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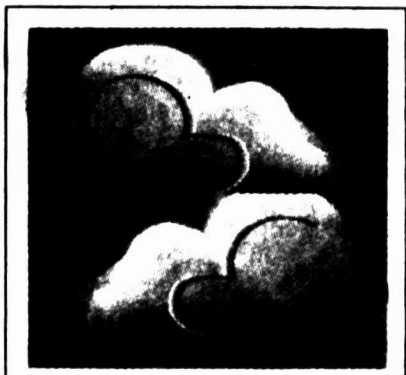
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Pampa

Vol. 96 No. 302 • Pampa, Texas
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Pampa Cyber Net
 Internet Power for the New Miller
 Dialup or dedicated T-1 and DSL



High today 40
 Low tonight low 30s
 For weather details see Page 2

PAMPA — Calling all parents of seniors at Pampa High School! PHS is looking for a few good volunteers. At 7 tonight a meeting will be held in the high school library for parents of PHS seniors interested in volunteering with the 2001 senior prom. Parents unable to attend the meeting who wish to volunteer should contact Vicki Nachtigall at 669-2337 or at 669-1453.

To place a classified ad or City Brief call 669-2525.

- Ivan L. Block, 83, farmer and rancher.
- Jessie Mae Cruse, 92, homemaker.
- Loicie Etheredge, 89, former Hemphill County Hospital board member.
- Robert Neal 'Bonehead' Hilton, 40, pipeline operator.
- John Jones McMordie, 72, cattle buyer, rancher.
- Baron H. Smith, 86, retired sales employee of Lederle Laboratories.
- Clethel Marie Crawford Steen, 68, homemaker.

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Edward Jones
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ROGER DAVID
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 1540 N. Hobart

BEN WATSON
 Investment Representative
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PAMPA'S CINEMA 4
 MOVIE HOTLINE
665-7141

Welding firm burglary nets weapons, tools

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Staff Writer

Pampa Police Department detectives are searching today for an estimated \$10,000 in equipment and tools, as well as a number of rifles and guns, taken in the burglary of a welding company.

A man presenting a forged check to a local bank Monday morning tipped law enforcement officials and the business's owners to the burglary of Geo. H. Neet Welding Works, 1320 W. Alcock, Det. David Lee said this morning.

The burglary apparently occurred sometime between 1 p.m., Sunday, and 11:30 a.m., Monday, according to police reports.

Events unfolded shortly before 11:30 a.m., Monday, officials said, when a man entered National Bank of Commerce, 1224 N. Hobart, and presented a \$950 check from Geo. H. Neet Welding Works which was written to be paid to "Michael Palmer."

The bank teller noted that the signature on the check was wrong, Lee said. She also knew that Mr. Neet had been hospitalized recently.

(See BURGLARY, Page 3)

City, county jobless numbers fall slightly

Both Pampa and Gray County's jobless rates dropped in February compared to numbers the previous month, according to figures released by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Pampa had a 3.6 percent unemployment rate (265 people) while Gray County had 3.7 percent (327 people) out of work. These statistics compare to January's jobless rate of 3.9 percent and 4 percent respectively.

The numbers closely matched the state's overall rate which showed 3.8 percent of those seeking jobs out of work last month as compared to 4 percent in January.

Borger had 4.5 percent unemployment in February, as compared to 5.3 percent in January, according to TWC figures.

Statewide, the jobless rate has remained under 4 percent for three consecutive months for the first time since 1974.

The unemployment rate in

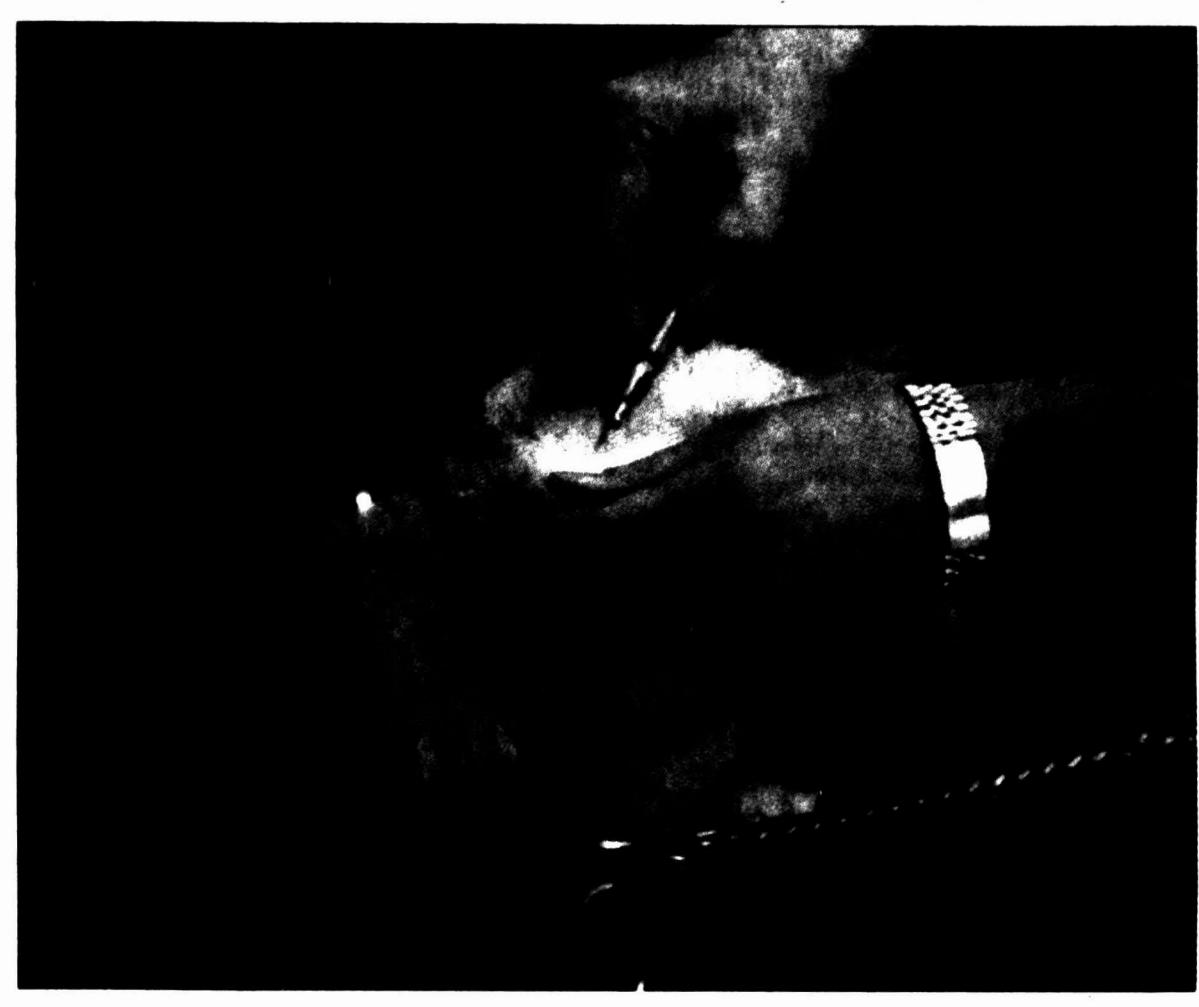
Texas has dropped eight-tenths of a percentage point in the last year and has been lower than the national rate for three months in a row, said TWC Chair Diane Rath.

Nonagricultural employment grew by 33,200 jobs during the month. The construction industry added 5,200 jobs in February.

The lowest unemployment rate among the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) last month was 1.4 percent in Bryan College Station. Austin San Marcos was next at 2.2 percent, followed by 2.3 percent in Lubbock, 2.5 percent in San Angelo and 2.7 percent in Amarillo.

The highest unemployment rate was 12.7 percent in McAllen-Edinburg Mission, followed by 7.7 percent in Brownsville-Harlingen, 7.4 percent in El Paso, 6.8 percent in Laredo and 6.6 percent in Beaumont-Port Arthur.

Timely task



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Tiffany, a 19-year-old Siamese cat, gets her annual rabies shot and vaccination series from Dr. Brian Gordzelik at Gray County Veterinary Clinic.

In wake of rabid skunk vets urge vaccinations

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

Local veterinarians are unanimous in recommending all pets be vaccinated in Pampa in the wake of a confirmed rabies case in Pampa last week. The vaccine is only \$12, and it could save a life.

"Rabies is a disease that you don't tattle with. It is fatal," said Dr. Ron Lasley, a local veterinarian. "If a dog gets it, it will die."

A peculiar acting skunk was sighted by a well service employee on P. Ace Road last week. The man shot the skunk, then notified the Pampa Animal Control office.

Sandy Birris, Animal Control Director, said the animal was sent to the Texas Department of

Health laboratory as part of standard procedure. It was confirmed Friday the animal had rabies.

"Rabies is always in wildlife. It is a scary thing," said Lasley. "A rabid skunk getting into someone's backyard with a dog or cat can bite that family pet transmitting the disease. The animal will become sick and then you have a dead dog. It is very sad."

"If a child makes contact with a rabid animal, it is even worse," said Lasley. "If a child is bitten, the results are devastating," he said. "They have to undergo painful injections."

"Rabies does not kill skunks and raccoons," said Lasley. "That is why we have so many more rabid skunks reports than other animals."

(See RABIES, Page 3)

Troopers arrest women; seize 107 pounds of 'pot'

McLEAN — An early morning traffic stop on Interstate 40 by a Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) trooper Sunday netted more than 100 pounds of marijuana and the arrests of two El Paso women.

Trooper Jason Henderson of McLean pulled a 2001 Buick Century over early

Sunday after he spotted the passenger not wearing a seat belt, said Sgt. Donald Cameron, local DPS supervisor. The Century was eastbound on Interstate 40 approximately seven miles west of McLean, when Trooper Henderson stopped the car, he said.

"After getting conflicting statements

from the occupants, Trooper Henderson obtained a voluntary consent to search," Sgt. Cameron said.

A search of the Buick revealed duffel bags in the back seat and trunk filled with 107 pounds of marijuana packaged in bricks, according to DPS reports.

Two subjects were arrested and placed

in Gray County Jail," Cameron said.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Jessica M. Laver, 23, and the passenger as Melissa A. Dendy, 19, both of El Paso. Laver and Dendy were each arrested for possession of marijuana over 30 pounds and under 2,000 pounds, a third degree felony.

Quite frankly... What's your opinion about Bobby Knight going to Texas Tech?



"I think it's one of the more defining moments in Texas Tech history."
 — Rick Roach



"I don't think Tech will be happy with his personality. Maybe they will be with his record."
 — Gaye Hendricks



"Maybe he's reformed."
 — Chris Lockridge



"Maybe Tech wants to intimidate their opponents whether it's by his winning record or his hot temper — or both."
 — Susie Nanez



"I have a bad feeling about him after I watched him throw a chair at an official and a player on an opposing team."
 — Benny Horton



72nd Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet And Citizen Of The Year Award April 10th 7:00 PM In The MK Brown Auditorium - Tickets \$20 Per Person - Guest Speaker: Marsha Sharp, Lady Raiders Head Coach

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

HAZLE, John P. — 2 p.m., Calvary Baptist Church, Pampa.
HILTON, Robert Neal "Bonehead" — Vigil services, 7 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
SMITH, Baron H. — 2 p.m., Louise Pritchard Chapel, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Obituaries

IVAN L. BLOCK
HEREFORD — Ivan L. Block, 83, died Monday, March 26, 2001, at Hereford Regional Medical Center. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Hereford Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Ted Taylor officiating. Interment will be in Rest Lawn Memorial Park in Hereford under the direction of Parkside Chapel Funeral Home of Hereford.

Mr. Block was born Dec. 26, 1917, to Benjamin and Ida Block and married Frances Finch on March 19, 1940, at Sayre, Okla.
 A Hereford resident since 1948, He held a business degree from Texas Tech University and was a farmer and rancher. He was also past president of Hereford School Board, past director of Hereford Country Club, past director of Hereford Grain Coop, charter member of Easter Lions Club and member of Hereford Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include his wife, Frances, of the home; a daughter, Rojean Block of Hereford; two sons, Lewis Block, Jr., of Hereford and David Block of Dumas; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The family will receive visitors from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home in Hereford and requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

JESSIE MAE CRUSE
CLAUDE — Jessie Mae Cruse, 92, died Sunday, March 25, 2001. Services were to be at 2 p.m. today in Robertson Funeral Directors Chapel of Memories at Clarendon with Billy Jones, Church of Christ minister from Jericho, officiating. Burial will be in Groom Cemetery at Groom.

Mrs. Cruse was born Nov. 26, 1908, at Lelia Lake in Donley County. She married Clyde Henry Cruse on Jan. 21, 1928; he died Oct. 28, 1990. The couple raised greenhouse tomatoes in Claude for several years where she had resided since 1964, moving from Amarillo.
 She was a homemaker and a Baptist.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, Randy Ritter, in 1977.

Survivors include a daughter, Jaundell Ritter-Bivens of Groom; a son, Bennie Cruse of Amarillo; two sisters, Melba Leathers of Clarendon and Dean Angel of Amarillo; five grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

LOICIE ETHEREDGE
CANADIAN — Loicie "LF" Etheredge, 89, died Monday, March 26, 2001. Services were to be at 2 p.m. today in the Church of Christ with Dean English, minister, officiating. Burial will be in Edith Ford Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Stickle-Hill Funeral Directors.

Mr. Etheredge, a member and elder of the Church of Christ, served on the boards of Production Credit Association, Hemphill County Hospital and FHA. He was director for Mesquite Minerals as well.

Survivors include two daughters, Jane Rives and Becky Dockray, both of Canadian; two brothers, J.L. Etheredge of Pampa and O.D. Etheredge of Dumas; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to High Plains Children's Home, 11461 Western St., Amarillo, TX 79118; or Abraham Memorial Home, 803 Birch, Canadian, TX 79014.

ROBERT NEAL "BONEHEAD" HILTON
ROBERT NEAL "BONEHEAD" HILTON
 Robert Neal "Bonehead" Hilton, 40, of Pampa, died Saturday, March 24, 2001, at Cushing, Okla. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel. Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with the Rev. Francisco Perez, associate pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Hilton was born Aug. 26, 1960, at Tulsa, Okla. He graduated from Weatherford High School and moved from Weatherford to Pampa in 1979.

He was a Catholic and, for the past 23 years, a pipeline operator.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Ashley Hilton, in 1991.

Survivors include three daughters, Desarae Hilton, Amanda Hilton and Destiny Hilton, all of Pampa; a sister, Debbie Hilton McCormack of Tulsa, Okla.; and two brothers, Raymond Hilton of Tulsa and Michael Hilton of Branson, Mo.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

JOHN JONES MCMORDIE
AMARILLO — John Jones McMordie, 72, died Saturday, March 24, 2001. Memorial services were to be at 10 a.m. today in Brentwood Chapel at Schooler Funeral Home with Bill Shultz officiating.

Mr. McMordie, a lifelong Canadian resident, attended New Mexico Military Institute and Texas A&M University. He was a longtime cattle buyer and rancher, holding membership in Texas Cattle Feeders and National Cattlemen's Associations.

He was a member of Canadian Presbyterian Church and was also a pilot, golfer and roper.
 He was preceded in death by a brother, Frank F. McMordie, in 1996.

Survivors include two daughters, Anna McMordie Henry and Joni Middleton, both of Dallas; a brother, Hobart B. McMordie of Amarillo; and two grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite children's charity or to Canadian Public Library.

BARON H. SMITH
OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Baron H. Smith, 86, died Friday, March 23, 2001. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Louise Pritchard Chapel of First Baptist Church. Arrangements are under the direction of Guardian Funeral Home in Oklahoma City.

Mr. Smith was born Dec. 28, 1914, at Richland Springs, Texas, one of four children born to Nelson Hutchinson Smith and Ora Lee Sivells. He was united in marriage with Hazel Smith on March 22, 1940.

Mr. Smith graduated from Howard Payne College in Brownwood in 1936 and taught high school chemistry and coached football, basketball and track at Colorado City, Texas, from 1936 until the outbreak of World War II. He proudly served in the United States Army Air Corps from Feb. 14, 1942, until April 6, 1946. Following completion of his military service, he began a career in pharmaceutical sales with Lederle Laboratories which lasted over 30 years.

He was an active member of First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City for almost 50 years. During that time, he was a deacon, taught Signet Sunday School Class for 45 years, was a member of Sanctuary Choir and, in his last active years, ran the adult recreation program. He was a 50-year member of Masonic Lodge and during his time in Oklahoma City belonged to Siloam Lodge.

Mr. Smith was an Eagle Scout and remained active in Scouting as Scout Master of Troop 66 at First Baptist Church until the mid-1960s. In addition, he was active in the Recreation Department of First Baptist Church as a youth football and basketball coach. He officiated high school and college level football and basketball. He was an avid tennis player, playing almost daily until well into his 80s.

His parents, his wife, his sister, five half-brothers and two half-sisters preceded him in death.

Survivors include two sons, Dr. Nelson A. Smith of Oklahoma City and Baron H. (Barry) Smith, Jr. of Lewisville; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Gerald N. and Faye Smith of Corpus Christi and his twin the Rev. M.B. and Laura Smith of Pampa; four grandchildren, Phillip A. Smith of Seattle, Wash., Christopher H. Smith and wife Valerie of Boulder, Colo., Baron H. (Bo) Smith, III of Lewisville and Rachel L. Smith of Irving; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive visitors from 5-8 p.m. today at the funeral home and requests memorials be to Good Shepherd Ministry at First Baptist Church.

The family would like to thank Dr. John DeVore and Shelly Cruse as well as the staff at Bellevue Nursing Center and Odyssey Hospice for their kind and caring attention during his last years.

CLETHEL MARIE CRAWFORD STEEN
WHEELER — Clethel Marie Crawford Steen, 68, died Monday, March 26, 2001. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Gary May, son-in-law of Mrs. Steen and pastor of First Baptist Church in Diana, Texas, officiating along with the Rev. Toby Henson, pastor of the church. Burial will be in Wheeler Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mrs. Steen was born Aug. 22, 1932, at Sawyer, Kan., to Pat and Rosie Crawford. She married Wesley Steen on March 27, 1948, at Canadian. The couple moved to Wheeler in 1949.

She was a homemaker and a member of Landmark Missionary Baptist Church in Wheeler.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters; a brother; and two infant sons.

Survivors include her husband, Wesley, of Wheeler; three daughters, Joline Jones of Canadian, Cathy Dunn of Amarillo and Carolyn May of Diana; a son, Wesley Steen of Canadian; three sisters, Helen Furgason of Skellytown, Jane Mynear of Pampa and Pearl Morgan of Franklin, La.; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

Police report

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

Monday, March 26
 Theft over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the 400 block of North Gray. A bicycle valued at \$100 was taken between 5 p.m., March 25, and 7 p.m., March 26.

An assault in progress was reported in the 1100 block of Neel Road. The suspect had fled by the time police arrived. The victim, a 22-year-old man, reported no injuries.

Criminal mischief was reported at Pampa High School, 100 E. Harvester. A 2001 Ford Ranger sustained \$500 damage.

Burglary of a building was reported at Geo. H. Neef Welding Works, 1320 W. Alcock. The break-in occurred between 1 p.m., March 25, and 11:30 a.m., March 26. (See related story)

Forgery was reported at National Bank of Commerce, 1224 N. Hobart.

Forgery was reported in the 1500 block of North Faulkner.

James Lee Prine, 29, 1124 N. Starkweather, was arrested for forgery.

Tuesday, March 27
 Threats were reported in the 300 block of North Wells.

James Dale Sells, 30, 312 1/2 N. Wells, was arrested for making abusive calls to 9-1-1.

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Texas round up

Committee considers bills to prohibit human cloning

AUSTIN (AP) — Human cloning might be scientifically possible, but two senators are pushing legislation to make it financially impossible for many folks lured by the prospect.

Sens. Jane Nelson and Royce West are working on combining their bills into one piece of legislation that prohibits the cloning of humans in Texas. Anyone caught cloning or attempting to clone a human would face a civil penalty of up to \$10 million per violation. The Senate Jurisprudence Committee left the legislation pending Monday.

"I believe that our lives are gifts from God," Nelson, R-Flower Mound, told the committee. Nelson said it takes about 100 cloning attempts to create a single live calf. Even then, she added, many have "developmental delays, heart defects, malfunctioning immune systems, enormous weight gains."

It is illegal to use federal funds to clone humans, and a voluntary moratorium on human cloning is being observed by researchers, but Texas has no statutes outlawing it.

Slain atheist's remains buried

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — True to Madalyn Murray O'Hair's wishes, no one prayed as the slain atheist leader's remains were buried at a secret Central Texas site.

O'Hair's remains were interred along with those of a son and her granddaughter, closing a six-year saga involving the trio's abduction, robbery and brutal killing.

The burials Friday at an Austin area site were arranged by William Murray, O'Hair's estranged son, who said he honored his mother's instructions about disposition of her remains.

The burials averted a confrontation with American Atheists, the organization O'Hair founded three decades ago. The group's leaders had denounced Murray, a fundamentalist minister, as an inappropriate person to bury America's most famous atheist. But Murray said it was time for his family to have peace.

Report: January helicopter crash wasn't reported by Army

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A January military helicopter crash at Fort Bliss wasn't reported to the public because neither crew member was seriously injured and less than \$1 million in damage was sustained, according to a published report.

The El Paso Times cited military records of the crash by the Army's \$7.4 million OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter during a heavy gunnery exercise on Jan. 20.

Because the helicopter's two crew members weren't injured and there was no damage to facilities, the unit decided not to release the information, Joint Task Force Six spokesman Armando Carrasco told the newspaper in Tuesday's editions.

The newspaper learned about the crash through an anonymous tip and was referred to Carrasco by Fort Bliss officials.

The Army has no policy requiring it to inform the public or news media about accidents, said Elaine Kanellis, a Department of the Army spokeswoman in Washington, D.C.

Fires

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

Monday, March 26
 9:20 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1500 block of West Kentucky.

Tuesday, March 27
 12:45 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to the 500 block of North Wells. Fans were used to remove residue from a fire extinguisher being set off.

Ambulance

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

Monday, March 26
 8:49 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of East Craven and transported one to PRMC.

9:10 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to PRMC.

11:01 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Golden Plains Hospital and transported one to Northwest Texas Hospital.

4:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit and transported one to PRMC.

5:16 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Grape; no transport.

Tuesday, March 27
 A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one patient to PRMC.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, cloudy with occasional light freezing rain or sleet. Highs around 40. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph. The chance of precipitation is 70 percent. Tonight, cloudy with light freezing rain, sleet or light snow likely. Lows in the lower 30s. The chance of precipitation is 70 percent. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph., becoming light and variable. Wednesday, continued cloudy with light freezing rain, sleet or light snow likely. Highs in the upper 30s. The chance of precipitation is 60 percent. Light winds becoming southeast 5 to 15 mph.

Gary Graham's son receiving fair trial, justice critic admits

HOUSTON (AP) — Jurors began deliberating Monday in the capital murder trial of convicted killer Gary Graham's son, charged in a shooting death during which he allegedly killed a friend for rent money.

Gary Lee Hawkins, 22, is accused of killing Melvin Ray Pope last year and taking Pope's rent money.

After deliberating almost seven hours Monday, jurors were sequestered for the night.

The panel of two black men, four black women, four white women, one white man and one Hispanic man were scheduled to continue deliberating Tuesday.

If he's convicted of capital murder, Hawkins faces life in prison.

The state is not seeking the death penalty for Hawkins, whose father was put to death for robbing and killing a man in 1981.

Graham's claims of innocence and contentions that evidence could clear him drew national support from Hollywood celebrities, death-penalty opponents and black activists.

Hawkins was arrested in April, more than two months before Graham was executed June 22.

McVeigh gives little glimpse of his psyche in prison letters

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Timothy McVeigh complains about life in his cell, jokes about his favorite TV shows and laments the children burned to death in the cult disaster at Waco.

In two years of correspondence with a reporter, though, he never mentions the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people, including 19 children.

Phil Bacharach, former reporter for the weekly Oklahoma Gazette in Oklahoma City, says people looking for an answer to the April 19, 1995, tragedy won't find one by reading the letters published in the May issue of Esquire magazine.

"It is beyond me to reconcile the Timothy McVeigh who murdered 168 people with the writer of these letters," Bacharach writes. "True, this correspondence offers only a small window through which to look. I do know one thing: In the written word, at least, he has not a whisper of conscience."

Sheriff's Office

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

Monday, March 26
 Judy Robertson, 58, 1035 Duncan, was arrested for theft by check. She was released after the charge was dismissed.
 Arthur Botello, 24, Amarillo, was arrested on a violation of probation for theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.		Columbia/HCA	
Wheat	2.66	Enron	37.53
Milo	3.12	Halliburton	38.22
Com.	3.48	KMI	51.85
Soybeans	3.57	Ker McGee	65.20
		Limited	15.25
		McDonald's	25.33
		Exxon Mobil	80.00
		New Atmos	22.12
		XCEL	28.50
		Pioneer Nat.	16.39
		SLB	62.76
		OKE	39.94
		Penney's	15.74
		Phillips	54.51
		Fidelity Magela	103.55
		Puritan	17.85
		Tenneco	2.80
		Texas	65.51
		Ultras	34.72
		Wall-Mart	49.95
		Williams	41.93
		New York Gold	262.35
		Silver	4.35
		West Texas Crude	27.01

City Briefs

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

YARD NEED mowed, scalped or trimmed? 6 yrs exp. plus several ref. Call Jay Gerber, 669-3523 for free estimates, or lv. mess.

WE NOW deliver lunch M-F 11-1 p.m. \$10 min order, \$2.50 delivery charge 665-2825/last week for bar-b-que plate special only \$4.59, Clint & Sons Smokehouse, 1421 N. Hobart.

UPPER DECK Pack Wars, also Magic, Pokemon & D-Ball 2 Trade Night. Thurs., Mar. 29th, 7 p.m. at The Coffee Shop. Many special prices and Free prizes. Holmes Sports Center, 665-2631.

FIRESIDE COMFORT - We've gone to market! Closed March 27th & will reopen April 3rd. See you then.

CHANEY'S CAFE, 716 W. Foster, Tues. 5-8 p.m., ch. giz-zards, baked chicken, ch. fr. steak, bbq beef

LIGHTED EASTER displays by Holiday Greeters, 665-2454 or 665-8525.

YARD SERVICE. Call for quote, 665-0491 lv. message.

STATEWIDE — Increasing rainfall was expected Tuesday across much of Texas as an upper-level storm system moved through the state.
 Fog shrouded parts of the Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, eastern Big Bend and the western portions of South Texas.
 Scattered areas of light rain and drizzle were expected to increase statewide through Wednesday, the National Weather Service said.
 Winds were mostly easterly to northeasterly at 5 to 10 mph over most of the state. Winds were south at 5 to 10 mph over the Panhandle and in far West Texas. At Guadalupe Pass, northeasterly winds of 20 to 30 mph were reported.
 Early-morning lows ranged from the 20s to the 60s.
 Extremes were 28 degrees at Amarillo and 69 degrees at Brownsville.
 Other readings were 36 degrees at Abilene and Wichita Falls, with 46 degrees at Lufkin. Many wind chills were in the 20s.
 Continued rain was likely with some thunderstorms.
 Daytime highs should be in the mid-40s in the northwest to the mid-50s in the southeast.
 Lows overnight were expected from the upper 30s in the northwest to the mid-40s in the southeast.

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RAB
 he said. "T keep on tra Dr. Brian with Easley three local lic to check announcem ty.
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WASHING
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"They're ease and the ference," Ve trying to ma understand ence.

Foot-and-an economic virtually shu meat export spreads so c sure way f destroy all e On Mond Perry sent asking for tip ensure that ease does American liv

In order to ly 14 million also urged i and questio have travel Mad-cow spongiform less well un and is linke illness in hu Creutzfeld believed t through fee cattle. So far limited to E Veneman, fast gatheri Europe's f demic has ness about efforts to agricultural Customs must fill o U.S. airport to dispo

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BURGLARY

ly and had not been writing checks for approximately a month, he said.

The man also presented an identification for Michael Palmer, who he said was sick and waiting outside for him to cash the check, the police detective said.

Police say they believe Palmer is presently serving time in the state penitentiary.

Bank officials, suspecting a forgery, kept the identification and the check and notified city police, Lee said, adding they also wrote down the license number of the vehicle the man was driving who presented the check.

The burglary of the business on West Alcock was discovered after investigating officers contacted the Neef family regarding the forged

check, police said.

An estimated \$10,000 in metal working equipment and tools had been taken from the business, Lee said, as well as an undetermined number of rifles and guns belonging to another Neef family member that had been stored in the building.

An inventory of the contents of the business and all of what may be missing was being prepared, according to police reports.

Police have served two search warrants, one for a vehicle and another for a Pampa residence, in their investigation of the burglary and forgery, but at press time today had not found any of the stolen items.

An investigation of the burglary and forgery continues. Lee said charges may be filed shortly in connection with the forgery.

Anyone with any information regarding these incidents can contact Pampa Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division at 669-5700.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

RABIES

he said. "The skunks and raccoons will live in the wildlife and just keep on transmitting it to animals."

Dr. Brian Gordzelik of the Gray County Veterinary Clinic agreed with Easley that skunks are much more resistant to the disease. All three local veterinary clinics have received several calls from the public to check on the current status of their animals' shots since the announcement Sunday of a confirmed case of rabies in the community.

The Royse Animal Clinic has also received several calls. Dr. Gordzelik said he really has been surprised there hasn't been more response from the public.

"This disease is fatal. Vaccinating your animal for \$12 is pretty cheap to save a lot of pain," he said.

Neither Easley or Gordzelik have the answer as to why skunks and raccoons are more resistant to the fatal rabies, but they do agree that is why the disease is transmitted too widely in wildlife.

Gordzelik said there have been many reports of skunks in Pampa recently, and he urged caution by local residents.

He explained the theory on why an animal is quarantined for 10 days when it bites a human, and it takes that amount of time for the clinical signs to become visible. He said the rabies is a virus which attaches to a nerve ending and travels up to the brain of the animal. It must reach the brain to go back down to the salivary glands, he said, to be transmitted.

"Theoretically, though, any animal can have rabies for a year and not be showing signs, and not be transmitting it," said Gordzelik. "It is so important to have that vaccination."

He said bats are also animals which people should really avoid because they are major carriers of rabies.

Gordzelik and Easley said infected coyotes usually go off and die without infecting domestic animals.

Only two rabid coyotes were reported last year in Texas. They were in Brewster and Kerr counties, according to Dr. James Alexander of the Texas Department of Health.

Burns, Alexander, Gordzelik and Burns all said skunks are the primary carriers in the local area.

One rabies case was reported in Gray County in 2000. A bobcat was confirmed with the disease near McLean in late August.

Alexander said 26 animal cases of rabies were reported last year in the Panhandle and South Plains. Last year's cases included 24 caused by a skunk rabies variant (infecting 17 skunks, five cats, one cow and a bobcat) and two caused by the bat variant.

Alexander said rabies in skunks is the biggest concern of the TDH. He said March through May is traditionally the peak period for rabid skunk reports. He said recent information shows increased skunk populations across the area.

"Rabid skunks can easily enter a fenced yard and expose pets," he said. "If your pet is not currently vaccinated against rabies, now is the time to have it done."

The 2000 year showed a 73 percent increase over the 15 cases recorded for 1999 in the area.

Anyone observing a wild animal such as a skunk, raccoon or bat

Rabies — Signs to watch for

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Rabies is on the increase in the area. The Texas Department of Health has released the following signs to watch for in animals.

Caution is urged by local animal veterinarians and animal control specialists. The following should be reported to the Pampa Animal Control Office:

- Bold, friendly, or apparently tame wild animals.
- Night animals, like skunks and foxes, that are seen in the daytime.
- Pets that have difficulty walking, eating, or drinking.
- Signs of excitement or viciousness in normally quiet animals.
- Animals that tear at or scratch an old wound until it bleeds.
- Cattle that "strain" for long periods.
- Bats that are unable to fly.

In the early stages of rabies, the personality of pets may change. A normally friendly dog may stay alone, another may begin to seek more attention. Some animals scratch at the place the virus entered their bodies.

Later, symptoms follow a "furious" pattern, a "dumb" (paralytic) pattern or a combination of both.

Furious symptoms include excitement, viciousness, roaming, unusual noises, and a tendency to attack anything attracting the animal's attention. Such animals may snap at anything, including themselves. They tend to drool and their saliva may be mixed with blood. They may swallow objects such as stones and sticks. These symptoms progress to paralysis and, eventually, death.

Dumb symptoms include difficulty in chewing, swallowing, drinking, or trouble walking. An animal may not be able to close its mouth. People have been exposed by trying to clear the throats of such animals, which may seem to be choking. Paralysis spreads throughout the body until death. Parts paralyzed by rabies are limp, not rigid or stiff.

A veterinarian should be consulted immediately when any of the above signs are first noted. If bitten by an animal, treat the bite as if the animal were rabid.

that is active during daylight hours should contact their local animal control department, said Alexander.

Stray animals should also be reported. Local animal control director Sandy Burns urges area residents to avoid contact with wild animals. She said parents should caution their children to stay away from any stray animals or wildlife. "They could be rabid," she said.

Burns said anyone having questions about the disease should contact her office.

Veneman: U.S. public confuses livestock diseases

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are confusing foot-and-mouth disease, which is harmless to people, with rarer mad cow disease, which has been linked to a fatal human illness, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said Tuesday.

However, she said there is no evidence that the confusion has caused U.S. consumers to shun meat.

"They're hearing animal disease and they don't know the difference," Veneman said. "We're trying to make sure that a people understand that there is a difference."

Foot-and-mouth is primarily an economic issue. An outbreak virtually shuts down a country's meat exports, and the virus spreads so quickly that the only sure way to contain it is to destroy all exposed livestock.

On Monday, Texas Gov. Rick Perry sent a letter to Veneman asking for tighter controls to help ensure that foot-and-mouth disease does not penetrate American livestock herds.

In order to protect Texas' nearly 14 million head of cattle, Perry also urged increased inspections and questioning of people who have traveled abroad.

Mad-cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is less well understood by scientists and is linked to a brain-wasting illness in humans called variant Creutzfeldt Jacob disease. BSE is believed to be transmitted through feeding animal parts to cattle. So far, the illness has been limited to Europe.

Veneman, speaking to a breakfast gathering of grocers, said Europe's foot-and-mouth epidemic has raised public awareness about her department's efforts to control the entry of agricultural pests and diseases.

Customs forms that travelers must fill out before arriving at U.S. airports require passengers to disclose whether they have

been on a farm. Those passengers are then questioned by USDA inspectors, who are supposed to disinfect any soiled footwear the travelers have with them.

"Seeing all these pictures about what is happening in Europe has given a view of why it is so important that we have these programs," Veneman said.

Veneman is under pressure from Europe to partially lift a ban on all imports of livestock and raw meat, and she is expected to discuss the issue Wednesday with European Union Commissioner David Byrne.

"We're continuing to review that," she told news reporters. "I'm not prepared today to say when we might or might not do that."



Big winner!



Richard Stowers, left, of Culberson-Stowers congratulates Elda and Hamill Wilson on winning an all-expense paid trip to Texas Motor Speedway. Winning the local Chevrolet Thunder Days promotion makes the couple eligible to win a Chevrolet Monte Carlo during a drawing at the speedway near Fort Worth.

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Client Appreciation Day

When: March 29, 2001 at 2-4 pm
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What: We will be reviewing solutions for Long-Term Care expenses
Who is invited: All clients of Neely, Craig & Walton & their guests and anyone who wants to know more about protecting their financial future.
We will provide refreshments and door prizes. Come join the fun!

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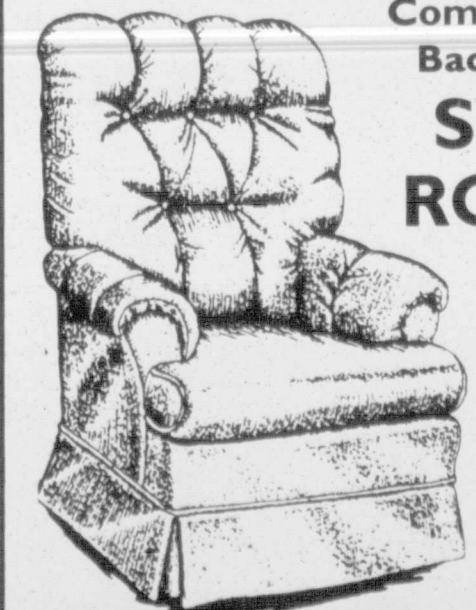
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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily the opinions of The Pampa News.

Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas: San Antonio Express-News on drug prices and AIDS: Some in the pharmaceutical industry finally are responding to the overwhelming tragedy and incredible need in AIDS-stricken Africa.

A manufacturer of generic drugs is seeking South Africa's permission to market eight AIDS-fighting drugs even though the medicines remain under a patent, the New York Times reported. Another drug firm has agreed to dramatically cut the price of such drugs in three financially strapped AIDS-torn countries, the newspaper added. Drug companies need funding to conduct research, but millions of people who cannot afford AIDS medications are dying.

The urgency of the situation in Africa is difficult to overstate.

The United Nations' Africa Recovery report estimated 25 million AIDS victims, or 70 percent of those worldwide, live in sub-Saharan Africa. Some 10,000 new infections are recorded daily. Last year, 3.8 million new infections were reported. Meanwhile, most African nations stricken by the disease are struggling economically, and their people can't afford the needed medication.

A thorough anti-AIDS treatment program for an individual is estimated by the Times to cost \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year. If major drug manufacturers don't cut prices for poor nations whose stability is put at risk by the AIDS pandemic, the international community should waive patent laws in extreme situations.

Millions of people should not be sacrificed to preserve profits. The international community should step up efforts to help buy drugs for the AIDS-afflicted in Africa, and, just as importantly, resources must be invested in teaching the African people how to halt the spread of the disease. The African AIDS crisis threatens international stability and economic conditions, and those nations enjoying a more comfortable situation today will make a mistake by ignoring this horror.

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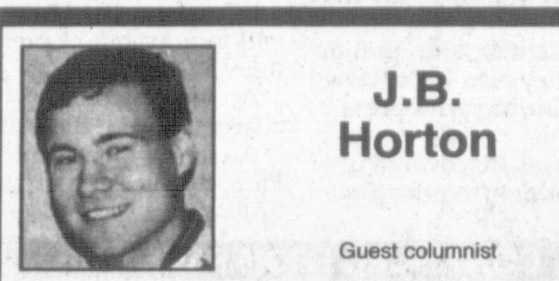
New administration full-court press

March madness has a whole new meaning to me now. When people think of basketball, the terms free throws, fouls, presses, lots of running and much more come to mind. When people picture Washington, D.C., during the few months after a change of administrations, basketball terms are a great way to describe what happens.

My work experience has changed significantly in the past few months: from the Republican National Committee, to the Bush-Cheney Transition Team, to the White House, and now to a government agency. In "new administration" terms, it has been a "full-court press."

On February 23, 2001, I was appointed to the United States Small Business Administration by President George W. Bush. Transferring from the public sector into the government sector is quite a change. In this new capacity, I am always "pressing" to learn more about my new environment. Like any new start with a new experience, I feel like I have a few free throws, but for the most part, I've been doing lots of running. Regardless, I am fascinated by the overall process.

My feet have landed (after a long game and some overtime) in the international world. I feel very fortunate and blessed with this opportunity to work in the International Trade Office of the SBA. To show some statistics of our operations, as of last year, only 205,000 out of 25 mil-



J.B. Horton
 Guest columnist

lion small businesses export from the U.S. to foreign soil. With technology advances and expanding markets around the world, there will be incredible opportunities for our United States small businesses to export. I predict that many more U.S. businesses will begin to tap these developing markets in the years to come. Needless to say, it is an exciting time and place for me.

One of the responsibilities of my office is to travel and set up international trade meetings with different small business owners with our U.S. small business owners. This week, I will be on my first international trade mission to Mexico City.

The status of this trade mission will be intense because President Vicente Fox, the president of Mexico, will be attending. Along with his attendance is a signing ceremony with four different U.S. government agencies, of which SBA will be

a part of. The media attention will be heavy because of President Fox, so it should be an interesting event. Also on our agenda is a private reception at the house of the United States Ambassador to Mexico, Jeffery Davidow.

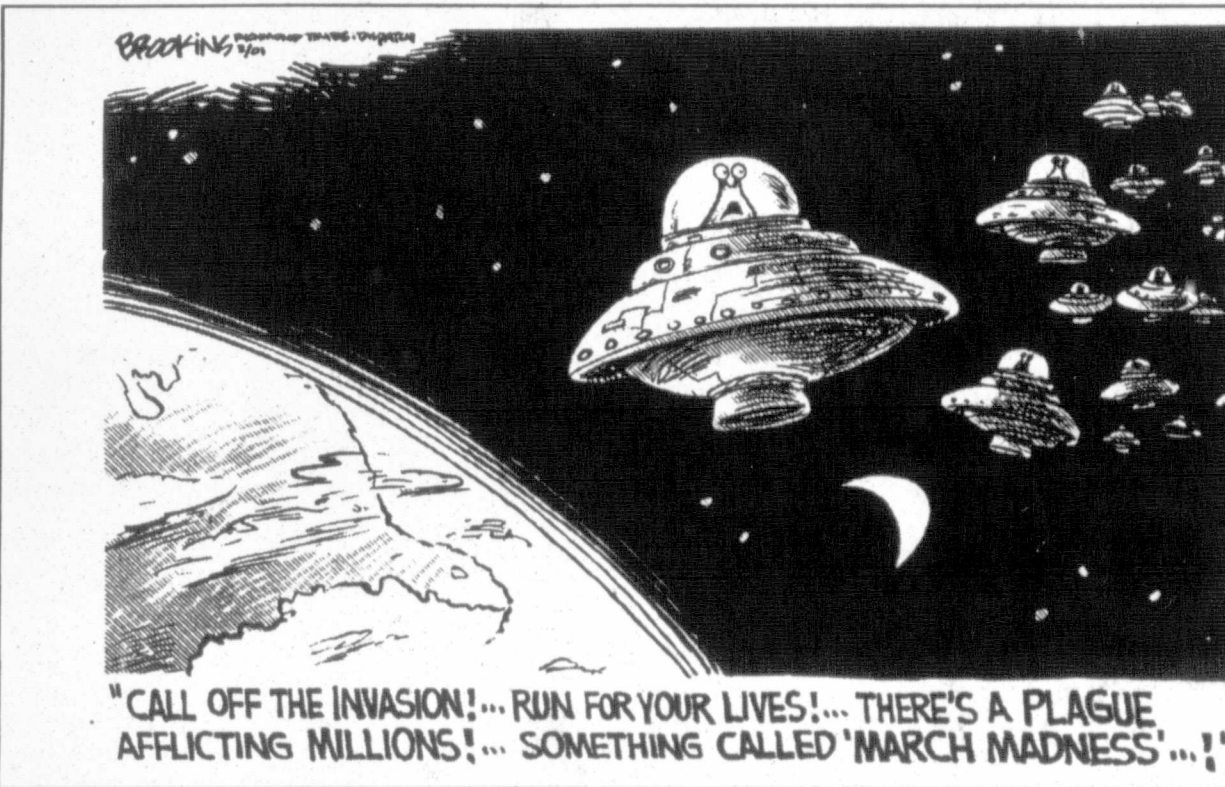
The main purpose of the trip is to host some 60 U.S. small businesses and help match them with already over 300 Mexican business owners for possible trade relations. This is the largest trade mission ever hosted by the Office of International Trade at the SBA. (Of course, I take full credit since I have been here for three weeks now, learning from those politicians! Ha, ha...)

The office of International Trade has many projects around the world that help small businesses who are interested in exporting. Among some of the countries we are dealing with are: Argentina, Nigeria, Egypt, Korea, Italy, Mexico and others.

Time is winding down on this trade mission, but hopefully many "slam-dunks" will be created for our small businesses in this on-going trade game for years to come.

The tip-off in this new experience, in this new administration, has been a great one, and I am optimistic that the rest of the game will be exciting and productive, too.

(Horton, a former Pampa resident, is a graduate of West Texas A&M in Canyon where he earned a degree in international business and was president of the student body.)



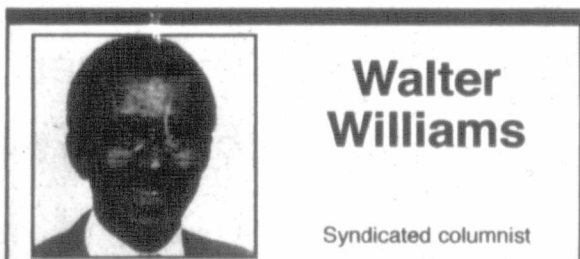
Always be suspicious of know-it-alls

Here's a question prompted by my recent re-reading of Leonard Read's *The Myth of the See-It-All*, in "The Coming Aristocracy" (1969). Incidentally, Read founded the New York-based Foundation for Economic Education (www.fee.org) in the 1940s, America's first free-market think-tank.

But here's the question: Suppose you were alive in 1869 and were asked, "Which would you consider is the easier method to deliver a message across your state — by mail or by human voice?" Your response to this seemingly idiotic question would have been, "By mail!" Moreover, you probably would have argued mail would always be easier because it would have been impossible for you to conceive that sometime in the future there'd be telephones and other forms of electronic communication.

Suppose you had been asked in the 1940s, when computers were first being built, "To what uses can we put these machines?" I doubt whether you could have come up with much more than saying, "They can be used to rapidly make numerical calculations." It would have been impossible even for great thinkers such as Albert Einstein to foresee the myriad uses and benefits of computers in 2001.

You say, "OK, Williams, what's the point?" One point is mankind's total knowledge of all that can be known is trivial. Another is some people act as if they know it all and, in their roles as politicians and bureaucrats, they



Walter Williams
 Syndicated columnist

forcibly impose what they see as their "superior wisdom" on others. These barbarians have forgotten Richard Whately's warning, "He who is not aware of his ignorance will be only misled by his knowledge." Not only will these people mislead themselves, if they have power they'll mislead a nation.

There's no better example of elite ignorance and arrogance than in the debate over education. There's no question that the American education system is in shambles. In our inner cities, education is nothing short of a criminal disgrace. But what do members of the elite do? They oppose every effort to introduce alternatives to the public-education system that might come through educational vouchers or tuition tax credits. Their position differs little from one that says: We know every possible means of delivering education, and today's public-education system is the best.

Having taken that position, they virtually contradict themselves by arguing that if parents

had choice, public schools wouldn't survive. In other words, public schools are so rotten that if parents had another option, they'd exercise it.

Another know-it-all argument these people make is: If we had educational vouchers there wouldn't be enough private schools to enroll all those who'd apply. Such a claim reflects gross economic ignorance.

Apply that claim to VCRs and cars. Back when VCRs were invented, would any reasonable person have proposed holding up their production and sales until enough VCR rental and repair shops had been established? Should Henry Ford have waited for gasoline stations and auto-repair shops to be established across the country before he started mass producing cars?

To these questions, I'm betting that you're going to say: "That's nonsense, Williams. Let VCRs be manufactured, and I'll guarantee you there'll soon be VCR rental and repair shops. And let Ford produce cars, and I'll also guarantee you that soon there'll be gasoline stations and repair shops." Why? People want to make money, and the best way of making money is by pleasing others. The identical reasoning applies to education. Give parents vouchers, and you can bet private schools will emerge.

The bottom line: Always be suspicious of those who pretend to know it all, claim their way is the best way and are willing to force their way on the rest of us.

Need more religion, less government

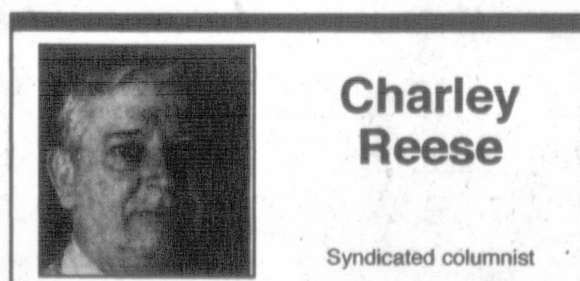
Sooner or later, Republicans elated over having elected a president who is a gargantuan improvement over his predecessor will come to realize that most of our basic problems remain unsolved.

That's not because of the president. The reason is that politics can only offer a Band-Aid approach to the human condition. The traditional Christian worldview explains this through the concept of fallen man. To the traditional Christian, Utopia will never be realized on this earth because human beings are flawed creatures.

The evidence of history is on the side of the Christian viewpoint. Utopians generally become so disappointed that they fall into nihilism, which eventually destroys them.

I now have the perspective of having lived through the administrations of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton and now George W. Bush. I've seen the New Deal, the Fair Deal, the New Federalism, the New Frontier, the Great Society, the War on Poverty and whatever other slogans have been bounced around.

And guess what? Things are pretty much the same. Some problems have been solved, and new ones have appeared. Some problems



Charley Reese
 Syndicated columnist

remain unsolved. People continue to grouse about public education. Transportation problems continue. Pollution problems continue. Cyclical economic problems continue. Crime, divorce, illegitimacy, disease, foreign conflicts, poverty — you name it, it's still around.

Utopians are like a rhinoceros trying to stamp out a forest fire. All too often in their frustration they become dangerous. Instead of recognizing that their schemes are flawed, they begin to see their perfect society being frustrated by people. If we can only get rid of those people, then the scheme would work, they say, and the blood begins to flow.

Government is a particularly clumsy and dangerous tool for problem solving. It is exactly what our first Christian president, George Washington, said it is — force. It's not that government cannot be useful, but what it can't do is comfort, nurture, love or care for us. I

contend that it cannot even educate us.

The fact that our new president will consider his education program a resounding success if he can force this half-trillion-dollar behemoth that is public education to teach children to read is a damning indictment. You can teach your children to read.

But, as a preacher said in the 1880s, if all you mean by education is teaching people to read, then all you will have accomplished is to create a mass market for trash literature. How's that for a prophetic statement? Literate is not a synonym for educated. In fact, more than half of all the prison population has a high-school diploma or its equivalency.

Most people, I think, long to have meaning in their lives and to be as reasonably happy as mortal beings — subject to pain and doomed to die — can be. In this, government is helpless. Americans need more religion and less government. And if you can't believe in an eternal being, then try classical Buddhism, which is not deity-based. Or philosophy. Just don't expect politicians and government to make you happy. The idols of politics, entertainment and drugs are all false gods.

It would help if newspapers were not addicted to government news. They are, though, because that's the easiest kind of news to get. Politicians make sure it is easy.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 27, the 86th day of 2001. There are 279 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 27, 1794, President Washington and Congress authorized creation of the U.S. Navy.

On this date:

In 1512, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon sighted Florida.

In 1625, Charles I ascended the English throne upon the death of James I.

In 1836, the first Mormon temple was dedicated, in Kirtland, Ohio.

In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first American team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens.

In 1945, during World War II, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower told reporters in Paris that German defenses on the Western Front had been broken.

PRISON... The Pampa News meets the first month at... Starkweather... For further... Andersen... at 669-2266... PANHAN... FOR THE... A support... ly ill and... the second... month at... Russell. Th... more inform... a ride all Sh... OF THE... Pampa Cha... the Eastern... their meeti... first and th... second and... each month... 7:30 p.m. at... MACEDO... Macedoni... 441 Elm, c... vices at 7:30... p.m. daily... Pampa... schools, etc

Great Out

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West annu

CANYON presented Music and at 8 p.m. Fr A traditio torium lobb The annu tures music bles to big "We hope scholarship house," Don chair of the The even raise funds advertising "Last yea Storey said total and scholarship Since its inc the depart This year half, but w gram. Store format whi one musical Groups so French horn choir, colle and much r The quart winning fr group inclu major from from Midl Sundown Midland. T arranged by Tickets to are availabl Arts Buildi Music. Tick priced at \$7 Depot, at O limited and more inform 2840.

Calendar of events

PAMPA PRISON MINISTRY

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

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

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

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

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

MACEDONIA BAPTIST

Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm, conducts prayer services at 7:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. daily for the citizens of Pampa - the churches, the schools, etc. All are cordially

invited to come and pray. For more information, call 665-4926.

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

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, 669-1131.

PROM MEETING

At 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 27, a meeting will be held in the high school library for parents of PHS seniors interested in volunteering with the 2001 senior prom. Parents unable to attend the meeting who are interested in volunteering should contact Vicki Nachtigall at 669-2337 or at 669-1453.

TOP O' TEXAS REPUBLICAN WOMEN

Top O' Texas Republican Women will meet from 11:45-12 noon, Wednesday, March 28, at Furr's Cafeteria in Pampa. Visitors are welcome.

CAPROCK CANYONS

Caprock Canyons State Park in Quitaque will host the following events in April: Volunteer Day (9 a.m.), and Evening Birding (6:30 p.m.), both April 7; and Wildflower Walk (9 a.m.) and Evening Interpretive Program (8 p.m.), both April 21. For more information, contact the park at (806) 455-1429.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SEMINAR

Frank Phillips College in Borger will be the site of a seminar with Dr. Pamela Brown, Extension Home Based Business Specialist, Saturday, March 31. The seminar, co-sponsored by Hutchinson Co. Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Committee and FPC Allied Health Department, will include information on community resources. Kathy Farmer, Hutchinson County Library Children's coordinator, will

discuss the local library as a resource. Other speakers and topics include Percilla Newberry, Allied Health coordinator; Tracy Tellman, Child Passenger Safety specialist with Texas Department of Transportation; and Jana Pronger, Hutchinson Co. Extension agent, discussing nutrition, sanitation, first aid, CPR and Child Passenger Safety. Registration deadline is March 28. CEUs will be issued for the seminar which will include a \$20 class manual. For more information, call (806) 878-4026 or (806) 274-5311, ext. 749 or 1-800-687-2056.

SEVERE WEATHER WORKSHOP

A Severe Weather Workshop will be conducted from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., April 7 at Amarillo Civic Center Auditorium in Amarillo. Registration will begin at 7 a.m. The workshop is free and open to the public.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BANQUET

The annual Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Banquet will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 10 with guest speaker Marsha Sharp, Lady Raider head coach. Catering will be by R&R Catering. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Chamber, 200 N. Ballard, at a cost of \$20 per person. For more information, call 669-3241.

ALL STAR KIDS

All Star Kids will sponsor a pageant for youth Saturday, April 7 at Spearman. Youngsters between the ages of 0-18 are eligible to participate. For more information or to obtain an entry form, call (214) 319-7827.

3D PROGRAM

Free weekly classes for the Christ-centered 3D program featuring the three Ds — Diet, Discipline and Discipleship — will begin soon. The program will tailor an eating

plan to suit the individual tastes and lifestyles of each participant. For more information, contact Judith Loyd, 665-6127; Jamee McCarty, 669-7869; or Frankie Hildenbrand, 669-3713.

4-H Photography



(Community Camera photo by Judy Elliott)

Frank Anderson, of Anderson Photography, and James Hinkley, former education director of Carson County Square House Museum in Panhandle, pore over photos submitted for competition in the Gray County 4-H Photography Competition. Judging the entries were Anderson and Hinkley along with David Bowser of *The Pampa News*. Sixteen students between the ages of 9 and 16 entered a total of 108 photos in the competition. An official award ceremony and exhibit is in the offing today at Gray County Annex.

Green Thumb seeking 2001 Outstanding Older Workers

WACO — Green Thumb, Inc., is searching for Texas' 2001 Outstanding Older Worker. America's leader in senior employment and training, Green Thumb launched the National Prime Time Awards Program in 1998 to highlight the valuable contributions that older workers are making in their communities and places of work.

For the fourth year, outstanding workers from every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will be honored in Washington, D.C., and in their home states. This year National Prime Time Awards activities take place in mid September with a series of events in the nation's capitol, capped by a gala awards banquet and ceremony at historic Union Station.

Green Thumb is seeking nominations from businesses and individuals. Contestants must be 65 years of age or older, a resident of Texas, currently employed and working at least 20 hours each week for pay. The winner must be willing and able to travel to Washington, D.C., for the National Prime Time Award Program events.

Last year's honoree, 83-year-old Tom Tosh of Sulphur Springs, returned to the work force at age 67 when most people have retired or are thinking about it. Sixteen years later, this energetic and

motivated octogenarian was recognized by Custom Shuttles, Inc., as the "Best of the Best" in the company's specialty item department.

To nominate, a supervisor or co-worker must submit a brief narrative sharing the older worker's overall contribution to the business, experience, skill level, work ethic, any disabilities the nominee has overcome to perform their job and a description of other community involvement.

Official Outstanding Older Worker nomination forms may be obtained by calling Green Thumb at 1-800-880-5292. A statewide selection committee comprised of business, civic and community leaders will evaluate the nominations and the winner will be announced by mid June. The deadline for nominations is May 25, 2001.

In addition, the search for America's Oldest Worker and the Nation's Outstanding Employers of Older Workers is underway. Last year's oldest worker, Robbie Eisenberg, 103, manages a zipper manufacturing operation for Zabin Industries in Los Angeles, Calif. The 1999 winner, Dr. F. William Sunderman of Philadelphia, Pa., now 101, continues to edit a national medical journal. Applicants must work 20 hours a week for pay and the one with the earliest birth date is

declared the winner.

The search for the Outstanding Employers of Older Workers focuses upon employers who offer exemplary models for promoting positive older worker images, developing aging friendly workplaces, targeting recruitment and retention of older workers and demonstrating how their commitment to hiring seniors has made a difference to their company.

There are three levels of employer recognition based upon company size. Last year, Texas was home to the small employer honoree, Gulf South Supply of Houston, where President John Denny calls older workers his "secret weapon" for success.

Applications for America's Oldest and Outstanding Employer may be accessed through Green Thumb's National website, www.greenthumb.org.

West Texas A&M to present annual Showcase of Music

CANYON — A program of vocal and instrumental talent will be presented by the West Texas A&M University Department of Music and Dance at the 21st annual Showcase of Music beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, April 6 at the Amarillo Civic Center Auditorium. A traditional preconcert show will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium lobby.

The annual event, sponsored by the Amarillo Globe-News, features music from the contemporary to the classical in small ensembles to big bands.

"We hope to fill the auditorium this year. It not only helps our scholarships, but it's great for the students to perform before a full house," Doug Storey, associate professor of music at WTAMU and chair of the Showcase Music committee, said.

The event was created to showcase student talent and to help raise funds for student scholarships. Funds are raised through advertising, ticket sales and donations.

"Last year was a banner year. We raised more than \$40,000," Storey said. This year Storey hopes to meet or exceed last year's total and said "100 percent of the money raised goes to student scholarships."

Since its inception, the program has raised more than \$240,000 for the department's scholarship fund.

This year's Showcase will follow a traditional format for the first half, but will use a collage format for the second half of the program. Storey said the audience enjoys the fast pace of the collage format which utilizes different areas of the auditorium to present one musical act right after another.

Groups scheduled to perform in this year's Showcase include a French horn choir, a clarinet ensemble, symphonic band, trumpet choir, collegiate chorus, string orchestra, a percussion ensemble and much more.

The quartet Fidelity earned a spot on the Showcase program by winning first place in the Showcase student competition. The group includes Robin C. Brannon, a senior music performance major from Canyon, John Paul Sheppard, a freshman music major from Midland, Eric Barry, a sophomore music major from Sundown and Blair Fowler, a freshman music major from Midland. They will perform Good Livin' by Keith Lancaster and arranged by Robin Brannon.

Tickets to the event, priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, are available at the WTAMU music office, Room 102 in the Fine Arts Building or in Amarillo at Jen's House of Music or Tolzien Music. Tickets for preferred seating are also available. The tickets, priced at \$75 each, include a gourmet dinner, sponsored by Home Depot, at O.H.M.S. before the concert. Preferred seating tickets are limited and all proceeds benefit the student scholarship fund. For more information, contact the WTAMU music office at (806) 651-2840.



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Public radio will also promote the community by focusing on regional issues of interest, as well as creating a no-cost means of promoting Panhandle Cultural and Educational Events throughout the broadcast area. Our 100,000 watt tower will be centrally located to reach panhandle residents - at home, at work or on the road - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The total funds we need to raise are \$275,065. \$150,000 needs to be pledged before March 31, 2001. To make a pledge please call 1-800-678-7444. This pledge is tax deductible!

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SPORTS

Notebook

BASEBALL

PAMPA — Pampa Kids & Youth Club will be having baseball signups through April 6 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Baker Elementary. Additional signups will be held March 31 at United Supermarkets and Frank's Foods from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. From 8 a.m. until 2 p.m., another signup will be held April 7 at Baker Elementary.

For more information, call Peter Rodriguez at 669-6023 or Robert Saiz at 669-1740.

GOLF

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Forget the slump and bring on the Masters. Tiger Woods held off a late charge from Vijay Singh to capture the Players Championship, his second straight victory after early season doubts.

Woods lost a duel with Hal Sutton in a similar finish a year ago. This time, Woods didn't need much fight to finish one stroke ahead of Masters winner Singh to take one of the few golf prizes he didn't already own.

Woods had a 67 and was at 14-under 274 after a final-hole bogey. Singh had a 68. Bernhard Langer was two shots back after a 67. Little known Jerry Kelly had a 73 and was four off of Woods.

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. (AP) — Amid claims of fixed matches and racism, Serena Williams is trying to concentrate on the more mundane matter of hitting fuzzy balls.

She's been successful so far, reaching the quarterfinals at the Ericsson Open in a bid for her second tournament title this month.

"I'm not really trying to get involved in any type of controversy," Williams said. "I've just been trying to stay out of everything, because I think unfairly I've been brought into a lot of things."

Williams benefited when sister Venus, citing knee tendinitis, pulled out before their semifinal match at Indian Wells on March 15. But the withdrawal sparked a new round of speculation that the results of matches between the sisters is predetermined by their father, Richard, which the family denies.

Fans jeered the Williamses and cheered when Serena double-faulted in the Indian Wells final, which she won.

"Everything was taken out on me," she said.

Now her father says the boos were racially motivated. Richard Williams said that as he and Venus were walking to their seats for the final, about a dozen fans used a racial slur and one spoke of skinning him alive.

"The white people at Indian Wells, what they've been wanting to say all along to us finally came out: 'Nigger, stay away from here, we don't want you here,'" Williams said.

His claims overshadowed victories Monday by his daughters, who remain on course for a sibling showdown in Saturday's final. Serena, seeded fifth, won the first set in 16 minutes and beat No. 11 Kim Clijsters 6-0, 6-2. Venus, seeded third, needed more than two hours and 10 match points to defeat Tathiana Garbin 7-5, 7-6 (2).

Serena's opponent Wednesday will be No. 4 Jennifer Capriati, who beat Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-4, 6-0.

Flashback

1983: Pitcher Mike Kelly helped his own cause with a home run as Cabot edged Glo-Valve 9-8 in a National Little League baseball game. In American Little League action, David Doucette was the winning pitcher as Celanese defeated Moose Lodge 13-1.

Lubbock residents struck with Knight fever

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — With Bob Knight fever sweeping through this West Texas city like a March dust storm, the often intense and confrontational coach has hit the talk show circuit concerning the career he resumed after being fired at Indiana.

Knight's Red Raiders had their first weight-training session at 6 a.m. Monday after meeting with their coach for the first time over the weekend.

But while Knight's players were lifting weights, he had already taken off from his new hometown — where books, T-shirts and anything associated with the volatile coach were flying off store shelves — for an interview with Larry King in Los Angeles.

Knight, known for highly publicized outbursts during his 29 years with the Hoosiers, told CNN's King that he's not too set in his ways to make some

changes. That includes, he said, use of profanity in practice.

"I can speak forever without being profane, but it's been a tool for me in practice," said Knight. "And I'm not so sure that that isn't one of the things that I can eliminate and do without."

Knight said he still tells prospective players and their parents that he will be the most demanding coach they could have, but that could give them an advantage in life after basketball.

"Hey, I'm like you are or anybody else is," he said. "I'm a guy with faults, but I think I've been pretty good for a lot of people over a lot of years."

But Knight denied during the interview that he had ever been out of control.

"I've got a temper," the coach said.

"Is it a controllable temper?" asked King.

"I don't think I've ever been out of control," the coach replied.

Knight contended it was mere acting on his part when he threw a chair across the court in 1985 during a game against Purdue, prompting his ejection and one-game suspension by the Big Ten.

"I didn't hit anybody with the chair. 'Pretty good aim,' I thought," said Knight. "If I didn't know where that chair was going, it would have hit someone."

Knight said that, minutes later, he couldn't remember a 1997 confrontation in which former player Neil Reed says Knight choked him during practice.

"I don't remember it at all," Knight told King, before defending himself. "I didn't choke him. Nobody pulled me off of the kid. I didn't run the kid out of practice."

Tech President David Schmidly said administrators didn't review videotape of the incident before deciding to hire Knight. "I accepted his explanation," Schmidly said.

Knight, who posted 661 victories and three national titles with the Hoosiers, said, "I think there's a little feeling with administration at Indiana that they would kind of like to wipe out my 29 years there."

Meanwhile, Texas Tech fans are fueling a Knight craze that's sold out T-shirts and other collectibles. Books about Knight are also big sellers and season tickets to the men's basketball games are outpacing sales of years past, said Russell Warren, director of ticket operations.

"It's been really crazy," said Nadia Soliz, a saleswoman with Campus Designs.

The store has reprinted its T-shirts, which feature Knight, five times and has run out each time within an hour, she said.

Knight, who replaced Tech coach James Dickey after the team finished with a losing record for the fourth season in a row, asked people Friday to start

buying tickets first thing Monday morning. Exact ticket sale figures weren't available by 6 p.m. Monday.

Football and women's basketball normally dominate the sports scene in Lubbock, where the Lady Raiders were national champions in 1993 and had a final eight appearance last year and a final 16 appearance this year.

"I'm not much of a basketball fan, but now that someone who is a national personality is here I want to be at the games," said Brad Jury, 38, of Lubbock. He stood in line during his lunch hour to buy Red Raiders season tickets.

Monday was the first time Bland Harper had found himself in line for men's basketball tickets since moving to Lubbock in 1985.

"I've had football season tickets for 15 years, but it wasn't worth my time to go to watch a losing men's basketball team," he said.

Lady Harvesters are second at Deaf Smith Track & Field Meet

HEREFORD — Pampa's Lady Harvesters finished with 156 points to take second in the Deaf Smith Invitational last weekend.

Hereford came in first in the combined Class 4A-3A division with 198 points. Canyon was behind Pampa in third place with 114 points.

Taryn Stowers and Angela Phillips paced the Lady Harvesters by winning two events each. Stowers won both the long jump (14-10 1/4) and triple jump (34-1 1/2). Phillips was the winner of the discus (115-7) and shot put (38-10 1/2).

Rebecca Fatheree claimed first place in the 3200 with a time of 12:06.51. Fatheree also placed second in the 1600 (5:43.35).

Coming in second were

Chelsea McCullough, high jump (5-0), Angie Cornish, shot put (34-4) and Pampa's 800-meter relay team (2:56.18).

Taking third were Ashleigh Patton, triple jump (32-9 1/4), Pampa's 400-meter relay (53.50), Andrea Lee, 800 (2:41.68), Shelly Sims, 100 hurdles (17:83) and Stowers 100, (13.34).

In the boys' division, Tanner Dyer of Pampa captured first place in the 110 hurdles with a time of 16.15.

In the junior varsity boys' division, Pampa's Greg Wiley placed second in the 300 hurdles (45.84) and third in the 110 hurdles (17.40). Andrew Curtis was third in the 300 hurdles (46.21).

Christina Elliott of Pampa was third in the high jump (4-4) in the junior varsity girls' division.

Calipari leads Memphis to NIT semifinals in his first season at the helm

NEW YORK (AP) — Ten years ago, John Calipari used a trip to the NIT semifinals as a springboard at Massachusetts.

The first-year Memphis coach hopes this year's NIT run will do the same for his new school.

"This is good for our team," Calipari said Monday. "This is the best thing that can happen for a team on the rise. This tournament has helped a lot of teams get over the hump."

Seven of the final eight teams from last year's NIT made it to the NCAA's this season, led by round-of-16 teams Penn State and Mississippi.

That's a fact all four coaches in the NIT semifinals know well as they prepare for Tuesday's games. Detroit (25-10) plays Alabama (24-10) in the first game, followed by Memphis (20-14) against Tulsa (24-11).

"When you realize that you're one of only eight teams left playing in the country, it's an honor," said Detroit coach Perry Watson, who went to two Final Fours as an assistant at Michigan.

The NIT marks a turnaround for Calipari, who was fired two years ago by the New Jersey Nets after going 72-112 in two-plus seasons.

Despite the ending, Calipari learned from his time in the NBA.

"I'm more calm now, but there is still fire in my belly," said Calipari, whose rah-rah style didn't resonate with professional players. "The NBA was a great experience for me. I wouldn't trade the experience, but I might trade some of the people."

Calipari has resurrected Memphis, leading the Tigers to their first 20-win season in five years and putting together one of the top recruiting classes in the country.

Dajuan Wagner, the son of former Louisville star and NBA player Milt Wagner, is the most prominent player in the class, having

scored 100 points in a game for Camden (N.J.) High School this season.

Wagner is in North Carolina with his father — who is also on Calipari's staff — for the McDonald's High School All-American game and might make it to Madison Square Garden on Thursday for the championship game.

The rebuilding is progressing even quicker than it did at UMass for Calipari. After a 10-18 record in his first season in 1988-89, Calipari went to the NIT the next two seasons, finishing fourth in 1990-91.

The Minutemen then went to the NCAA regional semifinals in 1992, the second round in 1993 and 1994, the regional finals in 1995 and the Final Four in his last season with the Minutemen.

While this final four lacks the big stage and notoriety surrounding the 1996 trip across the Hudson River at the Meadowlands, it marks a big step for a school that didn't even make the NIT the past two seasons.

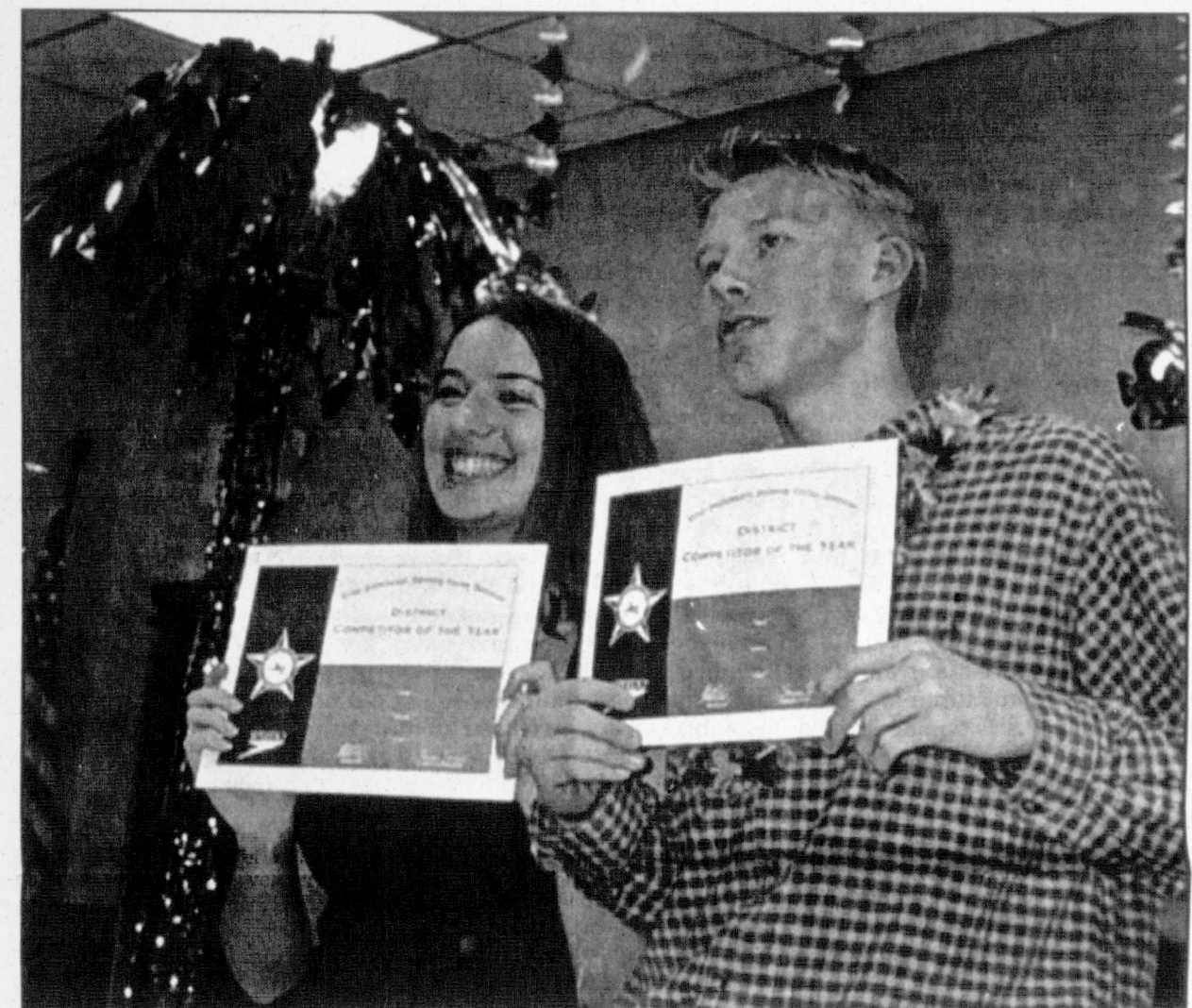
"This works better for us in terms of building a team," Calipari said. "We probably would have lost in the first round of the NCAA's. Now we have something we can build on."

Tuesday's first game matches two schools that hoped for an at-large bid for the NCAA's but were denied, in part, because of their inability to win away from home.

The NIT has given both teams a chance to prove otherwise. The Titans have gone on the road to win at Bradley, Connecticut and Dayton.

The Crimson Tide only needed to pass one road test to make it to New York. But it was a difficult one, as Alabama took two overtimes to win 85-77 at Purdue.

"We were disappointed, obviously," Alabama coach Mark Gottfried said of the NCAA snub.



(Pampa News photo by Lance Burton)

Named District 3-4A's Competitors of the Year were Pampa swimmers Andrea Branchetti and Willie Griffin.

Banquet honors Harvesters

PAMPA — The Pampa High swim team was honored with an awards banquet Monday night.

Team members this season included Andrea Branchetti, Clay David, Misty Moman, Desiree Vigil, Ben Whitten, Willie Griffin, Kelley Stowers, Doug Warren, Cameron Cargill, Michael Eskridge, Kody Kirkland, Julian George, Tamra Henthorn, Jessica White, Alan Arzola, Jessica Hall, Garrett Johnson, Michael Martinez, Jonathan Sturgill, Megan David, Joe Johnson, Jason Kilhoffer and Kendra Strickland.

It was a history-making year for the Harvester swim team under second-year coach Amy Howard. Nine swimmers — including Andrea Branchetti, Misty Moman, Kelley Stowers, Megan David and Tamra Henthorn from the girls' team; Willie Griffin, Clay David, Ben Whitten and Doug Warren from the boys' team — qualified for the state meet in Austin after their regional performances. Michael Eskridge and Garrett Johnson were alternates.

For the second year in a row,

Swimming

the PHS swimmers dominated the District 3-4A meet in Lubbock. It was their second straight district title.

The Harvesters will be looking for a return trip to Austin next year. Branchetti, a foreign exchange student from Italy, was the only senior on the squad.

The banquet's guest speaker was Dr. Dawson Orr, PISD Superintendent.

HOBART, Australia (AP) — Ian Thorpe set his second world record in as many nights Tuesday, breaking Pieter van den Hoogenband's mark for 200 meters at the Australian swimming championships.

Thorpe was timed in 1 minute, 44.69 seconds to lower the previous mark of 1:45.35 set by van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands at last year's Sydney Olympics.

Van den Hoogenband's time at the Olympics broke Thorpe's

previous mark of 1:45.51 at the Australian Olympic trials last May.

Thorpe, who won three gold medals at the Sydney Games, also broke compatriot Kieren Perkins' 800-meter world record by more than four seconds on Monday.

The 18-year-old Thorpe was timed in 7:41.59 to better the mark of 7:46.00 by Perkins at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, en route to the 1,500-meter gold medal in that race.

It's the fifth time in the triple Olympic gold medalist's career that he's set world records on consecutive nights.

Thorpe's achievement gives him 13 world records for his career — the most by any Australian male swimmer — and he's only 18.

John Konrads set 12 world records in the 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 freestyle during the 1950s and 1960s, and Perkins retired after the Sydney Games with 11.

Thorpe now holds world records for the 200, 400 and 800 freestyle.

Memphis suddenly has two NBA suitors

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Ignored for years by pro sports leagues, Memphis suddenly has two NBA suitors.

The Vancouver Grizzlies and the Charlotte Hornets are both seeking NBA permission to relocate to the Tennessee city.

The league will decide which, if either, franchise makes that move after Memphis boosters show that the city can come up with \$200 million to \$250 million for a new arena.

Most of that money will have to come from state and local government, and boosters have offered no specifics on financing.

"This a great day, a great beginning, but we have a long way to go," Mayor W.W. Herenton said

Monday.

Memphis has been trying to attract big-time sports teams for more than three decades. But this is the first time owners of major league franchises have made the city their top choice, except for the Memphis Tams of the American Basketball Association in the early 1970s.

Talk about a possible move by the Grizzlies has been swirling through Memphis for weeks, but there has been little mention of the Hornets.

"This is great news ... because it makes it even more likely that Memphis will receive an NBA franchise," said AutoZone founder J.R. "Pitt" Hyde, leader of

a business group that has been searching for a team.

Hyde said his group will buy up to 50 percent of a relocated franchise, whether it's the Hornets or Grizzlies.

A team would play in the Pyramid, a \$65 million arena opened in 1991, until a new stadium could be built. The Pyramid seats 19,000 for basketball.

Grizzlies owner Michael Heisley passed on Louisville, Ky.; Anaheim, Calif.; and New Orleans in choosing Memphis.

The Hornets, meanwhile, want the option to move in case Charlotte voters reject a new \$215 million downtown arena in a referendum in June.

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Scoreboard

BASEBALL

By The Associated Press
The Top 10 high school baseball rankings for the five UIL classifications as determined by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association and the Lone Star Baseball Report and the Top 10 poll for the Texas Private School Baseball Coaches/Lone Star Baseball Report. Rankings are through March 26.

- 5A**
1. Bellaire, 14-0
 2. Lufkin, 14-1
 3. Duncanville, 11-1
 4. Round Rock, 15-2
 5. Klein, 13-2
 6. Austin Bowie, 17-2
 7. Fort Bend Clements, 13-2-1
 8. Houston Lamar, 15-2
 9. Cy-Falls, 11-1-1
 10. Lubbock Monterey, 15-5

- 4A**
1. Boerne, 17-2-1
 2. Little Cypress-Mauriceville, 16-3
 3. Hewitt Midway, 12-1
 4. Highland Park, 16-1
 5. Dripping Springs, 8-4-1
 6. El Paso Riverside, 9-5-1
 7. Carthage, 10-2
 8. Lumberton, 14-3
 9. CC Calallen, 15-4
 10. Jasper, NR

- 3A**
1. Forney, 13-1
 2. Yoakum, 9-0
 3. Lubbock Cooper, 16-6
 4. West, 7-3
 5. Abilene Wylie, 13-1
 6. Fallunas, 16-2
 7. Graham, 10-3
 8. Dangierfield, 11-0
 9. Barbers Hill, 11-1
 10. Woodville, 14-4

- 2A**
1. Weimar, 10-4
 2. Gunter, 10-2
 3. Colmesneil, 7-2
 4. Elysian Fields, 11-0
 5. East Bernard, 12-3
 6. Grand Saline, 8-3
 7. Bangs, 9-0
 8. Whitewright, 8-2
 9. Ralls, 8-2
 10. Hutto, 10-2

- 1A**
1. Evadale, NR
 2. Cross Plains, NR

3. Bosqueville, 6-4
4. Bremond, NR
5. Beckville, NR
6. Windthorst, NR
7. Collinsville, NR
8. Brock, 8-1
9. Meridian, 8-1
10. Claude, 5-5

- Private Schools**
1. Dallas Christian 16-0
 2. Houston St. Thomas 14-1
 3. Houston Second Baptist 14-4
 4. Fort Worth Nolan Catholic 8-7
 5. Addison Trinity Christian 5-7
 6. Houston St. Pius X, NR
 7. Fort Bend Baptist 8-9
 8. Bellaire Episcopal 11-3
 9. Dallas Jesuit, 5-9
 10. Beaumont Kelly 12-7

BASKETBALL

NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament At A Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL

Regional Championship
Monday, March 26

Connecticut 67, Louisiana Tech 48

MIDEAST REGIONAL

Regional Championship
Monday, March 26

Purdue 88, Xavier 78

MIDWEST REGIONAL

Regional Championship
Monday, March 26

Notre Dame 72, Vanderbilt 64

WEST REGIONAL

Regional Championship
Monday, March 26

Southwest Missouri State 104, Washington 87

THE FINAL FOUR

At The Savvis Center
St. Louis

National Semifinals
Friday, March 30

Purdue (30-6) vs. Southwest Missouri State (29-5), 7 p.m.

Connecticut (32-2) vs. Notre Dame (32-2), 9:30 p.m. **National Championship**

Sunday, April 1

Semifinal winners, 8:30 p.m.

UConn keeps rolling despite injuries

By **CHUCK SCHOFFNER**
AP Sports Writer

If the depth of Connecticut's talent was not apparent before, it certainly is now.

All-Americans Svetlana Abrosimova and Shea Ralph went down with season-ending injuries, and it didn't slow the Huskies in the least. They just keep winning, and now they are only two victories from a second straight national women's championship.

Freshman Diana Taurasi, showing poise beyond her years, led the way as Connecticut earned its fifth trip to the Final Four with a 67-48 victory over Louisiana Tech in the Mideast Regional final at Pittsburgh on Monday night.

It was the 15th straight victory for UConn, all since Abrosimova was sidelined by a foot injury on Feb. 1.

"A lot of teams who lost two players like that would have folded," point guard Sue Bird said. "A lot of people doubted us when Shea and Svet went down. We would read things about how we didn't have the players to get it done."

They've done it, all right, and their opponent in the national semifinals in St. Louis on Friday night will be all too familiar. It's Big East rival Notre Dame, which beat Vanderbilt 72-64 in the

Midwest final at Denver.

Purdue, the 1999 national champion, will play Jackie Stiles and Southwest Missouri State in the other semifinal.

Led by Final Four veterans Katie Douglas, Camille Cooper and Kelly Komara, Purdue beat Xavier 88-78 in the Mideast final at Birmingham, Ala. Stiles, the NCAA career scoring leader, had 32 points and got plenty of help from her teammates in a 104-87 victory over Washington in the West Regional at Spokane, Wash.

UConn and Notre Dame, both 32-2, will meet for the third time. They split the first two games, each winning at home.

Notre Dame ended Connecticut's 30-game winning streak and knocked the Huskies out of the No. 1 spot in the rankings with a 92-76 victory in South Bend on Jan. 15. Connecticut won 78-76 in the Big East championship game on Bird's basket at the buzzer.

"Those were tough games, and this will be a tough game," Bird said.

EAST
Connecticut 67, Louisiana Tech 48

Taurasi played with verve and confidence while scoring 17 points, grabbing 10 rebounds and handing out four assists. Louisiana Tech (31-5) had no one who could guard her or keep her off the

boards.

With her nine first-half rebounds, Taurasi triggered one fast break after another. Later, she finished off the Lady Techster with two 3-pointers that increased the lead to 17.

"She is tremendous," Louisiana Tech coach Leon Barmore said. "There is no one in the nation better on the perimeter than she is. She is truly one of the best I've seen at that age."

Tamika Williams had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Huskies, who held Louisiana Tech to 28.6 percent shooting with tough man-to-man defense.

Ayana Walker led Louisiana Tech with 15 points.

MIDWEST
Notre Dame 72, Vanderbilt 64

All-American center Ruth Riley scored 32 points as Notre Dame pulled away in the second half to earn its second Final Four trip.

Riley had 22 points in the second half, when Vanderbilt center Chantelle Anderson sat out for long stretches because of foul trouble.

"Her not being on the floor makes them a lot shorter," the 6-foot-5 Riley said. "They're a different team without her."

Alicia Ratay had 17 points, and Kelley Siemon added 16 for Notre Dame, which set a school record for victories in a season. Zuzana Klimesova led Vanderbilt (24-10)

with 27 points and 12 rebounds. Anderson had 14 points.

MIDEAST
Purdue 88, Xavier 78

Komara played a superb game filling in for injured point guard Erika Valek, and Douglas hit two critical 3-pointers to spark Purdue (30-6).

Valek tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee against Texas Tech on Saturday, forcing Komara to move from shooting guard to the point. She responded with 20 points, five assists and four steals.

"Looking on the bench and seeing Erika made me play better," Komara said.

Douglas added 19 points, and Cooper scored 16.

Taru Tuukkanen had 23 points for Xavier (31-3), which entered the game with a 21-game winning streak after upsetting top-seeded Tennessee on Saturday. Nicole Levandusky added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Musketeers.

WEST
SW Missouri St. 104, Washington 87

Stiles sat out 4 1/2 minutes early in the second half because of foul problems and fouled out with 3:25 left. Thanks to Tara Mitchem and Erika Rante, it didn't matter.

Mitchem scored 23 points and Rante had 16 points and 11 rebounds to help keep Southwest Missouri State (29-5) in control.

Taunt no more, NFL tells players

PALM DESERT, Calif. (AP) — NFL executives must be feeling like high school principals these days. Or drill sergeants.

Leading the list of topics being discussed at these owners' meetings is on-field discipline. There are a few things pro football policy makers are seeing that they don't like.

Such as taunting, late hits, scuffling after the whistle. They aim to stop it with stronger penalties.

"On the sportsmanship, it's a lot more than taunting," commissioner Paul Tagliabue said Monday. "Cheap shots in the pile ... special teams play where on the opening kickoff everyone is hyped up and you are getting guys who grab the face mask and twist your helmet, pushing you back down. They are unsportsmanlike, unnecessary."

"We think the solution is some early flags in the preseason and early flags in the regular season — even if it is on the first play, which you don't like to see, but that's where we will put an end to it. Penalize someone 15 yards on the first play of the game and it will probably stop. If it doesn't, disqualification of a player or two early in the game would put an end to it."

"Some of these demonstrations, such as stomping on an opposing team's logo and that type of stuff just has no place in the game and creates a misconception of what the NFL player is and what the NFL player represents."

Even people involved in the sport on other levels are looking to the NFL to curb such practices.

"High school coaches are saying, 'You represent the highest level of the game and whatever you let take place on Sunday, our guys are doing it on Monday,'" Minnesota coach Dennis Green said. Green is co-chairman of the league's rule-making competition committee, which officially announced it

will crack down on the taunting that's become prevalent in NFL games.

"Nobody backs down in the NFL, so what we have is a lot of nonsense. We will revisit the rules and make sure they are very clear and tell officials they have the leeway to penalize unsportsmanlike conduct and unnecessary roughness. Throw the flag, and we think this will get back control of the game."

Players guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct are subject to fines, although the fines won't be substantially increased from previous years. "One fine is all it takes," said Tampa Bay general manager Rich McKay, the other co-chairman of the competition committee. "They normally don't do it again."

A rule banning the wearing of bandanas under helmets also was approved by the committee. That could be a controversial issue because a majority of the players who wear them are black. A few years ago, according to league sources, banning them was brought up by Gene Washington, the league disciplinarian, but was shot down by Tagliabue.

But Green, who like Washington is black, said he banned bandanas on his team with little protest.

The recommendations will be voted on later this week.

Another key issue is divisional realignment, but no final decision will come at these

Boat dock at Fritch closed

FRITCH — On March 14, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area experienced winds over 70 miles per hour which caused damage to the dock at the Fritch Fortress launch ramp.

The dock broke loose from its anchors and was blown against the nearby shore. Superintendent John Benjamin said: "The dock is a safety hazard and we are asking visitors to stay off it. We are working hard to locate

meetings. That will happen in late May in Chicago.

The Houston Texans join the NFL next year, bringing the membership to 32. Eight divisions of four teams each will require realignment and a new schedule formula.

That schedule will feature six intradivision games and 14 games against common opponents rather than the current 10.

McKay expects a new order for tiebreakers to determine playoff berths, with records against common opponents gaining importance. Right now, it is the fourth tiebreaker in most scenarios.

"The first tiebreaker is always going to be head to head," McKay, co-chairman of the eight-man competition committee, said. "So those division games will not have anything taken away."

"The 10 common games now will go to 14 in the new schedule, and it makes for a healthier division, with the same opponents to play everyone."

"Moving common opponents up the chart makes sense."

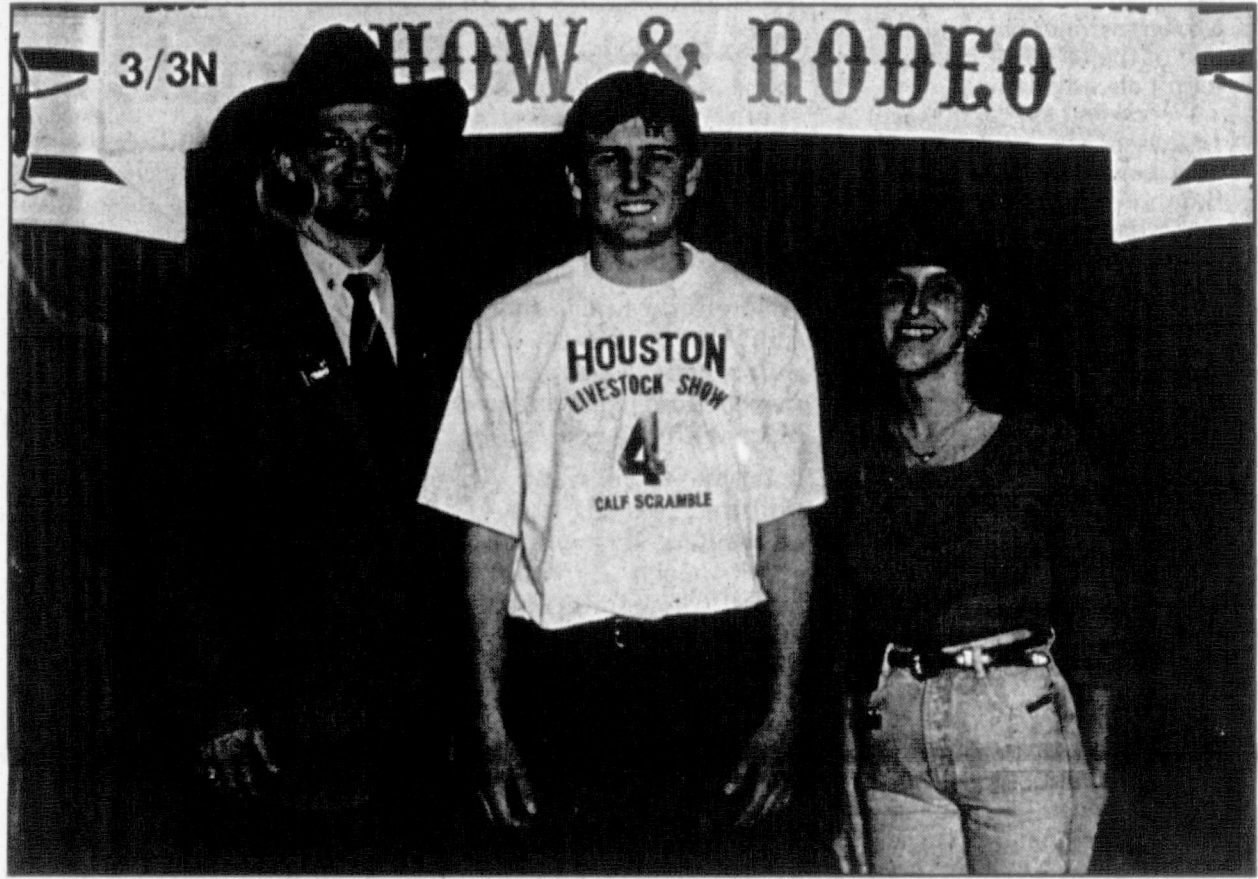
The competition committee hopes to extend approval of instant replay to a three-year commitment instead of the usual one season.

"That will be very close," McKay admitted. The competition committee voted 7-0 with one abstention (Indianapolis president Bill Polian) to extend replay for three years.

Boat dock at Fritch closed

funds from Washington to replace the dock before the summer season."

Cedar Canyon boat dock and the facilities at the marina received minimal damage due to the new break water put in place last year with money collected from the Fee Demonstration Program. All other docks received minimal damage, which have been repaired and are ready for visitor use.



Gray County 4-H student Chandler Bowers (center) with Calf Scramble representative Gary Nesloney and donor Angela Tripp. (Special photo)

Pampa's Chandler Bowers is Calf Scramble winner at Houston Show

HOUSTON — Chandler Bowers of Pampa was one of 14 winners at the Houston Livestock Show's Calf Scramble held earlier this month at the Astrodome.

Bowers, a Gray County 4-H student at Pampa High School, had to catch a calf, halter it and bring it into the winner's square in the middle of the 1.86-acre arena. In exchange for successfully capturing one of the calves, Bowers will receive a \$1,000 calf purchase certificate donated by Palace Station Casino. The certificate will be used for the purchase of a registered beef heifer which he will raise under the supervision of Danny Nusser, his county extension agent.

"Each calf scramble participant has worked hard to earn

his or her place on the arena floor and each is a winner before the scramble even starts," said Tom Baker, chairman of the Calf Scramble Committee and one of nearly 13,000 volunteers at the Houston Livestock Show.

"Those like Chandler who are successful in the scramble have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. For him, this is just the beginning of a year full of challenges, hard work and excitement. Many times the scrambler and his or her donor become lifelong friends because of the bond they have formed during the scramble year."

Although the scramble itself is entertaining, a serious side of the event begins once the Show is over. The heifer becomes the basis of a year-long project in which the

scrambler must personally raise the heifer, groom, fit, feed and care for her. Next year, the scrambler will bring the heifer back to the Houston Livestock Show to participate in a special competition.

Throughout the year, the student must keep accurate and detailed records of the animal's progress, submitting records to both the Show and donor chronicling the heifer's development. The winner's agricultural science teacher or county extension agent must supervise the entire project.

Once Bowers has fulfilled his year of commitment to the scramble program, he will be awarded a \$250 cash prize toward covering expenses.

Each year, approximately 360 calf purchase certificates are donated.

Cowboys reportedly close to deal with quarterback Banks

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Free agent quarterback Tony Banks, tapped by the Dallas Cowboys to replace veteran Troy Aikman as starter, is reportedly getting a one-year deal worth about \$500,000.

Banks was scheduled to sign the contract Tuesday, according to several media outlets in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"He's the guy we've targeted, and he's the guy we want," Cowboys vice president and chief operating officer Stephen Jones told The Dallas Morning News on Monday night. "We're going to get this done."

Although the 27-year-old Banks has agreed to the deal in

principle, his agent and Jones said some details were still to be worked out Tuesday.

"I talked to Tony over the weekend and he signed off on it," agent Marvin Demoff told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram at the National Football League owners meeting in Palm Desert, Calif., where Jones is representing the Cowboys in executive and team sessions.

Jones met with Demoff Monday night on Banks, who has a 25-36 career record in five seasons as a starter for St. Louis and Baltimore.

Rich Dalrymple, the Cowboys' public relations director, didn't return phone

messages left by The Associated Press. Banks' agent, Marvin Demoff, also didn't return calls.

While Banks would not receive a signing bonus, his contract was expected to be full of incentives that could greatly increase its value.

The Cowboys earlier this month released Aikman, their 12-year veteran, because of health-risk and salary-cap issues.

Banks has played in 68 regular-season games and started 61 times during his NFL career. He began last season as the starter in Baltimore, but was replaced by Trent Dilfer in the ninth week. Banks saw

limited action the rest of the season as the Ravens went on to win the Super Bowl.

Last season, Banks completed 150 of 274 passes (55 percent) for 1,578 yards, eight touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Dilfer, who replaced him as Baltimore's starter, was 134-of-226 passing (59 percent) for 1,502 yards, 12 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

Although considered a year ago as Baltimore's quarterback of the future, Banks was cut March 1 by the Ravens because of salary cap concerns. He was due to receive \$2.8 million on the four-year, \$18.6 contract he signed in February

2000. Aikman, who won three Super Bowls with the Cowboys, was also let go because of salary cap reasons. His contract called for a \$7 million bonus and an extension through 2007 if he had still been on the Dallas roster March 8.

The Cowboys were also concerned about the health of Aikman, 34, who suffered four concussions in his last 20 starts. When Aikman was released, the Cowboys were left with Anthony Wright, who started and lost the last two games last season, and Clint Stoerner, who went 3-for-5 in his only game last season, as the only quarterbacks left on

the roster.

Dallas also had veteran Randall Cunningham last season, but he met various performance incentives in his contract that made him a free agent.

Banks played at Michigan State, and was taken by the Rams in the second round of the 1996 draft. Banks played his first three seasons with St. Louis, then was traded to Baltimore in 1999, throwing a career-high 17 touchdown passes that season.

Jack Reilly, the Cowboys' offensive coordinator, was St. Louis quarterbacks coach in 1996 when Banks was drafted by the Rams.

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BRIEFS

Trains collide in Belgium, killing at least eight
 PECROT, Belgium (AP) — A crowded commuter train slammed head on into an empty locomotive Tuesday in central Belgium, killing at least eight people and seriously injuring at least eight. The death toll was expected to rise as workers cut into the carriages that were turned

into a pile of twisted metal. News reports put the death toll as high as 12. One of the trains was empty and the other was crowded with rush-hour passengers when they collided near the village of Pecrot, said Leen Uytendaele, spokeswoman for the national SNCB-NMBS rail company. The accident occurred at 8:45 a.m. about 16 miles east of Brussels on the line between the

university towns of Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve.
Regulators to consider increasing rates by up to 46 percent
 SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California's top energy regulator is considering raising rates by almost 50 percent to send a message to "electric-

ity hogs" to ease up on power usage. Ratepayers have labeled the plan a "rip-off" that would hit 10 million homes and businesses fighting to stay cool amid rolling blackouts and spiraling energy costs. The higher rates could be in effect as early as Tuesday, after the Public Utilities Commission hears its president's plan to raise prices by an average of 3 cents per kilowatt hour.

3 Personal

BEAUTICONTROL Cosmetics sales, service, makeovers. Lynn Allison 1304 Christine, 669-3848

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~ Business Review ~

Stokes Mr. Muffler in Pampa 18 years

A desire to make a career change in the early 1980s was the first step which led John and Carolyn Stokes into private business in Pampa.

The two native Pampans strong belief in Pampa and

the future of the community was a major factor in their decision to open an industrial radiator business locally in 1982. Industrial Radiator Service has been in business in Pampa 18 years.

The couple felt there was a need for a business specializing in industrial radiation. "Business was going through Pampa and right on out of town," said Carolyn Stokes. "We didn't even realize the signifi-

cance of the "boom times" when we opened our business."

After making the decision to leave his previous employment in the agriculture field, John Stokes and the couple's son, Blane Jones, traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, where they received specialized training in the radiator business. The two men received certification in industrial, automotive and agriculture in the radiator repair business.

Upon returning to Pampa, the couple and their son opened a business on Osage Street.

After about two-and-one-half years in that location, the family moved their business to its present

location at 525 W. Brown.

The radiator business provides repairs and replacements to heating and cooling systems, water pumps and heater cores. Custom built radiators are also available.

Guadalupe Davilla, a five-year employee, is the radiator technician.

In 1977, a muffler business came up for sale. The couple purchased it and were soon in the muffler business. Blane is in charge of the local muffler business.

Stokes' Mr. Muffler installs mufflers and does custom exhaust work. Brake Work and shocks are also services provided by the local business.

Owner and working

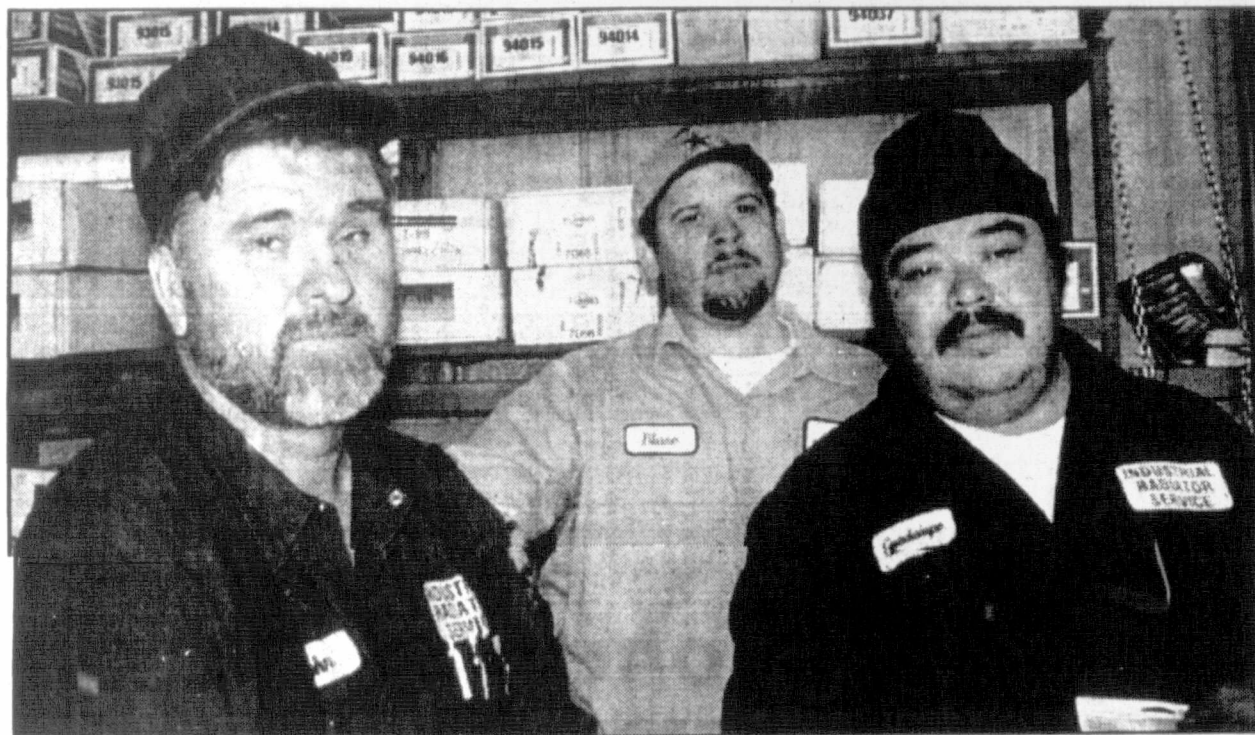
manager, John is proficient in both businesses. He works on both sides. Carolyn handles bookkeeping and business functions in the office.

The business can meet any budgets with the price range from stock to lifetime mufflers.

Local pickup and delivery are featured in both businesses.

The Stokes are proud of the success of their business. Hard work, determination and customer satisfaction have contributed to the continued success.

The couple are active members of the Trinity Fellowship Church in Pampa, and believe in Pampa.



John Stokes, Blane Jones and Guadalupe Davilla offer many years of experience to the Stokes Mr. Muffler and Industrial Radiator Service. Located at 525 w. Brown, the business provides quality business services to the customers.

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