

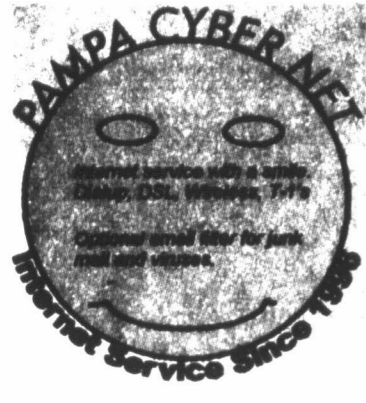
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LOCAL

City Commission will discuss city manager selection

Pampa City Commission will meet Thursday afternoon to discuss selection of a new city manager.

The commission will go into closed session to talk about the personnel matter. They will reconvene in open session to take any action.

The meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m., Thursday, in the Pampa City Commission chambers.

PHS Choir plans pancake breakfast to raise trip funds

Pampa High School Choir members will host a pancake breakfast from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at Chaney's Cafe, 716 W. Foster. Breakfast is \$5.50 per person.

Proceeds go to the choir's trip to England in the spring.

DEATHS

Ellen Cunningham Schmidt, 94, homemaker.

INSIDE...

Classified ... 10
Comics 8
Sports 9

West Texas LANDSCAPE

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What Was The First Fast Food In Pampa?

Information Was Obtained From "Gray County Heritage" 1985 - Pampa Chamber Of Commerce 669-3241
 Kentucky Fried Chicken, Then The Dairy Queen, Pizza Hut, Pizza Inn, and Cokk O' The Walk



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

As Rural Metro Ambulance Service paramedics, Louann Humphrey, left, and Kathy Tinney, right, grab their equipment as one of two critically burned men, believed to be Lyle Johnson, 49, of Amarillo, walks to the ambulance, his burned clothes hanging in shreds.

Two critical after blast rocks home

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 EDITOR

Fumes from a cleaning fluid ignited by a heat source are believed to have caused the explosion in a north Pampa home Tuesday afternoon that critically burned two workmen.

The two men, tentatively identified by fire officials as Lyle Johnson, 49, of Amarillo, and Michael Steven Smail, unknown age and address, were listed in critical condition at University Medical Center's burn unit in Lubbock.

Both men suffered extensive burns to their hands, arms, torso and faces from the powerful blast at the Dennis Stowers residence, 1001 Deer Place, in northeast Pampa. A housekeeper, who was not identified, was also at the residence when the explosion happened but was not reported to be injured.

"I thought something had hit the house. I literally thought something big had run into our house," said Robert Finney, who was at his home across the street from the Stowers with his wife Susan. "I ran out to see what could have hit it."

Susan Finney said she was in the kitchen when it happened.

"It was a huge explosion,"



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Rural Metro paramedic Kathy Tinney attends a second injured workman, tentatively identified by fire officials as Michael Steven Smail.

she said. "I ran outside and the men were running out of the house on fire. Their clothes were on fire."

"We tried to get them to sit down. We tried to help them, but they wouldn't let us," she said.

"All indications point to the two workers using lacquer thinner as the probable cause," said Pampa Fire Marshal Gary Stevens. "They were using the (See BLAST, Page 3)

Hard-fought races yield 2 incumbents, 1 newcomer

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

The 2002 election is now a memory in Gray County and across the nation.

A longtime county commissioner was defeated, an incumbent county judge was returned to office and an incumbent Justice of the Peace received a large majority to be elected to his first term in office.

Local businessman Gary Willoughby won his bid for the Precinct 2 County Commission seat defeating four-term commissioner Jim Greene Tuesday night, 791-449.

Willoughby carried all three voting precincts in the race to unseat Greene. Precinct totals were as follows: Precinct 2, Willoughby, 95; Greene, 75; Precinct 10, Willoughby, 197; Greene 83; and Precinct 13, Willoughby, 198; and Greene, 125.

Willoughby and his supporters were out early this morning removing campaign signs. He said he and his crew had over 800 yard signs and 60 large signs to get picked up, adding the job would be complete by 5 p.m. today.

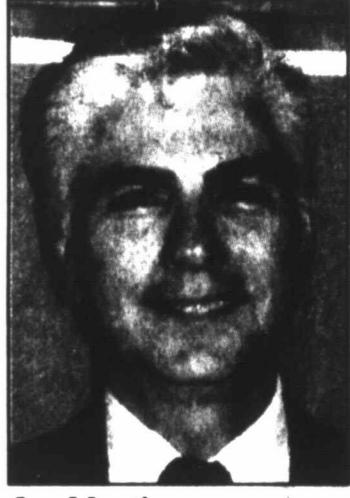
"I want to thank all the voters that helped me through prayer and their support," said Willoughby this morning. "I want to especially thank my Lord, my wife and my children."

"This election is a direct response to the people's voice," he said. "What I want to do now is meet with the guys of Precinct 2 and map out a plan of action for 2003, beginning Jan. 1, according to the people's voice," he said.

Willoughby, 41, said he wanted a smooth transition.

Longtime Commissioner Jim Greene said this morning he was appreciative of the support he received.

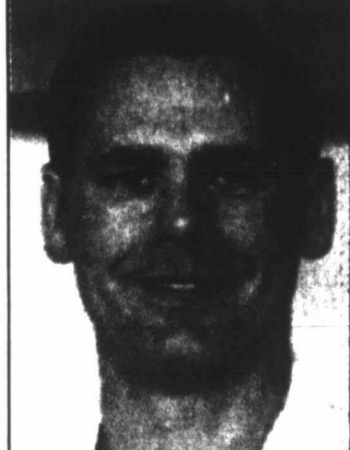
"I appreciate everybody who supported me all through the years. I always did my homework on the issues so I could make an educated deci-



Joe Martinez
 Justice of Peace, Pct. 1,3



Richard Peet
 Gray County Judge



Gary Willoughby
 Pct. 2 Commissioner

sion," he said. "I don't feel bad about any decision I ever made."

Greene said he had never been in a campaign that was so negative.

In the Justice of the Peace (See RACES, Page 3)

Gray County voters follow state's lead

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Voters in Gray County followed statewide voting as Texas went overwhelmingly Republican in Tuesday's elections. A total of 6,240 Gray County voters went to the polls in the general election.

In Gray County, incumbent Governor Rick Perry lead with 4,572 votes over Tony Sanchez, 1,328. The governor's race was described by many political observers as the nastiest gubernatorial race in the history of Texas. Combined, Perry and Sanchez reportedly spent \$90 million on the campaign.

The U. S. Senate race was another closely watched race. John Cornyn won over Ron Kirk in Gray County, 4,634-1,303. He will replace Senator

ELECTION

Phil Gramm who retires at the end of the year. Cornyn is currently attorney general while Kirk is former mayor of Dallas.

Lieutenant governor was another hotly contested race in the state. Present Land Commissioner David Dewhurst garnered 4,191 votes locally to carry Gray County over former State Comptroller John Sharp who received 1,794.

Other races in Gray County went right along with voters across the state. Returns locally were as follows:

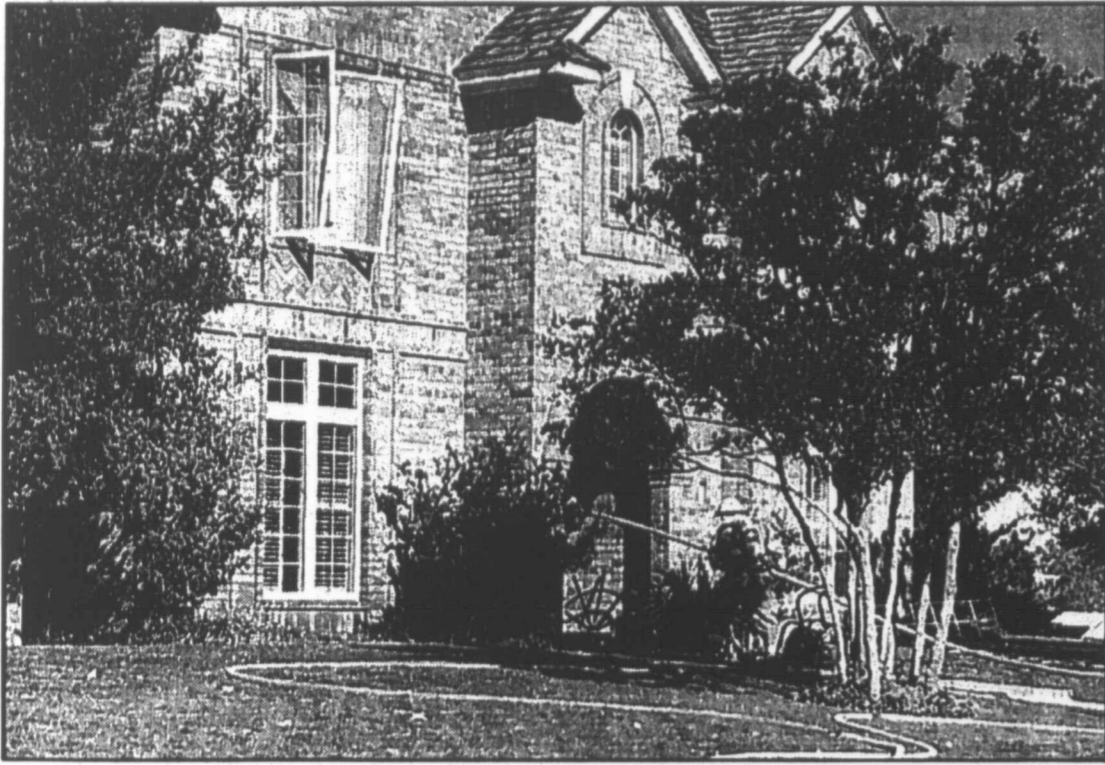
- Attorney General, Greg Abbott, 4,676, and Kirk Watson, 1,214;
- Comptroller of Public Accounts, Carole Keeton Rylander, 5,098, and Marty Akins, 911;
- Commissioner of General Land Office - Jerry Patterson, 4,185, David Bernsen, 1,480;
- Secretary of Agriculture - Susan Combs, 4,605, Tom Ramsay, 1,265;
- Railroad Commissioner - Michael Williams, 4,439, Sherry Boyles, 1,346;
- Chief Justice, Supreme Court - Tom Phillips, 4,526, Richard G. Baker, 1,237; Justice S Court, PL (See COUNTY, Page 3)

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(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Pampa firefighters carry fire hose into the Deer Place home where two men were critically injured in an explosion Tuesday. Windows, hanging open from the blast, can be seen in the upper left corner of the photograph.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BLAST

lacquer thinner to clean the floor when fumes from the thinner came in contact with a heat source and exploded," he said.

Finney said she had seen the workmen drive up to the Stowers house, adding that she heard the explosion shortly afterward. "It wasn't very long after they got there," she said.

Stevens said the men were using an electric buffer to clean a floor in the basement of the two-story brick home. A trailer in front of the residence had the words "Concrete Engraving" written on the side, but fire officials did not know this morning exactly what work the men had been hired to do at the residence.

"It was basically a huge explosion," Stevens said, which caused a flash fire that burned the men. The main force of the explosion traveled to the northeast, he said, adding that he heard that homes several blocks away shook from the blast.

Sliding glass doors and

windows on the northeast corner of the home were blown out. "It almost blew the corner of the house off. If it had been any stronger, it would have," Stevens said.

Two double garage doors on the west side of the home were buckled out about two feet from the building and storm windows on the south side of the second story were also blown open and hanging at an angle.

Election workers, voters and church workers at Calvary Baptist Church, west of the Stowers home, however, did not realize there had been an explosion, the fire marshal said.

Two of the family pets, a dachshund and Yorkie, were missing initially, but later found to have survived the explosion, fire officials said.

When firefighters arrived, Stevens said, one man was sitting in the front yard and the grass around him was burning. The other man walked around, his shirt gone, obviously in shock. The housekeeper, also in shock, was sitting on the driveway in front

of broken garage doors, until Stowers drove up to see what had happened. Then she ran to them, hugging Tonya Stowers. She was later checked by Rural Metro Ambulance personnel, but was not transported for treatment.

Johnson, who appeared to be the most severely injured, was transported to Lubbock by LifeStar helicopter. Smail was taken by ambulance to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo and later transferred to the Lubbock burn unit.

Stevens said he could not estimate the amount of damage the house sustained in the blast. Firefighters extinguished two or three small fires in the basement, he said, but otherwise there was no other fire damage.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

RACES

Precinct 1 and 3, incumbent Joe Martinez won 936-339 over Debbie Darby.

Martinez said Tuesday night he was very pleased with the outcome. Currently in the U.S. Army National Guard reserve at Fort Hood, he was in town for the election, but had to leave early Wednesday morning to return to his duty station.

"It is very uplifting to be elected," he said. "I feel gratitude to those who supported me while I was away, and to still be their choice."

Martinez was appointed to the position upon the retirement of previous JP Bob Muns in March 2001. "I am looking forward to a new term," he said.

Darby said this morning she appreciated the people who voted for her.

"I appreciate the support. I learned a lot through the campaigning. I have met so many new people and become reacquainted with so many old friends. I have really enjoyed meeting so many people in Pampa," she said.

Darby said she is planning to further her education, but she may return to the political scene. "I may be back," she said.

Voting precinct totals were Precinct 1, Martinez, 132, Darby, 63; Precinct 3, Martinez, 40, Darby, 13; Precinct 7, Martinez, 156, Darby, 63; Precinct 11, Martinez, 174,

Darby, 43; Precinct 12, Martinez, 73, Darby, 70; Precinct 14, Martinez, 358, Darby 95; and Precinct 15, Martinez, 378, Darby, 104.

In the county judge's race, Judge Richard Peet is returning for a third term. He defeated his challenger Greg Kurtz, 3,949 to 2,093.

"I appreciate the voters who voted for me and supported me," said Peet. "The election indicated the people of Gray County are positive in the future of Pampa and the county. Their votes spoke strongly," he said.

Peet said the outcome of the elections locally and across the state demonstrated voters don't want negative. He said the people want to move forward in a positive manner.

"I wish to thank the people of Gray County for their support, and I wish the best for Gray County," said challenger Greg Kurtz.

Precinct-by-precinct voting was early voting, Peet, 1,515, Kurtz, 815; Pct. 1, Peet, 118, Kurtz, 80; Pct. 2, Peet, 78, Kurtz, 90; Pct. 3, Peet, 35, Kurtz, 21; Pct. 4, Peet, 33, Kurtz, 8; Pct. 5, Peet, 134, Kurtz, 89; Pct. 8, Peet 402, Kurtz, 139; Pct. 9, Peet, 216, Kurtz, 102; Pct. 10, Peet, 179, Kurtz, 104; Pct. 11, Peet, 148, Kurtz, 72; Pct. 12, Peet, 67, Kurtz, 77; Pct. 13, Peet, 224, Kurtz, 94; Pct. 14, Peet, 318, Kurtz, 136; and Pct. 15, Peet, 330, Kurtz, 153.

COUNTY

I, Mike Schneider, 4,430, Linda Yanez, 1,115; Justice, Pl. 2, Dale Wainwright, 4,409, Jim Parsons, 1,299; Justice #Pl. 3, Wallace B. Jefferson, 4,307, William E. Moody, 1,419; Justice Pl. 4, Stephen Wayne Smith, 4,379, Margaret Mirabal, 1,354.

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Pl. 1 - Tom Price, 4,549, John W. Bull, 1,142; Justice, Pl. 2, Paul Womack, 4,470, Pat Montgomery, 1,289; Justice Pl. 3, Cathy Cochran, 4,533, J.R. Molina, 1,161; and State Board of Education, District 15, Bob Craig, 4,344, David Schaeffer, 1,340.

Incumbent State Senator of District 28 Robert Duncan won handily in Gray County over his opponent, Libertarian Jon Ensor, 4,997-348. He will be representing Gray County effective in January 2003, after Senator Teel Bivins district was changed by redistricting.

State Representative Warren Chisum was unopposed. He received 5,018 votes.

Chief Justice, 7th Court of Appeals, was won by Phil

Johnson over Floyd Holder, 4,488-1,219.

Uncontested races returned several incumbents to office. They include the 31st Judicial District Judge Steve Emmert (R), 5,064; and the 223rd Judicial District Judge Lee Waters (D), 3,901. Waters was the only Democrat on the ballot to be elected. In January, he will be the only Gray County elected official who is a Democrat.

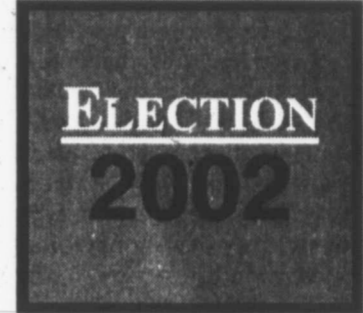
advance to the general election. He received 5,097 votes in Tuesday's election.

Bill Reeves was elected to the unsalaried position of Inspector of Hides and Animals. He received 4,847 votes.

County Commissioner Precinct 4 James Hefley received 1,598 votes while Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4 Mary Ann Carpenter received 1,610 votes. JP Precinct 2 Kurt Curfman received 1,007.

Local voters also went along with statewide voters when they overwhelmingly supported the constitutional amendment to allow county commissioners to do away with constable positions which have been vacant seven years. The vote for was 4,179 compared to only 917 against.

In Gray County, 1,663 voted straight Republican tickets while only 445 voted straight Democrat. Fifteen voters cast straight tickets in the Libertarian primary while there were nine in the Green Party.



District Clerk Gaye Honderich (R), received 5,118 votes while County Clerk Susan Winborne (R), garnered 5,133 votes. Both were also unopposed in their bid for office.

Lee Cornelison was unopposed in the general election for the county treasurer position. He defeated incumbent County Treasurer Scott Hahn and Tory Peet in the Republican Primary to

Voters decide contested races in Carson, Roberts counties

Carson County Commissioner Kevin Howell, a Republican, was returned to office with a vote total of 231-186 over his Democrat challenger Grady Milton. Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4 Randy Elliott, Republican, won 377-270 over his Democrat challenger Marcy Ruth.

In Roberts County, the Precinct 4 County Commission race was the only contested local race. James F. Duvall, Jr., a Republican, received 65 votes while write-in candidate Terry Underwood got 43 votes and Julie Watkins garnered 32.

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Former FBI chief under fire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former FBI and CIA chief William Webster, whose appointment to head a new accounting oversight board ignited sharp debate, is considering stepping down amid the controversy that has also ensnared Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Harvey Pitt.

Webster said he will step aside if he decides he can't be effective heading the board mandated by Congress in response to the wave of corporate accounting scandals, according to published reports Tuesday.

"I'm not the only one that can do this job," Webster told The New York Times. "If I conclude my ability to serve impedes on the ability of the board to function, I will step aside."

"I'm watching very carefully to see if all this activity is impeding my ability to act effectively," he told USA Today. "When I reach a conclusion as to whether that effectiveness would be impaired, I'll act."

Webster did not return calls on Monday and Tuesday from The Associated Press.

The debate over Webster's appointment had created new problems for Pitt, head of the SEC, who submitted his resignation to President Bush on Tuesday night. Pitt was already in trouble with the White House and is facing investigations into whether he concealed from his fellow commissioners information about Webster's watchdog role at U.S. Technologies before they named him to head the new board.

Webster headed the audit committee of U.S. Technologies' board of directors when it fired the company's outside accountants last year. Washington-based U.S. Technologies now is considered insolvent and faces fraud accusations.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, traveling with the president on Air Force One, declined to comment further on Pitt and how the growing controversy over Webster reflects on his leadership of the SEC.

"The inspector general is looking into this matter," Fleischer said Tuesday, referring to an inquiry into Webster's selection by the SEC's inspector general. The Senate Banking Committee plans hearings on the issue when Congress returns later this month, and the General Accounting Office, Congress' auditing arm, also is investigating.

Feds appear on verge of cutting interest rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — After an election campaign in which politicians spent a lot of time talking about the ailing economy, the Federal Reserve appears ready to act.

Many private economists think the central bank has grown concerned enough about weak economic statistics to do something they have not done for almost a year — cut interest rates in an effort to give the economy a boost.

The Fed's top policy-setting group, the Federal Open Market Committee, was meeting behind closed doors Wednesday, the day after Election Day, to consider a possible interest rate cut.

In advance of the Fed's announcement, many analysts insisted that the only question is whether the Fed cuts interest rates by a quarter-point or a half-point. They contended that the Fed would be most influenced by last week's report showing that unemployment rose to 5.7 percent in October as businesses slashed payrolls for the second consecutive month.

The rising jobless rate increased concerns that the recovery, which has been proceeding in fits and starts, could be in danger of stalling out altogether.

"The Fed has to be deeply concerned," said David Jones, a longtime Fed watcher who has just released a third book on the central bank under Chairman Alan Greenspan. "The problem is that the recovery just does not seem to be gathering enough momentum to be self-sustaining."

The Fed's key lever for influencing the economy — the federal funds rate, the interest that banks

charge each other for overnight loans — has not been changed since Dec. 11, when the central bank pushed it to 1.75 percent.

That marked the 11th rate cut in 2001, a year in which the central bank aggressively lowered rates in an effort to combat the effects of the country's first recession in a decade as well as the economic shocks from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The Fed has been content since that time to leave rates at a four-decade low, believing it would be the medicine needed to get the economy back on track. The low rates have had a spectacular impact on key sectors — for example, causing auto sales to soar this summer as car buyers took advantage of zero-interest financing offers.

Sales of both new and existing homes are also headed to records this year, reflecting the lowest mortgage rates since the mid-1960s.

The strength in these two critical areas, however, has not been enough to launch a sustained economic recovery in the face of continued layoffs, a wave of corporate accounting scandals and rising fears about a possible war with Iraq.

The economy did rebound from lackluster growth, improving from a 1.3 percent rate in the spring to 3.1 percent in the summer. But many forecasters believe growth will slump again in the current quarter, with the most pessimistic expecting the economy to grow at an anemic rate of 1 percent or lower. The concern is that the surge in consumer spending, especially for big-ticket items, has run its course.

"Things don't look good for the holiday sea-

son," said Richard Yamarone, chief economist at Argus Research Corp. in New York.

The government reported Friday that the jobless rate climbed to 5.7 percent in October and the number of people looking for work but unable to find it rose by 100,000 to 8.2 million.

The expectation of a rate cut this week has helped lift spirits on Wall Street, with the Dow Jones industrial average enjoying a triple-digit gain in light trading on Tuesday.

Further Fed rate cuts may not be able to do much more than give a boost to investor confidence, considering that interest rates have been at such low levels for so many months that much pent-up consumer demand has been exhausted.

Some analysts are worried that the Fed's interest rate magic has about run its course, and it's time for the White House and Congress to end their squabbling and come up with further fiscal stimulus. That could be either increased spending, perhaps for a further extension of unemployment benefits, or further tax cuts to encourage business investment.

Jerry Jasinowski, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, said bank regulators also need to be concerned about a developing credit crunch in which banks are refusing to make new loans because of the weak economy.

"Many creditworthy small and medium-sized manufacturers are unable to obtain the working capital they need to operate and expand," he said. "We will never see a solid recovery until this bottleneck in our financial system is eliminated."

Child dies after woman begs officials for help

By P. SOLOMON BANDA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LAFAYETTE, Colo. (AP) —

Even before her stepson's baby was born, Lea Dowler was so worried about the parents' ability to care for the newborn that she wrote to a hospital, pleading that someone help them.

No one did.

Within eight weeks of his birth, Tanner Dowler's arms, legs and ribs had been broken. His burned feet had been wrapped in toilet paper and his face scratched. He died Oct. 12, nine days after his parents brought him to a hospital and were arrested.

"It's the worst case I've ever seen in 30 years," said Lafayette Police Chief Paul Schultz.

As Joseph and Audra Dowler face charges in Tanner's death, state authorities are investigating whether Lea Dowler's plea for help to the hospital — and later to Boulder County officials — was ignored. A report from Colorado's Human Services Department is expected in about six weeks.

State child protection officials, who oversee county agencies, said a letter like Lea Dowler's would have been too vague to prompt an investigation because it did not provide the Dowlers' address or an indication the child would be harmed. The couple had been living in their car.

"We walk a fine line on when

we should protect a child or intrude on family life," said Christine Highnam, director of Boulder County's Department of Social Services. "A general concern, with no other detail, is probably something that we have no right to go knocking on somebody's door and intervene in their lives."

Lea Dowler's letter to county officials questioned how the parents would feed the baby, wash his clothes and pay for his care without county and state aid.

Lea Dowler and her husband, Woody, did not return a message left at their Brighton residence. A woman who answered the door at the house declined a recent interview request.

Attorneys for Joseph and Audra Dowler did not return calls for comment.

Sometime after Lea Dowler wrote the letter, Audra and

Joseph Dowler moved into a low-budget motel that many working poor call home. Audra worked at a pizza parlor, while her husband stayed home with Tanner, according to a police report.

In June, Lea Dowler wrote to Platte Valley Medical Center in Longmont and asked officials to locate the couple and give them parenting classes. The baby was born Aug. 10, and Lea Dowler sent her letter to Boulder County two days later.

"This is a plea for help for them all," the letter to the county said. "Our grandson has to be protected and raised healthy and happy. We want to be a part of his life — his long, healthy life."

Police said Audra Dowler, 19, told authorities she and her husband pinned the baby's arms behind his back so he wouldn't pull out his pacifier and then

covered his face with pillows to muffle his cries.

Tanner became lethargic and stopped eating at least two days before he taken to the hospital, according to the police report.

"I think I broke our son," Audra quoted Joseph as saying, according to police.

Early on Oct. 3, Tanner let out a shriek that Audra told police sounded like "a cat's tail in a rocking chair." She finished her shift later that evening and, together with her husband, took him to a hospital.

Tanner's death left some officers in tears. A few needed to talk to counselors. Dozens of people attended a public viewing.

"He was such a beautiful baby, so perfect," neighbor Nancy Audley said. "I had no idea they were torturing him in there."

Joseph Dowler has been charged with first-degree murder and child abuse. His next hearing is scheduled for Jan. 14. Audra Dowler has been charged with child abuse. Her next hearing is scheduled for Jan. 9.

Joseph Dowler's family said he is taking the brunt of the blame to protect his wife. "She was his first true love," Lea Dowler told the Boulder Daily Camera last week.

In 2000, the latest figures available, 31 children died from child abuse or neglect in Colorado. Nationwide, that figure was 1,236, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Unfortunately, Tanner Dowler is one data point in these 1,200 deaths a year," said Dr. Andrew Sirotak, Director of the Kempe Child Protection Team at Children's Hospital, which has developed national programs to prevent child abuse. "It's another tragic case of a family that needed help and didn't get it."

Newly restored Stinnett landmark to present band from Waxahachie

STINETT — At 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, music lovers will have a new venue to attend. The newly restored Miss Anna's, 719 Main, is presenting the "Mark Gorman Band."

Mark Gorman Band of Waxahachie was the 2000 and 2001 Dallas Music Country Band of the Year. Mark Gorman was the 2001 Dallas Music Male Vocalist of the Year.

A native Texan, Gorman has played guitar for nearly 35 years, holds a bachelor of fine arts/music education with a concentration in voice from Stephen F. Austin State University, has written and directed 10 full-length Broadway-style musicals, has conducted on the stage of the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center and has

performed on stages all over the country. He is at home conducting Mozart before the tuxedo clad upper crust as he is playing Texas Swing and Blues in a smoky dance hall. Learn more about the band at www.markgormanband.com.

Admission is \$10 for this debut of "Saturday Nites At Miss Anna's." The entertainment is intended for persons 21 years and older.

Dec. 7 is the next "Saturday Nites At Miss Anna's" and they will present Sparky and the Wild Turkeys. The admission to this evening of country, big band, and top 40s music will be \$5.

Early reservations are now being accepted for Miss Anna's New Years Eve party with Sparky and the Wild Turkeys.

Ryder case still under deliberation

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) —

Jurors in Winona Ryder's shoplifting trial ended their first day of deliberations without reaching a verdict on whether the actress went on a shoplifting spree at a Beverly Hills store.

The panel deliberated for five hours and ended the day Tuesday without sending any messages to the court and without asking any questions. They were scheduled to return Wednesday for a second day of talks.

Ryder made a brief appearance at the courthouse at the start of the day, but left after about an hour.

The 31-year-old "Girl, Interrupted" star is charged with grand theft, burglary and vandalism for allegedly stealing more than \$5,500 worth of merchandise from the Saks Fifth Avenue store on Dec. 12, 2001.

Jurors must decide whether the actress was a thrill-seeking thief as prosecutors suggested or if she was the victim of overzealous department store security guards as the defense argued.

She faces up to three years in prison if convicted.

In another development, the California 2nd District Court of Appeal chastised Superior Court Judge Elden Fox for refusing to release the questionnaires which jurors filled out at the start of the Ryder trial.

The questionnaires focused on how much the jurors knew about the Ryder case and what opinions they had formed about the actress before they were called for jury duty.

The appeals court gave the judge time to correct the error. He was ordered to either release the information by Nov. 7 or file a petition of opposition with the appeals court by Nov. 11.

The court ruling came in response to an appeal filed by The Associated Press, the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Daily Journal.

Ryder has appeared in more than two dozen other movies, including "Mr. Deeds," "Little Women," "Reality Bites" and "Edward Scissorhands."

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Israeli politics: Sharon's Likud takes lead in polls

JERUSALEM (AP) — Benjamin Netanyahu was approved as Israel's foreign minister Wednesday, bringing him into the Cabinet of the man he seeks to succeed as prime minister, Ariel Sharon. Opinion polls gave Sharon the edge in their rivalry.

Polls also suggested Sharon's right-wing Likud party would make strong gains over the moderate Labor Party in the January election that Sharon called a day earlier, sending Israel into a turbulent campaign.

Before the general vote, both parties will hold primaries to choose a leader and candidate for prime minister.

In Likud, Sharon leads the former premier Netanyahu by 44 percent to 38 percent, according to a poll by the Dahaf institute published in the

Yediot Ahronot daily. The survey had a margin of error of 4.2 percentage points.

Despite the rivalry, Netanyahu agreed to Sharon's request to serve as foreign minister in the caretaker government, and the appointment was approved by parliament Wednesday, in a 61-31 vote, with five abstentions.

Sharon's offer and Netanyahu's acceptance have been portrayed as part of a complex game between the two, with each trying to win points with Likud voters for seemingly placing the national interest ahead of their rivalry.

Opposition legislators criticized the appointment a farce, saying Netanyahu will be preoccupied with primaries.

"Who actually believes that Netanyahu will deal with Israel's foreign policy?" said Ofir Pines-

Paz, head of the Labor Party faction in parliament. No date has been set for the Likud primary.

Sharon wants to hold it as quickly as possible, perhaps by late November, while Netanyahu wants more time in order to campaign among party members.

In Labor's Nov. 19 contest, party chief Binyamin Ben-Eliezer faces two dovish candidates, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna and legislator Haim Ramon.

Mitzna, who leads the trio in polls among party members, said Wednesday that as party chief he would not lead Labor into another coalition with Likud.

Many Labor members have sharply criticized Ben-Eliezer for serving as Sharon's defense minister for the past 20 months and overseeing major offensives against Palestinian militants.

"The Labor Party made a very serious mistake when it joined the Likud government," Mitzna told Israel Army Radio on Wednesday. "I will not make the same mistake."

Labor bolted last week, after Sharon rejected Ben-Eliezer's demand to cut funding to Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On

Tuesday, six days after Labor's departure, Sharon called early elections, saying he had been unable to restore a stable parliamentary majority.

The Dahaf poll indicated that Sharon has the best chances of becoming prime minister. Under Israel's electoral system, voters choose a party, not a candidate. The party leader first able to form a stable coalition is named prime minister.

The survey among 550 Israeli adults indicated that Likud would win 33 seats in the 120-member parliament, up from 19, and emerge as the strongest party. Israel's right wing, overall, would make strong gains, the poll indicated, giving a Likud leader a better chance than his Labor rival to form a coalition. Labor would lose seven seats and drop to 19, the poll said.

Another survey by the Geocartographia agency showed 34 percent of respondents preferred Sharon as prime minister, 29 percent favored Netanyahu, 15 percent chose Mitzna; while 3 percent each gave their backing to Ben-Eliezer and Ramon. Sixteen percent either had no opinion or said they didn't like any of the candidates. The survey had an error margin of 4.3 percentage points.

DNA testing identifies unknown infant as child killed when Titanic went down

TORONTO (AP) — Nearly a century ago, Canadian sailors buried an unidentified infant who died on the Titanic and, touched by the tragedy, called him the Unknown Child — a symbol of the children lost in the luxury liner sinking.

Now at last, the child is known. On Tuesday, Magda Schleifer, a retired Finnish bank clerk, visited the grave, which DNA tests have now established holds the remains of one of her relatives.

"First I thought this could not be true," Schleifer, 68, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Schleifer had long known that her grandmother's sister, Maria, had died with her five children — including her 13-month-old son, Eino Panula — when the Titanic went down in 1912.

A Finnish survivor had told Schleifer's grandmother that Maria was offered a seat in one of the Titanic's lifeboats. "But she refused to leave the boat only with Eino, while her four other children were still in another part of the boat," Schleifer said.

Now, after two years of study, researchers in Canada have filled in the story, matching DNA remains taken from the grave to Schleifer.

The tests, completed last month, showed the Unknown Child was Eino.

TDA to host workshop

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Agriculture will help host a Small Business Finance Workshop from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 13 at Childress Fair Park Auditorium in Childress.

The workshop will focus on the challenges and opportunities in economic development in rural Texas. Speakers will discuss how to locate resources, develop business plans, and obtain funding through programs like the Texas Capital Fund. Other topics will include diversifying agriculture, development business incubator systems, and retaining businesses.

"This is a great time to get together and strategize about rural community development beyond the traditional means," said Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "We must all work together to grow businesses and help rural Texas prosper."

Speakers will include Rep. Bob Turner as well as representatives from Texas Department of Agriculture, Midwestern State University Small Business Development Center, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, and West Texas A&M University.

For registration information, contact Childress Economic Development Corp. at (904) 937-8629 or Sheila Martin, TDA Rural Economic Development specialist, at (806) 358-7285.

Registration deadline is Nov. 11.

said Dr. Ryan Parr of Lakehead University in Ontario and historian Alan Ruffman of the Geomarine Associates LTD in Halifax.

Of the 150 victims of the Titanic buried in three graveyards in Halifax, 45 remain unidentified. But grave number four has long stand out as a symbol of the tragedy's youngest victims, ever since Canadian sailors erected a stone memorial on it reading, "Erected to The Memory of An Unknown Child."

When scientists exhumed the remains from the grave last year, they found only a wrist bone weighing less than a quarter ounce and three teeth.

Parr said a copper medallion inscribed with "Our Babe" placed in the coffin by the sailors may have helped preserve the bone fragment from oxidation.

"The romantic explanation is that the sailors felt so much for that little boy, that they put the medallion to make sure he was preserved long enough for us to find him and identify him," Parr said.

While police generally work with recent DNA samples, analyzing samples almost 100 years old is more difficult.

The Paleo-DNA Laboratory at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, on the north shore of Lake Superior, is among the few facilities in the world capable of extracting degraded DNA from old samples, said Jack Ballantyne, a DNA expert from the National Center for Forensic Science in Orlando, Fla.

"Based on my knowledge, it sounds pretty reasonable they have come with accurate results," Ballantyne said.

Federal Consumer Protection has confirmed the accuracy of these fuel saving claims.

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Since platinum allows non-burning fuel to burn, the Gas Saver's platinum increases the percentage of fuel burning in the engine from 68% of each gallon to 90% of each gallon, a 22% increase.

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engine is pollution, this 22% of each gallon normally burns when it reaches the platinum of the catalytic converter.

Unfortunately, the converter's platinum burns this fuel in the tail-pipe, where the heat and energy produced from this fuel cannot be harnessed to drive your vehicle.

But when the Gas Saver adds platinum to the air-fuel mixture, 22% more of each gallon burns inside the engine so that, in theory, 22% fewer gallons are required to drive the same distance.

After a five year study, the government concluded: "Independent testing shows greater fuel savings with the

Gas Saver than that claimed by the developer."

In addition to the fuel savings, the Gas Saver has received patents for cleaning out carbon and raising octane, making higher grades of fuel unnecessary for most vehicles.

Joel Robinson, the developer, commented: "We have sold a half million Gas Savers. To our surprise, more people buy the Gas Saver because it extends engine life (by cleaning out the abrasive carbon) than buy it to increase gas mileage or raise octane."

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Diane Wells graduated from Amarillo College with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Occupational Therapy. Diane has four years of experience as an Occupational Therapy licensed practitioner and seven years experience as an OT/PT technician. She is also a volunteer with Tralee Crisis Center as a victim's advocate.

Diane is married to Richard Wells. She has two grown daughters, Chrissie Wells, who is a music major at New Mexico's Highland University and Jami Rodriguez, who is an Eligibility Caseworker at Pampa Regional Medical Center.

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Deborah Elliott has ten years of experience as a Physical Therapy Assistant. She graduated from Amarillo College in 1992 and has used her knowledge working in hospitals, home health care and nursing homes.

Deborah has been happily married to Dean Elliott for 20 years. She has one grown son Cody, who attends college in Phoenix, Arizona, and one daughter, Cristina who attends Pampa High School and participates in band and Color guard.

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Wednesday, November 6

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanna Phillips

Woman's Pay-by-Play Account At Work Drives Co-Worker Nuts

DEAR ABBY: I work in an office that's made up of cubicles, so there is little privacy. After two years at this job, I have, for the most part, learned to block out background noise. However, my co-worker "Gina," who sits in the cubicle next to mine, talks to herself constantly. This woman provides me with a running diatribe of every single task she does all day long: "Hit enter, file-save — OK, done!" "Open new file," "Delete," etc. Her monologue goes on and on. It's extremely distracting and annoying. I have talked to my bosses more than once about it, and they've talked to Gina, but still she continues. I feel like I'm slowly going insane. And now that I'm pregnant, my nerves are even more on edge. Her constant verbalizing has become too much to bear. What's the answer, Abby?

GOING NUTS AT WORK IN REDDING, CALIF.

DEAR GOING NUTS: Your co-worker may not even be aware that she's talking aloud when she does it. If it's possible, move to another cubicle. If it's not, then, in the interest of your mental health, invest in a pair of earphones that can mask her monologue with "white noise" or music — anything to block out her muttering. Pregnancy is difficult enough without stress.

DEAR ABBY: Millions of Americans are infected by an insidious virus: hepatitis C. More than 100 new cases occur each day. Most people have no signs or symptoms when this virus attacks the liver — their internal power plant — and it can be seriously damaged without any warning.

It is critical that anyone who has experimented with injecting drugs (even just once), snorted cocaine, had a tattoo or body piercing, or shared a razor or toothbrush at any time, to ask their doctors for the simple blood test that detects hepatitis C. The test is not routinely done during a physical exam.

Consuming alcohol is a major problem for anyone who is hepatitis C-infected. Alcohol speeds the damage to the liver. This is why it is vital that hepatitis C be identified — so further damage to the liver can be avoided and treatment options can be discussed.

This silent disease can be stopped. The first step is to find out if you are infected and to avoid infecting others. Hepatitis C is spread through blood-to-blood contact, and while not easily spread through sex, it is possible. We will send free information about hepatitis C to your readers if they send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to the Hepatitis Foundation International, P.O. Box 4690, Silver Spring, MD 20904. The Web site is: www.Hepatitis-Foundation.org.

Abby, thank you for helping your readers learn the facts and how to take control of their health. With your assistance, many lives can be saved.

THELMA KING THIEL, CEO, HEPATITIS FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

DEAR THELMA: According to the information I have read, 4,000 deaths are attributed to hepatitis C each year. The highest incidence of this disease is in individuals between the ages of 30 and 49. However, an estimated 240,000 children in the United States have been exposed or are already infected. Education and early treatment can reduce the number of fatalities. A word to the wise ...

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.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

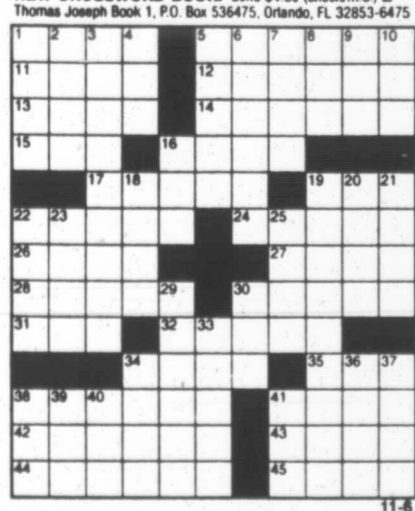
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- 33 Jacket material
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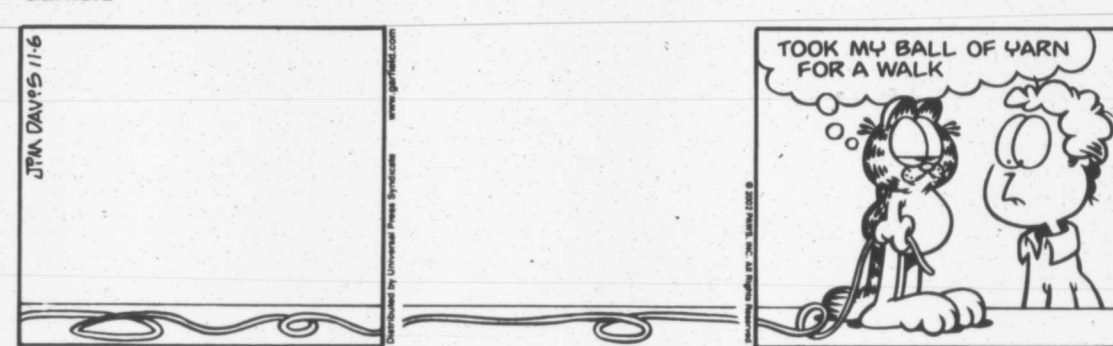
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SPORTS

Female bowler makes history with 300 game at Harvester Lanes

PAMPA — Pampa teenager Ashleigh Burns won't soon forget the summer of 2002.

That's when she made history by bowling a perfect game at Harvester Lanes.

Competing Aug. 29 in the Caprock League, the 19-year-old Burns opened with a 300, followed by 180 and 182 for a 662 series. She became the first local female bowler, and only the second woman, to ever roll a 300 in Pampa.

Several years ago, an out-of-town bowler had a perfect game in a Pampa women's tournament.

"Bowling is my life," Burns said. "I just love it. It's been part of my life for 12 years."

Burns threw her first ball as a second grader when she accompanied a friend to Harvester Lanes. She beat the friend and a love affair with the sport was born.

"I love the sport," she said. "Many people think that bowling is not a sport. You have to have a lot of talent. It's more mental than physical."

Burns has come close to stringing 12 strikes before. Her other high games were 278 and 266.

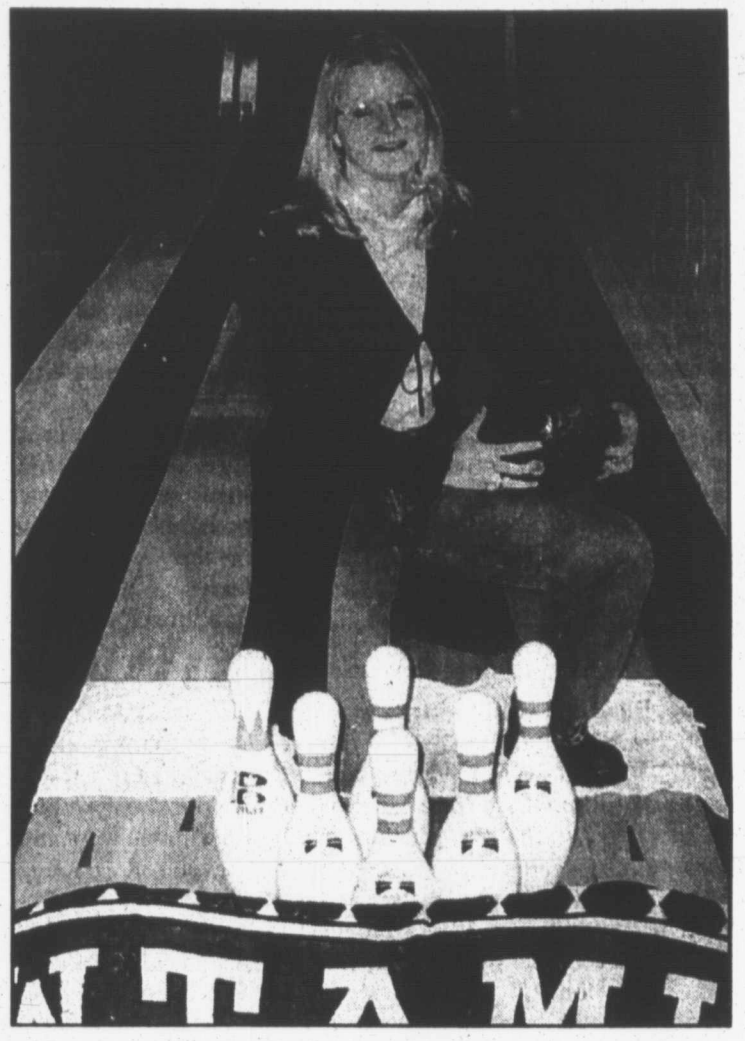
She had two 700 series, a 722 at Western Bowl and a 706 at Bowling City. Burns has won several awards at Harvester Lanes, including the Toys For Tots Tournament and the City Tournament.

Burns is currently in her second year as a member of the West Texas A&M college team in Canyon. The Lady Buffs travel all over the country, bowling in tournaments from Las Vegas to St. Louis.

Ashleigh is the daughter of Dale and Marie Burns of Pampa.

"I want to thank my loving parents for all of their support through the years," she said.

Burns also had words of praise for youth coaches Warren Dahn and the late Sue Henderson, Harvester Lanes owners Joann and Ralph West, pro shop operator Red Mills and WT coaches Regina Loveall and Mark Scroggins.



(Pampa News photo by Tess Kingcade)

Pampa's Ashleigh Burns is in her second year as a member of the West Texas A&M bowling team.

NOTEBOOK

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — Pampa Harvester basketball boosters will be holding its annual baked potato dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday in the high school cafeteria.

Tickets are six dollars per person and will be available at the door. Tickets can also be purchased at the athletic office or from any player.

FOOTBALL

CANADIAN

Canadian notched a 28-14 win over Highland Park in District 6-2A action last weekend.

Austin English led the Canadian offense with touchdown runs of 47 and 14 yards. He finished the night with 175 yards rushing on 29 carries.

David Godino added a 1-yard scoring run for the Wildcats. They also scored through the air as quarterback Riley Morris hit Anthony Newcomb on a 33-yard TD pass.

Canadian improved to 4-1 in district play and 7-2 for the season. Highland Park falls to 1-4 and 4-5.

SHOOTING

SANFORD

The Meredith Gun Club is having an open class match (.22 plate and speed) on Sunday, beginning at 1 p.m.

Entry fees are three dollars per gun per event or five dollars for both.

Call (806) 865-3695 or 865-3602 for information.

GENERAL

HOUSTON (AP)

The search for a new Texas A&M athletic director is getting a boost from former Big Eight Commissioner Chuck Neinas, according to a broadcast report Tuesday.

Benton Cocanougher, chairman of the A&M search committee, told Houston television station KRIV that the panel hired Neinas to help find a replacement for Wally Groff, who is stepping down on Dec. 31.

"Chuck Neinas has great experience handling searches for major universities like Texas and Oklahoma," said Cocanougher, dean emeritus of the Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business. "Neinas knows the people and will help the search committee identify who the outstanding candidates are."

Neinas is executive director of Chuck Neinas Sports Services in Boulder, Colo., and former College Football Association executive director.

First-year coach has chance to get Childress to playoffs

CHILDRESS, Texas (AP) — Childress coach Mark Manley knows Bobcats fans are accustomed to winning.

Entering his first season, Manley wanted nothing more than to continue the winning tradition started by Charlie Johnston, who retired last season after 35 years and a 315-93-8 record.

Though Manley won't have a winning season, the Bobcats have three more wins than

Johnston's winless inaugural team in 1967. Childress (3-6, 1-3) faces Vernon on Friday and still has a shot at the playoffs.

If Breckenridge beats Bowie, Childress gets in by winning by 11 points. If Bowie wins, Childress needs only the win for a playoff berth.

"It makes going into this last week a little less of a challenge to get players up to play," Manley said. "I just hope the kids are excited. It'll be a good

test." Players say there isn't much of a difference in the coaches' styles, though practices are more efficient.

"Coach Manley is real prepared. It seems like he's a little more organized," said Gary Gostnell, a tight end and defensive end. "It seems like big shoes to fill, but so far he's doing pretty good."

Manley has jazzed up Childress' offense, adjusting

Johnston's more traditional ground-bound attack. With his son Matthew Manley Jr. at quarterback, Manley has his team passing a little more.

"He's added some things he wanted to add," Johnston said. "To be honest, I got pretty conservative in my old years." Expectations have always been high in this West Texas town of about 5,000.

Johnston took Childress to the playoffs 25 times. The

Bobcats were the state runner-up in 1975 and 1976.

He retired after last season as the third-winningest coach in Texas prep history. He also owns the state record for most wins at a single school.

Johnston, 61, has attended all but two of Childress' games this year. He's finding it difficult to watch games from the stands.

"I do see things and I try to blot that out of my mind," he said.

Bill Walton: The redhead reflects (briefly) at 50

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Writer

He played for John Wooden, against Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, alongside Larry Bird and with the Grateful Dead in concert.

The funny thing? Those were all way down on Bill Walton's wish list for when the fateful day arrived.

"No. 1 was just to make it and No. 2 was to still be upright, and I'm close on both of those. No. 3 was to spend it with my family, and I'm headed to my parents' house next.

"They still live in the house we grew up in and I'm going over there," Walton added, "to thank them for the greatest life that anybody ever had."

His life. But don't let the testimonial throw you. Walton's summer began with his 30-games-in-30-days chronicle of last season's playoffs, and his schedule has tapered off only a little since. The redhead isn't retiring or even slowing down, just pausing (briefly) to reflect on the eve of his 50th birthday.

Walton will actually spend most of the big day on

a cross-country flight to New York, where he'll prepare to work Wednesday night's NBA telecast. So he was taking Monday off at home in San Diego, catching up with family, putting together a new wish list and resting an ankle that was surgically fused a few weeks ago — his 32nd operation.

"I'm getting ready for the next 50 years," he cracked, and whatever you think about Walton and his relentlessly upbeat style, you have to admire the way the man gets around — and always has. The arc of his career would be perfect for a basketball version of "Forrest Gump."

Walton was one of the greatest college players ever when Wooden's UCLA dynasty was at its brightest. One magical night, in the 1973 NCAA championship game against Memphis State, he took 22 shots and made 21. Some people still believe it was the best game ever played by anybody.

The next year, he was the top pick in the NBA draft. Three years after that, the center of a championship team in Portland, and the league MVP the year after that. Walton didn't arrive in time to play against his

childhood idol, Bill Russell, but saw plenty of Abdul-Jabbar, whom he followed at UCLA and considered the best big man ever.

Then, just as his pro career was taking flight, Walton was grounded by a series of foot, leg and ankle problems that would make him "the poster boy for injury in the NBA."

"I missed more than 9 1/2 of 14 seasons I played," Walton recalled. "It's why I hate seeing guys unable to play. I know what they're going through."

Injuries wiped out the 1978-79 season, and after a trade to the Clippers, two more seasons after that. Celtics boss Red Auerbach rescued Walton in 1985 with a trade that brought him to Boston. There, as the league's best sixth man, he helped Bird put another championship banner in the rafters.

That second chance resonates throughout Walton's work as a broadcaster. It's why he argues to let Michael Jordan play for as long as he wants, why he lectures fans to be patient enough to allow Yao Ming to develop.

"There's a good chance he could become the most dominant player in the game

in a few years," Walton said, "but we've got to cut this guy some slack."

"Just think of the adjustments he's trying to make — language, culture, going from a place where everyone told him 'no' — to everything — to the 'Ritz-Carlton life,' where everybody on the other end of the phone is always saying, 'yes.'"

"Plus, he's never played at anywhere near this level and the NBA is full of tough, nasty, vicious cutthroat guys making a living and this guy is still only 22 years old."

The third of Walton's four sons is the same age, and not a bad basketball player, either. Arizona senior Luke Walton is one of the Wildcats' two candidates for the Naismith award and a big reason why Arizona could wind up atop the Associated Press preseason poll.

The son plays forward instead of center, but with Luke's all-around skills and his ability to orchestrate what happens on the floor, the pedigree is unmistak-

able. The father, though, worries more about passing along other lessons. One of them is about striving, always. Having performed onstage with his beloved Grateful Dead, Walton is already scheming to play the piano in Carnegie Hall, backed by a symphony orchestra.

"The single most important person in my life outside of my parents has been Coach Wooden. He didn't just teach basketball, he taught us lessons about justice, opportunity ... about making the world a better place."

"I look at him now, always on the go, and every time we cross paths, he's the one who tells me, 'Slow down, you're racing around too much.' Then, I remember coach Wooden is what now, 92?"

"And you know what that tells me?" Walton said, barely hanging around long enough to answer his own question. "It tells me I'm not doing nearly enough."

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Predator potent anti-terror weapon

By MATT KELLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the killing of six al-Qaida suspects in Yemen by a missile fired from a pilotless Predator spy plane, the CIA's combat participation in the war on terrorism has expanded beyond Afghanistan. The Predator has become a deadly tool and powerful psychological weapon that seemingly comes from nowhere to deliver a fiery strike. "It's a demonstration that al-Qaida can run, but they can't hide," said Daniel Mulvenna, a terrorism expert at the Center for Counterintelligence and Security Studies outside Washington. "Eventually the technological reach of the U.S. intelligence community is going to produce these opportunities." Missiles fired from lurking Predators have killed Osama bin Laden's operations chief and threatened an Afghan warlord. The deadly drones give the CIA a way to track and kill suspected terrorists without putting U.S. pilots at risk, admittedly with the possibility of unintended civilian casualties. The Yemen strike killed Qaed Salim Sinan al-Harethi, al-Qaida's chief operative in Yemen and a suspect in the October 2000 bombing of the destroyer USS Cole that killed 17 American sailors, U.S. officials said. Five other people, also believed to be al-Qaida operatives, were riding in al-Harethi's car and died in the attack. The attack provoked criticism of U.S. tactics in the broadening terror war. Swedish Foreign Minister Anna

Lindh called the strike "a summary execution that violates human rights." "Even terrorists must be treated according to international law. Otherwise, any country can start executing those whom they consider terrorists," she said. The airstrike on al-Harethi's car was reminiscent of Israeli airstrikes that target vehicles of suspected members of the radical Islamic groups. The U.S. government has criticized that practice, most recently on Tuesday. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher deflected questions on the attack in Yemen, but said U.S. opposition remains to "targeted killings" of Palestinians by Israel. "If you look back at what we have said about targeted killings in the Israeli-Palestinian context, you will find that the reasons we have given do not necessarily apply in other circumstances," Boucher said. The White House defended the Yemen operation. "Sometimes the best course is a good offense," presidential spokesman Ari Fleischer said Tuesday. "The president has made clear that we fight the war on terrorism wherever we need. Terrorists don't recognize any borders or nations." The use of the armed Predator apparently was the first outside Afghanistan, where CIA-operated drones have fired at least four times. One of those attacks, a November operation that also included strikes by U.S. military aircraft, killed al-Qaida military head Mohammed Atef.

The United States developed the Predator after the 1991 Persian Gulf war to give military commanders views of the battlefield without having to put pilots there. First used in 1995, the remote-controlled spy plane can lurk in an area for up to 16 hours, unseen and unheard at 15,000 feet, its cameras transmitting live video, infrared or radar pictures to military commanders or intelligence officials anywhere in the world. The video is sharp enough to be able to spot a person from five miles away, officials say. The CIA was the first to fly Predators modified to carry one Hellfire missile under each wing. Originally built as anti-tank weapons for Army helicopters, the 125-pound Hellfires streak through the air faster than the speed of sound to deliver about 17 pounds of high explosives. The Bush administration has ordered an additional 22 of the aircraft and their associated ground stations at a cost of about \$160 million. The Air Force already has about four dozen of them and the CIA has an undisclosed number. The Predator has its limits. Like other small planes, it can't fly in harsh weather like snow or fog, and its video would be largely useless in those conditions anyway. The plane also can be difficult to fly and is vulnerable to enemy anti-aircraft fire. At least nine Air Force Predators and one CIA drone have crashed during missions involving Afghanistan or Iraq since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

SEC Chairman relinquishes post

WASHINGTON (AP) — Harvey Pitt, who provoked outcries over his ethics in a string of political missteps, resigned under pressure as the government's top securities regulator. The Bush White House, embarrassed by Pitt's troubles, was relieved to have him go. Pitt's turbulent 14-month tenure as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission came at a time when the administration needed to shore up investors rattled by a wave of accounting scandals. The Democrats lost one of their favorite targets Tuesday, Election Day. Pitt told President Bush in a letter that "the turmoil surrounding my chairmanship" had made it difficult to stay in the job. "Rather than be a burden to you or the agency, I feel it is in everyone's best interest if I step aside now, to allow the agency to continue the important efforts we have started." The White House quickly accepted his resignation. On Wednesday, the Bush administration defended the president's appointment of Pitt and his substantive performance at the commission. "I don't think he went soft on the accounting industry," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said. "There were other circumstances that arose that Mr. Pitt reacted and resigned."

Three administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the White House welcomed the resignation of a regulator who had created a host of political problems for Bush in the run-up to the midterm elections. Pitt's stumbles had been seen as weakening the SEC at a time when the market was reeling from corporate debacles, including Enron Corp., WorldCom Inc. and Global Crossing Ltd., and the economy was fragile. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., suggested the White House may have wanted to "minimize the news" of Pitt's departure by making it known on Election Night. Pitt attended a routine commission meeting Wednesday, listening to staff members and asking questions as they discussed proposed new rules requiring attorneys to report company violations to a top executive. Commissioner Harvey Goldschmid, a Democrat who had bitterly opposed Pitt's selection of former FBI director William Webster to head a new accounting oversight board, said during the meeting that the last weeks have been "a period of enormous pain" for the SEC. Pitt's latest fumble came when he failed to share with fellow commissioners information about Webster's past before the agency voted last week to put him in charge of the accounting panel. The revelation led SEC commissioners, including Pitt, to request an internal investigation of Webster's selection — and renewed the almost daily drumbeat of calls from Democrats and other Pitt critics for his resignation. Pitt withheld information about Webster having headed the board of directors' auditing committee at U.S. Technologies, a company facing investor lawsuits alleging fraud. Webster told The New York Times that Pitt assured him that SEC staffers had looked into the issue and determined it would not pose a problem. Webster's future as head of the new oversight board was unclear; he said this week that he would step aside if he decided he couldn't be effective in that job.

Teen 'Thelma and Louise' charged in stick-up

BARNEGAT, N.J. (AP) — When two teenage girls walked into the Sun National Bank and announced a stick-up, branch manager Linda Williams thought it was a prank. They were 5-foot-2 inches tall, one in a black knit ski mask, the other with a nylon stocking over her face. One carried what looked like a silver handgun. It was almost noon, two days before Halloween. "What is this, a joke?" Williams said. "No, we ain't (expletive) joking," one of them replied. "Give us your money." Williams handed a black plastic trash bag to the teller. The teller stuffed \$3,500 in cash into the bag and the girls ran out, jumping into a getaway car driven by their mother, authorities said. "A teenage 'Thelma and Louise,'" said police Detective Michael Duffy, shaking his head.

Two twin 14-year-old girls and their mother, Kathleen Wortman Jones, 34, of Barnegat, were charged in the heist along with a 16-year-old stepister and Jones' husband. Police said they stole because they were facing foreclosure on their rundown ranch house and needed the money to pay the mortgage. Neighbors said 11 people stayed at the house at a time, including a 13-year-old boy, a grandmother with one leg and an uncle who is a disabled veteran. "I just can't even believe a mother would let her children do something like this," said neighbor Carrie Dempsey. "What kind of conversation could they have had? 'I want you kids to put masks on and I'll wait in the car?' For \$3,500, they ruined their lives." At the house Tuesday, a man declined to open the door to a reporter. "We don't have anything to say," he said. The

couple does not yet have an attorney, he said. The twins, whose names weren't released because they are juveniles, are charged with armed robbery, possession of a firearm and theft. Described by police as polite and respectful, they were being held Tuesday in a juvenile shelter. The 16-year-old, who was charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery and possession of stolen property, was released on recognizance to the custody of her grandmother. Jones was charged with armed robbery, possession of a weapon for an illegal purpose and theft. She was being held on \$75,000 bail, along with Kevin Jones, 37, who was charged with hindering apprehension. Police said Jones, who is on disability, didn't know about the robbery until afterward. They said he was charged

because he disposed of the gun — a toy that fires plastic pellets — in a Dumpster. The five were arrested Friday when a police SWAT team, working from leads generated by detectives and a bank surveillance video, searched the home. Police said they found \$2,700, but don't know what happened to the rest. As for the mortgage? "I don't even know if they got around to paying it," said Duffy.


DRILLING INTENTIONS

Intentions to Drill
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #3 Hobart '49', 467' from North & West line, Sec. 49.A-2, H&GN, PD 12500'.
ROBERTS (WILDCAT & SOUTH PARSELL Upper Morrow) Bracken Operating, L.L.C., #2-139 Fields & Sullivan, 1320' from South & 1855' from West line, Sec. 139.42, H&TC, PD 10600'.
Gas Well Completions
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Dominion Oklahoma Texas E&P, Inc., #9 Meek '67', Sec. 67.M-1, H&GN, spud 7-15-02, drlg. compl 7-29-02, tested 9-30-02, potential 4253' MCF, TD 11660', PBT 11601'.
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #309 Yeager, Sec. 9.4, AB&M, spud 7-20-02, drlg. compl 8-4-02, tested 10-7-02, TD 11800', PBT 11659'.
HEMPHILL (S.E. CANADIAN Douglas) El Paso Production Co., #2A Jones Trust '26', Sec. 26.1, G&M, spud 8-9-02, drlg. compl 8-17-02, tested 9-14-02, potential 67 MCF, TD 7410, PBT 7310'.
HEMPHILL (S.E. CANADIAN Douglas) El Paso Production Co., #5A Jones Trust '24', Sec. 24.1, G&M, spud 9-5-02, drlg. compl 9-11-02, tested 9-27-02,

potential 246 MCF, TD 7450', PBT 7376'.
HEMPHILL (HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Cimarex Energy Co., #7067 Hobart Ranch, Sec. 67.A-2, H&GN, spud 6-29-02, drlg. compl 7-19-02, tested 10-9-02, potential 4400 MCF, TD 11250', PBT 11203'. Form 1 filed in Helmerich & Payne.
HEMPHILL (SOUTH HIGGINS Morrow) St. Johns Operating, L.P., #402 Crane, Sec. 3.43, H&TC, spud 8-24-02, drlg. compl 10-1-02, tested 10-8-02, potential 3800 MCF, TD 11215', PBT 12069'.
Plugged Wells
CARSON (PANHANDLE) Oneok Field Services, #1D Schafer Ranch, Sec. 88.4, I&GN, spud 9-23-54, plugged 8-22-02, TD 5990' (swd) — Form 1 in Skelly Oil Co.
GRAY (WILDCAT) Cambridge Production, Inc., #1 Webb 'AA', Sec. 2.A-6, H&GN, spud 9-24-00, plugged 8-24-01, TD 13165' (gas) —
GRAY (WEST PANHAN-

DLE) Tracy Oil, Inc., Holt, Sec. 153.3, I&GN (gas) — for the following wells:
#1, spud 5-17-83, plugged 10-7-02, TD 3508' —
#2, spud 5-24-83, plugged 10-1-02, TD 3485' —
HEMPHILL (N.W. GLAZIER Upper Morrow) Philcon Development Co., #1-B Kelly, Sec. 68.42, H&TC, spud 2-20-78, plugged 9-11-02, TD 11057' (gas) —
WHEELER (PANHANDLE) Ricon Petroleum Co., Porter, Sec. 14.27, H&GN (oil) — for the following wells:
#1, spud unknown, plugged 9-17-02, TD 2220' —
#3, spud unknown, plugged 9-24-02, TD 2195' —
#4, spud unknown, plugged 9-25-02, TD 2228' —
WHEELER (MILLS RANCH Des Moines) Chevron U.S.A., Inc., #1046 Abernethy, et al Unit, Sec. 46.A-7, H&GN, spud 8-29-02, plugged 10-5-02, TD 12180' (dry) —

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