

# THE Pampa News

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2003

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**WEATHER WEATHER**

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## STATE State Supreme Court rejects billboard suit

AUSTIN (AP) — A West Texas lawyer who posted a billboard urging motorists to "just say no" to police searches in the 1990s lost his constitutional battle over free speech Thursday in the state Supreme Court.

The court's 6-3 ruling rejected Pat Barber's claims that a state law that prohibited the sign violated his First Amendment rights to political speech. The Texas Highway Beautification Act is "content neutral" and places "valid" restrictions on signs placed near highways, the court said.

Barber vowed to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. "I'm very disappointed," he said. "Particularly on the eve of the Fourth of July, when we traditionally show our support and gratitude for our constitutional liberty."

Barber has waged his battle since 1997 when he erected an 8-foot-by-16-foot sign on his property next to Interstate 20 in Mitchell County. It read "Just Say NO to Searches!" and a telephone number led callers to a recorded message telling motorists to refuse when police ask to search their cars during routine traffic stops.

**DEATHS**

No obituaries were reported to The Pampa News by press time today.

**INSIDE...**

Classified .....11  
Comics ..... .8  
Religion ..... .6  
Sports ..... .9

Beautiful Paving Stones...  
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## Oooh... Aaaah...

### City gears up for July 4 festivities

By DEE DEE LARAMORE  
EDITOR

As the last vestige of illumination leaves the western sky — about 10 p.m. tonight, a barrage of explosions east of Pampa will announce the opening of Pampa's July 4th Fireworks Display for 2003.

Immediately after the opening barrage, pyrotechnic candles will spray up into the air at the edge of City Lake and interweave into the sky, leaving shimmering trails of gold and silver reflected in the lake below.

After a brief pause, the aerial portion of the display, produced by Western Enterprises of Carrier, Okla., begins. "Shooter" Steve Lindell and his crew will fire the shells in a consistent tempo, not allowing long "black spots" or intervals when no shells are being fired.

The program begins with the smallest shells, three inches in diameter, and gradually progresses to larger and more spectacular displays, ending with the grand aerial finale — a salvo of shells filling the sky with multitudes of fiery colors.

Pampa's display will feature intriguing names as Chinese Specials, Fish & Whistle, Whistle & Star, Serpent & Star, Thunder & Rainbow, Spangle, Titanium Flower Report, Weeping Willow, Golden and Silver Palm Tree, Green Rain, and Spider Web.

The grand finale will be "Skyworks Specials (Disney Shells).

Bill Hildebrandt, who organizes the annual fireworks display for the City of Pampa, said

(See FESTIVITIES, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Seventeen-month-old Payton Brookshire inspects some bottle rockets at a stand at U.S. Highway 60 and Price Road this Independence Day as Patti Williams with Mr. W's Fireworks looks on. Bill Hildebrandt, head of community services for the City of Pampa, said the fireworks for the city's annual display arrived in town Monday night. He said they were delayed in shipping because of checks by Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents as part of the new homeland security laws. The fireworks show is scheduled to start about 9:45 p.m. Friday at Recreation Park. "We ought to have a good Fourth of July," Hildebrandt said.

## Careful in the county!

### Revelers cautioned to get permission, clean up

"Be careful and clean up," cautions Gray County Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing.

"We want people to have a good time, but we're asking that they be careful about property and clean up after themselves and don't leave their trash from fireworks lying around," Rushing said today.

"A lot of people are going to go out into the county to pop fireworks," the chief deputy said. "We want to remind them that they have to have permission from the landowner to do that."

Rushing said the wheat crop is just ripening and about ready to harvest. A grass fire caused by fire-

works could be devastating to the farmer at this time, he said.

"We're going to be out making sure that everyone's doing what they're supposed to do," he said.

"If people are going to set up fireworks in the county, we'd sure appreciate it if they'd clean up their trash," he added.

## AG releases opinion re: Skellytown

By DAVID BOWSER  
STAFF WRITER

SKELLYTOWN -- No action is expected to be taken on a Texas Attorney General's opinion at the Skellytown City Council meeting Tuesday night.

The agenda for their regularly scheduled meeting was drawn up before the city was notified.

The Texas Attorney General's opinion, issued July 1, says that an agreement transferring funds and property from the City of Skellytown to the Skellytown Area Volunteer Firefighters-EMS Association in 2000 is valid, but the opinion says the city

cannot attach a monthly \$1.50 mandatory fire service fee to water bills.

City officials said Mayor Michael Chaney drew up Tuesday's agenda before going on vacation, but the mayor may call a special meeting to discuss the opinion.

Officials said Thursday that the city has not been notified by the Attorney General's office. The first they knew of the opinion was when the news media started calling.

City Secretary Cindy Cook was able to pull a copy of the opinion off the internet and mail it to each councilman.

Carson County Attorney Scott Sherwood requested the opinion last

February after being asked to do so by then Mayor Lucille Lawrence and the city council at that time.

In the opinion, the Attorney General's office said that because the agreement was executed more than three years ago and no lawsuits to invalidate it have been filed, the agreement is presumed to be valid. The Attorney General also added that because a city council member was also a director of the association at the time of the agreement does not affect the agreement's validity.

D.C. Woods, one of the original members of the volunteer firefighters association, was on the city council, serving as Mayor Pro-Tem, at the

agreement was approved by the council.

The City of Skellytown, the Attorney General said, has authority to convey such equipment and property to the association if it accomplishes a public purpose, the city is able to ensure that public purpose will be met and the city gets a return benefit; however, the city does not have the authority to attach a \$1.50 charge to water bills to fund the cost of a volunteer firefighting service.

Tuesday night, the Skellytown City Council is expected to consider hiring a policeman and discuss the duties of the Municipal Court Judge at their 7

(See OPINION, Page 3)

## Miss Texas contender



(Photo by David Bowser)

Miss El Paso Elizabeth Davis plays her violin at a breakfast for the homeless at a church in Waco. Davis, granddaughter of Jolynn Davis Cash of Pampa, won the first round of talent competition at the Miss Texas Pageant in Fort Worth this week, her aunt, Kathy Davis of Pampa, said. The talented beauty will be competing for the Miss Texas crown Saturday night.

## Golden Horseshoe hunt begins July 5

Top O' Texas Rodeo Association is sponsoring the "Golden Horseshoe Treasure Hunt" again in conjunction with the Top O' Texas Rodeo, July 10, 11 and 12.

A "Golden Horseshoe" has been hidden in the area and clues will be given each day that will help locate the horse shoe.

The lucky person who finds the horseshoe will receive a box seat to all three performances of the 57th annual Top O' Texas Rodeo. The box seat is valued at \$150. They will also be able to ride in the parade on Saturday, July 12.

This year the clues will be placed in selected stores in Pampa and you can only get the clues by going into that store. Clues will be given each day in the newspaper and on the radio as to the type of store. The name of the store will not be given out, so it should be fun to see if you can figure out where to find the clues. No clues will be given in the paper or on the radio as to where the horseshoe is hidden. Merchants have been asked not to give any information over the telephone.

For more information, call Jane Jacobs at the rodeo office, 669-0434.

**Clue #1 can be found Saturday, July 5, at a western wear store.**



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ON RECORD

POLICE

No arrests by the Pampa Police Department were listed in Gray County Jail records for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. The police department's records were not available due to the July 4 holiday.

SHERIFF

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

Thursday, July 3

Max Beatty Floyd, 23, McLean, was arrested on a grand jury indictment for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

Dwight Armand Nickleberry, 29, 921 Malone, was arrested on bond surrenders for possession of marijuana under two ounces, and possession of a controlled substance.

Teresa Lynn Sexton, 46, 213 Tignor, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

David Dwight Boyd, 46, Lefors, was arrested for public intoxication.

Michael Lynn Steele, 42, Lefors, was arrested for public intoxication.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported in Thursday's paper that 7,000 citizens used the Lovett Library last year and 135 cards were issued for the year. Six to 7,000 people passed through the doors last month and 135 cards were issued last month as well — about 35 cards more than usual months. The figures reported in the city commission story incorrectly stated that these were totals for the entire year.

FIRE

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

Thursday, July 3

10:29 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a vehicle fire at Cuyler and Francis streets. Firefighters extinguished the fire.

6:53 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a grass fire at Texas Highway 152 and Gray 4 1/2. About a half-acre was burned in the fire believed to have been caused by an arcing power line.

AMBULANCE

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

Thursday, July 3

2:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's West in Amarillo.

OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

KERBY, Effie Agnes Willis — 10 a.m., Rancho Village Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

PRATT, Inga Ann Ross — Memorial services, 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Pampa.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

The forecast today is calling for mostly sunny skies, highs in the mid 90s and south winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight should see mostly clear skies with lows in the upper 60s and south winds 5 to 15 mph. Saturday should be partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 5 to 15 mph. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Heat

index readings 96 to 101. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the upper 60s. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Thursday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Specialty plates commemorate Alamo

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Native Texans and other state residents who want to remember the Alamo now have a new way: a specialty license plate featuring the shrine of Texas liberty.

The plate with the Alamo, the Texas flag and the San Jacinto Monument could be on vehicles later this year.

A Fourth of July ceremony at the Alamo will be the official unveiling of the plate, designed by Texas artist Benjamin Knox.

The ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday. Knox will sign prints in the Alamo's gift shop from 3 to 5 p.m.

Roger Polson, spokesman for the vehicle title and registration division of the Texas Department of Transportation, predicted it will be a big seller.

"I think it's going to be a popular plate," he told the San Antonio Express-News in Friday's editions. "They've done a good job."

The Alamo won't be the only San Antonio icon to debut on a specialty license plate. Design work continues on a tag to be issued by the San Antonio

Missions National Historical Park.

That plate will showcase the San Jose, Concepcion, San Juan and Espada missions.

The Legislature approved both plates in the last session.

In addition, 37 other plates got the green light, boosting everything from blood donors to master gardeners.

All specialty plates cost more than standard-issue plates; both the Alamo and mission plates will cost an additional \$30.

Of that, \$22 goes to the sponsor organization for specific programs, \$7.50 to the state and 50 cents to the issuing county.

"This is really exciting," said Kathleen Carter, chairwoman of the Alamo committee for the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. "It's going to bring a lot of money to our education and preservation programs."

Funds brought in from the mission plate will be used to support historic preservation.

The new plates will be available after Sept. 1.

President designating six prisoners for possible trial by military tribunals

By MATT KELLEY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush designated six prisoners to become the first people who could be tried before military tribunals, drawing renewed criticism from defense lawyers of the secretive special courts.

Officials refused to identify the six suspects being held in U.S. custody and suggested their identities might be kept secret during any military trial.

That drew criticism from the chairman of the American Bar Association's task force on the treatment of detainees in the war on terrorism.

"The State Department issues a report every year in which it criticizes those nations that conduct trials before secret military tribunals. What I'm hearing sounds alarmingly like something similar," said Neal Sonnett, also a former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

"If they're going to be charged by military tribunals then they have a right to full due process and the public has a right to know who's being tried and what the charges are and the government has an obligation to run these tribunals in a fair and transparent way."

All six suspects are believed to be either members of the al-Qaida terrorist network or otherwise involved in terrorism, said two Pentagon officials who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity Thursday.

Australian detainee David Hicks, who is being held at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, likely will be one of the six, said his lawyer, Stephen Kenny.

Hicks, a Muslim who fought with the Kosovo Liberation Army, called his parents 17 days after the Sept. 11 attacks to say he was with the Taliban. He also allegedly threatened to kill an American upon his arrival at Guantanamo, U.S. officials said. Some of the six may have attended terrorist training camps and some were involved in raising money and recruiting for terrorist groups, the officials said. Under Bush's order creating the

military tribunals, only people who are not U.S. citizens may be subject to such trials.

Unlike traditional criminal trials, the proceedings of military tribunals can be kept much more secret. The United States has not convened such a tribunal since World War II.

The next step is for a chief prosecutor to draft charges against any or all of the suspects. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz will then make a separate decision on whether the suspects will actually face trials by what the Pentagon calls military commissions.

Although Pentagon officials would not say where the suspects are imprisoned or where their tribunals might be held, legal experts said the trials likely would be at Guantanamo, where some 680 Taliban and al-Qaida suspects are being held. Officials at Guantanamo Bay have begun planning for construction of court facilities and an execution chamber, since the tribunals may consider imposing the death penalty.

The Pentagon officials also raised the possibility that the military might continue to hold the suspects even if they are acquitted by a tribunal. The prisoners' status as "unlawful combatants" in the war against terrorism is separate from their guilt or innocence on charges brought before a tribunal, a military official involved in the tribunal process said.

Initial criticism of the administration's intent to use such trials was later tempered — but only somewhat — when the detailed rules governing them were released. Under those rules, defendants have many traditional legal rights, though they still do not have full constitutional protection, and the standards of evidence are looser.

While the six are the first to be declared subject to trial by tribunal, Bush may designate more suspects for possible military trials. Terrorist suspect Zacarias Moussaoui is among those considered to be a prospect for such a trial.

A U.S. District Court judge in Alexandria, Va., has ruled that, as part of his criminal trial in federal court, Moussaoui could question Ramzi Binalshibh, a suspected organizer of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Arguing that questioning could harm national security, the government is appealing that ruling. But if it loses, it could decide to move Moussaoui's case from civilian court to a military tribunal.

Political expert: Paying for attendance not unknown

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — The rattle-rocker in the next seat at a packed hearing may be in it for the paycheck, and at least one political scientist says it's no loss to democracy.

"It's certainly not unprecedented that in order to pack a crowd you may recruit people, and you may recruit people using incentives," Jerry Polinard of the University of Texas-Pan American said Thursday. "Sometimes those incentives involve money."

That was the case at the Senate Jurisprudence Committee's field hearing on redistricting at the McAllen Civic Center on Tuesday. Among the 150 or so packing buses in Corpus Christi to travel to McAllen for the hearing, at least 40 were temporary workers hired through an agency and paid minimum wage.

Tom Niskala, executive director of the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, said that a member of the chamber wanted to attend but couldn't, so the member enlisted a temporary employment agency to hire bodies in his stead. The business remained anonymous.

"I think that if anybody assumes that political parties don't use temporary agencies in their activities then they're really not aware of the process," Niskala said.

Linda Jordan of L.K. Jordan and Associates, which was paid about \$5,000 for the workers, said her agency had answered political requests before, mostly to hand out fliers or staff phone banks. She said this request was a little different.

"They were sent to be seat warmers," she said. "They were

not sent with the intent of protesting. I think they did not realize what they were in for, and neither did we."

Pounding drums, stomping floors and shouting slogans in Spanish such as "Down with (U.S. Rep. Tom) DeLay!" the crowd of mostly Corpus Christi-based veterans drowned out attempts to begin testimony. It is unclear who of those who blended in with the veterans and farmworkers was paid and who was not or whether the temps became involved in the shouting.

The heaviest representation seemed to be by Nueces County chapters of the GI Forum, the same group that shouted down a House redistricting hearing in Brownsville.

Rep. Kino Flores stood outside the Brownsville hearing, thereby

blocking a quorum for the meeting and causing protesters to call the meeting illegal and chant "Shut it down!"

Scheduled for 3 p.m., there was a quorum at the McAllen hearing. But the ruckus kept testimony from beginning until 4:15 p.m., when committee members promised Corpus Christi would get its own hearing on July 7.

There were smatterings of applause when someone announced that the Corpus Christi buses were leaving.

"I really don't know if I'm for or against redistricting," audience member Judith Rodriguez said. "There's a new plan and we're not going to hear it because of these people."

City Briefs

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CIRCULATION EARLY Deadlines for stopping or re-starting your subscription are for July 3rd deadline is before 4 p.m. July 2nd. For July 4th deadline is before noon July 3rd. For July 6th deadline is before 4 p.m. July 3rd.

PAMPA COUNTRY Club Buffet, Sun., July 6th, open to public. Entrees are Prime Rib & Fried Catfish.

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SPECIAL ESTATE Sale. NorthFork Antiques has 2 new estates and we're out of room. Special Sale July 4 & 5 10am-6pm in Lions Club building, just North of our store at 211 N Main in McLean. Don't Miss It!



July 6<sup>th</sup> • 6:00 pm

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Whi in 'I

Three of young thespians in Civic Arts of "Les Miserables" version.

Victor H... be presented Civic Center p.m. nightly, 12.

Jessica Lynch and Armstrong a 90-student orchestra, all from 10 to 1 Nathan L... foreman, co-revolutionist will play a docks, a w... chorus n... Michelle Ar... part of Gavorche's... chorus me...

U.S. leav

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## White Deer students in 'Les Miserables'

Three of White Deer's young thespians are taking part in Civic Amarillo's production of "Les Miserables" student version.

Victor Hugo's classic will be presented at the Amarillo Civic Center Auditorium at 7 p.m. nightly, on July 10, 11 and 12.

Jessica Lynch, Nathan Lynch and Dusty Michelle Armstrong are members of the 90-student cast, crew and orchestra, all ranging in age from 10 to 19 years old.

Nathan Lynch is cast as the foreman, convict and student revolutionist. Jessica Lynch will play a woman on the docks, a wedding guest, and a chorus member. Dusty Michelle Armstrong plays the part of a member of Gavorche's gang and will be a chorus member. The three

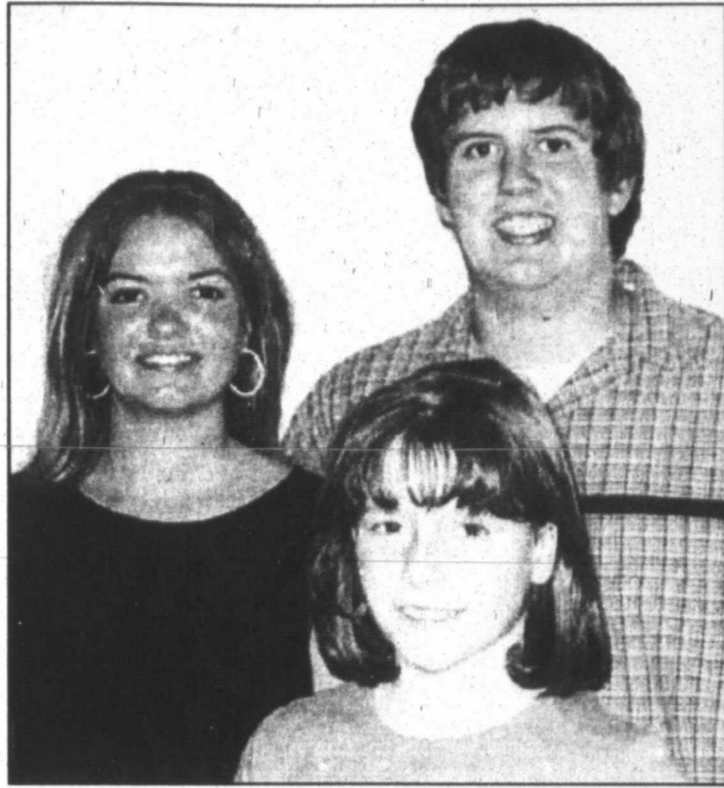
White Deer students have traveled to Amarillo for the past month.

The musical is based on Hugo's book about human suffering and the French Revolution during the 1800s. The musical version of "Les Miserables" has been performed throughout the world during the past 20 years.

Civic Amarillo is sponsoring the only professionally-produced student version of the musical in the United States.

Jessica and Nathan Lynch are the children of Bill and Miriam Lynch of White Deer. Dusty Michelle Armstrong is the granddaughter of K. Ray and Sylvia Armstrong of White Deer.

For more information about the student production of "Les Miserables," call (806) 378-3096.



(Courtesy photo)

Jessica and Nathan Lynch, back, and Dusty Michelle Armstrong, foreground, all of White Deer, are among 90 thespians, age 10 to 19, presenting the student version of the popular musical "Les Miserables," July 10, 11 and 12 at Amarillo Civic Center.

## Tape with voice purported to be Saddam's vows attacks

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A voice purported to be Saddam Hussein's, aired on the Arab television station Al-Jazeera on Friday, said he is in Iraq directing attacks on American forces and called on Iraqis to help the resistance against the U.S.-led occupation.

"Oh brothers and sisters, I relay to you good news: Jihad (holy war) cells and brigades have been formed," the speaker on the audiotape said, addressing the Iraqi people.

There was no immediate way to confirm the tape's authenticity, but those who know Saddam's voice said it sounded like his.

With U.S. forces targeted daily by ambushes and sniper attacks in and around Baghdad, the United States has put a \$25 million bounty on Saddam's head — as well as a \$15 million reward for each of his sons, Odai and Qusai. American officials say the mystery over Saddam's whereabouts fuels

anti-U.S. attacks by his loyalists — but they insist the resistance is not centrally organized.

In the audiotape, the speaker gives the date of taping as June 14 and says: "People have been asking why they haven't heard the voice of Saddam Hussein. We face a lot of trouble in getting our voice to you even though we have been trying."

The speaker defends the quick fall of Saddam's regime during the U.S.-led invasion in March and April, saying it was a necessary retreat, and urges Iraqis to help insurgents.

"No to surrender and no to cooperation" with the Americans, he said. "I call upon you to protect these heroic fighters and not give the invaders any information about them or their whereabouts during their operations."

## U.S. army kills 11 ambushers, attacks leave one U.S. soldier dead, 18 injured

BALAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. troops killed 11 Iraqis who ambushed a convoy outside Baghdad on Friday, one of the heaviest clashes yet in the daily grind of attacks on American forces, and a message purportedly from Saddam Hussein called for stepped-up resistance to the U.S.-led occupation.

The ambush came hours after mortars hit a nearby base, wounding 18 U.S. soldiers, and a sniper shot and killed an American soldier guarding the Baghdad museum, the military said.

The Arab television station Al-Jazeera aired an audiotape Friday with a voice purported to be that of Saddam. In the tape, the speaker said he was directing resistance to American forces and called on all Iraqis to support the attacks.

"Not a day passes without them (suffering) losses in our great land thanks to our great mujahedeen (holy warriors)," the speaker on the tape said. "The coming days will, God willing, be days of hardship and trouble for the infidel

invaders."

The United States has put a \$25 million bounty on Saddam's head, and U.S. officials say that the mystery over his whereabouts is encouraging anti-U.S. attacks — though they insist the resistance is not centrally organized.

The speaker on the tape — purportedly Saddam — said he was in Iraq and gave the date as June 14. There was no immediate way to confirm the

tape's authenticity but those who know Saddam's voice said it sounded like his.

The insurgency has raised fears of a political and military quagmire just two months after President Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1. At least 27 U.S. troops have been killed in hostile fire since Bush's statement.

The ambush Friday came on a highway near Balad, 55 miles north of Baghdad, when 11

men attacked a convoy with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire, the military said.

Soldiers of the Army's 4th Infantry Division fired back, killing all the men. None of the Americans was injured.

U.S. forces have frequently been ambushed on the roads of central Iraq — usually by small groups of insurgents who fire small arms or grenades then flee.

THE PALACE THEATRE

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2 FAST 2 FURIOUS • 3:00  
CLOSED FRIDAY NIGHT

SATURDAY  
FINDING NEMO • 2:00  
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SUNDAY  
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2 FAST 2 FURIOUS • 9:00

MONDAY-THURSDAY  
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2 FAST 2 FURIOUS • 9:00

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CONT. FROM PAGE 1

### FESTIVITIES

the program consists of 420 pounds of pyrotechnics, cost approximately \$5,000. It is paid for through donations from the public paid through their city water bill.

Hilibrand invites local citizens to come to Recreation Park, one mile east of Pampa on U.S. Highway 60 and spend the day, picnicking and enjoying City Lake and the park facilities. He asks, however, that no fireworks be brought to the park. It is against city ordinance to pop fireworks within the city limits, including Recreation Park.

At 8 p.m., prior to the fireworks display, Calvary Baptist Church's adult choir will present "One Nation Under God," a patriotic musical, on a special stage at Recreation Park. The church also plans to serve free hot dogs for the public beginning at 7 p.m.

CONT. FROM PAGE 1












### OPINION

p.m. meeting at the Skellytown Community Center.

They are also expected to consider hiring the City of White Deer to spray for mosquitoes in Skellytown, consider painting a ground storage tank, purchasing padlocks, purchasing street signs and approve a waste disposal

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 BY PAT ASSOCIATI  
 LITTLE (AP) — T and a horn customers "Devil's D thousands. pyrotechni piled under Wal-Mart For the stand, Spen way to spr Tiernan, Living V based in M On the sec since Min certain kir church gr ministries enthusiasts ume sellers sparklers. The idea it's a char make mor process har  
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**NEA**  
 DENV National Arts has more than off a thr money of sion to sl In ma award T warned to watch to

# Church group sees 'firework potential'

By PATRICK HOWE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. (AP) — The flames of hell and a horned demon entice customers to buy the "Devil's Delight," one of thousands of bright pyrotechnic temptations piled under a yellow tent in a Wal-Mart parking lot.

For the man operating the stand, Spencer Tiernan, it's a way to spread God's word.

Tiernan, director of the Living Waters Ministry based in Morris, is not alone. On the second Fourth of July since Minnesota legalized certain kinds of fireworks, church groups and youth ministries are fast becoming enthusiastic and high-volume sellers of the souped-up sparklers.

The idea's supporters say it's a chance for groups to make money, and in the process hand out information

about their churches and practice outreach. Detractors say selling fireworks has nothing to do with advancing the word of God.

Religious-based groups in Minnesota will take home 20 percent of the profits from at least 65 tents. Tiernan expects his group to make more than \$30,000 from two weeks of sales in seven tents across central Minnesota. Some of that money will fund a missionary trip to the Dominican Republic, he said.

"We just make a lot more money than if we sold candy bars door to door," Tiernan said.

It's true the fireworks' packaging doesn't always embrace a Christian message.

For instance, the company's literature for the Devil's Delight reads: "Like the burning spirits of hell, these fountains cry out with fiery

golden sparks in a whistling shower of demonic display that turns into rapid dancing, crackling gold balls."

Alabama-based TNT Fireworks, one of the largest distributors in the country, has aggressively recruited nonprofit groups to sell its products in Minnesota since the state decided to allow some fireworks. They're among nearly 5,000 nonprofits selling the company's products from sites nationwide.

TNT's Minnesota representative, Eric Robbins, also is a pastor for a Washington state-based Assemblies of God church. Robbins said church groups are operating most of the tents the company has set up throughout the state in part because they find dedicated young people willing to staff or guard the tents 24 hours a day in the hottest days of summer.

Robbins said he has relied

on a network of youth pastors and Pentecostal churches to sell the company's product.

"It's a great way to grow a church," says Robbins. "I encourage them: Don't make this a fund-raiser. If you open up, you're going to sell, but if you see this as an outreach to your community you will have a far greater impact."

But Sylvia Ronsvalle, executive vice president of Empty Tomb Inc., a Christian research and service organization that studies national church-giving patterns, said church-sponsored firework stands are a bad idea.

"No one can justify that that's at all directly related to religion," she said.

She added that by relying too much on secular business ventures for money, churches could jeopardize their core faith missions.

"People will support a vision," Ronsvalle said. "You have to go after hearts and you can't go after hearts with fireworks sales."

Roland DeLattre, a retired University of Minnesota professor and expert on Christian religions, said he didn't understand why youth ministries would sell fireworks. "A quirky idea rarely comes to my attention in a world filled with quirky ideas," he said.

Tiernan acknowledges he hears grumbling from other religious folk. He said some worry about the implied endorsement of a potentially dangerous product — especially when the money is for youth ministries.

"In the Christian community there is divided opinion on this," Tiernan said. "But we're doing this in a clean-cut, Christian manner. People are going to buy fireworks anyway and we want to facilitate that."

He and other pastors argue it's little different from other churches embracing bingo to raise money. And they say the low-level fireworks that Minnesota allows give them few worries about safety.

Minnesota legalized the sale of some fireworks in 2002 for the first time since 1941. The sales are limited to those that don't explode or shoot up high in the air.

# Davis recall backers claiming to possess necessary support

By ERICA WERNER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A majority of voters believe Gov. Gray Davis should be recalled in a special election, according to a poll published Friday, just hours after recall leaders announced they had enough support to put the question on the ballot.

The Los Angeles Times statewide poll of 1,412 adults, 1,127 of them registered voters, found 51 percent want Davis ousted, while 42 percent would reject a recall. The rest said they didn't know what to do.

Many pointed to the state's \$38 billion fiscal crisis as the reason Davis should be removed. Others gave the Democrat poor ratings on education and energy.

"I find it incredible that when he took office we had a surplus in this state, and now we're in the hole," Ten Hoentlein, a 37-year-old San Bernardino County independent, told the newspaper. "If this were a private business, we would have had to declare bankruptcy."

Despite the increasing support for removing Davis — a Times poll in March had found 39 percent of voters favored a recall — many of those in Friday's poll lost their enthusiasm once they learned a special election would cost at least \$25 million.

The latest Times poll was

conducted from June 28 to July 2. Both polls had margins of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Whether the recall goes to a special election or not will come down to the signatures on the petitions.

By law, backers need 897,158 validated signatures of registered voters by July 16 to put the question to voters this fall. Ted Costa, coordinator of the Republican-led signature drive, said Thursday that just over 1 million signatures had been turned over to counties for validation.

Opponents were skeptical and noted state officials had yet to validate the signatures.

"The rhetoric has yet to match the reality," said Carroll Wills, spokesman for Taxpayers Against the Governor's Recall. Opponents said they had 1.1 million signatures on petitions opposing the recall, though those petitions would have no legal effect.

As for a possible replacement for Davis, the poll found the most support for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., followed by former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, who lost the Republican primary last year, when Davis was re-elected. Republican actor Arnold Schwarzenegger trailed, with more than half of those polled saying they wouldn't vote for him.

# Explosion kills at least 32 worshippers at Shiite Muslim mosque in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — An explosion shattered a Shiite Muslim mosque in an attack Friday that killed at least 32 worshippers during Muslim prayers, officials said. Angry Shiites rioted in the streets of this southwestern city, burning cars and tires.

Another 52 people were wounded, Interior Ministry spokesman Iftikar Ahmed told The Associated Press.

Some witnesses said the attack was carried out by two suicide bombers, while others said attackers threw grenades into the mosque, where an estimated 2,000 worshippers were gathered for Friday prayers. One man is in police custody

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, one of the deadliest to target Pakistan's Shiite minority. Radicals among Pakistan's Sunni minority have been blamed for similar attacks in the past.

Shiite Muslims angered by the blast rioted in Quetta's streets, burning cars and tires.

Gunfire could be heard as small mobs later gathered near the mosque and lit fires. Paramilitary forces were deployed to restore order, police inspector Shaoib Suddle said.

Police imposed a curfew on Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province and a city of roughly 1.2 million people, about a third of whom are Shiites. There was no indication when the curfew would be lifted.

One man was in police custody in connection with the attack, Suddle said. It wasn't immediately clear how the suspect was linked to the explosion.

Ahmad Ali, who suffered shrapnel wounds in the explosion, told The Associated Press he saw two suicide bombers enter the mosque.

"One of them was placing something that I guess was the bomb when he was seen by a security guard at the mosque. The guard killed him and the other one blew himself up," Ali said.

Other witnesses said grenades were thrown into the mosque.

President Pervez Musharraf, in France on the final leg of an international tour, vowed to "act very strongly" against those responsible for the attack.

"It is unfortunate there are some elements in Pakistan who undermine what Pakistan stands for and for what the vast majority stands for," Musharraf told a news conference in Paris.

Pakistan's information minister blamed terrorists, without identifying them. "The purpose of this attack is to disrupt law and order, and nothing else," Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

Violent groups from both the Sunni and Shiite sects in Pakistan, a nation of 140 million people, have sprung up in recent years. Shiites were targeted in two separate attacks last month in Quetta.

On June 2, two gunmen riding motorcycles shot and killed a Shiite Muslim prayer leader, Syed Niaz Hussain.

On June 8, two gunmen, also riding motorcycles, killed 11 policemen, most of whom were Shiites. The attackers sprayed a truck full of policemen with machine-gun fire.

Musharraf has banned several militant Muslim groups in Pakistan, including extremist Sunni Muslim organizations that have been blamed for earlier attacks on their Shiite brethren. Despite the ban, many of the groups' leaders still operate freely.

# NEA warns Colorado to heed federal standards

DENVER (AP) — The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded Colorado more than \$600,000, backing off a threat to withhold the money over the state's decision to slash arts funding.

In making the \$613,600 award Thursday, the NEA warned it will keep close watch to make sure federal

standards are being met and made clear that other states shouldn't expect grant money if they behave as Colorado did.

The Legislature cut funds for the state arts council from \$1 million to \$200,000.

NEA Chairman Dana Gioia said Colorado's award is not meant to set a precedent.

"I remain concerned about the minimal level of state support and about the council's capacity to meet federal requirements over the longer term," Gioia said. "I hope that more adequate resources will be identified and that the council's full capacity to serve the people of Colorado will be restored."

# E. coli connected to latest meat recall

ST. PAUL (AP) — People recently sickened by E. coli bacteria in Minnesota, Michigan and Kansas likely contracted it from frozen raw beef products involved in a nationwide recall last month, health officials said.

Microbial experts said Thursday that they've tied the bacteria to beef processed in a plant operated by Stampede Meat Inc., of Chicago and sold nationwide to restaurants, retail stores and institutions.

Last month, Stampede Meat voluntarily recalled

some 739,000 pounds of vacuum packaged steaks and other meat products. The beef also sold door-to-door by a seller affiliated with Farmers' Pride Meat Co.

The link was confirmed by DNA tests performed in laboratories at Minnesota's Agriculture and Health departments.

The products subject to the recall were produced between March 17 and March 22 and bear the establishment code "EST. 19113" inside the USDA inspection mark.

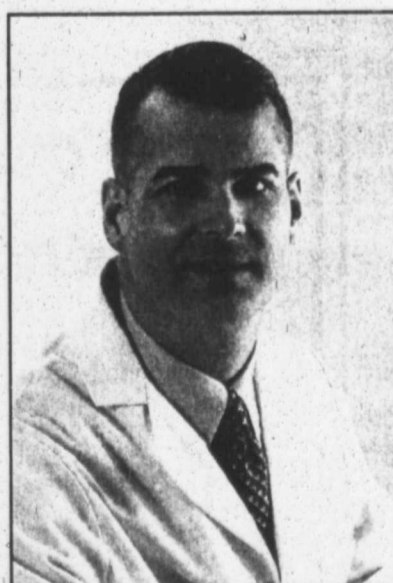


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**U.S. holiday takes on new significance in France**

PARIS (AP) — The July 4 holiday is taking on extra meaning this year for many French, offering a chance to repair frayed ties and honor U.S. sacrifices there.

Despite differences over the Iraq war, many citizen groups and tourism promoters hope to use the occasion to point out that France has long been — and will remain — a friend of the United States.

More than in years past, France wants to provide an "extra welcome" to American visitors this year, Paris tourism officials say. An array of festivities are planned.

From offering free champagne to cooking up barbecue meals, more than 100 Paris hotels, restaurants and other establishments will reach out to American guests Friday, the Paris tourist office said.

A grass-roots initiative led by about two dozen veterans, educational and French-American groups Thursday began placing 67,500 roses on memorials and tombs to honor U.S. soldiers who fought in France in the two world wars.

"Many people — Americans and French — needed this," said one organizer, Anne-Colombe de la Taille. "We've seen the U.S.-French relationship break down, so we wish to give a strong signal about the U.S.-French friendship that has existed for such a long time."

In an open letter titled "The French have not forgotten," the groups pointed out that France was the first country to recognize an independent America, and said this year marks the 225th anniversary of a U.S.-French friendship treaty.

"It's like a family. There are conflicts, but in the end one remains a family. You stay together," said de la Taille, who once lived in the United States and whose daughter was born there.

Whether because of a weak U.S. dollar or lingering concerns about France's opposition to the U.S.-led war on Iraq, visits by Americans to Paris have plunged recently. Tourism was down nearly 25 percent in the first four months of the year compared to a year earlier, according to the capital's tourism office.

**Liberia: Bush advisers may provide conflicting advice**

By BARRY SCHWEID  
 AP DIPLOMATIC WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's senior security advisers are divided on whether to send U.S. troops to Liberia, which could make it harder for him to make a decision before starting a five-nation trip to Africa on Monday.

Senior U.S. officials told The Associated Press that the advisers, instead of working out their differences and presenting a consensus to Bush, are likely to present conflicting advice.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is skeptical about sending U.S. troops to the West African country to

help maintain a cease-fire. Secretary of State Colin Powell is busily consulting with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and African governments on how U.S. troops would fit in with African forces.

To that end, the U.S. military commander in Europe has been ordered to begin planning for possible American intervention in Liberia, officials said Thursday.

A directive called a "warning order" was sent overnight to Gen. James Jones, asking him to give the Pentagon his estimate of how the situation in the West African nation might be handled, defense officials said on condition of anonymity.

Options on the table range from sending no troops to sending thousands, defense officials said.

Some in the administration have suggested that sending a contingent of several dozen soldiers to the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia and stepping up diplomatic efforts might be sufficient.

Powell told reporters that Bush was exploring "all the options — political options, diplomatic options and military options, as well."

"We have provided the president no recommendation yet, and therefore he has not made a decision," Powell said.

Bush said he would not be rushed into making a decision

**At the White House, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said stability in Liberia "could be vital to progress on the continent."**

before he leaves Monday. Bush and Powell have both called for Liberian President Charles Taylor to leave.

"A condition for any progress in Liberia is his removal, his removing himself," Bush said in an interview with African journalists.

In a separate interview, he declined to say what he would do if Taylor refused to cede power. "I refuse to accept the negative," Bush told CNN International. "I am convinced that he will listen."

"I'm in the process now of gathering the information necessary to make a rational decision as to how to bring — how to enforce the cease-fire, to keep the cease-fire in place," Bush said.

He spoke of America's "unique history" with Liberia, which was founded by freed American slaves, saying there was "a greater sense of expectations" of U.S. help.

Indeed, thousands of Liberians marched behind an

American flag to the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, pleading for Bush to send troops to help stop the years of bloody civil war in their nation.

"No more Taylor, we want Bush, we want peace," the crowd chanted. Across town, 300 people rallied in support of Taylor, saying his departure would mean the United States could oust any African leader it opposed.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States was in contact with Nigeria, which has offered haven to Taylor.

Powell spoke of "a severe humanitarian crisis emerging" in Liberia as well as threats to the safety of American diplomats there. "All of these factors are being taken into consideration," he said.

At the White House, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said stability in Liberia "could be vital to progress on the continent."

**Smoke billows from Japan nuke plant**

TOKYO (AP) — An accident at a shuttered nuclear power plant sent smoke billowing into the air Friday, but there were no immediate reports of radiation leaks or injuries.

It wasn't immediately clear what happened inside the experimental plant, near the town of Tsuruga in central Japan. City spokesman Yoshihiro Kadono said the accident occurred at an incinerator in the nuclear complex.

Firefighters rushed to the scene after getting reports of an explosion, a local fire official said. There was no sign of fire from the outside and the smoke subsided without firefighters turning on their hoses, he said.

A spokesman at the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said on condition of anonymity there was no danger of leaking radiation because the plant had not generated power since March. It was shut down because of high operating costs.

Chikara Gunji, a spokesman for the facility's operator, Japan Nuclear Cycle

Development Institute, said plant officials tried to restart the incinerator Friday and the fire alarm went off soon after.

Gunji said officials were still investigating the cause but found a viewing window on an incinerator duct was broken and that wind may have stirred up ash inside the burning chamber, causing the smoke and setting off the alarm.

But Gunji said some workers inside the compound also reported hearing an explosion. About 100 people were in the complex at the time.

The incinerator is used to burn items contaminated with low-level radiation, such as workers' protective clothing, an industry and trade ministry official said.

Fugen, which had an output of 165,000 kilowatts of electricity, began operation in 1979 in Tsuruga and was designed to burn a mixture of uranium and plutonium as a transition to more advanced, reactors that use plutonium fuel instead of uranium. Dismantling it will take 40 years.

**Court rejects DOE attempt to continuing store waste**

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A federal judge has overturned an Energy Department regulation the government said allowed it to store highly radioactive waste in Idaho, Washington and South Carolina.

The 15-page decision filed Thursday will require the U.S. Energy Department to remove all 85 million gallons of high-level liquid waste now stored in hundreds of tanks at federal installations in the three states.

"Today's decision is a victory for the people of the Tri-Cities, Washington state and other communities near DOE facilities who deserve cleanups that will protect the public health and environment," said Washington Attorney General Christine Gregoire.

U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winnill said the Energy Department regulation directly conflicts with the provisions of the 1982 Nuclear

Waste Policy Act. The government said the material, a byproduct of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel for bomb construction, was exempt from the 1982 law — a claim Winnill rejected.

Energy Department spokesman Joe Davis said an appeal was being considered. "If the decision stands, it could lead to a tremendous burden on the taxpayers and jeopardize our ability to clean up our sites sooner," Davis said.

It must be processed for permanent disposal at the federal dump for highly radioac-

tive waste, now planned for Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Officials in the three states had argued throughout that the government was using the rule to avoid the expense of dealing with the waste.

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## SPORTS

## PHS girls competing in High Plains League

The Pampa Elite has won three of five games in the High Plains Fastpitch Softball League so far this season. The league is for players 18 years of age and under.

Pampa defeated the Bad Cats 6-0 and the Lady Texans 6-2.

Elite pitchers Nicole Clark and Stephanie McVay combined for a one-hitter against the Bad Cats. Clark, the winning pitcher, started and went the first three innings to strike out three, walk one and allow one hit. McVay pitched one inning and didn't allow a hit while striking out one.

Shortstop Stacey Johnson led Pampa at the plate with three hits and two runs-batted-in. Third baseman Haley Bowen and outfielder Callie Cobb had two hits each.

Amy Youree, Abbi Covalt, McVay, Clark and Cassy Tice had one hit each.

Johnson had two hits to

lead Pampa's five-hit attack against the Lady Texans. Johnson and Covalt each had home runs.

The winning pitcher was Tice, who gave up four hits while striking out four and walking one.

Jennie Rogers and McVay added one hit each for Pampa.

.....

The Elite dropped a pair of games to the Black Diamonds.

Teryn Garner's double was Pampa's only hit in a 4-0 loss to the Black Diamonds.

Pampa was dealt a 3-1 setback in the second game.

Jennie Rogers, Stephanie McVay and Cassy Tice had one hit each for Pampa.

The games were played at the Tascosa and Martin Road softball complexes in Amarillo.

All the Pampa players will be members of the high school softball team this coming school year.



**Pampa Elite:** Front row, l-r, Cassy Tice, Stephanie McVay and Nicole Clark; Second row, l-r, Whitney Wichert, Callie Cobb, Jennie Rogers, Autumn Darden and Teryn Garner; Third row, l-r, Haley Bowen, Stacey Johnson, Abbi Covalt and Amy Youree; Back row, l-r, Coaches Doug Youree and Randell Tice. Not pictured is player Whitney Roden.

## NOTEBOOK

## HOCKEY

**DALLAS (AP)** — The Dallas Stars named Mike Modano their new captain. Modano, the franchise leader in goals, assists, and games played, replaces Derian Hatcher, who signed with Detroit.

## BASKETBALL

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — LeBron James signed a three-year, \$12.96 million rookie contract with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who selected the 18-year-old high school phenom No. 1 overall in the NBA draft.

**DALLAS (AP)** — The Dallas Mavericks signed first-round draft pick Josh Howard. Howard was the 29th overall pick in last week's draft and according to the 2003-04 NBA rookie scale his three-year deal would be worth about \$2.1 million.

## TENNIS

**WIMBLEDON, England (AP)** — The bandage around Venus Williams' midsection was visible under her corset dress, the pain apparent on her face and in her posture.

Sometimes after a shot she would stiffen, hunch over or clutch her stomach as she grimaced. Once she took a medical timeout and left the court, and during a subsequent changeover she wore an anguished expression and appeared ready to quit.

She didn't.

Instead, a gallant Williams overcame an abdominal strain and a one-set deficit to beat Kim Clijsters 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the Wimbledon semifinals Thursday.

Her victory ensured that the tournament trophy will stay in a family for a fourth year in a row. In the final Saturday she'll play her younger sister, defending champion Serena Williams, who beat Justine Henin-Hardenne 6-3, 6-2 to avenge a traumatic loss in the French Open semifinals four weeks ago.

The Williams sisters have met in four of the past five Grand Slam finals, including Wimbledon last year, with Serena winning them all. Serena is 39-1 in her past six Grand Slam events, while Venus is 26-1 at Wimbledon over the past four years.

Even by their standards, Thursday's victories were special.

With Serena watching the second semifinal from a Centre Court seat, her sister won despite a stomach injury that has bothered her off and on for two months. She aggravated it serving in the third game, and Clijsters dominated the rest of the set.

Then came a one-hour rain delay.

"The rain saved me," Venus said. "I couldn't calm myself down, I was just so worried about the injury. Serena came in and talked to me. I went out and talked to my mom and my other sisters."

## Rookie Mounce picks up first win for Rangers

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — Tony Mounce's first major league victory was particularly special.

Mounce, a 28-year-old rookie who thought elbow surgery might end his career two years ago, pitched 5 1-3 innings Thursday night as the Texas Rangers beat the Anaheim Angels 6-5.

"It's a huge milestone, super exciting. It's as exciting as when I got called up. It's overwhelming to beat the Angels, the world champions," said Mounce, who spent a decade in the minors before being called up from Triple-A Oklahoma on June 13.

"When I missed 1 1/2 seasons, I was concerned I would never pitch again. But I was mentally strong enough for the challenge," he said.

Mounce (1-2) gave up three runs on six hits and struck out two. He had walked a total of 14 in his

four previous starts, but walked none against the Angels.

"I decided to challenge the hitters. I'd rather give them a knock than give them a walk," he said. "(Pitching coach) Orel Hershiser told me to stand taller and drive the ball down."

Angels manager Mike Scioscia was impressed.

"For a guy who had been walking a lot of guys, he pitched well, changed speeds very well," Scioscia said.

Hank Blalock hit a pair of solo homers and doubled as the Rangers earned a split of their four-game series in Anaheim. He homered off Kevin Appier in the first inning and against Scot Shields in the sixth, his 14th homer and first career multi-homer game.

"It's a big deal. I do not consider myself a home run hitter," Blalock said. "It's

pretty rare — and to do it in a close game where it makes a difference."

Appier (6-5) lost his 10th straight decision to the Rangers dating back to May 23, 1996, when he was with Kansas City. He gave up five runs on six hits in 2 2-3 innings, walking two and hitting a batter with a pitch.

"They had their way with me, as they have a lot over the last few years," said Appier, who is 7-17 in 32 career starts against the Rangers. "I made a bad pitch to Blalock in the first inning. Then in the third, they hit some pretty good pitches. They can do that."

"I've been trying stuff against them. Maybe next time I'll throw a knuckleball or something."

Trailing 6-3, the Angels closed within a run in the seventh on Bengie Molina's lead-off homer, his eighth, against Rosman Garcia, and pinch-

hitter Jeff DaVanon's RBI double.

Francisco Cordero came in to get the final out of the seventh and pitched a hitless eighth. Ugueth Urbina struck out two in a perfect ninth for his AL-leading 23rd save in 27 chances.

**Notes:** Rangers RHP Jeff Zimmerman, on the disabled list all season following elbow surgery last summer, cut his simulated game short after feeling soreness in his right forearm. Zimmerman threw 23 pitches and stopped after facing two batters in the second inning. The soreness was not thought to be related to his elbow surgery, and he will be re-evaluated before throwing again. ... Anaheim RHP Mickey Callaway, on the DL since June 6 with tendinitis in his shoulder, hopefully will be back on the mound for the Angels within a month. Scioscia said.

adding. "He's on our radar."

## Astros 7, Brewers 3

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Geoff Blum found his hitting stroke at second base.

Blum, 8-for-19 since moving from third base to second to replace the injured Jeff Kent, hit a three-run homer to help the Houston Astros beat Milwaukee 7-3 on Thursday night.

"Playing second base has helped me relax and taken my mind off hitting," Blum said. "Because out there, you're involved in all the plays and you don't have time to think about hitting. Sometimes at third base you aren't involved as much."

His three-run shot in the fifth gave Houston a 6-2 lead.

## Pampa team takes consolation title at Super Series

**AMARILLO** — The Carter Sand & Gravel Little Harvesters competed in the Landon Baldwin Memorial Super Series Baseball Tournament last month. The Little Harvesters are a team of 9-year-old players coached by Chris Engle, Terry Conn, Ricky Roden and Frank Graves.

The Little Harvesters had a 2-2 record and placed third in the Amarillo Tournament. They defeated the Canyon Eagles (10-year-olds) and Amarillo Mudcats (9-year-old) and lost to the Amarillo Twins (9-year-olds) and Canyon Eagle All-Stars (10-year-olds).

By taking third and winning the consolation bracket, Pampa was rewarded with an invitation to compete in the Super Series Nationals in Houston in late August.

Pampa benefited from outstanding pitching and defense throughout the tournament. Pitching for Pampa were Reid Miller (9 innings), Cole Engle (11 innings), Trace Carter, Latigo Collins and Rhett Roden each went two innings, and Zach Ruth one.

For the tournament, Miller gave up nine hits while striking out eight, walking 16, and allowing 15 runs. Engle allowed 12 hits and 16 runs while striking out 12 and walking 13. Collins turned in one big inning from the mound, getting three quick outs on the Mudcats with time running out. That allowed

Pampa to regain the lead in the top of the sixth and get the win after Hunter Hucks made the defensive stop of the tournament. Hucks, playing first base, came up with a nasty grounder to preserve the Pampa lead.

Both the Pampa infield and outfield had some shining moments. Trace Carter turned a 3-5 double play on a hard-hit line drive and right fielder Ryan Pearson threw out a runner at first base.

"Rance Schindler, Zach Graves and Rhett Roden gave up their bodies to lay out for several ground balls, and in most cases were able to get the out.

Engle and Miller just didn't mow down batters from the mound, but were able to pick off a couple of base runners as well as making plays from catcher, first base and the outfield," coach Engle said. "Zach Ruth, whose specialty is hitting home runs, showed he has a glove after making several nice catches on flyballs."

Engle said the Pampa offense had a rough time getting started, but once they figured out how to run the bases they were hard to stop. Trace Carter, Latigo Collins and Rance Schindler showed their speed on the base paths. Carter and Collins stole home twice with Collins' first home plate theft being the game-winner over Canyon. Schindler led the team in runs scored with six.

Reid Miller led all hitters with five singles, one walk, two runs scored and five RBI. Trace Carter was a close second with four singles, one double, five runs scored and two RBI. Collins pitched in three singles, one inside-the-park home run, one RBI and three runs scored. Rhett Roden had a single, two doubles and plated five runs, while Schindler got his runs on three singles and three walks. Cole Engle, Hunter Hucks, Zach Graves and Zach Ruth each had two RBI and

two runs scored. Graves had three singles and three walks, while Hucks had a double and single. Engle got on with six walks and Ruth tossed in a couple of walks and hard-hit singles.

To finish off Pampa's offense, Ryan Pearson hit for two singles, one walk, two runs scored and one RBI.

"The boys deserve a big hand for their hard work and hustle in qualifying for the Nationals in Houston," coach Engle said. "However, they will not be able to compete

because of the start of the 2003 school year, and the loss of two teammates who are moving from Pampa."

According to Super Series rules, says Engle, each qualifying team must enter the Nationals with the original team.

"The boys and coaches will miss the hard work and hustle of Trace Carter and Rhett Roden, but wish them the best of luck," Engle said.

Carter Sand & Gravel sponsored the Little Harvesters.



**Little Harvesters:** Front row, l-r, Batboy Cade Engle, Zach Graves, Hunter Hucks, Rance Schindler, Cole Engle and batboy Riley Roden; Middle row, l-r, Latigo Collins, Trace Carter, Reid Miller, Zack Ruth, Rhett Roden and Ryan Pearson; Third row, l-r, Coaches Terry Conn, Chris Engle and Ricky Roden.

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