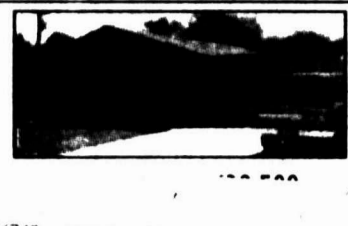
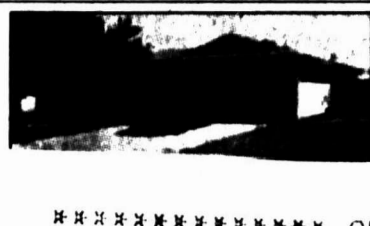


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3 bedrooms, 2 baths



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THE Pampa NEWS

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2002

NEWS

Vol. 97 No. 296 • Pampa, Texas
50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



Pampa Cyber Net
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WEATHER WEATHER

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LOCAL

Curry, Nicholson file for City Commission

Incumbent Ward 4 Pampa City Commissioner Faustina Curry has filed for re-election and she'll have opposition in the May 4 election from Shirley Ann Nicholson who has also filed. The other commission seat up this time, the Ward 2 post held by Jeff Andrews, will pit him against Tanita Olson.

Filing continues at Pampa City Hall through 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Filing also continues until 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert, for three positions on the Pampa ISD board. Three incumbents, John Curry, Dr. Jay Johnson and Lance DeFever have filed for three positions on that board. So far, they have no opposition.

Style show tonight

St. Matthew's Day School annual style show is set for 7 p.m. tonight in the Heritage Room of M.K. Brown Auditorium, featuring the "Wild, Wild West" and Easter clothes from Kids Stuff. A raffle with prizes donated from many local merchants is also planned. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$1 for students. Proceeds benefit St. Matthew's Day School.

Party planned for Ale Nunes

Friends of Ale Nunes, AFS exchange student to Pampa 1995-1996, can visit with him at a dessert party at 7:30 p.m. tonight at 2356 Aspen or call 665-2913.

DEATHS

Glen D. Clemons, 78. U.S. Army veteran.
Richard E. Little, 74. salesman.
Tom Laman, 70. executive.

INSIDE...

Classified9
Comics6
Editorial4
Sports7

West Texas LANDSCAPE
Residential & Commercial
669-0158 mobile 663-1277

Fatal shooting report to go to DA

By KATE B. DICKSON
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The final investigation report into the March 10 shooting death of Dustin Wade Stone, 22, is being prepared and will be turned over soon to 31st District Attorney Rick Roach, Pampa Police Department Det. Heather Ratzlaff said today.

The detective confirmed that Gregory K. Lang, 31, 2217 N. Christy, fired the small-caliber pistol shot that fatally wounded the New Mexico man during an incident at the North Christy Street address.

Lang has been charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm and

The detective said Lang shot Stone after Stone took an old Army rifle — an 8mm Mauser — from a case and brandished it.

remains free today on \$15,000 bond, according to a spokesman at the Gray County.

Police said no other charges have been filed against Lang at this time and said the matter is expected to be heard by a Gray County Grand Jury.

Also charged is Marshall Clayton Johnson, 36, 1441 North Charles, who remained in the jail this morning in lieu of \$250,000 bond on a burglary of a

habitation charge.

At the time of the North Christy incident, Johnson was free on a \$100,000 bond for a previous charge of aggravated assault, the DA said.

No autopsy report has been given the police department but at the time, officers said Stone was shot once in the head.

Ratzlaff and Col. Terry Young confirmed this morning that Johnson was

armed with a sword in a sheath when he allegedly forced his way into the home occupied by Lang, Lisa Bowers and Bowers' children. The incident happened about 11 p.m.

The detective said Lang shot Stone after Stone took an old Army rifle — an 8mm Mauser — from a case and brandished it. Stone was pronounced dead at an Amarillo hospital a few hours later.

There were reports that Johnson may have been armed with a gun but Ratzlaff said that is yet to be proven. A four-block search of the area did not turn up a weapon.

As to what sparked the incident, Young said, "We still have differing stories as to what it was all about."

County appoints Carter to serve on community board

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

County Commissioners here approved appointing retired County Clerk Wanda Carter as alternate board member for the Panhandle Community Services during their March 15 meeting.

Carter would attend board if current County Clerk Susan Winborne is unable to do so. Winborne recommended Carter be named to the board, saying she was a member of the board before she retired in December 1998.

Approval was given by the commission for a \$424 bid on the property at Block 1, Lot 3-C, Original Town of McLean. County Judge Richard Peet told the commission that City of McLean and McLean Independent School District both have approved the bid.

Commissioners also approved an agreement with the Texas Association of Counties to participate in the

County Information Resources Agency.

Peet said there is no cost to the county and it would provide Gray County with information on the latest technology available to county government entities.

He said participation in the project would also assist in planning and implementation of technology.

Commissioner Jim Greene reported that some people involved in the stock shows in Gray County have inquired about costs involved in resurfacing the dining area at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion. Greene said he was told the cost for a pour-on flooring to cover the present floor would be approximately \$2,000. He said the supporters of the project would like to meet with the county commission at the next meeting.

County Treasurer Scott Hahn presented the treasurer's report. Bills and salaries were also approved for payment.

Rainy today, sun tomorrow

Occasional rainfall should continue through tonight but by tomorrow sunny skies and warmer temperatures near 60 degrees are expected to be back in the area.

KGRO/KOMX meteorologist Darrell Sehorn said a tenth of an inch of rain had fallen by early morning today bringing the year's normal rainfall almost to where it should be.

"It's not much," Sehorn said of the "moisture," adding, "but we'll take what we can get."

Tonight, temperatures will get near freezing and a few snowflakes, without an accumulation, could be mixed with the rain, he said.

Though it may have seemed like it to many, the area has not been in a drought but there has been an extended dry spell, he said. That, coupled with lots of wind, has made it seem like a drought, Sehorn said.

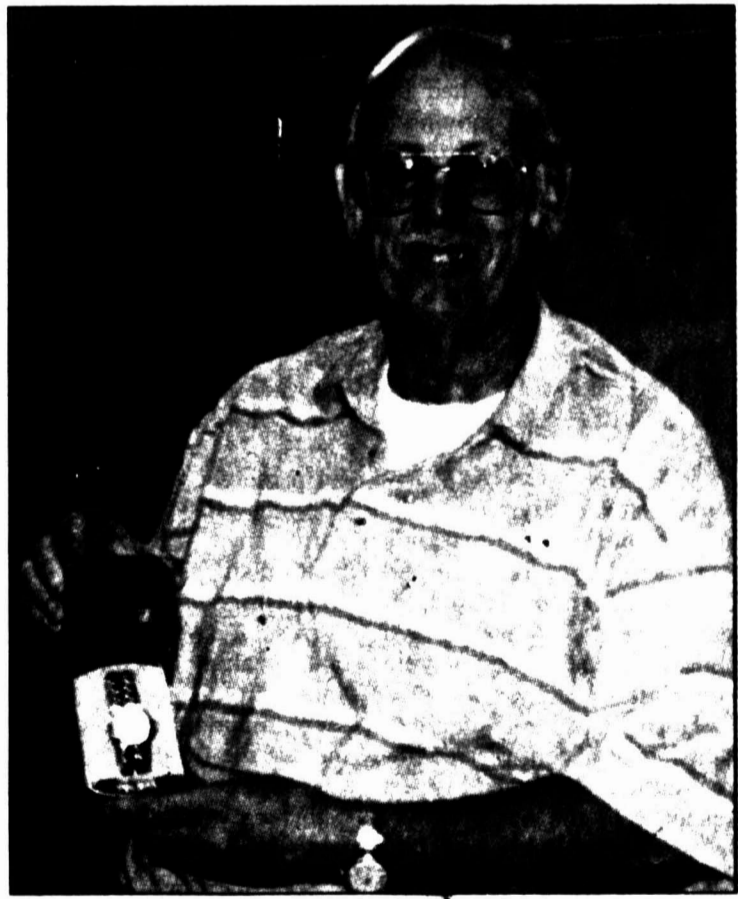
So far this year, moisture in January and February was mostly in the form of snow and ice which, coupled with today's rain, brought the annual total to 1.74 inches, he said. Normal for this time of year is 1.82 inches.

Three decades of service



(Pampa News photos by Dee Dee Laramore)

Lt. Charlie Love, above center, Col. Terry Young, left, and Chief Charlie Morris display a cake honoring Love's 30 years of service with the Pampa Police Department at a reception for him at City Hall Monday. At right, Lt. Love displays a retirement watch presented to him at the event from the City of Pampa. Love said he plans to continue his career in law enforcement with the Littlefield Police Department beginning April 1. Lt. Love and Lt. Preston Bailey are the only Pampa police officers to complete three decades on the force in recent years, officials said.



Sept. 11 suspect may face death penalty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors are preparing to seek the death penalty against Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person charged in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to government officials and a letter sent by prosecutors to victims' families.

Attorney General John Ashcroft has not given final approval to prosecutors to push for the death penalty, but the Justice Department has until March 29 to make a decision, according to two officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

In the meantime, prosecutors are getting ready to argue that the man

they allege conspired and trained alongside the Sept. 11 airliner hijackers should be put to death.

The government's intention to seek capital punishment was first disclosed in a letter from U.S. Attorney Paul McNulty and lead prosecutor David J. Novak to dozens of victims' families.

The letter, dated March 7, said that if the Justice Department gave final approval, "the Moussaoui case will become a capital prosecution, meaning that the United States will be asking the jury to find that defendant Moussaoui should be executed should he be found guilty."

Moussaoui, 33, a French citizen of

Moroccan descent, is charged with conspiring with Osama bin Laden, along with the 19 alleged hijackers and others, to commit the Sept. 11 attacks. His trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 30.

On the day of the terrorist attacks, Moussaoui was in a prison cell. He had been arrested in Minnesota in August on visa violations after flight school instructors became suspicious.

Four of the six counts brought against Moussaoui carry a maximum sentence of death.

The letter said prosecutors would seek out 30 families to testify about how the terrorist attacks affected them. This testimony would be needed dur-

ing the punishment phase of the trial, should Moussaoui be found guilty, the letter said.

"The individual stories of approximately 30 victims ... will serve as a microcosm of all," it said. "Obviously, we cannot tell the story of every victim; otherwise, the trial would last forever."

Stephen Push, whose wife, Lisa Raines, was killed when a hijacked plane hit the Pentagon, is among those who received the letter.

"The prosecutors have been extremely helpful in terms of keeping us informed and I plan to help out in (See SUSPECT, Page 3)

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ON RECORD

CARSON CO. SHERIFF

Five persons were booked into the Carson County Jail during the week of March 11-17, 2002. Currently, there are 13 persons incarcerated in this jail and an additional 11 prisoners being held in other jurisdictions.

Shane Scott, 27, Ada, Okla., was arrested for aggravated robbery.

Maximiliano Marquez, 22, San Diego, Calif., was arrested for failure to appear on a charge of possession of marijuana more than 50 lbs., but less than 2,000 lbs.

Sherry Sons, 23, White Deer, was arrested for disorderly conduct, obstructing roadway and revocation of probation.

Francisco Mendoza, 43, Pampa, was arrested for Department of Public Safety traffic warrants.

Donald Geerdes, 34, Borger, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, third offense or more.

AMBULANCE

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

Monday, March 18

8 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of North Duncan and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC).

8:25 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of North Wells on lifting assistance.

9:31 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1600 block of West Somerville and transported one to PRMC.

2:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Faulkner; no transport.

2:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit and transported one to PRMC.

5:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC for a transport to a local nursing facility.

POLICE

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

Monday, March 18

Attempted burglary of a habitation in the 400 block of North Lowry. Entry was not made but locks on the front and rear doors were damaged.

A domestic assault with minor injuries was reported in the 400 block of North Frost.

Juvenile shoplifters were taken into custody at Albertson's, 1233 N. Hobart, and \$49.98 in merchandise recovered.

Telephone harassment — threats and name calling — was reported in the 1600 block of Grape.

Assault with no injuries was reported in the 1100 block of Seneca.

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was reported in the 400 block of North Faulkner.

An \$85 ladder was reported stolen from a Cable One truck at Cable One, 1423 N. Hobart.

Telephone harassment — foul language — was reported in the 300 block of North Starkweather.

A theft of a \$5 hub cap was reported in the 400 block of South Cuyler.

SHERIFF

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

Monday, March 18

Omar Marquez, 23, 228 Miami, theft of property over \$1,500 and under \$20,000.

William Bradford Houck, 43, 1900 W. Kentucky, arrested by the DPS for driving while intoxicated/second offense.

Ricky Young, 50, Skellytown, fictitious license plate and operating a vehicle without a motor vehicle inspection.

FIRE

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

Monday, March 18

6:58 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 900 block of Terry.

7:45 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a utility pole on fire on U.S. Highway 60, east of Pampa.

9:27 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to an electrical transformer fire that knocked down a power line. SPS officials were called to repair the transformer and power line.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department recently reported the following accidents within the city limits.

Friday, March 15

A citation for no proof of financial responsibility was issued to Angela Lee Anguiono, 19, 1125 N. Starkweather after she failed to yield right of way as she exited a parking lot in the 1200 block of North Hobart. The 1996 Green Mercury Cougar she was driving collided with a 1989 Maroon Pontiac Grand Am driven by Brandy Rose Reynolds, 17, 1236 S. Farley.

No charges have been filed in an apparent hit-and-run in the 900 block of East Gordon. A chain link fence located in that block received approximately \$500 damage. Vehicle tracks were visible on the fence, according to the Pampa PD report. The report stated a vehicle had fled the scene.

OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

CLEMONS, Glen D. — 2 p.m., First Assembly of God Church, Pampa.
LITTLE, Richard E. "Dick" — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

GLEN D. CLEMONS

Glen D. Clemons, 78, of Pampa, died Saturday, March 16, 2002, at a veterans nursing home in Norman, Okla. Services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday in First Assembly of God Church with the Rev. Lonnie Robbins, pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church, officiating. Burial will be in Miami Cemetery at Miami under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger.

Mr. Clemons, a Miami native, had been a Pampa resident for 57 years and was a member of First Assembly of God Church.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II, and belonged to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.

Survivors include three sisters, Gladys Ellington of Shawnee, Okla., Betty Welch of Vallejo, Calif., and Fern Cazzell of Galena, Mo.; and several nieces and nephews.

The body will lie-in-state until 12 noon, Wednesday at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home in Pampa.

TOM LAMAN

1931-2002

Tom Laman, 70, passed away Wednesday, March 6, 2002. He was born on May 4, 1931, in Mobeetie, Texas, to Thomas Ellis Laman, Sr. and Hattie Bowers Laman. Mr. Laman was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a graduate of Texas A&I University of Kingsville, Texas. Tom retired in 1985 as Executive Vice-President of A.M.F. Tuboscope. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Pearland, Texas.

Virginia Peal and her husband, Jim of Pearland, Texas. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held at South Park Funeral Home on March 8, 2002. Graveside services were Saturday, March 9, 2002, at Tenaha, Texas.

For those who wish to make memorial contributions may send them to The American Lung Association of Texas, P.O. Box 26460, Austin, TX 78755-0460; or to Old Mobeetie Texas Association, Museum Fund, Box 66, Mobeetie, TX 79061; or to a charity of your choice.

RICHARD E. 'DICK' LITTLE

1928-2002

Richard E. "Dick" Little, 74, of Pampa, died Monday, March 18, 2002, at Pampa, Texas. Services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Billy Jones, Church of Christ minister of Amarillo, and Mike Gibson, minister of the Westside Church of Christ of Pampa, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

MCP group his additional family.

He was a member of the Westside Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Charles G. Little, Jr., in 1967.

Survivors include his wife, June, of the home; a daughter, Debbie Addy of Pampa; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Larry and Dolores Little of Amarillo and Jerry Little of Pampa; a sister, Sue Paschal of Gordonville; two brothers, Doug Little of Kansas City, Mo., and Mike Little of Shamrock; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065; or to Westside Church of Christ, 1612 W. Kentucky, Pampa, TX 79065.

Mr. Little was born Feb. 23, 1928, at Wellington. He married June Savage on Nov. 17, 1956, in Wellington. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1969, moving from Amarillo. He sold cookware for Mid-Continent Permanent for 29 years. He considered the

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	2.39	VLO	48.34	+0.34
Milo	3.17	Halliburton	16.84	+0.24
Corn	3.50	Triad Hospitals	31.80	-1.20
Soybeans	3.71	NOI	24.29	-0.26
		KMI	49.39	-0.36
		XCEL	25.94	+0.01
		Kerr McGee	62.04	+0.19
		Limited	18.21	+0.21
		Williams	23.25	+0.40
		McDonald's	28.49	+0.05
		Exxon Mobil	43.84	+0.10
		Atmos	23.99	+0.10
		Pioneer Nat.	21.55	-0.29
		Penney's	21.71	-0.07
		SLB	63.32	-0.13
		Phillips	59.76	-0.64
		Tenneco	3.68	-0.22
		CVX	90.87	+0.51
		Wal-Mart	63.14	-0.41
		OKE	20.11	+0.02

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

BP	52.42	+0.12
Celanese	21.41	+0.52
Cabot Corp.	35.29	+0.16
Cabot Oil Gas	23.97	+0.25
Coca Cola	49.09	+0.42
New York Gold	292.60	
Silver	4.50	
West Texas Crude	24.11	

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today should be cloudy, breezy and much cooler with rain likely. Early highs around 48. North to northeast winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 30 mph. Area coverage of rain 60 percent. Caution advised on area lakes. Tonight, cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Rain may mix with snow late. Lows near 32. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday should become mostly sunny. Highs around 62. North to northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Wednesday night, mostly clear. Lows near 35. Thursday, partly sunny. Highs around 52. Thursday evening, partly cloudy. Friday, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Highs around 60. Saturday, partly cloudy. Lows in the middle 30s. Highs in the middle 60s. Sunday and Monday, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Highs in the lower 70s.

STATEWIDE

Up to four inches of rain fell by early Tuesday in parts of North Texas, with forecasters warning of at least another inch amid flash flood warnings.

An upper-level low pressure system spinning over the region was responsible for the precipitation. More rain fell in Central Texas, the panhandle, South Plains

and Permian Basin into the Concho Valley. A warm front extended just north of a line from Midland and Abilene through Corsicana to Shreveport, La.

Winds north of the front were east to northeast at 5 to 10 mph, except for gusts to 30 mph in the panhandle.

To the south, winds were south to southeast at 5 to 15 mph and readings were in the 60s to near 70 degrees.

Heaviest rain overnight occurred north of a line from Comanche through Denton to Sherman, with totals up to 1.5 inches. A band of heavier rain moved from just east of Eastland and Decatur to about 15 miles northwest of Sherman. Up to four inches fell in the area.

Early-morning temperatures ranged from the 30s across the panhandle to the 60s across the Permian Basin and Concho Valley southward to the Edwards Plateau. Extremes were 36 degrees at Dalhart and 73 at Kelly Field near San Antonio.

Other readings included 65 degrees at Dryden.

The National Weather Service posted a flash flood watch through Wednesday for the northern half of the state. A severe thunderstorm watch was issued for the Junction area.

More showers and thunderstorms were likely north of a line from Lampasas through Hillsboro to Canton.

Golfer's prosthetic arm stolen along with his SUV

SPRING (AP) — A man known in golfing circles as the "One-Armed Bandit" has lost a crucial tool to his trade, a \$15,000 custom-made prosthetic left arm.

The arm, along with several other belongings including a second prosthetic, was stolen along with Alford's Ford Expedition from an apartment complex in Spring, a north Houston suburb.

"This is pretty serious because it's how I make my living," Alford said. "It's pretty sad that it happened."

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Department was investigating the theft, which occurred early Saturday.

Bush advisers recommend INS and Customs merger

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House advisers, seeking to bolster the nation's porous borders, urged President Bush on Tuesday to ask Congress to merge two federal agencies responsible for border security.

Bush has not decided whether to accept the recommendation, which is a response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but is likely to do so, aides said.

His domestic security team recommended that the Customs Service and the Immigration Service and Naturalization Service be put under one agency — either the Justice or Treasury department.

Bush's parting words to the advisers were, "I'll let you know," according to one participant.

Tom Ridge, head of the homeland office, has pushed

for a merger of the Customs Service, INS and Border Patrol since last year in the face of stiff opposition from competing bureaucracies.

A senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the team's recommendation did not include the Border Patrol.

"A recommendation has been received by the president that would merge some agencies in a way to help enforce the borders more tightly," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

The plan would require congressional approval.

The INS and Border Patrol are part of the Justice Department. Customs is part of the Treasury Department.

"There is a school of thought that you can have better controls and more effective ways of welcoming people to this country, welcoming

trade to this country, while keeping people out who would do us harm as a result of consolidation," Fleischer said.

Fleischer said the new entity would be made part of an existing agency, not part of Ridge's office.

Democrats in Congress want to make Ridge's office a Cabinet-level agency that would be subject to congressional oversight. Bush has objected to the idea.

The former Pennsylvania governor met with Attorney General John Ashcroft, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and other members of the homeland security council to discuss the proposal.

The recommendation comes as Bush prepares for a four-day trip to Latin America, including Mexico. The trip begins Thursday with a stop in El Paso, Texas, where Bush is expected to discuss border issues.

Asked if Bush will announce his decision on the merger Thursday, Fleischer said, "No. I would not lead you to any such conclusion," but officials later said they could not rule out a Thursday announcement.

City Briefs

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

- BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SIGN UPS Today, Wed. & Thurs.!! 5:30pm-7:00pm at the Optimist Club ages 5-15 boys and girls! For more information call 661-2261!**
- EVERY SOFTBALL & Baseball Bat in the store on sale! Holmes Sports Center.**
- LIKE NEW Olafsson pool table with cover. Beautiful oak, \$1200, 669-9410.**
- LOT IN nice area for a new home. Concrete and plumbing in place. Was \$18,000, now \$4000. 665-0447**
- MARCH MADNESS Shoe Sale, One Week Only—every running, tennis, cross trainer and basketball shoe 20% to 50% off. Holmes Sports Center.**
- NEW GARDEN Center at Bartlett's Ace Hdwe, 500 W. Brown. Beautiful, early spring plants just arrived.**
- PROF. COUPLE would like to rent/lease nice 3 or 4 bd. home. Call 669-9013.**
- TUXEDO RENTAL lots of styles to choose from, lowest prices! VJ'S Fashion & Gifts, Downtown Pampa. 669-6323.**
- WEDDING GOWNS 50% off, VJ'S Fashions & Gifts, Downtown Pampa, 669-6323.**

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FBI: Worldwide child-pornography ring shut down

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI says it expects to arrest at least 50 more people by week's end as it breaks up an Internet child-pornography ring that allegedly included two Catholic priests, six other members of the clergy, a school bus driver and a civilian law enforcement employee.

The agency said Monday its "Operation Candyman" sweep already had resulted in criminal charges against more than 89 people in 26 states. The effort targeted members of three Internet discussion groups on Yahoo Inc.'s Web site, including one called "Candyman," apparently named after a song in the 1971 children's movie "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

"I'd like to see one sweep a day," said Bruce J. Gebhardt, FBI executive assistant director for criminal investigations and cyber-crime. "We want to keep the pressure up on all these people."

All three Internet groups have been shut down. Investigators declined to identify the other two groups by name, saying it might interfere with efforts to trace suspects through their e-mail addresses. They said 7,000 people worldwide registered e-mail addresses with the Candyman group, and authorities were able to trace 1,400 people in the United States through those addresses.

"A new marketplace for child pornography has opened in the dark corners of cyberspace," Attorney General John Ashcroft said Monday in announcing the investigation. "There will be no free rides on the Internet for those who traffic in child pornography."

Gebhardt said Yahoo executives cooperated with FBI requests for information about the subscribers to the discussion groups. Gebhardt declined to say whether he believed Yahoo should have monitored its discussion groups to prevent them from operating as open exchanges for child pornography.

Organizers of the Candyman group described it online as "for people who love kids. You can post any type of messages you like, too, or any type of pics and vids you like, too. P.S. If we all work together we will have the best group on the Net."

Mike Heimbach, head of the FBI's child crime unit, described the images exchanged on the Candyman group as "very explicit" and "hard-core."

FBI officials in Washington declined to identify by name any of those arrested or charged, except to list the occupations of some they described as "significant perpetrators" because they held jobs where they might spend time with children.

The officials said those people included a

Catholic priest in the St. Louis area; a school bus driver in Albany, N.Y.; a preschool teacher's aide in Las Vegas; a child photographer and an unspecified clergy member in Philadelphia; and a person the FBI described as a civilian law enforcement employee in West Virginia. That person has not been arrested, FBI Special Agent Bill Crowley said, declining to provide further details.

The FBI did not further identify the denominations of the non-Catholic clergy members implicated in the sweep.

In Las Vegas, authorities said Beckham Baker, 23, was indicted Feb. 6 on one charge of receiving child pornography and one charge of possession of child pornography. Baker, who worked in a southern Nevada day care center, is free pending his next court appearance.

FBI Special Agent Gayle Jacobs said authorities moved quickly to arrest Baker because of his job. "Obviously, he needed to be removed from working with children," she said.

Reached by telephone Monday at his Las Vegas apartment, Baker said he was seeking to hire a lawyer and declined to comment further.

The school bus driver in New York was identified as Shannon Timothy Macauley, 36, of Constable, N.Y. Macauley was charged by state police in November and December with sodomizing five boys. Another arrest in New

York was of John J. Schmidt Jr., 51, of Dolgeville, N.Y. Schmidt, an elementary school teacher, was charged in November with receiving child pornography on his home computer from Internet sites.

Schmidt pleaded innocent. His attorney, Frank Policelli, said he couldn't comment on evidence he still hasn't seen.

"The government always comes forth before anybody can see what kind of case they have," Policelli said. "You can't form an opinion just because the government made charges. They can charge anybody."

In St. Louis, archdiocese officials disclosed earlier this month that a computer belonging to the Rev. John Hess, a priest at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Florissant, had been seized as part of a child pornography investigation. Authorities could not say late Monday whether that search was related to Monday's announcement in Washington. Hess has been removed from the parish.

FBI spokesman Pete Gulotta in Baltimore confirmed that among those also charged was the Rev. Thomas A. Ryzdzewski, an associate pastor at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. His arrest on Dec. 13 had been previously announced there by authorities, but there was no indication of a larger investigation until Monday's announcement.

Justice Department: McVeigh documents lost through 'error'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Justice Department investigation concludes the FBI did not intentionally withhold evidence from Timothy McVeigh's lawyers but that four supervisors should be disciplined for a "significant neglect of their duties."

"Human error, compounded by antiquated and cumbersome information technology systems and procedures," contributed to the documents not being turned up until years after McVeigh's trial, Attorney General John Ashcroft said Tuesday, citing the findings of a report by the department inspector general.

"The American people have a right to have confidence in our justice system," Ashcroft said in a statement. "The Department of Justice is committed to implementing necessary reforms at the FBI."

The late turnover of documents resulted in a one-month delay in McVeigh's execution. But the report said that "the direct and circumstantial evidence supports the conclusion that the government did not willfully withhold material known to be discoverable."

FBI Director Robert S. Mueller said Tuesday the agency has been making major changes to implement the inspector general's recommendations, to retrain employees on document handling and to make records management a priority.

"There can be no doubt about the accuracy, completeness and proper disclosure of the records we compile during our investigations and used by prosecutors in support of prosecutions," Mueller said in a statement.

Assistant Director John Collingwood said Monday: "We have brought in new records management experts, consolidated our records functions in one office and retrained our employees — all intended to enhance operations and increase accountability."

"More importantly, with funding from Congress we are rebuilding our computerized information infrastructure in ways that will not permit many of the things that happened here while increasing security at the same time," he said.

Collingwood said a key phase will occur next spring with the unveiling of a new computer system that will not allow FBI agents to create documents unless they are attached to the master case file so that the lead investigative office knows about every piece of evidence in a case.

He added that another key is the "creation of a culture within the agency that understands records management is critical — although quite mundane compared to the spectacular other things we often do — and is just as impor-

tant in protecting rights and supporting strong investigations and prosecutions."

The inspector general concluded that four FBI supervisors should be disciplined for what he described as a "significant neglect of their duties." They include Danny Defenbaugh, the inspector in charge of the bombing investigation and currently the special agent in charge of the FBI's Dallas office; and Mark White, who was coordinating information exchanged between the FBI's offices in Dallas and Oklahoma City.

The inspector general also recommended discipline, to a lesser degree, for William Teater, a squad supervisor for the FBI unit responsible for parts of the investigation, and for Richard Marquise, who became head of the Oklahoma City office in 1999. The report said, Teater "in many ways ... acted appropriately" but that he "should have done more to ensure that someone was making the necessary decisions to resolve the matter expeditiously."

It said it was difficult to know "how much criticism should be directed at Marquise," but said he should have investigated more thoroughly after he received e-mails from Teater indicated a problem with the documents.

When the belated discovery of 4,500 pages of FBI documents abruptly postponed McVeigh's execution, it generated an immediate outcry and questions about the FBI's performance. At the time, FBI officials blamed a computer glitch for the failure to discover the documents.

But people familiar with the inspector general's findings, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said the internal review identified several human errors involved in the FBI identification, production and preservation of documents that should have been turned over to McVeigh's defense.

Among them, according to the sources, were:

—At least two FBI offices began destroying documents in the McVeigh case before such permission was granted by records archive officials in late 2000.

—The FBI's Oklahoma City bombing task force lost some documents and evidence during the five years of investigation, trials and appeals.

—Nine FBI field offices destroyed documents that either should have gone to the defense or which they could not rule out should have gone to McVeigh's legal team.

—There was confusion and differing interpretations inside the bureau about what types of documents needed to be produced to defense lawyers.

Marshall boy drowns in creek

LONGVIEW (AP) — A rain-swollen creek has claimed the life of an East Texas youth amid heavy rains that have prompted flash flood watches and warnings across the northern half of the state.

The 4-year-old boy drowned Monday in Marshall creek. The unidentified boy was swept underwater along with his 10-year-old sister and a 13-year-old friend while they were swimming.

Strong thunderstorms from an upper-level, low pressure system dumped up to four inches of rain through early Monday on North and East Texas.

The National Weather Service warned of flooding in the regions.

The weather was expected to delay several flights Tuesday at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Some American Airlines flights were delayed more than two hours, and the airline canceled 21 flights Tuesday morning.

Up to five inches of rain were expected from the storm system.

In the East Texas death, law officers said they believe the victim had been underwater for 10 minutes before police arrived and tried to revive him.

His two companions were treated for hypothermia and released Monday night from Marshall Regional Medical Center.

The boy, the girls and their parents were not identified by

police, pending notification of relatives.

According to investigators, the boy had been playing with his sister and their friend in his backyard when the 13-year-old girl invited the other two to swim in a nearby creek, Leland Benoit of the Marshall Police Department told the Longview News-Journal in Tuesday's editions.

Benoit said the boy began struggling in the water and the 13-year-old girl sent the younger girl for help at the nearest house.

A man at the house, about 150 yards away from the creek, called 911. The boy's sister then returned to the creek and was in the water with the other two when

police arrived.

"As officers responded, as they got to the creek area, all three kids were in the water," Benoit said. "The two that were visible appeared to be struggling at that time. The younger had gone under."

Officers Jamie McConnell found the boy and cardiopulmonary resuscitation was administered, Benoit said.

Doctors at the hospital spent more than an hour trying to resuscitate the boy without success, police said. He was declared dead at 7:03 p.m.

The creek level was probably higher than usual because of the recent rains, Benoit said, and the bank was very slippery and muddy.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SUSPECT

anyway I can," Push, of Great Falls, Va., said Monday.

Asked whether Moussaoui should get the death penalty, Push hesitated and then said, "That is not for me to say. That is for the judge and the jury to determine."

Ashcroft is a longtime and staunch supporter of the death penalty.

Government officials said defense lawyers were so certain that the death penalty would be sought that they had declined to attend a Justice Department hearing during which they could have tried to persuade the government not to ask for death, according to The New York Times, which first reported on the government's intentions in Tuesday's editions.

In France, Moussaoui's brother said Monday that he was refusing to cooperate with a U.S. official involved in the prosecution.

Moussaoui's mother, Aicha Moussaoui, skipped a Tuesday appointment for questioning by the same official, police

said. The official was identified by French judicial authorities as being from federal court in Alexandria, Va., where Moussaoui was indicted. He traveled to the southern French city of Montpellier to speak to the family.

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall
Assoc. Publisher: Kate B. Dickson
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore
Managing Editor: Nancy Young
Circulation Manager: Dean Lynch
Advertising Manager: ReDonn Woods

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Local Red Cross continues to provide emergency relief

To all Gray County Red Cross Chapter communities:
Please accept our sincere assurance that the Gray County American Red Cross is known for performing many activities in our communities... and all funds designated to national disasters are sent to the proper places. Through the generous donations to the United Way and the local Red Cross chapter, the Red Cross has been able to offer disaster services, health and safety services, and service to military families.

The national media has unfairly exaggerated concerns about the American Red Cross distribution of donations, although we feel the Red Cross has risen to the challenge and has modified internal policies to better serve the public. The disaster business is tough and challenging and we make every effort to adhere to the stringent reporting requirements and accountability to our National Headquarters.

The Red Cross is an emergency disaster relief organization. Relief is provided to sustain human life, reduce the harsh physical and emotional distress that prevents victims from meeting their basic needs, and to promote recovery of victims when such relief assistance is not available from other sources.

On a local level, the Gray county Chapter of the American Red Cross has given emergency disaster assistance to many in the past fiscal year. Trained and dedicated volunteers helped with emergency needs such as temporary shelter, food, new clothes and shoes, prescriptions, basic household furnishings — such as beds, linens and kitchen utensils — and occupational supplies. The American Red Cross assists those who have few or no resources of their own to begin their lives again.

These services are available 24 hours a day, every single day of the year. All Red Cross assistance to disaster clients is free. It is given because of the generous financial and volunteer support of people like yourselves. The Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross also provides a critical support function for emergency responders, such as providing food and water to firefighters during wildfires and structure fires.

The Gray County Chapter also serves as the communications link between local citizens and their families in military services stationed around the world. Red Cross volunteers and staff verify deaths, serious illness, financial problems and births. Emergency messages are then relayed through a worldwide communications network to military personnel. Like Disaster Services, this program is available 24 hours a day, and is given without charge to the family or the service person.

Health education programs are a vital part of the American Red Cross mission. A total of 935 people enrolled in First Aid and CPR classes while 220 enrolled in Aquatics and Water Safety programs ranging from beginner level swimming to life guarding. Certified volunteer instructors taught these life-saving skills for the community at large as well as in workplaces throughout the county.

Another available Red Cross service is a free medical loan closet. There are wheelchairs, potty chairs, crutches, walkers, canes and hospital beds to name a few. Red Cross also accepts donated items to add to its loan closet.

The Gray County American Red Cross relies solely on the United Way and public donation for financial support. So please remember your continued contributions apply to the much-needed services in our own community as well as nationally.

Jana Gregory, Executive Director
Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters must be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to The Pampa News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

The good and bad of e-mails

When I come to work every day, the first thing I do is check my e-mails. This can be an adventure, to say the least.

This morning, as Kate Dickson checked her e-mail after being gone several days, she commented, "I can't understand why I keep getting these e-mails about things I care nothing about."

I feel the same way. As I've mentioned in my column before, I generally get several pornographic missives. Just reading the subject lines embarrasses me. I won't share them with you. If you have Internet capability, you've probably seen them, too.

I've learned that I can erase several at a time without opening them. That seems to have slowed them down some. Somehow, opening the e-mail indicates to the sender that they have a good address. If they're not opened, it appears to have been lost in cyberspace. Good enough... I don't think I'm getting as many as I was originally.

Another thing that bothers me about e-mails are all the ones that try to lay a guilt trip on you if you don't send it on to someone else. They usually start with something inspiring, then at the end there's this little comment like the one I got this morning, "Please pass this message to 7 people except you and I. You will receive a miracle tomorrow. Don't ignore and God will bless you."

I don't understand why people feel like they have to add messages like this to what are often inspirational pieces that most recipients wouldn't mind sending to others anyway. By the way, most have been lifted straight out of



DEE DEE LARAMORE
EDITOR

"Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. I know, because that's where I first read them.

Don't get me wrong. I like these uplifting tidbits and jokes. They brighten my day. I'd rather read something personal from the sender at the bottom, however, than be left feeling like God won't bless me or I'm letting Jesus down because I'm not going to take the time to "pass it on."

I particularly enjoy the photographs that I get through e-mail. I usually pick one out and place it on my computer desktop. Today's photograph is a picture of the New York skyline with the two lights indicating where the World Trade Center towers were located. I've also liked the different patriotic things that have come across the Internet. It's our way of banding together and encouraging other after Sept. 11. It's also healing.

Don't believe everything you read on the Internet. Just because someone sends you an e-mail that perfume samples that come in the mail are poisonous and killing people and it's being kept secret by the government, doesn't mean it's true. Believe me, if something like that was happening. It couldn't be kept a secret, even by the government. You can

bet that that has already been checked out by the news media and found to be a false rumor like almost every other "alert" that goes across the Internet.

Another "fact" that proved to be false is an e-mail I received recently saying that you can do CPR on yourself by coughing hard during a heart attack. I was skeptical about it at the time, and my doubts were confirmed in an article in a national magazine. A registered nurse, specializing in cardiac care, said that this is not true. The best thing you can do if you think you're having a heart attack, she said, is get medical attention as quickly as possible.

That doesn't mean I don't like e-mail. In our business, it's drawbacks are outweighed by the benefits. It's a wonderful way for the public to share information with the newspaper. Local schools and organizations have been sending photographs and information on events that, with our limited staff, we could never cover.

You may have noticed the columns we run by J.B. Horton, a Pampan now working with the Bush administration in Washington, D.C. Because of e-mail, he can send this column to us within minutes of writing it. Because of e-mail, we had his eyewitness account shortly after the attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11. He was only blocks away when it happened.

This technology has streamlined our work in more ways than I can recount in this small space. I just hope that it will be used most often for good, rather than bad.

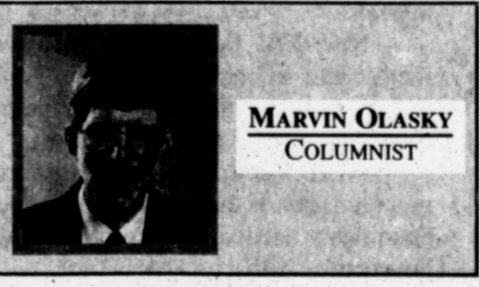


Beyond charges of anti-semitism

Reports of anti-Semitic remarks made three decades ago are in the news. The New York Times this past Sunday ran a long article criticizing Billy Graham's remarks to Richard Nixon, for which the evangelist has apologized. John Nash, subject of next week's Oscar frontrunner "A Beautiful Mind," wrote a slurring letter at a time when he was diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic and, according to biographer Sylvia Nasar, "believed himself to be Job, a slave in chains, the emperor of Antarctica and a messiah." We should not overlook those long-ago incidents, but it's more important to deal with a current error of omission among many Christians. We often hear that that Christians and Jews should be friends, and that's certainly true — but evangelicals rarely talk about how much Christians can and should learn from Judaism.

A good starting point is Orthodox Judaism's emphasis on every-hour thanksgiving as a key to worship. Carrying out the injunction, "Thank the Lord for his goodness" (Deuteronomy 8:10), rabbis traditionally have emphasized training in short prayers that punctuate the day, with thanks offered upon hearing news, eating food, drinking wine or enjoying fragrant smells.

Some Christians have tried to develop the same consistency in spiritual consciousness. Stonewall Jackson trained himself to thank God every time he took a drink of water. And yet, many Christian testimonies of conversion tend to emphasize a "moment of decision" rather than a lifetime of faithfulness. Billy Graham once observed that three-fourths of the



MARVIN OLASKY
COLUMNIST

new converts at his crusades do not stick; more Christians need to learn to measure evangelistic success by long-term faithfulness, not short-term fervor.

Christians can also learn from Jews how to emphasize the importance of this life as well as the next. The Westminster Confession's famous catechism question from the 1640s is, "What is the chief end of man?" The answer is, "To glorify God and enjoy him forever." But a Christian tendency toward otherworldliness has led many to forget that "forever" begins right now. Judaism's emphasis on the satisfactions of marriage, family and lawful entertainment is worth emulating, because enjoying God now is a mark of trust.

Some Christians make the mistake of not really knowing the Bible — which means the Old as well as the New Testament. Some emphasize so much the preaching and teaching of one-fourth of the Bible — the New Testament — that the Old Testament's import is minimized. Some still unconsciously mimic the heresy of Marcion, who argued in A.D. 138 that Christians should not treat the Old Testament as authoritative, in part because God in the Old Testament seemed to him too strict in His law-giving and backing of battles.

Marcion was excommunicated in A.D. 144 and his beliefs declared heretical, but that heresy keeps marching on among those who prefer the supposedly kinder and gentler God of the New Testament. And yet, Christians who cannot identify Old Testament warriors such as Joshua and Jephthah do not fully understand the import of Jesus, who believed in turning the other cheek to personal offenses but was ready to take physical action against Temple moneychangers and others who violated biblical principles.

Overall, Christians should remember that Jesus and all of his apostles were Jews who celebrated Passover and then the Easter resurrection. Both holidays are fast approaching — they come together because the Last Supper commemorated the time when God told Israelite slaves in Egypt to slaughter a lamb and smear its blood on their doorposts so the angel of death would pass over their homes. Easter shows how Christ's blood similarly protects believers from spiritual death.

All of this has great personal application, of course, but also a current policy application more important than the long-ago remarks of John Nash or Billy Graham. Following the terrorist attacks six months ago, the Orthodox Jewish group Toward Tradition pleaded "for an alliance of Jews and Christians, united to defend our country by reviving the role of religion in public life."

Christians can contribute to that broader revival by emphasizing a whole-bodied understanding of the Bible to which Jews as well as Christians can contribute.

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Business Review

Consuelo's serves real Mexican cuisine; GoldKraft Jewelers offers quality jewelry

Delicious, real Mexican food is the specialty of Consuelo's, a newly opened Mexican food restaurant in Pampa. Both the food and the atmosphere are authentically Mexican.

Lively, Mexican music floats through the air in the restaurant located at 1328 North Hobart. The waitresses are bilingual in both English and Spanish, and provide the customers with the excellent service.

The restaurant was recently opened by Dee and Connie Martinez, who also are owners of GoldKraft Jewelers. The jewelry store is located just two doors north of Consuelo's at 1334 N. Hobart.

Consuelo is originally from San Luis, Mexico, and has been determined since the inception of the restaurant to provide authentic Mexican food and atmosphere.

She and Dee traveled to Mexico to obtain the authentic table-top tiles to place on the tables at the restaurant. Handmade wooden tables are graced with the tiles. "We are very proud of these tables," she said.

Brightly colored authentic Mexican pictures decorate the walls, adding to the authenticity.

"We have had so many compliments about the authenticity of this restaurant," said Dee. "An attorney from San Antonio who was in Pampa on business came in to eat with us. He was so surprised to find such a small

town in the Texas Panhandle could have such authentic Mexican food."

Dee said the attorney ate with them each day, sometimes more than one meal a day, while he was in Pampa.

The couple said they have had many compliments from native born Mexicans locally. Handmade tortillas, both flour and corn, as well as tamales are served fresh daily, and are appreciated by the local clientele.

"Women in Mexico spend a lot of time in the kitchen," said

Dee. "They know what authentic Mexican food is, and they appreciate how clean the restaurant is maintained."

Cleanliness is required by Consuelo. "Our staff keeps the restaurant so clean," she said. "They are constantly cleaning."

A wide variety of Mexican food is served at Consuelo's.

"Perrillada" is a fajita style method of cooking which is a grill the waitresses take to the table for the customers. It is a very popular dish at the restaurant. Beef, shrimp, chicken and quail are cooked on the grill over coals of mesquite.

Mesquite not only keeps the food warm, but adds a special aroma to the Mexican atmosphere.

Also served with the entrees is rice, beans, and fresh tortillas. Guacamole is a favorite among the customers, also.

Eight employees work at the restaurant managed by Consuelo.

Consuelo's is open 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. It is closed on Sundays.

Not only are the Martinez's skilled in providing

food, but they are both experienced in the jewelry business.

GoldKraft Jewelers opened in 1990, and will be celebrating their 12th anniversary in 2002.

Both Dee and Consuelo attended college in the East Texas town of Paris. She is a registered gemologist and Dee is a jeweler.

"It is exciting to be able to create special pieces for our customers," said Dee. "Many times there are emotions that accompany beautiful pieces of jewelry."

Explaining that jewelry is oftentimes a beautiful expression of love, Dee said it is wonderful to bring such joy into people's lives.

"It is a wonderful business because of that," he said. "We benefit beyond the monetary when we see people receive jewelry from someone who loves them very much."

"We will continue to see the people of Pampa," he said. "We provide custom work of all types as well as appraisals."

"One of our specialties is Mother's rings," she said. "We custom make them to the customer's specifications."

"We start with the molten gold and can transform it into whatever a customer imagines," said Dee. "Oftentimes, our customers bring in sketches or photos to describe the type of design they want in their jewelry. We work with our customers any way we can."

Many original, one-of-a-kind pieces are created by the in-house for their customers.

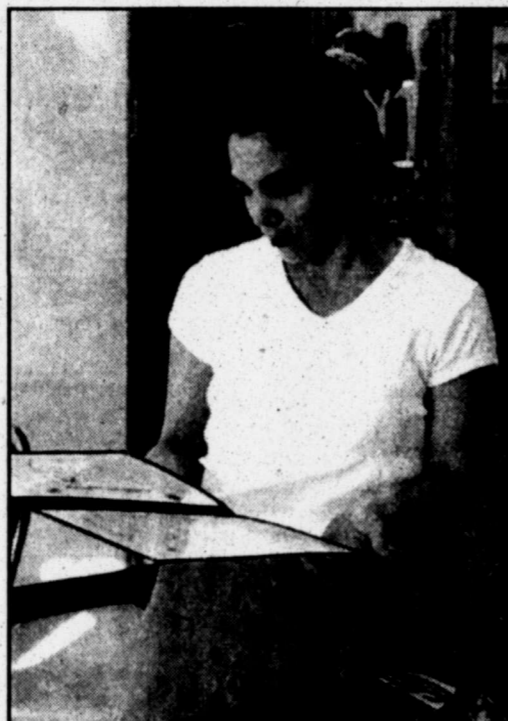
Through the years the local jeweler has built up a large clientele. The Martinez's and their staff of five provide jewelry repair as well as watch repair.

Adriana Villarreal, Consuelo Martinez, Demetrio Martinez IV, Demetrio Martinez III and Diana Irlbeck welcome customers at Goldkraft.

The people of Pampa to stop to see them at GoldKraft to enjoy the jewelry and to drop in for a meal

at Consuelo's. Both of the Martinez's businesses are within walking distance to

each other, and are located in the 1300 block of North Hobart.



Margarita Apodaca is one of the many friendly faces customers see at Consuelo's as she takes orders and serves authentic Mexican food.



Adriana Villarreal, Consuelo Martinez, Demetrio Martinez IV, Demetrio Martinez III and Diana Irlbeck welcome customers at Goldkraft.

The people of Pampa to stop to see them at GoldKraft to enjoy the jewelry and to drop in for a meal



Consuelo Martinez, Cindy Pena, Luz Elena Jimenez, Martarita Apodaca, Carmelo Tarango, and Demetrio Martinez welcome all customers to Consuelo's at 1328 N. Hobart.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 19

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Wives, Children And Debt Are Left Trailing In Man's Wake

DEAR ABBY: After reading "Used in Jonesboro, Tenn." about the woman who married a man who had lied about his past, I feel compelled to share my story.

I, too, asked all the right questions. Here's what I later found out: His first wife left him and got the child he didn't care about. The second wife, who gave him two children, got a thousand bucks and an old car when he decided it was time for wife No. 3. Wife No. 3 left when it was time for wife No. 4. He sold the house she had paid for from her previous husband's life insurance. Wife No. 4 got nothing except the joy of meeting wife No. 5. Wife No. 5 is now deep in credit card debt and will have to work a long time because her retirement money is missing. Wife No. 6 (me) lost not only retirement money, but a house and car that were paid for. It was his turn to make the car payment, and he let it be repossessed. (He did, however, "find" the money to make the payment on his pickup.)

There's a lot more misery I could share, but it would curl your hair.

USED UP IN TEXAS

They are lonely, Christian women who believe everything he says. What seems to trip them up is that he immediately offers marriage, and they see this as the ultimate commitment. Ha! When they do start asking questions, he leaves them saddled with huge debts and takes off.

STUNNED OBSERVER

DEAR STUNNED: Why are you stunned? A common denominator with sociopaths is their abundance of charm. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Ten years after my divorce, I decided it was time to start dating again. I met a nice man. We dated steadily, sharing our life stories as we went. However, early on I caught an inconsistency in his marriage history, so I decided to check him out.

Marriage, divorce and property transactions are all public records, so a trip to my county courthouse was all I needed. I discovered he had been married not once, not twice, but at least five times.

I also learned that he did not own the home he claimed was his. There's no telling what other lies I would have uncovered had I kept looking. It gave me great satisfaction to tell this guy in no uncertain terms that he'd been "busted."

Later, I began dating another man. Once again, he and I shared our life stories, and I wasted no time in visiting the courthouse. The

people who worked at the courthouse were most helpful. They directed me to the proper offices and helped me find the information I was looking for. Abby, every detail was exactly as he told me. Eventually we married, and we share a happy life.

At first he was offended that I had checked out his story. To this day, he teases me about it. But I'm proud that I went into our marriage with my eyes wide open, and I encourage everyone to do the same by taking advantage of public records.

SMART IN CINCINNATI

DEAR SMART: Good for you! Public records can eliminate not only private pain but public embarrassment.

Pauline Phillips and her daughter, Jeanne Phillips, share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

DEAR USED UP IN TEXAS: I believe you. If it's any comfort, you're not alone. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have a male relative who has been legally married and divorced 13 times. He is in his 50s, has three college degrees and is very charming.

I've met many of his wives. What amazes me is how gullible they are.

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Main roles.

- 1 How some stocks are sold
- 6 Mediator's goal
- 11 Audacity
- 12 Synthetic fiber
- 13 Theater makeup
- 15 Before, to Byron
- 16 Diner dessert
- 17 Fruity drink
- 18 Cavalry soldiers
- 20 Heir, at times
- 21 High card
- 22 Saucy
- 23 Sister's wear
- 26 "Cabaret" director
- 27 Perfect place
- 28 Crony
- 29 Race segment
- 30 Meaty stew
- 34 Ararat's gdp.
- 35 Bagel topper
- 36 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 37 Kindergarten art medium
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- 4 Actress
- 5 Gardner
- 6 Religious leaders
- 7 Pitching stat
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- 9 Andean
- 10 International under-standing
- 14 Emerald
- 19 Abel's killer
- 22 Trend
- 23 Of service
- 24 Sweet girl of song
- 25 Ornamental shrub
- 26 Social goof
- 28 Impoverished
- 30 Valleys
- 31 Very funny, in slang
- 32 Detect fliers
- 33 Despises
- 38 Olympus resident
- 39 "Exodus" hero

Yesterday's answer

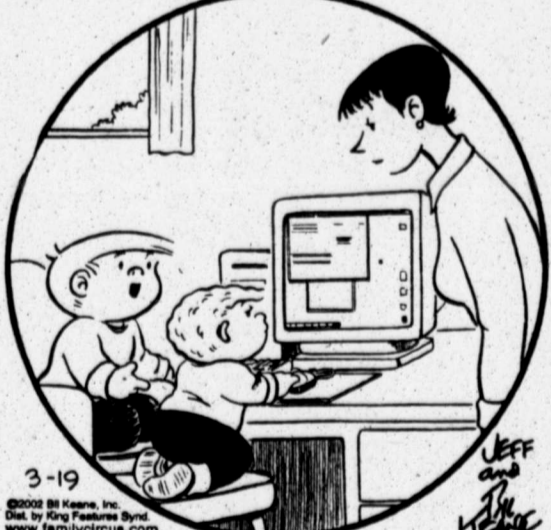
STUMPED?

For answer to today's crossword call 1-800-454-7377, 99¢ per min., 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

Marmaduke



The Family Circus



For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Wildwood



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SPORTS

NOTEBOOK

BASEBALL

PAMPA — There will be signups for Optimist baseball and softball, both boys and girls, from 5:30 to 7 today through Thursday at the Optimist Club.

Tryouts will be held April 2,3,4, at Optimist Park.

GOLF

SPRING, Texas (AP) — A man known in golfing circles as the "One-Armed Bandit" has lost a crucial tool to his trade, a \$15,000 custom-made prosthetic left arm.

The arm, along with several other belongings including a second prosthetic, was stolen along with Alford's Ford Expedition from an apartment complex in Spring, a north Houston suburb.

"This is pretty serious because it's how I make my living," Alford said. "It's pretty sad that it happened."

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Department was investigating the theft, which occurred early Saturday morning.

Alford, once a promising young amateur golfer, lost his arm from the elbow down 10 years ago in an automobile wreck. Since the injury, the 28-year-old has used his prosthetic arm to take on able-bodied golfers and raise money for charity.

BASKETBALL

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Preston Shumpert's right eye injury might have cost Syracuse an NCAA bid. There's no question that he's fully healed now.

The senior scored 36 points Monday night, leading Syracuse over Butler 66-65 in overtime in the NIT's second round. Syracuse held the Bulldogs without a field goal in the extra period.

"The team is depending on me more than ever to go out and give it my all," said Shumpert, who scraped his cornea in late January. "I'm just going out there and playing. I got tired of worrying about this, worrying about that."

With Shumpert struggling, the Orangemen lost seven of their final 10 games to land in the NIT.

They'll play at Richmond on Wednesday for a spot in the semifinals at Madison Square Garden. Richmond beat Minnesota 67-66 in Monday's only other game.

Shumpert has returned to form in the postseason. His performance against the Bulldogs set a school record for points in an NIT game, eclipsing Dave Bing's 31 in 1964 against New York University.

Shumpert scored 28 in a first-round win over St. Bonaventure.

"Sometimes, when you get in a zone like he was in, there's not much you can do," said Brandon Miller, who hit five 3-pointers to lead Butler with 15 points.

Flashback

1978: Pampa defeated Dumas 13-9 in the final game of the Top-O-Texas High School Baseball Tournament at Optimist Park.

Dale Ferris led Pampa's hitting attack with three hits and three RBI. Armando Soto had a triple.

The winning pitcher was Gary Wingo, who improved his record to 2-1.

Junior Olympic Gymnastics

PAMPA — Gymnastics of Pampa Competition Team recently hosted a Level 4-9 Junior Olympic meet. The Pampa team had an outstanding showing with seven individual All-Around Champions and the Level 5 first-place Team Title.

Leading Team Pampa was Level 8 gymnast Lanie Bishop, who won the All-Around title with a 35.625. Her outstanding floor routine earned a 9.525 and the gold medal. She also won gold on balance beam with an 8.9. On bars, Lanie had a 9.05 score for the silver and on vault, she was fourth place with an 8.15. Lanie is a first-year Level 8 performer and has already qualified to compete in the Texas State meet in Lancaster later this month.

Kelby Doughty was Pampa's highest scorer in Level 7 and helped lead the Level 7 team to second place overall. She won the 10-11 year old vault title with a very good 9.35 and earned the silver medal on floor with an 8.95. She finished fourth on bars (8.55) and fourth on beam (7.3). Overall, Kelby won the bronze with a 34.15 score.

In the 13 and older division of Level 7, Lacie Long took the All-Around title with a 33.35. She also won gold on floor exercise (9.05), and on balance beam. She won the silver on vault (8.85) and the bronze on bars.

Competing in only her second Level 7 meet, Lacie Thompson won the 12-year-old All-Around title with a 33.1. She tied for the gold on vault (8.95) and won the gold on beam (8.25). She earned the silver on floor (8.5) and the bronze on bars.

Brittany Warminski also competed in the Level 5, 12-year-olds division where she won the gold on floor exercise with an outstanding 9.325. She tied Lacie for first place on vault with an 8.95. Brittany won the silver on bars and beam, and finished second overall with a 32.775.

Competing for first time in Level 6, Keisha Crowell won gold medals on floor exercise (8.9) and uneven bars (8.2). She earned the bronze on vault (8.3), and was fourth on beam (7.7). Her 33.1 in the All-Around was good for the silver medal in the 10-11 year-old group.

Leading Team Pampa's Level 5's to the Team title and dominating the 7-year-old division was Madison Fatheree, who swept all four events and the All-Around.

Her winning scores were 9.2 floor exercise, 9.0 vault, 8.7 bars, 8.7 beam, and 35.6 All-Around. This was only her second meet as a Level 5 gymnast.

Kelli Wilson also dominated the 11 and older Level 5's with a 34.95 All-Around for the gold. She also won gold on floor (9.25), bars (9.0), and vault (8.8). She tied for the silver on balance beam.

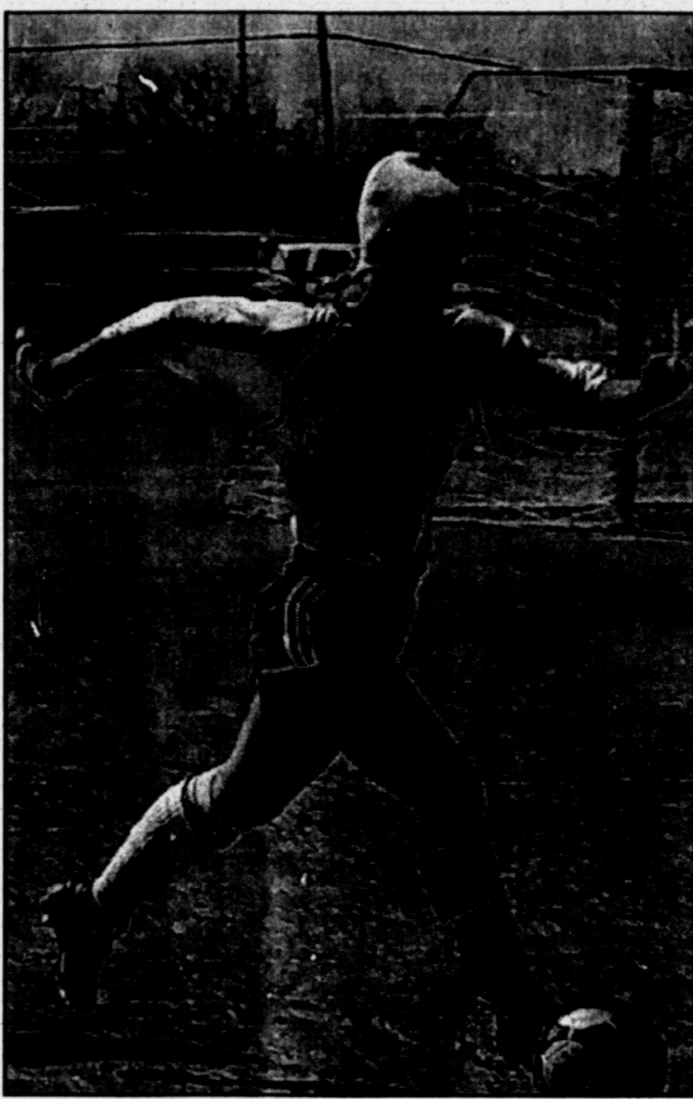
Brandi Holden also competed in the 11 and older division, where she earned the gold medal on balance beam (8.9). She won silver medals on floor (9.0) and bars (8.4). Her 7.6 on vault was good for the bronze. Brandi finished second overall with a 33.9.

In the 9-10 year-old Level 5's, Rebecca Taylor had her best ever All-Around at 33.1 to take the All-Around title. She also won golds on floor (8.9), and bars (8.2).

She won silver on vault (8.1), and tied for silver on beam (7.9). MaKayla Hampton won silver in the 7 year old Level 5's with a 30.4 All-Around score. She also won silver on floor (8.5), vault (8.3) and bars (6.1). She earned the bronze on beam (7.5).

Jordan Dodge competed in the 11 and older Level 5's. She tied for second on beam (7.9), won bronze on floor (8.1), and was fourth on vault and bars. Her 28.3 in the All-Around was good for fourth place.

Goal scorer



(Photo by Tess Kingcade)

Pampa senior Misti Northcutt scored one of the three goals in the 3-0 bi-district victory over El Paso Riverside last weekend. Northcutt was an all-district player for Pampa last season. The Lady Harvesters played Aledo today in the Area round of the soccer playoffs in Wichita Falls.

Pampa Gold defeats Lefors in JV baseball

LEFORS — Pampa Gold defeated Lefors 10-9 Monday in junior varsity baseball action.

The game was called after four innings due to foggy conditions.

Aaron Hunt hit a home run for Pampa. Dusty Lenderman had two hits while Clayton Hall and Q.B. Cobb had one hit each.

In the second inning, an outstanding defensive play by Jeremy Pritchett kept Lefors from scoring. Pritchett's throw from right field caught a runner coming home.

Pitching for Pampa was Rickey Gattis, who struck out

Miller will pitch Astros' opener

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — An enhanced ego could have been a side-effect of the heady season Wade Miller had with the Houston Astros last season.

Ace, future superstar and Cy Young candidate are a few of the tags Miller has heard since his breakout season. Miller's not buying into it.

"There's a point where you can have overconfidence but I just go out there and try to pitch," Miller said. "I think everybody on this team knows I'm hard-nosed when I go out there and that's about it. I want to win."

Miller had a 16-8 record, 3.40 ERA and the Astros were 22-10 in his starts, earning Miller the club's pitcher of the year honor in his first full season in the big leagues.

"I think I realize I have the ability to go out there and do well," Miller said. "I'm not going to sit here and tell you I'm the best, but I'd like to be the best of course."

Dumas, Hereford take District 3-4A first-round lead

PAMPA — The first round of the District 3-4A golf tournament was held Monday at the Pampa Country Club and Hidden Hills courses.

At Hidden Hills, Dumas shot a 303 to grab the first-round lead in the boys division.

Pampa was fourth in the standings with a 322. Daniel Heuston shot a 76 to lead the Harvesters. Other Pampa scores were Mitch Schilling 80, Daniel Williams 83, Brad Stucker 83, and Gary Utsey 84.

Pampa's B team shot a 410. Their scores were Wes Broggin (87), Evan Ladd (97), Joel Shannon (111), Kyle Ward (113) and Dirk Swope (127).

At Pampa Country Club, Hereford took the lead in the girls division with 363, 13 shots in front of the Lady Harvesters.

Courtney Locknane's 90 led Pampa, followed by Krissy Holman (91), Megan Shannon (92), Mollie Crossman (103) and Michelle Haley (106).

District 3-4A Tournament First round

Boys
Team totals: 1. Dumas 303; 2. Randall 312; 3. Canyon 319; 4. Pampa 322; 5. Palo Duro 341; 6. (tie) Randall B 344; Randall B 344; 8. Hereford 345; 9. Borger 346; 10. Canyon B 350; 11. Hereford B 35712. Caprock 360; 13. Borger B 383; 14. Dumas B 385; 15. Caprock B 409; 16. Pampa B 410.

Girls
Team totals: 1. Hereford 363; 2. Pampa 376; 3. Canyon 400; 4. Borger 420; 5. Palo Duro 450; 6. Caprock 458.

Schedule could have late-season switches

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Changes in the NFL's television schedule are in the works. Stability in the league's TV dealings is ahead, as well.

On a busy Monday at the NFL meetings, commissioner Paul Tagliabue admitted owners will discuss switching important late-season games from Sunday afternoon to Monday night to attract more viewers.


Tagliabue also said the league's television future remains with over-the-air networks, not cable — where the other three major pro leagues have the bulk of their telecasts.

When the 2002 schedule is released before the end of

March, Tagliabue wants provisions in place for the final four weeks allowing Sunday games to be moved to ABC's prime time showcase. The idea is to eliminate — or at least limit — games that look enticing now, but become duds when the teams involved have disappointing seasons.

"We will ensure that there will be attractive games in all the time slots on Sunday and on Monday nights," Tagliabue said. "I think we can make it a win-win situation. We would make sure that CBS and Fox both have strong programming late in the season."

The new plan must still be approved by Fox and CBS, although Tagliabue can unilaterally approve it for the NFL.



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Blue Devils have experience edge in South Regional

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — How many points is experience worth in the NCAA tournament?

Duke hopes it's enough to get the program to another Final Four. The five starters for the top-seeded and defending national champion Blue Devils (31-3) have played a combined 41 postseason games heading into Duke's South Regional semifinal against Indiana on Thursday night.

While Indiana is another one of college basketball's storied programs, the Hoosiers (22-11) haven't been this far in the NCAA in eight years.

And the two other teams in the bracket are even less experienced. Pittsburgh's last round of 16 game was in 1974, while Kent State never made it before.

"Experience has something to do with winning," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday. "We've been in tough situations where if you don't do well on that exchange down the court, that may be it. And our kids have pretty much produced under pressure for us. That's worth a lot."

Duke's recent NCAA numbers are impressive. The Blue Devils are 18-3 in their last 21 NCAA games and are riding an eight-game winning streak, while Krzyzewski is 58-14 — the best winning percentage among active coaches and second only to John Wooden of UCLA.

Krzyzewski's leadership is not lost on his players heading to Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ky., this week. "He knows how to prepare, how to read his team, when to keep them loose and when to tighten everything up," Mike Dunleavy said. "To have a leader like that to take you through something like the NCAA tournament — I'm not going to say it makes it easy — but it certainly helps."

Duke's experience goes beyond Coach K and the players on the floor. After five straight trips to the round of 16, Krzyzewski's support staff runs offcourt issues like a well-oiled machine.

"This is a time of distractions," Krzyzewski said. "They are not necessarily meant to be bad distractions, but people are excited about the tournament. "More people want to see

it, more people want to talk to you, more people want tickets, more people want things. If you already have the people around you that understand how to satisfy the needs of the people who want and take care of them properly, then you are well ahead of the game. If we get beat, it won't be because I've been distracted. Our people have been through this. That type of experience is invaluable."

So is Krzyzewski's ability to keep his team's mind on the present. It can become easy for a defending national champion to start looking toward the Final Four a week or two early.

"I'm from Augusta Boulevard in Chicago and I respect other people from Augusta Boulevard," said Krzyzewski, drawing a parallel to his childhood upbringing. "I know that if you don't, then people beat you and they go on."

"If you think you're better or you deserve to be some place — well that other team deserves that, too. Our kids don't work any harder than Indiana's kids. They can beat us and that's the way I approach every game. If you get ahead of yourself, you're going to get whipped."

All of Duke's experiences haven't been good in the NCAA tournament. In 2000, freshmen Jason Williams, Carlos Boozer and Dunleavy were satisfied after a tough win over Kansas in the second round. Duke was then bounced from the tourney by Florida in the regional semifinals.

"Me, Carlos and Jason were all kind of playing in the dark," Dunleavy said. "We were just trying to advance, and if we did, we had no idea where we were going next. I almost felt like after we won that Kansas game, it was a great accomplishment. This year, we were more relieved to beat Notre Dame, but it was on to the next thing."

While Krzyzewski likes his team's postseason experience, he called this year's tournament "crazy and warned of more upsets."

"It's not about rankings and RPIs and all of that," Krzyzewski said. "A lot of it is about what is that team you're playing accepting right now and what are you accepting. Are you looking ahead? Are you just focused on what you're doing? In this tournament, I see more teams not accepting losing."

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament

At A Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL

First Round
Friday, March 15

At Cameron Indoor Stadium
Durham, N.C.

Texas Christian 55, Indiana 45
Duke 95, Norfolk State 48

At The Erwin Special Events Center
Austin, Texas

UC Santa Barbara 57, Louisiana Tech 56
Texas 60, Wisconsin-Green Bay 55

At The Ferrell Center
Waco, Texas

Drake 87, Syracuse 69
Baylor 80, Bucknell 56

Saturday, March 16

At Carolina Coliseum
Columbia, S.C.

Cincinnati 76, St. Peter's 63, OT
South Carolina 69, Liberty 61

Second Round

Sunday, March 17

At Cameron Indoor Stadium
Durham, N.C.

Duke 76, Texas Christian 66
At The Ferrell Center
Waco, Texas

Drake 76, Baylor 72

At The Erwin Special Events Center
Austin, Texas

Texas 76, UC Santa Barbara 60
Monday, March 18

At Carolina Coliseum
Columbia, S.C.

South Carolina 75, Cincinnati 56

At The Entertainment and Sports Arena
Raleigh, N.C.

Saturday, March 23

Duke (29-3) vs. Texas (22-9), TBA
South Carolina (24-6) vs. Drake (25-7), TBA

Championship

Monday, March 25

Semifinal winners, 7 p.m.

MIDEAST REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 15

At Bramlage Coliseum
Manhattan, Kan.

Arkansas 78, Clemson 68
Kansas State 93, Kent State 65

At The Bryce Jordan Center
State College, Pa.

Florida International 73, Creighton 58
Penn State 82, Chattanooga 67

Saturday, March 16

At Gampel Pavilion
Storrs, Conn.

Iowa 69, Virginia 62
Connecticut 86, St. Francis, Pa. 37

At Mackey Arena
West Lafayette, Ind.

Old Dominion 68, Georgia 54
Purdue 80, Austin Peay 49

Second Round

Sunday, March 17

At The Bryce Jordan Center
State College, Pa.

Penn State 96, Florida International 79

At Bramlage Coliseum
Manhattan, Kan.

Kansas State 82, Arkansas 68
Monday, March 18

At Mackey Arena
West Lafayette, Ind.

Old Dominion 74, Purdue 70, OT
At Gampel Pavilion
Storrs, Conn.

Connecticut 86, Iowa 48

At US Cellular Arena
Milwaukee

Saturday, March 23

Kansas State (26-7) vs. Old Dominion (27-5), TBA
Penn State (23-11) vs. Connecticut (35-0), TBA

Championship

Monday, March 25

Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 15

At Thompson-Boling Arena
Knoxville, Tenn.

Notre Dame 58, New Mexico 44
Tennessee 98, Georgia State 68

Saturday, March 16

At Memorial Gymnasium
Nashville, Tenn.

Arizona State 73, Wisconsin 70
Vanderbilt 63, Oakland, Mich. 38

At Carmichael Auditorium
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Minnesota 71, UNLV 54

North Carolina 85, Harvard 58

At James H. Hilton Coliseum
Ames, Iowa

Brigham Young 90, Florida 52

Iowa State 72, Temple 57

Second Round

Sunday, March 17

At Thompson-Boling Arena
Knoxville, Tenn.

Tennessee 89, Notre Dame 50

Monday, March 18

At The Smith Center
Chapel Hill, N.C.

North Carolina 72, Minnesota 69
At Memorial Gymnasium
Nashville, Tenn.

Vanderbilt 61, Arizona State 35

At James H. Hilton Coliseum
Ames, Iowa

Brigham Young 75, Iowa State 69

At James H. Hilton Coliseum
Ames, Iowa

Semifinals

Saturday, March 23

Vanderbilt (29-6) vs. North Carolina (27-7), TBA
Brigham Young (24-8) vs. Tennessee (27-4), TBA

Championship

Monday, March 25

Semifinal winners, 8 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL

First Round

Friday, March 15

At United Spirit Arena
Lubbock, Texas

Mississippi State 65, Boston College 59

Texas Tech 84, Stephen F. Austin 65

At The Coors Events Center
Boulder, Colo.

Colorado 88, Southern University 61

LSU 84, Santa Clara 78

Saturday, March 16

At Lloyd Noble Center
Norman, Okla.

Villanova 67, Pepperdine 46

Oklahoma 84, Hartford 52

At The Maples Pavilion
Stanford, Calif.

Tulane 73, Colorado State 69

Stanford 76, Weber State 51

Second Round

Sunday, March 17

At United Spirit Arena
Lubbock, Texas

Texas Tech 77, Mississippi State 55

At The Coors Events Center
Boulder, Colo.

Colorado 69, LSU 58

Monday, March 18

At Lloyd Noble Center
Norman, Okla.

Oklahoma 66, Villanova 53

At The Maples Pavilion
Stanford, Calif.

Stanford 77, Tulane 55

At Boise State Pavilion
Boise, Idaho

Semifinals

Saturday, March 23

Oklahoma (29-3) vs. Texas Tech (20-11), TBA
Colorado (23-9) vs. Stanford (32-2), TBA

Championship

Monday, March 25

Semifinal winners, 9:30 p.m.

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

At A Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

At The Carrier Dome Syracuse, N.Y.

Semifinals

Friday, March 22

Southern Illinois (28-7) vs. Connecticut (26-6), 7:38 p.m.

Maryland (28-4) vs. Kentucky (22-9), 25 minutes after previous game

Championship

Sunday, March 24

Semifinal winners

SOUTH REGIONAL

At Rupp Arena
Lexington, Ky.

Semifinals

Thursday, March 21

Duke (31-3) vs. Indiana (22-11), 7:38 p.m.

Kent State (29-5) vs. Pittsburgh (29-5), 30 minutes following previous game

Championship

Saturday, March 23

Semifinal winners

MIDWEST REGIONAL

At The Kohl Center
Madison, Wis.

Semifinals

Friday, March 22

Oregon (25-8) vs. Texas (22-11), 7:55 p.m.

Kansas (31-3) vs. Illinois (26-8), 25 minutes after previous game

Championship

Sunday, March 24

Semifinal winners

WEST REGIONAL

At The Compaq Center
San Jose, Calif.

Semifinals

Thursday, March 21

Oklahoma (29-4) vs. Arizona (24-9), 7:55 p.m.

UCLA (21-11) vs. Missouri (23-11), 30 minutes following previous game

Championship

Saturday, March 23

Semifinal winners

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

At A Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	37	20	8	3	85	204	157
N.Y. Islanders	32	25	7	3	74	196	186
New Jersey	30	25	9	4	73	164	157
N.Y. Rangers	30	32	4	4	68	189	217
Pittsburgh	27	32	6	4	64	169	202

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	36	21	5	7	84	200	170
Toronto	35	20	9	4	83	198	170
Ottawa	35	21	8	5	83	212	171
Montreal	28	27	11	3	70	175	182
Buffalo	28	30	9	1	66	177	171

Southeast Division

Team	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	28	23	14	5	75	185	195
Washington	27	31	10	1	65	186	211
Tampa Bay	24	32	9	3	60	144	170
Florida	19	37	7	5	50	150	208
Atlanta	17	41	8	4	46	160	247

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

Team	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-Detroit	48	13	6	2	104	219	150
Chicago	35	22	12	1	83	190	179
St. Louis	33	23	8	3	77	178	154
Nashville	25	32	11	0	61	162	183
Columbus	19	38	8	3	49	137	200

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	40	22	7	1	88	183	143
Vancouver	33	28	6	3	75	213	186
Edmonton	30	26	11	3	74	178	165
Calgary	27	29	11	3	68	170	188
Minnesota	23	28	11	7	64	167	198

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	T
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The Pampa News



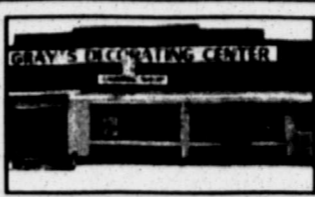
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12 Loans
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Bargaining continues in Mideast

JERUSALEM (AP) — Yasser Arafat was offered major incentives Tuesday to help stop Mideast fighting: Vice President Dick Cheney said he would meet with the Palestinian leader after a truce takes hold, and Israel said it might lift a travel ban on Arafat in time for next week's Arab summit.

A meeting with Cheney would mark Arafat's highest-level contact yet with the Bush administration. Attending the Arab summit would mean an end to Arafat's three-month confinement to the Palestinian areas by Israel.

In fighting Tuesday, two Palestinian gunmen infiltrated an army training area in the West Bank, killing an Israeli officer and wounding three soldiers before being shot to death. Elsewhere, a Palestinian man standing outside his shop in the West Bank town of Beit Omar was killed by Israeli troops, Palestinian officials said.

Cheney said the United States would remain "very actively engaged" in truce efforts led by U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni, who has reported some progress toward a cease-fire declaration that would end 18 months of fighting. Since September 2000, 1,212 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 352 on the Israeli side.

Palestinian officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a truce announcement could be made as early as Wednesday.

Cheney has drawn complaints from Palestinians for not meeting with Arafat during his 24-hour visit to Israel. The vice president said that once a cease-fire has taken hold, he would meet with Arafat in a location yet to be determined.

Asked about his failure to meet with Arafat on this trip, Cheney said: "I don't think that justifies the charge that somehow we are ignoring the Palestinian people."

"We are working very hard ... at trying to achieve an end to the conflict that has plagued Israelis and Palestinians," he said during a joint news conference with Sharon. "I am hopeful that the effort that we are making here today will result in giving Gen. Zinni the support he needs to move forward."

Cheney put the onus in reaching and preserving a cease-fire on Arafat, saying the coming week would be crucial for the Palestinian leader. Cheney said Arafat must do everything he can to prevent attacks on Israelis. "I would expect the 100 percent effort to begin immediately," Cheney said.

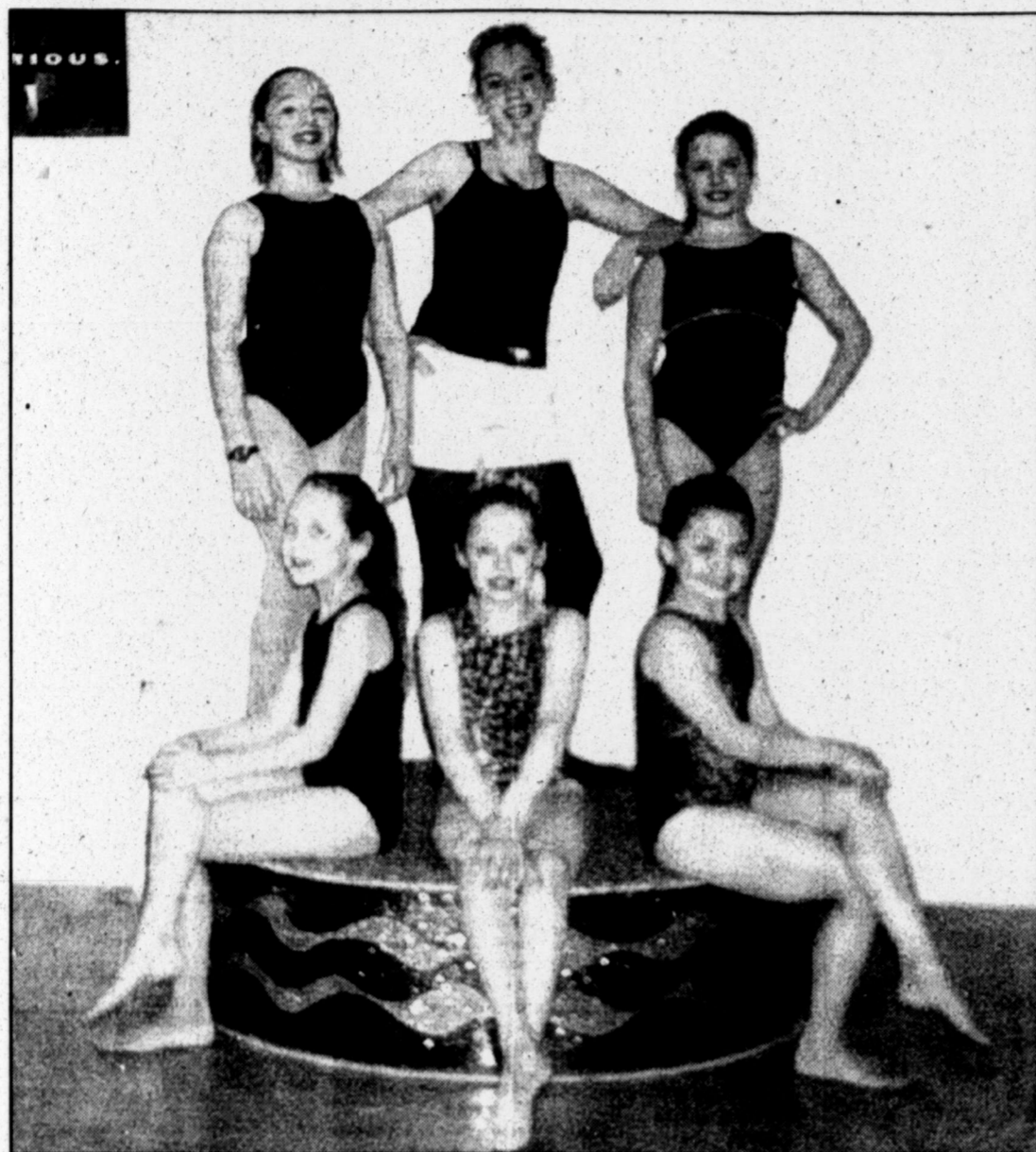
Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said he welcomed Cheney's offer to meet with Arafat. Earlier Tuesday, Erekat had said Cheney was showing bias by not meeting with Arafat this time. "I don't understand why this American administration and the vice president are trying so hard just to be one-sided, and to listen to one side at the expense of the other side," Erekat said.

Sharon, meanwhile, said he would allow Arafat to leave the Palestinian territories once a truce is in place.

Sharon said that according to the emerging timetable for a cease-fire, "we can assume ... that he can get to Beirut." At the summit, Saudi Arabia is to present a new peace plan — provided Arafat attends. Under the plan, Israel would win peace with the Arab world in exchange for a withdrawal from the lands it occupied in the 1967 Mideast war.

Sharon said that at the Arab summit, he expected Arafat to "speak on the importance of peace and regional stability." The prime minister left open the possibility that the Palestinian leader would not be able to return if there was another upsurge in violence or Arafat delivered an inflammatory speech in Beirut.

'Kids and Showbiz' workshop



(Community Camera photo)

Students from Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center in Pampa recently attended a lecture and interview audition with Broadway producer Peter Sklar. Sklar holds a masters in education from Harvard University and has worked with such notable young performers as Sara Jessica Parker and Rick Schroder. Jacklyn Cargill and Lauren Denney were chosen to attend an eight-day workshop this summer in New York. Above: (front row, left-right) Caylee Steward, Jenna Munsell, Danielle Zuniga; (back row, l-r) Jacklyn Cargill, Lauren Denney, Allison Cooper.

China decries U.S. Taiwan stance

BEIJING (AP) — A "series of erroneous acts" by the United States have cast a pall over U.S.-China relations in the weeks since President Bush's visit, a Chinese government spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Zhang Qiyue, at a regular Foreign Ministry briefing, said the United States should not violate three "joint communiqués" — documents agreed to by both countries that, among other things, outline the American government's treatment of Taiwan.

"In as short as one month," Zhang said, China has seen "a series of erroneous acts by the U.S. side."

"We hope that the U.S. side can correct its erroneous activities," she said. Otherwise, she predicted, there would be "adverse effects on China-U.S. relations."

The comments are the latest hint of unsettled ties between the two countries, who often straddle a thin line between friendship and out-

right mutual distaste. They have cooperated in the fight against terrorism and are joined by the high economic stakes of their relationship, but remain deeply divided over human rights and the question of Taiwan.

Zhang reiterated her government's two continual stances: that Taiwan is a part of China and an internal affair — and that it is "the most important and sensitive issue at the core of U.S.-Chinese relations."

China is upset that Taiwan's defense minister, Tang Yiau-ming, was permitted to attend a private defense convention this month in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Chinese Foreign Ministry summoned U.S. Ambassador Clark T. Randt over the weekend to express displeasure.

U.S. assistance to Taiwan is the thorniest issue in relations between Beijing and Washington, and China loudly protests any hint that the United States or any other

country is treating Taiwan as a sovereign nation. The United States doesn't challenge China's claim to Taiwan, but is also the island's biggest weapons supplier.

U.S. troops assist wounded Filipinos

UPPER MANGGAS, Philippines (AP) — Muslim extremists fired rifle grenades and small arms at a Philippine army patrol Tuesday, injuring two within earshot of U.S. troops and prompting four of them to enter the combat zone to try to retrieve the wounded.

Officials said at least four Abu Sayyaf rebels were killed in the firefight that erupted Tuesday morning on the southern island of Basilan while U.S. troops and local politicians were discussing earlier clashes nearby.

Six other fleeing guerrillas were later captured by troops, they said.

After frantic radio calls amid the distant din, four U.S. soldiers were told that 30 or so Filipino troops were surprised by about seven rebels just a few miles from the town hall of Atong Atong, about 620 miles south of Manila.

Platoon commander Lt. Lemuel Beduya later told The Associated Press that he immediately fell with a serious head wound and one of his men was shot in the arm.

"I was calling on the radio and then I met a hail of bullets — pop, pop, pop," Beduya said later as U.S. troops treated his seriously bleeding wound. "They had a sniper with them. I asked my men to stay and not withdraw. I thought my time had already come."

The U.S. soldiers climbed into a blue pickup truck, followed by Filipino troops in another truck and an armored personnel carrier, to determine whether they could get the injured out.

Filipino soldiers ultimately evacuated their wounded colleagues. The U.S. troops were turned back by fighting, but the response marked the second time they moved into combat zones in an attempt to help wounded Filipinos.

Last Friday night, two U.S.

Pave Hawk helicopters evacuated three wounded soldiers and hauled out one dead after a clash with the Abu Sayyaf in the same area as Tuesday's fight.

About 660 U.S. troops, including 160 Special Forces members, are in the southern Philippines to train Filipino soldiers battling the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim extremist group holding Wichita, Kan., missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham hostage along with Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap.

The Abu Sayyaf, thought to number 60 or so fighters on Basilan island, have been linked in the past to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

The U.S. soldiers are armed and are allowed into combat zones but can only fire in self defense. The Special Forces members on Basilan are to stay at all times with Filipino commanders and have reportedly acted in combat zones only to treat Filipino wounded.

Filipino soldiers say U.S. night flight capability, particularly for medical evacuation, is crucial. Previously, some wounded have bled to death while being driven or hauled out of combat zones at night.

The U.S. soldiers responding to the firefight Tuesday first reached a hilltop at the edge of the combat zone where they were met an armored personnel carrier and tried to gain access to the injured.

Army Capt. John Barrow, who accompanied Filipino battalion commander Col. Reynaldo Ordóñez to the scene, said "it was too dangerous" to retrieve the wounded soldiers by land and they turned back. Filipino soldiers moved their wounded colleagues through the coconut groves to a beach. They were picked up by a speedboat and evacuated to a sea-side clearing to meet the U.S. troops.



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