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THE Pampa NEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2002

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WEATHER & WEATHER



HIGH 65
LOW 48

LOCAL

Traffic Commission

Traffic control signs will be on the agenda at 7 p.m. Thursday when Pampa's Traffic Commission meets in the City Commission chambers on the third floor of City Hall. A stop sign on Finley and/or Locust will be discussed as will a "Slow - Children at Play" or reduced speed sign in the 100 to 300 blocks of East Tuke. The Coffee Street study will be discussed during the old business.

Art show entertainers

Local musicians will entertain visitors to the Pampa Fine Arts Association's Members Art Show at M.K. Brown Auditorium Saturday, Oct. 12. At 10 a.m., "Encores," Pampa Middle School girls choir will sing, followed by Austin Elementary chorus at 11 a.m. At 2 p.m., the Lamar Elementary choir will sing. At 3 p.m., Pampa High School's Show Choir will perform. "The Soul Seekers" from South Side Church of Christ will complete the musical performances at 4 p.m. The public is invited.

DEATHS

Don W. Morrison, 73, rancher.
Mary Ella Schaffer, 84, homemaker.

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West Texas LANDSCAPE

Nurseries
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Abandoned wells: Who will pay?

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

AMARILLO — Who will pay to plug 17,000 abandoned or orphaned oil and gas wells in the State of Texas?

The oil and gas industry thought they had reached an agreement almost two years ago during the last session of the Texas Legislature.

Under a law written by Pampa's

State Rep. Warren Chisum, a system was created so that money from producers would go to cover the costs of plugging abandoned wells, but this past year the Texas Railroad Commission has interpreted the law in such a way that some producers are being driven out of business.

"It's pretty much our rule," said H. Wayne Hughes, executive vice president of the Panhandle Producers and

Royalty Owners Association. "Because it is our rule, we feel like it is open to interpretation."

The rule was developed following extensive debate between the oil and gas industry and the various groups involved in the problem.

"Knowing that there were these 17,000 wells unplugged that belong to the State of Texas, we, under the sponsorship of Railroad Commission

Chairman Michael Williams, created these focus groups to try to come up with a way to get some money into the system that would assist the state in plugging abandoned and orphaned wells," Hughes said, "so that the general funds wouldn't have to be used for such a purpose."

One of the options the focus groups reached which was eventually made (See WELLS, Page 3)

Vet home decision will take months

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

It's likely be several months before the site of the two new Texas State Veterans Homes will be known, according to Paul Sturrock, Veterans Land Board (VLB) public information officer.

A total of 40 proposals from cities, counties and economic development corporations in Texas have been made as approval is being sought from the VLB to land one of the two proposed TSVH in their respective areas.

A proposal was submitted by Gray County to build one of the 160-bed facilities in Pampa. Both private and semi-private rooms are included in the TSVH facility. Also a broad spectrum of health care services, a comprehensive rehabilitation program, special diets, recreational activities, social services, a library, a gift shop and a secure 32-bed Alzheimer's unit with its own secure outdoor courtyard will be at each TVSH location.

Four TSVH facilities are currently located in Temple, Floresville, Big Spring and Bonham.

Five communities in the Texas Panhandle — Lubbock, Amarillo, Tulia, Childress and Pampa — are among the 40 areas across the state vying for the two facilities, according to Sturrock. None of the present facilities are located in the Texas Panhandle.

An internal review team of Texas General Land Office/Veterans Land Board staffers will be appointed to review each proposal, and if (See VETS, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by L.D. Strate)

Pokey the Clown demonstrates the art of stick horse riding to a group of young cowboys and cowgirls at the WRCA Junior Ranch Rodeo last weekend at the Top O' Texas Rodeo Arena. Pokey, also known as Doug Smith of Panhandle, said he plans to cut back on appearances to spend more time with his family.

Coin toss decides winner

Two teams tie for Ranch Rodeo win

When all the broncs were busted and cattle doctored and penned last weekend the winner of Pampa's WRCA sanctioned Ranch Rodeo came down to a coin toss between the two teams tied for first place.

That resulted in the Hitch Ranch, Clarendon, winning over Cooke and Waters Ranches of Hedley and Wellington. The teams had tied with 21 points.

In all, 12 ranch teams from Texas and Oklahoma participated in the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association event at the rodeo grounds in Recreation Park.

The winning bronc rider was Bart Nichols from Guymon, Okla., who won a pair of handmade spurs provided by Dale Bass.

The Team Doctoring event was sponsored by Cattle Exchange of Canadian and the winning team from the Sandhill Cattle Company and Hayes & Son Ranch of Earth, Texas, received ropes provided by Horse & Rider of Amarillo and reins provided by Olivers Saddle Shop.

(See RODEO, Page 2)

Variety of events fills the weekend

Other activities held during the weekend included an Australian Shepherd stock dog demonstration featuring the expert skills of Kevin Radford and his dogs, Sam and Snuff. The demonstration was well received by a very attentive audience.

Following that, Pokey the Clown presented his Junior Ranch Rodeo in the arena. It was sponsored by National Bank of Commerce, RBR Oil and Gas, and Southwest Collision. The medals presented to winning teams were sponsored Wayne's Western Wear.

The winning Pee Wee division teams was The Ranger Danger team from Perryton consisting of Brittany Simar, Michael Simar, Lane Smith and Kylie Bellmon. The second place team was from the High Card Ranch, Clarendon, and consisted of Dustin Crump, Tres Hammel, Chance McAnear and David Johnson. The third place team was from the I.C. Cattle Company, Clarendon, and consisted of Jacee Crump, Leslie Coxe, Hannah Hommel and Taylor Perryman. Since the Ranger Danger (See EVENTS, Page 2)

Halfway through, but still way short

Pampa's United Way campaign has reached the halfway mark in terms of time, but not in terms of dollars, according to Executive Administrator Katrina Bigham.

Workers attending the Tuesday, Oct. 8, check-in meeting learned that \$50,349.71 has been reported which represents 13.4 percent of the goal of \$375,000.

According to Bigham, the majority of major firms have not reported the results of their campaigns. Workers are hoping that progress toward meeting the goal will be evident when those donations are reported, she said.

Workers were encouraged to go by the UW offices to see if there are groups which need to be contacted since the result of not meeting the goal is a cut in services.

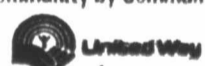
UW workers enjoyed a meal provided by Tralee Crisis Center, Gray County Child Protective Services and The Bridge. Music was provided by the Pampa High School Show Choir.

The Oct. 15 check-in will be hosted by Genesis House, The American Red Cross, and Pampa Optimist Youth Club. The meeting will be in the meeting room of the Genesis House, 615 W. Buckler.

The Way America Cares



Community by Community



City receives PEDC plan, takes no action Tuesday

In a brief meeting, Pampa City Commissioners Tuesday acknowledged receipt of the Pampa Economic Dissolution Plan but did not talk about it during their Tuesday work session at City Hall.

The matter could be discussed, or possibly voted upon, when the Commission meets next on Oct. 22.

In other business, the Commission approved the 2002 Tax Roll as submitted by the Gray County Tax Assessor/Collector.

The total appraised value for the city taxing unit is \$484,558,848. Considering exemptions and based upon a tax rate of \$.00695 per \$100 valuation, the tax levy is calculated at \$2,823,164.17.

West Nile claims two more in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — The death toll in Harris County from the West Nile virus probably has risen to four, health officials said.

Two deaths were previously attributed to the West Nile virus, and health officials reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the virus almost surely is to blame for the death of a woman over the age of 75 on Friday and the death of a 68-year-old man on Sept. 30.

The man had been diagnosed with West Nile five days before he died. Maria Teresa Surguy died after her diagnosis with West Nile more

than five weeks earlier. Her age was not divulged, only that she was more than 75.

Earlier reported West Nile deaths in Harris County were a 52-year-old northeast Houston woman, who was the state's first West Nile fatality on Aug. 16, and a 96-year-old southeast Houston man, who died Sept. 6.

The number of Houston-area confirmed cases peaked at 20 in the latter half of August, agency spokeswoman Kathy Barton said. Only four cases have been reported so far this month, she said, but added that probably only one in 150 cases is coming to the health department's

attention.

Barton said fewer cases have been reported in the past two months and officials are unsure whether the virus will become dormant during the winter months.

So far, 2,768 human cases of West Nile have been reported in 35 states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. Nationwide, the CDC has confirmed 146 deaths.

In Texas, the state health department said 101 people have been infected with West Nile. Harris County, the state's most populous, has had the most cases with 56.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WELLS

into law was covering each well with a bond that would ensure the well was plugged as its productive life came to an end.

As permits are renewed each year, the bond must be renewed. The permits and bonds cover all wells, gas and oil.

"In order to transition into that," Hughes said, "we caused to be written into the legislation what's called the 'good guy' option."

The 'good guy' option states that if a person has a well that's been inactive and he wants to bring it back on line and the producer has not in the past violated any of the Railroad Commission's rules, he has a right up until Sept. 1, 2004, to get an extension of a permit to keep the well off line but to keep it active rather than get a bond.

"The rule calls for a \$1,000 fee per year," Hughes said. "The way that's been interpreted by the Railroad Commission of late is that you only qualify for the 'good guy' exception if you cannot find an affordable bond."

Affordable bonds to producers, Hughes said, are bonds that cost less than 10 percent a year in service fees. The Railroad Commission, however, says that if a bond exists at all, makes it affordable.

"The cheapest bond that I've heard about," Hughes said, "is about 12 percent."

Hughes said he even called a local bail bond company and found out that a person facing drug charges can get out of jail on a 10 percent bond.

"The bone of contention today, between us and the Railroad Commission, is that they are very reluctant to grant the 'good guy' exception because they contend that bonds are available," Hughes said, "although we've been told flatly by several bonding companies that they aren't going to write any bonds, at any rate. That's where we are today."

In August, the Railroad Commission denied the 'good guy' exception for 14 producers down state. Some of the producers were able to make other arrangements, but some were driven out of business.

"That set off some red flags," Hughes said. Last week, Rep. Chisum, chairman of the House Committee on Environmental Regulations, held a hearing in Austin to find out what was going on.

"He wrote the bonding legislation," Hughes said.

Chisum put the Railroad Commission on notice to work the problem out on the 'good guy' exception or the legislature would revisit the situation in their next session in the spring.

The Texas Alliance of Energy Producers and Texans for Energy Independence are taking the Railroad Commission to court over the issue, saying that the commission has no authority to use rules to require producers to get a bond rather than a \$1,000 nonrefundable fee in such cases.

"One of the concerns that I have in the Panhandle Region," Hughes said, "is that a relatively small proportion of those 17,000 wells are up here."

Most are in the older fields in East Texas. "What has brought this all on," Hughes said, "is that a guy will reach the productive life of a well or a set of wells, and he will say to another guy, who's a junker with a production company, 'I'll sell you this lease for pennies on the dollar,' just to get out of it, just to get away from my responsibility to plug this lease. The junker will come in, strip the iron off the top of the lease, pull the rods in the case of an oil well and disappear and go bankrupt."

When that happens, the state ends up with the lease and plugging responsibility. "On occasion, sadly, in a large number of cases in East Texas," Hughes said, "those abandoned wells have been polluting water tables; there have been seeps where the oil comes to the surface, and they constitute health hazards, environmental hazards."

As it stands now, the legislation treats all producers in the state the same.

"We're really interested up here in re-examining that part of it that says because a guy in East Texas has been a bad actor, we shouldn't have to suffer in the same proportion that he does," Hughes said. "If we've got a fairly clean record up here, then there ought to be some adjustments that can be made."

Hughes said he hopes they can work something out in the next session of the legislature. "We are in favor of bonding," Hughes said. "Otherwise, we wouldn't have been involved in those focus groups. Bonding is the logical way for the industry to handle this."

The Railroad Commission, however, has a tendency to think in terms of state funds.

"We have to pop up and say, 'No, that's not your money. That's our money,'" Hughes said.

Hughes said they are also exploring other approaches to plugging abandoned wells. One of them is the way Kansas handles the situation.

"The day the well is created, a percentage share of the production of that well is put into an escrow fund that's a sinking fund for the end of the life of the well," Hughes said.

When the well is no longer productive, the operator or the state can draw on those funds to plug the well.

Suna makes buying cars fun

Mark Suna who has bought Chamberlain Motors in Clarendon and reopened the venerable dealership as Suna AutoMall recently visited the Pampa Rotary Club where he received a warm welcome.

His reception here made him feel good about Pampa, he remarked.

Fred E. Chamberlain, himself a car salesman, opened Chamberlain Motor Co. in 1956 on U.S. Highway 287 in Clarendon. He originally sold Buicks, Pontiacs and GMC trucks, but later expanded to include Oldsmobiles and Cadillacs. In 1991, Chamberlain Motor Co. became a full-line General Motors dealer with the addition of Chevrolet.

In a handshake deal, Suna bought the dealership from the elder Chamberlain's son Trey who parted with the family-owned company because of his health.

Certain conditions applied to the deal, Suna said — the buyer had to stay in the community and become a part of the community.

Hence, Suna's visit to the Pampa Rotary Club, one part of his commitment to meet his neighbors.

Suna officially took over the dealership in August. His



(Courtesy photo) Mark Suna

new office is situated so he can see the front door. He says he wants to see his customers and their families as they come in.

On entering Suna AutoMall, the first impression is of a warm and friendly staff in the largest showroom in the eastern Panhandle. A coffee and soft drink bar beckons.

Suna says he intends to keep the current work force in place. He believes in the staff as being a family, a feeling he wants to extend to his customers.

A lifelong bachelor who was born and raised in New York City, Suna says he's impressed with Clarendon and the Texas Panhandle. He enjoys the friendliness of the

people, the beautiful sunrises and sunsets and even the fierce Texas storms.

He looks forward to meeting the condition for sale — being a part of the community.

Suna holds a master's degree in psychology. For 24 years he lived in Louisville, Ky., where he worked as a clinical psychologist and also was known as the talk show host "Dr. Love" for Radio Station WWKY 790. He's been gone five years, he said, but still gets e-mail from former listeners.

He's also been a restaurant owner, consultant, motivational speaker and relation therapist. Three years ago he entered the auto sales business in Dallas.

His philosophy is to build a life-long relationship with customers — not just sell them one car. He wants Suna AutoMall to be a place where his customer/friends can feel comfortable coming in for a visit and a cup of coffee.

He's changed the famous "downhill all the way" slogan to fit his philosophy — "we make buying a car fun" and "nobody walks away."

Bottom line, he says, is that he plans to treat people the way he wants to be treated.

White House: CIA report backs resolution

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House, pressing for congressional endorsement of its campaign to disarm Iraq, stressed Wednesday that a CIA assessment that a U.S. military strike could trigger a terrorist response confirmed the danger that Saddam Hussein poses to America.

CIA Director George Tenet said in a letter to lawmakers released Tuesday that Iraq "for now appears to be drawing a line short of conducting terrorist attacks with conventional or chemical or biological weapons." But he also warned that Saddam might use those weapons for terrorist purposes if provoked by an imminent U.S.-led attack.

Tenet "did not say we're OK," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Wednesday. "If Saddam Hussein holds a gun to someone's head, while he denies he even owns a gun, do you really want to take a

chance that he'll never use it."

Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J., said Tenet's report suggested that an attack on Iraq "could trigger the very things that our president has said that he is trying to prevent, the use of chemical or biological weapons. In view of this report, the policy of a pre-emptive strike is troublesome."

Tenet's letter came as Congress prepares to vote on a resolution giving the president broad authority to use military force to dismantle Saddam's weapons of mass destruction.

Bush also is seeking a resolution from the United Nations demanding that Saddam disarm or face consequences. France has countered with a rival draft that would give Iraq a chance to cooperate with inspectors, and Bush planned to call French President Jacques Chirac on Wednesday.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

VETS

necessary, visit some of the proposed sites for further evaluation.

The review team will formulate recommendations for the locations of the two new homes and submit them to the

VLB, which will then make the final decision on the location.

Sites being considered for the TSHV are Graham, Bandera County, Taft, Smithville, Tyler, Angleton, Kilgore, Victoria, El Paso, Orange County, Huntsville, Wichita Falls, Glen Rose,

Navasota, Mercedes, Nash, Edinburg, Donna, Port Lavaca, Wharton, Luling, Marshall, Kerrville, Brownsville, McAllen, Harlingen, West Columbia, Bay City, Palestine, Longview, La Grange, Burnet, Weimar, Hallettsville and Richmond.

Investigators hope evidence will lead to sniper

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — Investigators searching for a sniper terrorizing the Washington suburbs found a tarot card with the words, "Dear policeman, I am God," near a bullet casing outside the school where a 13-year-old boy was critically wounded, a source familiar with the investigation confirmed Wednesday.

Police were also searching a wooded area behind a school in Prince George's County after reports Wednesday of a suspicious man seen carrying a long black bag in the area.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, who has been leading the

investigation, wouldn't comment about the card and said he was concerned that unapproved information was being leaked.

"I need to make sure I don't do anything to hinder our ability to bring this person or these people into custody,"

Moose said Wednesday. The taunting message left on a tarot card known as the Death card, first reported Tuesday night on WUSA-TV and then by The Washington Post, was confirmed by a source Wednesday to The Associated Press.



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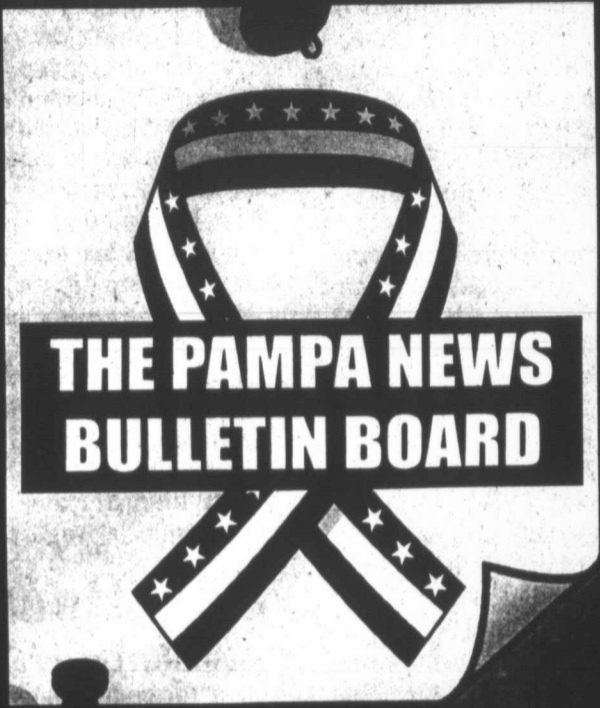
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THE PET PROBLEM ... or is it an owner problem!

"I'M A GREAT BELIEVER IN PHYSICAL FITNESS. MY DOG STAYS IN SHAPE BY RUNNING ALL OVER TOWN."

Dogs and cats that are not always restricted to their owner's premises are the ones that tip over garbage cans, get into fights, chase children on bicycles, harass adults walking or jogging and get killed by cars and trucks. An owner who does not confine his pet is actually saying: "I don't care about my neighbors and I don't really like my pet."

"MY DOG IS JUST A BIG BABY. HE PLAYS WITH THE NEIGHBOR KIDS ALL OF THE TIME. HE WOULDN'T HURT A FLEA."

Sometimes we forget that dogs and cats are not people. They are animals and animals do bite and scratch. Every year, pet dogs kill someone in the United States and the victim is usually a child. Thousands of children and adults are bitten by dogs and cats each year. Most of these deaths and injuries could be prevented by responsible pet owners.

"OUR CAT NEVER LEAVES OUR YARD. I DON'T THINK THAT SHE NEEDS A RABIES SHOT EVERY YEAR!"

Rabies is a killer. It is present in our wildlife, especially bats, skunks, foxes and raccoons. Pet dogs and cats do not have to leave their yards to be exposed to rabies by a wild animal; the wild animals will meet them more than halfway! If a pet develops rabies, the persons most likely to be exposed by them to this fatal disease are the owner and his family. An annual rabies vaccination is very inexpensive life insurance for both the pet and its owner.

"NEUTER OUR PET? THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR. ANYWAY, WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO FIND HOMES FOR MOST OF HER BABIES"

There are an estimated 3,000 dogs and cats born every hour in the United States. In other words, to keep our dog and cat population at its present level, 72,000 pets must die every day. THAT isn't fair. Neutered dogs and cats, both males and females, simply make better pets, enjoy a healthier life and are less likely to stray.

Ownership of a pet is a privilege with many obligations. Pet owners are responsible for the health and well-being of their pets. Just as important, pet owners must show consideration for the safety and comfort of other citizens.

IF YOU ARE A PET OWNER, ARE YOU A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER? IF NOT, WHY?

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FDA taking heat over dietary herb

By PAUL RECER
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A senator chided the Food and Drug Administration for not taking some action to block the sales of diet supplements containing ephedra, an herb that has been linked in many reports with heart attacks, high blood pressure and even death.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., chairing a Senate subcommittee hearing, said Tuesday that even though there have been thousands of reports linking ephedra with serious medical complications, companies continue to sell it to children and the FDA has taken little action.

"We have mountains of evidence that this drug is not safe and these manufacturers are being irresponsible about their marketing practices," said Durbin. "Ephedra is not safe and should be taken off the market."

But a lawyer representing Metabolife International Inc., an ephedra supplement maker, disputed the criticism, saying his company's product is safe and effective when used by adults who follow the dosage directions.

And an FDA official, Lester M. Crawford, said his agency this week blocked the sale of one ephedra product, Yellow Jackets, which has been advertised as a substitute for street drugs. He said the agency also is pressing to inspect a New Jersey plant where Yellow Jackets are made.

Durbin said one of his constituents — 16-year-old Sean Riggins, a football player in Lincoln, Ill. — died of a heart attack last month after taking Yellow Jackets, a caffeine-rich combination of ephedra and kola bean extract. Durbin said the death came a month after he had written a letter to Health and Human Services secretary Tommy Thompson asking that

the FDA take action against the sale of ephedra products.

"When I sent that letter, Sean Riggins was still alive," Durbin told Crawford. "Why hasn't there been a good faith effort to order suspension (of sales of the supplement)? The clear and prudent thing is to take this off the shelf. This is a killer."

"The burden is on us," replied Crawford, a deputy FDA commissioner. "Once we take an action, we have to be able to sustain it."

He said the agency has "stepped up our efforts," but it needs to complete a study before it can take action that might lead to a suspension of ephedra products.

Crawford said the FDA on Monday did stop imports of Yellow Jackets, which are blamed for Riggins' death, because a Dutch firm was touting the pills on a Web site as a substitute for street drugs. He said FDA took the action based on illegal marketing, not ephedra safety.

FDA inspectors were denied admission when they tried to inspect a New Jersey plant where Yellow Jackets are made and the agency is seeking a court order to gain access, Crawford said.

Under a 1994 federal law, the FDA cannot regulate dietary supplements the same way it does pharmaceuticals. The agency requires drug manufacturers to prove their products are safe and effective. But the burden of proof is reversed for dietary supplements. Before a dietary supplement can be removed from the market, the FDA must prove it is not safe.

Crawford said the FDA is still working on rules that would regulate the diet supplement industry, but they have gone through extensive changes over the years since the law was passed. "In a worst case," he said, it could take four more years before they are in force.

4-Hers place at photo competition

Five area 4-Hers recently placed in the youth amateur photography competition at the Amarillo Tri-State Fair.

Tricia Davis, daughter of James and Theresa Davis of Pampa, captured 4-H Best of Show (ages 9-13) and placed first in Color Youth Amateur (ages 9-13).

Jessica Baggerman, daughter of John Mark and Lora Baggerman of Pampa, won first, second, and third in Black



(Photo by Judy Elliott)

(Left-right) 4-H photography students Drake Jackson, Jessica Baggerman, Tricia Davis, Sarah Schwab and Emily Elliott recently placed at Tri-State Fair Youth Amateur Photography Competition.

Tricia Davis, daughter of James and Theresa Davis of Pampa, captured 4-H Best of Show (ages 9-13) and placed first in Color Youth Amateur (ages 9-13)

and White Amateur Youth (ages 9-13).

Drake Jackson, son of Barry and Lendi Jackson of Lefors, earned first in Black and White Amateur Youth (ages 14-19). Emily Elliott, daughter of Brad

and Judy Elliott of Pampa, placed third in Black and White Amateur Youth (ages 14-19), and Sarah Schwab, daughter of Robert and Mary Schwab of Pampa, received

honorable mention in Color Youth Amateur (ages 14-19).

Other Gray County 4-Hers participating in the competition were Ryan Baggerman, Cory Jackson, Emily Jackson, and

Dustin Neef. Award-winning photographs taken by each of the students will be on display at Lovett Memorial Library during the month of November.

Biotech corn feared to contain toxic mold

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farmers and an environmental group worry that a biotech corn suspected of containing toxic mold could contaminate the food supply, prompting them to ask Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman to keep it off the market.

They want the corn blocked until tests can determine whether it caused some hogs and cattle in Midwestern states to become infertile.

Agriculture Department researchers suspected some Iowa cattle and hogs became sterile after eating the potentially moldy corn. An environmental group, Friends of the Earth, has sent letters to Veneman urging her to hold it from the market for more testing.

Larry Bohlem, a spokesman for the group, said farmers in Minnesota, Michigan and Iowa who have had problems with the corn produced by Garst Seed Co. don't want to discuss it publicly.

"They're kind of afraid because they're afraid to lose the value of their corn," he said Tuesday.

Bohlem said the agencies that regulate grain, including the Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration, have failed to act quickly. He said he is concerned the grain will end up in tacos and tortilla chips.

That would be a replay of a scare that occurred two years ago when Aventis' StarLink corn, which wasn't approved for human consumption, was found in the food supply. Recovery efforts cost the food and farming industry billions of dollars.

Maria Bynum, spokes-

woman for the Agriculture Department, said the potentially moldy corn is the FDA's responsibility to investigate. FDA officials said they were looking into the matter.

The corn is a variety known as Bt corn, genetically designed so it won't contain molds.

Initial tests have indicated, however, that it contains the mold fusarium, which can sicken animals and humans.

Researchers for the USDA's Agricultural Research Service have said, though, that a biological chemical compound may be to blame.

Scientists were alerted to the problem by Jerry Rosman, a farmer who operates Rolling R Farms in Harlan, Iowa. He told them he believed the corn was the root of his problems when reproductivity in his hog herd dropped from 90 percent to 20 percent from October 2000 to August 2001.

Officials with the Slater, Iowa-based Garst Seed said they've conducted their own investigation but nothing seemed amiss.

"We are confident that corn seed has not caused the problems he has experienced," company spokesman Jeff Lacina

said in a statement. "The hybrids that Mr. Rosman purchased have been widely grown for several years and no one else who has grown them has reported similar experiences to us."

Rosman said his sows appeared to be pregnant but produced no litters. He destroyed the herd, he said, but notified the Agriculture Department when he discovered four of his neighbors had similar problems. His cattle also were showing a decrease in reproductivity, he said.

The corn "was the common denominator" in all the cases, Rosman said.

DRILLING INTENTIONS

Intentions to Drill
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #6054 Meek, 1905' from South & 467' from West line, Sec. 54, M-1, H&GN, PD 13500'.

ROBERTS (WILDCAT & HANSFORD Upper Morrow) Strat Land Exploration Co., #2182 Mary, 1250' from South & 2100' from West line, Sec. 182, C, G&M, PD 8250'.

Application to Plug-Back
ROBERTS (QUINDUNO Lecompton) Phillips Petroleum Co., #4 Stone 'A', 935' from North & 834' from East line, Sec. 17, 2, I&GN, PD 6519'.

Oil Well Completion
HANSFORD (WILDCAT) Jones Energy, Ltd., #3178 Patten Unit, Sec. 178, 45, H&TC, spud 5-11-02, drlg. compl 5-30-02, tested 9-10-02, pumped 154 bbl. of 38 grav. oil + no water, GOR 227, TD 8700', PBD 7830' —

Gas Well Completions
HANSFORD (GERALD Upper Morrow) Tri-Ex Petroleum, L.P., #1 Cluck, Sec. 155, 2, GH&H, spud 5-10-02, drlg. compl 6-14-02, tested 6-25-02, potential

1109 MCF, TD 7050', PBD 6974' —

HEMPHILL (S.E. CANADIAN Douglas) El Paso Production Co., #2A Humphreys '30', Sec. 30, 1, G&M, spud 7-29-02, drlg. compl 8-6-02, tested 8-30-02, potential 1052 MCF, TD 7950', PBD 7950' — SWR #10 to commingle has been approved

HEMPHILL (S.E. CANADIAN Douglas) El Paso Production Co., #3A Jones Trust '26', Sec. 26, 1, G&M, spud 7-9-02, drlg. compl 7-17-02, tested 9-10-02, potential 186 MCF, TD 7445', PBD 7350' —

WHEELER (WILDCAT) Newfield Exploration Mid-Con, Inc., #1062 Brown, Sec. 62, M-1, H&GN, spud 2-23-02, drlg. compl 4-18-02, tested — shut in, TD 15250', PBD 14080' —

ATTENTION

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FARMERS

Chat event to address student card, loan debt

AUSTIN — Texas Guaranteed (TG) will co-sponsor a "Personal Finance and Default Prevention" Chat from 2-3 p.m. (Central) on Oct. 15. The chat is designed to help students and their parents, who are interested in managing debt and learning about personal finance.

The public service web site (<http://mapping-your-future.org>), co-sponsored by Texas Guaranteed (TG) and other student loan guarantee agencies, is being offered to address the issue of debt and credit management.

Along with a bachelor's degree, the typical college graduate now leaves school with over \$17,000 in student loan debt. In addition, the percentage of students holding at least one credit card has risen 24 percent since 1998, according to a recent study. Accordingly, the amount of debt and lack of knowledge about

personal finance among students has become an increasing concern for this country and its leaders.

Financial aid and career experts from all over the country will answer questions and provide information on the following topics, among others:

- managing credit card and student loan debt,
- warning signs that a finances are out of control,
- solutions to personal finance problems,

and

—consequences of default and bankruptcy. Anyone with Internet access can participate. On the afternoon of the chat event, visitors will go to www.mapping-your-future.org and select the chat session. Simple instructions will guide them on how to join the event.

...I know that for things to get easier for me, it has to be over for him. And that's not what I want.

a caregiver featured in the PBS documentary AND THOU SHALT HONOR, speaking about her critically ill husband



AND THOU SHALT HONOR offers advice and inspiration for navigating the medical, financial, legal and emotional challenges of caring for an aging, ill or disabled parent, spouse or friend.

Wednesday, October 9, 8-10 p.m.

on



Call the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) at 1-800-252-9240 for tools and resources available to caregivers in your community.

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Wednesday, October 9

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Fiancee Left Waiting Has Time for Second Thoughts

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to a man who has been married twice. He has a child by each of his ex-wives. He has been divorced from his first wife for seven years. They have a friendly relationship. Whenever they drop off or pick up their 9-year-old son, they spend at least 25 to 30 minutes talking. I sometimes go with him, and he will leave me in the car for that amount of time. He can't understand why I get upset. He thinks I am jealous, which I am not. I'm glad he has a good relationship with her since he doesn't with his second wife. They're always arguing over their 2-year-old.

Abby, do you think I am biting off more than I can chew?

LEFT IN THE CAR IN DES MOINES

DEAR LEFT IN THE CAR: Only you can answer that question. You are engaged to a man with a past — and the "souvenirs" to prove it.

From my perspective, it is rude to keep someone waiting more than 15 minutes. However, because you know what to expect, I suggest you take a book or a couple of magazines with you. It will lessen the boredom.

His ex-wives will always be the mothers of his children, and this problem won't go away by itself. Since the situation is upsetting, premarital counseling might help you and your fiance resolve this issue before you get to the altar.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old girl who really needs your help. I'm in love with a boy, "Lowell," who is two years older. We've kissed and stuff. Lowell says he loves me, but the thing is he failed to tell me he already has a girlfriend. He goes to a different school, so I just found out.

Lowell now knows I know this, but maintains that this girl is "obsessed" with him and he only "pretends" to be her boyfriend to make her happy.

Abby, on top of this, I'm Mormon and can't date until I'm 16. (I think my parents are catching on!)

IN HOT WATER WITH LOVE

DEAR IN HOT WATER: Let's see:

(1) He goes to a different school.

(2) He may not be leveling with you regarding his relationship with the other girl.

(3) You're not allowed to date for two more years.

Bottom line: Face the fact that this relationship is going nowhere.

P.S. Please don't be discouraged. I have a hunch when you are 16 you'll meet a more eligible young man you'll like as much as Lowell.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 40-something flight attendant. My husband and I spent a lot of money to have his paternity reversed so we could have another baby. It failed.

I began artificial insemination. After I mentioned the situation to one of my co-workers, she said she knew that a handsome young pilot we fly with had donated his sperm at the same clinic I used. Happily, I am now pregnant.

I suspect my girlfriend told the pilot because he now goes out of his way to avoid me. I can't be sure, but the pilot matches the description in the clinic's donor catalog of the specimen I used.

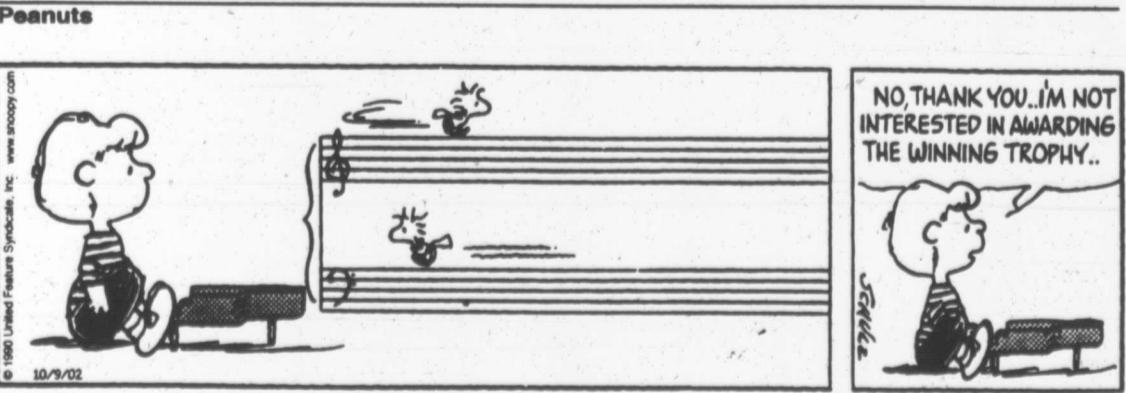
This whole thing is supposed to be anonymous, but I'm dying to talk to the pilot to confirm my suspicions. If the pilot is the father, should I tell my husband?

FLYING HIGH IN CLEVELAND

DEAR FLYING HIGH: The paternity of your baby cannot be determined without a DNA test, and sperm banks usually have many anonymous donors. I see no reason to discuss this conjecture with either the pilot or your husband.

P.S. I'm taken aback at the thought that the pilot in question would have discussed his "donations" with your co-worker.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 60440, Los Angeles, CA 90068.



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

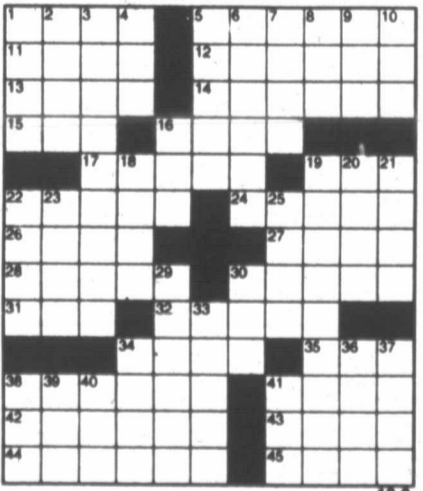
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cougar
 - 5 Beliefs
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 - 12 "Twelfth Night" role
 - 13 Roster
 - 14 Inventor's protection
 - 15 Sialom maneuver
 - 16 Appointment hassock
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 - 22 Old oath
 - 24 Play part
 - 26 Clark's co-worker
 - 27 Concerning 21
 - 28 1970s veep
 - 30 Out of bed
 - 31 Enormous
 - 32 Fight site
 - 34 Told tales
 - 35 Guy's date
 - 38 Pacific island
 - 41 Scrabble piece
 - 42 Arthur's final destination
 - 43 Privy to
 - 44 Washing sites
 - 45 Omelet base
- DOWN**
- 1 Heap
 - 2 "Exodus" author

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ARC AGE RUT
ROOMSERVICE
TIRES SINCE
SCENT POOL

- Yesterday's answer**
- 22 Spill the beans like —
 - 23 Boo Boo's 37 Eye part
 - 25 First killer 38 Folder feature
 - 29 Serve 39 Holly-wood's Gardner
 - 30 Blushing 40 Owns
 - 33 Horse stoppers 41 Draw

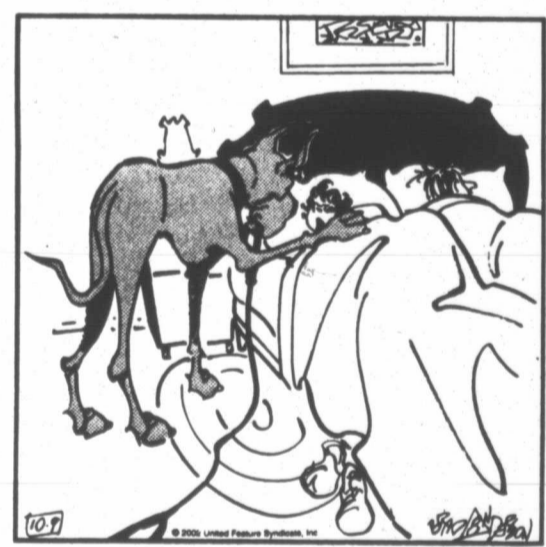
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SPORTS

Pampa, Hereford is Harris Headliner

PAMPA — The Pampa-Hereford game Friday night is supposed to be so close that the Harris Ratings has the District 3-4A contest rated as a tossup.

Pampa and Hereford are in a three-way tie with Randall for third in the district standings at 1-1. Pampa is 4-2 for the season while Hereford is 2-4.

Harris also has the two teams listed as one of the Class 4A headliners this week. Kickoff is 7:30 at Hereford.

Pampa dropped four spots from No. 50 to No. 46 in the Harris poll after last week's 20-18 setback to Plainview. Hereford is at No. 39.

The Whitefaces may be putting the pieces together under new head coach Bryan Gerlich after dropping three of their four non-district outings of the 2002 season. After just missing an upset of 4-1 Palo Duro (14-12) two weeks ago, Hereford blasted Dumas 38-18 last weekend. Hereford edged Lubbock Estacado 7-6 in the season opener, then fell to 5A Tascosa 14-12, Big Spring 35-20 and No. 9 Frenship 47-7.

Pampa has the edge in statistics, averaging 26.8 points

High School Football

per game and allowing 16.1. Hereford is averaging 15.5 points per game and allowing 22.3.

In other 3-4A picks, Harris has Plainview over Caprock by 45, and Palo Duro over Dumas by 18. Randall is open.

MCLEAN — Follett downed McLean 48-0 in a six-man football game last weekend.

McLean is 1-4 for the season and 0-2 in district.

McLean plays at Fort Elliott on Friday night.

STRATFORD — Wheeler lost to Stratford 56-6 in an area football action last weekend.

Wheeler's only TD came on a 20-yard run by James Chapman.

Stratford improves its record to 3-2. Wheeler is 1-4.

Chance Crowl had four rushing touchdowns to lead Stratford. He finished with 118 yards rushing.

Stratford quarterback Josh King threw for 255 yards and two touchdowns.



(Photo by Jerry Heasley)

Look, up in the air... it's a bird, it's a plane. No, it's Harvesters fans! Actually, Pampa cheerleaders Abby Cavalier (left) and Teryn Stowers are just checking out the crowd high above the field at spacious Kimbrough Stadium in Canyon during the Pampa-Randall game. The Harvesters visit Hereford for a District 3-4A contest at 7:30 Friday night.

NOTEBOOK

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — The Harvester Basketball Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 in the Ready Room at the high school athletic building.

Call coach Bowers at 665-8006 if more information is needed.

CORRECTION

PAMPA — Pampa defeated Dumas 8th grade 8-6 in a B team football game Sept. 28.

The earlier article had Dumas defeating Pampa.

BOWLING

PAMPA — The Soft Bowl League is now forming at Harvester Lanes. The league will last for eight weeks with three members (any combination) on a team. The league will start and meet on Oct. 18, beginning at 7 p.m. at Harvester Lanes. Cost is \$8 per week for three games and shoes.

Call Harvester Lanes at 665-3422 for more information and to reserve your team spot today.

FOOTBALL

CANADIAN — Canadian held off Spearman for 21-13 victory last weekend in a District 6-2A outing.

Quarterback Riley Morris threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Newcomb and also scored on a 1-yard sneak to lead the Canadian attack.

Austin English scored Canadian's other TD on a 72-yard run. English was the game's leading rusher with 181 yards on 14 carries.

Canadian was ahead 21-7 when Spearman narrowed the gap to 21-13 as Colton Miller scored on a 2-yard run with 8:20 remaining. However, that would be all the scoring in the contest.

Canadian improved to 5-1 for the year and 2-0 in district. Spearman is 4-2 overall and 0-2 in district.

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — TCU heads into Saturday with a four-game winning streak. Army is hoping for its first win of the year.

The two teams with contrasting seasons will meet at 1 p.m. at Michie Stadium in a Conference USA matchup.

TCU (4-1, 1-1) comes in hot, having rattled off four straight victories after a season-opening 36-29 overtime loss to conference foe Cincinnati. Army (0-5, 0-3), meanwhile, has lost by margins of 44, 31, 21 and 35 points this season along with a 30-21 loss to I-AA Holy Cross.

However, TCU coach Gary Patterson says his team's goals mean the Horned Frogs won't take the Black Knights lightly.

"Our ultimate goal is to win a conference championship and to be able to do that you have to focus on winning the next game," Patterson said. "This week that happens to be Army, which means just as much as Louisville, Southern Miss, Tulane or any other game that we have left."

Flashback

1953: Jake Henson pitched a 5-hit shutout as the Pampa Oilers defeated the Abilene Blue Sox 11-0.

Henson and shortstop John Sanderson each hit two homers.

Twins slip by Angels in AL championship series

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — There were 55,000 fans screaming in the Metrodome, waving their Homer Hankies.

Just 11 months ago, baseball wanted all of this to go away.

Well, it didn't.

The Minnesota Twins are here, and they're three wins from the World Series after grounding the high-flying Anaheim Angels, the team that broke all those offensive records last week against the New York Yankees.

"Just so much energy, so much enthusiasm," Joe Mays said after limiting Anaheim to four singles in eight innings and leading Minnesota to a 2-1 victory Tuesday night in the opener of this improbable AL championship series.

"Wow, that was just ... wow!" catcher A.J. Pierzynski said.

The team that wasn't supposed to make it to opening day isn't a surprise anymore. Even Bud Selig knows that. After trying to kill off the team, the baseball commissioner showed up and watched from a luxury suite behind home plate.

"I'm glad he came out to give us some support," Twins outfielder Torii Hunter said. "We won't fault him for all of that that happened. Bud was just doing his job."

Signaling the time has come to forget the Yankees, Braves and other big spenders who have dominated the playoffs in recent years, the Twins showed just how dominant they are in the Metrodome, improving to 13-2 there in postseason play. Game 2 is in the dome Wednesday night, with Rick Reed pitching for the Twins against Ramon Ortiz.

"I was tired of seeing the Yankees in it every year," Twins first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz said. "It's good to know that there'll be a new team in the World Series this year."

The Metrodome was festive and loud for its biggest baseball game since Oct. 27, 1991, when Jack Morris' 10-inning shutout beat Atlanta 1-0 in Game 7 of the World Series.

This was another tight one, with Anaheim's Kevin Appier almost matching Mays. The Twins got just five hits and the Angels four, and the crowd was on its feet shouting during key points and throughout the ninth inning.

"This is the game we play against Anaheim every time," Pierzynski said. "One run, one way or the other, one pitch decides it. It's exciting baseball. You can't ask for much more as a fan or as a player."

Baseball owners tried to fold the Twins along with the Montreal Expos

last offseason, but were blocked by the Minnesota courts. Since then, the Twins have seemed intent on banging the gavel on all of baseball, wanting to force Selig to hand them the World Series trophy.

"Contract-ulations Twins for a superb season/All the way for Bud's sake" read one sign behind home plate.

"I think the place had a lot of electricity in it. Obviously, the fans were into it," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "They looked like they were reacting to every pitch. I thought it was a great atmosphere."

Anaheim, too, is a surprise, seeking its first World Series appearance since joining the major leagues in 1961.

Mays, hit hard by Oakland in Game 2 of the five-game division series, shut down a team that hit .376 in their four-game victory over the four-time defending AL champion Yankees — the highest average by a club in any postseason series.

"He had everything," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said.

Mays allowed only four hits and an unearned run caused by an error by shortstop Cristian Guzman. Mays, who threw 68 of 98 pitches for strikes, called it "the game of my career" and described the atmosphere as "overwhelming."

"Just so much energy, so much enthusiasm in the crowd," he said. "To go out there and give them a good game to watch — I think that gives them the reward."

Mays, who struck out three and walked none, came out after the eighth inning. He retired his final 13 batters but tightened up a little after the eighth and told his manager he wouldn't mind if Eddie Guardado finished.

"I would have given him the ball. He had the option to go back out there in the ninth," Gardenhire said.

Guardado struck out Darin Erstad leading off the ninth, then walked Tim Lincecum. After Garret Anderson flied out, Guardado threw a called third strike to Troy Glaus, who glared at plate umpire Ed Montague.

"I asked him if it was down. He said 'No, it was a good pitch.' I came back and looked at it on the film, and it was a good pitch," Glaus said. "He was right."

Anaheim, whose .282 regular-season batting average led the major leagues, didn't get a single leadoff man on and hit .129 (4-for-31). Last week, the Angels batted .361 against the Yankees with two-strike counts. They were 0-for-14 with two strikes against the Twins.

WT Rodeo athletes place at Sul Ross competition

CANYON — Six members of West Texas A&M University's men's and women's rodeo teams enjoyed success in National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association competition Oct. 3-5 at Sul Ross State University.

On the women's side, Brandi Harrison, a junior pre-veterinary major from Pecos, was second in average in breakaway, while Kashlee Hughes, a junior general studies major from Model, Colo., was fourth in average in breakaway.

In the men's long-go, Josh

Morris, a senior finance major from Lazbuddie, led the way by placing second in team roping, and Jeff Durfee, a junior pre-veterinary major from Berthoud, Colo., was fourth in bull dogging.

In the men's average scoring, J.W. Todd, a junior applied arts and sciences major from Hornbeck, La., was second in saddle bronc, and Trevor Thiel, a senior general business major from Belle Fourche, S.D., split second and third in calf roping.

The WTAMU rodeo squads return to action Oct. 10-12 at Vernon College.

City to have volleyball leagues

PAMPA — City of Pampa Recreation Department will be sponsoring a mixed adult volleyball league.

Mixed Competitive and Recreational divisions will be offered. Players must be 14 years old to participate.

Entry deadline will be Oct. 30 at 5 p.m., and the season will begin the week of Nov. 4.

Entry fee (sponsor's fee) is

\$180 and player's fee is \$10 per player with a minimum of eight players.

Roster forms, fact sheets and league by-laws are available at the Recreation Office at 816 S. Hobart.

For more information, please contact Shane Stokes at 669-5770 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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EU approves Cyprus, Malta, eight others for membership

By **ROBERT WIELAARD**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The European Union's executive Commission declared eight east European nations, Cyprus and Malta nearly ready for EU membership Wednesday and recommended they be invited to join in 2004 — the most ambitious EU expansion ever.

The European Commission remained silent on when to start entrance talks with Turkey, an EU candidate since 1999.

A Commission report said Turkey still failed to meet political and economic membership criteria and needs to clean up its human rights records.

Although Turkey had made a good start toward improving its human rights record, problems remained, the Commission said. It suggested doubling the \$172 million a year Turkey receives in aid as a candidate for membership to reform the judiciary, improve the small business climate and modernize the civil service.

The United States has urged the west Europeans to be more welcoming to Turkey, which Washington considers a loyal and strategically important Muslim ally in the war on terrorism.

The 93-page Commission report said membership talks with Malta, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia have gone well enough to justify bringing them into the EU in 2004.

Romania and Bulgaria likely will not be ready until 2007, the Commission said, a target the two countries set themselves.

Membership invitations will likely be issued at a mid-December EU summit in Copenhagen, Denmark.

That would leave two years for the 10 accession treaties to be ratified by the legislatures of the EU nations, the candidate countries and the European Parliament.

EU enlargement still faces major hurdles. EU nations must settle a disagreements over subsidies to farmers in the candidate states. Irish voters could reject expansion in a second vote Oct. 19. And EU officials are still hoping reconciliation talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots will be completed shortly.

Negotiations began with Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary,

Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia in March, 1998 and with Malta, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia in October, 1999.

The talks cover 30-odd economic, financial, political, trade and other areas in which candidates must adopt EU rules and legislation. Membership may promise trade and other benefits. It also exposes industries in candidate states to tough competition from wealthy EU rivals.

The Commission report said all 10 candidates have made "considerable" progress in that.

Nobel economics prize goes to two Americans

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Two Americans won the 2002 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences on Wednesday for using psychological research and laboratory experiments in economic analysis.

Daniel Kahneman, 68, a U.S. and Israeli citizen based at Princeton University in New Jersey and Vernon L. Smith, 75, of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., will share the roughly \$1 million prize.

Kahneman has integrated insights from psychology into economics, especially concerning human judgment and decision-making under uncertainty, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its citation.

Smith laid the foundation for the field of experimental economics, demonstrating the importance of alternative institutions.

Last year, three Americans won the prize for advances in ways to analyze markets that can be applied to both developing and advanced economies.

George A. Akerlof of the University of California at Berkeley, A. Michael Spence of

Stanford University and Joseph E. Stiglitz of Columbia University were cited "for their analyses of markets with asymmetric information," referring to the fact that some market players have better information than others.

Past awards also have recognized research on topics ranging from poverty and famine to how multinational corporations reap profits, and theories on how people choose jobs and the welfare losses caused by environmental catastrophes.

Wednesday's announcement of the economics prize was the second Nobel of the day after the chemistry award went to John B. Fenn of the United States, Koichi Tanaka of Japan and Kurt Wuethrich of Switzerland for inventing techniques used to identify and analyze proteins that have revolutionized the search for new medicines.

The medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and peace prizes were established in the will of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite, and were first awarded in 1901.

Kuwait officials seeking answers

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait was searching for accomplices to what it called a "terrorist act," a gunfight that killed a U.S. Marine, wounded another and left two attackers dead, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Authorities were taking "steps to round up those who we think provided assistance to the terrorists," Sheik Mohammed Al Sabah, Kuwait's minister of state for foreign affairs, told reporters.

Earlier, police officials had said more than 30 friends and relatives of the attackers were detained for questioning.

The Pentagon said Tuesday that the two assailants pulled up in a pickup truck and opened fire on Marines engaged in urban assault training on Failaka, an uninhabited island about 10 miles east of Kuwait City. The attackers then drove to another site on the island and attacked again before being killed by Marines, the Pentagon said.

The injured Marine "was recovering from non-life threatening injuries," Lt. Garrett Kasper, spokesman for the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, said Wednesday.

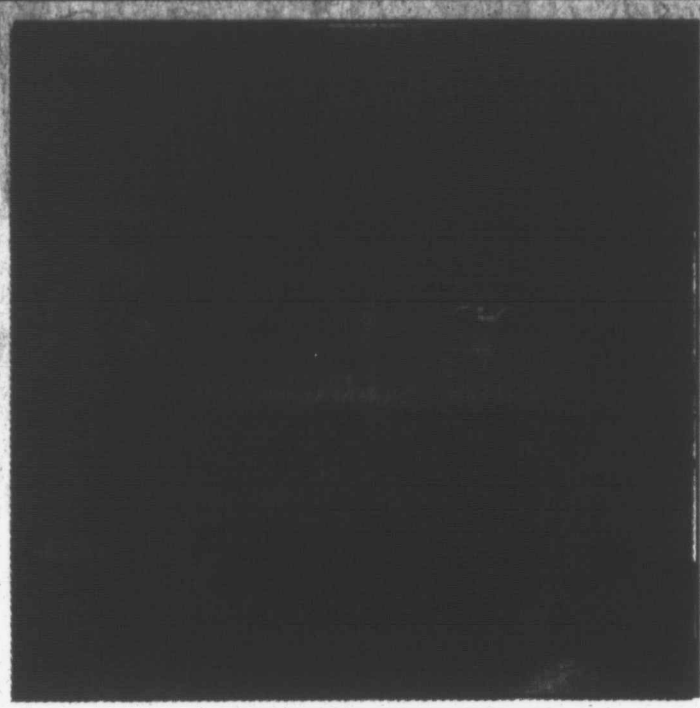
Kasper would not provide the Marine's name or details about his wounds. Earlier, the Fifth Fleet had said the Marine was hit in the arm. A Kuwaiti Defense Ministry source, though, said Wednesday he was injured in the stomach and would be flown to Germany for further treatment. The body of his colleague also would be flown to Germany, the Kuwaiti source said.

After the shooting, Marines found three AK-47s and ammunition inside the attackers' truck, according to a statement released in Washington by the Fifth Fleet.

The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry condemned the attack and identified the assailants as Anas al-Kandari, born in 1981, and Jassem al-Hajiri, born in 1976. It said both were Kuwaiti civilians.

"The ministry announces that this is a terrorist act," the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said in a statement. "It will not allow anyone to undermine the country's security."

A ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, described the two men as fundamentalist Muslims.



(Courtesy photo) **'Latchkey kids' Aleah and Alison Noble, Courtney Ward, Christina Hart, Nicole Brashears, and Elizabeth Woody do a little socializing during the after-school program which is supported by Pampa United Way.**

Latchkey receives funding from UW

This article is one in a series of articles of profiles on the agencies and organizations supported by Pampa United Way. This information is being provided by Pampa United Way as part of its 2002 "The Way America Cares, Community by Community!" fund-raising campaign.

Gray County Latchkey was born out of a need of parents who worked and went to school. These parents conceived an idea that would bring peace of mind to them and allow an opportunity for their children. The phrase, Latchkey Kids, was developed nationwide for children 5-12 who were leaving school and staying home, without adult supervision, until their parents returned from work or school, a situation that was causing stress for families and employers.

Parents worried about their children at home alone and therefore their work, between the hours of 2 and 6, was interrupted. Children felt the stress of having to stay inside the house, possibly scared to be there alone, as well as of losing out on the socializing skills children need with other children.

In the spring of 1985, parents of this community began a pilot after-school program at Wilson Elementary School with five students. By the next school year, the program had grown to encompass all six elementary schools. This idea, conceived out of need, had become a reality and a vital part of the community.

Latchkey is now open to all children (and their parents) enrolled in the Pampa elementary school system. It serves approximately 200 children and their parents in the community.

Latchkey is state licensed which means it has to meet state requirements just as all child-care facilities must. The staff receives at least 20-hours of child-care training each year and must be certified in CPR and first aid.

Pampa ISD has given the program use of local schools' cafeterias, so students do not have to be transported to another location, but rather remain on school grounds. The children are already there and can be checked on quite effectively if not present.

Gray County Latchkey is a non-profit organization. It is represented by a 12-member board of directors made up of parents of program children, teaching staff from each elementary school, and community volunteers.

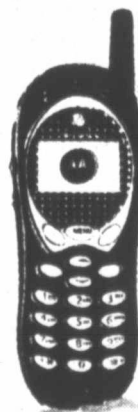
It is a United Way agency, allowing it the opportunity to offer reduced rates to single-parent families and parents who are going to school to better their futures.

Children are entertained in a number of ways while at Latchkey — with games, arts and crafts, individual and group/inside and outside activities — and they have use of their school's gym on cold days. Time is set aside for homework assignments and quiet time as well.

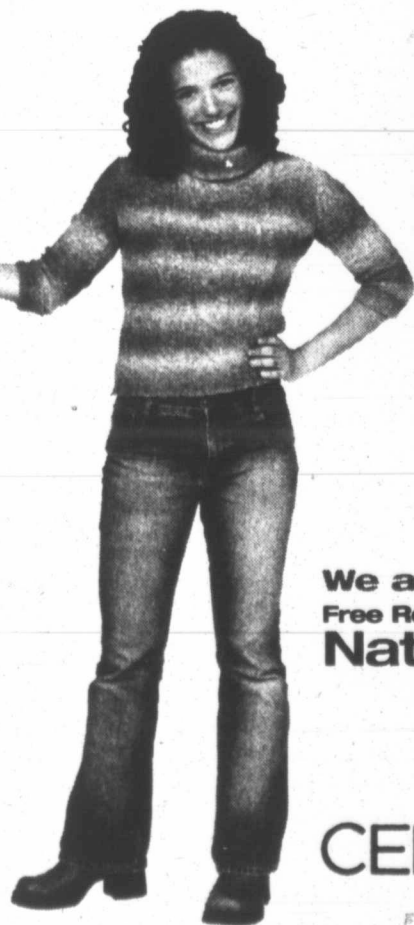
Children make special arts and crafts projects throughout the year, making decorations for UW meetings, placemats for Meals on Wheels recipients at Thanksgiving, and greeting cards for local nursing homes. Latchkey promotes positive socializing and sharing and children are rewarded with encouragement and gratitude for positive behavior.

Latchkey strives to create a positive environment so children can grow socially, emotionally, and physically.

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