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# Pampa

Vol. 92 No. 295 • Pampa, Texas  
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**Pampa Cyber Net**  
Internet Power for the New Millenium  
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## Vote turnout should build in afternoon

By NANCY YOUNG  
Managing Editor

Today is election day in Texas. Voters are voting in Democrat and Republican primaries locally to decide many races. If early voting is an indicator to the most popular primary today locally, it will be the Republican primary.

Gray County Clerk Susan Winborne reported 1,175 voters casting ballots in the Republican primary and 91 Democrats voting during the two-week period of early voting from Feb. 28-March 10.

Randy Hendrick, election judge for voting precinct 11 which is located at M.K. Brown Auditorium, said the balloting started slow early today, but he anticipated a good turnout later in the day.

Hendrick, who has worked six elections with three of them as primaries, said he expects a

higher turnout than in the past years. He also said 83 voters voted from Precinct 11 in early voting. He said that is a good turnout from the voting precinct.

Precinct 8 election judge Carol Peet said 106 voters cast ballots this morning at Austin School. "The voting has been slow, but steady," said Peet. She said there has not been a line of voters all day. She also said 234 voters from her precinct casting ballots during early voting is an indicator of a heavy voter turnout.

Election day balloting at North Fire Station #2 located at 1900 N. Duncan got off to a slow start, said Election Judge Maxine Hawkins. The veteran election judge said that 165 voters from Precinct 9 voted during the two-week early voting which ended March 10.

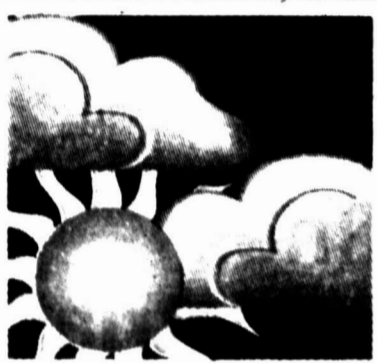
While none of the races on the Democratic ticket are contested

(See VOTE, Page 2)



Carol and Dick Dunham (above) take time to vote this morning in the Precinct 8 Republican Primary at Austin Elementary. At right, Ola and I.W. Tinney sign in to vote this morning in the Precinct 8 Republican Primary at Austin Elementary.

(Pampa News photos by Keith Anderson)



High today 70-75  
Low tonight 45-50  
For weather details see Page 2

**PAMPA** — The Gray County Adult Probation Department will hold a reception Friday, March 17, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the third floor of the Gray County Courthouse to honor the new director Jeff McClendon. The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

**HASKELL (AP)** — A woman who had not been to work in four days was found dead in her home, apparently shot by a man who police believe then committed suicide.

The bodies of Rosa Mendoza, 37, and Adam Frausto, 37, were discovered Monday when Haskell police went to check on the woman.

Police Chief Tom Bassett said officials at the nursing home where Mendoza worked became concerned about her whereabouts when she didn't show up for any of her work shifts Friday through Monday.

The doors and windows were locked at the couple's home, but Bassett saw Mendoza lying on a bedroom floor when he pecked through a window Monday. Frausto was found in another bedroom, also on the floor.

Each had been shot once with a 20-gauge shotgun. The chief, who found no evidence of foul play, believes Frausto shot Mendoza and then himself.

Mendoza was last seen going into the home at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, the chief said.

- Betty Marilyn Smiles, 69, accounting service owner.
- Ruth Stone, 94, retired teacher.
- Ruby Johnston Taylor, 88, former beautician.

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## Fiber optic line cut creates chaos for phone users

By KATE B. DICKSON  
Associate Publisher

For the second time in two weeks a Southwestern Bell Telephone fiber optic cable was cut by contractors causing hours of chaos Monday for long distance customers.

In this number were Internet and some business computer users including banks. Local calling remained intact.

The line between Pampa and Skellytown was severed at 8:55 a.m. cutting off all long distance service in the Pampa area for more than four hours and made 911 inaccessible for a time, according to SWB spokesman Michele Smith. Later, 911 calls were rerouted through the local emergency number (669-5720) given to citizens as a backup to 911.

A similar incident occurred on Feb. 28 which also knocked out long distance and 911 in Pampa. Efforts by *The Pampa News* this morning to find out who cut the lines were unsuccessful by press time.

SWB's Smith said she did not know this morning who had cut the lines on either occasion and that it would take some investigation to find out.

In Monday's incident the line was severed about 7.5 miles north-west of Pampa, Smith said.

Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Hall said disruption to 911 did not create any hazardous situations as there was only one emergency call during the time the service was out.

(See PHONE, Page 2)

## TNRCC says DOE waited to tell it of Pantex contamination

**AUSTIN (AP)** — The U.S. Department of Energy failed to properly notify the TNRCC when solvent was discovered leaking into the groundwater near the DOE's Pantex weapons facility, TNRCC officials said Tuesday.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission sent out a notice of enforcement to the DOE on Tuesday outlining how the agency should respond to the leak.

Unacceptable levels of an industrial solvent called trichloroethylene, or TCE, were first detected in groundwater near Pantex in May 1999, said Brad Jones, TNRCC regional director in Amarillo.

**A public meeting about the water contamination will be hosted by the TNRCC and DOE Wednesday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Building in Panhandle. It is across from the courthouse at 506 Main Street.**

But the DOE, which is primarily responsible for monitoring the area, did not report the leak to the TNRCC until March 2 — 10 months later, Jones said.

"Their permit requires that they notify any noncompliance within 24 hours verbally, then follow with a written notification in 10 working days," he said.

So far, the solvent doesn't appear to threaten Amarillo's drinking water, Jones added.

Calls to the DOE were not immediately returned Tuesday.

(See PANTEX, Page 2)

## Quite frankly... What is your favorite hobby or pastime?



"Going to church at Fellowship Baptist or to the prison."  
-- Johnny Belt



"I like to crochet a little."  
-- Jerry Rogers



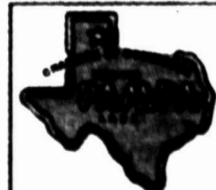
"Woodworking, mainly crafts."  
-- Walt Parry



"Bass fishing, using a plastic worm."  
-- Dennis Cavalier



"Fixing up my car. I belong to the High Rollers Car Club."  
-- Raul Balero



Pampa Chamber of Commerce Luncheon - March 21, 2000 - 200 N. Ballard  
Please RSVP at 669-3241

# Daily Record

## Services tomorrow

GRIFFIN, Archie Zack, Sr. — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Franklin Cemetery, Franklin, Texas.  
 STONE, Ruth — 11 a.m., Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors Ivy Chapel, Amarillo.  
 TAYLOR, Ruby Johnston — 1 p.m., First Baptist Church, Shamrock.

## Obituaries

**BETTY MARILYN SMILES**  
 KINGSLAND — Betty Marilyn Smiles, 69, died Monday, March 13, 2000, at Austin. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitely Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Smiles was born Dec. 18, 1930, at Nocona, Texas. She had been a Pampa resident for many years prior to moving to the Kingsland area where she established an accounting and book-keeping service.

She belonged to the Church of Christ. Survivors include her husband, C.J. Smiles, of Lancaster; a daughter, Jeannie Smiles of Lancaster; three sons, David Smiles and Chris Smiles, both of Kingsland, and Scott Smiles of Pampa; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**RUTH STONE**  
 AMARILLO — Ruth Stone, 94, a former Canadian resident, died Sunday, March 12, 2000. Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors Ivy Chapel with Dr. Jim Bankhead, senior minister of First Presbyterian Church, officiating. Burial will be in Llano Cemetery.

Mrs. Stone was born at Comanche. She married Frank Foster Stone in 1929 at Comanche; he died in 1955. She had been an Amarillo resident since 1946 and was formerly a Canadian, living there for 20 years. She taught school at Highland Park, retiring in 1972.

She belonged to First Presbyterian Church and PEO.

Survivors include a daughter, Frances Short of Potomac, Md.; a son, Robert Stone of Los Angeles, Calif.; a brother, Harold Kilpatrick of Austin; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**RUBY JOHNSTON TAYLOR**  
 SHAMROCK — Ruby Johnston Taylor, 88, died Saturday, March 11, 2000. Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Jack Lee officiating. Burial will be in Shamrock Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Directors of Shamrock.

Mrs. Taylor was born at Lockney and had been a Shamrock area resident most of her life. She married B.T. Johnston in 1927; he died in 1981. She moved to Bedford in 1981 and married R.L. Wyatt the same year; he died shortly thereafter. She later married John I. Taylor in 1984; he died in 1992. She was a Dallas-Fort Worth area resident at the time of her death.

She was a beautician in Shamrock for 21 years and belonged to First Baptist Church of Bedford. She was preceded in death by a son, C.T. Johnston, in 1998.

Survivors include two daughters, Mavis Conner of Springtown and Mary Lynn Kimber of Hurst; a sister, Pearl Hicks of Panhandle; seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

## Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa.		Coca-Cola		43 13/16		up 1/16	
Wheat	2.10	Phillips	38 1/4	dn 1 3/16	Ultra	23 1/8	dn 3/4
Milo	3.08	Phillips	38 1/4	dn 1 3/16	Ultra	23 1/8	dn 3/4
Corn	3.51	Phillips	38 1/4	dn 1 3/16	Ultra	23 1/8	dn 3/4
Soybeans	4.23	Phillips	38 1/4	dn 1 3/16	Ultra	23 1/8	dn 3/4

## Primary turnout projected at less than 19 percent

AUSTIN (AP) — With Gov. George W. Bush the presumptive Republican presidential nominee and only one contested Democratic primary for a statewide office, the state's top elections officials predicts that under 19 percent of Texans are headed to the polls today.

Secretary of State Elton Bomer issued his forecast Monday, projecting an 18.7 percent turnout — or 2.2 million of the state's 11.6 million registered voters. Polls opened at 7 a.m. CST today.

The last year the White House incumbent wasn't on one of the primary ballots was 1988, when the governor's father, George Bush, sought to move up from vice president. Turnout that year in Texas was 13.08 percent for Republicans and 22.78 percent for Democrats, according to the secretary of state's office.

The Texas primary is the largest of the "Southern Tuesday" primaries. But its impact dropped dramatically last week when Arizona Sen. John McCain and former Sen. Bill Bradley ended their presidential bids, leaving Bush and Democratic Vice President Al Gore as the presumptive nominees of their parties.

"Of course everyone knows that Governor Bush is going to be the one to win the Republican

## Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and offenses for the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

**Sunday, March 12**  
 Lucas S. Turner, 20, 1112 Terrace, was arrested on warrants of theft and failure to appear.  
 Richard Gene Jones, 26, 637 N. Wells, was arrested on a charge of assault family violence.  
 Ronnie Bruce Jones, 31, 124 N. Faulkner, was arrested on a charge of assault family violence.

**Monday, March 13**  
 A simple assault against a juvenile was reported near the intersection of Graham and Frederic. The report noted redness to the upper chest and left arm of the juvenile.

A domestic assault was reported in the 100 block of South Dwight. According to the report the victim suffered, "redness to chest from scratch, redness to right elbow from bite."

A man apparently broke a \$23 glass window pane with his head in the 500 block of Doucette. The man suffered cuts to his head and face, according to the report.

"Officers recovered marijuana" in the 500 block of Doucette, according to the report.  
 Allsup at 140 S. Starkweather reported the theft of \$6.99 of beer.

A \$350 Eagle fish and depth finder and a \$1,100 Eagle trolling motor were reported stolen in the 500 block of Sloan.

A M. Stevens blue and tan purse, as well as a pair of "destroyed" sunglasses were reported found in the 1700 block of North Russell.

A burglary was reported in the 2700 block of Seminole. Items reported stolen include the following: a \$2,000 entertainment center, a \$500 end table, a \$1,000 double door chest, a \$1,000 six foot dresser, a \$500 mattress and box springs and headboard, some \$500 in clothing, and damages to a back door and fence valued at \$75 each.

## Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

**Monday, March 13**  
 Eric Newton Connell, 18, Lefors, was arrested on the charge of assault.  
 Charles Mehaffey, 40, 824 Deane, was arrested on the charge of issuance of a bad check.

## Fires

The Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

**Monday, March 13**  
 12:32 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to a gas meter leak in the 2300 block of North Hobart. Meter was shut off.  
 9:28 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a call for lift assistance in the 800 block of East Frederic.

## Carson Co. Sheriff

The Carson County Sheriff's Department reported five arrests for the week of March 6 through March 12, 2000. There are nine people incarcerated in the Carson County Jail, and nine additional people being held in other jurisdictions.

John Stropinicky, 23, Tulsa, Okla., was arrested on the charge of theft of service less than \$20.  
 Jonathan Trujewski, 19, Tulsa, Okla., was arrested on the charge of theft of service less than \$20.

Joseph Rutland, 19, Gore, Okla., was arrested on the charge of possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

John McMahon, 20, Gore, Okla., was arrested on the charge of possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

David Dunn, 27, White Deer, was arrested on the charge of driving while intoxicated second offense.

## VOTING

locally, several Republican races have drawn opponents.

District Attorney John Mann is being challenged by two candidates, Richard (Rick) Roach and Phil Pendleton, in the 31st District Attorney race in the Republican primary.

Three constable races will be decided today as

## PHONE

Internet service provider Doug Locke of Pampa Cyber Net said the disruption caused problems at his business where he had "at least 50 phone calls" from customers who complained they could not connect to the Internet.

While customers could make the connection to Pampa Cyber Net, the lack of long distance service meant there was no access to the Internet, Locke said. He said he had recently improved service by

## PANTEX

But the spill is problematic because it marks the first time that contaminants from the Pantex plant have reached the Ogallala Aquifer. The May water sample from the Ogallala showed TCE levels at 8 parts per billion, which exceeds the EPA standard of 5 ppb for drinking water.

The TNRCC also called for the DOE to track how far the solvent has spread in the aquifer and to develop a strategy for cleaning it up.

## No verdict, but judge fines BNSF \$10 million after mistrial

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A judge declared a mistrial in a civil trial over a railroad engineer's death, but still fined Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. \$10 million for what he called "false, concocted" evidence.

State District Judge Bob McGrath said the Fort Worth-based railroad misrepresented a railroad distance signal that was shown to the jury during the trial. The ruling came Monday as the trial entered its third week.

Burlington Northern Santa Fe was also ordered to pay \$210,000 for the plaintiffs' court costs and attorney fees. Doug Poole, one of the company's attorneys, was fined \$10,000 for saying the company did nothing wrong.

The judge ordered that half the \$10 million fine should go to the family of Randy Mann, 43, the Burlington Northern engineer whose family sued over his death in a collision Feb. 21, 1993. The other half must be paid to the Texas Center for Legal

Ethics, as Mann's family requested.

By the time the 10,000-ton grain train braked in the heavy fog, it was too late to keep it from sliding into an intersection, where it was hit, said Art Brender, the family's lead attorney.

The railroad claims that the broken signal didn't cause the wreck. Poole said evidence shows that Mann knew where he was and that he ran a red light closer to the intersection where the crash occurred.

The disputed evidence, known officially as "Exhibit No. 6," consisted of a dark wooden post with the metal railroad signal box attached near the top. The engineer's family claims that the train's crew members lost their bearings in heavy fog and collided with a second train because the signal was not working.

The signal in place at the time of the crash, which occurred in Enid, Okla., no longer exists. McGrath said that, among other things, the exhibit prepared by the railroad was not typical of

will Precinct 1 County Commissioner. Voters in Roberts, Hemphill, Wheeler, Lipscomb counties along with Gray County will decide the Republican District Attorney's race.

Also on the Republican ballot is a non-binding referendum regarding prayer in the schools. Texas Governor George W. Bush is headlining the ballot in his efforts to grab the presidential nomination.

Polls are open in both Republican and Democrat primaries until 7 p.m.

## PHONE

adding another Internet connection but without long distance availability it is to no avail.

"The customers who were affected the most were the day stock traders," Locke said. "If they can't use the Internet for a time there is a definite possibility of a loss of money for them."

Locke said when long distance lines are out it can cause a "reputation" problem for Internet service providers because many people wrongly assume if they can connect to the local provider they should be able to go on line thus the local provider gets the blame.

"If left unchecked, it could spread a considerable distance," Jones said, "but we're not seeing it in any of the other wells."

Amarillo city officials have tested water from its well field located a mile northeast of the contaminated well, but they found no TCE in the drinking water.

The Pantex plant is part of the Energy Department's complex of nuclear weapons facilities. Its primary function is to dismantle nuclear warheads and storage plutonium "pits" from dismantled weapons.

Also, the exhibit was put together from pieces collected for the trial, rather than being transferred intact, according to court proceedings.

McGrath also said that a BNSF representative testified that before the trial, he had wiped dirt from a shiny surface inside the signal housing, a metal box that contained a lens, mirror and light bulb. The railroad called that an innocent act; McGrath called it tampering with evidence.

The railroad plans an appeal. "We know our witnesses and attorneys did nothing wrong," company spokesman Richard Russack said. "We believe no sanctions are appropriate. We are filing an appeal, and we are confident these sanctions will be reversed on appeal and we will be fully vindicated."

The judge has ordered the exhibit turned over to the district attorney's office for an inquiry into whether criminal charges should be pursued.

## Sears, AOL team up in marketing alliance

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears, Roebuck & Co. is teaming up with America Online in a wide-ranging alliance that includes everything from marketing each other's services to developing Internet-linked appliances for the home.

Under the deal announced today, Sears, the nation's second biggest retailer behind Wal-Mart, will promote AOL in its 858 large department stores. AOL, in turn, will feature Sears on its Web site and market the giant retail chain to its more than 21 million subscribers.

AOL will be Sears' preferred Internet service provider. The companies also plan to develop a special edition of AOL that will offer special Sears promotions and links to Sears' Web sites. That service is expected to be launched later this year.

The companies also plan to develop a version of AOL Instant Messenger to enable consumers to have real-time chats with Sears' customer service representatives as well as with family and friends.

"This is a critical step for both companies to serve the growing Internet needs of our combined and growing customer bases,"

said Sears chief executive Arthur Martinez.

The alliance is the latest in a spate of deals between giant Internet companies and retail chains, which are all looking for ways to expand their reach on and off the Web.

Through such deals, traditional retailers hope to gain respected technology partners to help them build their own Internet businesses. Web companies, meantime, gain a very valuable new avenue to advertise their sites and expand their customer base.

In recent months, Wal-Mart, Circuit City and Blockbuster teamed up with AOL; Best Buy and RadioShack partnered with Microsoft and Kmart joined forces with Yahoo!

The Sears-AOL deal, however, contains some other interesting aspects not seen in previous alliances.

The companies plan to investigate opportunities to develop products for the Internet-connected home. That could include refrigerators that send e-mail when there is no milk or VCRs that could be programmed by e-mail. Sears already is known for its tools, appliances and electronics.

## City Briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement.

**HOLIDAY GREETERS** are taking orders for lighted Easter decorations. 669-1986 or 665-2454.

**PAY 1/3 down, 3 months no interest, on stoves in stock, while they last.** Fireside Comfort, 725 W. Brown, Hwy. 60, 665-9333.

**REMEMBER WHEN** your Pampa News Carrier collects, does the carrier have his/her cards & hole punch? If not, don't pay. Thanks, Circulation Dept.

**TAMMY'S CUT-UPS** has 2 booths avail., lots of walk-ins. Perfect opportunity to build clientele! 665-6558 or aft. 8 p.m. 665-6750

**WOODSTOVES FACTORY** price increase effective April 1st. Buy now at '99 prices! Fireside Comfort, 725 W. Brown, Hwy. 60, 665-9333.

## Weather focus

PAMPA — Partly sunny today with a high of 70-75 and winds at 5-15 mph. Tonight, mostly clear with a low of 45-50. Tomorrow, early fog then mostly sunny with a high in the upper 70s. Yesterday's high was 61; the overnight low 40.

**STATEWIDE** — The advent of another Pacific cold front and upper-level low pressure system means rain likely for North Texas and the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Some light rain fell early today along the Red River, with scat-

tered rainfall in South Texas. Rain was reported at Austin, Alice and Laredo, the National Weather Service said.

Early-morning temperatures ranged from the upper 30s in the Panhandle to lower 70s along the lower Rio Grande Valley in South Texas. In the north, readings stretched from the 50s to 60s.

It was 51 degrees at Huntsville, 63 at San Angelo and 72 at Brownsville and Port Isabel.

Winds were generally easterly and southeasterly at 5 to 15 mph. Fog shrouded Randolph Air Force Base and San Antonio.

Mostly cloudy skies were expected in North Texas, with a chance of showers or thunderstorms through Wednesday from the latest in a series of strong upper-level disturbances.

More rain was also expected along the coast and in Central Texas. A slight chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms was expected for all areas but the far west and northern sections.

Daytime highs should range from the mid-60s through mid-70s with 80s in the Big Bend, with lows overnight from the 30s in the north and mountains to the mid-60s.

# Calendar of events

## TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters will meet every Wednesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at the Furr's Cafeteria.

**PAMPA PRISON MINISTRY**  
The Pampa Prison Ministry meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information call Bob Andersen 665-4252 or J.B Walker at 669-2266.

**PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL**  
A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

## ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star, has changed their meeting nights from the first and third Tuesdays to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

**OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule - seven days a week - two meetings a day - noon till 1 p.m. no smoking, and Tuesday and Thursday 8-9 p.m. call 665-9702 for information.

**TRALEE CRISIS CENTER**  
Womens Support Group for Child Management offers parenting skills to assist parents and children in dealing with anger and behavioral issues resulting from peer pressure, sibling rivalry, family violence and/or sexual abuse from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131.

**FOL BOOK SALE**  
Friends of the Library annual Book Sale will be from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. March 30 at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston. For more information, contact Louise Bailey, president, at 669-6578, or the library at 669-5780.

**TOP O' TEXAS QUEEN CLINIC**  
Top O' Texas Rodeo Association is sponsoring a "Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Queen Clinic" from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturday, March 25, at Pampa Community Building. Cost of the clinic is \$5 per person. This year's pageant will be discussed in detail and pageant clothes will be accepted for resale. For more information, call the rodeo office at 669-0434 or Sonja Daniel at 665-5501.

**CATTLEWOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS**  
Top O' Texas CattleWomen will award one \$500 scholarship and two \$250 scholarships to high school seniors who are planning to major in an agricultural, nutritional or health-related field in college. These scholarships are available to students living in Carson, Collingsworth, Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts or Wheeler Counties. Applications — now available at schools in these counties — must be received by April 28 and should be mailed to Sandra Christner, P.O. Box 522, Wheeler, TX 79096. The winners' schools will be notified in early May prior to graduation.

**FPC BOOK DRIVE**  
Frank Phillips College Eta Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa in cooperation with the National Education Association's "Read Across America" effort is sponsoring a Children's Book Drive March 2-22. All children's books are welcome. Donated books will be given to the Hutchinson County Library. Books for pre-school children will be donated to Buttercup, Inc., a community childcare with three facilities in Hutchinson Co. The books will be accepted at FPC Library/Learning Resource Center or the Classroom Learning Complex. During spring break, donations may be dropped off at Borger Chamber of Commerce or at the library. For more information, call G.M. Morris at FPC at (806) 274-5311 or 1-800-687-2056, ext. 750.

**SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE WORKSHOP**  
Texas Association of School Boards will sponsor a School Board Candidate Workshop from 7-9 p.m. March 23 at Region 16 Education Service Center, 1601 S. Cleveland, Amarillo. Topics will include a school board's duties and responsibilities, important ethi-

cal practices during board service, how board members are accountable for the education of students and keys to responsible campaigns. The workshop is open to anyone and admission is free. For more information, call Kathy Dundee at TASB, (512) 467-0222 or 1-800-580-8272, ext. 6171.

**BROWN BAG LECTURES**  
Dr. Jerry Lane, Clarendon College-Pampa Center, will present a series of topics during the noon hour every Thursday through March 23. Topics include: Couple Communication, Feb. 24; Time Management, March 2; Dealing with Anger in the Family, March 9; and Expressing and Communicating Feelings and Emotions, March 23. The public is cordially invited to bring a lunch and attend one or more of the sessions.

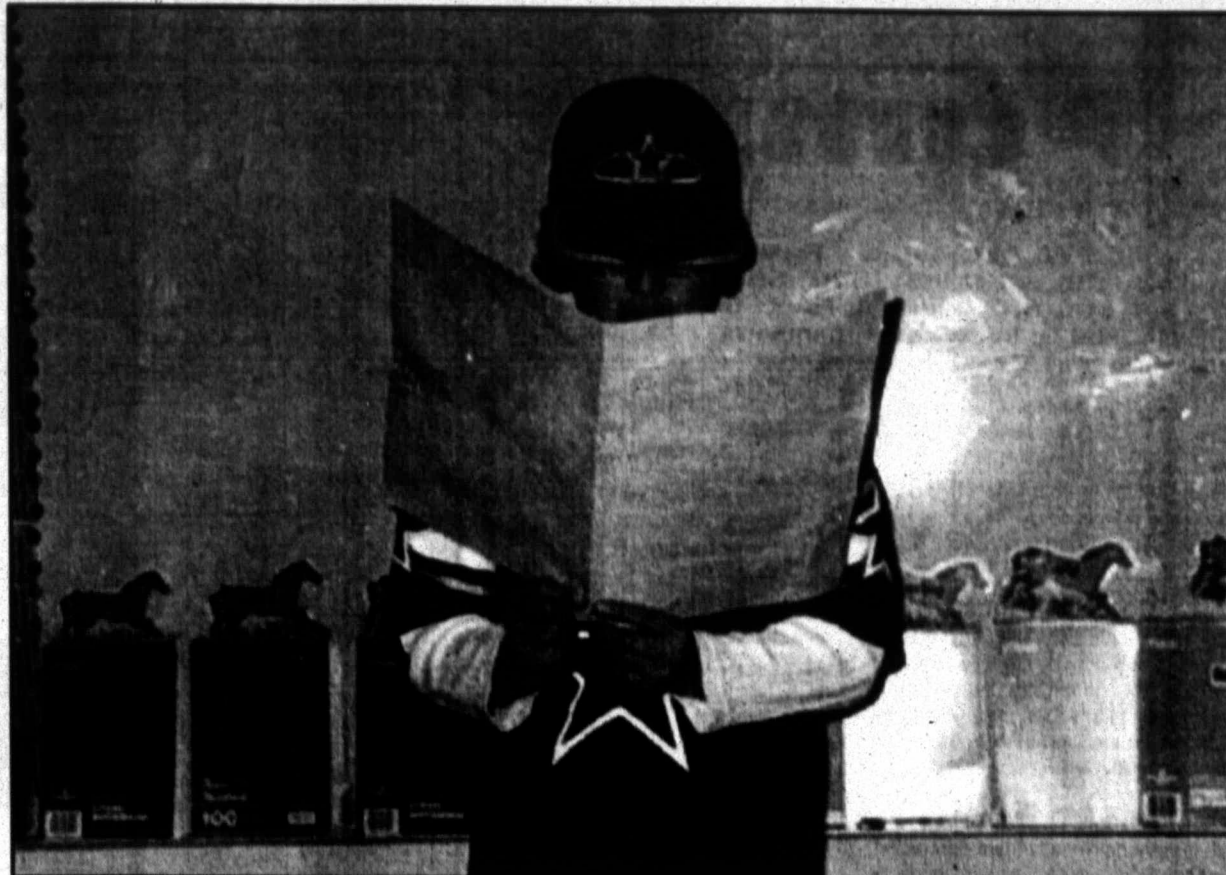
**IMMUNIZATION CLINIC**  
The Texas Department of Health will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are also available. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4:30 p.m., March 15,

Golden Plains Women and Children's Clinic, Pampa; 1-4:30 p.m., March 22, Rural Health Clinic, McLean; and 12-4 p.m., March 27, City Hall first floor, Canadian.

**TEACHERS CONSERVATION INSTITUTE**  
Registration is currently under way for Texas Forestry Association's week-long Teacher's Conservation Institute summer workshop to be held June 25-30, July 9-14 and July 16-21. Teachers will receive a first-hand look at forestry in East Texas by touring forest product mills, a Tree Farm, a logging operation, a nursery and a seed orchard. They will also be trained in Project Learning Tree and Project WILD. The first session is currently full but spaces are still available for the other two sessions. Registration is \$75 and includes all food, lodging and materials for a week. For a free brochure or for more information, call TFA at (409) 632-TREE; e-mail ccalhoun@texas-forestry.org; or write P.O. Box 1488, Lufkin, TX 75902.

**ART SHOW FUND-RAISER**  
A "Spring Art Soiree" will be held beginning with a cocktail buffet at 6 p.m. followed by a live art auction with Tim Assiter on March 10 at Amarillo Civic Center. Show hours will be 11 a.m.-5 p.m. March 11 and 12-4 p.m. March 12. The Art Committee has established four levels of sponsorship. Host couples are assigned to an artist for the event to assist as needed. The proceeds will benefit High Plains Epilepsy Association.

## Famous people ...



(Community Camera photo)

Mrs. Gibson's third grade class at Austin Elementary recently participated in a program on famous people. Above: Kendra Clarkson as Emmitt Smith.

## Farm Credit Bank posts record year-end loan volume

AUSTIN — The Farm Credit Bank of Texas and its affiliated lending institutions ended 1999 with the largest year-end loan volume in the 83-year history of the rural lending cooperative.

The Austin-based bank and 13 Federal Land Bank Associations, three Federal Land Credit Associations and 12 Production Credit Associations comprise the 10th Farm Credit District. The district provides rural mortgage financing and agricultural loans in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas.

In its 1999 year-end financial report, the bank announced record loan volume of \$4.8 billion at Dec. 31, 1999. This is an increase of \$272.6 million, or 6 percent, from year-end 1998 loan volume of \$4.5 billion. It was the eighth consecutive year that the bank reported loan volume growth.

The increase occurred in the bank's mortgage portfolio, which totaled nearly \$4 billion at year-end 1999, up \$311.1 million, or 8.5 percent, from the previous year. The increase in mortgage loan volume was primarily due to the 10th District's competitive interest rates, growth in the commercial credit sector and strong demand for real estate.

Short- and intermediate-term loan volume totaled \$816.6 million at Dec. 31, 1999. This represents a decrease of \$38.5 million, or 4.5 percent, from year-end 1998 and is due largely to poor crop conditions, low agricultural commodity prices, commodity surpluses and reduced agricultural exports in 1999.

(See, FCB, Page 7)

## Pampan receives ASTM award

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — Jack A. Thompson, manager of chemical development for Titan Specialties, Ltd., in Pampa, was recently honored with a Distinguished Service Award by the American Society for Testing and Materials Committee D24 on Carbon Black. Thompson was recognized for advancing the measuring of carbon black "individual pellet crush strength" through the development of an automated tester and ASTM test method D 5230. An ASTM member for more than 10 years, Thompson is also a member of ASTM Committee E29 on Particle and Spray Characterization.

In his career, Thompson has also focused on carbon black test equipment. He has concentrated on such equipment for the rubber and carbon black industry and in the development of equipment and chemicals for the petroleum industry as related to oil well completion.

A resident of Pampa, Thompson has been with Titan Specialties since 1981 when he

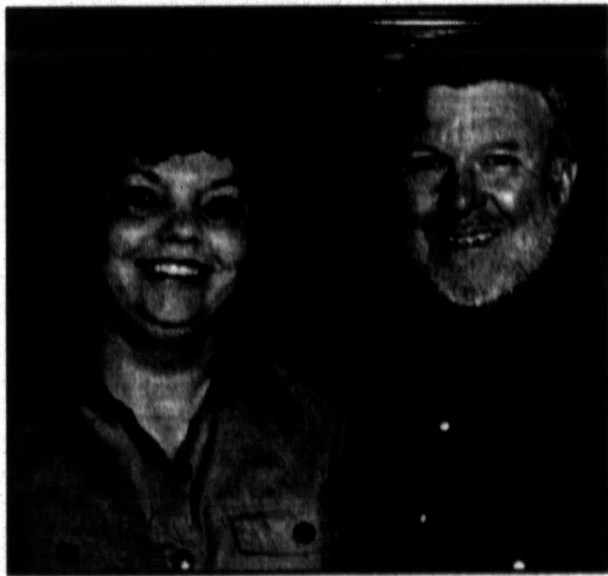


Jack A. Thompson

joined the firm as a research chemist. He began work in his present position in 1998. Previously he had been with Cabot Corp., and holds a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from West Texas A&M University.

ASTM Committee D24 is one of 129 ASTM technical standards-writing committees. Organized in 1898, ASTM is one of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world.

## Vote For Robert Douglas For Constable Precincts 2, 10 and 13



Robert and Debble would appreciate your vote for Robert Douglas as Constable, Precincts 2, 10 and 13. They have been married for 29 years and residents of Gray County for 27 years. They have three (3) children and nine (9) grandchildren who also reside in Gray County. Robert and Debble are involved in many community activities. Robert is currently attending Amarillo College taking the law enforcement course, which is required of any Constable for the State of Texas. If elected, Robert will serve Gray County residents in a courteous and compassionate manner. He will work with other Gray County authorities to make our County a better community. Robert is willing to perform all duties necessary as constable for the residents of Gray County.

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## Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion from around Texas:

**San Antonio Express-News on water quality:**  
Three years of drought in the last four have Texas state officials and regional water planning groups scrambling to find a remedy.

The droughts have had a multibillion-dollar negative impact on farming and ranching and ordinary people, too. And, for better or worse, the state's population is expected to double in the next 50 years.

State Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, said recently that Texas' reservoirs are the lowest they have been in 22 years and 60 state water systems already are on mandatory water restrictions.

"Texas' future growth and prosperity depend on an available water supply," he added.

Toward that end, Wentworth said, the Edwards Aquifer Authority on March 1 will begin cloud-seeding more than 6 million acres encompassing Bexar and a swath of counties north and northwest of here.

With that and new water legislation, regional water groups hope to improve Texas' water conservation, drought management and, if cloud-seeding succeeds, its rainfall.

Superb! But what about water quality? Water managers say that is a "given," but there is some evidence that it is not.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission admitted this month that it erred in releasing 9,000 gallons of a tissue-destroying chemical into San Martin Lake in Cameron County that may have killed up to 7 million fish.

The TNRC is considering, over objections from environmentalists, lowering water-quality standards so a paper mill can continue to dump waste and other byproducts into a creek that feeds into Lake Sam Rayburn, one of Texas' largest and most popular fishing lakes.

The environmental watchdog U.S. Public Interest Research Group this week said three of the nation's most polluted waterways are in Texas.

We urge the Texas Water Development Board, Edwards Aquifer Authority and other water agencies to continue their cooperative efforts to plug for more water and maintain water quality.

It is vital that the TNRC be vigilant in fulfilling its motto: "Protecting Texas by reducing and preventing pollution."

The Victoria Advocate on union growth:

Union ranks increased by 265,000 last year, reversing two decades of precipitous decline. Labor leaders are boasting of renewed political clout this election year. But robust job growth overall actually means the membership gains are relatively inconsequential.

The Labor Department reports that union membership grew to 16.5 million in 1999. But the economy added 2.7 million new jobs, leaving labor's share of the work force static at about 13.9 percent. A half-century ago, unions represented 35 percent of workers.

The largest share of union growth occurred in the public sector, bringing labor representation of government employees to 37 percent. The private sector held steady at 9.4 percent — the first time since 1978 that unions avoided a loss of private-sector members.

The strong economy was a major factor, of course. Employers added jobs across all industry segments. But unions also pumped massive amounts of money into organizing efforts. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, for example, committed \$40 million last year, and the Service Employees International Union shelled out \$70 million — 47 percent of its budget — to gain 155,000 members.

Should the economy continue to grow, organized labor will have a tough time keeping pace. Analysts estimate that unions will have to add between 500,000 and 1 million workers a year to offset attrition.

There's little comfort for taxpayers in these membership trends. Increasingly irrelevant in the most dynamic sectors of the economy — technology and services — organized labor is instead seeking refuge in government ranks. Insulated from market forces, government costs will thus continue to rise.

The greater its reliance on the public sector, the more likely it is that unions will seek to elect proponents of big government. The AFL-CIO, for example, ignored the objections of both the United Auto Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in endorsing Vice President Al Gore last October for the Democratic presidential nomination.

And no sooner did the Labor Department release its numbers than AFL-CIO President John Sweeney vowed: "You're going to see the largest and most significant activity that grassroots workers have exercised in any political election."

Union leaders evidently have missed the message of their own recent history. The stunning decline in private sector union membership is a direct result of labor pricing itself out of the market. Government may offer a haven of sorts, but only until taxpayers tire of footing the inflated bill.



## Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 14, the 74th day of 2000. There are 292 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 14, 1743, the first recorded town meeting in America was held, at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

On this date:  
In 1794, Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, an invention that revolutionized America's cotton industry.

In 1900, Congress ratified the Gold Standard Act.

In 1923, President Harding became the first chief executive to file an income tax report.

In 1939, the republic of Czechoslovakia was dissolved, opening the way for Nazi occupation.

In 1943, Aaron Copland's orchestral work "Fanfare for the Common Man" premiered in New York, with George Szell conducting.

In 1951, during the Korean War, United Nations forces recaptured Seoul.

In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, the previous November.

In 1965, Israel's cabinet formally approved establishment of diplomatic relations with West Germany.

In 1967, the body of President Kennedy was moved from a temporary grave to a permanent site at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1980, a Polish airliner crashed while making an emergency landing near Warsaw, killing all 87 people aboard, including 22 members of a U.S. amateur boxing team.

Ten years ago: The Soviet Congress elected Mikhail S. Gorbachev to the country's new, powerful presidency, a day after creating the post. The United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and West and East Germany held their first formal meeting on reunifying the German states.

## Story of a columnist and his wife ...

My wife told me a story. It was the story of the bad columnist who kept writing about his wife. It seems the bad columnist suffered torment after torment until he was cured of his ways.

I don't know why she tells me such silly stories.

My wife, you see, teaches "Language Arts." Maybe that's where the stories come from.

My wife will get on to me, but I think I'll talk about her, because — and maybe other guys won't admit it, but it's a guy thing — it's fun to annoy the wife.

My wife snores, and refuses to believe it. She clogs on leap day. She cleans the following leap day. Her hobbies include pretending to shop at the mall, and pretending to shop at Wal-Mart.

When men shop — yes, we shop — we decide what we will purchase, and go purchase it. You see, women just pretend. They really just want to aimlessly wander and chatter through shopping centers.

Women are a mystery to me. Why does it take my wife 30 minutes to tell me she ran into so-and-so at the grocery store?

"I decided to stop and get some milk — but not too much, since you always leave it sitting out — and I told mom I was going to get milk and she said she wanted to come along, and so we went and ... [after 29 minutes of dependent clauses and asides] I saw so-and-so," my wife would say.

What is going on in that mind of hers? Wow.

My wife once told me that she told long stories so I could get the "flavor" of the story.

She doesn't realize I have a thirty-second attention span.

Her stories end up sounding to me, "I was



**Keith Anderson**

Staff writer

have no particular shape, and no particular function. "Aren't they wonderful?" she asks me.

I say, "Wow, yeah, those are something."

They are something, but who knows what what thing, I've learned that the more useless an object is, the more women like it.

Ceramic junk. Furniture to display ceramic junk. Little boxes. Fake-flower arrangements. Jewelry.

My wife would rather spend \$30 a month getting fake fingernails than getting cable TV. What's going on in that brain? Women.

Men have it all wrong. We let women win the little arguments, until we have let them win the war. Men, don't back down on the toilet seat battle. Why should it be left down? Who says women should get their way with the toilet seat?

If I ask my wife where she wants to eat, she says, "I don't care." But she does care. The where-should-we-eat game was invented by women to torment us men.

"OK, then I'm going to Olive Garden," I'll say. "I don't want Italian," she'll say. "I thought you didn't care where we eat," I'll say. "I just don't want Italian," she'll say.

No, she doesn't want Italian. What she wants is to aggravate me. I figured it out.

My wife and I compromised on movie rentals. We each rent one. We watch her dumb romantic comedy first, then we put my movie in the VCR, then she falls asleep on the couch, then I watch my "explosions and gratuitous violence" movie — undisturbed.

Of course I don't mean to imply that all women act like my wife. This is just a column about my wife. Women take everything so personal. No, I'm kidding. No angry letters.

My wife has these colored glass objects. They

## Pols who talk of nonexistent surpluses

President Bill Clinton is a total demagogue. He even demagogues the future.

Whenever Clinton runs out of petty, little, federal grants to make, he announces some grandiose scheme that is to take place in the future long after he's out of office, thank God.

This is utter nonsense. No decent or sensible elected leader would try to obligate his successors. More importantly, no one, decent or indecent, can foresee the future.

David McCullough, whom I consider a national treasure for his outstanding narrative histories, said recently that there is no such thing as the foreseeable future. He's so right. Even tomorrow remains hidden from us. We cannot know what it will bring.

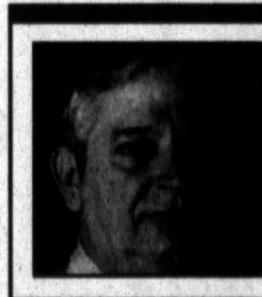
I learned this years ago as a cop reporter. Time after time, I saw people who had started out their day expecting it to be normal only to end up dead. None of the people whose mangled bodies I viewed had gotten up that morning expecting it to be his or her last day on earth. Death surprised them, as it does people every day.

Projections about such things as deficits or surpluses are examples of people not understanding the difference between mathematics, which is entirely abstract, and human behavior, which is unpredictable. Every projection, whether of population or tax revenues or whatever, is just a math answer that is predicated on

a set of assumptions and a formula.

Honest men would precede any projection by a detailed list of all the assumptions on which it is based. The same people who are now projecting budget surpluses were, only a few years ago, projecting deficits "for the indefinite future."

It is pointless, really, to do anything based on projections. The economy, for example, is not a thing, though people talk of the economy as if it were something entirely separate from human actions. In fact, though, the economy is just the sum of millions of individual human decisions made at any given point of time. Those individual decisions are based on people's individual perceptions of the circumstances in which they find themselves. Both the circumstances and the perceptions can change in a matter of minutes. Therefore, what people are doing right now cannot give you even a clue as to what they might be doing a year from now.



**Charley Reese**

Syndicated columnist

It is sensible to set long-range goals, but planning should be confined to the present and immediate future — say, no more than two years out. Ever though the next day is unknowable, humans have no choice but to act on a few basic assumptions.

Years ago, a rookie reporter was taking the weather data from a veteran weatherman on the telephone. The old meteorologist droned out the facts such as the times of sunrise and sunset. When he gave the rookie the hour and minutes of sunrise, the reporter interrupted him to ask if it was "a.m. or p.m.?" There was a long pause, and then the weatherman said, "Well, son, if it ain't a.m., you're going to have yourself one hell of a news story."

We assume the sun will rise tomorrow, and we assume we will be here to see it. We assume a lot but we ought always to keep in mind that the only certainty in our lives is the present moment.

That is why we should not spend too much time remembering the past or too much time imagining the future, lest the only reality we will ever know the present moment, slips by while we are unconscious of it.

Whenever politicians begin to prattle about the future, you should turn them off — especially those who talk about what should be done with nonexistent surpluses. Even the present surplus is an accounting trick. There is no guarantee that there will be surplus next year, much less for the next 10

# Texas Department of Health offering new Texas Trail Registry

AUSTIN — A dozen youngsters are invited to a party and you want to find a spot in town that has picnic facilities and perhaps a soccer field. Or you are tired of walking the same circular exercise path around the neighborhood school grounds and would enjoy new sights. Or perhaps you just started a workout regime and now have a business trip to the opposite end of the state.

Where are Texas trails and what do they offer? The Texas Department of Health is offering some solutions with its new Texas Trail Registry, available at [www.tdh.state.tx.us/trails/](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/trails/) through the agency's website. The registry provides information on public trails by county including details such as the trail name and location, manager, approved activities, estimated difficulty and length, hours, cost, facilities, wheelchair accessibility and scenery.

Going to El Paso? Check out Feather Lake Trail managed by El Paso and the Trans Pecos Audubon Society. This easy trail supports walking, jogging, hiking and nature study and provides drinking water, toilets, picnic facilities and interpretive signs overlooking a lake with opportunities for wildlife observation.

In Houston, look up the easy half-mile Baldwin Trail for walking and jogging. It provides drinking water, picnic facilities and is wheelchair accessible.

Want something more strenuous in Val Verde County? Try the Rio Grande River Trail in Seminole Canyon State Historical Park where you can walk, jog, hike, enjoy mountain biking and nature study. You'll get water, showers, camping grounds and a chance to see a waterfall, Presa Canyon and some pictographs in Panther Cave.

"The registry gives existing trails more exposure, provides communities and other groups considering trail construction some ideas and reveals pockets of need throughout the state," said Elizabeth Graves, physical activity program specialist with the TDH Community and Worksite Wellness Program.

Currently listing more than 350 sites in 56 counties from Angelina to Wise, the registry outlines public trails that are on federal, state, county, city, river authority, utility district or nonprofit entity lands.

"We want to help people enjoy healthier lives by preventing chronic disease," Graves said. "Part of how we accomplish this goal is to work with communities to develop programs and facilities that support and promote a physically active lifestyle. Building and promoting walking, biking, hiking and equestrian trails across Texas is one way."

A 1998 Texas Physical Activity Survey by TDH showed that more than two-thirds of adult Texans are not getting a least 20 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity three times a week — the amount of physical activity recommended for greater health benefits. And 32 percent of adult Texans reported the leading community reason for not being more physically active is the lack of enough fitness facilities, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

"We need to encourage more physical activity, especially among children," said Dr. Reyn Archer, Texas Commissioner of Health. "Having fun with family and friends on any of the many excellent trails in Texas is a great way to promote better health and good life-long habits."

People who are sedentary have twice the risk of heart disease as those who are physically active. Plus physical activity provides protection against other chronic diseases and conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and colon cancer.

The Texas Trail Registry site consists of two parts — the inventory of trails listed by country and a survey for trail managers and users to fill out about other trails.

Planners, managers or avid users of Texas trails may submit information to the registry on-line. That information will be linked to the database for the public to view. "Just check first to be sure the trail is not already listed," Graves said. Then use the Public Trail Information Survey on the registry site. "People do not need to know all the information about a trail. They can fill out as much of the questionnaire as they can. Or if people know more information about a currently listed trail, they may add that as well." The information is checked before being put on the site.

The only exclusion is a trail that is for motorized vehicles. "We are going for physical activity," Graves said.

The registry, which went on-line last July, was developed through research and with the help of groups such as the National Parks Service, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Trails Network, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Physical Activity Network and the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research.

It is, according to Graves, a work in progress. "We will add trails as we receive them," she said, "and we hope to update the site annually." In the meantime, if you are headed for San Antonio in Bexar County, try the Mission Trails winding for 10-miles from the Alamo to Last County Mission. Or if you are still looking for a site for the youngsters to get together in, say, the Dallas area, check out Farmers Branch Park complete with ball fields, playground, a soccer field, benches, grills and a shelter.

## ~ Business Review ~

### Behind the arches ...



Bill and Marietta Benda clown-around in the \$250,000 playland they installed in the Pampa McDonald's. The Benda's bought the Pampa McDonald's in August 1996.

"Behind those big arches are real, human people," Bill Benda said.

Bill and Marietta Benda of Perryton may own a McDonald's near you, they have five, after all, but they are regular people.

The Benda's have McDonald's in Dalhart, Dumas, Perryton, Pampa, and Guyton, Okla.

Bill said his restaurants keep him busy. He said he and his wife will go to three or four of the them a day.

The Benda's are "franchisees." Bill said that means they own the restaurants, but pay royalties to the McDonald's Corporation.

Bill and Marietta met in high school in Lemont, Ill. Bill got a job with Texaco and she went into banking. Texaco transferred Bill to Port Arthur, Texas, and when Texaco wanted to transfer Bill to Los Angeles in 1984, he decided it was time for a change.

Bill and Marietta talked with Beaumont McDonald's owner Ellis Rodgers. He offered to teach

Bill the ropes but said, "I can't pay you what you're making."

Bill agreed but said to Rodgers, "In 10 years I'm going to be gone."

And he was. On his 10-year anniversary with McDonald's, the couple opened their first McDonald's in Perryton in November of 1994.

Marietta had largely supported Bill while he was with Rodgers, but she resigned her bank vice president position and became an entrepreneur, too.

The Benda's gambled on growth in Perryton and lost. But in August of 1996, they purchased a 4-year-old Pampa McDonald's, and got over the financial hump.

"That gave us the leverage to purchase the Guyton McDonald's," Bill said, "Banks will only loan you so much."

The Benda's purchased the Guyton location in August of 1997, and the Dalhart and Dumas locations in August of 1999.

The Benda's say they are Texans.

"This is home," Marietta said. She said she and Bill visited relatives in Illinois recently, and she came back and said to Bill, "Were we as rude as they [Northerners] are when we lived there?"

The Bendas both graduated from Hamburger University in Oak Brook, Ill. Bill said his class had at least 50 people from England, and several from Russia. There are 30,000 McDonald's in 73 countries.

The Benda children chose a more traditional college. Both went to Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Son Christopher is pursuing a marketing degree, and daughter Corynn is an advertising major.

The Benda's said they started their business for Christopher and Corynn.

"You want to leave something for your children," Marietta said. And for other people's children, too.

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# Final rule for oil royalty valuation system issued

By MICHELLE MITTELSTADT  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration today unveiled its new royalty collection system for oil taken from the Gulf of Mexico and other federal lands, capping a long-running battle with oil producers and congressional Republicans.

The new royalty valuation system, which Congress barred from taking effect for nearly two years, will be implemented on June 1.

At issue is a royalty collection system that brought in \$1.2 billion in 1998 for oil taken from public lands and offshore tracts, mainly in the Gulf of Mexico. The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service estimates its new collection system will collect an extra \$67 million annually.

Armed with audits suggesting the government was not receiving its fair share of royalties, Interior began writing new royalty rules four years ago — seeking to replace a system that lets oil companies set arbitrary values at the wellhead with one that would peg the value to a fair market indicator.

MMS Director Walt Rosenbusch today described the new fee system as "a responsible balance between the interests of the oil and gas industry and the government's absolute obligation to assure a fair return for the public's mineral resources."

Industry officials disagreed sharply with that assessment. "We don't view this as a balanced approach," said Mark Rubin of the American Petroleum Institute. "We are very disappointed."

The industry has had its own problems with the existing system, which has exposed them to numerous lawsuits charging that they've undervalued their royalty payments.

But the new plan "doesn't accomplish the goal that MMS set out of

creating a more certain system," Rubin said. "We're very concerned that it's going to lead to more lawsuits in the future because the system is getting more complex, not less complex."

Oil producers, who are considering whether to turn to federal court to block MMS' new rule, have lined up behind an alternative plan they tout as more efficient and less prone to subjective assessments: Paying the government its royalties in product rather than cash.

Administration officials said they weighed producers' concerns. "Developing this rule has been a long, arduous and involved process with the oil industry, the states, public interest groups and members of Congress," the Interior Department's assistant secretary for land and minerals management, Sylvia Baca, said today.

The industry successfully lobbied Congress to delay the final rule for nearly two years. A moratorium barring MMS from issuing its

final rule expires Wednesday, and the agency will publish its rule then in the Federal Register.

The new oil valuation system was welcomed by a government watchdog group which contends that the current fee structure permitted oil companies to underpay their royalties by more than \$2 billion over the last two decades.

"The final oil rule is a major step forward and is long overdue in restoring what rightfully belongs to the American people," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the Project on Government Oversight. "After decades of scamming the system and the ugly tactics they used in the congressional battle, Big Oil will at last pay a fairer share for drilling oil on public lands."

On the Net: <http://www.mms.gov>

## Rice student dead in accident

THE WOODLANDS, Texas (AP) — A Rice University student died overnight when a pickup truck with a goose-neck trailer slammed into a van carrying debate team members from a tournament, the school and authorities said today.

Rice freshman Dan Henning of Vernon Hills, Ill., was killed. Five other students and two coaches were hurt in the collision, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Department.

Two students injured in the accident were taken by a medical helicopter to Memorial Hermann Hospital, said Terry Shepard, vice president of public affairs for Rice.

They were listed in fair condition, a hospital spokeswoman said. One had a broken leg and lacerations, the other was being monitored for internal injuries, Shepard said.

Three students and two coaches were treated and released at Memorial Hospital Northwest.

Rice Forensics Team members, who had won the national championship last year, were returning from a debate and public speak-

ing competition at Omaha, Neb., when the crash occurred just before 11 p.m. CST Monday.

Twelve students and two coaches were in two Rice vans, which were southbound on Interstate 45 on Monday when they came to a construction zone, deputies said.

The first van, carrying two coaches and six students, and the second van, carrying six students, slowed to a stop. The pickup truck rammed the second van, pushing it into the first van.

The names of the other students and coaches was not immediately available.

Henning and two students who were carried by Lifeflight to an area hospital were passengers in the second van, said Shepard.

A private memorial was planned at noon today for Rice students, Shepard said.

Authorities still were investigating the collision and the unidentified 43-year-old male truck driver from Houston.

## Jackpot winner hurt; crash kills sister

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Cocktail waitress Cynthia Jay's biggest concern after winning a \$34.9 million slot machine jackpot in January was to take care of a family that included five sisters and three brothers.

She married boyfriend Terry Brennan and said the wealth wouldn't change her life, although she found herself unable to go out in public without being approached.

On Saturday, an allegedly drunken driver struck her car at 45 mph, killing one of her sisters, 45-year-old Lela Sue Jay, and critically injuring 37-year-old Jay-Brennan. Her condition was upgraded to serious Monday.

Police arrested the other driver, Clark Morse, 57, of Las Vegas, who had three drunken driving convictions, on charges of driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident.

In January, Jay-Brennan parlayed \$27 into a world record \$34.9 mil-

lion Megabucks slot machine jackpot at the Desert Inn hotel-casino.

"The people I had in my life last week are going to be the people in my life next week," she said at a news conference following her win.

Ed Rogich, vice president of marketing for Megabucks founder International Game Technology, said Jay-Brennan was excited about what the money could mean for her family.

"She said they had all been working people, had worked very hard, and she looked forward to this jackpot making it easier on all of them," Rogich recalled.

She later had mixed feelings because of the publicity, said Connie Fox, an IGT spokeswoman.

"She looked at it that while the money made her feel secure, there was a price to be paid, not so much for the money but for the celebrity," Fox said.

## Names in the news ...

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sarah Jessica Parker, the "Sex and the City" star who knows something about alternative TV, has agreed to host the often offbeat MTV Movie Awards.

"I am simultaneously thrilled, humbled and terrified," Parker said Monday. "Nonetheless, I am very much looking forward to June 8."

The ceremony includes traditional acting awards but also recognizes such off-the-wall categories as Best Kiss and Best Villain. Nominees for the 9th annual MTV Movie Awards, to be taped in Los Angeles for its June 8 airing, will be announced next month.

Parker stars as a writer chronicling the New York singles scene in HBO's comedy "Sex and the City."

Previous MTV Movie Awards hosts have included Will Smith, Mike Myers and Samuel L. Jackson.

LITTLE BAY, Montserrat (AP) — Britain's Prince Andrew ventured into the outskirts of Montserrat's danger zone — a barren area coated by gray ash where a volcano has scarred more than half of the verdant British Caribbean island.

It is Andrew's third visit since the Soufriere Hills Volcano first roared to life in 1995, sending avalanches of superheated rock and gases into the largest towns and forcing an evacuation of the capital, Plymouth, and the only airport.

"It's a horrendous devastation. It's a great sadness to see a town like that," Andrew said Monday, standing in the middle of a golf course now covered in ash and pockmarked by gray rocks. "I've been encouraged by what I've seen around the island today — there's an attitude of optimism."

Scientists said last year that the volcano was settling down, but a new string of explosions since July has dashed those hopes. Danger continues to loom over the deserted city.

Since the eruptions began, 7,000 of the 11,000 residents have abandoned the island. Montserrat's leaders complained that Britain has issued an unnecessary travel warning against visiting the island.

Andrew said he wasn't aware of the report and had no qualms about visiting. "I genuinely don't think it's dangerous," he said.

NEW YORK (AP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov is

ready to take on the world.

The chess master will play 30 opponents at once in a worldwide Internet tournament. Among his opponents — all teen-agers or younger — 10 were to play him from chessboards in New York City and 20 others were to make electronic moves in countries from India to Uruguay, Indonesia and China, and across the United States.

A giant screen in Times Square was scheduled to broadcast the chess matches today from [www.KasparovChess.com](http://www.KasparovChess.com), Kasparov's Web site. Kasparov will be playing nearby in a midtown hotel.

The Web site offers live coverage of international chess events, as well as lessons aimed at beginners, pick-up games against both humans and the computer, and chess products.

"One of my missions in launching this site is to engage more of the world's children in chess," says Kasparov, who has helped promote chess programs in schools.

NEW YORK (AP) — Linda McCartney left her entire fortune to her husband Paul in a trust that makes her estate virtually exempt from taxes.

The photographer, who had been a crusader for vegetarianism and animal rights, died from breast cancer on April 17, 1998, at age 56.

The will, filed for probate Friday in Manhattan Surrogate's Court, leaves everything to James Paul McCartney in a "qualified domestic marital trust." He is to receive the net income from the trust in quarterly payments and as much of the principal as he wants for the rest of his life.

The former Beatle also stands to receive future royalties from books, records and any payments for use of his wife's photographs, under the will's terms. When he dies, her McCartneys' children will get everything.

Linda McCartney had four children: Heather, 37, a daughter by her first marriage; and Mary, 28, Stella, 27, and James, 22, with Paul.

The will and attached court papers do not state the monetary value of Mrs. McCartney's estate except to say that it was more than \$1 million. McCartney's started a vegetarianism food business in 1991 that has expanded into an international enterprise worth \$60 million a year.

## Survey: Frequent bingeing up among college students

Despite efforts to sour the taste for alcohol among college students, the percentage of students going on binges stayed roughly the same through the 1990s, and the percentage of frequent bingers actually increased, researchers said today.

The percentage of teetotalers also increased somewhat, according to the survey released today by the Harvard School of Public Health.

The survey conducted a year ago was third in a series that in 1993 and 1997 asked students about their drinking habits. Research was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which focuses on

health issues.

The survey of 14,000 undergraduates found that 44 percent were binge drinkers, compared with 43 percent in 1997, and 45 percent in 1993. The students surveyed were chosen randomly from students at 119 four-year colleges around the country.

Bingers were defined as men

who downed at least five drinks

in a row on at least one occasion

in the two weeks before the survey, or women who had at least four drinks in a row.

Nineteen percent of those surveyed were abstainers — defined in the survey as students who drank no alcohol for at least a year — up from 15 percent in 1993.

At the other extreme were students who binged at least three times in the two weeks preceding the survey. Between 1993 and 1999, their ranks grew from just under 20 percent to 23 percent.

A "drink" was defined as 12 ounces of beer or wine cooler, 4 ounces of wine or a 1 1/4-ounce shot of liquor.

The survey was published in the March issue of the Journal of American College Health. The margin of error was plus or minus 1 percent.

The survey's authors suggested schools could tackle the problem by looking at how alcohol is sold and advertised around campus, considering prospective students' drinking histories, offering recreational and weekend activities to replace partying and not letting classes or exams go easy on Fridays.

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## Randel Chamber Orchestra to present third and final perform of 1999-00 season

AMARILLO — The Amarillo Symphony's Randel Chamber Orchestra will present its third and final performance of the 1999-00 season at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 31 in First Baptist Church, 11th and Tyler in Amarillo. A reception for the audience and artists will follow the performance.

On the first half of the program the orchestra will be joined by piano soloist David Palmer. Palmer received his bachelor of music and master of music degrees from Rice University and is the founder, artistic and executive director of the Amarillo Chamber Music Society. He has performed solos with the Wichita Symphony, the Arizona State University Orchestra and at the Eastern Music Festival and the Bellingham Festival of Music.

The Randel Chamber Orchestra will be also joined by the Grand Prize winner of the Amarillo Symphony Guild's Young Performers' Competition, violinist Hannah Kendle. Kendle is a senior at Tascosa High School and a two-year member of the TMEA All-State Symphonic Orchestra. She is a member of the Amarillo Symphony and the Randel Chamber Orchestra.

Kendle was recently awarded the Pamela Suzanne Mobley Special Award scholarship. She currently studies violin with Corinne Stillwell, concertmaster of the Amarillo Symphony and a member of the Harrington String Quartet. This summer she will participate in the Honor Orchestra of the Pine Mountain Festival in Houghton, Mich. She plans to major in violin performance at college next fall.

Amarillo Symphony Music Director James Setapen will conduct the performance of the Chamber Orchestra and the combined performance with the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra. The Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra was prepared for this joint performance by their Music Director Paula Fishman. The Youth Orchestra is led by a volunteer committee, chaired by Laura Street, and funded by the Amarillo Symphony.

Tickets are not available at the door for this performance. They must be purchased in advance from the Symphony office. General admission tickets are \$10 and senior citizen/student tickets are available for \$5.

## FPC Board of Regents appoints new president, vp

BORGER — Frank Phillips Community College Board of Regents appointed Dr. Herbert J. Swender president of FPC with a two year contract and Duane Jacobs as interim vice president/dean of instruction during a recent meeting. Swender recommended Jacobs and the board unanimously approved the nomination.

Swender began his community college career in 1983 at Allen County Community College in Iola, Kan., where he was a faculty member and later a division chair. Following a nine year tenure of service at Allen County, he accepted the position of dean of Instructional Services at Independence

Community College in Independence, Kan., serving from 1992-96. For the past four years, Swender has been vice president and dean of instruction at FPC.

He received a doctorate in higher education administration from Oklahoma State University at Stillwater in 1991. Additional credentials include: specialist in education, master of science in education and bachelor of science in education from Pittsburgh State University, Pittsburgh, Kan. He began his formal education at Neosho County Community College at Chanute, Kan.

Jacobs holds a bachelor of science degree in mathematics with a

minor in physics and a master of arts in mathematics from Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. In addition, he completed the requirements for a Texas Teaching Certificate from West Texas State University where he began his career as an instructor of mathematics.

From 1973-84, Jacobs taught mathematics and coached at Sanford-Fritch ISD. He has served at FPC as an instructor of math, physics and computer information systems since 1984. In 1991, he was coordinator of instructional research and is currently division chair of math, science and physical education.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

## FCB

Loan credit quality remained strong, with overall acceptable credit quality for the district at 96.6 percent at Dec. 31, 1999, compared to 96.2 percent a year earlier.

"In spite of poor farming conditions and weak commodity markets that affected individual borrowers, 1999 was another outstanding year for the 10th Farm Credit District. We attribute this solid financial performance to competitive loan pricing, brisk demand for real estate, improved livestock prices and a robust general economy," said Arnold Henson, FCBT chief executive officer.

The bank and associations reported combined net income of \$81.8 million in 1999, up \$1.6 million from the \$80.2 million reported for 1998. Combined net interest income of \$187 million for 1999 reflects a \$5.3 million increase over the previous year and is attributed to loan volume growth. Total members' equity in the financing cooperative increased to \$986.4 million at Dec. 31, 1999, from \$971 million a year earlier.

"As a customer-owned cooperative, we're especially pleased that our associations were able to pay or declare for payment approximately \$36 million in patronage distributions and cash or stock dividends to their borrowers in 1999," said Henson.

"Looking at the year ahead, we remain concerned about the effect that low commodity prices and lack of adequate rainfall could have on our customers. However, we remain committed to financing the agricultural industry through good times and bad," he said.

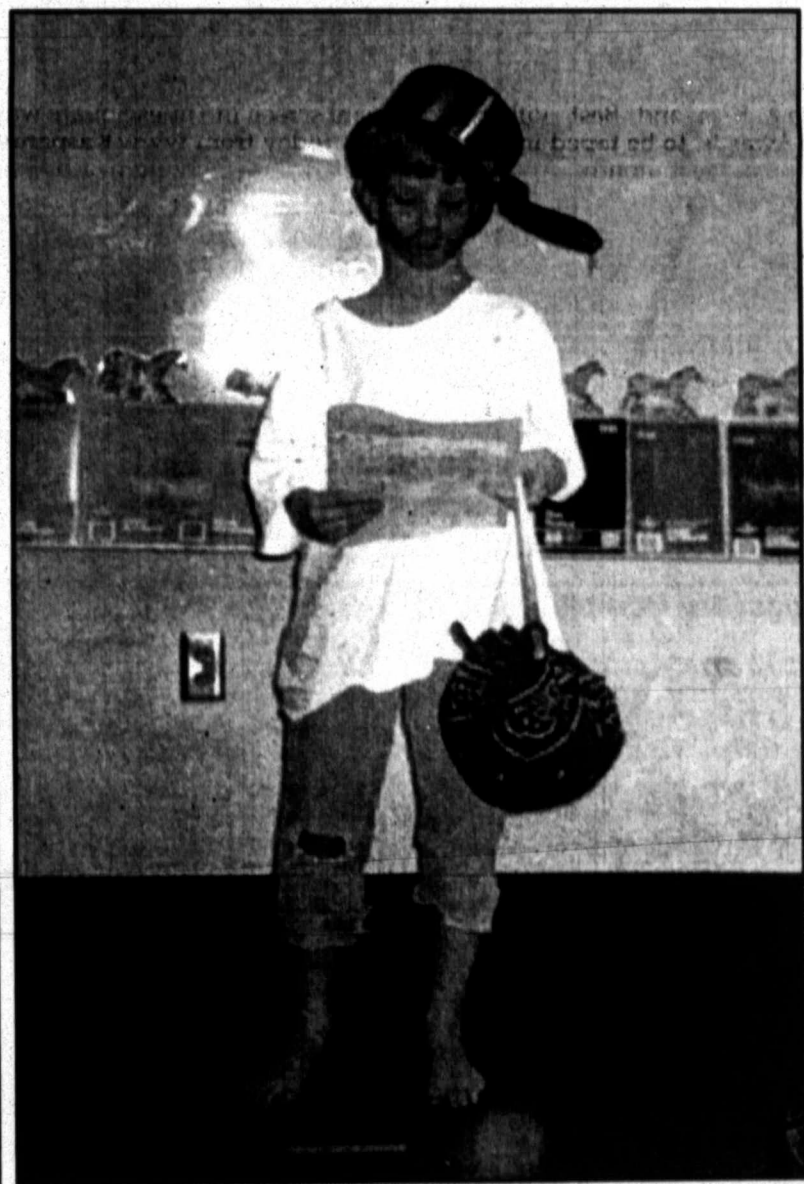
The bank and 10th District

associations reported assets totaling \$5.4 billion at Dec. 31, 1999. Together, they comprise the largest rural lending organization in their five-state district.

The 10th District is part of

the nationwide Farm Credit System, which reported combined net income of \$1.23 billion for the year ending Dec. 31, 1999, as compared with combined net income of \$1.25 billion for the prior year.

## Famous people ...



(Community Camera photo) Taylor Little, a student in Mrs. Gibson's third grade class at Austin Elementary, recently participated in a program about famous people. Little played Johnny Appleseed.

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### Southland Ortho Plush

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Full Set	\$299		

### Sealy Posture Premier

Twin Set	\$299	Queen Set	\$399
Full Set	\$349		

### Sealy Plush Pillow-Top

Full Set	\$449	Queen Set	\$499
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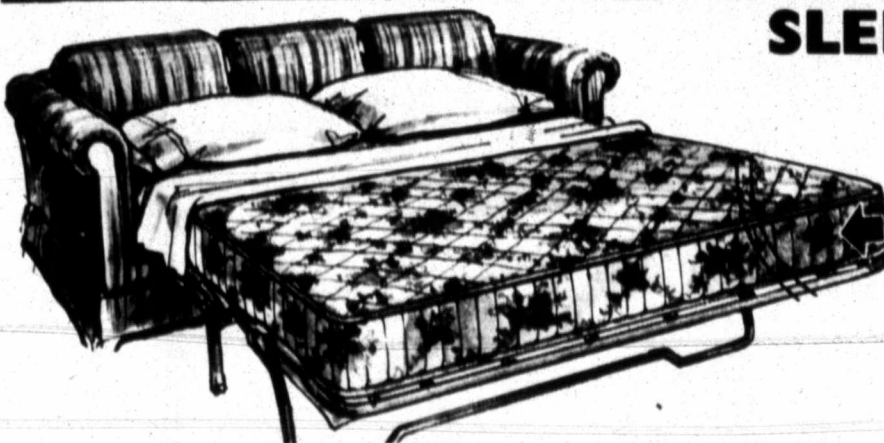
<b>Sealy Posturepedic</b>	
Twin Set	\$399
Queen Set	\$499
Full Set	\$449
Full Set	\$799

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- ★ Quinn... a distinguished citizen, awarded the "Get Involved Award" for his community service
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# Man Discovers Wife's Feelings By Tapping Their Home Phone

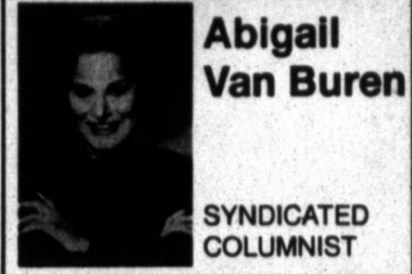
DEAR ABBY: I have been married for three years. My husband and I have talked about counseling, but I am afraid we are beyond counseling. Please help me!

My husband says that I do not communicate well with him about my feelings. I agree that it is an area in which I could improve. My problem is his method of finding out my true feelings. My husband taps our home telephone line. What upsets me the most is not that he records the conversations — but he keeps the tapes and uses them to hurt other people and ruin my friendships. A friendship of 16 years has just ended because of his "taped sessions."

His most recent escapade has cost me a friend of almost two years, her job and possibly mine. It doesn't even stop there, but you wouldn't have enough time to read about the friends I've lost and the problems we've encountered.

I care for my husband and understand that he feels I don't communicate well enough with him — but I still think that he has gone entirely too far. What should I do?

MRS. H. IN NEW ORLEANS



**Abigail Van Buren**

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

unconscionable. Perhaps if your husband were not so overbearing, it would be easier for you to open up to him. And although he thinks you have a problem with communication, I have read your letter and you communicate very well. Do not accept his excuse that your difficulty with communication is the reason for his behavior.

His need to control you, and to drive away anyone who might befriend you, is neither normal nor healthy, and is one of the traits of an abuser. It is far more serious than the problem of which he accused you.

Marriage counseling for both of you would be a giant step in the right direction.

of 20 words per minute), and having gone through the Army's Radio Operators School (25wpm), I heartily agree! Unfortunately, I think that the times are agin' us. I cite the following dates, which rank high in Morse code infancy:

April 1, 1995: U.S. Coast Guard stops monitoring frequencies for Morse distress signals.

Oct. 1, 1996: MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System — essentially, ham radio operators cooperating with the U.S. armed forces) eliminates the use of Morse code.

Feb. 1, 1999: By international agreement, all commercial ships no longer will use Morse code.

April 15, 2000: The FCC lowers the code requirement for general and advanced (13 wpm) and extra-class (20 wpm) licenses to 5 wpm.

So, Abby, it looks like only pilots and ham operators will be able to send and receive Morse code from now on.

DAVE SHER, W9LYA, SKOKIE, ILL.

DEAR DAVE: Believe me, your letter was news to me. If Morse code has gone the way of the automobile crank, the powdered wig and Emerson television sets, I suppose we'll just have to accept it, and accept with good faith the more advanced technology that has replaced it.

DEAR ABBY: I noted with interest your column in which a female pilot recommended learning Morse code for SOS in case of emergencies. As an amateur radio operator (extra-class, requiring a code speed

## Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2000  
BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) \*\*\*\* What comes off as anger might actually be frustration. Carefully explain where you are coming from, rather than totally losing your temper. Family matters need to be handled first; then you can launch successfully into a more creative process. Tonight: Be your frisky self.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\* Reach out for another and talk about what is on your mind. You could be frustrated, and you might need to try another approach. Count on your ability to hone in on what is right. Take time with a family member. Explain your viewpoints calmly. Tonight: Quality time with friends.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\* You want to make a venture financially lucrative, but irritation could arise along the way. Temper might not help you, although it mobilizes your energy. Reach out for others. Schedule an important professional discussion. Tonight: Catch up on news.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) \*\*\*\* Manifesting what you want proves challenging but not impossible. Aim high; know what is key for you. Financial matters are enhanced by your ability to see the big picture. Listen care-

fully to office gossip. Know what is going on here. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\* Take a step back; don't lose your temper. Discussions can be heated, especially when it comes to a personal matter. Detaching proves to be more complicated than usual. Keep communication open. Explore alternatives with a trusted friend or associate. Tonight: Do absolutely what you want.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\* You might think you have a good idea, but another clearly disagrees. You hit a hot spot and feel most uncomfortable. Revamp your thinking. Take time to carefully mull over a decision. You don't have to commit just yet. Listen to a loved one. Tonight: Relax.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\* Others become belligerent, and trying to change another's opinion proves to be challenging at best. Gather your friends together. Think through a decision. Know what your objectives are. An independent work goal appears on the horizon. Tonight: Where your friends are.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\* You might need to pull back and look at a financial venture in a different light. Your perspective might not be working. Frustration could be impacting your health. Discharge volatile energy through a stronger exercise program. Tonight: Take charge.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\* Build on a partnership; don't let an argument pull you apart. You might reverse a stand you've taken and cause yourself more problems than it is worth.

Take an overview, and everyone will seem far more docile and willing. Tonight: Play on the Internet.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\* You could easily lose your temper with a loved one or associate. In the long run, you might regret your words. Make time for an important associate in your life. Together, you cook up an amiable solution to a problem. Tonight: Let the good times happen.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\* You have so much on your mind that you could become accident-prone if you don't concentrate on one item at a time. A friend could test your patience. Defer until later, when your more socially side emerges. Others seek you out. Tonight: Get into some spring shopping.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\* Creativity might not be enough to handle a recent spending spree. Self-discipline is a must. Bosses are demanding — they want answers. Listen to another; ask questions. Your affable personality helps calm down a work-related problem. Others simply respond. Tonight: Soak away stress in a hot tub.

**BORN TODAY**  
Actor Judd Hirsch (1935), singer Dee Snider (1955), singer Sly Stone (1943)

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## Crossword Puzzle

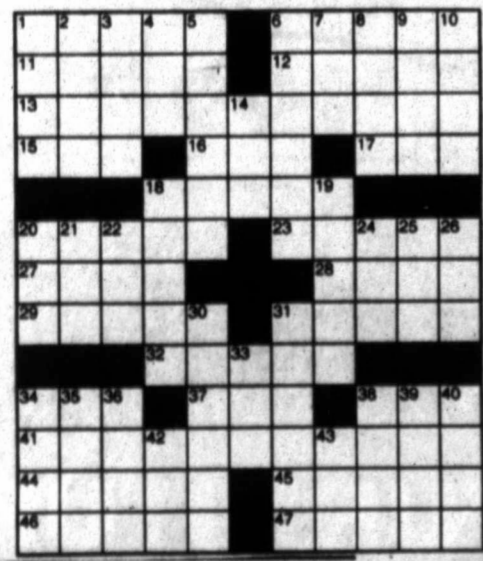
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like some player briefs
  - 2 Montreal
  - 3 Aureate
  - 4 Boxing Bernsen series
  - 5 Admits great
  - 6 Boards, e.g.
  - 7 Cry of insight
  - 8 Big galoots
  - 9 Region
  - 10 Bee's cousin
  - 11 Banishment
  - 12 "Star Trek" character
  - 13 Elmore Leonard book
  - 15 Drunk
  - 16 Blubber
  - 17 Tree's blood
  - 18 Cash
  - 20 Refuge
  - 23 Frolics
  - 27 State
  - 28 Seaweed
  - 29 Mass language
  - 31 Nairobi's nation
  - 32 Bashful
  - 34 Decartes' conclusion
  - 37 Soup buy
  - 38 Crazy
  - 41 Elmore Leonard book
  - 44 Distress signal
  - 45 Stan's buddy
  - 46 Alpine song
  - 47 Demon
- DOWN**
- 1 Smaller amount

MUSH RAMP  
SANTA ELIOT  
TREAT PIXIE  
INVIEV URN  
LIED HIPPOS  
LEIN FOREST  
NOSIR  
ELBOWS GAP  
BREATH RENO  
IRA OZARKS  
TANGO ADULT  
ENTER PINES  
DOME SODS

**Yesterday's answer**

- 22 Dog doc
- 24 Blokes
- 25 Layer
- 26 Workout site
- 30 Metallic element
- 31 In a way
- 33 Has permission to
- 34 Questionable
- 35 Singer Guthrie
- 36 Anthropology's Margaret
- 38 Like bulls and roosters
- 39 Related
- 40 Colored
- 42 Exist
- 43 Yale student



### STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

## Marmaduke



"You can't come in here with that bag!"

## The Family Circus



"Mommy, can we go to see Stuart L-I-double T-L-E?"

## For Better or For Worse



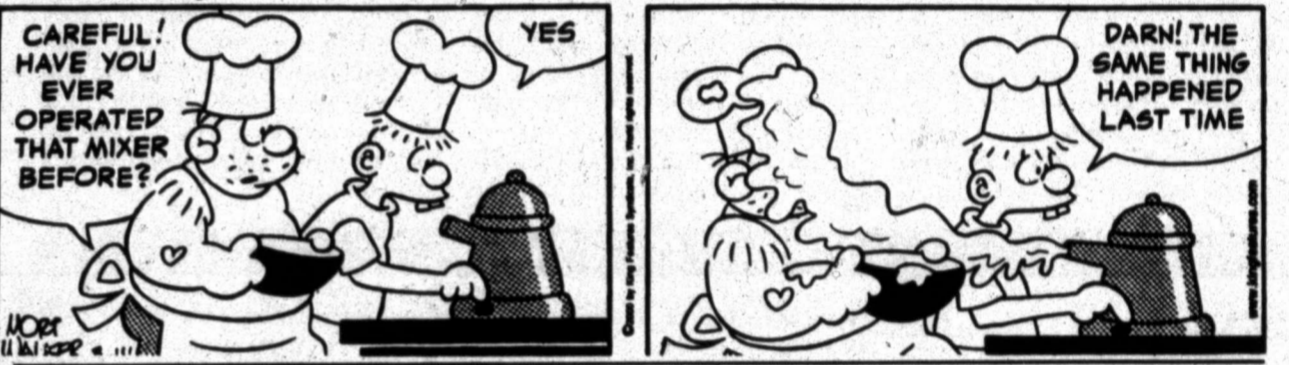
## Zits



## Garfield



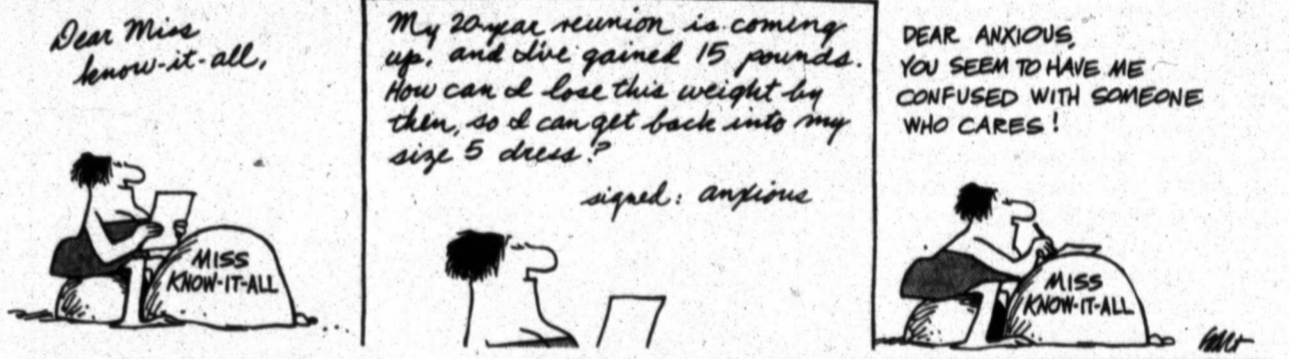
## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



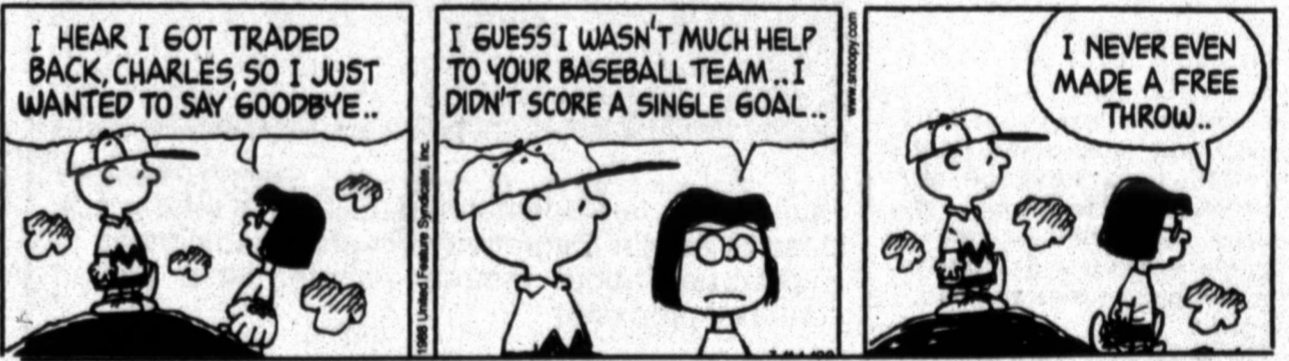
## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Mallard Filmore





## SPORTS

## Notebook

## GENERAL

**PAMPA** — Pampa Kids & Youth Club will have sign-ups for its baseball and softball programs March 20-24 and March 27-31 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Donut Stop, 1330 North Hobart.

Cost is \$20 per child and scholarships are available upon request.

There is no tryouts or draft.

## BASEBALL

**EDINBURG, Texas (AP)** — Leo Salinas had four hits and drove in five runs as Texas-Pan American swept a double-header over Texas Tech Monday afternoon.

Salinas was 3-for-3 with four RBIs in a 9-7 victory in the first game.

Pan American's Andy Wallace was 2-for-2, including a triple, and drove in two runs in the Broncos' 4-3 victory in the second game.

The two wins extend Pan American's win streak to eight games.

Levi Frary (1-1) won the first game in relief by allowing two unearned runs on four hits in three innings.

Dusty Buck (0-1) was the loser after giving up four earned runs on four hits in 2-3 innings.

Scott Fowler (4-1), another reliever, earned the victory in game two, holding the Red Raiders to one hit in 2 2-3 innings.

Texas Tech's Josh Jones (0-3) pitched all six innings in the nightcap, allowing four earned runs on five hits.

## BASKETBALL

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jeff Van Gundy has spent the past few days debating whether his "high moral ground" — opposition to wearing a microphone — is worth defending.

Risking a \$100,000 fine, Van Gundy had to decide today whether to acquiesce to the league office and agree to wear a microphone tonight for the New York Knicks-Houston Rockets game on TNT.

"I'll probably end up wearing it," he said Monday, the same day as the league announced it was fining the Seattle SuperSonics and Toronto Raptors \$100,000 apiece because their coaches, Paul Westphal and Butch Carter, refused to wear microphones for an NBC telecast Sunday.

Van Gundy said he planned to discuss the matter with team president Dave Checketts and general manager Scott Layden before making his decision.

Teams, not the individual coaches, are responsible for paying the fines, although Carter and Westphal said they were willing to take the money out their own pockets.

"The amount of the fine is unprecedented," Van Gundy said. "You can get into a fight on the court and not get that big of a fine. The only thing you can do is tamper to get a bigger fine."

The controversy prompted the executive board of the National Basketball Coaches Association to speak by conference call Monday. Among those in the discussion was Atlanta Hawks coach Lenny Wilkens, the association president.

"We're examining all our options," said Michael Goldberg, executive director of the association. "We're not going to sit idly by while coaches are forced to do something that from the bottom of their hearts they feel is wrong to do. There are many coaches who feel it has a negative impact on their ability to do their jobs, and we feel it's improper to force them to do it."

Rudy Tomjanovich of the Rockets, like some coaches, has not expressed any serious qualms about the microphones. He is expected to wear one for tonight's game.

## Injured Martin leads AP All-America team

By JIM O'CONNELL  
AP Basketball Writer

Cincinnati center Kenyon Martin, whose season was ended just before the NCAA tournament by a broken leg, was still the leading vote-getter on the Associated Press All-America basketball team.

Iowa State forward Marcus Fizer was second in the balloting Monday, and he and Martin were joined on the first team by Indiana guard A.J. Guyton, Texas center Chris Mihm and Notre Dame forward Troy Murphy.

Martin, just one vote shy of being a unanimous selection, was the Conference USA player of the year after averaging 18.9 points, 9.7 rebounds and 3.4 blocked shots. The 6-foot-8 senior broke his leg three minutes into the Bearcats' tournament quarter-

final matchup with Saint Louis.

The loss caused Cincinnati, ranked No. 1 at the time, to be selected as a second seed for the NCAA tournament.

"I'm very happy to receive this honor," said Martin, a three-time defensive player of the year in the conference. "It's one that I have to share with my coaches and teammates. They've done so much for me and my career and they have been so supportive with my injury."

Martin was selected to the first team on all but one of the ballots from the 68-member national media panel, and had 336 points in the 5-3-1 system.

"He's very deserving. He is unquestionably the best player in the country," Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins said of the Bearcats' first All-America selection since Danny Fortson in 1997. "Aside

from the obvious, in terms of his contribution, he brings more intangibles to the floor than anybody in college basketball. As great a player as Kenyon is, he is even a greater person."

Fizer, the Big 12 player of the year and the conference's leading scorer the last two seasons, led the Cyclones to their first league title since 1945 and is their first All-American since Gary Thompson in 1957.

The 6-8 junior averaged 23.2 points and 7.5 rebounds while shooting 57 percent from the field, including 43 percent from 3-point range. He received 57 first-team votes and 313 points.

"I have never been more excited for a player," Iowa State coach Larry Eustachy said. "He certainly deserves to be a first-team All-American. I happen to think he's the best player in the country. It's

an excellent example of what buying into coaching can do. He deserves all the credit for where he finds himself."

Guyton, the Big Ten player of the year and the fourth-leading scorer in Indiana history with 2,097 points, was on 33 first-team ballots and had 226 points.

The 6-1 senior averaged 20.3 points this season while shooting 42 percent from 3-point range. He is Indiana's career leader with 280 3-pointers, and was the first Hoosier to be on the All-America team since Calbert Cheaney in 1993.

Mihm received just 17 first-team votes, but his 200 points were one more than Murphy, who was on 27 first-team ballots.

Mihm, a 7-foot junior, averaged 17.9 points, 10.6 rebounds and 2.4 blocks while shooting 53 percent for the Longhorns. He is Texas'

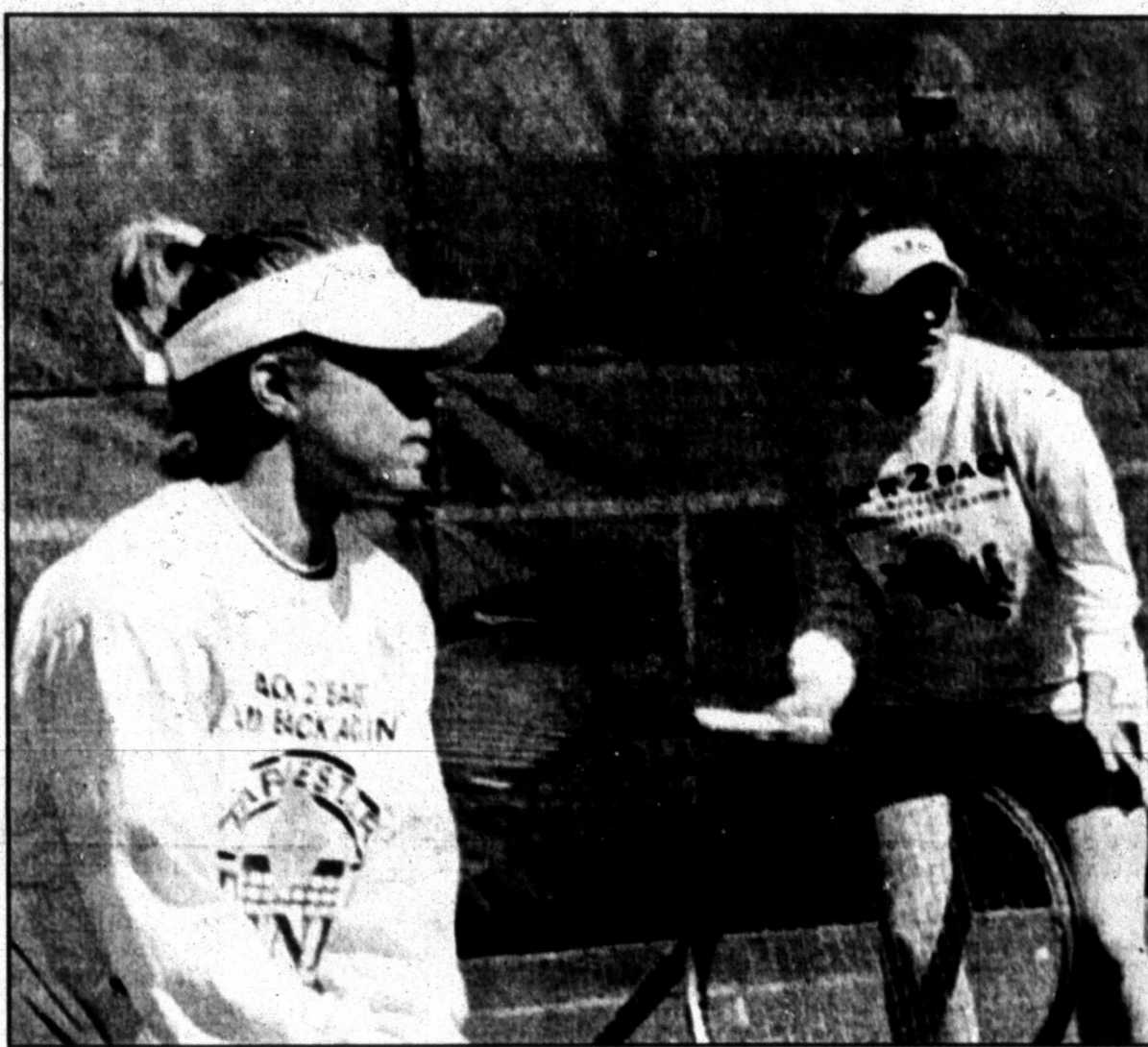
first All-American since the AP began selecting a team in 1948. In 1935, Jack Gray was a consensus All-America selection.

"We had a lot of goals as a team and a lot of individual goals this season, and this was one of them," Mihm said. "It feels great to achieve that. I was mentioned as a preseason All-America, and that's nice and all, but it really doesn't count until the season's over and you've done it."

Mihm had 19 double-doubles this season, giving him 35 in his last 52 games. He had 11 in his previous 42.

"Learning how to a hard worker and continuing to develop his work ethic," Longhorns coach Rick Barnes said in explaining Mihm's development the last two seasons. "That what it takes to be one of those guys who separates himself from everyone else."

## Doubles team



(Pampa News photo by Lacy Plunk)

Pampa's doubles team of Emily Curtis (foreground) and Emily Waters compete in the Pampa Tournament last weekend. They reached the finals of the Bi-State Tournament earlier this month.

## Blue Devils are No. 1 again

By The Associated Press

Duke entered the 1999-00 season missing four players, all NBA lottery draft picks, from last year's national runner-up team.

The Blue Devils opened play in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic at Madison Square Garden and lost their first two games.

Hard to believe that same team was No. 1 in the final Associated Press college basketball poll of the season Monday.

"It's crazy. It's kind of crazy," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

He was asked if he ever dreamed his freshman-laden team could rally from that start to the finish at the top of the rankings in the final poll for the second straight season.

"No way," he said. "First of all, I don't dream of that stuff. At 53, if you just get to sleep, you feel good. Every once in a while there's a partial dream and you're happy. I know when we left New York after the Coaches vs. Cancer tournament, we weren't thinking about that."

The Blue Devils (27-4) jumped from third to No. 1, making this the eighth of Krzyzewski's 19 seasons at Duke that they made it to the top of the poll.

This is the 79th time Duke has been ranked No. 1, the fourth-highest total behind UCLA (128), Kentucky (87) and North Carolina (79).

Michigan State, Stanford and Arizona, the other No. 1 seeds with Duke in the NCAA tournament, held the next three spots in the poll.

Duke, the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season and

tournament champions, received 58 first-place votes and 1,729 points from the national media panel, easily outdistancing Michigan State (26-7), which got six No. 1 votes and 1,628 points.

The Spartans moved from fifth to second after winning the Big Ten tournament for the second straight year.

Stanford and Arizona, the Pac-10 co-champions, were third and fourth.

The Cardinal (26-3) dropped one spot from last week after losing to Arizona and beating Arizona State, while the Wildcats (26-6) jumped from ninth to No. 4 after closing the regular season with wins over Stanford and California.

Stanford was No. 1 on three ballots, one more than Arizona. Temple and Iowa State each moved up one spot to fifth and sixth.

Cincinnati, which was No. 1 last week, dropped to seventh following its loss to Saint Louis in the quarterfinals of the Conference USA tournament. Star center Kenyon Martin broke a leg three minutes into that game, the third loss in 31 games for the Bearcats, who still received one first-place vote.

Cincinnati held the No. 1 ranking for a total of 12 weeks this season. Stanford was on top for five weeks and Connecticut, the defending national champion, was No. 1 in the preseason poll.

Ohio State dropped four spots to eighth, while St. John's, the Big East champion, leaped from No. 19 to ninth, the same ranking the Red Storm had in last year's final poll.

LSU rounded out the Top Ten for the second straight week.

Tennessee dropped from No.

8 to lead the Second Ten and was followed by Oklahoma, Florida, Oklahoma State, Texas, Syracuse, Maryland, Tulsa, Kentucky and Connecticut.

The last five teams were Illinois, Indiana, Miami, Auburn and Purdue.

Auburn, which lost to Arkansas in the Southeastern Conference championship game, returned to the rankings after a one-week absence.

The Tlgers replaced Kansas, which dropped out from 24th after losing to Oklahoma State in the Big 12 quarterfinals, the only week this season the Jayhawks weren't ranked.

A total of 39 teams were ranked this season, with 12 staying in the Top 25 every week. Only Cincinnati and Arizona were ranked in the Top Ten each week.

Six teams that were in the preseason poll — North Carolina, Kansas, UCLA, Utah, DePaul and Gonzaga — were not ranked at the end of the season.

Louisville, Southern California and Seton Hall made the briefest appearances in the Top 25, each being ranked for one week.

## Seniors Golf

**PAMPA** — Hidden Hills held a Seniors 4-man Scramble last week.

Results are as follows:

First place: Carl Johnson, Larry Schneider, Bob Brandon and Everette Butler, 60.

Second place: Travis Taylor, Oscar Sargent, Waldon Haynes and George Gamblin, 61.

Third place: Elmer Wilson, Harvey Malone, Butch Shepherd and Jess Mathis, 62.

Closest to the hole: O.K. Lee on No. 12.

## Lady Harvesters win Borger Relays crown

**BORGER** — It was runaway win No. 3 for the Pampa Lady Harvesters. At last weekend's Borger Relays, the Lady Harvesters finished with 176 points to win their third meet title of the season. Second-place Amarillo High was 49 points behind.

"I really didn't know how we were going to do because we hadn't ran against Amarillo High and Palo Duro, but we did well. We had some personal bests from the sprint relay and hurdler Tandi Morton," said Pampa coach Mike Lopez.

Pampa's 400 and 800 relays both posted victories. Morton, who recently signed a track and volleyball letter of intent at Wayland Baptist University, won both the 100 hurdles and 300 hurdles.

Distance runner Beth Lee won both the 800 and 1600.

"Beth had a great meet. She was determined not to let the Amarillo High girls beat her," Lopez said. "I had never seen that determined look from her before."

The Lady Harvesters are entered in the Amarillo meet March 25.

"It's going to be a big meet," Lopez said. "All the divisions are going to be there, so it's going to be a good test for us."

## Borger Relays

Team totals: 1. Pampa 176, 2. Amarillo High 127, 3. Palo Duro 120, 4. Borger 75, 5. River Road 26, 6. Dumas 25, 7. Randall 23, 8. Tascosa 16, 9. Caprock 1.

## Pampa results

Long jump: LeVonne Evans, second place 16.9.

Discus: Diana Solis, third place, 98-6; Angela Phillips, fourth place, 97-9.

High jump: Chelsea McCullough, fifth place, 5-0.

Triple jump: Ashleigh Patton, second place, 36-5.

Shot: Angela Phillips, second place, 34-5.

3200: Samantha Hurst, second place, 12:01.08; Rebecca Fatheree, third place, 12:16.35; T'Andra Holmes, fourth place, 12:17.68.

400 relay: Pampa, first place (Kristen Stowers, Cali Covalt, Joy Young, LeVonne Evans), 49.78.

800: Beth Lee, first place, 2:22.20; Vanessa Orr, fourth place, 2:27.01; T'Andra Holmes, fifth place, 2:32.98.

100 hurdles: Tandi Morton, first place, 15.17.

100: Joy Young, first place, 13.07.

800 relay: Pampa, first place (Kristen Stowers, Cali Covalt, Joy Young and LeVonne Evans), 49.78.

400: Kristen Stowers, third place, 1:01.07.

300 hurdles: Tandi Morton, first place, 48.11.

200: LeVonne Evans, first place, 25.71.

1600: Beth Lee, first place, 5:19.98; Rebecca Fatheree, third place, 5:30.18; Vanessa Orr, fourth place, 5:39.42.

Pampa placed fourth in the junior varsity division. JV results are as follows:

Shot: Angie Cornish, second place, 30-6; Apryl Deleon, fifth place, 27-4.

Discus: Angie Cornish, second place, 86-10; Apryl Deleon, fourth place, 78-5.

100 hurdles: Shelly Sims, second place, 18-10.

400: Beth Platt, second place, 1:08.23.

800: Beth Platt, fourth place, 2:41.26.

800 relay: Pampa, fifth place, 2:10.01.

400 relay: Pampa, sixth place, 1:04.91.

200 relay: Heather Day, sixth place, 31.63.

300 hurdles: Shelly Sims, fourth place, 56.53.

1600 relay: Pampa, fifth place, 4:56.69.

## Harvesters entered in Burk Burnett tourney

**PAMPA** — Pampa will be going for another baseball tournament championship March 16-18 at Burk Burnett.

The Harvesters meet Wichita Falls Rider at 4:30 p.m. March 16 in first-round action.

"Rider has a real quality 4A team," said Pampa coach Dennis Doughty. "It will be a good game for us."

Senior lefthander Brent Coffee would probably start on the mound, Doughty said.

"We've got four really good pitchers, but I consider Coffee and Adams Jones as my main pitchers because the others are position players. I look at Coffee as the ace of the team because he's a senior. Jones is a sophomore," Doughty said.

Coffee had two mound wins during Pampa's championship run at the Snyder Tournament last week. Jones, Casey Owens and Greg Lindsey picked up the other pitching victories as Pampa swept five games.

Although Pampa had solid pitching and hitting performances throughout the tournament, Doughty was most impressed with his team's defense.

"Kaleb Snelgrooes, Jesse Francis, Casey Owens and Greg Lindsey all played very well defensively. Justin Barnes did outstanding at catcher. He blocked pitches in the dirt all during the tournament. He was phenomenal," Doughty said.

Barnes, Owens, Lindsey and Francis all went deep for home runs at the tournament. Lindsey, who collected a grand slam homer, had a four-hit performance one game and three hits in another. Francis, who hit his first career homer, also had a three-hit outing.

Pampa's wins came against Odessa High (11-7), West High (8-2), Dumas (8-5), Perryton (9-3) and West High (15-2). West High is the defending Class 3A state champion and was ranked No. 1 going into the tournament. The Harvesters 10-ruled them in five innings in the finals.

Pampa's next home game is March 24 against Canyon. Starting time is 4:30. The Harvesters District 3-4A opener is March 28 at Caprock. Starting time is also 4:30.

The Harvesters enter the Burk Burnett Tournament with an 8-2-1 record.

# Scoreboard

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

**AP All-America Basketball Team**  
**By The Associated Press**  
**FIRST TEAM**  
 Keryon Martin, Cincinnati, 6-8, 230, senior, 18.9 ppg, 9.7 rpg, .568 ft pct., 3.4 blocks (67 first-place votes, 336 total points).  
 Marcus Fizer, Iowa State, 6-8, 265, junior, 23.2 ppg, 7.6 rpg, .596 ft pct., .433 3-pt ft pct. (67, 313).  
 A.J. Guyton, Indiana, 6-11, 175, senior, 20.3 ppg, .424 3-pt ft pct. (33, 226).  
 Chris Mihm, Texas, 7-0, 262, junior, 17.9 ppg, 10.6 rpg, .528 ft pct., 2.4 blocks (17, 200).  
 Troy Murphy, Notre Dame, 6-9, 225, sophomore, 22.6 ppg, 10.8 rpg, .601 ft pct. (27, 199).  
**SECOND TEAM**  
 Chris Carravell, Duke, 6-6, 215, senior, 17.4 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 3.4 apg (29, 197).  
 Shane Battier, Duke, 6-8, 215, junior, 17.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, .820 ft pct., .458 3-pt ft pct., 2.1 steals (15, 158).  
 Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State, 6-2, 195, senior, 20 games, 11.5 ppg, 7.6 apg (17, 151).  
 Morris Peterson, Michigan State, 6-6, 210, senior, 16.7 ppg, 6.3 rpg, .424 3-pt ft pct. (11, 139).  
**THIRD TEAM**  
 Courtney Alexander, Fresno State, 6-5, 200, senior, 25.3 ppg, 3.4 apg (11, 128).  
 Scoonie Penn, Ohio State, 5-10, 185, senior, 15.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 4.5 apg, 2.2 steals (12, 124).  
 Pepe Sanchez, Temple, 6-4, 198, senior, 6.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 7.8 apg, 3.4 steals (9, 112).  
 Mark Madsen, Stanford, 6-9, 235, senior, 12.5 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 6.08 ft pct. (4, 81).  
 Eduardo Najera, Oklahoma, 6-8, 235, senior, 18.8 ppg, 9.5 rpg (1, 73).  
 Stromile Swift, LSU, 6-9, 225, sophomore, 16.2 ppg, 8.2 rpg, .608 ft pct., 2.8 blocks (4, 89).  
**HONORABLE MENTION**  
 Joe Adkins, Oklahoma State; Gilbert Arenas, Arizona; Erick Barkley, St. John's; SirValiant Brown, George Washington; Craig "Speedy" Claxton, Hofstra.  
 Eric Coley, Tulsa; Mark Dickel, UNLV; Juan Dixon, Maryland; Khalid El-Amin, Connecticut; Jason Gardner, Arizona.  
 Tony Harris, Tennessee; Eddie House, Arizona State; Casey Jacobsen, Stanford; Dan Langhi, Vanderbilt; Desmond Mason, Oklahoma State.  
 Pete Mikesal, Cincinnati; Mike Miller, Florida; Terence Morris, Maryland; Chris Porter, Auburn; Michael Redd, Ohio State.  
 Quentin Richardson, DePaul; Doc Robinson, Auburn; Elan Thomas, Syracuse; Jason Williams, Duke; Loren Woods, Arizona; Michael Wright, Arizona; Vincent Yarbrough, Tennessee.

## HOCKEY

Syracuse, Jason Williams, Duke; Loren Woods, Arizona; Michael Wright, Arizona; Vincent Yarbrough, Tennessee.

### Western Professional Hockey League At A Glance

Eastern Division		Central Division		Western Division		
W	L	SOL	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Shreveport	39	16	7	85	244	178
x-Monroe	35	20	6	78	217	184
x-Lake Charles	35	22	4	76	245	197
Tupelo	28	24	10	66	213	245
Arkansas	27	25	9	63	231	266
Alexandria	19	35	10	48	188	273
<b>Central Division</b>						
W	L	SOL	Pts	GF	GA	
y-Central Texas	45	15	3	93	251	181
x-Austin	36	22	5	77	251	223
Corpus Christi	31	23	8	70	267	267
Fort Worth	27	31	4	58	209	245
x-Waco	11	14	2	24	86	107
x-Abilene	6	16	4	16	70	115
<b>Western Division</b>						
W	L	SOL	Pts	GF	GA	
y-New Mexico	46	16	3	95	299	209
x-Lubbock	37	23	4	78	285	245
x-El Paso	39	22	7	77	266	233
Odeasa	29	26	8	66	233	253
San Angelo	22	38	3	47	199	277
Amarillo	20	37	7	47	197	271

x-clinched playoff spot  
 y-clinched division title  
 z-suspended operations

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a victory; one for a shootout loss. Shootout losses are separate from losses.

Monday's Games  
 No games scheduled

Tuesday's Games  
 Shreveport at Arkansas

Wednesday's Games  
 Corpus Christi at Central Texas  
 Lubbock at New Mexico  
 Fort Worth at Odeasa  
 Monroe at Tupelo

Thursday's Games  
 Alexandria at Lake Charles

# Elliott ready to make history

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — To Sean Elliott, his coach and his kidney transplant doctors, Elliott's return to playing for the San Antonio Spurs tonight is more than a basketball comeback.

It's a story of hard work, determination and resuming his life despite a major medical setback. "I have a chance to make a statement to myself and also a lot of people that have gone through what I went through," Elliott said Monday, the eve of his return to the NBA.

While most of his teammates took the day off Monday after a road trip, Elliott practiced jump shots and ran drills with four Spurs players at the Alamodome in his final hard practice before playing again.

Elliott, who underwent a kidney transplant Aug. 16, planned to make history by playing tonight against Atlanta in the Alamodome. No other professional athlete in a major sport has returned to the same level of competition after a kidney transplant.

The 32-year-old forward, who received a kidney from his older

brother, Noel, hopes he won't be the last transplant recipient to return to pro sports.

"You may look back at this 20 years from now and it'll be no big deal," he said. "Obviously, somebody has to go first."

Doctors hope Elliott's feat demonstrates kidney transplant recipients can resume their usual life after surgery and that it raises awareness about the success of organ transplantation and the need for organ donation.

"I'm happy for him," said Elliott's transplant surgeon, Dr. Francis Wright of the Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital. "We're gratified kind of like you are when you watch your kids do something good."

Elliott expects to play about 10 minutes per game at first as he rebuilds his stamina. He began practicing with the team again in early February, following months of working out on his own.

Only weeks after the Spurs won the NBA championship, Elliott announced last July that he needed a kidney transplant because he suffered from focal glomerulosclerosis.

He suffered seven years with

the disease, which prevents the kidneys from filtering waste from the blood. Without the transplant, he soon would have had to undergo dialysis.

Now, defying skeptics and meeting his own goal of returning this season, Elliott is back. "It's been a long time since I've been really nervous before a game. I really don't know what to expect," Elliott said. "I'll probably be exhausted the first 30 seconds I'm on the floor because I'll have a lot of adrenaline — and the nerves."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Elliott's role on the court initially will be a small one, with him playing about five or six minutes per half.

"He's worked very hard and really has earned and deserves this opportunity," Popovich said. "Sean's doing something that's pretty heroic and pretty amazing."

The Spurs chose Elliott, now in his 11th season, in the first round of the 1989 draft with the third overall pick. Last year, he averaged 11.2 points, 4.3 rebounds and 2.3 assists during the regular season.

# NCAA Tournament Glance

All Times EST  
**EAST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Friday, March 17**  
**At Marine Midland Arena**  
**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
 Oregon (22-7) vs. Seton Hall (20-9), 12:25 p.m.  
 Temple (26-5) vs. Lafayette (24-4), 30 minutes after previous game  
 Oklahoma State (24-6) vs. Hofstra (24-6), 7:40 p.m.  
 Indiana (20-8) vs. Pepperdine (24-8), 30 minutes after previous game  
**At Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum**  
 Winston-Salem, N.C.  
 Illinois (21-9) vs. Pennsylvania (21-7), 12:15 p.m.  
 Florida (24-7) vs. Butler (23-7), 30 minutes after previous game  
 Kansas (23-9) vs. DePaul (21-11), 7:40 p.m.  
 Duke (27-4) vs. Lamar (15-15), 30 minutes after previous game  
**Second Round**  
**Sunday, March 19**  
**At Marine Midland Arena**  
 Buffalo, N.Y.  
 Oklahoma State-Hofstra winner vs. Indiana-Pepperdine winner, 12:10 p.m.  
 Temple-Lafayette winner vs. Oregon-Seton Hall winner, 30 minutes after previous game  
**At Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum**  
 Winston-Salem, N.C.  
 Illinois-Pennsylvania winner vs. Florida-Butler winner, 2:30 p.m.  
 Duke-Lamar winner vs. Kansas-DePaul winner, 30 minutes after previous game  
**At The Carrier Dome**  
 Syracuse, N.Y.  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 24**  
 Temple-Lafayette—Oregon-Seton Hall winner vs. Oklahoma State-Hofstra—Indiana-Pepperdine winner  
 Duke-Lamar—Kansas-DePaul winner vs. Illinois-Pennsylvania—Florida-Butler winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Sunday, March 26**  
 Semifinal winners

Wilmington (18-12), 12:30 p.m.  
 Tulsa (29-4) vs. UNLV (23-7), 30 minutes after previous game  
 Ohio State (22-6) vs. Appalachian State (23-8), 7:50 p.m.  
 Miami (21-10) vs. Arkansas (19-14), 30 minutes after previous game  
**At Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center**  
 Birmingham, Ala.  
 Tennessee (24-6) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (25-8), 12:30 p.m.  
 Connecticut (24-9) vs. Utah State (29-5), 30 minutes after previous game  
 North Carolina (18-13) vs. Missouri (18-12), 7:55 p.m.  
 Stanford (26-3) vs. South Carolina State (20-13), 30 minutes after previous game  
**Second Round**  
**Sunday, March 19**  
**At Nashville Arena**  
 Nashville, Tenn.  
 Cincinnati-North Carolina-Wilmington winner vs. Tulsa-UNLV winner, 2:15 p.m.  
 Ohio State-Appalachian State winner vs. Miami-Arkansas winner, 30 minutes after previous game  
**At Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center**  
 Birmingham, Ala.  
 Stanford-South Carolina State winner vs. North Carolina-Missouri winner, 2:20 p.m.  
 Tennessee-Louisiana-Lafayette winner vs. Connecticut-Utah State winner, 30 minutes after previous game  
**At Frank Erwin Center**  
 Austin, Texas  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 24**  
 Cincinnati-North Carolina-Wilmington—Tulsa-UNLV winner vs. Ohio State-Appalachian State—Miami-Arkansas winner  
 Stanford-South Carolina State—North Carolina-Missouri winner vs. Tennessee-Louisiana-Lafayette—Connecticut-Utah State winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Sunday, March 26**  
 Semifinal winners

10, 30 minutes after previous game  
 Michigan State (26-7) vs. Valparaiso (19-12), 7:40 p.m.  
 Utah (22-6) vs. Saint Louis (19-13), 30 minutes after previous game  
**At The Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome**  
 Minneapolis  
 Auburn (23-9) vs. Creighton (23-9), 12:25 p.m.  
 Iowa State (29-4) vs. Central Connecticut State (25-5), 30 minutes after first game  
 Maryland (24-9) vs. Iowa (20-10), 7:55 p.m.  
 UCLA (19-11) vs. Ball State (22-8), 30 minutes after previous game  
**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 18**  
**At The Convocation Center**  
 Cleveland  
 Syracuse-Samford winner vs. Kentucky-St. Bonaventure winner, 1:10 p.m.  
 Michigan State-Valparaiso winner vs. Utah-Saint Louis winner, 30 minutes after previous game  
**At The Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome**  
 Minneapolis  
 Iowa State-Central Connecticut State winner vs. Auburn-Creighton winner, 5:38 p.m.  
 Maryland-Iowa winner vs. UCLA-Ball State winner, 30 minutes after first game  
**At The Palace of Auburn Hills**  
 Auburn Hills, Mich.  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Thursday, March 23**  
 Michigan State-Valparaiso—Utah-Saint Louis winner vs. Syracuse-Samford—Kentucky-St. Bonaventure winner  
 Iowa State-Central Connecticut State—Auburn-Creighton winner vs. Maryland-Iowa—UCLA-Ball State winner  
**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 25**  
 Semifinal winners

Arizona (26-6) vs. Jackson State (17-15), 7:40 p.m.  
 Wisconsin (18-13) vs. Fresno State (24-9), 30 minutes after previous game  
**At McKale Center**  
 Tucson, Ariz.  
 Oklahoma-Winthrop winner vs. Purdue-Dayton winner, 5:30 p.m.  
 St. John's-Northern Arizona winner vs. Louisville-Gonzaga winner, 30 minutes after previous game  
**At The Pit**  
 Albuquerque, N.M.  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**Thursday, March 23**  
 Arizona-Jackson State—Wisconsin-Fresno State winner vs. LSU-Southeast Missouri State—Texas-Indiana State winner  
 St. John's-Northern Arizona—Louisville-Gonzaga winner vs. Oklahoma-Winthrop—Purdue-Dayton winner

Arizona-Jackson State winner vs. Wisconsin-Fresno State winner, 30 minutes after previous game  
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 Oklahoma-Winthrop winner vs. Purdue-Dayton winner, 5:30 p.m.  
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 Arizona-Jackson State—Wisconsin-Fresno State winner vs. LSU-Southeast Missouri State—Texas-Indiana State winner  
 St. John's-Northern Arizona—Louisville-Gonzaga winner vs. Oklahoma-Winthrop—Purdue-Dayton winner

**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 25**  
 Semifinal winners

**THE FINAL FOUR**  
**At The RCA Dome**

**Indianapolis National Semifinals**  
**Saturday, April 1**  
 Midwest champion vs. West champion  
 East champion vs. South champion  
 Game times: 5:42 p.m. and 30 minutes after previous game

**National Championship**  
**Monday, April 3**  
 Semifinal winners, 9:18 p.m.

# Deion gets close to playing form

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Deion Sanders is ready to show what he's got.

After hobbling through the first few weeks of spring training, the outfielder is ready to start playing games and show the Cincinnati Reds where he stands after two years away from baseball.

He played in an intrasquad game over the weekend and surprised general manager Jim Bowden with his progress from arthroscopic knee surgery in January.

"It was very impressive for his first time out," Bowden said. "Obviously, he swung the bat extremely well. Obviously, he isn't running like he normally can, but he's a lot closer than where I thought he'd be."

Sanders hasn't played baseball since he left the Reds in 1997 to play cornerback full time for the Dallas Cowboys. He signed a non-guaranteed minor league contract with the

Reds and is trying to win a spot on the opening day roster.

"He's got a way to go, but he has three weeks to get there," Bowden said. "He has a chance to create some problems for us, which is a good kind of problem for us to have."

Sanders was 2-for-8 with an infield single and a well-hit double in Sunday's exhibition. He also made a nice running catch in left field.

Manager Jack McKeon said he will try to get Sanders into a game as soon as possible.

"When he says he's ready, we've got to put him in there so we can find out what he can do," McKeon said. "We're going to have to put him in there sooner or later."

The Reds have an abundance of outfielders. Ken Griffey Jr., Dante Bichette and Dmitri Young are the starting three right now, and Alex Ochoa and Michael Tucker are the backups. Sanders said he didn't feel

any pain in Sunday's debut. As a precaution, he was not allowed to slide or steal bases.

"The knee felt great," Sanders said. "I didn't even feel my knee."

"I don't think I made myself look bad. I can't say I'm surprised. I'm pleased. I expect more of myself than anyone would expect of me."

Bowden said that Sanders' hand-eye coordination made it seem that he hadn't been away from baseball so long. And he said Sanders was timed in 4.3 seconds running to first base.

"That's quick," Bowden said. "He demonstrated today that he doesn't have average speed. So he does run better even at his 70 percent than most players do at full speed."

Sanders said he's eager to play. "I'm just sitting back waiting for them to get in there," he said. "I'm not going to force anything. I'll be patient."

# With both relief and reluctance, Marino steps out of spotlight

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — For more than an hour, Dan Marino answered questions about his retirement, his career and his future. Then he stepped off a stage at the front of the room and out of the spotlight.

Friends and family were waiting, and former teammate Mark Clayton greeted him with a hug. "Welcome to retirement," Clayton said.

"It's not bad, is it?" asked Marino's wife, Claire.

Marino didn't respond. He probably won't know the answer for a while.

With both relief and reluctance, Marino announced his retirement Monday at age 38, confirming a decision he made last Thursday.

During an emotional news con-

ference, Marino struggled successfully to keep his composure, but the perception that the Dolphins pushed Marino into retirement made the occasion awkward.

Former coach Jimmy Johnson, whose feud with Marino turned last season into a soap opera, didn't attend the news conference. New coach Dave Wannstedt was there but didn't speak.

Marino described the weeks leading up to retirement as the toughest of his life.

"Boy, I really struggled with this decision," he said.

Marino rejected an offer last week to play for the Minnesota Vikings and said he decided to quit mostly because of the toll 17 NFL seasons took on his body,

not because of the way the Dolphins treated him.

"The Dolphins could have done things better," said his agent, Marvin Demoff. "But I don't think it would have changed his decision. There are some hurts, but with Dan, I don't think they'll be hard to heal. He's a forgiving person."

Team owner Wayne Huizenga took immediate steps to mend fences. He announced that the Dolphins will retire No. 13, erect a statue to Marino and name a street after him near their stadium.

Dolphins officials spent three days preparing the team meeting room for 20 TV cameras, 150 members of the media and guests of Marino. Among those on hand were his mother and father, his

five children and Don Shula, his coach for 13 years.

Marino's final season ended disastrously in January with a 62-7 playoff loss at Jacksonville, and Johnson quit the next day. Marino said he went into the off-season thinking he would probably retire too, but he wavered when Vikings coach Dennis Green promised a starting job.

Marino said his family wanted him to keep playing. But he kept thinking about the six knee operations that left him immobile and a neck injury last year that left him temporarily unable to throw.

"It became so clear to him physically that he shouldn't be out there getting hit by people," Demoff said.

Marino said he hated to give up trying for a championship. He

never came close to a ring after 1984, when he and the Dolphins lost to San Francisco in the Super Bowl, 38-16.

Shula disclosed for the first time Monday that he retired four years ago in part because Marino hadn't won a title.

"That helped lead to my decision that maybe somebody else could come in here and get enough people around him to get him back to have an opportunity to win that Super Bowl ring," Shula said. "That was his frustration and my frustration — that we only went to the one Super Bowl with Dan."

"But that doesn't diminish from his career."

Others might disagree. Marino holds most of the major NFL one-season and career passing

records, but his failure to win a championship is sure to surface forevermore in debates about the game's great quarterbacks.

Marino said his future will include lots of golf and family time. He might be interested in a job as a network TV analyst, and down the road he might consider becoming an NFL part-owner or working in the front office.

He ruled out coaching.

"No way I can coach the guys that play today," he said with a laugh.

As Marino kept fielding questions and the room slowly emptied, he began to relax a little. He expressed relief that he hadn't cried, and joked about the tributes announced by Huizenga.

"Just make sure the statue is good looking," he said.

# Stars score comeback win over Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) — With four goals, the New York Rangers are unbeatable. On the road, the Stanley Cup champion Dallas Stars only need three to disappoint the home crowd.

Dallas hit its mark Monday night as Jamie Langenbrunner scored twice and Mike Modano matched his career high with points in 10 straight games as the Stars dealt a blow to the Rangers' postseason hopes with a 4-3 comeback victory.

For the 31st straight time, scoring three or more road goals

meant victory for the Stars. The Rangers, who held a 3-1 lead, couldn't score a fourth time. New York is 21-0 this season when it tallies at least four times.

"It was a game we needed really bad," center Petr Nedved said. "We were in a great spot, and there's no excuse for losing this game."

The 10th-place Rangers are one point out of the Eastern Conference's eighth playoff position with only 11 games left. New York, which has missed the playoffs the last two seasons,

lost for the fourth time in five games.

"We know their situation," Dallas coach Ken Hitchcock said. "They really came at us at the start."

Strong effort isn't enough this time of the year. "It doesn't matter how well you play," Rangers coach John Muckler said. "If you don't get the two points, you don't get the two points. Playing well doesn't count anymore."

A victory would have moved New York into seventh place.

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## Feds report retail sales surge in February

By JEANNINE AVERSA  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans went on a buying binge in February, pushing up retail sales by 1.1 percent, the government said today.

The advance came despite rising interest rates, a jump in oil prices and stock market volatility.

The 1.1 percent advance in retail sales marked the strongest pace since a 1.9 percent rise in December and was bigger than the 0.9 percent increase many analysts were expecting.

The Commerce Department said total retail sales rose to a seasonally adjusted \$265.7 billion last month, boosted by a big jump in sales at grocery stores and at automobile dealerships. In January, Americans spent more selectively, causing total retail sales to rise by just 0.4 percent.

*The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates four times since June, totaling a full percentage point. Even though those actions have made borrowing more expensive for consumers and businesses, those higher rates have failed to significantly slow the economy to a pace that can be sustained without sparking inflation.*

With plentiful jobs, low inflation and rising incomes Americans are feeling wealthy and in the buying mood.

The report rattled the bond market. Bond prices fell as interest rates rose on the inflation-sensitive market for government bonds after the figures came out, with yields on 30-year Treasuries rising to 6.18 percent in early trading today from 6.16 percent late Monday.

The robust sales in February came despite a number of factors that could have slowed shoppers down.

The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates four times since June, totaling a full percentage point. Even though those actions have made borrowing more expensive for consumers and businesses, those higher

rates have failed to significantly slow the economy to a pace that can be sustained without sparking inflation.

Given that, most analysts expect the Fed will boost rates again when they meet next week.

Rapidly rising crude oil prices have sent heating oil prices soaring and gasoline costs surging, another factor that could have called a pullback in consumer spending, economists said.

Consumer spending has been a locomotive of the speeding economy, which grew by a breakneck 6.9 percent annual rate in the last three months of 1999.

The big gain in total retail sales in February was led by a 1.8 percent increase in sales at grocery stores, which fell 5 percent in January. After eating food stockpiled to counter any problems with the Y2K computer changeover, consumers flocked to grocery stores last month after staying away in January, economists said.

Sales of new cars and trucks rose a solid 1.4 percent, following a strong 3 percent gain the month before. The auto industry reported a record 17 million cars and light trucks sold in 1999 and is projecting robust sales for this year.

Excluding the volatile autos category, retail sales went up by 1 percent, stronger than the 0.7 percent gain many analysts predicted. That followed a 0.5 percent drop in January.

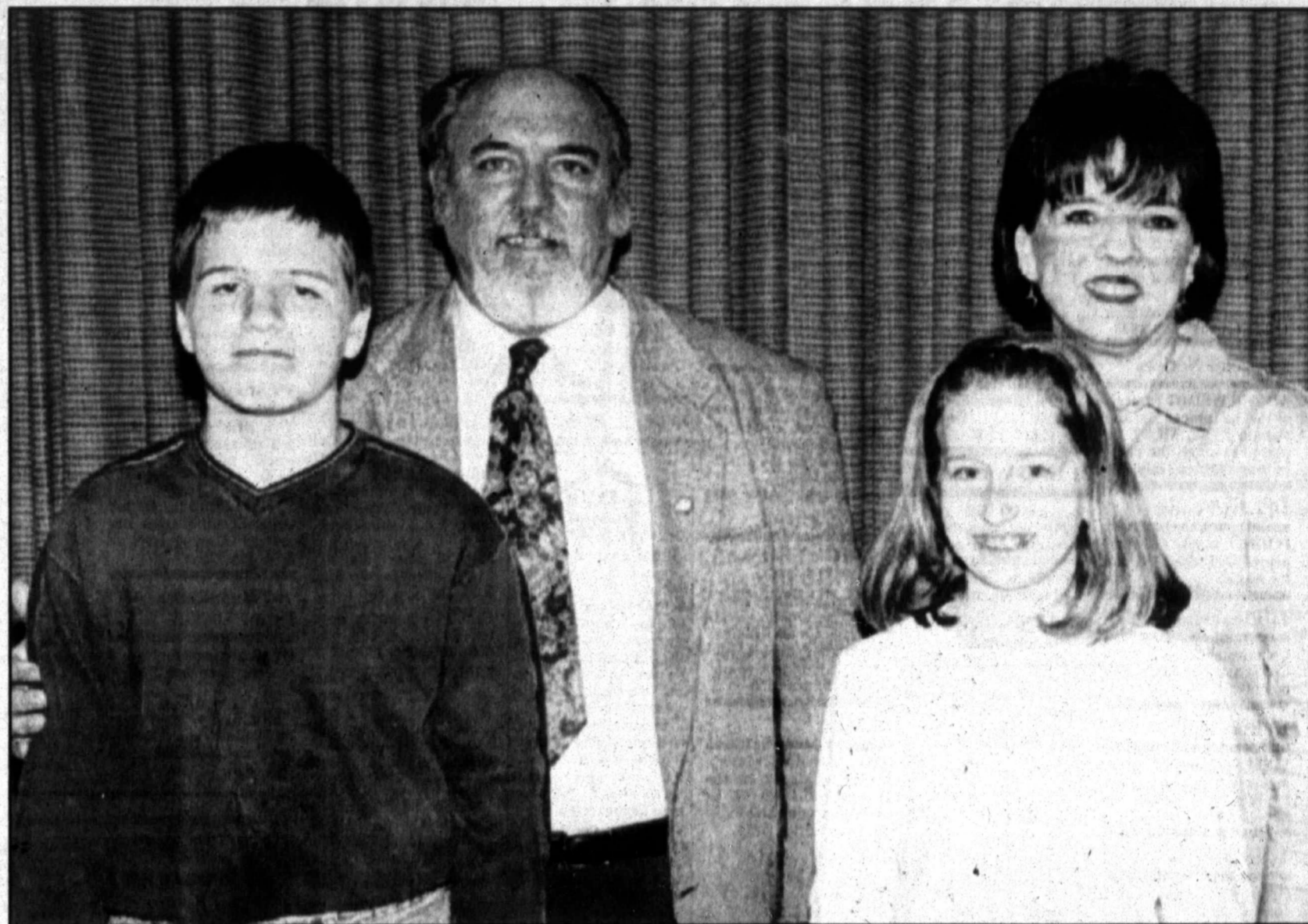
Gasoline sales rose by a big 4.3 percent in February, reflecting higher prices at the pump. That was the largest jump since a 5 percent gain in April. In January, gas sales fell by 0.6 percent.

Clothing stores sales also showed a sizable gain of 1.1 percent last month, following a rise of 0.8 percent in January.

At furniture stores, sales rose by 0.7 percent last month after a 1.0 percent gain. Department stores sales grew by 0.6 percent, following a 0.9 percent gain.

Sales at hardware and building supplies stores fell by 0.8 percent after posting a 1.2 percent drop in January. At bars and restaurants, sales were unchanged, while drug store sales rose a slim 0.1 percent following a 1.4 percent decline in January.

## Gray County Spelling Bee



(Community Camera photo by Judy Elliott)

Sixteen participants competed in the Gray County Spelling Bee recently at Lovett Memorial Library. The county champion was Jonathan DeLong. Twenty-three rounds were completed before all but the final two spellers were eliminated. The contest continued for 28 more words. The runner-up was Emily Elliott. The junior champion was Katie Holmes. The county champ and junior champs both qualified for competition in the 2000 regional spelling bee on Saturday, April 15 at Mary Moody Northern Hall at West Texas A&M University in Canyon. Above: (left-right) DeLong, Doug Rapstine, county bee coordinator, Holmes and Wanetta Hill, bee pronouncer.

## Science Spectrum slated in Lubbock

LUBBOCK — The Science Spectrum in Lubbock is celebrating National Brain Awareness Week through the 19th. Brain-related activities will take place each day including biology demonstrations, animal shows and "brainy" trivia contests. Two computer stations will also be running, each with interactive CD-ROMs devoted to brain issues.

The week-long celebration will culminate in "Grey Matters" slated from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, March 18. During "Grey Matters," representatives from Texas Tech Health Sciences Center Departments of Neurology and Pharmacology will be present. Tests demonstrating camouflage, reaction time and memory will be conducted as well as a discussion on the effects of drugs on the brain.

National Brain Awareness Week activities at the Science Spectrum are being sponsored by the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and University Medical Center.

The Science Spectrum is located at 2579 S. Loop 289 between University and Indiana Avenues. For more information or for ticket prices, show times or hours of operation, call (806) 745-2525.

## Local attorneys named to College

AUSTIN — Harold L. Comer, Phil N. Vanderpool, John William Warner and Judge Leland W. Waters were among 4,100 attorneys recognized by the College of the State Bar of Texas as members of the College during its Annual Awards Luncheon held recently in Austin. This distinguished group of attorneys accounts for less than eight percent of the total number of attorneys in Texas.

The College was created in 1982 by the Supreme Court of Texas as a means of recognizing members of the State Bar who voluntarily attain an extraordinary number of continuing legal education credits each year. To qualify for membership, attorneys must complete 80 hours of continuing legal education within a three-year period or 45 hours during the current year. To maintain membership in the College, an attorney must complete at least 30 hours of CLE each year, twice the number of hours required of all lawyers in Texas.

## Department of Human Services announces new initiative

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Human Services recently announced plans to seek proposals from community organizations to help low-income Texans. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to increase the quality of life among welfare recipients and those who are at risk of becoming welfare recipients. DHS will fund community groups with up to \$250,000 each.

Community organizations may provide services directly or through contracts and arrangements with public entities, schools, non-profit, faith-based or other community organizations. Services can include assistance with housing, util-

ities, clothing, vehicle repairs, educational assistance for youth, adult literacy and English as a second language.

Funding for this initiative comes from \$7 million in funds earmarked for these projects in House Bill 1, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor last year. In 1999, DHS funded 16 community projects. This year, DHS will award approximately \$2,870,000 to community organizations.

Community organizations interested in submitting proposals should contact Bo Platt at (512) 438-3450 or e-mail bo.platt@dhs.state.tx.us.



## CCPC Student of the Month

Clarendon College-Pampa Center March Student of the Month is Molly Williams. Williams is an adult returning to school. As such, she juggles family with studies — not an easy task. One CCPC instructor says Williams has assumed a leadership role in class and "volunteers information and asks stimulating questions."

Williams says, "Our community is very fortunate to have Clarendon College-Pampa Center. When I was younger and going to college, I did not have the appreciation that I now have. I did not realize that going to school would indeed affect my whole life. Now that I am older and have a family, I realize what education can do for me. I have teachers that are encouraging and I enjoy coming to class and discovering the 'world of knowledge.'"

—Nominations are reviewed by a committee consisting of the dean, the counselor and a rotating faculty member.

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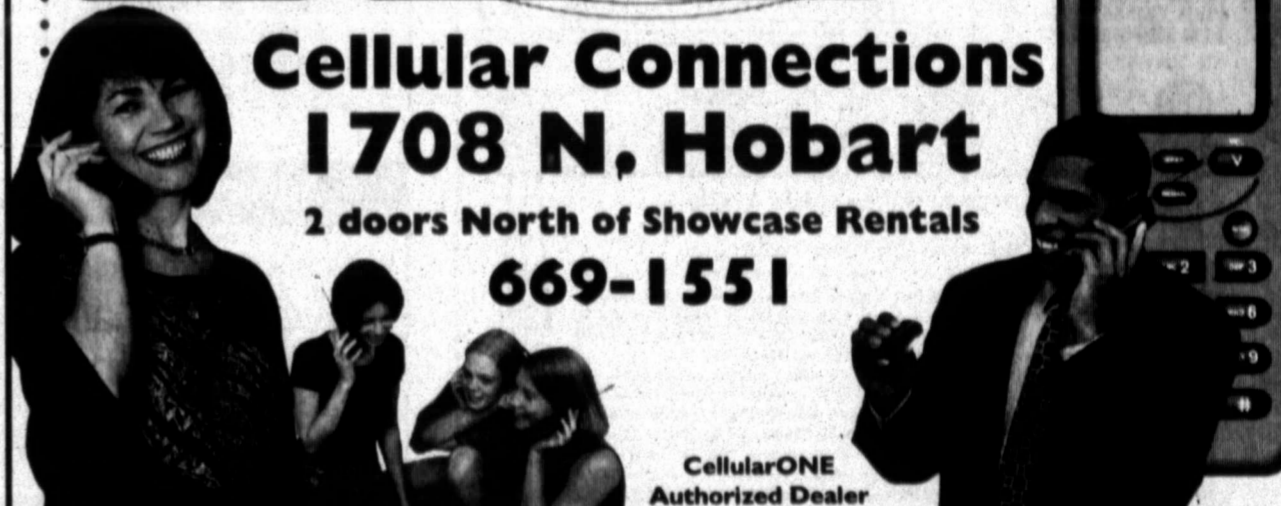
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