she said.

Refugee advocates predict wave of Central Americans into U.S.

HARLINGEN (AP) — Refugee advocates are predicting a new wave of Central Americans crossing into South Texas from Mexico, fleeing war and political uncertainty in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Officials with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, however, said Wednesday they have no evidence of a mass exodus from Central America.

Intensified fighting in El Salvador, combined with the end of a cease fire in Nicaragua and uncertainty over an upcoming election there will send thousands to seek safety in the United States, refugee advocates said.

More than 500 have died and 1,000 have been wounded in El Salvador since leftist anti-government guerrillas launched an offensive over the weekend. Thousands displaced from the intensified Salvadoran fighting will head to the United States, said Mark Schneider, an attorney with the Proyecto Libertad legal aid office for Central Americans in Harlingen.

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Boy recants confession of murder

Youngster says police forced his admission

FORT WORTH (AP) — A 12-year-old boy charged with murdering an elementary school teacher testified Wednesday that police investigator pressured him to say he committed the slaying.

The seventh-grader testified outside the jury's presence during his trial in the Aug. 28 slaying death of 24-year-old Jan Simpson. Her body was found outside her Glen Park Elementary School classroom. She had been stabbed 17 times.

After the boy's testimony, State District Judge Scott Moore ruled that his statements to police, "I killed the teacher," were admissible. Police said the boy made the statements shortly after his arrest.

The judge had ruled before the trial that most of the statements the boy made to police could not be admitted because they were improperly obtained.

The boy's attorney Earl "Bennie" Bates had asked Moore to suppress all the boy's statements to police about Simpson's killing, including the "I killed the teacher" remark.

The boy testified that on Sept. 6 police ticked him up at school without his parents' knowledge and questioned him for about two hours about the killing.

He said Detective J.D. Roberts told him witnesses saw the boy near the school before Simpson was found and that if police discovered his fingerprints near the portable classrooms he would be "in trouble."

"He told me that if I didn't confess and tell the truth and they found out that I had done anything, I would never see my parents again," the boy testified.

The boy said he thought Roberts "was trying to put it on me, trying to accuse me of the killing." He just started going over again and again.

Rocket aborts shortly after takeoff

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE (AP) — A guidance system malfunction forced a commercial rocket to abort its flight 30 seconds after it lifted off Wednesday with 12 scientific experiments packed into its payload.

The Consort 2 lifted off from White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico at 8:42 a.m., but mission safety officials terminated thrusts 30 seconds later, Debbie Bingham, a spokeswoman at White Sands said.

Officials were trying to determine whether the abortive action or the malfunction caused the payload to separate from the rocket.

"There was a malfunction in the guidance system of the rocket, the F-19, which is the booster phase guidance system," spokeswoman Monty Marlin said.

The two-stage rocket's suborbital flight was supposed to last 15 minutes, reach 200 miles above Earth and lodge the 1,004-pound payload into seven minutes of very low gravity called microgravity.

"Obviously there's no scientific data that will come out of there because we never reached microgravity, but we may be able to see if the (experiment) hardware works," said Rick Mould, spokesman for the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Consortium for Materials Development in Space.

Many of the experiments aboard the rocket were contained in apparatus specially designed for the trip.

The payload, which was supposed to return to Earth about 60 miles downrange, was retrieved intact about four miles from the launch site, Mould said.

Officials were trying to determine if the second stage of the Starfire 1 rocket suffered any damage. It was retrieved from a highway near the launch site.

The F-19 guidance system, built by SAAB Space of Sweden, cleared the routine preflight checks, Deke Slayton, president of Space Services Inc., said.

A problem with a cable connector that caused problems in the rocket Tuesday was not associated with Wednesday's malfunction, he said.

Houston-based Space Services built the rocket and provided launch services in a \$1 million contract with the University of Alabama.

Walt Pennino, spokesman for SSI, said he did not expect the failure to slow commercial rocket launches.

"I imagine there will be the usual doubts, Thomases, but you have to remember we've already established that private industry can do it. We established that in 1982."

SSI launched the Conestoga 1 in 1982 with mock payload, becoming the first private U.S. company to launch a commercial rocket with private funding.

Mould said the University of Alabama is eager to begin work on another launch.

"I think the sounding rocket industry, it's proven industry," Mould said. "I think it's one of the rare times that you have a problem with sounding rocket. We have flown successfully before and I'm sure we'll be able to fly again as soon as possible."

Among the experiments launched with the Consort 2 rocket was a Penn State study on chameleon skins. Biochemist Roy Hammes believed the study could assist research on bone loss and muscle degeneration diseases.

'It's lit up!' Pinball attracting new crowd with flashy machines

DALLAS (AP) — Bright red and yellow lights flash as Beth Hanna's fingers tense, then rapidly push flipper buttons.

"Got a million points!" she cries after flipping the ball into a lighted target. The machine emits a lion's roar. The electronic scoreboard flashes 1,648,500 points.

"See that!" Hanna says excitedly. "It's lit up!"

The silver metal ball rolls down and Hanna again, quickly, hits the buttons.

But it's too late. The ball silently glides between the machine's two flippers. The nemesis of all pinball players — the dreaded drain hole — once again has claimed a ball, abruptly bringing Hanna's game to an end.

"Shoot!" she says. Another day. Another quarter. Actually, Hanna comes to Aladdin's Castle at Red Bird Mall once a week. She's no pinball wizard; she just plays for fun. She played a lot more often when her husband brought home an old pinball machine six years ago. But, she laughs and says, "I burned it up."

Not as in points, she explains, but as in fire. "It just started smoking and stuff," says Hanna, a cashier at a men's clothing store. "I had to unplug it."

of pinball. It's a comeback that arrives 60 years after the modern pinball game was invented in the basement of a Chicago apartment building. Until the late 1970s, the ball-and-plunger was king of the hill in the coin-operated arcade market.

Then came video. Industry officials and arcade owners agree pinballs were zapped — almost fatally — by the explosion of visually stunning video games in the early 1980s.

"Pinballs almost disappeared in 1982," says Roger Sharpe, marketing director at the Chicago-based Williams Electronics Games Inc., the world's largest pinball manufacturer.

Williams was forced to take pinball back to the drawing board. Its mission? To make the games more competitive with video. In 1984, the company introduced the first of a new generation of razzle-dazzle pinball games designed to be a feast for the fingers, eyes and ears. Today, wildly colorful and noisy pinball games are loaded with computer

and synthesizer chips, above board ramps and dancing finger puppets.

"We have pinball machines that shake, that have belligerent, ominous voices and musical accompaniment," Sharpe says. "It's much more of a total experience."

Among the latest models: — Earthshaker! is the first pinball machine that actually shakes and rattles when players flip the ball into

daredevil motocross race to beat No. 1." Special feature: a ramp carries the ball up the backboard to a vertical playing surface.

— Taxi has "true-to-character" electronic reproductions of voices of Soviet chief Mikhail Gorbachev, Santa Claus and Dracula. Object: "picking up" famous passengers.

Sounds great, you may say. Only problem is you've never been good with a spring-loaded plunger and ball. Never fear. New pinball models automatically adjust themselves to a player's skills. The better you are, the harder it gets.

And as if they weren't good enough, holographic images, and extensive multi level playing fields on pinball machines are around the corner. "Before there are over, you'll see some amazing creations," Sharpe says. "But the guiding principle will always be ball, or multiple balls