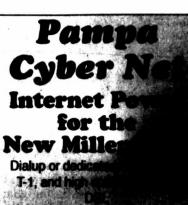
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**Staff Writer** 

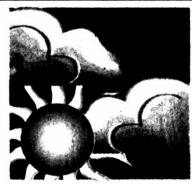
SHAMROCK — A petroleum management company is threatening to turn off the gas to people in the Eastern Texas Panhandle and Western Oklahoma that have been using natural gas from wells on their land for several decades.

In August, Gruy Petroleum Management Company sent a letter to area residents tied to their Panoma Gas Gathering System, notifying them that as of Oct. 1, the residents would no longer have access to the gas lines. The company claims that hydrogen sulfide has increased in the natural gas from the wells and that poses a serious threat to the safety of the residents and their families.

"Hydrogen sulfide is not going to start killing people Oct. 1," said Pampa attorney John Mann, who's representing many of the interest (See GAS, page 2)



I.A. Brooks stands next to a gas well drilled on his land in the 1950s.



High today 80 Low tonight 60 For weather details see Page 2

Lotto jackpot keeps growing

no ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday for the Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The numbers drawn from a field of 54 2-9-11-31-47-48. Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$14 million.

#### Band alumni meeting tonight

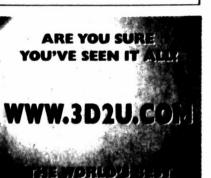
There's an organizational meeting at 7 tonight for Pride of Pampa Band alumni to plan for the 40th reunion event. The meeting is in the PHS band hall. Former band members are asked to attend. College night

September 27

PHS will host "College Night," Wednesday, Sept. 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at M.K. Brown Auditorium. High school juniors and seniors and parents are invited to attend the "come-and-go" event. Organizers expect 40 colleges and universities, technical schools, and armed services recruiters to be represented.

- · Violet Wright Gordzelik, 59, worked for SWBT for 18
- Walter J. Morris, 96, former oilfield pumper.
- Lillian Alma Cagle Tate, 81, former Potter County employee.

Classified ......9 Comics . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6 Editorial .....4 





A group of men from Pampa's First Baptist Church don rain gear and back packs in preparation for the three-hour trek down the mountain after building a school house in a remote Honduran village. From left are Tyler Allison, Judd Wilson, Randy White, Russ Alexander, Bart Haley, Matt Brock, Randy Dyson, Luis Nava, Lee Cornelison and Reed Kirkpatrick.

## First Baptist men take on building job in Honduras

By DEE DEE LARAMORE Staff Writer

Eleven men from First Baptist Church here recently shed the trappings of civilization and trekked into the mountains of Central America to build a school and share their faith.

The mission trip to Las Lagunas, Honduras originated with Dr. Randy White, pastor of First Baptist.

"I took a trip last year to the Honduras and met Preston West, a missionary there," White said, explaining he had gone to the Honduras to help with a house-building project. (See **HONDURAS**, Page 2)



(Special photo by Reed Kirkpatrick)

Residents of Las Lagunas, a remote mountain village in the Honduras, gather outside the adobe cottage where a group of Pampa men stayed while on a mission trip to build a school house.

# Skinner has until Feb. 27 to file writ

Watkins "Hank" Skinner has until Feb. 27, 2001, to file for a writ of habeas corpus, according to the Texas Court of Criminal

Steven Losche, an attorney for Skinner, initially filed after the legal deadline for a writ of habeas corpus, Skinner's final appeal at the state level.

Under a new law passed by the state legislature in 1999, Skinner and a handful of death

Convicted killer Henry row inmates facing a similar predicament have an extended period in which to file the writ.

> Skinner, 37, was convicted in a trial in 1996 in Fort Worth for the murders of Twila Busby, 40, and her two sons, Elwin Eugene "Scooter" Caler, 22, and Melvin Randolph Busby Jr., 20, in Pampa on New Year's Eve, 1993. The woman was beaten to death. The two boys were stabbed.

An appeal in federal district court in Amarillo delayed

Skinner's filing again for a writ motion asking the Court of of habeas corpus at the state level, but his federal appeal has been abated, or set aside, until the state writ of habeas corpus

issue is resolved. "It is still technically pending," District Attorney John Mann says, "but it has been moved to the side and there won't be any further action on that federal issue until the state issue is

resolved." On Aug. 30, Skinner filed a Criminal Appeals to give him a date by which he must file his writ of habeas corpus a the state

The court told him he had 180 days from the date of their response, Aug. 31. "He has 180 days from Aug.

31, to do it," Mann said. "It's more complicated than that," said Losche Wednesday.

'We're in the process of deter-(See SKINNER, Page 2)

## Cigarette gets blame for blaze

An investigation by Fire Marshall Gary Stevens has determined that a cigarette probably caused an early morning garage fire at 200 N. Wells Wednesday.

"It started on the outside of the building," Deputy Chief Randy Dunham of the Pampa Fire Department said today.

Fire officials believe that a dropped cigarette ignited dry grass on the north side of the two-car garage. The grass, which had grown up between the siding and the frame of the building, apparently smoldered for hours before a strong north wind Wednesday morning provided the necessary oxygen for

it to burst into flames, Dunham said people had been working around the garage up until about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

When firefighters were called to a structure fire at 200 N. Wells about 5:35 a.m. Wednesday, they found the garage engulfed in flames. A 20-to-25-mile-perhour north wind drove the flames 50 and 60 feet into the sky, threatening the brick residence next door.

The property owner, Elwanda Honeycutt, lives in the brick house and requires oxygen 24 hours a day. She was able to escape unharmed, but the presence of oxygen bottles in the home added an additional danger to the situation.

However, firefighters were able to contain the fire despite the high winds and limit the damage to the residence.

## Two relief funds open

Two unrelated relief funds have been set up at Pampa banks, one for the child of a man who died last week and a medical fund for an assault victim.

An account to help with the care of Zachary Wolfe has been established at First Bank Southwest, 300 W. Kingsmill. Zachary is the son of Brandon Andrew Wolfe, 23, who died Sept. 10. Anyone who wishes to: contribute to the account can do so at the bank.

Merilyn Howell of National Bank of Commerce, 1224 N. Hobart, is coordinating donations to the Stephanie Nunley medical fund. Nunley was critically injured in an assault Sept. 13. Family members say Nunley, 26, will be undergoing extensive surgeries during her recovery. and any help will be "greatly appreciated."



Thank You For Supporting The Pampa Chamber Of Commerce!

# Daily Record

#### Services tomorrow

RANDALL, Margaret Rath — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

TATE, Lillian Alma Cagle — 2 p.m., Caprock Christian Fellowship Church, Amarillo.

#### **Obituaries**

LILLIAN ALMA CAGLE TATE

AMARILLO — Lillian Alma Cagle Tate, 81, died Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2000. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in Caprock Christian Fellowship Church with the Rev. Max Beggs and the Rev. Lee Walls, pastor of New Life Four Square Gospel Church of Amarillo, officiating. Burial will be in Llano Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of

Mrs. Tate was born May 27, 1919, at Foreman, Ark. She had been an Amarillo resident since 1938. She married Robert Marvin Cagle in 1938 at Amarillo; he died in 1964. She married Bill Tate in 1966 at Amarillo; he died in 1982. She was employed with Potter County prior to retiring after 20 years of service and was a member of Senior Citizens, Caprock Christian Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship Group.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Delmar Campbell; a sister, Naomi Stuart; a son, Ronnie Cagle; and a daughter, Joanne Hough.

Survivors include four daughters, Sue Woolsey, Sharon Welch, Melissa Bible and Bonnie Bradshaw, all of Amarillo; two sons, Donnie Cagle of Lubbock and Dannie Cagle of Pampa; a sister, Jean Walton of Borger; three brothers, Ralph Henry of Indiahoma, Okla., Charlie Henry of Fort Worth and J.A. Henry of Amarillo; 22 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

The family will be at 319 Park Avenue in Amarillo and requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79176.

The body will be available for viewing from 11 a.m. Thursday until 12 noon Friday at Boxwell

Brothers Funeral Directors in Amarillo. VIOLET WRIGHT GORDZELIK WHITE DEER — Violet Wright Gordzelik, 59,

died Thursday, Sept. 21, 2000. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mrs. Gordzelik was born July 19, 1941, at Tulsa,

Okla., and graduated from Pampa High School in 1959. She married Joe Gordzelik on May 1, 1965, at White Deer. She worked for Southwestern Bell for 18 years and was a member of Telephone Pioneers. She moved to White Deer in 1997 from Pampa.

Survivors include her husband, Joe, of the home; two nieces, Kami Wright of Tulsa and Selena Lenz of Amarillo; two nephews, Jake Wright of Tulsa and Rhett Stevens of Amarillo; a great-nephew, Jonas Wright of Tulsa; a sister-inlaw, Sue Wright of Tulsa; and a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Janie and Jerry Stevens of Amarillo.

The family requests memorials be to White Deer EMS or to Sacred Heart Cemetery Association.

WALTER J. MORRIS

BORGER — Walter J. Morris, 96, died Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2000. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Morris was born April 24, 1904, at Forestburg. He married Robbie Nell Helfley and she preceded him in death. He later married Anna Toddy Alexander on July 7, 1976, at Pampa. He had been a Lefors resident since 1946, moving to Borger this past year. He was a pumper in the oil field for about 40 years.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Waneva Jo Pittman. Survivors include his wife, Anna; a son, John

Morris of Huntsville; a sister, Callie Robertson of Duncan, Okla.; a stepdaughter, Tanya Estes of Oklahoma City, Okla.; a stepson, Dennis Alexander of Longview; five grandchildren; 13 oreat-orandchildren; and nine great-great-grand-children.

#### Police report

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Sept. 20 Gary Schuyler Wyatt, 26, 1201 E. Frederic, #12, was arrested on a warrant for driving while intoxicated, second offense, in the 1200 block of

Burglary of a building was reported in the 500 block of Roberta. Damage to light bulbs was esti-

A boy's 20-inch red and yellow BMX bicycle, valued at \$63.50, was reported stolen in the 2100 block of North Wells.

Criminal trespass was reported at Pampa Middle School, 2401 Charles. A juvenile was detained and referred to the Juvenile Probation

Violation of a city ordinance against popping firecrackers was reported in the 1100 block of

#### Sheriff's Office

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending

Wednesday, Sept. 20 Steve Organ, 35, 1215 Crawford, was arrested for failure to stop at a stop sign - instanter.

#### Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Wednesday, Sept. 20

2:42 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of North Hobart; no transport. 3:02 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of North Dwight and transported one to

7:17 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Hazel and transported one to PRMC.

#### **Fires**

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

Wednesday, Sept. 20 2:45 p.m. – One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at 22nd and Hobart streets. Firefighters cleaned up a small hazardous leak from one of the vehicles.

#### Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.	Columbia/HCA35 1/4 dn 1 1/4 Enron79 5/8dn 2 141/256 Halliburton47 7/16 dn 1 3/16 KMI40 dn 5/16
Wheat 2.36 Milo 2.64 Corn 3.18 Soybeans 4.23  The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:	Kerr McGee         .62 3/4         dn 1/2           Limited         .23 7/8         up 5/8           McDonald's         .28 up 79/256           Exxon Mobil         .86 1/16         dn 7/16           Ncw Atmos         .21 5/8         up 1/8           XCEL         .26         NC           NOI         .29 1/4         dn 1 1/4           OKE         .35 17/32         dn 5/32
Occidental	Penney's     12 3/4     up 1/16       Phillips     63 1/2     dn 3       Pioneer Nat.     15 1/4     dn 1/8       SLB     78 3/4     dn 7/8       Tenneco     5 5/8     dn 1/8       Texaco     51 7/8     dn 9/16
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa. BP Amoco	Ultramar

#### **Emergency numbers**

Ambulance	911
Crime Stoppers	669-2222
Energas	
Fire	
Police (emergency)	911
Police (non-emergency)	669-5700
CPC	1-800-750-2520
Vater	669-5830

## City Briefs

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

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SUNSET BAR & Grill Mon-. Night Football, drawing Sept. 25th, for 2 tickets to Dallas Cowboys vs. Arizona. Tues.- Pool Tourn., no entry, \$75 1st place. Wed.-Black Jack Tourn., no entry, chance to play for trip for 2 to El-

SUNSET BAR & Grill, Borderline Band, Sat., Sept. 23rd.

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#### CONT. FROM PG. 1 SKINNER

mining whether that can be done.

He referred further questions to pleadings filed with the Texas

Court of Criminal Appeals. "I don't want to comment beyond the court records,' Losche said.

According to Mann, the writ will be filed in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and they will send it to 31st District Court here.

> **CLASSIFIEDS** 669-2525

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

**GAS** holders in a lawsuit filed Wednesday in 31st

District Court in Wheeler.

Industry officials said a number of gathering companies across the country are taking similar actions based on a lawsuit in Oklahoma that held the gathering companies liable for harm caused by such connection to residences.

Natural gas that has been processed, industry sources said, has a chemical added to give it an odor. Gas from the well head does not. It is possible that a gas leak could fill a residence with odorless gas without being noticed.

I.A. Brooks, who has ranched northeast of Shamrock for 40 years, will turn 72 on Oct. 1. Brooks has used natural gas from a well on his land during those four decades. Now with higher gas prices, he said, the company is threatening to take him off the gas line.

"They told me in the letter that I got that it was dangerous," he says. "It never was before when gas was about a dollar. When it got up to about five, it got more serious. It's peculiar.

Brooks said he's convinced that the gas company doesn't care about him. "What it boils down to is just the plain old dollar

In the lawsuit Brooks, Dale Adams, Butch Cogburn and Norma Curry are bringing, they are asking for a temporary restraining order and a temporary and permanent injunction to stop the company from interfering with their use of the natural

The Panoma Gas Gathering System covers parts of Gray, Wheeler, Donley and Collingsworth Counties in the Texas Panhandle and Beckham and Greer Counties in Western Oklahoma.

Mann said that when the wells were initially drilled, natural gas was cheap and the gathering company, as part of their agreement with land owners having interests in the wells from which the company was gathering gas, allowed the residents

free use of the fuel. "All these old leases back then when the wells were drilled said that the people had the right to heat their houses, light their houses with the natural gas from the wells on their property," Mann said. Some of the leases said the had the right to heat

their barns. 'It's in our contracts that we've got it," Brooks says. "I guess I'm raised up from an old school. I grew up at a time when you gave a man your word and shook hands on it, that's all it took.

With natural gas prices above five dollars per thousand cubic feet, Mann insisted that the decision to cut off the gas from the interest owners is a financial decision, not a safety decision.

"It is a fraud that's being perpetrated on interest owners," Mann said.

To make matters worse, he said, the company picked the late fall, just before winter, to take

"Didn't they pick a nice time to do this," Mann

Mann said the gathering company is trying to get people worried about getting heat in the winter.

'They don't have a right to do that," Mann said. In their letter, Gruy Petroleum is offering compensation to convert any resident to an alternative fuel, but Mann said that the compensation that they & are offering won't pay for two years of heating. "We're not going to stand for it," Mann said.

Calls to Gruy Petroleum Management's Shamrock office were being referred to the company's in-house counsel Morgan Johnston. He had not returned calls to him by press time today.



Villagers supervise as a group of Pampans build a school house for Las Lagunas children using wooden boards cut from trees high in the Honduran mountains.

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE **HONDURAS**

come back with a group for another building project, saying the Americans could chose a project ranging from easy to "aggres-

The Pampa group consisted of White, Matt Brock, Luis Nava, Judd and Loney Wilson, Russ Alexander, Lee Cornelison, Bart Haley, Randy Dyson, Tyler Allison and Reed Kirkpatrick. Because of his fluent Spanish, Nava was chosen to serve as an interpreter.

They decided to take an "aggressive" project which meant they would be hiking to a remote mountain village to build a school house. The school would replace a previous structure that had washed down the mountainside after heavy rains caused by Hurricane Mitch swept over the country in 1998

"Las Lagunas is a little village forgotten by everything," White said. "There's no road, no running water (other than the water that runs down the mountainside), and no utilities.

The 350 Spanish-speaking residents have had little contact with outsiders. Children are taught by a single teacher in a one-room school. They must leave the village if they want an education above the sixth-grade level, White said.

The Pampans' adventure began with a flight to San Pedro Sula on Sept. 2. They spent the first night at El Progreso, 20 miles away, before driving the next day to a volunteer shelter at Sulaco where they left their luggage. Then they headed for the trail up to Las Lagunas.

Trail is a lofty word for it," White laughed.

The group agreed the track, running along a steep drop down the mountain, was a foot wide at its widest point and about four inches across at the narrowest.

White said West invited him to Pampans, wearing back packs roofed the building in three days. filled with gear, began the trek the village of Las Lagunas.

(The villagers) were very suswould steal their wives and their ing on for dear life. children.

they stayed there. We were the first white people to go and stay any length of time

there," White explained. An adobe house served as home during their stay, rented build a church. This was a way to from a village couple who moved out temporarily.

missionary." "Not that uncomfortable if

ou're a worm," commented Cornelison, who stands well over six feet tall. He and several others chose to sleep outdoors.

During their stay, the group endured torrential rains followed by sweltering heat. Using materials paid for by

First Baptist Church and wood from the mountainside above the village, the Pampa men began to build a school on a small area hewn from the side of the mountain with a pointed metal bar and shovels. We were committed to build

their way and not our way which involved a lot of doing and undoing," White said. "There was no measuring like we're used to. They used a rope system and then there was the language."

Brock said the men also had to carry 12-inch-by-12-inch and 12inch-by-14-inch boards down from the mountain where they had been cut. Tin for the roof was they added.

Two mules loaded with sup- Despite the primitive condiplies, their guides, and the tions, the men had framed and

"It was very strenuous," into the mountains. Three hours Kirkpatrick said. "The slopes later, they got their first look at there are 30 to 35 degrees. With rain every day, it was very slippery. The little children with no picious of us at first," Kirkpatrick shoes were running around said. "They were afraid we everywhere and we were hang-

In the process, they said they As a result, the group seldom learned about a culture far saw any of the village's women removed from their own and feel or children during the three days they planted a seed that may bring the villagers to know Jesus.

"We went down to build a school house," Kirkpatrick said. The Honduran government wouldn't have allowed us to minister to them, anyway. Uncertain about how to

"They said it could sleep approach the villagers with their seven," White said. "There were message of faith, the group of 13 of us with our guide and the men began by singing hymns on the porch of their adobe cottage after work had ended for the day. Soon men and older boys from the village gathered around to listen to the singing. Women and children hovered in the trees on

the fringes of the clearing. The next night, White began preaching after the singing with Nava translating his words into Spanish. About half of the villagers stayed to listen.
"So we at least believe we

planted a seed," Kirkpatrick said, adding that a few of the villagers promised they would conduct church services in the school house, too.

'Americans don't have a clue about the spiritual needs and the physical needs of people living in the forgotten part of the world," White mused. "There's no recreation. They

spend each day just trying to eke out a living," Brock said.

"They're not bemoaning their fate. They're happy with what they have," White added. "We all should be grateful for what we cut to fit from a large roll of tin, have and do what we can for oth-

#### Weather focus

PAMPA — Partly sunny and breezy today with a high of 80 with south winds at 15-25 mph. Partly cloudy tonight with a low of 60 and south winds at 10-20 mph. Mostly sunny and breezy tomorrow with a high in the low 90s and south-wouthwest wind at 15-25 mph. Yesterday's high was 71; the overnight low 48.

STATEWIDE — A frontal system pushing through Texas

means cooler conditions and even some scattered showers are possible for parts of the state.

Skies were mostly cloudy early Thursday in Texas. Temperatures behind the cool front were in the 40s in the Panhandle, and the 50s and 60s across North Texas. Meanwhile, temperatures ahead of the front in South Texas were in the 70s.

Partly cloudy conditions are expected for Thursday night in 60s before rebounding into the 60s.

80s and lower 90s on Friday.

Showers and thunderstorms could roll across South Texas as the frontal system pushes through Thursday night. Lows will range from the 60s in the Hill Country to the 70s on south

Friday will be mostly cloudy with a continuing chance for showers and storms. Highs will be in the lower to middle 90s.

West Texas will be breezy and expected for Thursday night in cool Thursday evening, with North Texas. Lows will be in the lows dipping into the 50s and Pampa .

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# Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

THEE PLACE

Thee Place for Singles is open 7-10:30 p.m. Saturdays at 520 W. Kingsmill.

ADHD/ADD SUPPORT GROUP If interested in the ADHD/ADD Sport Group call Connie at 669-9364.

**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. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Women's 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-

LAS PAMPA WATER GARDEN AND KOI SOCIETY

Las Pampa Water Garden and Koi Society meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Austin Elementary School. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Lance DeFever.

MONTHLY GOSPEL SINGING First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, hosts a Gospel Singing from 2-4 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Pastor Albert Maggard and the congregation of First Pentecostal cordially invites the public to attend. Singers and musicians from area churches participate in this informal congregational singing and enjoy various special vocal and instrumental presentations.

**PSC OPEN HOUSE** 

Pregnancy Support Center, 104 E. Francis, will host a brunch from 9-11 a.m. Sept. 23 in honor of new staff members Monica Galloway, director, and Sheila Winton, assistant director. The open house is free and the public is invited to attend.

PHS HALL OF FAME

Pampa High School Hall of Fame reception will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, in the library of PHS. A Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be at 9:45 a.m., Friday, Sept. 28 in the field house. Both events are open and free to the public.

**BSA HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP** 

BSA Hospice will offer "Putting the Pieces Back Crown of Texas Hospice will host a "Celebration of Together," a grief education and support group for individuals who have experienced the death of a and will be facilitated by John Southern, MEd., LPC. To pre-register or for more information, contact Janet McCracken, 665-6677.

**COLLEGE NIGHT** 

5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 27 in the Heritage Arkansas-based service organization which pro-Room of M.K. Brown Auditorium. High school, vides livestock (chickens, pigs, sheep, cattle) along juniors, seniors and their parents are invited to with training and support services to families and attend this special event. Representatives from col-communities worldwide. For a limited time, donaleges, universities, vocational schools, technical tions will be matched 3-1 by a private foundation. schools and the armed services will be present. For HPI is a non-denominational r.ot-for-profit agency. more information, call Billie Lowrey, administrative For more information, call the church office at 665assistant, PHS, 669-4800, ext. 123.

**MUSEUM DAY** 

Carson County Square House Museum will hold its a.m. Sunday. For more information about HPI, call 35th annual Museum Day, Saturday, Sept. 30 at the museum in Panhandle. Activities will include a barbecue lunch from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., entertainment by Eddie and the Crazies, an antique car display and homebaked goods and crafts.

HIGH PLAINS FALL CLASSIC RANCH RODEO

The Top O' Texas Rodeo Association will hold the 2000 High Plains Fall Classic Ranch Rodeo at 7 p.m. nightly, Sept. 29-30. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. Twelve teams from Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma will be competing in Ranch Bronc Riding, Ranch Team Penning, Wild The Texas Department of Health will be offering Cow Milking, Team Doctoring and Wild Horse Race immunization clinics for vaccines that give protecand a demonstration featuring Buster McLaury is slated at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Following the demonstration, Pokey the Clown will hold his WRCA cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB Junior Ranch Rodeo at 2:30 p.m. A Chuckwagon dinner will be served at 5 p.m. in Recreation Park. Meal prices are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount and under. During the meal and the Saturday night charged will be based on family income and size,

Rodeo performance, Pokey will auction his world famous "Custom made" Stick Horses. Advance tickets for the chuckwagon dinner are available at the rodeo office, 200 N. Ballard, Wayne's Western Wear and The Hamburger Station. Cowboy breakfast and church will be held at 8 a.m. Sunday and will be sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys. For more information, contact the rodeo office at

**BSA FALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING** 

BSA Hospice Pampa will present its Fall Volunteer Training and Community Education Class from 6-9 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, Sept. 11-Oct. 12, at Clarendon College, 1601 W. Kentucky. This comprehensive class is designed for adults who are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, want to learn more about hospice care or desire personal growth and enrichment. This program is offered free of charge to the Pampa, Borger and surrounding communities and continuing education unit's will be awarded by CC. For more information or to pre-register, call Janes McCracken, volunteer coordinator, BSA Hospice Pampa, at (806) 665-6677.

ACT COMMUNITY THEATER

ACT I Community Theater's annual membership drive is currently under way and will conclude at the end of the mouth. Season tickets are available and include three shows: "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" (November); "Natalie Needs a Nightie" (February); and "Grace and Glory" (April). For more information, contact Membership Director Michele Andorfer at (806) 669-0356. All shows will be staged at the ACT I theater located in the Pampa Mall.

SCIENCE SPECTRUM

During the month of September, The Science Spectrum and OMNIMAX Theatre, 2579 S. Loop 289, Lubbock, will present the following three films "Michael Jordan to the Max," "Dolphins" and "Mysteries of Egypt." "Dolphins," narrated by Pierce Brosnan and featuring the music of Sting, will close Sept. 14 and "Mysteries of Egypt," with actors Omar Shariff and Kate Maberly, will begin Sept. 15. For more information on ticket prices or show times, call (806) 745-2525.

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild will meet at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 21 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis. The meeting will serve as a workshop for members to sew hanging sleeves on quilts to be entered in the upcoming quilt show. For more information, call (806) 779-2115. Visitors are wel-

**CROWN OF TEXAS HOSPICE** 

Life" memorial service at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 26 at St. Paul United Methodist Church of Pampa. loved one, from 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Thursday, Hospice families, volunteers and staff will gather to Sept. 28 at BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner in Pampa. celebrate the memories and lives of their loved ones. The program will last for five consecutive weeks A reception will follow the service. The event is free

and open to the public.
HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray, is currently accepting aluminum cans for recycling. Proceeds Pampa High School will host "College Night" from will benefit Heifer Project International, an 1031. Office hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Friday and before 10:45 1-800-422-0474 or visit http://www.heifer.org. on

the Internet. FIRST BAPTIST WOMEN'S RETREAT

First Baptist Church "Choices of the Heart" Women's Retreat is slated Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at New Beginnings Retreat Center in Channing with retreat leader Martha Baker. Total cost of the retreat is \$87 (two per room). Twenty-five dollars is due Aug. 25 to reserve a spot. The balance must be paid by Sept. 15. Fees refundable upon request by Sept. 21. To reg-

ister or for more information, call 669-1155. **IMMUNIZATION CLINIC** 

tion against several childhood diseases including (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). The TDH will charge money to help with

#### Comptroller to sponsor 'e-government' summit

Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander will sponsor "Survive and Thrive in an Electronic World" Oct. 5-6 in Austin. The summit will target government officials throughout the state and will discuss the future of government in the Internet

Age.
"Electronic government is a major focus of e-Texas, my initiative to help bring Texas state government into the Internet Age," Rylander said. "I want to take this opportunity to share what we're learning so we can all work together to make government smaller, smarter, faster. This conference will help elected officials and their staffs prepare for the challenges of the Internet Age."

Carolyn Purcell, executive director of Texas Department of Information Resources, is cosponsor of the conference which will bring leading experts from across the country and provide insight into how best to transform the relationship between Texas citizens and

their government. Rylander will kick-off the summit with an opening plenary session at 8:30 a.m. Thursday. She will introduce Dr. Wendy Gramm, co-chair of the comptroller's e-Texas initia-

keynote address.

Group of Cisco Systems and co-government, education and author of "Net Ready: electronic procurement.

Strategies for Success in the E- To register for the conference Public Sector, John F. Kennedy Internet.

Texas tive. Gramm will deliver the School of Government, Harvard University. Additional sessions Other speakers will include will tackle issues such as digital John G. Sifonis, director of archiving, Internet accessibility, Internet Business Solutions requirements for effective e-

> conomy"; and Jerry Mechling, or for more information, visit director of Strategic Computing the comptroller's website at and Telecommunications in the www.window.state.tx.us on the

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and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-3 p.m., Sept. 14, Shamrock School Clinic, Shamrock; 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-3 p.m., Sept. 21, Groom School, Groom; 2-4 p.m., Sept. 22, McLean Clinic, McLean; 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-3 p.m., Canadian Clinic, Canadian.

LIFE AFTER LOSS

American Cancer Society and Crown of Texas Hospice will sponsor a four-week "Life After Loss" seminar for those who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at Crown of Texas Hospice, 10000 S. Jefferson, Amarillo. To register or for more information, call

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following breast cancer screening clinics: Sept. 11, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, and Sept. 5, First United Methodist Church Educational Building, 201 E. Foster, Pampa; Sept. 6, 20, Hemphill County Hospital, Canadian; Sept. 19 United Methodist church, Miami; and Sept. 14, Wesley Community Center, 1615 S. Roberts, Amarillo. Participants will receive a low-cost selfexam mammogram and a breast health appraisal Tickets for the 35th anniversary season of the outnurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

Ten free trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during September 2000. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

postpaid at the right time for planting between Oct. 15 and Dec. 10 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, "Arbor Day" and "The Tree Book" with information about tree planting and care. To receive the free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Sept. 30, 2000.

**BOY SCOUTS** 

The Golden Spread Council of Boy Scouts of America is open to boys between the ages of 6 and 18 and includes a 27-county area in the Texas Panhandle. The BSA program includes Club Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing, a new program for 14-to 20-year-old boys and girls. For more information, call (806) 358-6500.

Cultural Academic Student Exchange is seeking families of all types - retired couples, couples with children, single parent families and childless couples
— to host a high school exchange student. For more information, call 877-846-5848.

**TEXAS' ANNIVERSARY TICKETS** 

along with individual instruction by a registered door musical drama "TEXAS" (June 7-Aug. 19, 2000) are now available for purchase on-line at www.texasmusicaldrama.com. For more information, call (806) 655-2181.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BOOKLET

The Cost Containment Research Institute in Washington, D.C., recently published at 32-page booklet, "Free & Low Cost Prescription Drugs." The revised third edition provides information on how and where to get free and low cost prescription drugs. Consumers can obtain a copy by sending \$5 to The 10 trees are the American Redbud, White Pine, Sugar Maple, White Flowering Dogwood, Pin Oak, Red Maple, Birch, Silver Maple, Red Oak and PDF-370, P.O. Box 462, Elmira, NY 14902-0462. The Colorado Blue Spruce. The trees will be shipped information is also available at www.institute-dc.org.

## Governor's Commission for Women launching 'Walk With Me' campaign

Women has launched "Walk with Me," a month- encourage caregivers to spend time with children long health and obesity awareness campaign by walking and talking together. Schools with a 75 geared for fourth-graders across the state. The percent completion rate will be eligible to compete campaign encourages parents and caregivers to for a \$500 grant from the commission. Forty grants spend time walking with children three times a will be awarded based on participation rates and a week for 20 minutes a day during the month of description on how the grant will be used to pro-October and beyond.

The Women's Commission is distributing calendars and health education materials to more than Governor's Commission for Women is responsible 50,000 fourth graders across the state to encourage

participation.

"The goal is to inspire families to learn about the benefits of physical activity," said Ashley Horton, executive director of the commission. "Walking 20 minutes a day, three times a week improves health

Teacher Association and HEB to help children (806) 743-4377.

AUSTIN — The Governor's Commission for learn about the importance of exercise and to mote good health habits in the school.

First established by executive order in 1967, the for identifying and researching key issues facing and affecting the women of Texas today. The commission also assesses and develops strategies and projects to increase the awareness of these issues.

To receive "Walk with Me" materials or for additional information about this project in your area, and prevents obesity."

"Walk with Me" was created in partnership website at www.governor.state.tx.us/women or with the Texas Education Agency, Texas Parent contact Lubbock commissioner, Diane Lowell, at



403 W. ATCHISON . PAMPA, TEXAS TELEPHONES: (806) 669-2525 1-800-687-3348 · FAX: 669-2520 EMAIL: kbd@pan-tex.net • pamnews1@pan-tex.net

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## Opinion



## Inside the **Beltway**

with

Rep. Mac Thornberry

## Reversal in time for Childhood Cancer Month

This is Childhood Cancer Month. It's a good time to remember those who have this terrible disease and what's being done to help them

Every weekday in the United States, 46 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer. Altogether, more than 1 million Americans are expected to be diagnosed with cancer this

Each of us has a neighbor, friend or family member that is in some way touched by cancer. Many of these cancer patients will rely on drug therapy, such as chemotherapy to treat their disease. Yet earlier this year, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the government agency that regulates much of health care, wanted to reduce payments for drugs to treat cancer. This could cost many patients much more for their treatment, or possibly cause them to lose it alto-

The administration's proposal was bad policy, especially for those on Medicare who are already struggling with rising drug prices. That's why I wrote to Secretary Shalala of the Department of Health and Human Services urging her in the strongest possible terms to reconsider the proposal

I believe there should be no cuts in payment for chemotherapy drugs until there has been a thorough study of how the change will affect patients and until Congress has had the opportunity to act upon that information.

The administration recently backed down from its proposal and announced that it will conduct such a study. While HCFA should have done this to begin with, we'll have to make sure that the needs of cancer patients will be taken into consideration before future proposals are made.

Still, it is a small but significant victory during Childhood Cancer Month.

## Your representatives

State Rep. Warren Chisum

Pampa Address: 100 N. Price Road, Pampa TX

Pampa Phone: 665-3552

Austin Address: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910

Austin Phone: (512) 463-0736

State Sen. Teel Bivins

Amarillo Address: P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, TX 79105

Amarillo Phone: (806) 374-8994

Austin Address: P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX

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U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry

Amarillo Address: 724 S. Polk, Suite 400, Amarillo, TX 79101

Amarillo Phone: (806) 371-8844

Washington Address: 131 Cannon Building,

Washington, D.C. 20515

Washington Phone: (202) 225-3706 U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

Washington Address: 283 Russell Senate Office

Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington Phone: (202) 224-5922

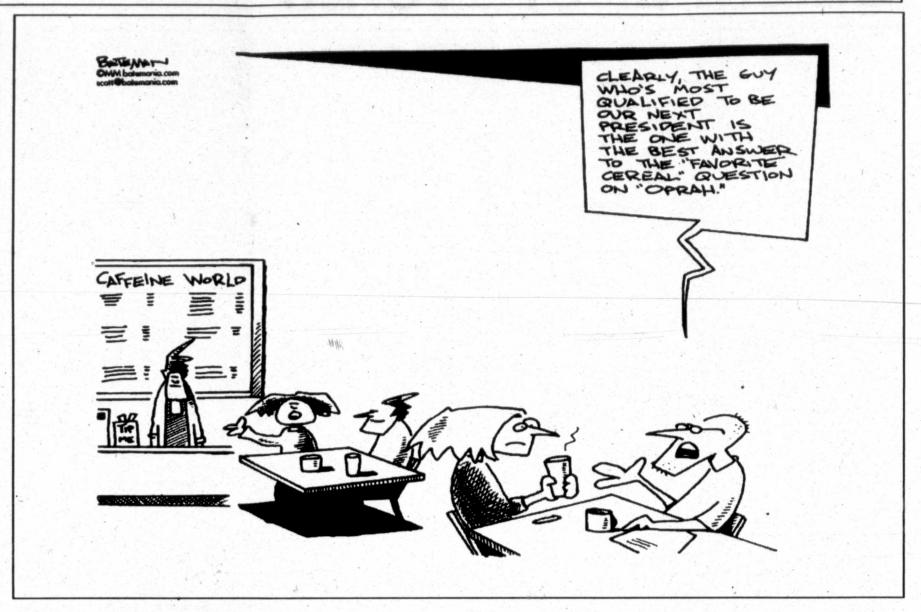
U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm

Washington Address: 370 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

Washington Phone: (202) 224-2934 Texas Gov. George W. Bush

P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711. Constituent Hotline: 1-800-843-5789

## VIEWPOINTS



# RNC staffers anxiously await election

Working at the Republican National Committee (RNC) is always unpredictable. You never know who will come visit the building from day to day. For this reason, I try to take my camera with me to work every day. However, on one particular day, I decided I would not need it for some reason. (I still do not know why I thought that.) As fate would have it, the Republican vice presidential nominee, Dick Cheney, came in to meet everyone that very day. Just my luck!

In my conversation with him, I told him there was a Halliburton plant in my hometown (he is the former president and CEO of Halliburton International). He asked me where my hometown was and I proudly said, "Pampa, Texas." He smiled, shook his head up and down as if to say he knew where Pampa was, and then said "nice to meet you" while he continued on his down-to-earth person; and I know he has to be a good guy because he knows where Pampa is! My duties with the RNC have recently

to working for the Network and On-Line my learning experience. Services Division. The new job consists of directors with pop-up ads for their state webelection day. The RNC uses these collected email addresses to inform and notify interested parties about events, updates and breaking news on the campaign trail.

changed from working in the Chairman's office HYPERLINK 'http://www.rnc.org" www.rnc.org website, providing assistance to all state GOP executive sites, and coordinating a project to obtain half a million e-mail addresses between now and



#### J.B. Horton

Guest columnist

In addition to these responsibilities, I also have the privilege of working closely with the RNC Victory 2000 Division. It coordinates efforts with the Bush Campaign in Austin. Once Victory 2000 gives me an approved schedule of Gov. George W. Bush's upcoming public events, I support their communication efforts by sending out targeted e-mail messages way. Luckily for me, one of my friends had a to people around the country. These mass tarcamera with him that day, so he took a picture geted e-mails help notify supporters about the blind assumptions based on what they want of Secretary Cheney and me while we were details of specific Bush rallies in their local area people to hear. Reports based on facts of the sittalking about Pampa. Sec. Cheney seems like a (time, place, etc.) As of now, this position seems to be a perfect fit for me since I worked with the Bush Campaign in Austin with the "e-campaign" division. Needless to say, my position at the RNC is very interesting and I am enjoying

On the political side of things, Labor Day weekend has come and gone and the presidential campaigns will intensify. They will also vate conversations for the next two months. What will these conversations sound like? Which candidate will be talked about in the most favorable light? On Nov. 7, we will decide through the voices of our votes. As the polls indicate in the national media, Gov. Bush and Vice President Al Gore are virtually tied.

Even though the general public may not see it in the actions and demeanor of the candidates, staffers on both campaigns will be stressed and anxious as time begins to close in on Election Day. Recently, the Bush Campaign and the RNC have been under fire as the national media has pronounced the campaign to be "infighting." The funny thing is, when I am corresponding with my friends on the Bush campaign, we laugh at these reports and wonder where they get the information.

I will quickly admit that I do not know every detail that happens with every person in Austin and in Washington, D.C. However, I do know by working as a connection between the two organizations that there is nothing but strong relationships. My assessment of the national media calling this a "campaign crisis" is that maybe they should look further into a story rather than just reading polls and making uation are always a virtue I appreciate.

Nevertheless, in addition to reading all the interesting news stories in the national newspapers, I am on the edge of my seat here at the RNC. The next two months will really heat up and be an exciting time to be a part of the process. Regardless of the outcome of the elections, I have learned a few very important lessons in the past few weeks: life is short, life become the topic of many more public and pri- is exciting, and don't ever leave home without

> J.B. Horton is a Pampa native and former 1997-1999 Student Body President of West Texas A&M University. He currently holds a full-time position at the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C.

#### Today in history

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, Sept. 21, the Claus.'

265th day of 2000. There are 101 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 21, 1949, the People's Republic of China was proclaimed by its Communist leaders. On this date:

Convention voted to abolish the

monarchy.

famous editorial that declared, the Cleveland Browns defeated the

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa visiting New York Jets, 31-21. In 1931, Britain went off the gold

standard. In 1938, a hurricane struck parts of New York and New England,

causing widespread damage and claiming more than 600 lives. In 1948, Milton Berle made his In 1792, the French National debut as permanent host of "The

Texaco Star Theater" on NBC-TV. In 1970, "NFL Monday Night In 1897, the New York Sun ran its Football" debuted on ABC-TV as

In 1973, the Senate confirmed Ga. Henry Kissinger to be secretary of

In 1977, after weeks of controversy over past business and banking practices, President Carter's embattled budget director, Bert

Lance, resigned. In 1989, Hurricane Hugo, packing winds of up to 135 mph, crashed into Charleston, S.C.

ceremony on Cumberland Island,

Ten years ago: During a meeting of the Supreme Soviet, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev scolded legislators for dragging their feet on an economic rescue plan, and asked for sweeping new emergency powers to stabilize the economy. Five years

Republicans unveiled details of their plan for Medicare In 1996, John F. Kennedy Jr. mar- aimed at achieving \$270 billion in ried Carolyn Bessette in a secret savings over seven years.

# Pols need to leave Boy Scouts alone

Seven Democrats introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to revoke the federal charter of the Boy Scouts of America. I can only conclude that the Democrats have

The bill was introduced by Rep. Lynn

Woolsey, D-Calif., for herself and for Reps. Pete Stark, D-Calif., Sheila Lee, D-Texas, Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y., and John Lewis, D-Ga. The text is simple and says the

"Federal charters are prestigious distinctions awarded to organizations with a patriotic, charitable or educational purpose. Although intended as an honorific title, a Federal charter implies Government support for such organizations. In 1916, the Federal Government granted a Federal charter to the Boy Scouts of America. Although the Boy Scouts of America promotes the social and civic development of young boys through mentoring, it also sets an example of intolerance through its discriminatory policy regarding sexual orientation. Federal support for the Boy Scouts of America indirectly supports the organization's policy to exclude homosexuals. A policy of excluding homosexuals is contradictory to the Federal Government's support for diversity and tolerance and should not be condoned as patriotic, charitable or education- Society" by D.N. Cox and Glenn Wilson is a place so favored by their sodomite pals.



#### Charley Reese

Syndicated columnist

al. Chapter 309 of title 36, United States Code, which grants a Federal charter to the Boy Scouts of America, is repealed."

I doubt that this bill will ever reach the floor. At least I don't think Republicans have quite all gone over the edge to the degree Democrats have, but one never knows these days.

At any rate, it is unfair in the extreme to treat the Boy Scouts of America as if it were the Ku Klux Klan. It did not seek this confrontation. The Boy Scouts has experienced the legal ramifications of having boys in its organization molested and, unlike the Catholic Church, has tried to avoid it.

It is pointless to argue how many pedophiles favor boys and how many favor girls. Those who favor girls are not likely to be attracted to the Boy Scouts. A great many pedophiles are homosexuals, and that's a fact.

good academic study if you wish to pursue the matter.

Likewise, it is pointless to argue that homosexuals are born that way. No doubt the same can be said for some serial killers. Likewise, it is pointless to argue that Christians should accept homosexuality, since both the Jewish and Christian Bibles explicitly and specifically condemn the behavior.

The Boy Scouts is an honorable and private organization that has demonstrably done more good than most politicians. It has taken a position based on its own moral code and on common sense and prudence. Politicians should leave the Scouts alone.

As for the sodomite lobby, it is overplaying its hand by showing such extreme intolerance while claiming to want tolerance. Its members have no right to try to force their way into the organization. Let them form their own homosexual youth organizations. I'm sure the Democrats will give them a federal charter.

I think it is time for all patriotic organizations that have these federal charters to surrender them. It is impossible for a dishonorable organization to honor anyone. And the

charters are, practically speaking, worthless. And if I ran the Scouts, I'd send the federal charter to the sponsors of this legislation with "The Child-Lovers: A Study of Pedophiles in the suggestion that they deposit it in the very Centi visiti vice a Willie Seth John Char Bleds Mary

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Central Baptist Youth Mission Team, a 66- member group, spent July 22-28 in Pueblo, Colorado. Ministry activities included teaching two Vacation Bible Schools. visiting door to door, four youth choir musical presentations, providing two construction teams, coaching a basketball and a soccer camp, and an evangelistic service at the Colorado State Boot Camp. The group included Abraham Avila, Drew Barker, Stephen Bledsoe, Cory Bromwell, Cody Brown, Richard Conner, Luke Dyer, Willie Griffin, Jake Hopkins, Clayton Johnson, Joel Palmateer, Adam Parks, Kevin Parks, Michael Pergeson, Kerry Tumer, Kevin Tumer, Reece Watson, Jared White, Seth Williams, Shane Williams, Sonia Avila, Jennifer Baggett, Jessica Conner, Kayla Conner, Alisha Fumish, Angela Henthom, Tamra Henthom, Heather Hucks, Emily Johnson, Kelli Jo Mitchell, Jeanie Palmateer, Ande Shank, Kaylee Shank, Lindsay Smith, Gena Venegas, Jeanette Venegas, Jessica White, Travis Bolch, Lee Brown, Charles Buzzard, Ron Ebel, Bill Fulcher, Kevin Hucks, Floyd Lynch, James Martindale, Danny Seaboum, Ron Shank, Rick Smith, Greg Tumer, Zan Walker, Cindy Bledsoe, Norma Bolch, Joyce Field, Carol Fulcher, Tammy Henthom, Jan Hucks, Sidney Lynch, Sherrie Martindale, Brenda Palmateer, Sherry Seaboum, Rose Shank, Mary Shank, and Donna Smith.

## Report: Minimum wage worker can't afford 'modest' apartment in any county

ing the federal minimum wage over a 40- County, Mass., was next (\$25.54), followed hour week cannot afford what the federal by Santa Clara County, Calif., (\$25.15). government considers a "modest" two-bed- Barbour County, Ala., was ranked most room apartment in any county, according to a affordable (\$6.73). study released Wednesday.

Federal Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo said the report by the National Low Income \$16.88 per hour to pay for an average apart-Housing Coalition, an advocacy group that favors raising the minimum wage, demonstrates the flip side of the booming economy. "Rents continue to increase dramatically,

while the minimum wage has not," he said. The study used the Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of "fair market rent" to determine the hourly wage needed to pay for an average apartment in each state, county and metropolitan area.

The federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an

HUD says people should not spend more

Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo countax cuts. ties, all in California, tied for the least-affordable county, with a worker needing to earn are using the report to push for an increase in of Congress and the presidential candidates.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Employees earn- \$28.06 for an average apartment. Nantucket the minimum wage and more funding for

New Jersey was ranked the least-affordable state, with workers having to earn ment, the study found. Washington, D.C., was next (\$16.60), followed by Hawaii increasing the value of the rental voucher. (\$16.52), Massachusetts, (\$16.43) and New

Excluding the self-employed, the average to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(\$5.75) and Connecticut (\$6.15), have higher Bond says one in five vouchers currently go state minimum wages, they still fall far short unused. of covering an average rent, said the report, titled "Out of Reach."

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said jurisdictions studied from 1999 to 2000. The than 30 percent of their gross income on last month he supports boosting the mini- average increase was 3 percent. housing. Using that standard, no minimum—mum wage by \$1 over two years. Clinton wage earner on a 40-hour week can afford an favors an increase in the minimum wage but U.S., except in New England states, where average rent in any county, the coalition said. is concerned about GOP attempts to tie it to town-level data were combined to produce a

Cuomo and affordable housing advocates

Section 8 rental assistance vouchers.

Earlier this month the Clinton administration announced it was providing \$100 million a year to expand Section 8, which helps more than 1.4 million low-income house-

HUD also has increased fair market rents in certain high-income areas, in effect,

Missouri Sen. Christopher Bond, who chairs the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on HUD, wants to increase the value U.S. worker earns \$16.17 an hour, according of the vouchers beyond the level of HUD's new policy and provide the \$1 billion grant Although some states, including California to build new homes for low-income families.

> The wages needed to pay for housing increased in 98 percent of the 3,646 local

The study examined every county in the

county figure. The report is being distributed to members

# Law firm accused in alleged scheme

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the nation's largest immigration asylum law firms was accused of working hand in hand with smugglers who bring illegal Chinese immigrants to the United States and keep them as virtual indentured servants.

The relationship earned the Porges law firm more than \$13 million illicitly over the last seven years, federal prosecutors alleged Wednesday in the first racketeering case of its kind.

"Manhattan attorneys in three-piece suits do not typically come to mind when the public pictures the criminals who traffic in human cargo and who profit in the desperation of migrants who are seeking a better life," said Doris Meissner, Immigration and Naturalization Service commissioner.

The case illustrated the kind of "well organized, well planned international enterprises that have become a multibillion dollar problem," Meissner said.

The smugglers, known as snakeheads, charged desperate aliens \$40,000 to \$50,000 to sneak them into the country, U.S. Attorney

When authorities captured the aliens, the law firm made up stories for each one to qualify for asylum, authorities said. Once they won freedom, the firm delivered the aliens to smugglers who held them captive until the fee was paid, White said.

The firm — operated by Robert Porges, 61, and his wife, Sheery Lu Porges, 47 — represented aliens throughout the country at nearly every major INS detention center, White said.

The wide-scale fraud may have changed the outcome of as many as 7,000 asylum cases, forcing the government to review every one to determine whether each person should have been allowed to

## Passenger blames others for death of man aboard airplane

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The FBI wants to interview a Canadian man who says he tried to stop passengers on a Southwest Airlines flight from beating to death a man who had tried to break into the cockpit.

An autopsy report released last week said Jonathan Burton was killed by passengers paper. "I said, 'You've got the guy subdued, the cockpit door on a Southwest Airlines the 19-year-old's death was unintentional to absorb the shock." and that criminal charges would not be filed.

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The passenger sought by the FBI, Dean Harvey, who contacted the Edmonton news-Harvey, told the Edmonton Journal that a paper after reading about the autopsy results. large man climbed on a seat and repeatedly jumped on Burton's chest while four men held him still.

"I asked him to stop," Harvey told the before Flight 1763 was due to land. who tried to restrain him after he kicked in what more do you want? You don't have to pound his head in.' The guy was being held flight Aug. 11. The U.S. Attorney's office, said with his arms outstretched. He had no chance trying to interview everyone on the flight,

FBI agents said they want to interview where all we had was the name."

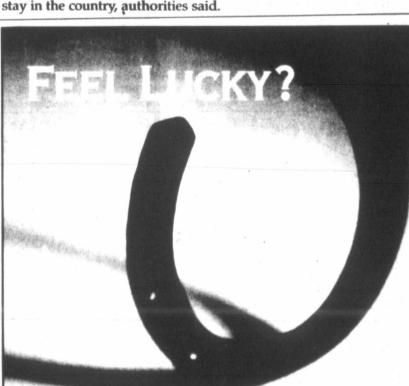
Harvey, his wife and 11-month-old son were traveling from Las Vegas to Salt Lake City when Burton became combative 20 minutes

"We weren't able to locate him before now," said Bill Matthews, special agent for the FBI's Salt Lake City division. "We were but there were some people on the manifest

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## **Friends Throw Cancer Patient** A Party to Cover Up Her Fears

**DEAR ABBY: I experienced such** an incredible act of kindness and generosity from my co-workers that I feel compelled to share it.

I was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer just seven months after the death of my lovely, sweet mother from the same disease

Besides being terrified of the disease, I was terrified of the side effects of chemotherapy, especially the hair loss. I work in a busy cancer center at a large hospital, and I have a lot of patient contact. I have observed firsthand the psychological effects suffered by both men and

Abby, two wonderful co-workers came up with an idea to help me. One day at work, they surprised me with a "hat and scarf party." My coworkers and people I barely knew gave me the most beautiful accessories. They bought me different colors and patterns of scarves and hats, things I would never have spent money on for myself. I was overwhelmed by their generosity.

When you are first told the diagnosis, shock overtakes you. After the chemo starts, shopping is difficult because the therapy zaps your energy. My hair loss was very traumatic, but because of my co-workers, I already had a wide selection of hats and scarves at my disposal. I will be eternally grateful.

I hope sharing this story will inspire others to do the same for a family member, friend or co-worker who has cancer. There is so much cancer that I'm sure almost every

Abigail Van Buren SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

reader will know someone who must undergo chemotherapy. If you want to help but don't know what to do, cook a meal, help with shopping, offer to do laundry or clean the bathroom, or host a hat/scarf party. I guarantee your kindness will be appreciated and boost the morale of

the cancer patient. Abby, I feel very blessed to work with such caring people, so I would like to thank them through your column. Thank you, friends! MICHELLE IN DENVER

DEAR MICHELLE: Bless you, and good luck with your therapy. You are in my prayers, and I hope that your treatment will result in full recovery.

DEAR ABBY: My stepson is 18 and living with my husband and me. He is a high school dropout who has been arrested for criminal mischief and theft. He is now out on bail, running up extremely high phone bills calling girls he meets on the Internet.

After several attempts to get my

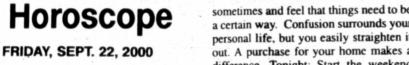
husband to demonstrate tough love, and being met with deaf ears, I finally took it upon myself to cut off our long-distance service to the house. I provided my husband with a 200-minute phone card so he can still call his daughter in Arizona. He is furious with me for doing this "without consulting him," and says I am a control freak. I simply wanted to send a message to his son. Was I wrong in doing this?

HAD IT IN TEXAS

DEAR HAD IT: If you are the sole support of the household, then you were within your rights. However, if you both work and share the bills or he brings home the paycheck, you should have discussed your plan with him first.

Perhaps your husband feels guilty for the way his son has turned out, and that's the reason he has failed to take a firm stand with him. This young man is putting your marriage in danger. You and your husband would be doing yourselves a big favor to get marriage counseling — and family counseling — until his "boy" is either straightened out or is off to the

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



BY JACQUELINE BIGAR The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive;

3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult ARIES (March 21-April 19) \* ★ ★ ★ Emphasize possibilities. You might wonder what would be best with a

child or loved one who might be more demanding than usual. Associates become idea machines. Go for a brainstorming session. You find answers to just about anything. Tonight: Make a favorite meal.

\*\*\*\* Communication flourishes, you need to pace yourself. Don't push yourself, even if others slack off. Be a manager and delegate efficiently.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Seriously think about a change in your diet and exercise program for the fall. Take time discussing a plan with a coworker. Tonight: Out and about. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

\*\* Expenses go overboard, as does your willingness to risk. Think through a decision involving a child or loved one. You might not be in the mood to do what another wants. Laughter surrounds relationships, as does confusion. Stay light and easy with others. Make plans for a fun get-together soon. Tonight: Go shop-

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Landers

28 Heathens 29 Memory 32 Easter Island

36 Cheering phrase 39 Historic canal 40 Pen name for Porter

41 Rational 42 Warty

43 Cinch

DOWN

1 Ship

steerer 2 Actress

Falco

hoppers

\*\*\* Allow more playfulness into your life. You could be overly serious.

sometimes and feel that things need to be a certain way. Confusion surrounds your personal life, but you easily straighten it out. A purchase for your home makes a difference. Tonight: Start the weekend

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\* Hold back. Others could easily misunderstand you. Listen carefully to another. Think about a decision. Postpone it, if possible. Flirtation and fun mix. Tonight: Kick back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Review a decision carefully. Keep an eye on finances, which could easily swing out of control. You want to indulge another. Do it. A meeting might need to be canceled, but you'll still find an opportunity to network and touch base with others. Go for what you really want. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\* You clearly mean well, but another might have a difficult time getting your message. Be ready to reiterate. Responsibility demands your attention. Do not bypass a boss's demands. Tonight: Take a leadership role.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \* \* ★ A lot might be running through your mind, but you might not be sure about the best way to handle it. Your mind works overtime, which can fry your nerves. Take a break or plan a long weekend. You function better with rest. Tonight: Let your imagination lead you. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\* \* Take time with another. Though you might not exactly be sure about what you want, a discussion helps you solidify plans. Discussions have an amusing quality; you might not be sure

Marmaduke

which way to go. Friends add an element of confusion without intending to. Stay light. Tonight: Say yes to a loved one. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\* Others seek you out. As a result, you are easily distracted. Keep asking questions in confusing situations. Recognize what is going on with a child or loved one and clear out a problem. Understand that you might not be in control, even if you want to be. Let others express their ideas. Tonight: Out and

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\* \* Focus on completion rather than initiating. News from a distance could be distracting. Concentrate on one item at a time. Refuse to be scattered. Once you clear work, you will have more time for the fun and frivolous. Let another know your objectives. Tonight: Stop and visit with a friend as you mosey on home. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**★★★★** Allow your imagination to come out. You delight a partner or loved one with your fun nature. Let another share as well. In fact, many of you might want to head out the door early. Make fun plans for tonight and the remainder of the weekend. Be creative when clearing out work. Tonight: Play the night

**BORN TODAY** 

Musician Nick Cave (1957), singer Debby Boone (1956), actor Scott Baio (1961)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com © 2000 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

#### For Better or For Worse









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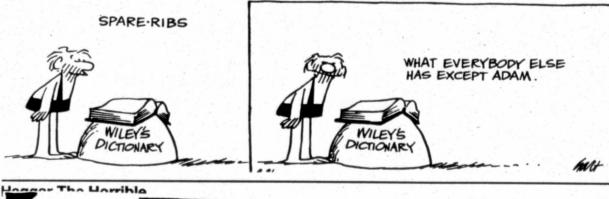
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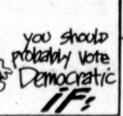


**Peanuts** 



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## Crossword Puzzle



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last very long when Marmaduke is around."

The Family Circus



"Do pole-vaulters score three points if they get over the crossbar?"

# SPORTS

## Notebook

#### BASKETBALL

Patrick Ewing's 15-year career with the Knicks ended when New York sent him to Seattle in a four-team, 12player trade also involving the Los Angeles Lakers and Phoenix.

The Knicks received Glen Rice from the Lakers and Luc Longley from the Suns. Among the other major players moving were Horace Grant from Seattle to Los Angeles, and Chris Dudley from New York to Phoenix.

Several other players were included in the trade to make it work under league salary cap guidelines. The Knicks Vernon Maxwell, Vladimir Stepania and Lazaro Borrell from Seattle and Travis Knight from Los Angeles.

New York also got firstround draft picks in 2001 from the Lakers and Sonics, and two second-round picks in 2001 from Seattle.

The Lakers also get Greg Foster, Chuck Person and Emanuel Davis from Seattle. Phoenix gets the Knicks' No. 1 pick in 2001.

Ewing has averaged 22.8 points and 10.4 rebounds per game in his career.

Rice, who had been a free agent, ended up with the Knicks as part of a sign-andtrade transaction in which he got a multiyear contract from the Lakers before being shipped immediately to New York. He has averaged 20.2 points per game for his career.

Grant, a key component of three NBA championship teams with the Chicago Bulls in the early 1990s, has career averages of 12.1 points and 8.6 rebounds.

The trade was only the second four-team deal in NBA history.

MINNEAPOLIS · (AP) -Former Minnesota star Jackson testified before a federal grand jury considering criminal charges in the school's cheating scandal. His attorney, Kevin Short, said he will not be

#### charged. BASEBALL

ST. LOUIS (AP) - The St. Louis Cardinals became the first team to clinch a playoff spot this season, winning the NL Central when Edmonds' grand slam sent them to an 11-6 victory over the Houston Astros. It was the first division title for the Cardinals since 1996.

#### **FOOTBALL**

IRVING, Texas (AP) -Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman, who has missed two games after his ninth concussion, will be back in the starting lineup against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.

NEW YORK (AP) Mustafah Muhammad, the Indianapolis Colts defensive back convicted of beating his pregnant wife, was suspended without pay for two games by the NFL.

Muhammad was convicted Aug. 29 of beating Nichole Muhammad. She died 10 days later as the result of injuries sustained in an auto accident, and the baby was stillborn.

Muhammad was used as a reserve in his team's first two games, recording seven tackles. He also returned two kickoffs for a total of 45

yards. WASHINGTON (AP) Washington waived kicker-Brett Conway, two days after he missed the Redskins' game against Dallas because of a leg injury. Conway converted 22 of 32 field goals last year and 49 of 50 extra-point

attempts. KINGSVILLE, Texas (AP) Texas A&M-Kingsville will forfeit 11 victories from the 1998 football season and lose 12 scholarships, the

NCAA said. The Division II Javelinas were punished for breaking academic eligibility rules between 1996-99. A total of 23 athletes, mostly football players, were allowed to play even though they were ineligible, the committee found in a season-long investigation.

# Olympic roundup

Lenny Krayzelburg captured Olympic swimming gold No. 2 for himself Thursday, Tom Dolan had to settle for one and Jenny Thompson came out of her last hunt for individual gold with none.

The U.S. swimmers emerged from the latest pool party in Sydney with another fistful of medals.

It was a bittersweet session as Thompson couldn't challenge double gold-winner Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands in the 100-meter freestyle and Italian Massimiliano Rosolino beat Dolan in the 200 individual medley.

Krayzelburg hugged and kissed his parents after swimming an Olympic record 1 minute, 56.76 seconds in the 200-meter backstroke. The Ukrainian immigrant won the 100 backstroke Monday.

Another American, 17-year-old Aaron Peirsol, took the silver.

De Bruijn won the 100 free in 53.83 secand her American rival and teammate, Dara Torres, tied for bronze in 54.43.

The medal raised Thompson's total Kornelia Ender and American Shirley Babashoff, who have eight each.

after the Atlanta Games to try to win a gold all by herself. Now that opportunity

The individual gold medal wasn't in the cards, I guess," she said. "I know I did the best I could."

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Two, one, Sunday, but said he was hurting down the 13 innings stretch Thursday.

"I didn't have speed or strength to go that fast," he said.

States increased its lead in the medal count Thursday. The Americans finished the day with 31 medals (11 gold, 10 silver, 10 bronze) to 25 for Australia (8-9-8). France (7-9-4) and Russia (4-8-8) each had

TRACK: Come to the Sydney Games, and watch the stars drop out.

One defending champion won't run at an Olympic track meet already plagued by injuries and withdrawals and another champion may pull out.

Donovan Bailey, the 100-meter gold medalist four years ago, contracted a viral infection that had him coughing, sneezing and aching about 24 hours before the start of preliminary heats in his event

If today was the 100 meters, I wouldn't onds to go with her victory in the 100 but-terfly Sunday. Sweden's Therese Heats of the women's 400 meters also Alshammar came next, while Thompson start Friday, and troubled French runner Marie-Jose Perec won't be around to run for her third straight gold medal.

Staying on her own away from the medal count to nine, including seven relay other athletes, she claimed a man threatgolds. She's now the most decorated ened her in her room. She jetted to woman swimmer in history, surpassing Singapore on Thursday, where she and a Dawn Fraser of Australia, German companion promptly got into a scuffle with a cameraman.

Thompson, 27, stuck with swimming released a statement saying Perec won't

SOFTBALL: It happened again.

Virtually invincible coming into the Olympics, the U.S. softball team lost its the only way the United States has a third straight extra-inning marathon. This medal chance in men's volleyball. Dolan won the 400 individual medley time Australia beat the Americans 2-1 in The winless U.S. men dropped their place.

Peta Edebone hit a two-run homer off Lisa Fernandez in the bottom of the 13th to win it for the Aussies. The Americans Thanks to the swimmers, the United had 112 straight victories before the

> BASKETBALL: For the first time, somebody challenged a Dream Team.

The U.S. men led by only five points in the final minute before beating Lithuania 85-76, the closest Olympic victory ever for an American team stocked with NBA stars. The Dream Teamers never won by less than 22 points in the last two Olympics.

TENNIS: Lindsay Davenport is gone, but Venus Williams and Monica Seles moved on.

An injured left foot forced top-seeded Davenport to scratch from the women's singles tournament just before her second-

round match against Rossana De Los Rios. Davenport will undergo tests to see if she has a stress fracture and could be out of competition for the rest of the year.

"I hurt it in Canada before the U.S. Open," Davenport said. "It just hasn't completely healed yet."

Davenport's withdrawal ended the U.S. team's hope for a sweep in women's singles. The Americans still have a shot at gold and silver, however.

Second-seeded Williams advanced to The French Olympic delegation the third round with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand. player Miriam Oremans 6-1, 6-1.

- VOLLEYBALL: Do the math. It's

third straight match - 25-15, 25-20, 25-23 to Yugoslavia — and are at the bottom of their group's standings. The Americans still have a mathematical chance at making the quarterfinals, but admit they're just playing for pride now.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: Both American duos reached the quarterfinals in women's beach volleyball. Jenny Johnson Jordan and Annett Davis rallied with a nine-point run to defeat Cuba's Dalixia Fernandez and Tamara Larrea 15-9, while Holly McPeak and Misty May pulled out a 15-13 win over Italians Daniela Gattelli and Lucilla Perrotta.

**BOXING:** A heavy match is up next for U.S. heavyweight Michael Bennett. Bennett downed Poland's Wojciech Bartnik 11-2 Thursday, earning the chance to fight one of amateur boxing's most feared fighters, two-time Olympic champ Felix Savon of Cuba.

The Americans also suffered their first defeat as Dante Craig lost to Bulent Ulusoy of Turkey in a second-round match at 147 pounds. Clarence Vinson, fighting at 119 pounds, outpointed Taalaibek Kadiraliev of Kyrgyszstan to advance to the quarterfinals.

- GYMNASTICS: Nadia Comaneci

must be proud.

Andreea Raducan led a Romanian sweep in the women's all-around competition and became the first woman from Third-ranked Seles cruised past Dutch her nation to win the event since Comaneci in 1976. Raducan finished with 38.893 points, while her teammates Simona Amanar and Maria Olaru took the silver and bronze medals. Elise Ray was the top American finisher in 14th

## PHS tennis team first in District

The PHS Harvester Tennis Team was victorious against Canyon recently, winning 11-8 against the undefeated Canyon team to take first in District.

"Canyon has a really strong tradition, and Coach Marabel always does a great job," said Coach Quarles of Pampa.

Pampa took an early lead by winning the lows: doubles 5-2. Freshman Tara Jordan and sophomore Jay Gerber won the 10th and 11th matches.

Smith, Jared Spearman, Tara Jordan and Jay match.

The Harvester team is now 5-0 in District Jenni Yirak, (C), 3-6, 2-6; 2. Ashley Stucki, with Randall and Borger remaining in the (P), vs. Erin Hicks, (C), 4-6, 1-6; 3. Michelle first round of district competition. The Lee, (P), vs. Angela Porter, (C), 0-6, 2-6; 4. beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Results of the Canyon match are as fol-

Pampa, vs. Mark Minnim, Canyon, 6-3, 6-3; "This is really a great win. Anytime you 3, 6-3; 3. A.J. Smith, (P), vs. Scott Burge, (C), Thomas (C), 6-1, 7-5. can win in Canyon, especially against such 6-2, 7-6; 4. Jared Spearman, (P), vs. Eric Girls Doubles. 1. Kindle-Stucki, (P), vs. a strong team, and such a vocal crowd, you Richard, (C), 7-6, 6-2; 5. David Thacker, (C), end when the match was on the line — A.J. White, (P), vs. Landon Lewis, (C), no 4-6.

Girls Singles. 1. Brittany Kindle, (P), vs. Nepper-Reid, (C), 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

Pampa team will play the Randall team Stacie Carter, (P), Mallory Kline, (C), 4-6, 3-6; 5. Ashlei Jordan, (P), vs. Ashley Nepper, (C), 5-7, 6-3, 7-6; 6. Tara Jordan, (P), vs. Meaghan Collier, (C), no match.

Boys Doubles. 1. Cornelison-Jordan, (P), Boys Singles. 1. Michael Cornelison, vs. Kesler-Minnim, (C), 6-4, 6-2; 2. Smith-Spearman, (P), vs. Burge-Richard, (C), 6-2, 2. Bryce Jordan, (P), vs. Tyson Kesler, (C), 6- 6-3; 3. Gerber-Thacker, (P), vs. Adkins-

Yirak-Hicks. (C). 3-6, 6-7; 2, Lee-A, Jordan. have to be proud. I commend four players vs. Jeremy Reid, (C), 3-6, 4-6; 6. Jay Gerber, (P), vs. Kline-Porter, (C), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; 3. T. of the week who really stepped up in the (P), vs. Jack Thomas, (C), 6-4, 6-0; 7. Britton Jordan-Bradley, (P), vs. Collier-Wartes, 5-7,

Mixed Doubles. 1. Brooks-White, (P), vs.

Mike Young was Big Bass winner with 3 pounds, 2 ounces.

# Rangers 6, Twins 4, in 12 innings

and used his legs instead to help the Texas Rangers win a game.

Palmeiro, hoping to hit his 400th career homer in front of his family in Texas, scored the winning run as a pinch-runner in the 12th inning of the Rangers' 6-4 win over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday night.

Palmeiro, who hit his 399th homer Tuesday, was held out of the game initially so he could reach the milestone at home this weekend.

Yet, Palmeiro was sent in as a pinch-runner for what he believes was the first time in his career and ended up scoring the winning run.

Palmeiro was just happy he wasn't sent in as a pinch-hitter, though he and Rangers manager Johnny Oates discussed that possibility before the game.

"If he has a chance to win the game, all he has to do is hit a single to do that," Oates said. "I else during the game." asked him if he could do that, and he said yeah.

"Then he came back five min- up from the minors.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Rafael utes later and said if he were to come out swinging.

"If I hit one out, so be it," he front of everything." said. "Then they can wait for the next milestone.

Palmeiro was sent in as a pinch-runner when Luis Alicea son. had to leave the game because of tightness in his left calf muscle after being walked by Minnesota reliever Travis Miller (1-3). Palmeiro moved to second base when Frank Catalanotto was Sierra's single.

Sierra singled and scored on Scott Sheldon's homer in the and scored on Luis Rivas' sacri- season, but is likely to turn more ninth, tying it at 3. Both teams fice fly. scored a run in the 11th.

"None of the other stuff becomes a story," Oates said, "if Sheldon doesn't get those two save in 10 chances this season.

"I was glad I was able to put a good swing on it," Sheldon said, because I wasn't doing much

Sierra began the game 4-for-25 with one RBI since being called

Palmeiro said he would have Oates said. "It's not like he's fly by Chad Moeller. been overmatched and is out in

> winning pitcher despite blowing an RBI single in the sixth. his ninth save chance of the sea-

11th with a double off LaTroy allowed one run and five hits in Hawkins. After Sheldon sacrificed, Chad Curtis hit a go-ahead high eight strikeouts.

walked and scored on Ruben bottom half when Cristian ference from his other starts." Guzman hit his major leagueleading 20th triple of the season record by using 17 rookies this

> ninth came off Eddie Guardado. It was Guardado's first blown "We're going to put the best nine

> again, as I did in the first game of agers." ... Rivas, a rookie 2B, has the series," Twins manager Tom a hit in each of his five games Kelly said. "This time, it didn't since being called up from Sheldon wasn't a bad pitch, but for-22 (.364). ... Hunter, who had (Sheldon) hit it out of the park." The Twins took a 3-1 lead in last 11 games.

"Let's say this: He hasn't the sixth inning on an RBI single Palmeiro left his bat on the bench hit one out it would be my fault." embarrassed himself for us," by Torii Hunter and a sacrifice

> Minnesota went up 1-0 on an RBI single by Hunter in the John Wetteland (6-5) was the fourth off Doug Davis. Ledee hit

> Minnesota starter J.C. Romero, who had given up 22 earned Ricky Ledee led off the Texas runs in his previous 21 innings, seven innings. He had a career-

> J.C. went after guys tonight," The Twins made it 4-all in the Hunter said. "That was the dif-Notes: Kelly has matched a team

to his veterans for upcoming Sheldon's tying homer in the series against AL playoff contenders Chicago and Cleveland. guys we have out there," Kelly "I decided to go with Eddie said. "I owe that to their manwork out. The pitch he threw to Triple-A Salt Lake City. He is 8two singles, is 15-for-40 in his

## **Bassmasters** hold tourney at Foss Lake

Top of Texas Bassmasters in Pampa held a tournament August 26-27 at Foss Lake in Oklahoma.

Despite 105-degree temperatures both days eith members participated with only four fish caught. Mike and Anna Young took

first place with 3 pounds, 2 ounces with Mike taking the Big Bass award. Steve and Maxine Stauffacher came in second with 3 pounds, 1 ounce. Bill

Crook and Rodger Watson

placed third with a 2 pound, 2

ounce catch.

#### Samnorwood defeats Lefors in six-man game

SAMNORWOOD Samnorwood slipped by Lefors 44-43 in a six-man football game last Friday night.

Paul Wright had a hand in four touchdowns to help Samnorwood even its record at 1-

Lefors scored last, on a 28-yard run by Caleb Barnes, but the PAT failed, giving the Eagles the nondistrict win. Barnes was involved in six touchdowns for the Pirates.

Also scoring touchdowns for the Pirates were Andrew Johnson (78-yard interception return) and Eric Keiser (65-yard kickoff return). Joshua Jackson had a

conversion kick Samnorwood finished with 356 yards in total offense, compared to 295 for Lefors. The Pirates were hurt by three fumbles.

Lefors, 1-1 for the season, hosts Hedley at 7:30 Friday night.

# Cardinals 11, Astros 6

St. Louis Cardinals' surrogate Big Mac. Edmonds' bat carried the St. Louis offense

much of the year, and his grand slam kick- eight more than his previous best in 1995. started the 11-6 victory over the Houston His power has helped fill the void left by Astros that clinched the NL Central champi- Mark McGwire, who missed two months onship Wednesday night.

After Edmonds' third-inning slam, the Cardinals homered four more times — two each by Ray Lankford and Craig Paquette his return, was a bit player in the clincher. to win their first division title since 1996.

"I didn't think it'd be this long," said Lankford, one of only three players left from the last title. "But it's sweet. It's good ning and bending over. to be back and we're definitely going to make the most of it."

major leagues to clinch a postseason berth.

relentless," manager Tony La Russa shout- pagne, happy not to be the focal point for ed during a raucous post-game champagne- once.

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Call Jim Edmonds the spraying celebration in the clubhouse. "It was just a relentless night."

Edmonds has a career-high 41 homers, with a knee injury and has been reduced to pinch-hitting since being activated Sept. 8.

McGwire, 3-for-8 with two homers since He was hit by a pitch leading off the bottom of the eighth, then removed for a pinch runner because he's still having difficulty run-

It's extremely doubtful he'll be able to play first base when the playoffs begin in The Cardinals are the first team in the the first week of October. But after the clincher, McGwire roamed the clubhouse in "Edmonds got it started, and we were search of teammates to spray with cham-

"This is what baseball is all about," McGwire shouted. "This is what I've been trying to preach the last couple years. It's a team sport."

The three years after the 1996 title, the Cardinals were a combined 23 games below .500 with the Astros winning the Central each time. McGwire, who hit a record 70 homers in 1998 and 65 last year, was the only thing the fans cared about.

Not anymore. A sellout crowd was on its feet when Tim Bogar lined to second baseman Fernando Vina for the final out. As fireworks exploded overhead, the Cardinals rushed to celebrate on the mound.

The Astros, whose five-game winning streak ended, left quietly. "I just got off the field as quick as possi-

ble," Bogar said. "I didn't want to watch the celebration. This is the last thing I wanted, to watch them celebrate."

# n era ends in New York: Ewing dealt to Sonics

Patrick Ewing never brought a championship to Knicks' No. 1 pick in 2001 New York, and now he never will.

in NBA history, the Ewing era ended in New York when he was dealt Wednesday to the Seattle SuperSonics in a four-team, 12-player megatrade.

The Knicks got back four draft picks and six players — including Glen Rice from Los Angeles and Luc Longley from Phoenix — while the Lakers picked up power forward Horace Grant from Seattle.

"The one thing I know is that Patrick is happy," said one of his best friends, Alonzo Mourning of Miami. "Based on the way New York treated him the last couple of years, it was disheartening to him that what he gave to that organization wasn't appreciat-

The Knicks, Lakers and Sonics had been trying for five weeks to work out a complicated trade that would get Ewing out of New York, and the pieces finally came together when the Suns entered the pic-

Several other players were included in the trade to make it work under league salary cap guidelines. The Knicks got Vernon Maxwell, Vladimir Stepania and Lazaro Borrell from Seattle and Travis Knight

New York also got first-round draft picks in 2001 from the Lakers and Sonics, and two second-round picks in 2001 from Seattle.

Emanuel Davis from Seattle. Phoenix gets the Conference.

"It became clear that he was looking for a change In one of the largest and most complicated trades and when he requested a leade, we respected his request," Knicks general man ger Scott Layden said. "It was important in doing so, however, that we had the ability to add value, and we believe we have

Rice, a free agent, received a one-year offer from the Chicago Bulls this week. But he wavered on signing it as his agent, David Falk tried to broker another deal, and the Bulls finally pulled the offer off the table Wednesday afternoon

Rice ended up with the Knicks as part of a signand-trade transaction in which he got a multiyear contract from the Lakers before being shipped immediately to New York.

The trade brings a close to Ewing's career in New York, where he arrived as the No. 1 pick in the 1985 draft and was expected to be the type of franchise player who could bring the knicks their first championship since 1973.

Getting Patrick accomplishes a big offseason goal of ours," said Sonics general manager Wally Walker, adding that 48 trade scenarios were discussed between the Sonics, Knicks and Lakers. "Until we met with Walker in August when a different first noon, I had no confidence that the deal would get

Now, the Sonics have a contor who can help them

Ewing's only appearance in the NBA Finals came in 1994 when the Knicks lost to Houston in seven games. The Knicks made it back to the finals in 1999, but Ewing was injured and did not play.

In last season's playoffs, Ewing was a big reason why the Knicks got past Miami in the second round. But against Indiana in the conference finals, they were 2-0 when he sat out injured and 0-4 when he played.

"Patrick is one the hardest working, most loyal players I have ever been around," New York coach eff Van Gundy said. "I have told him more than once that he is a champion even if he hasn't won a championship. He practiced and played like a champion every day he was here. Seattle is fortunate to gets player of his talent and character."

Ewing has one year remaining on a four-year, \$60 million contract and has said he would like to play two more years beyond this upcoming season. The Knicks expressed no interest in giving Ewing an extension, and Ewing's desire to leave became even greater when the Knicks started exploring the possibility of trading him earlier this summer.

Ewing, who has a no-trade clause in his contract, got on the conference call with the league this after- four-team trade was discussed. That deal fell apart when the Detroit Pistons pulled out.

There were many times we thought the deal was completely dead, but it got resurrected and here we The Lakers get Greg Foster, Chuck Person and compete with the better thoms in the Western are," Walker said. "We feel great about it. The trade is not without rik given Patrick's age and injury his-

Scoreboard

tory. But he's still one of the top half-dozen centers in

the game."
The NBA champion Lakers, who were on the verge of losing Rice on the free-agent market and getting nothing in return, come out looking like the

Grant fills their void at power forward, while Rick Fox will presumably replace Rice in the starting line-

The Knicks received six players and four draft picks for a 38-year-old center with bad knees and a surgically repaired wrist. But they no longer have a top-caliber center.

"Hey, they have Luc Longley and Travis Knight," Miami's Tim Hardaway said.

New York also has a glut at small forward and shooting guard with Rice, Allan Houston, Latrell Sprewell, Erick Strickland and Maxwell.

The trade was only the second four-team deal in NBA history, and Walker said a five-team deal was discussed at one point. Philadelphia general manager Billy King said the 76ers were the fifth team.
"I don't think most people know how complex

four- and five-team deals are, and how many moving parts are involved," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said.

"A lot of things happened this summer you can't explain — deals falling apart, players we thought we had commitments from. This deal made sense. I really felt if it didn't happen, it would be a shame. I'm

667

# PHS airl runners

Classic" Cross-Country Meet in Dumas. Coach Elms called it a "fantastic race" for the girls team and the individual boy runner, Chad Platt. "Our girls' team is getting better every race with new

PHS girls team placed second with 42 points. First place went to Palo Duro, 33 points, and Borger was third with a total of 95 points. Elms said, "Chad Platt's time for the boys' three-mile run was his

with a time of 13:26. She called the race "challenging" but said, "It was fun having the new girls out."

Teammate Vanessa Orr also took another second place finish with a time of 13:34. Orr commented, "My goal was to close the gap between us and score."

14:07. "This has always been my favorite race," she said.

When asked about her thoughts after her first cross-country race, Mandy Rains said, "I was just trying to pass the people in front of

paid off." He summed up the PHS cross-country effort by saying, Leaders do more. That's why our team's at the front."

19th, 15:09; Misty Ivey, 38th, 17:22.

rno gin rumero	W
take second place	Li By Al
in 'Cowpattie Classic'	Oa
Cowpatties and cactus were plentiful during the "Cowpattie	_

runners participating and showing their courage.'

fastest time this year." Platt received a medal for finishing 18th. For the Lady Harvesters, Rebecca Fatheree again took first place

between Rebecca and me so that other teams' runners couldn't get Veteran runner T'Andra Holmes finished fifth with a time of

Platt had this to say about his accomplishments, "Practice has

Girls. Fatheree, first, 13:26; Orr, second, 13:34; Holmes, fifth, 14:07; Rains, 16th, 15:00; Randa Morris, 18th, 15:05; Kori Dunn, Boys. Platt, 18th, 18:52.

# Transactions ...

#### Américan League

BOSTON RED SOX—Acquired LHP lesus Pena from the Chicago White Sox for a player to be named. Placed LHP Pete Schourek on the 60-day disabled list.

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Purchased the contract of LHP Chris Haney from Buffalo of the International League. Designated LHP Eric ĎuBose for assignment. TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Activated RF Raul Mondesi from the 60-

day disabled list.

#### BASKETBALL

**National Basketball Association** 

NEW YORK KNICKS—Completed a four-team trade with Seattle, Phoenix and the Los Angeles Lakers. New York acquired F Glen Rice, C Luc Longley, C Travis Knight, G Vernon Maxwell, C Vladimir Stepania, F Lazaro Borrell, the Los Angeles Lakers' 2001 first-round draft pick and Seattle's 2001 first-round and two 2001 second-round picks. Seattle acquired C Patrick Ewing. Phoenix acquired C Chris Dudley and New York's 2001 first-round draft pick. The Los Angeles Lakers acquired F Horace Grant, C Greg Foster, F Chuck Person and G Emanuel Davis.

#### **FOOTBALL**

**National Football League** 

NFL—Suspended Indianapolis Colts DB Mustafah Muhammad without pay for two games for violating the NFL personal conduct

CAROLINA PANTHERS-Signed T Al Lucas to the practice squad. Waived WR Darrel Daniel from the practice squad. CLEVELAND BROWNS-Placed WR Jajuan Dawson on injured

reserve. Signed LB Doug Colman. DETROIT LIONS—Signed LB Joe O'Neill to the practice squad. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed LB Olrick Johnson. Added

TE Chris Fontenot to the practice squad. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed S Je'Rod Cherry to a one-year

contract. Released DE Tyrone Williams. SAN FRANCISCO 49ÉRS—Signed LB Edward Thomas to the prac-

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Waived K Brett Conway.

#### HOCKEY

National Hockey League

FLORIDA PANTHERS—Signed LW Peter Worrell to a three-year contract

MONTREAL CANADIENS-Announced the retirement of RW Trent McCleary. Signed D Craig Rivet to a two-year contract.

NASHVILLÉ PREDATORS—Reassigned four players RW Jonas Andersson, RW Marian Cisar, D Jayme Filipowicz and D Timo Helbling to Milwaukee of the IHL. Reassigned LW Martin Erat to Saskatoon of the WHL

NEW IERSEY DEVILS-Returned G Matus Kostur, D Phil Cole, C Warren McCutheon, LW Scott Cameron, LW Brett Clouthier, and D Dervk Engelland to their junior teams.

NEW YORK RANGERS—Reassigned D Filip Novak to Regina of

PHOENIX COYOTES—Assigned D Justin Hocking, LW Robert Francz and LW Phillippe Audet to Springfield of the AHL. Returned C Jason Jaspers to Sudbury of the OHL.

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#### At A Glance By The Associated Press **All Times Eastern** AMERICAN CONFERENCE East

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Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m. Green Bay at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. Kansas City at Denver, 4:15 Seattle at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.

Cleveland at Oakland, 4:15

N.Y. Jets at Tampa Bay, 4:15

Washington at N.Y. Giants, 8:20 Open: Buffalo, Minnesota,

Carolina Monday's Game Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 9

Sunday, Oct. 1 Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m. Dallas at Carolina, 1 p.m. Indianapolis at Buffalo, 1 p.m. Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.

New York Giants at Tennessee, Pittsburgh at Jacksonville, 1

p.m. San Diego at St. Louis, 1 p.m. Miami at Cincinnati, 4:05 p.m. New England at Denver, 4:05

Arizona at San Francisco, 4:15

Chicago at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m. Tampa Bay at Washington, 4:15 Atlanta at Philadelphia, 8:20

Open: New Orleans, N.Y. Jets, Oakland Monday, Oct. 2

Seattle at Kansas City, 9 p.m.

#### **AUTO RACING**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) Bobby Rahal is taking on yet another formidable task - running Jaguar Racing in Formula One. Rahal will remain CART's interim president and CEO and a team owner until Dec. 1, when he will officially became CEO of the F1 team owned by Ford Motor Company.

As a driver, Rahal made a brief foray into Formula One early in his career, but gained fame in American open-wheel racing, winning 24 races and three championships in 17 seasons in CART before retiring following the 1998 season. GOLF

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (AP) - Defending champion Carol Semple Thompson and two-time winner Marlene Streit won first-round matches in the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur.

Semple Thompson, 51, of Sewickley, Pa., beat Laurayne Conway of Land O'Lakes, Wis., 5 and 4; and Streit, 66, of Canada, defeated Mary Jane Barnes of Mission Hills, Kan., 8 and 7.

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## More data indicates problem with Firestone tires long before recall

Bridgestone/Firetsone tests. One showed a 13.5 percent failure rate on

229 of the kind of tires now under recall, Tauzin spokesman Ken Johnson

By NEDRA PICKLER **Associated Press Writer** 

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WASHINGTON (AP) - Bridgestone/Firestone Inc., "shaken to the core" by a recall of tires linked to 101 U.S. traffic deaths, told a congressional panel Thursday that Ford Motor Co.'s recommended tire pressure apparently contributed to accidents.

In prepared testimony, executive vice president John Lampe told a House subcommittee investigating the recall that his company recommended the tires be inflated to 30 pounds per square inch (PSI). But Ford, which uses the tires on its popular Explorer and some other light trucks, suggested they only be inflated to 26 pounds.

"Running an Explorer at low tire pressure, overloaded, particularly in hot climates appears to be a serious part of the problem we are now fac-

ing" Lampe said.
"We believe very strongly that 30 PSI provides the consumer with additional safety margin; at 30 PSI, the Explorer can handle higher speeds and over 400 pounds greater load than at 26 PSL."

Ford officials were scheduled to testify at the hearing. They previously have said the lower tire pressure was recommended for a smoother ride and did not compromise safety. Critics have said the move was to make the Explorer less susceptible to rollovers.

Bridgestone/Firestone last month recalled 6.5 million ATX, ATX II and Wilderness AT tires, most of which were original equipment on Ford Explorers. Thousands of people have reported tread separations, blowouts and other problems with the tires.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has lowered the number of deaths linked to the tires to 101 from 103 after discovering a clerical error. The agency says more than 400 people have suffered injuries in accidents involving the tires. Most of the accidents were rollovers of Explorers.

Lampe said Firestone still has not determined what caused some tires to fail, but has focused on possible manufacturing problems at its plant

'We must and do take full responsibility for these problems," he said. The fact that our customers are now questioning our commitment to them and to their safety has shaken us to the core.

At the opening of the hearing, Rep. Billy Tauzin, chairman of the House Commerce telecommunications subcommittee, said Bridgestone/Firestone's own testing indicated problems with the tires in 1996, yet the company did nothing.

Why did those tires in production continue to go into production? Why did consumers continue to ride on tires which Firestone in 1996 obviously acknowledged could contain defects that could result in the kind of catastrophic failures we have seen?" asked Tauzin, R-La. Investigators from Tauzin's panel have data from two 1996

Lampe said Bridgestone/Firestone send a letter to Ford on Wednesday urging the company to change its recommendation to 30

said Wednesday. Thirty-one tires failed when tested at 112 mph for 10 minutes, with 20 of the failures involving tread separation, he said.

In another test, eight of 18 tires pulled off the production line failed. speed tests. Seven were from the Decatur plant.

Bridgestone/Firestone spokesman Dan Adomitis said he was not familiar with the most data from the test involving 229 tires, but said failures are expected when tests are conducted.

'Failures is how you learn," he said. "Failures is where you gain data." Ford's testing of the tires is also under scrutiny. Ford officials acknowledged Wednesday that the company did not conduct a durability test of the Firestone tires on the Explorer before the world's best-selling sport

utility vehicle went into production.
On Tuesday, Tauzin said Ford never did high-speed testing of the tires mounted on the Explorer and inflated to the automaker's recommendation of 26 pounds per square inch. Ford initially denied the claim, but on Wednesday said the tests actually were done on a test vehicle rather than

"They led us to believe that somewhere along the line they tested these tires on the Explorer," said Johnson, Tauzin's spokesman. "It's apparent to us now that it never happened."

Earlier this month Tauzin asked Ford for documents proving the automaker had tested the Firestone tires on the Explorer. Ford responded it no longer had the results "due to the passage of time" and sent an affidavit from a former employee, James Avouris, who conducted the tests. Avouris referred to tests on "the vehicle," but never mentioned the Explorer.

The wording of the affidavit certainly was curious, but was it an attempt to mislead Congress?" Johnson said. "I suspect someone will ask Ford that question at our hearing."

For the tests, which were conducted in 1989 and 1994, the tires were driven at 90 mph for more than two hours. No problems were noted. Ford spokesman Jason Vines said even though a modified pickup truck was used, the test results were valid for the

"The tire believes the vehicle is an Explorer," Vines said. "It has all the parameters, all the loading. It mimics it perfectly."

Bridgestone/Firestone: http://www.bridgestone-firestone.com

Ford Motor Co.: http://www.ford.com National

Highway Traffic

Administration: http://www.nhtsa.gov

## West Texas A&M to host math, science conference

Eastern New Mexico will explore numerous new ways to share their disciplines in demonstrative ways at the Seventh Annual Panhandle Area Mathematics and Science Conference slated from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30 at West Texas A&M University.

In all, 92 different presentations — from Electric Motors for Students" to "Geometry House Project" - are scheduled in three campus buildings. More than 600 math and science teachers, as well as other participants from throughout the area, attended last year's conference, Chris Purkiss, WTAMU instructor of education and conference coordinator, said.

activities and ideas that they can take back Full-time students may attend free of

across the panhandle, South Plains and and challenge their students," Purkiss said.

Participants, including full-time WTAMU students, will be able to attend four onehour sessions during the day, and each session will have numerous presentations from which to choose, such as "Lights, Camera, Sketchpad!" and "This is a test. It is only a test. And it might tickle you!" presented by David Peebles of Lubbock Christian University.

Sessions will be conducted in the Jack B. Kelly Student Center (JBKSC), the Agriculture and Natural Sciences Building and in the Hastings Electronic Learning Center, which is on the first level of Cornette

Library. Registration, which includes lunch and "The idea behind this conference is to conference materials, is \$25 for educators expose educators to all sorts of hands-on and \$10 for full-time university students.

CANYON - Hundreds of teachers from to their own classrooms and use to excite charge, but will receive neither lunch nor materials.

Check-in begins at 8 a.m. The first session of the conference begins at 9 a.m. Subsequent sessions begin at 10:10 a.m., 11:20 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Additionally, approximately 35 educational supply companies will set up exhibits in the JBKSC Commons, featuring the latest in hands-on teaching equipment, Purkiss said.

The conference is sponsored by WTAMU, the regional division of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Panhandle Area and Texas South Plains Councils of Teachers of Mathematics, the Region XVI and XVII Education Service Centers and the Science Teachers Association of Texas.

For more information, contact Purkiss at 651-2618 or cpurkiss@mail.wtamu.edu.

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## **OGDEN AND SON**

# NHSA: Get grounded in safety when filling portable fuel containers

If you need to use a portable fuel container, do you know how to do it safely? It's a task that must always be done with safety in mind, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the American Petroleum Institute and other safety and fuel experts.

"Gasoline fumes are volatile. Static electricity can create a spark that could cause of fire if it's near gasoline fumes," said Commissioner Harold Hairston of the Philadelphia Fire Department, who is part chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association.

"It's vital to fill fuel containers safely to protect yourself, your family and your property," said Hairston. "Even many safety conscious people may not be aware of the proper way to fill a portable fuel container."

"Grounding is essential to avoid any build-up of static electricity that could pose a risk,' said Hairston. "Make sure the fuel container is grounded and stays grounded.

Basic safety steps for filling a portable fuel container, according to the NHTSA, include:

-Place the fuel container (use only an approved container) on the ground, outside the vehicle, to help ground the container.

—Keep the pump nozzle in contact with the container when filling, until filling is complete. That helps maintain grounding. Slightly tilt the nozzle so it touches the rim of the container,

rather that placing it dead center. —Don't use an automatic pump handle device—fill the container manually and slowly. That help's decrease the chance of static electricity build-up as well as spilling or splattering.

—And just as when pumping gasoline into a vehicle, don't

## JON RANDLES OCTOBER 1-4

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH** 

smoke when filling a portable fuel container.

How does grounding work to avoid static electricity? How can static electricity occur when using a potable fuel container?

Grounding, simply put, provides a path for an electric current to discharge safely - the electricity is dissipated in the ground, when a portable fuel container is grounded.

Static electricity is caused from the friction of two dissimilar substances with opposite charges. Think of how static sometimes builds up when walking across a carpet. Static electricity can occur when a container is on a non conductive surface, such as carpeting or plastic.

"Every time you pump gasoline, a charge of electricity builds up on gasoline as it flows through a pipe or hose and this charge takes several seconds to several minutes to dissipate after the gasoline has reached the tank or container," explains Bob Renkes, executive director of the Petroleum Equipment Institute. "That risk is avoided when you pump gasoline into your car, because both he gasoline dispenser and the vehicle are grounded.

"But a portable fuel container may not be grounded. For safety, you need to place the container on the ground and fill it on the ground," he said. "Placing the container on the ground makes it easier for the electrical charge to escape."

Additionally, static electricity could build up when gasoline is flowing into the container. That's why there's another step to grounding - keeping the pump nozzle in contact with the fuel container.

That contact sets up a connection between the pump, which is grounded, and the container, to help make sure the container stays grounded.

To help avoid risks, follow safety procedures every time you use a portable fuel container. Don't take any chances," emphasized Hairston.

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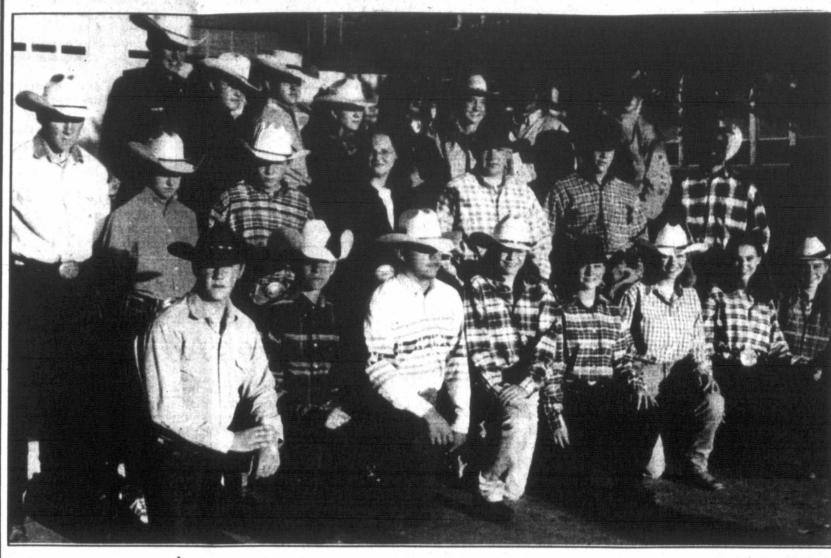
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AMERICAN BATTLE

#### PHS Rodeo Club rodeo



Pampa High School Rodeo Club will hold its annual Tri-State Rodeo beginning at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Top O' Texas Rodeo Arena. Cost of admission will be \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. (Above) PHS Rodeo Club members for 2000-01 are: (Back row, left-right) Sean O'Neal, Cody Douglas, Jeremy Fondren, Ashley Lee, Nicole Bruton, Aimee Stephenson, Casey Colman, Jason Powell, Jeremy Harper; (center, I-r) Michael Shelton, Cody Atwood, Jacob Trevathan, Lacy Schroeder, Kody Weller, Adam Parks, Levi Trevathan; (front row, I-r) Michael Shaw, Cody Lee, James Shawn, Curry Porter, Lacey Blythe, Codi Wisdom, Jamie Schroeder and Lindsey Price. Not pictured: Reese Douglas, Clay Saiver, Dale Askue and Justin Kauka. Sponsors are Johnny Harper, Debbie Darby and Robert Douglas.

evidence: Problems with detected years ago WASHINGTON (A with tires

from Officials Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. and Ford Motor Co. faced questions from lawmakers over new evidence that problems were detected four years ago with tires now linked to 103 U.S. traffic deaths. Congressional investigators say they have uncov-

ered results from tests conducted by Bridgestone/Firestone in 1996 that indicated there were problems with the tires at a plant in Decatur, Ill., long before last month's massive tire recall. Bridgestone/Firestone officials announced at a hearing last week they had narrowed the source of a problem down to some unspecified manufacturing process at the Decatur plant. But a spokesman for the lead House investigator, Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., said Wednesday there is data suggesting the company should have known four years ago.

Prosecutor: Insufficient evidence against the Clintons in Whitewater

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -Wrapping up the most expensive independent counsel inquiry in history, Independent Counsel Robert Ray, who succeeded Kenneth Starr, issued a statement Wednesday saying there was "insufficient" or 'inconclusive" evidence to warrant charges against President Clinton and wife Hillary Rodham Clinton in the six-year, \$52 million Whitewater probe. Susan McDougal, a former Clinton business partner who spent 18 months in jail for refusing to cooperate with Starr, lashed out at the investigation and criticized Ray for what she said was a lukewarm absolution of the Clintons. McDougal and her ex-husband, the now-deceased Jim McDougal, were the Clintons' partners in the failed 1978 Whitewater land deal. The McDougals and then-Gov. Jim Guy Tucker were convicted of bank fraud May 28, 1996, in the first Whitewater

**Bush outspends Gore**WASHINGTON (AP) — As he has done throughout the election season, George W. Bush spent almost twice as much as Al Gore last month. The difference this time is that both Bush and Gore have the same amount of money to spend for the fall campaign. Bush spent \$21.5 mil-lion, Federal Election Commission records show, while Gore spent \$11.3 million. Both candidates spent more than half of their funds on television commercials — Bush \$12.1 million to Gore's \$9 million. The

PAMPA'S CINEMA THE CELL Annual Rev t. & Sun. 3:30 - 7:30 - \*10:30 \*Fri. & Suc. Only Honday thru Thursday 7:45 pm Only GLADIATOR ALL P & Sun. 360 - 760 - \*10:00 \*Frt. & Set. Only Honday thru Thursday 7:15 pm. Only SCARY MOVIE AND P THAT LIES BENEATH And POLI Bring It On & Urban Log

two major party presidential candidates each received \$67.6 million in taxpayer funds to take

Rift Valley Fever kills 78 people in Yemen SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — Yemen from the nominating conventions to Election Day and cannot raise any private funds except

expenses.

Judge absolves government of wrongdoing in Branch Davidian case

for certain legal and accounting

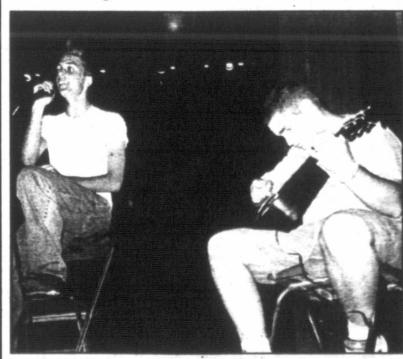
gents acted within the limits of the law and cannot be held from livestock to humans by responsible for the deaths of 80 Branch Davidians during a 1993 nausea, and internal bleeding standoff in Waco, a judge has that can result in death. ruled. The decision from U.S. District Judge Walter Smith late Wednesday clears the government in a \$675 million wrongful-death lawsuit filed by surrelatives of those killed. Smith's ruling mirrors the conclusions an advisory jury and Special Counsel John Danforth reached in July. Both have said Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents and others were not responsible for the deaths on the sect leader David Koresh. A

appealed for outside help Wednesday to fight an outbreak of the Rift Valley Fever, a mosquito-borne virus that has killed 78 people so far this week. A Yemeni official said 50 people died in Wadi Mour, a valley in northern Yemen that runs to the Saudi border, while 28 others DALLAS (AP) - Federal died in the northern province of Hajjah. The virus is transmitted mosquitoes and causes diarrhea,

Postal Service to issue

Snoopy stamps BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) A postage stamp featuring viving Branch Davidians and Snoopy is to be unveiled Sept. 30 relatives of those killed. Smith's at the Mall of America here as part of the weekend observance of the 50th anniversary of Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" cartoon strip. The stamp will fea-ture the famous beagle as the World War I Flying Ace atop his doghouse, according to Jim Ahlgren of the Postal Service's final day of a 51-day standoff. Ahlgren of the Postal Service's The siege began Feb. 28, 1993, Worthland District, which when ATF agents tried to arrest includes Minnesota. The stamp itself will not be issued until gunfight erupted, leaving four next spring and likely will be ATF agents and six Davidians among the first 34-cent issues for first-class postage.

## Variety Show, Art Exhibit



Performing recently during try-outs for the Pampa High School Variety Show were Cory Bromwell, guitar, and Richard Conner, vocals. The show, sponsored by the theater department, is slated at 7 p.m. Sept. 22 in the high school auditorium. The event will be held in conjunction with the PHS Art Department's art exhibition featuring Artist-in-Residence Charles Bell. The exhibit, which includes the work of Pampa High School art students, will open with a come-andgo reception from 5:30-7 p.m. on the 22nd in the cafeteria of PHS. The Variety Show is under the direction of Dean Birkes, Theater Arts and Drama teacher at PHS.