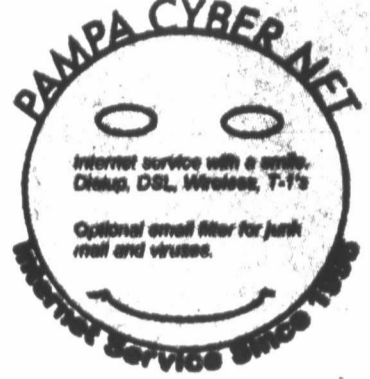


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THE Pampa NEWS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2002 Vol. 98 No. 492 • Pampa, Texas
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH 48 **LOW** 35

LOCAL

Police seek gunman that robbed Allsup's
 A late night robbery at the Allsup's at 140 S. Starkweather netted the suspect approximately \$441.
 The convenience store clerk told police the suspect told her he had a gun, and threatened to use it. She was not injured. According to police reports, the suspect fled from the convenience store on foot.
 The robbery occurred about 11 p.m. Saturday. No arrests have been made.

Facilities Committee to meet Wednesday
 Pampa Independent School District's Facilities Committee will meet at 5:15 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6, in the Board Conference Room at Carver center, 321 W. Albert, to review facility needs for the school district.

DEATHS

Harry V. Gordon, 84, machinist.
 Earnest "Mr. E." Payne Jr., 74, custodian.
 Willard D. "Bill" Teague, 90, pumper.
 Arnie Urbanczyk, 58, farmer.
 Adeline F. Weinmeister, 100, homemaker.

INSIDE...

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 Sports 5

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Alaska shakes, rattles and rolls

By DAN JOLING
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A violent earthquake slammed a remote area of Alaska's interior, shutting down the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, opening 6-foot-wide cracks in highways and making lakes slosh as far away as Louisiana. The magnitude 7.9 quake was one of the strongest ever recorded in the United States.
 Only one minor injury was reported; a woman suffered a broken arm.
 The quake, centered on the Denali Fault 90 miles south of Fairbanks,

struck Sunday at 1:13 p.m. Alaska Standard Time (5:13 p.m. EST) — its effects strongly felt in Anchorage about 270 miles to the south. It lasted at least 30 seconds.
 "It shook so bad you could not stand up on the front porch," said Jay Capps, a grocery store owner between Tok and Glennallen in the southeastern part of the state. "It sounded like the trees were breaking roots under the ground."
 "A charging brown bear I can handle. This scared the hell out of me," said Randy Schmoker of Porcupine Creek. He expected the ground to

crack open as it rippled with a series of 8-inch waves in front of him. "They looked like ocean waves."
 A series of aftershocks rattled the region Sunday and early Monday, and seismologists said more could be expected for the next several days. The largest aftershock measured magnitude 5.1, and one of 4.5 hit early Monday.
 The original quake did considerable damage to Alaska's infrastructure, cracking highways and roads, shaking homes and damaging supports for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.
 Crews manually shut down the pipeline after the quake, and it was still

out of service early Monday. Mike Heatwole, spokesman for the Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., said officials would know by midmorning how long it will take to restart the pipeline. The oil flow can be stopped for maintenance or other reasons without affecting oil deliveries because reserves are stored in tanks at the shipping terminal in Valdez.
 More than 3,000 miles away from the epicenter in the New Orleans area, the quake made lakes ripple and sloshed water out of pools.
 In Mandeville, La., Carol Barcia, (See **QUAKE**, Page 3)

Gray County eligible for disaster \$'s.

Despite heavy moisture received in recent rains, Gray County has been named a drought disaster area by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
 Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced last week, according to Associated Press reports, that nearly half of Texas' counties have been declared disaster areas because of drought conditions that began at the start of the year.
 The declaration makes 122 counties' and 58 contiguous counties eligible for low interest farm loans. Texas has 254 counties.
 "As drought and other extreme weather conditions persist, we continue to use all available programs to help farmers and ranchers," Veneman said in a statement reported by the AP.
 Growers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the drought declaration to apply for the loans. Loan applications will be con-

Little saints



St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School recently celebrated All Saint's Day. The children dressed for chapel representing different saints. Three-year-olds Adisson Hinkle and Ashlynn Organ were St. Elizabeth, Bailey Joyce was St. Mary, and Collin Mertz was Daniel.

County judge candidates answer questions

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Gray County voters had the opportunity to hear candidates give their qualifications at a candidate forum last week to help them decide who to mark on the ballot on Tuesday, Nov. 5.
 After giving those reasons why they were the most qualified candidate, some of the candidates seeking office were given written questions from the audience.
 Following are the questions and answers regarding the Precinct 1 and 3 Justice of the Peace race as well as the county judge candidates.
 Judge Phil Vanderpool was moderator of the forum sponsored by the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.
 One question was asked of Justice of the Peace candidate Debbie Darby during the forum.
 Vanderpool: "Why do you think you are qualified to be Justice of the Peace?"
 Darby: "I feel my qualifications as a bail bondsman for 13 years and a notary public for 19 years has helped with my qualifications to be Justice of the Peace. Also, the county will send the Justice of the Peace to school to become qualified."
 Vanderpool told the crowd a similar question was presented for incumbent Joe Martinez, but he was unable to attend the forum as he is serving with

the U.S. Army National Guard at Fort Hood.
 Martinez was appointed JP upon the retirement of former JP Bob Muns in March 2001. A member of the military reserves, Martinez was called up to active duty in April 2002.
 In the county judge's race, incumbent Judge Richard Peet was asked several questions. His challenger Greg Kurtz did not attend the forum.
 Vanderpool: "If you could, what

administratively, I don't think I would do anything differently. I think we're on the right track as far as the courthouse restoration. We've done some other things that we've tried.
 "For example, I mentioned one in the paper. We were trying to get a juvenile rehab facility here to try to help young people, a number of the voters said no. So we had to send back a \$500,000 check to the governor. You know I figured at that time it was

when you deal with a DWI case in your court."
 Peet: "First of all, I want you to understand when DWIs are issued by the local police, Highway Patrol and sheriff's department, I don't have any bearing on that. They're the ones that are out there in the streets. They are the ones who initiate the tickets or whatever. Once that is done, of course, it goes to the prosecutor who is our county attorney. If it's a first offense DWI it's a Class B misdemeanor. If it's a second offense, DWI, it becomes a Class A.
 "As I told you earlier, I handle all A and B misdemeanors, but I don't gather the evidence. Please understand me, judges do not gather the evidence. That's not our job. Our job is to weigh the evidence presented to us by the prosecutor. I weigh the information in light of what the law allows me to do. I'm not going to make up some law. I'm not going to be biased one way or the other.
 "Within the parameters of the law in a first offense DWI, the parameters are up to \$2,000 fine and up to 180 days in jail. That's the parameter I have — from zero to that level. Since I've come into office eight years ago, I've more than tripled the fines on DWIs. They were generally running between \$250 and \$300 per first offense. Now, minimum is \$800 — if (See **ANSWERS**, Page 3)

ELECTION

changes would you make in your administration in the past year? What would you do differently?"
 Peet: "I really don't look at it as an administration. I am a member of the five-member commissioners' court which I have one vote just like the others, as far as administratively speaking. As far as judicially speaking, I'm pretty much bound by the law. I can't change it unless the legislature allows me to change it. I have to go by what the law says, what the constitution says within the parameters of that and certainly, I have some leeway. But outside of that I'm kind of restricted. But

worth the effort. If we're going to help one child — whether he be from Pampa, El Paso or Houston — as long as we were changing that life around — we were helping that youngster. But it didn't go.
 "But the program for the courthouse did go. The commissioners court went into that. We got the most money of any county in the state still. At this point, \$3.8 million. You can see the construction that's going on. So, I don't know that I would really do anything different.
 Vanderpool: "In dealing with DWI cases, how is your authority limited

Did You Know...

What Was The Name Of The First Drive-In?

Information Was Obtained From "Gray County Heritage" 1985 - Pampa Chamber Of Commerce 669-3241
 White Way, Ran By Mark And John Vantine. It Was Located On The Corner Of Foster And Ward.
 Other Drive-Ins To Open Later Were: Six's Pig Nip, Steer Inn And Caldwell's.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ANSWERS.

the evidence is there.

"Please understand, I don't gather the evidence. I have to rely on what the prosecutor presents to me. The people may not like that, but I don't go out and find it.

"On a second offense DWI, the max is a \$4,000 fine up to a year in jail. That's the limit — from zero to that. That's the only parameter I can work within. I cannot make the law, and I cannot make you not drink. I don't understand people. They say we have too many DWIs. Yes, we do. I cannot tell you by law you cannot drink. We tried that back in the 1920s - I think I have my history right through the depression years and prior to that. We had the Prohibition. We cannot do it. I'm limited by the limits of the law, and that is what I'll do.

Judge Vanderpool emphasized he was paraphrasing several of the questions.

Vanderpool: "Is there anything the county judge could have done to have made that project move more quickly?"

Peet: "If I knew what it was, I'd be doing it. When we go out for bids on that whoever is going to be the contractor to do the rehab — all of them put down 'so-many' days. Most of the contractors that we reviewed put down more than the 300 days that are there. This contractor put down the 300 day limit. As many of you know who get involved with contracts — if you do not — then there is a penalty, per days for not completing the job on time.

"So, they're going to work to the best of their ability to get the job completed on time. As judge I'm not in control of that.

Vanderpool: "What kind of authority does the county judge have in regards to the Veterans Retirement Center in notifying people so that they could participate or gather together or participate in getting that VRC here. Where does the county judge stand?"

Peet: "As most of you know, last year we did away with the economic development corporation. Whether you were for or against, to me that is immaterial at this point. It's gone. We don't have a central agency through which potential businesses can contact an agency and say "Hey, I need data, I need tax information. I need property information. I need whatever we can use to consider coming to Pampa or Gray County. We don't have it. So, now we are back to stage one where individual citizens go out and try to do what they can do to try and bring businesses into Gray County. This is an effort I heard about in May. I heard about the possibility of veterans homes in the state and that they wanted to build two more.

"As I said it's not really the role of the county judge. You won't see that in the role of the county judge to try and generate business. That's not my job. My job is not to try and increase tourism. My job is not to try and get some sustainable business to Gray County. That's not the job of county judge. I've explained to you my job judicially and administratively.

"But as a private citizen, and I happen to be judge in this position. I said 'Well, this is worth the effort. Let's see what we can do to get it because it does generate 150 jobs.' Potentially, 150 jobs new to Gray County and to Pampa. I said Well, if you don't try you're not going to get it. So, I went for it. I went to Austin to try to find out about it, and I said, 'Well, I think we're just as good a community as Amarillo or anybody else.'

"I put together a packet, and I really appreciate

ciate Ken Fields, who was my chairman of that committee and a number of people who participated and volunteered their time, their professionalism, in putting the packet together. So we've sent it off to Austin, and we're in the running with 40 other communities. That's kind of the role. I don't really have a direct role but as a concerned person of Gray County and Pampa, I'm not going to stand by and watch Pampa and Gray County dry up and blow away — not with two of my sons coming to Pampa to live and raise their family. And I want to live here, and I want the rest of you to live here. I'm going to try whatever I can to make efforts to get businesses in."

Vanderpool: "What's the role of the county judge in connection with the Gray County Appraisal District?"

Peet: "The various entities are allowed to appoint someone to represent their taxing entity. Gray County is one of those taxing entities. We get to choose one person to serve on that five-member board. The school gets to choose two people. Lefors and McLean and Alanreed get to choose one person. So, there are five of us on there. Our commissioners court chose me to represent the county's taxing entity on that board. We oversee the running of the appraisal district. I have nothing to do with your tax appraised values. Mine got raised twice in the last two years. Look at the records, if you like. I know that they are going to go up. If you have a complaint with that you have to go to the Appraisal Review Board not the Board of Directors."

Vanderpool: "Does the county and the county judge have a role in the sheriff's department and specifically, the Panhandle Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force?"

Peet: "Some of you know when that controversy came around several years ago. Basically, it caused the defeat of a good man because, basically, maybe he didn't see it the way everybody else thought he should have seen it. The commissioners court had no control over whether he wanted to join the drug task force or not. We don't tell the sheriff how to run his office. We can, but he doesn't have to listen to us.

"Every county elected position - we as a commissioners court do not dictate to them how to run their business. We don't have that authority. The only authority we have is write the budget. If they want to increase the number of people working for them or buy this or that, we as a commission decide. If sheriff needs more people or cars, he has to come to us. Other than that we don't have control."

Vanderpool then asked how the salary of the county judge is determined. Peet responded that it was determined by the commissioners court. He stated that they are the ones who set the salaries for all employees in the county, including elected officials.

He said the salaries are not determined until the needs of each office are determined in the \$7 million budget.

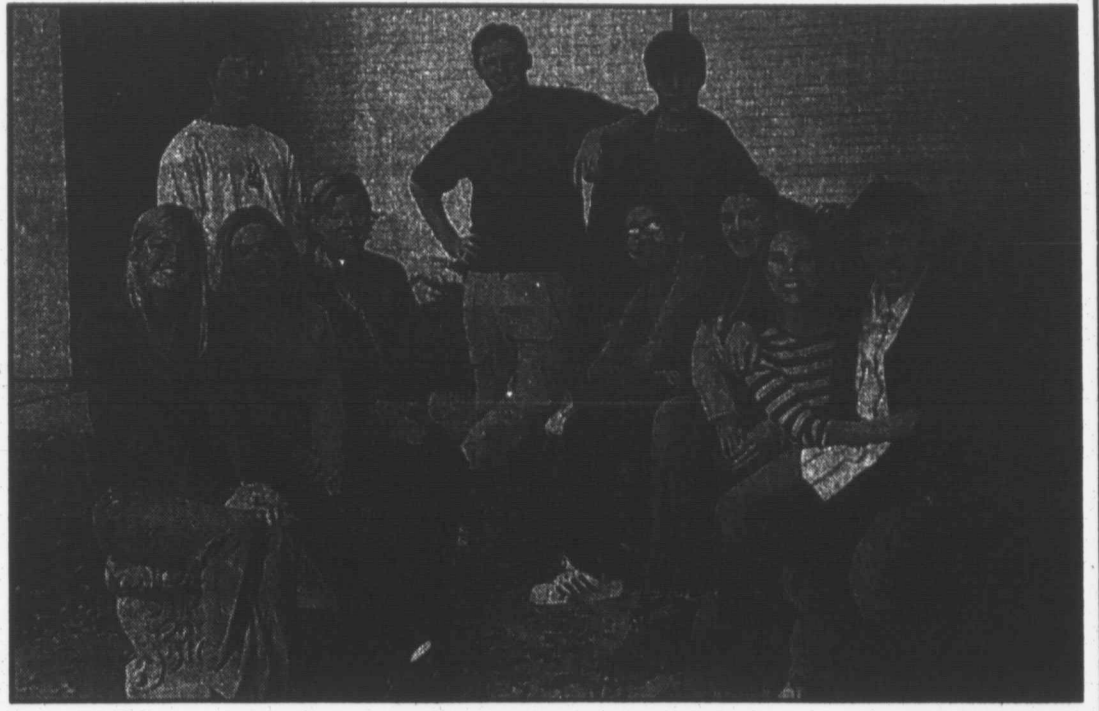
A member of the audience, Karen St., interrupted and said that was not her question.

Vanderpool said he paraphrased that question which was submitted in writing as well as several others he received because the purpose of the forum was to determine the qualifications of the candidates and not a "roast" of the candidates.

Vanderpool added that another reason he paraphrased some of the questions was because of time.

He told St. to contact Peet after the forum to ask her specific question.

Choir Competitors



(Courtesy photo)

Members of Pampa High School Choir traveled to Perryton recently and auditioned for District Choir, the first in a series of four auditions for TMEA Texas All-State Choir. The following students made All-District Choir: front row, left to right, Karissa Intemann, first soprano; Denise Mackie, second soprano; Carissa Snelgrooves, second soprano; Julian George, second tenor; Stephanie Nelson, second chair, first soprano; Kelsey Charron, first soprano; Kyle Ward, Standing, Ryan Davis, second tenor; Mike Eskridge, first chair, bass 1; Dustin Elliott, bass 2. Not pictured: Brianna Bailey, second soprano; Stacy Pepper, alternate, alto 2; and Megan Jouett, alternate, alto 1.



(Courtesy photo)

Members of Pampa High School Choir traveled to Amarillo recently and auditioned at Tascosa High School for Region Choir. Students auditioned on cuts from songs in three different languages — Russian, Italian, and German. The following students made Region Choir and will advance to Pre-Area auditions in December at Dumas: left to right, Denise Mackie, seventh chair, second soprano; Carissa Snelgrooves, alternate, second soprano; Mike Eskridge, first chair, bass 1; Karissa Intemann, eighth chair, first soprano; Stephanie Nelson, first chair, first soprano; and Kyle Ward, second chair, tenor 2.

Attack on Hunt Corp. 'copter in Yemen injures two slightly

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — A helicopter carrying U.S. oil company employees came under small-arms fire Sunday just after takeoff, forcing an emergency landing at San'a airport that slightly injured two people, officials said.

Two Hunt Corp. employees reported "minor scratches" and received first aid on the scene, said Jim Oberwetter, a Hunt spokesman at the company's Dallas headquarters. Airport medical workers confirmed there were no serious injuries.

It was not clear who was responsible for the shooting. Police were searching the area around the airport from where shots were fired.

A Yemeni security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that the helicopter was heading to oil fields in the northern province of Marib when it was shot at from an area near the airport.

The number of passengers and their nationalities were not clear. The U.S. Embassy said it had no knowledge of the incident.

Oberwetter said in a brief statement that the helicopter was contracted from Abu Dhabi Aviation to carry Hunt employees to the company's oilfields.

It "was struck by small arms fire in the vicinity of the San'a airport today and safely returned to base," he said.

Oberwetter said the Yemeni government was investigating.

Beyond tribal disputes, Yemen long has tolerated Muslim extremists. It is also the ancestral homeland of Osama bin Laden, whose al-Qaida terror network is blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks and the October 2000 attack on the USS Cole in Yemen that left killed 17 U.S. sailors.

Last month, a blast caused by an explosive-laden boat crippled a French oil tanker off Yemen, killing a Bulgarian crew member and spilling 90,000 barrels of crude oil.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

QUAKE

47, saw boats bouncing around and her own boat banging against its dock. "One poor guy across the canal from us fell off his sailboat," she said.

On Seattle's Lake Union, more than 1,400 miles south, waves shook some houseboats loose from their moorings and slammed them into docks. At least one boat had thousands of dollars in damage.

Experts say the distant effect is common during powerful quakes.

"This earthquake was shallow and the energy went directly into the surface and that is what causes these effects so far away," said Dale Grant, a geophysicist with U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center in Golden,

Grant said he received calls from nuclear power plants in states including Minnesota and Washington reporting unusual water movement.

The earthquake did not generate a tsunami, said Bruce Turner of the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center.

Numerous roads developed wide cracks, including the Alaska Highway near Northway, about 250 miles southeast of Fairbanks.

The Richardson Highway, which parallels the pipeline between Valdez and Fairbanks, was closed near Paxson because of gaps 2 to 6 feet wide and 5 feet deep, state troopers spokesman Greg Wilkinson said. About 20 miles north, the ground on one side of the highway dropped more than 2 feet.

The worst reports of damage were along a two-mile stretch of the Tok Cutoff, which had numerous rock slides and hundreds of yards of 6-foot openings.

Fuel tanks were knocked over in Slana, a village with no electric utility. Families use diesel fuel to power generators.

At Porcupine Creek, Randy Schmoker's 150-pound anvil slid 20 feet across the floor of his metal working shop.

On the Net: Earthquake Center: <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/> Pipeline: <http://www.alyeska-pipe.com/>

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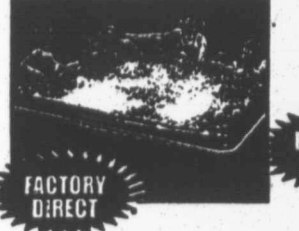
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Monday, November 4

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Teen's Affair With Adult Ends With Man in Prison

DEAR ABBY: I am 15 years old and have a big problem. My girlfriend, "Whitney," 17, and I have been friends for a long time. Her boyfriend, "Josh," 21, broke up with her. Soon after, Josh and I started talking. I really liked him. He was cool and we had a lot of fun.

When Whitney found out Josh and I were hooking up, she got jealous. One night when I was with Josh, Whitney called my parents and told them where I was. I had told my parents I was with another girlfriend.

My father got angry and went on and on for about a week questioning me about my relationship with Josh. When I couldn't stand it anymore, I admitted we were having sex. Father called the police and had Josh arrested. He was charged with child molestation.

I told the detective I had lied about Josh and me having sex, but he didn't believe me. Josh was found guilty of statutory rape and sent to prison for five years. The court wouldn't allow me to testify.

My life is over. My former friends hate me. They call me names and write me dirty notes threatening revenge. Josh was popular and has a lot of friends.

I want to help Josh get out of prison. He did not rape me. I knew exactly what I was doing. I have had sex with boys for about two years, but my parents don't know. I'm afraid if I tell them, they'll have those other boys arrested, too.

Josh does not deserve to be in prison. What can I do to make up for what has happened because Whitney got jealous and got us into trouble? Please don't tell me to talk to a school counselor. Everyone at school hates me.

GOING CRAZY IN TEXAS

DEAR GOING CRAZY: Regardless of your sexual history, at 21, Josh was old enough to know better. He was sneaking around with a minor — you — and in doing so he broke the law. It's time for you to grow up and stop blaming others for a problem that you caused. If you won't go to a school counselor, contact a local mental health clinic and ask for teen counseling. And since there is hostility at your high school, perhaps you should consider transferring and finishing your education at another school.

DEAR ABBY: I am five months pregnant with my second baby. At a recent family wedding, my husband's 40ish cousin came up to me and touched my stomach! No one had ever done this to me before — and I was shocked. I instinctively "shooed" her hands away.

Well, she was offended and burst into tears. I apologized, although I thought it was very rude and that she should have apologized to me. Most of the other family members felt she had done nothing wrong.

Abby, I don't hold grudges, but my husband's family seems to. What do you say?

MARTHA IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR MARTHA: Your husband's cousin should have asked if you minded before putting her hands on your stomach. Under the circumstances, your reaction was normal. After the baby arrives, this incident will be forgotten — as it should be. Sometimes a dose of amnesia can have a positive effect on family relationships.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$10 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

For Better or For Worse



Garfield



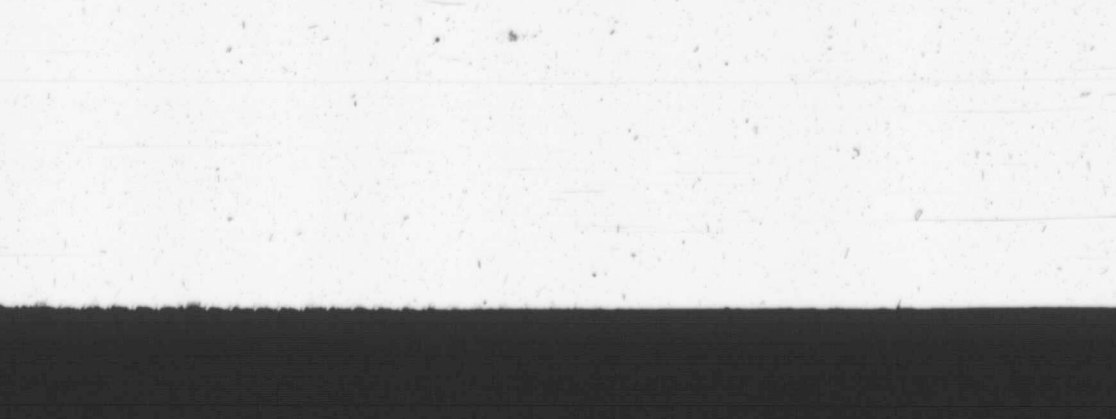
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts

Blondie

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

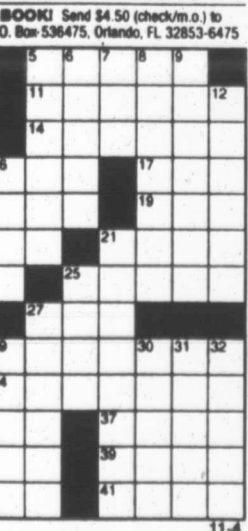
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 29 Pie order
- 33 Balders-dash
- 34 Stock market category
- 35 One-celled creature
- 37 TV's
- 38 Dorothy, for one
- 39 Kite part
- 40 Comfy homes

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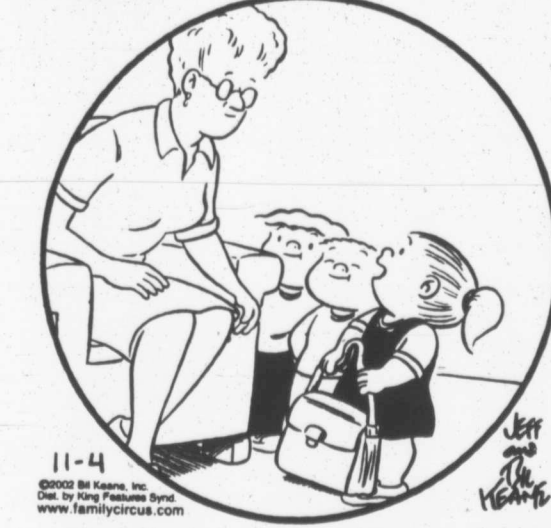
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- 29 Facing the World"
- 30 Vast expanse
- 31 Column style
- 32 Writer Zola
- 36 Road curve



STUMPED?

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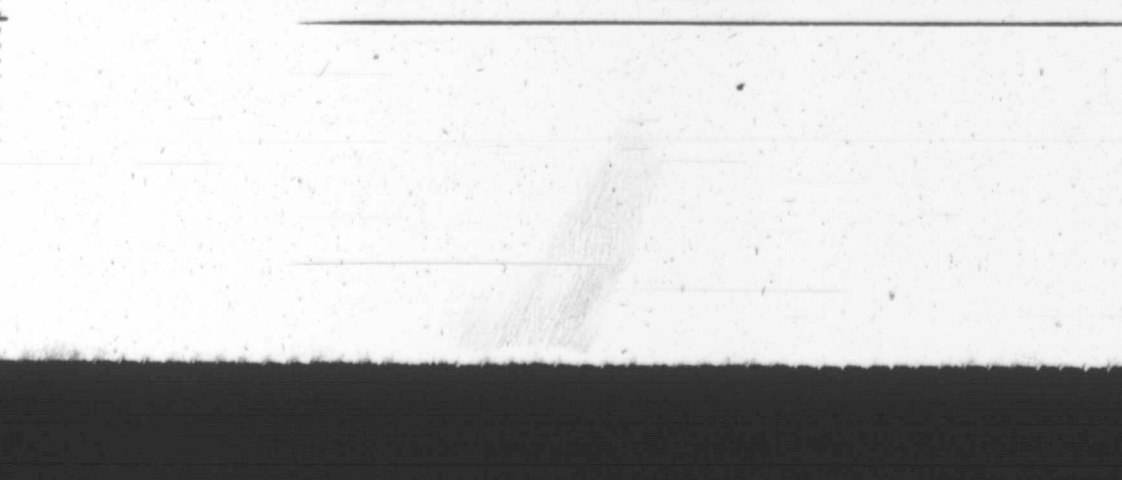
"Grandma, your purse feels heavy enough to have candy in it."

The Family Circus



"Stop that!"

Flo & Friends



BASKETBALL
PAMP, Harvesters will be...
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Amnesty International accuses Israel of war crimes in Nablus

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel committed war crimes, including unlawful killings, during a military offensive in the West Bank cities of Jenin and Nablus earlier this year, the human rights group Amnesty International said Monday.

The Israeli military said the offensive was launched in self-defense in response to Palestinian terror attacks on Israeli civilians.

In its report, Amnesty said there is "clear evidence that some of the act committed by the Israel Defense Forces during Operation Defense Shield were war crimes."

Israeli carried out "unlawful killings, torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, wanton destruction of hundreds of homes," Amnesty wrote. The group has also accused Palestinian suicide bombers of crimes against humanity.

The latest report said soldiers blocked access to ambulances and denied humanitarian assistance, leaving the wounded and dead lying in the streets for days, and used Palestinians as "human shields" while searching for suspected militants.

"Up to now, the Israeli authorities have failed in their responsibility to bring to justice the perpetrators of serious human rights violations," the Amnesty report said.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Taub accused Amnesty of ignoring the reasons for the military incursions. "The report describes Israel as going into the West Bank as if this happened in a vacuum," Taub said.

"There really are dilemmas here for any democracy," Taub said, who accused Palestinian fighters of using residential neighborhoods and ambulances for cover during the fighting.

The Amnesty report claimed that more than half the Palestinians killed in Jenin were civilians, but

did not give specific figures. At least 16 of the 80 people killed in Nablus were women and children, Amnesty reported.

Israel launched a West Bank offensive on March 29 after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 29 Israelis. Jenin was the site of the heaviest fighting, and 52 Palestinians and 23 Israeli soldiers were killed.

"This terrorist infrastructure was established in the heart of an innocent Palestinian population that served as a cover," the army said in a statement.

Israel has said intense fighting sometimes made it impossible for ambulances to get to the wounded, and said in one case last month, a smuggled explosives belt was found inside a Palestinian ambulance transporting a sick child.

Kathleen Cavanaugh, a researcher for Amnesty International, said Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, who is to become Israel's new defense minister this week, could be charged with war crimes for his role as the army's chief of staff during the incursions.

Palestinian Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel

Rahman applauded the report's accusations against Israel.

"The (U.N.) Security Council and the parties that signed the Geneva conventions should take this report as proof of war crimes committed by the Israeli government against the Palestinian people and act immediately to punish the Sharon government," Rahman said.

The United Nations investigated the Jenin fighting after Palestinians alleged Israel had committed a massacre in the refugee camp.

The United Nations ruled that there was no evidence to support the Palestinian claims, and said both Israeli forces and Palestinian militants had violated international law.

Amnesty said the Israeli army had failed to "impartially and thoroughly" investigate the events in Jenin.

The report documents witness accounts from Palestinians present during the springtime fighting. They tell stories of torture, beatings of prisoners who were stripped down to their underwear and of soldiers demolishing homes with residents still inside, leaving them to die in the rubble.

FRED certificate



(Courtesy photo)

For the 2002 Make a Difference Day project, Altrusa International, Inc., of Pampa co-sponsored F.R.E.D. (Fathers Reading Every Day) with The Gray County Extension Agency. Joan Gray, Gray, right, recently presented Billie Sue Evans, chairman of Altrusa Make a Difference Day, with a certificate recognizing the chapter's participation in the project.

Political party with Islamic roots wins Turkish elections

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — After an overwhelming victory in Turkey's elections, a party with Islamic roots pledged to maintain the nation's pro-Western stance, quickly moving to soothe worries that this crucial U.S. ally would undergo a radical shift toward Islam.

The Justice and Development Party won a parliamentary majority in Sunday's elections — the first time in 15 years that any party has been in a position to govern alone — largely due to voter fury over a devastated economy.

The win could concern Turkey's powerful and firmly secular military, which in the past forced a pro-Islamic government from power. However, the victorious Justice party stressed it didn't want confrontation. Party leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan quickly laid out stances reassuring to the military: support for secularism and for

Europe. Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

He even said that while he opposes military action against Iraq, Turkey could support it if it were approved by the United Nations, a position mirroring that of outgoing Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

"We will not spend our time dizzy with victory. We will build a Turkey where common sense prevails," Erdogan said at a huge celebration at party headquarters early Monday after the win became clear.

On the sidelines, a party official called on supporters not to shout religious slogans such as "Allah is Great!"

The vote came as the United States was trying to showcase Turkey as an example of a secular, democratic country that is overwhelmingly Muslim but has cast its future with the West. Turkey — NATO's only Muslim

member — is crucial to any possible action against Iraq, which borders this nation.

The Justice Party has its roots in Turkey's Islamist movement, but it has denied that it has any religious agenda. Erdogan leads the party, but has been banned from standing as a candidate because of a jail sentence he served in 1999 for publicly reading a poem that a court deemed anti-secular.

Erdogan told the Milliyet newspaper in an interview that his party will meet Tuesday and Wednesday to decide on who to nominate as premier. The Justice party appeared to be just short of the two-thirds parliamentary majority needed to change the constitution to allow Erdogan to become premier.

Under Turkey's complicated election rules, the Justice party's powerful hold on parliament was won despite a less than overwhelming show of

popular support. With 99.9 percent of ballot boxes counted, Erdogan's party won 34 percent of the vote, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The center-left Republican People's Party had 19 percent, Anatolia reported.

Other parties remained below the 10 percent threshold needed to enter parliament, meaning that the Justice party and the Republicans would divvy up all 550 seats. Projections by Anatolia showed the Justice party taking 363 seats — enough to rule without a coalition — and the Republicans winning 178.

Republican party leader Deniz Baykal refused Monday to describe Erdogan's party as a threat to Turkey's secular system. "Such accusations would put the country into distress," he said.

"We have to act in good faith. But I will retain caution," Baykal said. "The whole world will be watching developments very carefully."

Justice sought to calm the public and the markets with pledges of support for secularism, Turkey's bid to join the European Union and an International Monetary Fund austerity program.

"We have no intention to challenge the world," Erdogan told Dow Jones Newswires. "Under our government, Turkey will be in harmony

with the world." On the issue of Iraq, Erdogan said he hoped for a peaceful resolution. "We do not want war, blood, tears and dead in our region," Erdogan said. But, he added, "we are obliged by the United Nations' decisions."

Markets seemed not to be rattled by the party's victory. Shares had risen 5.3 percent on Istanbul's benchmark index in early trading Monday.

The election also marked the ouster of Turkey's long-time dominant political class. The party of outgoing Prime Minister Ecevit won only 1 percent of the vote and his coalition partners were below the 10 percent threshold needed for entry into parliament.

WT Leadership Symposium set Nov. 13

CANYON — A panel of distinguished area executives will address "New Hire Expectations: Corporate Culture Response" at West Texas A&M University's Fifth Annual Leadership Symposium, sponsored by the T. Boone Pickens College of Business and Alpha Kappa Psi professional business fraternity.

"The event will focus on the changing expectations of individuals entering the workforce and how employers and corporate cultures are responding to these trends," said Philip Niegos, instructor of computer information systems and one of the event coordinators.

The symposium is scheduled from

11-12:15 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13 in the Alumni Banquet Facility at WTAMU. The format will consist of initial discussions drawn from seed questions provided to the panelists in advance; those will be followed by screened questions from the audience.

Featured panelists are Carl Birdsong, president, Maxor Corporation; Campbell Burgess, president, Core Data; Mike Coomer, president, Wells Fargo Bank Texas NA; Hermilo Martinez, director, Community Service and Economic Development XCEL Energy/SPS; and Jerry D. McMillon, CPA, partner, Clifton Gunderson L.L.P.

Dr. John W. Cooley, dean of the T.

Boone Pickens College of Business, will serve as moderator for the discussion, which is free and open to the business community, students and the general public.

"The symposium addresses expectations of newly hired employees as they prepare to face the business environment of the real world," said Dr. Karyn Friske, associate professor of accounting and one of the symposium coordinators. "We encourage the attendance of anyone interested in what this distinguished panel has to say. We feel we've selected a panel that covers a variety of areas of business and will, therefore, have a variety of interesting viewpoints."

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