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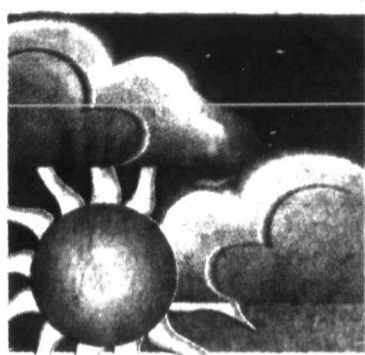
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Pampa

Vol. 91 No. 107 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday *1



**High today in mid-90s.
Low tonight in low-60s.**
For weather details see page 2.

PAMPA — Pampa Learning Center will be accepting applications and interviewing prospective students August 12. Selections will be posted on August 14. New students and returning students will begin August 17 with orientation and enrollment. A parent will need to accompany the student on the 17th bringing the student's birth certificate and social security card. Contact the school at 669-4750 for one of the orientation times.

PAMPA — The PHS Class of 1989 will be having an organizational meeting for their 10-year class reunion next Thursday, August 13 at 7 p.m.

Any classmate interested in helping with reunion plans is welcome to attend. For a time and location call 665-0626 or Dustin Miller at 665-4918.

PAMPA — When school bells ring Aug. 13, school buses will be running to bring pupils to Pampa ISD schools. Students must live two miles from the school they attend in order to ride the bus. All bus stops for all schools are at the same locations and pick-up times as last year. For more information, call 669-4995.

- Ken Alexander, 77, brother of Pampa and Wheeler residents.
- J.W. Martin, 77, father of a McLean resident.
- Mary J. Parks, 78, mother of a Pampa resident.

Classified 8
Comics 6
Editorial 4
Sports 7

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Carrell Dairies owners discuss moving plans

The owner of Carrell Dairies, the first dairy to commit to opening a dairy in Gray County, recently made a stop in Pampa. Kirk Carrell came to look over the area and visit with some local people about his plans for his dairy just a few days after the announcement that a second dairy, also from Godley, is moving to Pampa.

Carrell said that acquiring the property he wants has been a little more difficult than he first thought. The current owners have asked him not to discuss the location of the land until the deal closes. He hoped to close the deal within 30-40 days.

Carrell said he believes he will be able to start work almost immediately after the close.

"I'd like to start improvements on it within a week or two, depending on the contractors," he said. "The dairy barn itself will be the first thing I start building. At the same time we'll be building some housing for the dairy cattle."

He said he was hoping to be able to get the first cattle

in by the first of December. If it takes much longer than that he thinks he may have to wait until March to avoid moving the cows into a winter they are not used to.

Carrell said he is hoping three or four of his key people will want to move to Pampa from Godley and he would like to hire the rest of his employees locally. He also said that he has talked to contractors who know dairy construction requirements and he said he thinks much of the labor can be hired locally.

While he still plans to have 2,000 head of dairy cattle here for the first phase of expansion, it will take about a year to bring that many. The reason is that dairy cattle must be trained to walk into the barn and get in the right stalls on their own, he said.

Carrell's wife, Marsha, who was on this trip to see the area said training cows is not as easy as she first thought.

"When we first started the dairy business I didn't have a clue what the cows looked like. He (Kirk) took



Kirk and Marsha Carrell

me to a dairy where the cows just walked in line. I thought that wasn't so bad," she said.

But the cows they acquired were not trained, she said. "The first thing I know cows are jumping all over, it

See CARRELL, Page 2



William McCarley of the Pampa Parks Department pours fresh concrete into forms along Red Deer Creek in Central Park. The concrete walkway the parks department is pouring is part of the city's hiking and biking trail system.

'Water woes' not a problem for Pampa

While the state has suffered a drought of catastrophic proportions, Pampa citizens won't be sharing water woes other cities around the state seem to be facing.

But they are using a record amount of water, according to John Horst, director of finance for the City of Pampa.

In July, residents consumed 159,776,000 gallons of water compared to 103,499,000 in July a year ago. And in June, meters showed 106,455,000 gallons were consumed as compared to 66,374,000 in June of 1997.

Earlier this summer, Amarillo turned to a voluntary lawn watering program. Ordinances have been passed in Dallas and other North Texas towns rationing water use.

But Pampa officials said that the city should not suffer a water shortage this summer.

"At this point, there have been no suggestions of water conservation made," said Vickie Morton with the water department. "As far as I know, we don't have any plans to ration water."

But she said the city is watching the situation in case it changes.

"I don't think we even used our allotment last year from Lake Meredith," she said, something Horst confirmed.

"This year, we're still not using it," Horst said. "However, we're closer than we were last year."

Water from the city's wells and Lake Meredith should be more than sufficient to handle the city's demands, he said.

"The only reason we would be in a bind on water was if the aqueduct went down between here and Lake Meredith," Horst said. "We do have contingency plans for that."

Most of the water the city uses comes from Lake Meredith, although Pampa does pump some water from underground aquifers.

"We've got our well field that we're not fully utilizing because we use Lake Meredith water," Horst said. "In the case of aqueduct failure, those wells are available."

In a worst case scenario, fire trucks could fill up at City Lake, Horst said.

"We're not planning on that," he said, "but that is available if we need it."

Still consumption is up this summer, and city officials said they have planned for the worst while hoping for the best. They noted that when Amarillo asked its residents for a voluntary reduction in watering lawns, consumption dropped hundreds of thousands of gallons.

"The only reason we would do that here is if there was some big failure," Horst said. "We're not expecting that, but we do have contingency plans."

While Pampa isn't expecting any water shortage problems, the Texas Extension Service is offering advice for those who aren't as fortunate.

Extension officials suggest refraining from watering in the middle of the day since much of the water is lost to evapo

See WATER, Page 2

Collections consolidated: Taxpayers can expect savings

"We were already set up to collect taxes anyway. We just added the other entities to our one statement because we mail to everybody anyway since we're county and it worked out real well," said Tax Assessor/Collector Sammie Morris.

She was explaining why her office took over collections for nine different taxing entities that used to be split between her office and the Gray County Appraisal District.

The nine districts make up every taxing entity in Gray County and include, Pampa Water Department, City of Pampa, City of Lefors, City of McLean, Grandview Hopkins School District, along with the school districts for McLean, Pampa and Lefors as well as Gray County.

Because her office is set up to collect taxes, Morris has been able to drop the fees she charges the entities to collect for them. That in turn should mean a savings for the tax payer, she said.

When she first took over the McLean School District the fee they were paying was \$4,900

Morris explained. The next year she was able to drop the fee to \$4,400 and this year she said the fee will be \$3,100. She dropped the Lefors ISD fee by almost half and this year taxes will be able to be dropped again.

The other entities have also had the fees dropped. Morris said that she needs to drop the

fees, rather than keeping them for Gray County because state law forbids her office from making a profit from taxing entities.

Besides the savings to the taxing entities, Morris said having her office take over collections has another big plus for tax payers.

"A lot of people didn't know they had to go to two different places. Some were even delinquent in paying some taxes without even knowing," she said.

Pat Bagley of the Gray County Appraisal District, whose office handled some of the collections before, said, "I'm happy they've been consolidated, it's better for the taxpayer."

Now all taxpayers should get all their taxes on one statement and be able to pay at the county courthouse.

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Hoover fire volunteers achieving success ...

Joe Millican and Kelley Randall of the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department recently attended a week long annual Municipal Firefighter Training School at Texas A&M in College Station.

The annual training school is the largest in the state providing firefighters with much needed training ranging from arson investigation to hands-on natural gas and petroleum fires.

Hoover is a community about five miles east of Pampa in Gray County; its fire department has 23 area volunteers and helps protect the northeast corner of Gray County and the southwest portion of Roberts Counties.

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Style Show



(Special photo)

Altrusa members Mayda King, president, (l-r), and style show co-chairs Karen Bridges and Jeanne Mitchell, are busy collecting door prizes for the club's sixth annual Style Show slated for 9:30 a.m. Aug. 15. Brunch will be served at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$10 and may be purchased from any Altrusa member or by calling 665-5145.

LPD now accepting applications in Amarillo, Pampa area, schedules day at AC

LUBBOCK — The Lubbock Police Department is now accepting applications for the position of police officer. Representatives of the police department and the City of Lubbock Human Resources Department will be in Amarillo from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 13 at Amarillo College. No appointment is necessary.

Because the LPD fills its ranks with only the brightest and the best, the requirements to become an LPD officer are stringent. In order to begin the application process, you must be a U.S. citizen between 21 and 35. Applicants with five years prior police or military experience will be accepted through the age of 45.

Applicants must be high school graduates or have a G.E.D. certificate, and anyone with a past military history must have been discharged under honorable conditions.

Individuals cannot be under indictment for a felony offense or be convicted at any time of a felony offense or misdemeanor family violence offense.

Proof of a valid driver's license is required. The license must not be in jeopardy of suspension and must be covered by a current motor vehicle liability insurance policy.

For more information, call 1-800-621-0793 or visit the LPD website located at <www.lubbockpolice.com>.

Frank Phillips registration set at Canadian High School

BORGER — Frank Phillips College off-campus fall registration will be from 5-7 p.m. Aug. 17 at Canadian, Dalhart and Perryton high schools. On-campus registration will be from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Aug. 19 and 20 in the Classroom Learning Complex.

Classes will begin Aug. 24. Open registration will continue from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. through Aug. 27 and from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 28.

For more information, call (806) 274-5311 or 1-800-687-2056.

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 1st Run - Stereo

Ever After (PG-13)
 Daily 2:05, 7:05, 9:25

Coming Soon Snake Eyes

Gov. Bush suspends law to assist ranchers during current drought

AUSTIN — Gov. George W. Bush has ordered the temporary suspension of a Texas law which is hindering the ability of Texas farmers and ranchers to haul hay to feed their livestock. The Texas Transportation Code requires anyone hauling hay beyond 150 miles of his or her home to obtain a commercial license. The Governor's Executive order waives that requirement for 90 days effective this past Wednesday.

The Texas Disaster Act allows the governor to suspend any regulatory statute that prevents, hinders or delays the response or recovery from a disaster. The drought in Texas has caused the depletion of pasture forage and hay supplies, creating the need for many ranchers and farmers to buy hay from suppliers outside their immediate areas.

"The drought has been devastating for many Texas farmers and ranchers," said Gov. Bush. "I hope this action will help farmers and ranchers weather this crisis and get feed to their livestock."

Bush issued an Emergency Disaster Proclamation for Texas June 4.

Young Astronauts to meet

AMARILLO — The Don Harrington Discovery Center's Young Astronauts Club, which began in 1995, is gearing up for another terrific year. This group of children — grades 3-5 — will meet at the Discovery Center twice a month and will participate in aerospace and astronomy activities, crafts and planetarium shows. The Young Astronauts group will help students experience the fun and adventure of learning which often results in continued interest and better school performance.

"Astronomy is one of the most popular sciences, and we can use that to encourage an interest in science. We will have experiments, crafts, and

activities at every meeting, and we will utilize the Discovery Center's planetarium to conduct them. This will be a great opportunity for all young people who want to have fun learning about space," said Planetarium coordinator, Aaron Guzman.

The meetings will be from 4-5:30 p.m. or from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Discovery Center on the following days: Sept. 8, 22, Oct. 13, 27, Nov. 10, 24, Dec. 8, 22, Jan. 12, 26, Feb. 9, 23, March 9, 23, April 13, 27 and May 11, 25.

The annual fee for joining the club is \$20 for Discovery Center members and \$30 for non-members. For more information, call (806) 355-9548, ext. 13.

Breast Cancer Screen Clinic slated

AMARILLO — The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist St. Anthony's Health System will conduct a Breast Cancer Screening Clinic Aug. 10 at First United Methodist Educational Building, 201 E. Foster in Pampa.

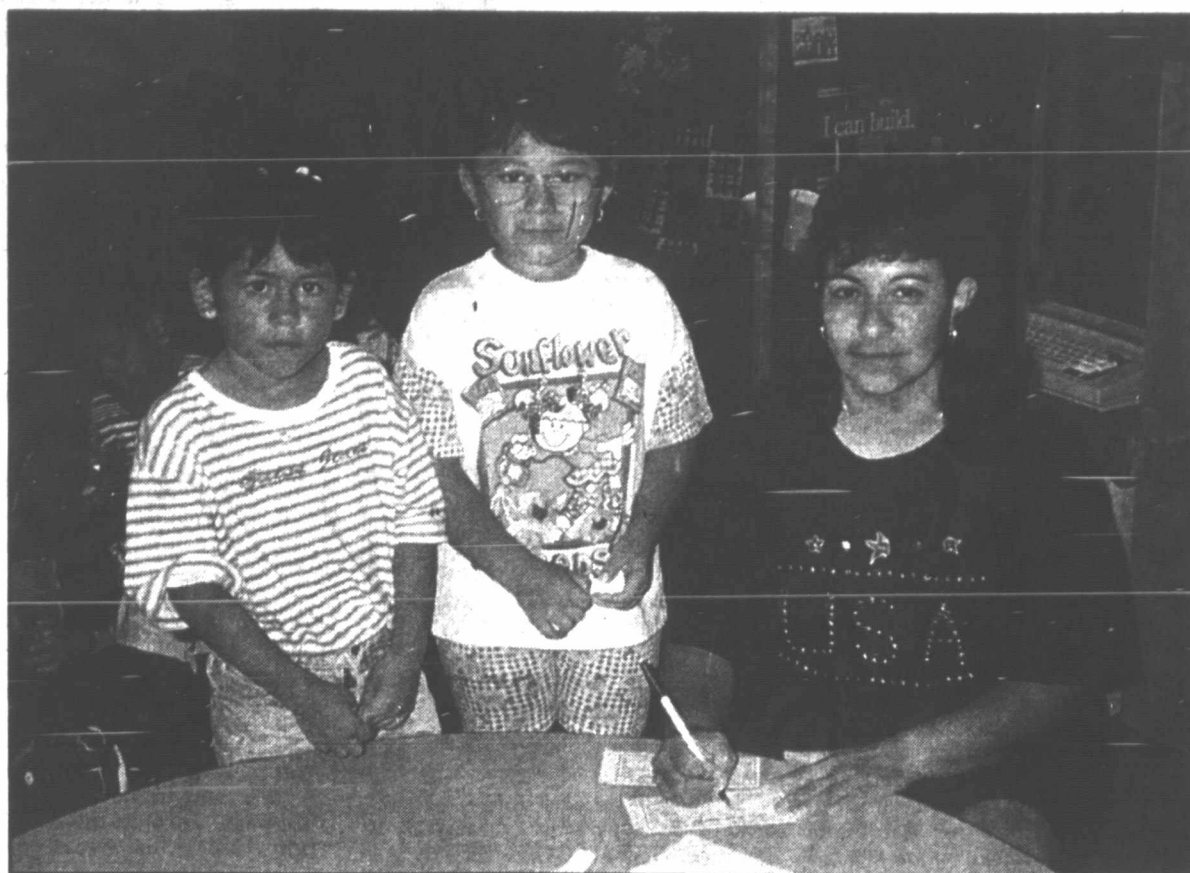
Participants will receive a screening that includes a mammogram and instruction in self-examination by a registered

nurse. A minimum of 15 women need to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns.

This clinic is targeted to women who need financial assistance. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify, for assistance. All exams are done by appointment only.

For more information, call (806) 359-4673 or 1-800-377-4673.

Perfect attendance



(Community Calendar photo)

Winners of perfect attendance drawing for June and July were Janet Barraza, Cristal Silva and ESL teacher's aide Sylvia Flores. The winners received a \$40 gift certificate to Wal-Mart courtesy of Wal-Mart and Pampa ISD.

Extension Service to host conference

PERRYTON — An area-wide child care conference and training session will be held from 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Exposition Center in Perryton. This educational event, "Child Care Challenges," will provide training for workers in day care settings, mothers and parents. It is being co-sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Hemphill, Ochiltree, Gray and Lipscomb Counties and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service in Beaver County. In addition to providing training for all interested individuals, certificates of training worth 4.5 credit hours will be provided to those who need annual in-service training to maintain current certification.

Registration will be at 9 a.m. The keynote address "Have You Blown Up Lately?" will be delivered at 9:30 a.m. by Dorothy James. James is the Family Life Specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Participants will learn new skills dealing with conflict management. Two sessions

will be held in the afternoon: "Music Across the Curriculum" and "Easy Arts and Crafts."

The first session will be conducted by Mary Raven, Extension educator, Family and Consumer Science Beaver County, and Joanna Blackwell, director of Kids Corner Daycare, Goodwell, Okla., and will explore how to incorporate music into the day care setting along with other resources.

The second session will teach how to incorporate learning centers in pre-school and after school programs and will be conducted by Cathy Campbell, activity coordinator and instructor, Canadian YMCA. Each session will provide handouts for participants to take home.

Pre-registration is encouraged. A \$5 registration fee is to be sent to Cynthia Shattles, County Extension Agent — Family and Consumer Sciences, P.O. Box 647, Perryton, TX 79070.

For more information, call your local county Extension agent.

Dumas High School alumni searching for graduates

DUMAS — Dumas High School alumni is working with Bernard C. Harris Publishing Co., Inc., to create an updated alumni directory.

This project is in the research stages, and the alumni are looking for current names, addresses and

phone numbers from all class years. If you know of any helpful information such as reunion lists, class newsletters or any other resource containing such pertinent information please contact Harris Publishing at 1-800-238-0459 or fax information to 1-800-

829-4142. The e-mail address is cdavenpo@bcharrispub.com. The mailing address is Dumas High School Alumni Directory Project, Attn: Charlene Davenport, c/o Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, 22 Koger Center, Norfolk, VA 23502.

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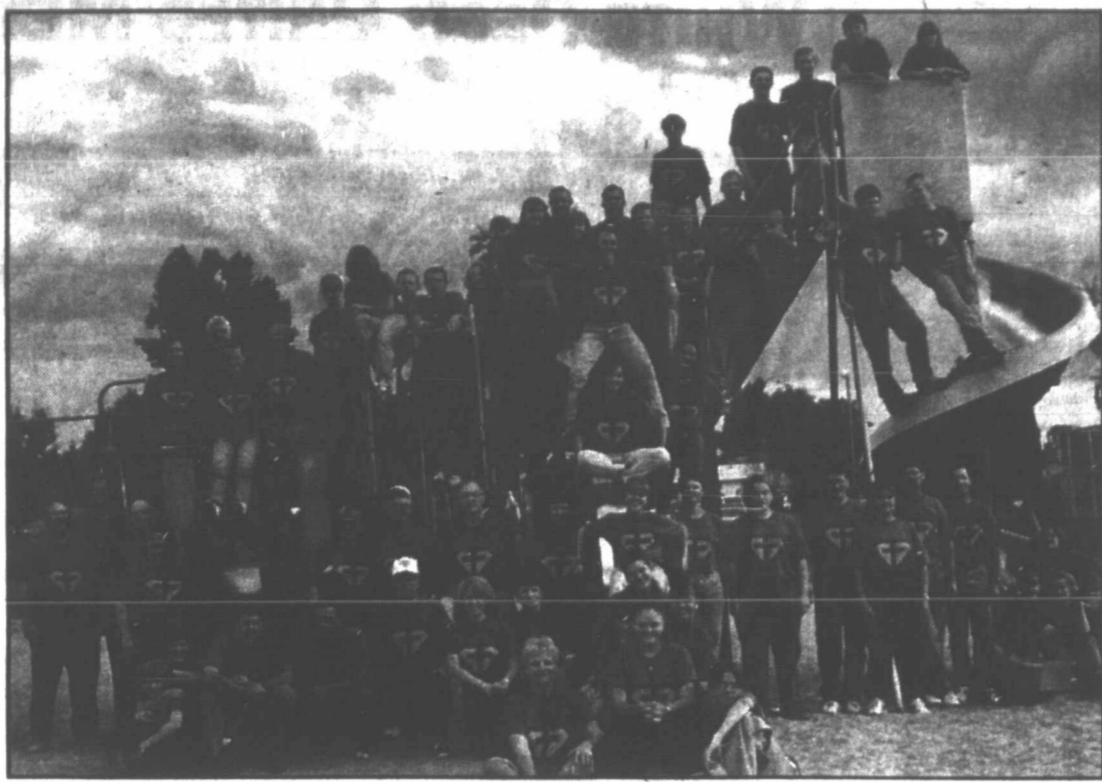


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A youth mission team from Central Baptist Church recently returned from the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. The 63 member team under the direction of Zan Walker held an vacation bible school at Ft. Washakie, Wyo., a backyard Bible Clubs in a housing project, a basketball camp in Riverton, Wyo., and replaced a section of the roof at Wind River Indian Baptist Church.



Federal investigators targeting illegal Cuban cigar market

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal agents have made some high-profile arrests in their bid to snuff out the aroma of Cuban cigars in the United States. Agents raided two Manhattan businesses and arrested seven people in an attempt to rid the industry of the most popular and successful cigars.

Two of the defendants charged with conspiracy were arrested Wednesday, and five more were taken into custody Thursday after raids on the Racquet & Tennis Club and the Patroon restaurant, where cigars are treated as delicately as babies.

Those arrested included Racquet Club manager Robert Gressler, Patroon owner Kenneth Aretsky and Patroon cigar room

manager Alex Hasbany.

Also arrested Wednesday and Thursday were four buyers of the cigars who were willing to pay \$825 for a box of Cohiba Esplendidos.

The men were charged under the Trading with the Enemy Act, which carries a potential penalty of up to 10 years in prison and up to a \$100,000 fine. All those arrested were released on their own recognizance after brief court appearances.

"This makes no sense," said Michael Kennedy, a lawyer for business executive Kenneth Joseph, one of the arrested purchasers. "It is both absurd and arcane to think that an individual American who buys a cigar from another American can be arrested for trading with the enemy."

Calls to Patroon were not immediately returned today. Gressler, the Racquet Club

manager, said he had "nothing to say."

Gordon Mott, managing editor of Cigar Aficionado, said most Cuban cigars are smuggled into the country in small quantities by individuals who are not related to any organized smuggling ring.

He said the magazine estimates cigar consumption in the United States grew from 100 million in 1992 to about 500 million in 1997. Still, the number of Cuban cigars smuggled into the country has held steady at between 6 million and 8 million, he said.

"People are being arrested for a product that in every other country in the world is legal and in this country is legal when it doesn't come from Cuba," he said. "I think cigar smokers in general consider it a pretty unfair targeting of something that really doesn't do any harm to anyone."

Lucky Ohio 13 validate lottery tickets today

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Lottery officials confirmed today that the ticket held by 13 Ohio workingmen was the winner of \$161.5 million in the Powerball lottery. But the happy 13 stayed away and largely anonymous.

The winners' attorney, Larry Sturtz, and three security guards traveled 170 miles by car from Upper Arlington, Ohio, to Hoosier Lottery headquarters to bring in the ticket for validation.

"After meeting with Sturtz, Hoosier Lottery Director James Maguire confirmed the ticket was authentic. He said the money would be transferred electronically next week to the Ohio bank holding an account for the Lucky 13 Trust, which was created to claim the jackpot and maintain the anonymity of most of the group.

The multistate Powerball offered a record \$295.7 million jackpot in last month's drawing. The previous record jackpot for a single ticket was \$195 million, also in the Powerball game, won by an Illinois couple in May.

The winners, who nicknamed themselves "the Lucky 13," work at Automation Tooling Systems in the Columbus suburb of Westerville. They decided to take the \$161.5 million lump-sum payment option instead of the higher figure over a period of years. That comes to \$12.4 million before taxes for each of the 13 workers.

The ticket had been stored in a safe deposit box. Sturtz held it up for photographers at a news conference, declaring it to be the winner.

"It's been quite a zoo for this past week, but the nice part of it is, I've taken that heat. It's easier for me to take the heat than it is the 13 of them," he said.

Sturtz said the 13 had created the trust so that most of them, other than one member who's been widely interviewed and photographed with his wife, could remain out of the media spotlight and dodge the inevitable bombardment of requests from charities and businesses seeking investments.

Sturtz said they had told him: "We don't want to run to the press. We don't want our life to change." Sturtz said he has received countless proposals, including offers to make a movie and cut a record.

Some of the older members of the group may retire a few years early, but others plan to continue at their jobs.

"These are good, basic, family value, moral Midwesterners. Work every day for a living, love their company," Sturtz said.

The winners had 180 days from the July 29 drawing to present their ticket for validation.

They bought 130 tickets — spending \$10 apiece — at a gasoline station in Richmond, Ind., about 100 miles away. Powerball operates in 20 states, but Ohio is not one of them.

The only member of the group to have spoken with reporters is

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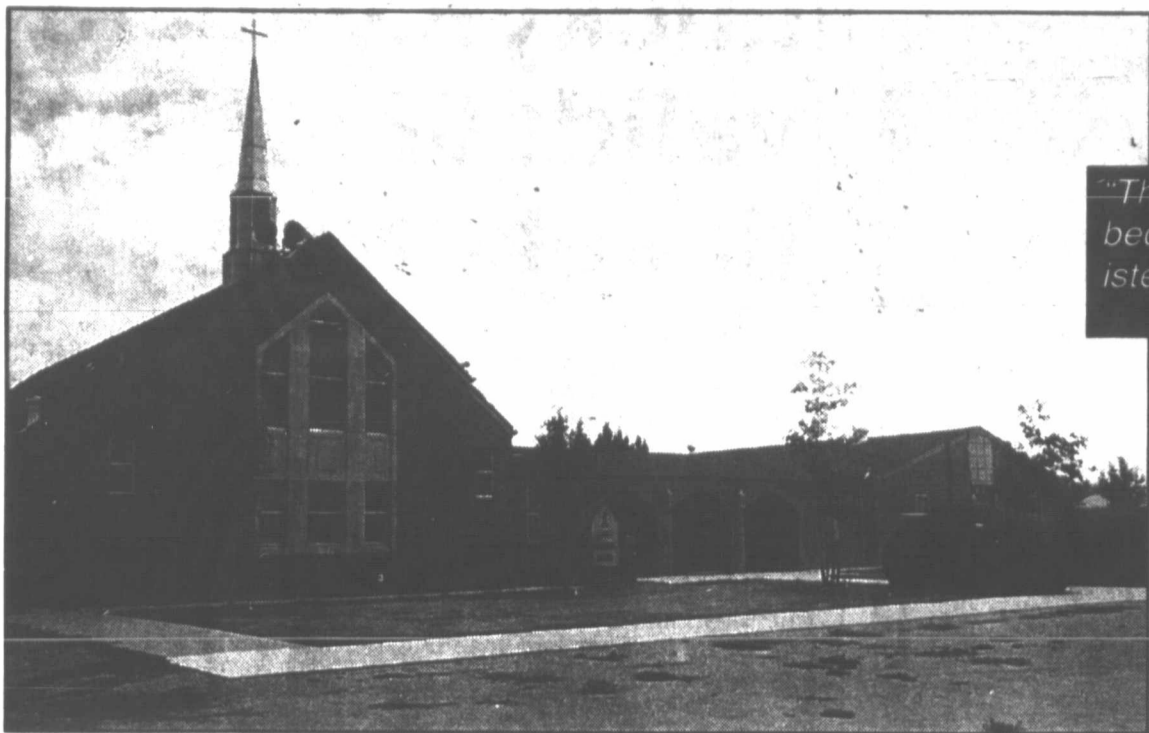
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 Rick Burton 407 E. 1St.
 First Baptist Church (White Deer)
 John Collis, Minister 411 Omohundro St.

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 824 S. Barnes

Highland Baptist Church
 Paul Nachtigall, Pastor 1301 N. Banks
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 Macedonia Baptist Church
 Rev. I.L. Patrick 441 Elm. St.
 New Hope Baptist Church
 Rev. Thomas J. Patterson 912 S. Gray
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 Progressive Baptist Church
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 St. Mary's (Groom)
 Father Raymond Crosier 400 Ware
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
 Father John Valdez 810 W. 23rd

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 Rev. Lynn Hancock 1800 W. Harvester
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Lutheran
 Zion Lutheran Church
 Pastor Leif Hasskarl 1200 Duncan

Methodist
 First United Methodist Church
 Rev. Todd Dyess 201 E. Foster
 First United Methodist Church (Mobeetie)
 Rev. Gary Jahnel Wheeler & 3rd
 First United Methodist Church (McLean)
 Rev. Thacker Haynes 219 N. Gray
 First United Methodist Church (White Deer)
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Campaign finance reformers targeting U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Backers of legislation that would rewrite the fund-raising rules for political campaigns hope a House vote that favors such changes will persuade the Senate to revisit the issue.

But a spokesman for the Senate's top Republican said a vote there was unlikely.

The House ended a month-long fight over campaign financing Thursday with a 252-179 vote for a complete ban on "soft money" — the unlimited and unregulated money donations to the political parties that led to congressional and Justice Department investigations after the 1996 elections.

"This is a bill the Senate can vote for," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., a co-sponsor of the measure, which was supported by 61 Republicans, 190 Democrats and one independent. Voting against it were 164 Republicans and 15 Democrats.

The Senate has considered similar legislation twice and both times supporters failed to get the votes needed to halt GOP-delaying tactics and force a vote. Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., has said he has no interest in resurrecting the issue in the final days of the session.

"The Senate has dealt with this issue already. There is no more of a consensus now than there was in the spring," Lott spokesman John Czwartacki said. He added that the priority for the remaining weeks is for the Senate to complete action on the government spending bills.

The House bill, co-sponsored by Shays and Rep. Marty Meehan, D-Mass., would ban soft money at the federal, state and local levels. It also would regulate issue advertising that purports to educate voters but increasingly is used to influence elections, and expand disclosure requirements.

Opponents criticized it as an assault on American's free-speech

rights. "The effect of all this federal regulation is to chill free speech and political participation," said House Majority Whip Tom DeLay of Texas, who led GOP opposition to the reform effort.

Buoyed by the vote, supporters of reform appeared undeterred.

Common Cause, a public interest group that favors campaign reform, said it was mounting a grassroots campaign to lobby for Senate passage of the bill in September.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., said she would lobby her senator to support the bill and urged members of the public to pick up the telephone and do the same.

"There is every reason now to stand up and pass it in the Senate," she said.

President Clinton, who also supports the bill, called its passage a "heartening sign for the health of our democracy." He urged the Senate to "heed the actions of the House and the will of the people and pass bipartisan campaign finance reform."

Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., a co-sponsor of the Senate bill, said passage was possible because its support increased with each vote to break the Republican filibuster.

"Now I think we're about ready to put it over the top," he said in an interview.

To get this far, the Shays-Meehan bill survived an unusual procedure crafted by House GOP leaders that stretched debate over many weeks and required votes on several alternatives and dozens of amendments. The bill with the most support advanced to final passage.

An alternative, offered by a bipartisan group of freshmen, posed the strongest challenge to Shays. But the House rejected it Thursday by a 221-147 vote, with 61 members taking a neutral position by voting "present" and reserving their support for the Shays bill.

United Methodists to debate rules on same-sex unions

DALLAS (AP) — Methodists across the country are watching and praying as their church's highest judicial body meets to consider the question of homosexual marriage.

Some pray that tradition will hold. Others pray for change.

All agree the direction of the United Methodist Church is on the line starting today when its Judicial Council meets to consider whether church guidelines prohibiting same-sex marriages are legally binding.

"If they rule that this is a chargeable offense under the Social Principles, that will reflect a blow to those who support the rights of gay and lesbian persons," said Kathryn Johnson, executive director of the Methodist Federation for Social Justice. "It is a very important decision."

A section of the church guidelines, known as the Social Principles, states: "Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches."

Last year, the Rev. Jimmy Creech of Omaha, Neb., performed a ceremony uniting a lesbian couple. He said he didn't think he was breaking church law because he interpreted the principles only as guidelines, but was charged with disobedience and tried before church peers.

Creech was acquitted in March, however, he was not renewed as pastor at his church. He plans to argue before the Judicial Council that the guidelines are not legally binding.

The meeting was scheduled to end Saturday. A decision was not expected right away.

"My prayer is that we be open with discussing this with one another and to hearing new things that we haven't heard before," said Marilyn Meeker-Williams, senior pastor at the Bering Memorial United Methodist Church in Houston.

"God works in surprising ways, and if you're not ready to hear something surprising, you might miss God's will," she said.

Closing the door to homosexuals who want to get married in the church would be difficult for some Methodist pastors.

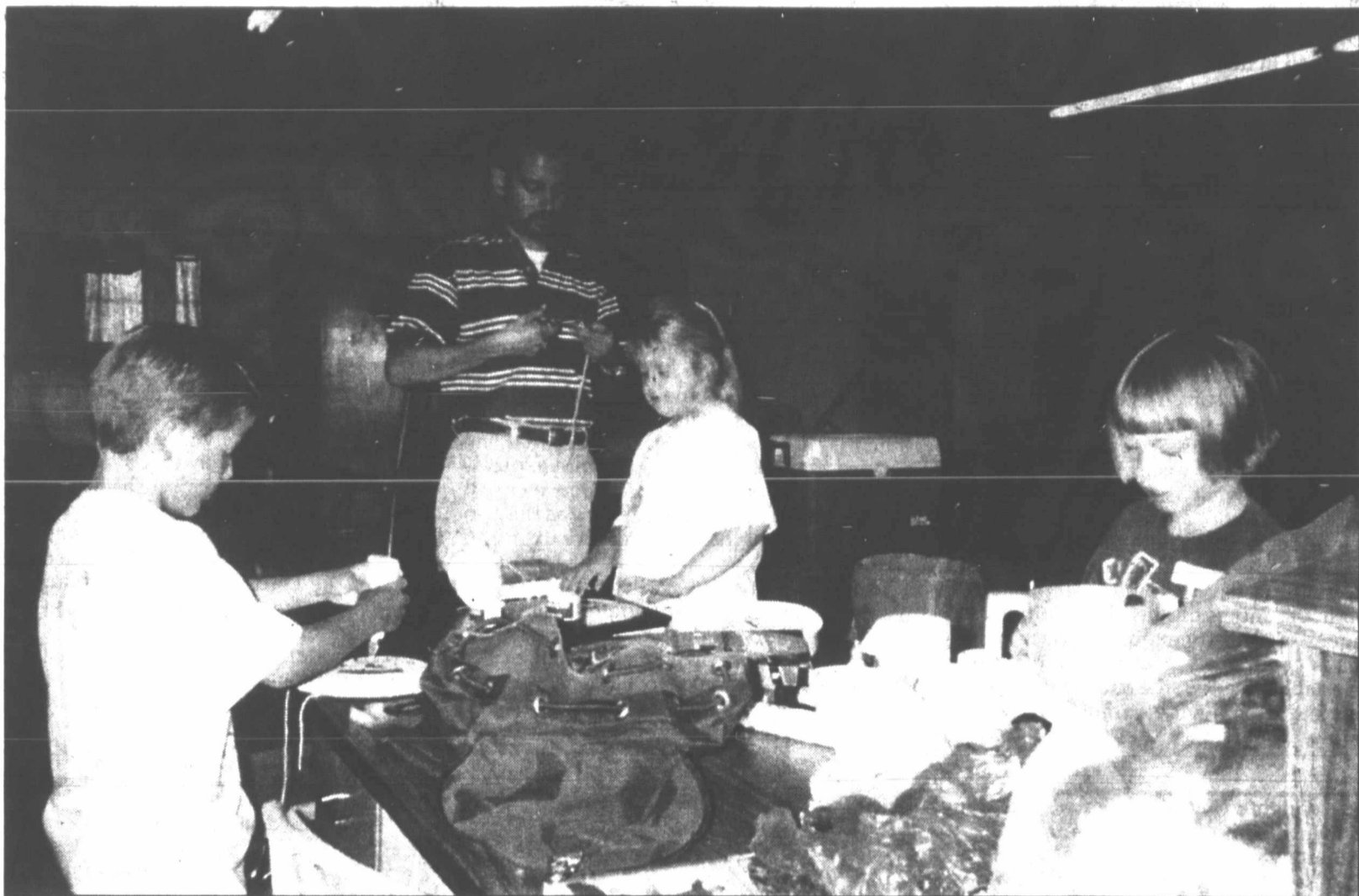
"As pastors we want to serve the people, love God and love one another," said Ms. Meeker-Williams, whose congregation includes a large number of homosexuals. "We want to include everybody, and to make sexual orientation a deciding factor for exclusion would be very painful."

But other pastors hope the church stands by its long practice.

"I'm very concerned that the church find a way to continue to embrace what has almost universally been accepted as the Christian tradition on this issue for almost 2,000 years," said Rev. Mike Walker, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Irving.

The United Methodist Church, with 9.5 million members, is the second-largest Protestant denomination in the United States after the Southern Baptists. Joe Leonard of the National

McLean Summer Arts Program



(Photo by Lorelee Cooley)

McLean Parent Teacher Association hosted its first ever Summer Arts classes in McLean recently with assistance from Pampa Fine Arts Association. Here Russell Dougless, (l-r) Jessica Baggerman and Leda Juengerman, all members of the McLean summer arts program elementary drama class, work on costumes and props assisted by teacher Roger Reyna, of Pampa High School.

Neighbors buy house to keep convicted molester out

DILLEY, Ore. (AP) — Instead of protests or threats, residents in this rural community are using another approach to keep a convicted child molester from moving into their neighborhood — they're buying his mother's house.

Residents say the \$250,000 is a cheap price to pay for their children's safety, which they say would be jeopardized if

Jonathan Hawes moved in with his mother later this month.

Hawes' mother, Wendy Brewton, was unavailable to comment on the deal late Thursday.

Hawes, 27, will be freed Aug. 18 after serving nearly five years in prison. He was convicted of following two 10-year-old girls from

an elementary school and sexually assaulting them in 1993.

Hawes was planning to move into Brewton's home in Dilley. The home met basic supervision conditions because no minors live there or visit, said Bob Severe, senior Washington County parole and probation officer.

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"They only know what you teach 'em."

DECEMBER 1997: A 14-year-old boy in Stamps, Arkansas, allegedly fired sniper rounds outside his school, wounding two students.⁶

MARCH 1998: In Dallas, Texas, four teenagers claiming to be vampires went on a drug-crazed destruction spree, vandalizing dozens of cars and homes, spray-painting racial slurs and burning down the office and fellowship hall of Bethany Lutheran Church.⁷

MARCH 1998: In Jonesboro, Arkansas a 13-year-old boy and his 11-year-old friend opened fire on the Westside Middle School campus. Four students died and one teacher leapt to her death as she sacrificed herself to protect another child.⁸

APRIL 1998: In Yonkers, New York, a 15-year-old girl,

The sound of gun shots in a small Oregon town continue to ring like a bell—a bell that tolls for two students who died from a rampage of bullets, unleashed in a crowded school cafeteria, God help us, by a 15-year-old boy.

But the bell sounds not only for the innocent dead in Springfield. It also tolls for a nation that is turning its back on the moral law it once cherished—a law written on every human heart, yet unrecognized by many members of the younger generation who have never heard about it from their elders.

Are we surprised at the spectacle of children killing children?

Are we surprised at the spectacle of *children killing children*? Are we shocked to open our newspapers, turn on our TV and look into the faces of Opie and Beaver look-alikes being charged with capital murder? Didn't we see it coming?

We *should* have known . . . *should* have anticipated . . . that children who have watched thousands of murders on prime-time television, followed the deadly exploits of Dr. Kevorkian and been taught that there are no moral absolutes, might come to see little harm in gunning down their classmates.

Springfield marks a point of crisis, but one that is hardly new or unique. What happened in this small town in Oregon symbolizes America in moral free fall, America on a rapidly descending spiral, America without God—an America that has forgotten what her founding fathers meant when they warned that only a virtuous people could remain free. If that statement is accurate, and history has consistently validated it, then we are living in the twilight of our liberty.

As always when a culture begins to unravel, it is the youngest members who are most wounded and disturbed. Consider the following reports of unspeakable crimes committed not by hardened thugs, but by lost children:

SEPTEMBER 1995: A family made a wrong turn down a street in Los Angeles and was subjected to a hail of gunfire that killed their little girl. Gang members poured bullets into the car for the sheer fun of it.¹

NOVEMBER 1996: A teenage girl delivered a child in a Delaware motel, then she and her boyfriend allegedly beat the child to death, placed it in a plastic bag and dropped it in a dumpster.²

JUNE 1997: A New Jersey teenager gave birth to her baby in a bathroom stall at her high school prom. She dropped the baby in the trash, then returned to the dance floor, where she asked the band to play her favorite song, "The Unforgiven."³

OCTOBER 1997: A 16-year-old boy in Pearl, Mississippi, allegedly slayed his mother, then went to school and shot nine students, killing two, including his former girlfriend.⁴

DECEMBER 1997: A young boy opened fire on a prayer meeting at Heath High School in West Paducah, Kentucky, killing three and wounding five of his classmates.⁵

upset that her teacher called her parents about her poor academic performance, attacked the pregnant instructor with a hammer. The teacher suffered multiple skull fractures.⁹

APRIL 1998: In Indianapolis, Indiana, police have begun random searches for weapons on school buses and in elementary schools after an 8-year-old boy allegedly pointed a gun at a female classmate who was teasing him about his ears.¹⁰

APRIL 1998: Four teenagers in Santa Cruz, California, were arrested on charges of drugging an 11-year-old girl and raping her. The teens allegedly raped her in a parking lot, and then drove 10 miles to a wooded area where they smoked heroin and raped her again for several hours. The police said that the girl was so drugged that she could not fend off their attack.¹¹

This chronicle of children who have committed horrible crimes is symptomatic of a culture in chaos. John Hazlewood, whose 14-year-old son Brandon attends the Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, said it best about the recent incident in his town: "This is not the kids' problem, it's the way we're raising them today. They only know what you teach 'em."¹²

To surrender to evil is to yield to the despair that leads to death.

Where did we go wrong? At least some of the answers can be found in the radical notions that have emerged in the last 30 years. Judges, with the acquiescence of our legislators, have made it illegal for our schools to post the Ten Commandments. It is becoming increasingly difficult—and dangerous—for students to pray together on school campuses; meanwhile, it's easier for a man or woman to obtain a divorce than to escape from an automobile lease agreement. The President of the United States embraces the radical homosexual movement which opposes the legal basis of marriage as a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman. States are prohibited from protecting innocent children, in the process of being born, from those who would puncture their skulls and suck out their brains. Those who oppose this infanticide are called "extremists" by our political leaders. Federal authorities decline to prosecute hard-core pornographers. The government spends billions to promote "safe sex" ideology in our schools, and officials hand out condoms and pills to kids who assume they're expected to use them. Laws protecting children from indecent material on the Internet are struck down by justices to protect the right of adults to market pornography. Video poker

machines dot the landscape of a nation that was built on the principles of thrift and deferred gratification. The "entertainment" industry glorifies violence and sexual exploitation, while pop music pays tribute to the killing of police and the raping of women. And the list goes on. How much carnage must we witness at our feet before we will raise our eyes to Heaven?

The American people *know* we are in a moral crisis. According to a poll conducted by Luntz Research, 80 percent believe immorality is our greatest problem as a nation.¹³ But our leaders don't seem to comprehend what is happening. It's time we all pulled together—Americans of every political party and religious faith—to recover a sense of what God wants us to do for our nation.

Let's begin by giving priority to our children. In days gone by, the culture acted to shield them from harmful images and exploitation. Now it's open season for even the youngest among us. Let's put the welfare of our boys and girls ahead of our own convenience and teach them the difference between right and wrong. They need to hear that God is the author of their rights and liberties. Let's teach them that *He* loves them and holds them to a high level of moral accountability.

Let's do everything in our power to reverse the blight of violence and lust that has become so pervasive across this land. Let's demand that the entertainment moguls stop producing moral pollutants. Let's recapture from the courts that system of self-rule that traditionally allowed Americans to debate their deepest differences openly and reach workable solutions together. Radical individualism is destroying us! The creed that proclaims, "If it feels good, do it!" has filled too many hospitals with drug overdosed teenagers, too many prison cells with fatherless youth, too many caskets with slain young people and caused too many tears for bewildered parents.


Let's vow together today to set for our children the highest standards of ethics and morality and to protect them, as much as possible, from evil and death. America can't be perfect, but it *can* be better—much better. To surrender to evil is to yield to the despair that leads to death. We must be bold enough to draw a line in the sand. We may have to endure some name-calling, harassment and lawsuits for it, but as the good people of Springfield know, that isn't the worst thing that can happen.


On May 7, America observed what the Congress of the United States has designated as the National Day of Prayer. That emphasis should occur not just once each spring, but throughout the year, as we ask the Father to intervene on our behalf. We must also pledge ourselves anew to the prin-

ciples that have made this nation great: hard work, sexual restraint, a commitment to family, a rejection of violence and reliance upon the hand of Divine Providence.

By this effort we can begin to atone for the blood of the innocents that stains our streets and neighborhoods. We can start to restore the qualities that prompted Abraham Lincoln to call us an "almost chosen people."¹⁴ We can approach again the throne of our Father, seek His face, humble ourselves and pray, and *know* that He will hear from Heaven and heal our land.

Let's make America a "shining city upon a hill" once more. If we fail, we need not ask for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for our beloved nation.


James C. Dobson, Ph.D.
President
Focus on the Family


Gary L. Bauer
President
Family Research Council

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If you, too, are troubled by America's flight from moral values, contact us at:
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