

## **Dog Eats Tape of Court Record**

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VISALIA (AP)—An unlatched screen door and a dog with an appetite for paper has caused court reporter Ron Coleman a month of misery.

Coleman left on his kitchen table a transcript from a heroin sales case of Henry Borbon, former head of Tulare County's antipoverty program.

Enter his dog. Chip.

The 90-pound Labrador retriever, obviously unfamiliar with the importance with the importance of court records, pushed open the unlatched screen door and chewed the tapes to pieces.

"He really went crazy. He must have really gotten excited when the notes started unraveling on the floor. He chewed them up into about 200 little pieces," Coleman said.

Since then, Coleman has missed several reporting jobs while patiently putting in 15 hours a day piecing the sections of paper together. He finally turned the transcript in Monday.

Meanwhile, Borbon's attorney filed for dismissal on the grounds it took 32 days to get a copy of the transcript, instead of the legally mandated 10 days.

An embarrassed Coleman said he really can't blame Chip because he left the door unlatched. "He tore up everything he could get his mouth on, including my socks, shoes and the screen door."

--Submitted by Joseph J. Sweeney,

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