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# Wal-Mart: 'Associates' expected to vote on whether or not to join union

MERRILL, Wis. (AP) — Lori Hermanson sees little significance in efforts to make her Wal-Mart store the first in the country to unionize.

"I don't think of it as an historic feeling as much as everyone wants that vote to be done," Hermanson, an office clerk with seven years at Wal-Mart, said Thursday. "It is kind of like a bad dream. We want it to go away."

But when she and about 95 colleagues vote today on whether to join a union, it will represent a first for Wal-Mart workers in the United States. At stake is a dent in the company image of happy, blue-aproned workers known as "associates" in one big family.

"We are going against their tradition because what they say and what they do don't coincide," said pro-union employee Becky Hehling, a 25-year-old single mother of three who had a "Work with Dignity" button pinned on her blouse.

Union supporters say representation will help win higher wages and fairer treatment in getting raises, scheduling-by-seniority and a formal procedure for settling grievances.

But Hermanson said she opposed unionizing, and Wal-Mart district manager Ray Mann believed the vote would fail.

There has been tension over the vote in this rolling river town of about 10,000 people some 160 miles north of Madison. It carries inside the store sometimes.

Hehling said the store's co-manager even broke into tears at one meeting, saying to vote for the union was to vote against her.

"I offered her a tissue and she wouldn't even accept one," Hehling said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

## CONCERT

executive sponsor.

The band would like to make a difference in the community while getting their music recognized and are having a can food drive for Good Samaritans at the free, 7 p.m. Central Park concert Saturday, August 9.

"We're trying to get our band recognized and help Good Samaritans and the Pampa community at the same time," Gary Dabbs said.

However, *Suspence* members appreciate the support they have received from the community.

"Local businesses and the media have given us 100 percent support," Michelle Dabbs said, "and we appreciate the additional support from our many fans and family."

After the October release of the CD, the band plans to do several shows in the Tri-State area and eventually go on the road.

The local band is also pursuing a recording opportunity from the prominent rock & roll band, *Aerosmith*.

If selected, *Suspence* would be able to record music under the supervision of *Aerosmith*. Dabbs said the band is busy compiling materials for the interview process and will include a recorded copy of the show from Saturday night.

"Come out and support us, so you can say you knew us when we make it big!" Dabbs said.

## Dixie Dog



Dixie Dog, 725 N. Hobart, recently held a ribbon-cutting to honor its new management. Among those on hand were Chamber of Commerce gold coat Loyd Waters, Dixie Dog Manager Freida Helfer, Dixie Dog owners Dianna Sanders and Gail Sanders and gold coat Lyndon Field.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

## ACTIVIST

"Open meetings do not allow public comments in and of themselves," County Attorney Mike Hartman said from his office in Snyder, about 75 miles southeast of Lubbock.

Mrs. Davis was opposed to commissioners' applying interest from lease revenue to the general fund. She'd rather see the money be dedicated to an emergency trust fund in case the county must one day retake control of the hospital.

The public had a chance to comment on the interest issue at the regular meeting, a week before the July 7 special session, at which commissioners indeed voted to boost the general fund, Fritz said.

Overheated debate over the lease in the commissioners court was clogging up the works and preventing the panel from getting

routine work done, Fritz said.

"It had gotten to the point where, basically, it was a free-for-all in there," he said. "We had to take control of commissioners court or just open it up."

He added that in addition to Mrs. Davis and another speaker opposed to leasing Cogdell, the court also barred a lease proponent from talking in the July 7 meeting.

"From time to time there have been speakers (at special sessions)," Mrs. Davis said. "I'm just waiting for them to go back to their old ways."

Hartman cited attorney general's opinions that clearly state that the court may not unreasonably discriminate among speakers.

The court isn't discriminating if it institutes a blanket no-comment policy, he said.

Scurry County voters will decide on Saturday whether to allow commissioners to lease away Cogdell. By law the court didn't have to hold an election, but commissioners decided that citizens should have a say.

"There would have been a public hanging if they hadn't," Mrs. Davis said.

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# RELIGION

## Minister's musings...

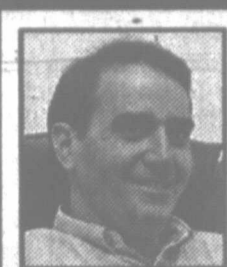
"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matthew 11:12

What would you like to see changed in today's society?

While society or issues in our lives or our children's lives can be changed, be aware that change never comes easy or peaceably. It has never and will never be given as a free gift to uninvolved people who are afraid to take a stand, or are too weak who will sacrifice for it.

The Kingdom as it progressed, cost John the Baptist his head, and while historical information is scarce, it is believed that 11 of the 12 disciples met their end in violent martyrdom.

Traditionally, St. James was clubbed to death by an angry mob after being thrown from the top of the temple. St. Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross. Bartholomew was flayed alive and St. Peter crucified upside down. Even St. John the apostle (the only disciple not martyred) was supposedly banished to the Isle of Patmos only after being boiled in oil. His survival of the ordeal so horrified Emperor Nero that the death penalty was changed to banishment. (Foxes Book of Martyrs) As the gospel marched on through the apostolic age it brought riots, stonings, imprisonment, and martyrism as it progressed through the middle ages it rode on tips of spears and the edge



By Rev. Lyndon Glaesman  
Calvary Baptist Church

of the sword. During the great reformation it was fought with ink pens and printing presses, and of course, the torture chambers of the medieval monasteries. Even on American soil from the Revolutionary War to the Civil Rights Movement, the words of the man of peace ring true. The violent, if they want it, will take it — by force!

While most would agree that physical violence is not the best means to institute change in society, neither is sitting around playing church. Somewhere in the middle appears the answer. It is in the outcry of millions of registered voters who let their moral convictions rule their vote rather than their political party or their pocketbook. It lies in Christian boycotts of businesses promoting anti-Christian values in which, like the sieges of Babylon, starve the inhabitants until the white flag is raised. It lies in letters to politicians informing them that the "silent majority" win shatter their eardrums on election day if they continue this onslaught of liberal-

ism and immorality. It lies in godly parents explaining to coaches and officials of extra curricular activities that Sunday is a day of worship and their child will not be participating that day.

Finally, it lies in the bended knee of prayer and the hunger pangs of the fast. The Bible clearly teaches that before anyone can raid the strong man's house he must first bind up the strong man. This kind of binding prayer goes beyond the blessing at dinner or the "now I lay me down to sleep" stuff. Its chains are locked by broken saints whose tears land on the feet of God and cause him to rise in fury from his heavenly throne. It is the fervent prayer that avails much, breaks the teeth of the hon and crushes the head of the serpent.

If people of God wish to see the Kingdom of Christ advance, it can happen, but it will not happen automatically or peaceably. Those who wish to see the Kingdom progress will not be met by smiles and handshakes, but rather the showing of teeth, and the shake of the fist. The Kingdom will not be given, but rather must be taken — without permission! It will not be seized by passive church members, quietly sitting in church pews, but rather by vocal, active soldiers of Christ laying down their lives on battlefields of our society, and by making whatever sacrifices necessary to win the battle.

To all of Christ's soldiers — prepare for battle. The violent take it by force!

## Religion briefs...

### Conservative Episcopal Synod delegates move toward separation

ROSEMONT, Pa. (AP) — The conservative Episcopal Synod of America, protesting the ordination of women and homosexuals, has voted to distance itself from the Episcopal Church USA by forming a "province."

The 125 delegates who overwhelmingly approved the statement include clergy and lay leaders from around the country. Among them were the bishops from Fort Worth, Texas, Quincy, Ill., San Joaquin, Calif., and Eau Claire, Wis.

The synod leaders issued the statement during a conference held in a Philadelphia suburb, planned in response to the liberal agenda they expected to see at the Episcopal Church's 10-day 1997 General Convention.

At that convention, all dioceses were ordered to ordain and employ female clergy. A resolution to create a rite for same-sex unions failed by just one vote.

### Jurors who convicted pastor in zoning case now support his shelter

BUENA PARK, Calif. (AP) — Four jurors who voted to convict a pastor for violating city zoning rules by operating a makeshift homeless shelter are now offering him their support.

Jurors Rebecca Ostrander and Danella Rivera attended church services at Rev. Wiley Drake's First Southern Baptist Church on and said they were inspired by his sermon. They plan to return. They also plan to donate money to help keep the church's homeless shelter operating.

Ms. Ostrander said she was forced by the law to vote for conviction last month, but that she admires Drake's work. After a Sunday service, she and Ms. Rivera toured the parking lot and patio that is home to 40 homeless people.

"How could you not support what this man is doing here?" said Ms. Rivera, 28. Two other jurors who attended the service declined to comment.

### Appeals court upholds Syracuse's right to display nativity scene

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — A federal appeals court has upheld the city of Syracuse's right to display a nativity scene in a downtown public square during the Christmas season.

U.S. District Judge Frederick Scullin had ruled in January 1996 that it was lawful for the city to put up the creche display.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Scullin's decision, concluding that a "reasonable observer" would not perceive the city's actions as an endorsement of religion.

The case was initiated in December 1995 by city resident Carol Elewski, a self-described atheist. Her lawsuit contended the nativity scene favored Christianity and violated the constitutional separation of church and state.

### Children's Revival set

First Assembly of God Church who will be on hand to help at 500 S. Cuyler will host a with the revival that starts at Children's Revival Aug. 10-13. 6:30 Sunday night and at 7 Special guests will be Kim and Monday through Wednesday Roxanne Kerley of Duncan, OK, nights.

## Nun who is top Indians fan gets her own baseball card

CLEVELAND (AP) — It's like she's batting cleanup in a religious order or been named the major leagues' first designated player.

For now you can collect or even trade Sister Mary Assumpta's baseball card. The card company Upper Deck has printed 10,000 cards featuring Sister Assumpta in her Indians jacket, holding a bat in her left hand and a chocolate chip cookie in the other.

The mother superior for the Sisters of the Holy Spirit in Cleveland has baked cookies for Indian players since 1986 and is one of the team's biggest fans.

Her devotion even earned her a cameo in the 1989 movie "Major League."

The back of the card has a short biography and lists her top 10 baseball trivia questions. The cards are being given away through Sunday at the National Sports Collectors Convention in Cleveland.

Upper Deck is donating \$2,000 to Sister Assumpta's community and \$1,000 worth of memorabilia to the nursing home for which she's chief fund-raiser.

She said she has received nothing but positive feedback from the Roman Catholic community about the card, especially from her fellow nuns.

"They've really gotten a charge out of this because they're all baseball fans," she said.

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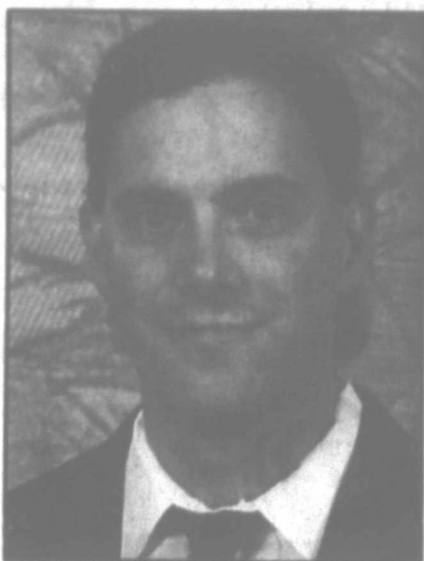
PORT WORTH — Texas Christian University's Office of Admissions has announced the enrollment of Kristi Carter, 1997 Pampa High School honor graduate and daughter of Lee and Sharon Carter of Pampa.

Carter has been awarded a TCU Academic Scholarship and is the recipient of a Christian Youth Fellowship Award worth \$20,000 over a four year period. The award is based upon her service in the Regional Youth Ministry Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

She plans to major in deaf education.



Kristi Carter



Doak Matthew Ammerman

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Doak Matthew Ammerman of Pampa, son of J.B. and Bethel Walker of Pampa and the late Ted Ammerman, recently received a master of arts degree in Christian education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ammerman's home church is Central Baptist Church of Pampa. He previously earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from Wayland Baptist University.

AMARILLO — Scott A. Johnson, a 1995 Pampa High School graduate and son of Christopher and RoseAnn Johnson of Pampa, has joined the United States Army under the delayed Entry Program at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Amarillo.

The program gives young men or women the opportunity to delay enlistment into the Army for up to one year before reporting to basic military training.

The enlistment gives the new soldier time to learn a new skill,

travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$40,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career specialty.

Johnson will be reported to Fort Lawton, Okla., for military basic training Aug. 6.

The American Academy of Distinguished Students is proud to announce the membership of Kim Damron of Pampa. Damron is a history and drama major at El Centro Community College in Dallas.

Invitations for membership in the Academy are based on the following criteria: 1) grade point average; 2) recommendations from faculty members or administrators at their universities; 3) leadership; and 4) service in their communities and universities.

Select faculty members from prestigious universities from across the U.S. are invited annually to sponsor students. On the

average, ten percent of these students are invited to become members of the Academy. Members of the Academy represent America's best and brightest minds and next generation of leaders in the private and public sectors.

Wichita, Kan. — Wichita State University has announced students awarded degrees in the fall of 1997.

Among the 1997 graduates was Yanjun Xue of Pampa. Xue received a master of science degree.

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Brain power:

The way we learn, and why we forget ...

WASHINGTON (AP) — It takes the brain about six hours to store in memory a new physical skill, such as riding a bike, and this memory can be wiped out if the mind's storage process is interrupted by trying to learn another new skill, researchers said in a study published today.

"We've shown that time itself is a very powerful component of learning," said Dr. Henry H. Holcomb, a psychiatrist who heads a Johns Hopkins University group that studies how people remember. "It is not enough to simply practice something. You have to allow time to pass for the brain to encode the new skill."

By measuring the blood flow patterns in the brain, the scientists determined that it takes five to six hours for the memory of a new skill to move from temporary storage site in the front of the brain to permanent storage site at the back.

During those six hours, said Holcomb, there is a neural "window of vulnerability" when memory of that new skill can be easily eroded if the person

attempts to learn a second new skill.

"If you were performing a piano piece for the first time and then immediately started practicing something else, then that will cause problems in retention of the initial piece that you practiced," said Holcomb.

It would be better, he said, if the first practice session was followed by five to six hours of routine activity that required no new learning.

The study is published today in the journal Science. "This is a new and important insight into the relationship between motor skill learning and neural activity," said Dr. Carolyn B. Cave, a psychologist and learning researcher at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

She cautioned, however, that not enough is yet known to identify precisely how the successive learning of different skills could interfere with each other.

"The brain is incredibly flexible," said Cave. "It may not be, for instance, that practicing the piano would interfere with what

you learned just before from a tennis lesson. The two skills could use different parts of the brain."

In the Hopkins study, the researchers used a positron emission tomography device, or PET, to individually measure blood flow in the brains of 16 test subjects while they learned a new motor skill.

The people were placed into the PET and then taught to manipulate an object on a computer screen by using a motorized robot arm. The test required unusually precise and rapid hand movements that could be learned only through practice.

During this learning process,

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