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LOCAL

Reborn Youth plan weekend garage sale

Reborn Youth Ministries at Briarwood Church is planning a garage sale fund-raiser to go toward church camp this summer from 2 to 6 p.m., Friday, June 20, and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 21, at the church.

LOTTERY

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night.

Winning numbers drawn: 1-14-24-34-36. Bonus Ball: 1.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: none.

Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$14,648.

Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 10. Prize: \$2,659.

Number matching four of five: 521. Prize: \$109.

Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 423. Prize: \$119.

Number matching three of five: 19,962. Prize: \$5.

DEATHS

Rogelio Jimenez Valenzuela, 33, derrick hand.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE

It's Tree Planting Season ...

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Good to go!

Homeland security laws won't affect Pampa's July 4 display

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

New homeland security laws governing the handling of explosives won't impact the City of Pampa and their annual Fourth of July fireworks display, according to city officials.

Bill Hildebrandt, Pampa's director of community services, said those laws, however, could cause problems for communities in the panhandle where businesses or civic groups provide fireworks displays.

Under new federal anti-terrorism rules, specifically the Safe Explosives Act, anyone putting on a large fireworks display must have a permit from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

That entails a background check, fingerprinting and personal interviews with ATF agents, a process that can take three months.

Hildebrandt points out that the law exempts municipalities, although when the law

first passed he talked to the company Pampa contracts with for the city's annual Independence Day fireworks show. Hildebrandt was assured that there would be no problems under the new law.

Hildebrandt said Pampa contracts with Western Enterprises in Carrier, Okla., for the Fourth of July fireworks show at Recreation Park on the east side of town.

"They supply the fireworks and the shooter," Hildebrandt said. "The city supplies the labor."

City employees dig a trench in which the mortar tubes that fire the aerial explosives are placed.

The power and complexity of the commercial explosives used in the display requires professionally-trained and certified people to fire them.

"The shooters are retested annually," Hildebrandt said.

The company, which maintains a hefty and expensive liability insurance policy in case of an accident, works with the city's fire department

(See FIREWORKS, Page 3)

Couple free on charges alleging injury to a child

A Pampa couple was free on bond today after being accused of injuring a child.

Jeremy W. Atchley, 23, 405 Perry, was arrested by Gray County deputies about 7:30 a.m. Tuesday on a sealed indictment alleging injury to a child. He was freed Tuesday morning on \$5,000 bond.

Laurie Lee Atchley, 24, 405 Perry, was arrested by

deputies about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday also on a sealed indictment alleging injury to a child. She was freed Wednesday afternoon on \$5,000 bond.

District Attorney Rick Roach said the arrests were the result of a grand jury investigation which returned the sealed indictments in early March.



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Firefighters clothed in special hazardous material protection suits investigate smoke escaping from a leaking chemical tanker truck involved in a realistic, but simulated collision and chemical spill Wednesday afternoon.

Worst-case scenario

Training exercise tests local agencies' skills

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 EDITOR

Things couldn't have been worse.

At 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, a car full of teens slammed into a tanker truck filled with a poisonous, caustic chemical - acrylic acid. Good citizens trying to help the injured also became contaminated. Struggling to breathe and suffering from acid burns, the would-be Samaritans drove themselves to the local hospital. Chemical fumes emanating from the victims overcame the medical staff and for a brief period, the noxious fumes pervaded the hospital's ventilating system.

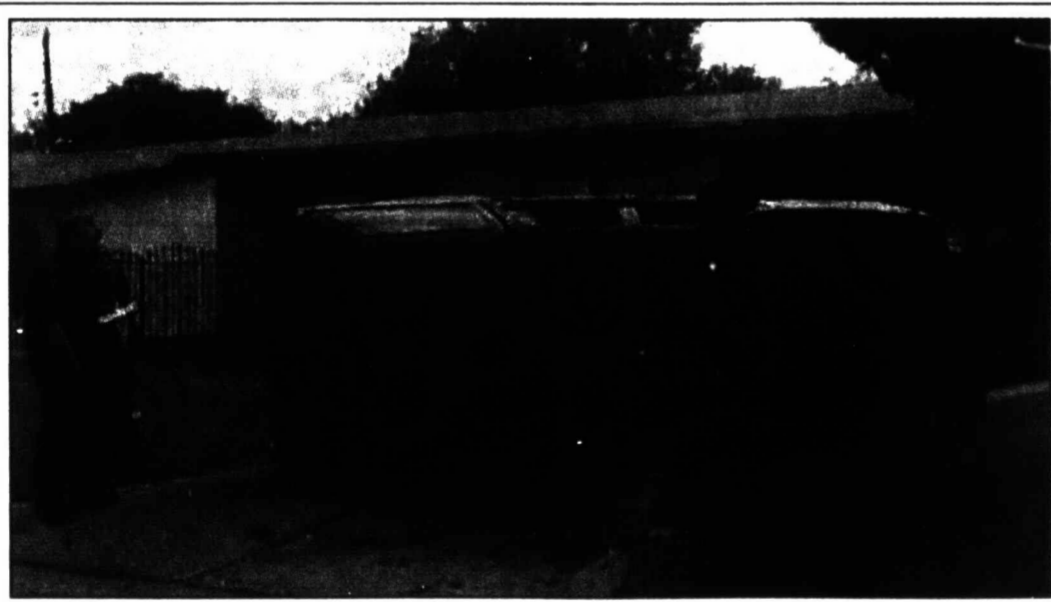
Fortunately, this worst-case scenario wasn't real. It had been simulated by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) as a disaster training exercise.

"The one thing we learned, and this is a continuing problem, is that communication between agencies is a problem," said Ken Hall, emergency management coordinator.

"We're trying to remedy this through a federal grant that we'll use to purchase radios and equipment for the fire departments, law enforcement agencies and Gray County," he said. "Then we'll select frequencies that are common to all agencies that we can use in a situation like this."

The training exercise, staged on a farm-to-market road east of Celanese Chemical Plant, involved Celanese employees, as well as numerous local emergency services including Pampa Fire Department, Hoover Volunteer Fire Department, Rural/Metro Ambulance Service, Pampa Police Department, Gray County

(See SCENARIO, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by Dean Lynch)

Pampa police officers interview bystanders and investigate the scene of a one-car rollover on Prairie Drive Wednesday afternoon.

Police investigate rollover

Investigators were questioning a Pampa man today in connection with a one vehicle rollover in Prairie Village.

Officers said a dark green Mercury Mountaineer sport utility vehicle veered out of control about 5 p.m. Wednesday, hit the curb and rolled in the driveway at 1036 Prairie Drive. Witnesses said

the vehicle struck a tree in an adjoining yard.

Authorities said there were five people in the Mountaineer. Four of them ran away after the accident.

The fifth person, a passenger in the vehicle, was treated for minor injuries. He is being questioned in connection with the accident, officers said today.

Police officials said skid marks indicate that the sport utility vehicle was west bound in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive and skidded out of control where Prairie Drive curves south to Crawford. Officers said the vehicle appeared to be traveling at a high rate of speed at the time of the accident.

Comptroller rejects \$117.4 billion budget

AUSTIN (AP) — Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn rejected the state's \$117.4 billion budget on Thursday, sending the two-year spending plan back to the House of Representatives to rewrite before the end of the current fiscal year on Aug. 31.

"This is the first time a Legislature has sent the comptroller a budget that is not balanced," Strayhorn said. "I cannot certify this budget because it is \$185,900,000 short."

The state constitution requires that the Legislature pass a balanced budget and it cannot be sent to the governor's desk to sign into law without the comptroller's OK.

Gov. Rick Perry already has called a special legislative session for June 30 on redistricting and other issues.

Budget-writing lawmakers worked grueling hours during the 140-day legislative session, slashing programs and services in an effort to overcome a \$9.9 billion revenue

shortfall. The final proposal was approved with just three hours left to legally pass legislation.

Most Republicans, who control the Capitol for the first time in more than 130 years, touted the budget as historic because it rems in spending in Texas for the first time since World War II.

But Strayhorn has said she opposes some of the tactics they used, like using the \$1 billion emergency Rainy Day Fund to fill some of the gaps.

The 2004-2005, two-year state spending plan depends on \$58.2 billion in state general revenue, a 10 percent decline from the current budget. The rest of the budget depends on federal and other funds.

Forty-three percent of the budget proposal, \$50.1 billion, was to be spent on public and higher education, more than any other area. Health and

(See BUDGET, Page 3)

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED
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OBITUARIES

ROGELIO JIMENEZ VALENZUELA
1969-2003

Rogelio Jimenez Valenzuela, 33, of Pampa, died Tuesday, June 17, 2003, in Gray County. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, in Fairview Cemetery with Lucio Moreno, Baptist missionary, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Valenzuela was born July 4, 1969, at Durango, Mexico. He moved from Canadian to Pampa in 1998 and worked for Patterson Drilling Company and Leonard Hudson Drilling Company for several years as a derrick hand.

He married Norma Rodriguez on April 28, 2001, at Pampa.

He attended Immanuel Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by two daughters, Erica and Jessica Valenzuela.

Survivors include his wife, Norma, of the home; a daughter, Viviana Valenzuela of Durango; a stepson, Aaron Rodriguez of Pampa; his parents, Jose Valenzuela of

Durango and Josefina Valenzuela of Canadian; six sisters, Irma Valenzuela and Beatrice Valenzuela, both of Durango, Margarita Valenzuela of Juarez,

Mexico, and Adela Vasquez, Amparo Lopez and Linda Vigil, all of Canadian; and five brothers, Jayme Valenzuela, Jesus Valenzuela, Oscar Valenzuela, Juan Valenzuela and Pablo Valenzuela, all of Canadian.

Mr. Valenzuela will lie-in-state from 9 a.m., Thursday, until 9 a.m., Saturday, at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1021 S. Barnes.



KAY DICKERSON

Kay Dickerson passed away on June 17, 2003, in Amarillo, Texas, after a very short illness. Services will be at 10 a.m., Friday, June 20, 2003, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel, with Dr. Edwin Cooley, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m., Friday, June 20, 2003, at the Delhi Cemetery in Delhi, Okla., under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

She was born to Fred and Eva Bonfield in Delhi, Okla. She was married to Dick

Dickerson who owned K.D. Well Service, Inc., for many years. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, two brothers, Dr. Johnie Bonifield and S.T. Bonifield, one sister, Mary Ellison, and her husband Dick Dickerson.

Kay was the beautiful mother of Jeanne Brown of Pampa. Her other survivors include two grandchildren, Brad Coffey and Gordon Jay Brown, and her loving companion, Jerry Carpenter.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whately.com.

SERVICES TOMORROW

DICKERSON, Kay — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa. Graveside services, 2 p.m., Delhi Cemetery, Delhi, Okla.

SANDERS, Lindon — Memorial services, 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.

ON RECORD

POLICE

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

Wednesday, June 18

A cleaning woman found a bag of blue canisters and some syringes in a house in the 300 block of South Gray.

Trespassing was reported in the 1400 block of Alcock.

Thursday, June 19

Beer was reported stolen from Allsup's, 309 N. Hobart.

AMBULANCE

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

Wednesday, June 18

9:25 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

5:10 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Prairie Drive. No transport.

Thursday, June 19

1:33 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Tignor and transported one patient to Golden Plains Community Hospital in Borger.

6:18 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Ballard and transported one to PRMC.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Anthony Grain of Pampa:

Wheat	2.87	Kerr McGee	45.55	NC
Milo	4.02	Limited	15.82	+0.02
Corn	4.50	Williams	8.52	+0.01
Soybeans	5.49	McDonalds	21.81	-0.24
		Exxon Mobil	37.11	-0.23
		Atmos	25.10	-0.05
		Pioneer Nat	26.04	+0.23
		Penney's	17.54	+0.12
		COP	54.65	-0.08
		Schlumberger	47.45	+0.21
		Tenneco	3.99	-0.11
		CVX	73.89	-0.30
		Wal-Mart	55.05	-0.19
		OKI	20.48	+0.03
		NS Group	9.75	-0.03

The following show prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

OXY	33.76	+0.01
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The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:

BP	43.46	-0.66
Celanese	25.04	+0.26
Cabot Corp	29.68	+0.05
Cabot Oil Gas	28.23	+0.20
Coca Cola	46.48	-0.52
VLO	37.76	+0.17
Halliburton	24.38	-0.27
Triad Hospitals	23.38	+0.56
New York Gold		357.35
Silver		4.56
West Texas Crude		30.36

SHERIFF

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

Wednesday, June 18

Charles Cannon, 47, 520 N. Faulkner, was in Gray County jail today in connection with a driving while intoxicated charge.

Randall Dorman, 44, St. Louis, Mo., was arrested by Gray County deputies on charges of possession of marijuana.

FIRE

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

Wednesday, June 18

5:16 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a one-car rollover in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive. Firefighters cleaned up hazardous materials spilled in the wreck.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

The forecast today is calling for mostly cloudy skies with a chance of thunderstorms and heavy rainfall, highs in the lower 80s, south winds 5 to 15 mph and a 40 percent chance of precipitation. Tonight should see mostly cloudy skies with a chance of thunderstorms, lows in the mid 60s, southeast winds 5 to 15 mph and a 50 percent chance of rain. Friday should be mostly cloudy. Chance of thunderstorms in the morning then slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. Friday night,

partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the lower 80s. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the lower 60s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the lower 90s. Sunday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s. Monday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the upper 80s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the mid 60s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

STATEWIDE

Hot temperatures are forecast in south and central Texas. North Texas and northern areas of West Texas will remain pleasant for a few more days before a warmup.

Scattered and isolated storms are likely today and Friday in the Panhandle, and will be possible today in central and Southeast Texas. The weekend will be mostly free of rain.

The recorded high Wednesday was 98 degrees at Alice. The overnight low was 57 degrees at Marfa.

In West Texas, the north will enjoy pleasant temperatures for a few more days before joining the rest of the region in warmer weather. Highs today will be in the

upper 70s to low 80s in the Panhandle, 80s in the South Plains, low 90s in the west, and mid 90s in the south.

By Sunday, the region as a whole will see highs in the low to mid 90s. Storms are expected in the Panhandle by this afternoon and will be possible in central West Texas today and Friday. Storms may bring heavy rainfall but are expected to be free of severe conditions. It will be breezy in the Panhandle beginning Friday. Skies will be partly cloudy, with clear skies by this weekend in many areas.

South Texas will see summer temperatures through the weekend: highs in the 90s, near 100 in the west. Rain chances are mostly slight

today. The southeast may see some scattered rain through the weekend, and a few isolated storms may pop up today in south central Texas. Beginning Sunday, very hot and humid conditions are predicted for the Coastal Bend, and the deep south may see rain. Skies should be partly cloudy.

North Texas will be partly cloudy through the weekend. Today, a slight chance of thunderstorms is forecast, with best chances in the north. Friday through Sunday, eastern North Texas may see some showers and storms, mostly slight chances. Severe weather is unlikely. Highs today and Friday will be in the mid 80s to lower 90s. Temperatures will warm some Saturday and warm further on Sunday.

City Briefs

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

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ARE YOU sick & tired of being sick & tired? Wellness Seminar at Lovett Library Meeting Room, Sat., June 21st, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

DANCE, MOOSE Lodge, Sat. June 21st, 9 p.m. "Indian Summer Dance Band."

FREE DIP w/ grooming. Mona's Grooming, 665-2771.

"PARTY ON The Prairie", Sat. June 21, 6:30 p.m., at Knights of Columbus, sponsored by Junior Serv. League of Pampa. Silent Auction, buffet, music by Ben Atkins Band. Single \$30, couple \$50. Contact Lana Miller, 669-7711

SHERWIN WILLIAMS Summer Sale, Sat. June 21st only, 35%-40% off Paint, Wallpaper, Sundries. 1st 50 customers receive a free empty bucket and brush. 2109 N. Hobart 8am-5pm.

Lighthouse Kids -- Shining God's Light
Location: First United Methodist Church
201 E. Foster Road

Dates: June 23 thru June 26
9:00 a.m. until 12:00 each day

Ages: 3 years olds thru 5th grade
(2003 — 2004 school year)

Early Registration: Friday June 20 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the church and June 23 at 8:00 a.m. before VBS starts.

For more information call the church at 669-7411.

Come and discover God's Light!!!!!!

Firefighters tame channel plant blaze

LA PORTE, Texas (AP) — An explosion and fire at the Sunoco Chemicals plant on the Houston Ship Channel was brought under control Thursday morning, although flames continued jumping from the facility. One injury was reported.

La Porte authorities said prevailing winds posed no danger to the community from smoke.

Sunoco spokesman Dan Gilbert said the blast occurred around 6:30 a.m. in the distillation area of the polypropylene plant.

Gilbert said all employees were accounted for, and the injured worker was taken by helicopter to Memorial Hermann Hospital in nearby Houston. The worker's condition was not immediately available, although Gilbert said the man suffered burns.

According to the company's Web site, Sunoco bought the plant in 2001. Polypropylene is a material used to make a variety of products including dishwasher-safe food containers and indoor-outdoor carpeting.

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Bitter redistricting fight resurfaces; Perry calls special session

By APRIL CASTRO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AUSTIN (AP) — Round two in Texas' bitter congressional redistricting matchup has been set and both sides have their gloves on, ready to fight.

Angry House Democrats — who KO'd the redistricting push in round one when they fled the state — stand in one corner looking to repeat the victory.

But, across the ring, they face a throng of Republicans determined to redraw the state's congressional lines.

Republican Gov. Rick Perry ended weeks of speculation Wednesday by calling a special session beginning June 30 to address the divisive issue.

In a letter to Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick, Perry said the Legislature, not the federal courts, should be responsible for drawing voting districts. The current congressional district map was drafted by the courts after lawmakers failed to approve a plan in 2001.

"When we put it off to the courts, we are just passing the buck. That's not right," said Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, who drew the proposed map. "People elect us to do all we are required to do and redistricting's part of that. It's a crummy job and nobody enjoys it but we need to do it."

Backed by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, the bill could shift the balance of power

in the Texas delegation to the GOP. The delegation now has 17 Democrats and 15 Republicans.

The governor also said the session could be expanded to include other "important matters." In the letter, Perry named a Texas Tech medical school and regional academic health center as possible issues to take up.

Republicans, the majority party, would appear to be the favorite. But the so-called "Killer D's" proved they were a force to be reckoned with when they dealt a painful blow in May by busting quorum. Though most wouldn't discuss their game plan this time around, they were poised to put up a fight.

"(Republicans) should have followed the rules. Had they done that they wouldn't be in the mess they're about to get into. And they're about to get into a mess," said Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Laredo. "They're making their bed and they're going to sleep in it."

Rep. Jim Dunnam, a Waco Democrat who emerged as the ringleader of the Killer D's when they fled the state, said the House Democratic Caucus would be meeting in the next few days to develop a plan.

"We don't even have a certified budget and we're fixing to spend \$2 million on a special session just so Tom DeLay can get his map?" Dunnam questioned.

Rep. Joe Deshotel, D-Beaumont, said he doubted the group would try to bust quorum a second time.

"I'm hoping we can convince the senators to

stand up and fight what we perceive as an injustice," Deshotel said.

In the Senate, where Dewhurst said he is inclined to keep a rule that requires two-thirds of the 31 members to vote for an issue to get to the floor, Republicans have a majority. But, there are 12 Democrats and only 11 votes would be needed to kill the bill under the two-thirds rule. Not all of the 19 Republican senators have committed to voting for debate on a redistricting plan.

The House Redistricting Committee has

called several hearings to take public testimony around the state next week, as required by the Voting Rights Act.

Meanwhile, Republicans praised Perry and took jabs at riled Democrats.

"We commend Governor Perry for showing courageous leadership by calling a special session and not allowing Democrats to continue to disenfranchise Texas voters," state Republican Party Chairwoman Susan Weddington said. "Democrats have stifled Texans' voices for their own political gain for too long."

U.S. soldier killed in rocket-propelled grenade attack on military ambulance

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A rocket-propelled grenade slammed into a U.S. military ambulance Thursday, killing one American soldier and wounding two others, the latest in a series of attacks on U.S. personnel or their offices.

The ambulance was transporting a wounded American soldier to a medical facility when it came under fire on a highway about 20 miles south of Baghdad.

The wounded soldier being transported was not the one killed, said Capt. John Morgan, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad. The casualties were members of the 804th Medical Brigade and their identities were being withheld pending notification of relatives.

The wounded were taken to the 28th Combat Army Support Hospital in southwest Baghdad. It was not immediately clear if the ambulance was traveling as part of a convoy or if fire was returned.

Three mortar shells exploded Tuesday outside a coalition-run humanitarian aid office in the town of Samarra, north of Baghdad, killing an Iraqi bystander and wounding 12 others, hospital officials and U.S. officers in the town said Thursday. No American forces were hurt. The military initially said the attack happened Wednesday.

Attackers also fired a rocket-propelled grenade that struck a U.S. tank in Samarra, said Sgt. Steven Stoddard with the Army's 4th Infantry Division. Another tank fired back, killing one attacker, while the second was captured, Stoddard said. There were no American casualties.

In west Baghdad, an Army truck was hit by what witnesses said was a rocket-propelled grenade. The torn-apart truck sat burning on the edge of the highway.

Witnesses said there were casualties, but U.S. military

police at the scene said the vehicle broke down earlier and was set on fire after being left alone while soldiers prepared to remove it.

The mortar rounds in Samarra, 75 miles north of Baghdad, exploded outside the Civil Military Operations Center. U.S. soldiers heard three explosions and asked local police to investigate, said a U.S. Central Command statement.

Samarra police found the injured and killed and that soldiers were unable to find the attackers, the statement said.

The office coordinates between the military and civilian agencies in the area.

Meanwhile, scores of angry mourners fired Kalashnikov assault rifles into the air and shouted curses at the United States during a procession Thursday for two Iraqis who were shot dead by U.S. troops at a protest by disgruntled former army officers.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

FIREWORKS

at the site.

Hildebrandt said Pampa Fire Department has done an exceptional job with regard to the annual fireworks display.

"They hose down the shooting site before the display," Hildebrandt said, "and wet it down again afterwards."

The fire department also stands by during the fireworks program.

"While everybody else keeps their eye on the sky," he said, "I keep my eye on the ground."

Hildebrandt said he watches for problems where the fireworks are being set off, but he added that the entire

production is carefully choreographed.

He complimented Western Enterprises on their operation. "They know what they're doing," he said. "They usually have a shooter and at least one assistant."

The team that will fire the explosives carefully checks all the fuses before hand. They also take into account the wind velocity and direction.

"It's a time consuming process," Hildebrandt said.

There are a minimum of two explosive charges involved with each aerial device. One sends the device from the mortar tube into the sky. The other explosive charge, using a slower burn-

ing fuse, bursts into the display overhead.

The new homeland security rules, while not directly applicable to the city's display, do require increased security where the fireworks are stored, Hildebrandt said.

He said the fireworks are shipped in a few days before the display so they can all be checked.

The city has always kept them under lock and key, but new rules now require five tumbler locks and specific hinges and specifications on storage units.

"It makes you aware of the risk in this day and age," Hildebrandt said. "It's a new era that we're embarking upon."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SCENARIO

Sheriff's Office, Texas Highway Patrol, Pampa Regional Medical Center, and the local Red Cross. PRMC Junior Volunteers provided the "victims."

Hall said the exercise proved that using a central incident command system worked well, but highlighted the need for better communication between the agencies. A lack of manpower also posed a problem during the drill, but probably would not happen in an actual situation, he said.

"If it had been an actual event, the fire department and police department would have done a recall and there would have been many more people on the scene," Hall said.

One significant problem arose at the scene when emergency workers initially failed to find one of the victims - the truck's driver, Hall said.

In the simulation, emergency workers faced problems they would encounter if it had been an actual event. They had to control access to the area made dangerous by the spilled acid; they had to search for, rescue, extricate and decontaminate victims,

then establish a triage and transport victims to the hospital.

In a scenario designed by Robert Eakin of PRMC, hospital employees were challenged by treating contaminated victims who walk in while overcoming the problems posed by the contamination.

"They quickly had to realize what was going on - decontamination and restaffing the hospital," Hall said. "It was the first time they had had to deal with that."

Hall said in the scenario the fumes entered the hospital's air exchanges.

"They didn't realize it at first, but after a brief time,

they (closed the air exchanges)," he said.

An important component of the exercise was to determine the level of cooperation between government agencies and private industry in a disaster.

"I think it went very well," Hall said.

Several evaluators who were at each stage of the incident will file written reports of their observations of the training exercise with Hall. However, because of state requirements, Hall will immediately send a summary of the initial findings of the post-incident critique to emergency management officials in Austin.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BUDGET

human services was second at 33.9 percent, or \$39.8 billion. That's up \$1.1 billion from the current budget.

Strayhorn has said her office would examine hundreds of bills passed this session to determine their fiscal impact.

Strayhorn also questioned provisions that call for additional cuts in areas such as public safety, prisons and higher education.

And lawmakers added a new provision allowing the governor and the Legislative Budget Board to reallocate any money freed up by the governor's line-item veto

power. Strayhorn has hired a constitutional scholar to assist her staff.

Strayhorn also questioned whether \$127 million lawmakers decided to spend on overall budget balancing should have been used to qualify for federal matching money for Medicaid, the state and federal health care pro-

gram for the poor.

That move cost the state more than \$200 million in federal matching money Strayhorn said could have been spent on medically needy children and the frail elderly. Cuts in the social services and health care were among the most controversial issues of the session.

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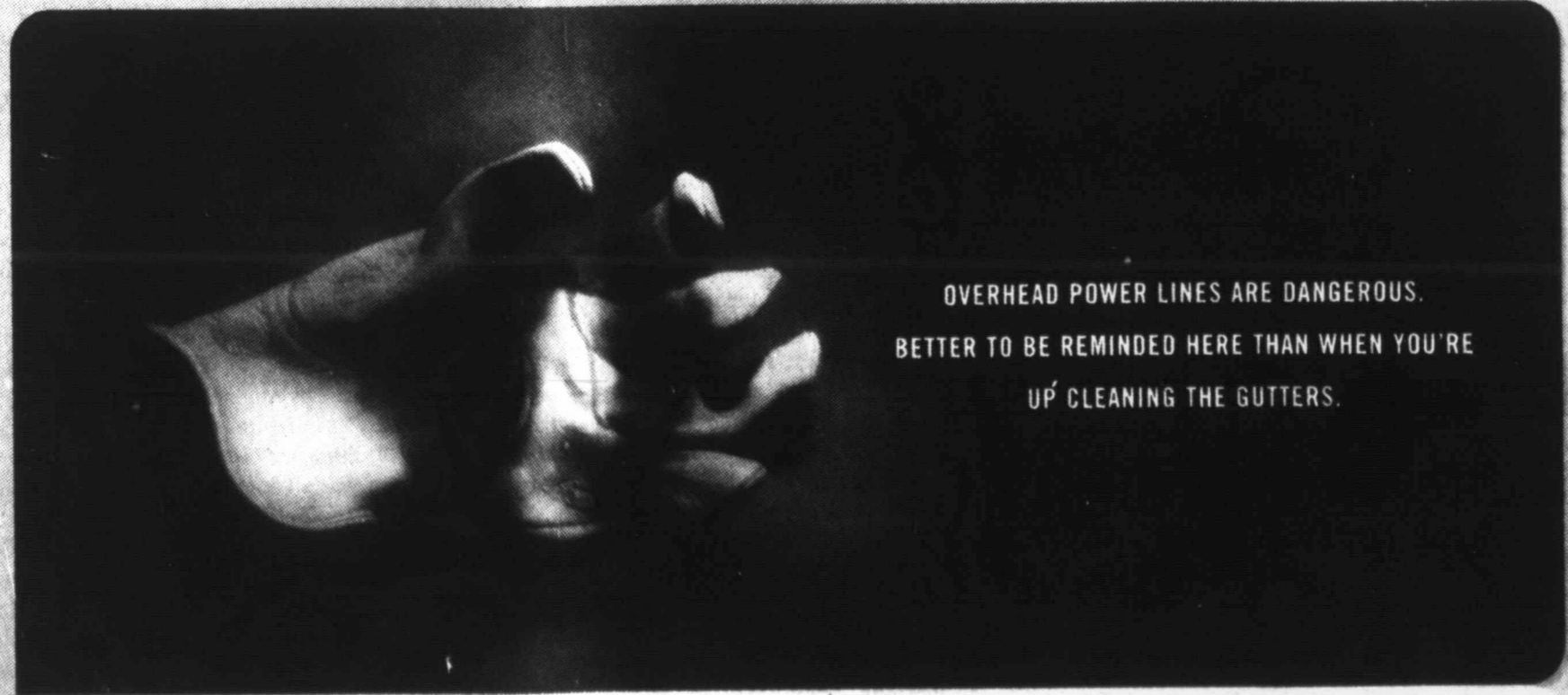
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TEXAS EDITORIAL

The untold story: Dewhurst's contributions to Legislature

From the Houston Chronicle:

One of the untold — or certainly undertold — stories of the just completed session of the Texas Legislature was the relative sense of bipartisanship that marked the deliberations of the state Senate under the leadership of Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst. Especially so, compared to the partisan bickering that characterized the session in the House, where Republicans also hold the majority.

It ultimately didn't keep the state budget from resulting in highly questionable cuts to the social safety net for Texas' most needy, but it did help to moderate some of those cuts.

It's likely that many of those cuts will push down new costs to local taxpayers, yet most of the Republican leadership is denying that. Dewhurst at least will admit to the possibility.

Keeping in place Senate rules that required a two-thirds majority to vote out legislation meant that Senate Democrats had to be more fully included in the legislative process. It would have been easy to have taken advantage of the Republicans' 19-12 Senate majority and to have tried to steamroller legislation through, but that didn't happen.

Dewhurst outlined his perspective on that dynamic to the Chronicle Editorial Board recently, as well as the close working relationship he said was necessary to have with each of the 31 senators. It was a bond that paid off, said Dewhurst.

It resulted, for one thing, in Dewhurst's winning senatorial support for his proposal to replace the "Robin Hood" school finance system with a shift away from local property taxes to a broader-based school finance bill that ultimately failed without House support.

It also resulted in the Senate's capacity to help keep the legislative ball rolling when House Democrats fled out of state to deny a quorum in the fight over a congressional redistricting bill.

The Legislature may yet fight that issue out if Gov. Rick Perry, as is expected, calls a special session to deal with it.

Dewhurst agreed before the regular session began last winter that redistricting would be a divisive fight that would distract from the other important work legislators had before them. He indicates that, with the school finance issue still unresolved, his feelings haven't changed on that point.

But for all Dewhurst's success, the lieutenant governor said himself last week that he was disappointed with the Legislature's inability to "keep us as close to where we were" in spending on education and health and human services. Dewhurst also acknowledged concern about the growth in education and health care needs over the coming years.

We appreciate the lieutenant governor's candor and hard work.

Republicans held true to their campaign promises to balance the state budget with spending cuts and no new taxes. However, the real evaluation of the legislative session will be written over the coming biennium. Then we will have a fuller picture of who can take the credit and who can share the blame.

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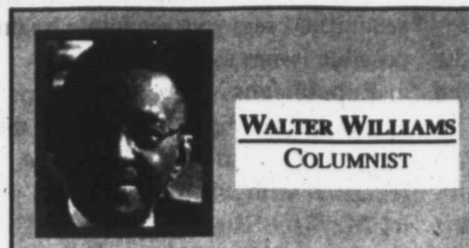
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Protecting the world sensibly

Disagreement with the world's environmentalist wackos doesn't mean that one is for dirty air and water, against conservation and for species extinction. Dr. Richard Stroup, Montana State University professor of economics and senior associate of the Center for Free Market Environmentalism, explains commonsense approaches to environmental issues in his new book, *Economics: What Everyone Should Know About Economics and the Environment*.



WALTER WILLIAMS
COLUMNIST

Stroup starts out with the first lesson of economics: There's scarcity. That means more of one thing means less of another. California's San Bernardino County was just about ready to build a new hospital. That was until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department discovered that the endangered flower-loving Delhi Sands fly was found on the site. The county had to spend \$4.5 million to move the hospital 250 feet; it also had to divert funds from its medical mission to pay for mandated Delhi Sands fly studies.

Question: Was it worth it? On the benefit side, we have the survival of some Delhi Sand flies, but what about the cost side? How much pain and suffering and perhaps loss of human life was there because millions of dollars were diverted from the hospital's medical mission?

Stroup's analysis warns us that we must always attend to a regulation's unanticipated side-effects. In other words, beneficiaries of a regulation tend always to be easily detected, but the vic-

tims are invisible.

David Lucas owned shoreline property that the South Carolina government told him he couldn't develop, even though his next-door neighbors developed their property. South Carolina's regulation made his shoreline property virtually worthless. Lucas sued, and the U.S. Supreme Court forced the South Carolina government to pay him \$1 million. Once the state was forced to pay Lucas \$1 million, it changed its mind about the worth of keeping the shoreline undeveloped. In fact, it sold it to a developer.

South Carolina's actions demonstrate that incentives matter. Costs born by others will have less of an effect on our choices than when we bear them directly. Environmentalists love it when the government can force private citizens to bear the burden of their agenda, as opposed to requiring that government pay landowners for property losses due to one regulation or another. It's cheaper, and that means government officials will more readily cave in to environmentalists' demands.

In other words, regulations that stop a landowner from using his land because of

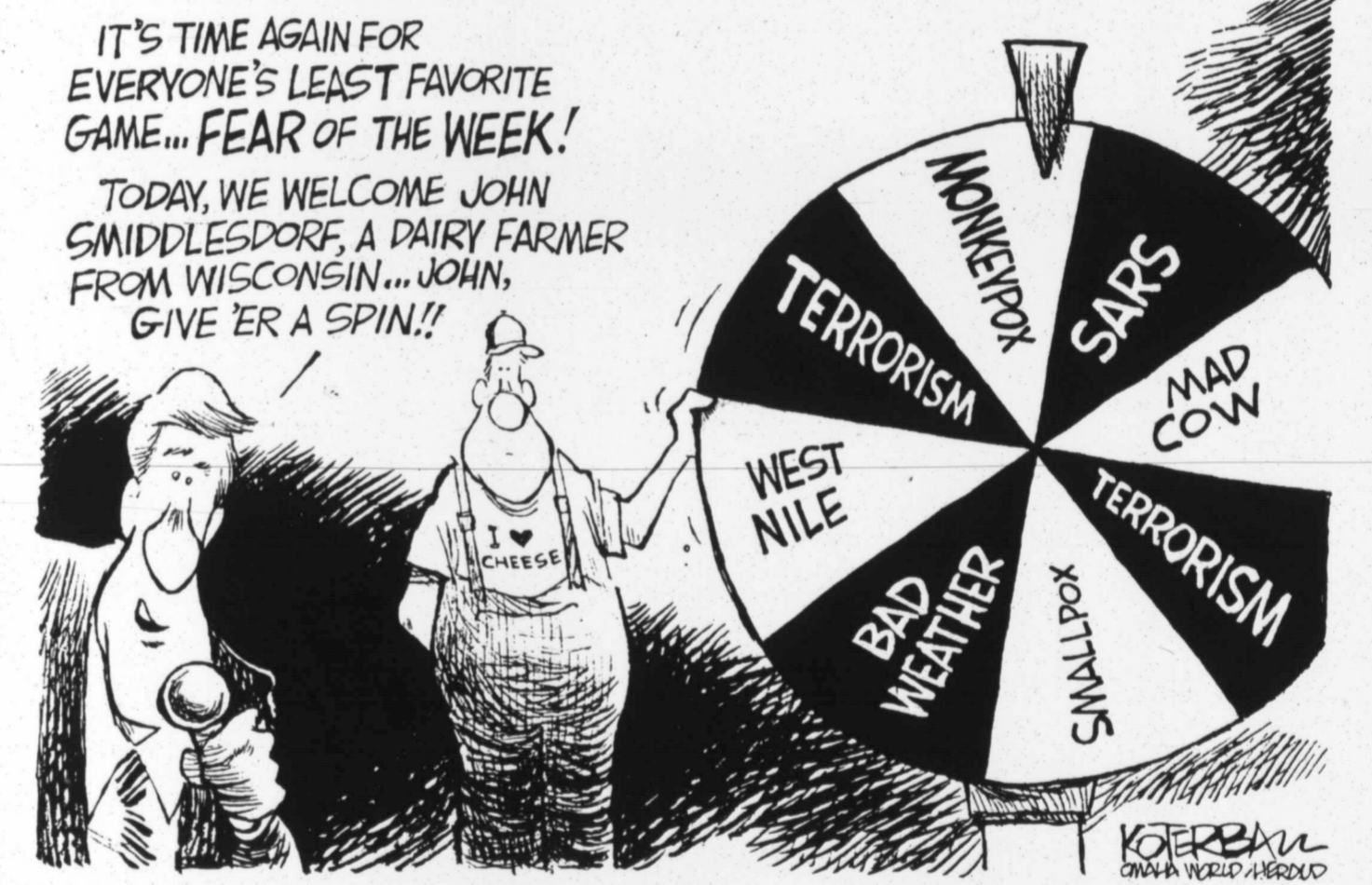
the red-cockaded woodpecker, or prevent a farmer from tilling his land because of an endangered mouse, or prevent a homeowner from building a firebreak to protect his home produce costs that are privately borne. If government had to compensate people for regulations that reduce the value of their property, more intelligent decisions would be made. Besides, if a particular measure will benefit the public, why should its cost be borne privately?

Environmentalists go berserk whenever there's talk of drilling for the tens of billions of dollars worth of oil in Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge. Why? It doesn't cost them anything.

Here's what I predict. If we gave environmentalists Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge, you can bet your last dollar that there'd be oil drilling. Why? It would now cost them something to keep the oil in the ground. The Audubon Society owns the Rainey Preserve in Louisiana, a wildlife refuge. There's oil and natural gas on its property, and it has allowed drilling for over half a century. Not allowing drilling, in the name of saving the environment, would have cost it millions of dollars in revenue.

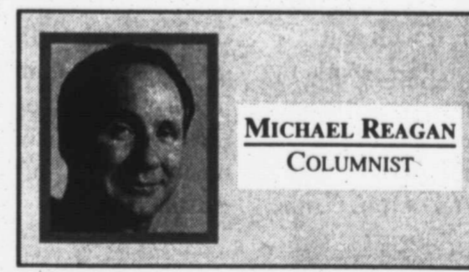
Stroup's *Economics*, available at stores and the Washington-based Cato Institute, is less than 100 pages long but contains powerful lessons for sensible approaches to the world's environmental issues.

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Church scandal not going away

The resignation of Oklahoma's former Governor Frank Keating from his post as head of the National Review Board, an all-lay panel charged with keeping track of bishops efforts to rid the priesthood of sexual molesters has shown that the scandal is not going away.



MICHAEL REAGAN
COLUMNIST

And the reason it's not going away, Catholics say, is the state of the Roman Catholic Church in America — a church in disarray.

Writing in the *New Oxford Review*, a conservative Catholic journal, Dr. Timothy P. Collins, M.D., a Chesapeake, Va., convert to Catholicism and a Fellow of the College of American Pathologists revealed the current state of the Church:

"Today the American Church is known for its internal dissention and frank disbelief. The list of organizations whose members are in full communion with the Church and call themselves Catholic, and yet promote patently anti-Catholic positions, seems endless. The causes these organizations support include homosexuality, abortion, female priests, gay and lesbian priests, divorce and re-marriage, sex outside of marriage, and a panoply of 'women's issues.' These organizations flatly reject the teaching authority of the Magisterium, and evidence of these organizations' influence, whether pamphlets, members, or invited speakers, can be found in virtually any parish one randomly enters. These dissenting groups didn't appear out of nowhere. They find their origin, direction, and support in the American catechetical and theological establishments. These are the academics and pro-

fessional educators who shape the minds and consciences of American youngsters and adults."

That state of affairs, many devout Catholics say, is the fault of the bishops here in America. It could not exist if they were fulfilling their responsibilities as shepherds of their flocks.

As Keating said "To resist grand jury subpoenas, to suppress the names of offending clerics, to deny, to obfuscate, to explain away; that is the model of a criminal organization, not my church." He also told the *Los Angeles Times*: "To act like *La Cosa Nostra* and hide and suppress, I think, is very unhealthy. Eventually it will all come out."

The blame for the Church's problems lies squarely on the bishops for tolerating, and in some cases encouraging, the state of affairs described by Dr. Collins. What they fail to understand, for example, is that far more than monetary damages, victims of priestly sex abuse want an admission that it was the priests who were wrong, not themselves.

As a victim of abuse by a day camp counselor when I was a child, I know that victims blame themselves.

We who were abused are the ones carrying the burden of thinking we've done something terribly wrong. All victims want is for somebody to say "No. You haven't done anything wrong. It was us." There is no accountability, and until the Church accepts responsibility and says "We did wrong to you," there will be no accountability.

Kids are looking for affirmation, especially today when both parents are often absent from the daily lives, and when they are approached by a respected figure such as a priest who begins by offering them the affirmation they seek their sense of betrayal once the abuse begins is horrific. An honored father figure has done the most unspeakable things to them and it is a memory that will haunt them all their lives.

This is what the bishops must face up to and admit their guilt for allowing this scandal to fester and grow for decades. What bothers me most is their utter failure to understand their incredible mis- or non-feasance in the matter of the hideous crime of pedophilia. I have seen not one whit of evidence that the bishops understand the lifelong damage done to a child who has been sexually molested, especially by someone as respected as a Catholic priest in whom they had placed total reliance.

Their sympathy has almost universally been directed at the priestly molesters, their exposure to financial penalties, and only incidentally, to the victims who will carry the psychological burden of their abuse until the day they die.

Until they face up to this and accept the guilt they bear, they will fit Keating's description that they "act like *La Cosa Nostra* and hide and suppress ..." the truth.

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Suicide bomber kills Israeli grocer as negotiations continue

By RAVI NESSMAN
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — A suicide attacker blew himself up in an Israeli grocery store early today, killing the owner, despite an intense push by Palestinian and international leaders to persuade militant groups to end such attacks.

The man was probably waiting to attack a nearby bus or bus stop in the village of Sde Trumot, but panicked and detonated his explosives when the store's owner became suspicious and approached him, police said.

Several hours later, settlers scuffled with soldiers dismantling the West Bank settlement outpost of Mitzpeh Yitzhar, the first inhabited outpost being removed under Israel's obligations in a U.S.-backed peace plan.

The year-old outpost consisted mainly of tents and had about 10 inhabitants. Last week, Israel removed 10 uninhabited outposts. Settler leaders had sued to prevent

inhabited outposts from being taken down, but the Israeli Supreme Court rejected many of their arguments.

Taking down the unauthorized outposts and stopping Palestinian attacks on Israelis are key elements in the U.S.-backed "road map" to Middle East peace, which envisions an end to more than 32 months of violence and the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005.

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, Secretary of State Colin Powell said he plans to travel to Israel and the Palestinian territories on Friday in hope of restoring momentum to peace efforts. He would meet with Israeli officials in Jerusalem and then travel to "another location," probably Jericho, to meet with Palestinian officials.

Powell condemned the latest suicide bombing in Israel, saying "such acts of terrorism are committed by people who don't want to see two sides living side by side in peace."

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas held meetings Wednesday night with the militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad to get them to commit to end all attacks. Abbas planned to continue meetings with militant groups for a fourth day on Thursday.

As talks for a Palestinian cease-fire continued, so did the violence.

Palestinian gunmen killed a 7-year-old Israeli girl in a highway ambush Tuesday, and the Israeli army reported a string of overnight attacks on soldiers by Palestinian militants, none of which ended with fatalities.

Early Thursday morning, a bomber carrying a bag filled with explosives entered a grocery store in Sde Trumot near the West Bank, police said.

The attacker had likely entered the store to wait until the bus stop got more crowded or a bus came, police spokesman Yaron Zamir said.

"We have no doubt that the store owner paid with his life to save others," Zamir said.

Sde Trumot, a small farming village in the Jordan River valley, is about three miles south of the city of Beit Shean and about the same distance from the northern edge of the West Bank.

The attack occurred just hours after the Palestinian premier's separate meetings with the main Islamic militant groups.

In a two-hour meeting, Hamas leaders left open the possibility it would halt attacks on civilians in Israel, but continued to insist on their right to target Israeli soldiers and settlers in the West Bank. Serious discussions were underway, Hamas leaders said, reinforcing speculation an accord might be near.

"We are trying to find a solution which is good for all of us," Hamas official Ismail Abu Shanab said.

Mexico expected to return fugitive, Max Factor heir, to U.S. within days

By JOHN RICE
Associated Press Writer

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico (AP) — U.S. authorities said Thursday that they expect Mexico to quickly deport cosmetics heir Andrew Luster back to California, where his lawyer plans to appeal his rape conviction under a technicality that was to expire in days.

Mexican police arrested Luster, an heir to the Max Factor fortune, on Wednesday after he scuffled with bounty hunters in the beach resort of Puerto Vallarta.

The police also arrested three bounty hunters, another American and a cameraman

reportedly from the "America's Most Wanted" television series. Mexican officials said Luster could be deported within hours if he lacked the proper visa for his stay in the country. But if he had the right documents, he could fight extradition, a process that could last months.

The FBI expects Luster's prompt return to the United States. "It could take from a few hours to a few days," a spokesman, Matt McLaughlin, told "The Early Show" on CBS.

A California court dismissed Luster's appeal because he was a fugitive, but

defense lawyer, Roger Diamond, said the deadline to challenge that decision is Friday.

"Ironically, if he comes back he can pursue the appeal," the lawyer told "The Today Show" on NBC. "If he remained a fugitive a few months longer he could not pursue the appeal."

Luster, was staying at a \$34-a-night hotel beside a police station in Puerto Vallarta and had just ordered tacos at a street stall when bounty hunters tackled him.

The bounty hunters face potential charges of kidnapping in Mexico.

Diamond, who expects

Luster to be transferred to federal court in San Diego or Los Angeles within days, says his client has always insisted he is innocent and that he had consensual sex with the women.

"If you saw the movie 'The Fugitive' ... you will note that not everybody who flees is guilty," Diamond told NBC.

In January, a California court convicted and sentenced Luster in absentia to 124 years for multiple counts of rape, poisoning and drug possession a few days after he vanished during a recess in the trial, despite posting \$1 million in bail.

Once he returns to California, Luster would be sent to state prison while he pursues his appeals just like any other convicted felon, his lawyer said.

Local police spokesman Sebastian Zavala said Luster had been living in Puerto

Vallarta for about a month. Bounty hunters tracked him down shortly after 5 a.m. Wednesday about two blocks from the beach at an open-air taco stand.

"I didn't know if it was a kidnapping or a movie," said Alberto Franco, 26, who was working at the gas station across the street.

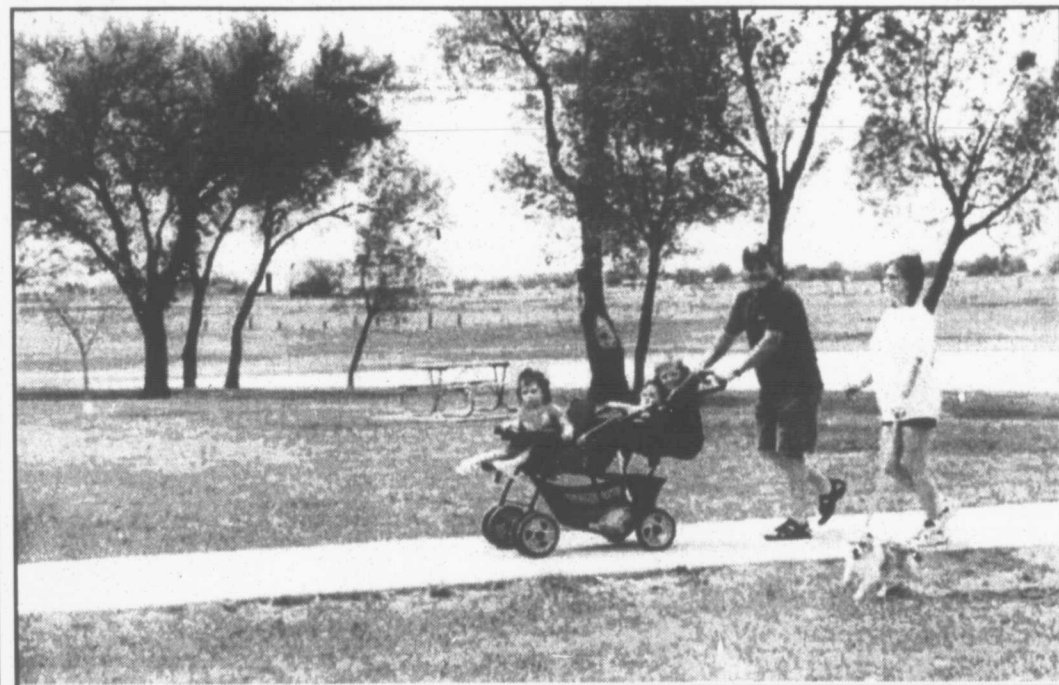
Luster was held for several hours at the city police station and was then turned over to the federal Justice Department. Authorities said Luster, who lived off a trust

fund and real estate investments, took three women to his home between 1996 and 2000 and raped them after giving them the so-called date-rape drug GHB. Some of the encounters were videotaped.

A California appellate court last week rejected an appeal of Luster's conviction, saying he had forfeited his right to appeal by jumping bail.

The California Supreme Court is expected to be asked to review the decision.

Walk for Life



(Courtesy photo)

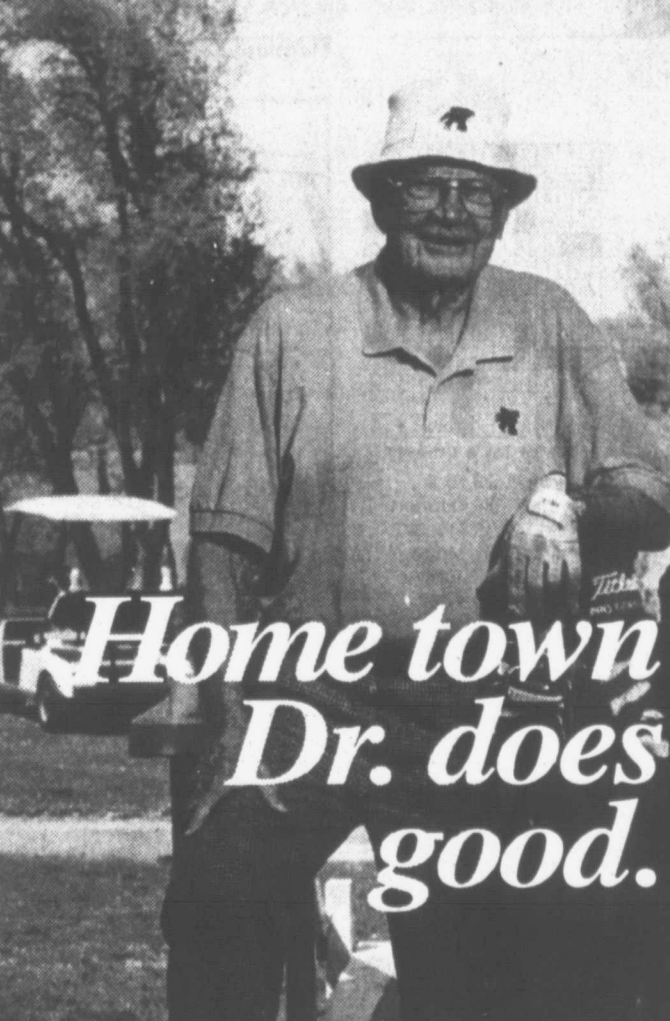
Strolling in Pregnancy Support Center's annual Walk for Life held recently at Recreation Park, are Britney, 3, Bailey, 1, Bradley, 4, and parents, Pete and Julie Towles. Walking for Brennan, 3, is the family's dog, Stich. The fund-raiser is held not only to raise monies but to heighten public awareness of the center and its services.



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DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Covering for Lazy Colleague Is Running Worker Ragged

DEAR ABBY: My co-worker, "Kay," has the world's worst work ethic. She chats on the phone and e-mails her friends, plays games online, reads the paper, balances her checkbook all day long on company time.

Our office manager encourages us to work independently, so no one looks over our shoulders. My problem is I need Kay's daily reports and summaries before I can complete my projects. Every week I give her a list of deadlines but she disregards them. (She's too busy playing online solitaire.) When a deadline is missed, it becomes my fault, even though Kay is the cause.

I tried talking the problem over with our manager (without trashing Kay). Unfortunately, he didn't get the message and nothing has changed.

Coming to work used to make me happy. Now it fills me with dread because every day is a fight for survival. I am overwhelmed and swamped trying to overcompensate for my irresponsible co-worker. I'm tired of working my tail off while she messes around. Please help me resolve this in the most professional way possible.

STRESSED-OUT IN OHIO

DEAR STRESSED-OUT: Talk to your manager again, and this time be direct. It's time to stop protecting the guilty. Your future with the company may depend on it.

Keep your manager current on the status of your work. This way, he will understand in advance that you're not being given the data you need to complete your task — and it will provide some much-needed insight to management.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 49-year-old man happily married to my wife for 22 years. Before we met, I had an intimate relationship with a college sweetheart I'll call Amy.

Last summer, on a whim, I wrote Amy to find out how her life has turned out. Like me, she's been happily married for more than 20 years. Amy and I have since exchanged e-mails, family photos and a few phone calls — strictly platonic. We live on opposite coasts and have no

interest in rekindling our old romance. We just want to keep in touch.

The problem: I made the mistake of telling my wife that Amy and I have been "catching up," and to my surprise she said I was acting inappropriately for a married man. Tell me, Abby: Just because I'm married, do I need to give up all contact with former lovers and friends? Sign me...

WRONGLY ACCUSED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WRONGLY ACCUSED: A lot of water has gone under the bridge since that college romance fizzled. Perhaps what has made your wife uneasy is the frequency of the e-mails and phone calls. Talk to her about it and see if you can reach a compromise. A card at holiday time would not seem inappropriate, but more than that does seem unfair to your wife, especially if it bothers her.

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Alana," and I have been dating for three months. (She is 16 and I'm 18.) I am about to meet her parents for the first time. My problem is I have a 10-month-old daughter from a previous relationship. Should I tell them I have a kid? Alana says her mom and dad would make us break up if they knew. I like Alana a lot, Abby. What should I do?

NEEDS AN ANSWER IN ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR NEEDS AN ANSWER: Meet your girlfriend's parents and let them get to know you for the wonderful person that you are — but do not leave their house without leveling with them. Be prepared to answer a lot of questions about your obligations to the baby and the mother of your child. You should be given credit for honesty and for not hiding the truth.

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.

The Pampa News Comics

For Better or For Worse



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Scheme

1 Big apartment

5 In pieces reptiles

11 Hugh Grant film

12 Tell "About —"

13 First course, perhaps

15 Words before doing something

17 Life story

18 Some stingers

22 Thou

24 Fly like a hawk

25 Suffer

26 Thurman of "Gattaca"

27 Bowler's bane

30 Criminals, in police slang

32 "— la vista!"

33 Massage

34 Campaign losers

36 Funnel-shaped flower

41 Bread spread

42 Programmer's work

LAST TASTES
EXPO ITHINK
ALAN BRANDY
PER FEED
EDITS SPA
LITER TAPER
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NYMPH PORKY
ALE AMAZE
FIAT TEL
RETURN FIDO
OVERDO ARGO
BENSON TEEN

Yesterday's answer

16 Role for George Burns

19 Hard candies

20 Pageantry

21 Workout sites

22 Deep cut

23 Philbin's cohort

28 Napoli nation

29 Skill

30 Supporter's side

31 Moon of Jupiter

35 Wise one

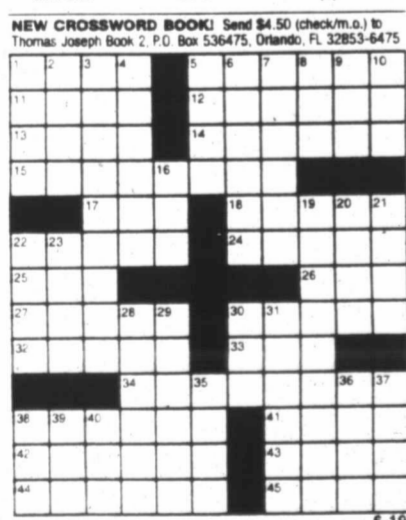
36 Tide type

37 Some babies

38 Do something

39 Menagene

40 Append



Marmaduke



The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



Blonde



NOTE

GOLF

PALM CC (AP) — Michelle Wie, 13-year-old Hawaii prodigy, shot a 71 and was the lead after round of the U.S. Amateur Professional Championship. Wie, already play in the U.S. Open, rebound in the first round even for the After two rounds behind Nirapathpong Thailand. Wie started making two front nine with any bogeys. She birdies on the her round sufficient penalty stroke.

BASEBALL — Paul Lo Duca hit streak leading Kazuhiro Nishi over the San Francisco Giants 8-2 night.

Ishii (7-6) with his six to equal but he held less except Aurilia, who the fourth at the sixth. Is unearned innings of w Lo Duca three at-bat ing through run rally in blew the ga

AUTO RACING

NEW YORK — NASCAR sponsor for racing series signing a 10 with Communicat

The wirel cations giant R.J. Reynolds the name on and trophy. I scored the since 197 NASCAR Series will 2004 season.

Financial disclosed, chairman Bill Nextel was ous and subse ment." "Nextel is a strong b future, and growing our said. "They most advanced at edged leader helps drive my." RJR said wanted out because restrictions business tobacco ind "There's there," Fra announce Square. "W relationship else it wor on as long

SPORTS

Rice looking to make history at CWS

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Rice Owls are putting their previous College World Series failures behind them in an attempt to make school history.

Rice lost six of its seven games in its first three appearances in Omaha. Now, the Owls will play for the school's first national championship — in any sport.

"One of the favorite sayings about us was, 'Two and barbecue in Omaha,'" said coach Wayne Graham, whose only win in the CWS before this year was against Oklahoma State in 1999.

Justin Ruchti's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning gave Rice a 5-4 victory over

defending national champion Texas on Wednesday night, and sent the Owls to the College World Series championship round.

"We came here with a monkey on our back," Graham said. "We lost by one run to LSU, we lost by one to Texas, and we were in a close game with Miami right to the end."

"This year, we said we'd play good enough that bad breaks wouldn't matter."

Instead of losing close games at the double-elimination CWS, as they have in each of their previous visits, the Owls (56-11) won them this year — starting with a 4-2 victory over Southwest Missouri

State. After beating Texas (50-20) twice in three days, Rice awaits the winner of Thursday's Cal State Fullerton-Stanford game. Stanford staved off elimination with a 5-4 victory earlier Wednesday.

The Owls will play either the Titans or Cardinal in the best-of-three championship series that starts Saturday.

Three pitchers combined to walk nine and hit four batters, and the Owls' defense committed three errors.

The Owls won anyway, thanks to Ruchti's single off ace closer Huston Street that scored pinch-runner Matt Cavanaugh in the bottom of the ninth.

Street (8-1), last year's CWS Most Outstanding Player, lost for the first time in 12 decisions dating to March 8, 2002.

Street threw four straight sliders before Ruchti lined the fifth into center field to drive in Cavanaugh.

"I knew that was his out pitch, and I figured he'd stay away," Ruchti said. "He happened to leave it up, and I got it pretty good."

Jeff Blackinton led off the ninth and reached when his grounder rolled up second baseman Tim Moss' left arm and off his chest.

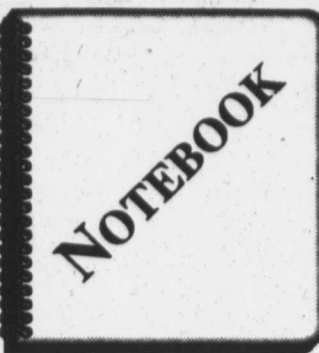
Cavanaugh took second on Dane Bubela's sacrifice and came home after Ruchti hit

Street's 2-2 pitch. Texas center fielder Joe Ferin tried to charge the ball for a possible throw to the plate, but it got past him and Cavanaugh scored the winning run easily.

"I was going after him with my best stuff," Street said. "I got ahead of him with my slider. I didn't think he'd expect five in a row, but he was right on it."

Ruchti, the Owls' catcher and No. 9 batter, was 2-for-4 with three RBIs. He also caught two Longhorns stealing.

"It was one of the more memorable games of my life," he said. "To put us in the championship series, that's what you dream of as a little kid."



GOLF

PALM COAST, Fla. (AP) — Michelle Wie, the 13-year-old Hawaiian golf prodigy, shot a 1-under-par 71 and was three shots off the lead after the second round of the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship.

Wie, already qualified to play in the U.S. Women's Open, rebounded from a 73 in the first round, and pulled even for the tournament. After two rounds, she was third behind Virada Nirapathpongpor of Thailand.

Wie started off well, making two birdies on the front nine while avoiding any bogeys. She added two birdies on the backside, but her round suffered from four penalty strokes.

BASEBALL

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul Lo Duca hit a two-run double to extend his hitting streak to 25 games leading Kazuhisa Ishii and the Los Angeles Dodgers over the San Francisco Giants 8-2 Wednesday night.

Ishii (7-2) struggled with his control, walking six to equal a career high, but he held the Giants hitless except for Rich Aurilia, who doubled in the fourth and singled in the sixth. Ishii allowed an unearned run in six innings of work.

Lo Duca was hitless in three at-bats before coming through during a six-run rally in the sixth that blew the game open.

AUTO RACING

NEW YORK (AP) — NASCAR got a new title sponsor for its top stock car racing series Thursday, signing a 10-year agreement with Nextel Communications.

The wireless communications giant will replace R.J. Reynolds' Winston as the name on its top series and trophy. RJR has sponsored the Winston Cup since 1971, and the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series will begin with the 2004 season.

Financial terms were not disclosed, but NASCAR chairman Bill France Jr. said Nextel was making a "serious and substantial commitment."

"Nextel is a partner with a strong brand, a bright future, and a vision for growing our sport," France said. "They are one of the most technologically advanced and an acknowledged leader in a sector that helps drive the U.S. economy."

RJR said in February it wanted out of its contract because of marketing restrictions and an uncertain business climate in the tobacco industry.

"There's a little sadness there," France said at the announcement in Times Square. "We've had a good relationship with RJR or else it wouldn't have gone on as long as it did."

Rotary Club advances to city tourney finals

PAMPA — With a 12-7 victory over Glo-Valve on Wednesday, Rotary Club moves into the finals today at 5:45 against Celanese Corporation for the championship of the second half of the Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken City Tournament.

Rotary must win both games for the right to face Glo-Valve, the champion of the first half of the tournament. Celanese needs only one win to get into the championship game tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at Optimist Park.

Gerardo Dominguez was the winning pitcher and the leading hitter for Rotary. He scattered four hits and allowed one run in three innings of work. He struck out three and didn't walk a batter.

He was relieved in the fourth inning by Wesley Hannah, who was touched for six runs and five hits. He struck out one and walked four.

Glo-Valve pitched by committee for the second straight time. Heath Skinner, Freddie Ramirez, Jose Ramirez and Kade Wilson combined to allow five earned runs on nine hits. They struck out nine and walked five. Five Glo-Valve errors led to seven unearned runs.

Chris Bengel led off the top of the first inning for Rotary with a double to left field. He moved to third on a ground out and scored on a passed ball. Alex Torres singled and took second on a wild pitch.

After Hannah walked, Torres scored on a double by Dominguez, but a relay from Mark Ruth in right field to Heath Skinner to Hayden Skinner nailed Hannah at the plate.

Heath Skinner slammed a double to lead off the bottom of the first for Glo-Valve. He stole third and home to trim Rotary's lead to 2-1.

An error and three wild pitches handed Jeremy Busse a run for Rotary in the third.

The winners tallied five times in the fourth. Dominguez doubled and scored when Martin Aliva was safe on an error.

Madison Wilson walked and Bengel singled to bring in Aliva. Busse followed with moves into the finals today at 5:45 against Celanese Corporation for the championship of the second half of the Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken City Tournament.

Glo-Valve got two of the runs back in the fifth. Heath Skinner walked and scored on a double by Hayden Skinner. Hayden Skinner advanced home on two wild pitches.

Rotary added four insurance runs in the sixth. Madison Wilson singled and went to third on a single by Busse and scored on a wild pitch. Michael Anguiano walked. Busse scored and Anguiano stopped at third when Torres reached second on an error. Hannah walked to load the bases. Dominguez delivered again with a single to center scoring two, but Hayden Skinner fired a strike to Lane Douglas at third to nail Hannah easily at third. Rotary led 12-3.

Glo-Valve roared back with a furious sixth inning rally. With one out, Anthony Allen singled and Evan McElwain and Heath Skinner walked.

After an infield fly, Hayden Skinner slammed a double scoring all three runners.

Douglass followed with a line drive to right, plating Skinner and ending the scoring.

Dominguez had two doubles and a single to lead Rotary's hitting. He scored once and had three RBI. Hayden Skinner led Glo-Valve's offensive efforts with two doubles, a single, two runs scored and four RBI.

Aliva, with eight putouts at first base without an error, made the outstanding defensive plays for Rotary. The relay from Ruth to Heath Skinner to Hayden Skinner at the plate and the throw from Hayden Skinner in center to Douglass at third were the outstanding defensive plays for Glo-Valve.

Rotary is now 2-1 for the second half of the City Tournament. Celanese is 2-0.

Calf roper



(Photo by Dale Hirschman)

Pampa's Zack Cobb participates in calf roping at last week's State High School Rodeo Association Finals in Abilene. Cobb finished fourth in bulldogging to qualify for the National High School Rodeo Association Finals, which will be held in Farmington, N.M. in late July. Cobb is a 2003 graduate of Pampa High.

Arizona rally past Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — The Arizona Diamondbacks beat Billy Wagner on his big day.

Luis Gonzalez hit a solo homer over the 330-foot wall in left field and Quinton McCracken added an RBI single in the top of the ninth to rally the Diamondbacks to a 2-1 victory over the Houston Astros on Wednesday night.

Wagner, whose wife Sarah gave birth to a seven-pound, five-ounce girl earlier in the day, blew only his second save of the season and snapped a string of 16 consecutive saves. He didn't arrive at the game until the first inning.

"It was a great day, a special day for me," Wagner said. "The game wasn't the best but I don't want to sound like my big day had anything to do with it. That had nothing to do with tonight's performance."

"I missed location on about three pitches and they hit all three of them."

Wagner (1-3) came in to protect a 1-0 Houston lead in the ninth, but Gonzalez led off with his 14th homer of the season to tie it.

"Billy's one of the most dominate relievers in the game," Gonzalez said. "If he's going to beat you he's going to beat you with his best stuff. I just sat on a fastball. He left one out over the plate and fortunately in this ball park I was

able to get it over the mini-monster."

Robby Hammock followed Gonzalez's homers with a broken-bat double. Wagner then struck out Lyle Overbay and pinch-hitter Rod Barajas before McCracken lined a single to right.

Right fielder Richard Hidalgo threw home to try to catch a sliding Hammock, but catcher Brad Ausmus didn't get the tag down in time.

"He was safe," Ausmus said. "To be honest with you, I never had control of the ball. I caught it between my arm and my chest. He hit my shin guard but I don't know if he hit the plate or not. I suppose he did."

Oscar Villareal (5-4) pitched one inning to earn the victory.

"Wagner is going to come right at you. I just wanted to put a good swing on it and sneak that hit in there and I was fortunate to do so," McCracken said.

Jose Valverde came in after Lance Berkman's leadoff walk in the ninth and got three outs for his fourth save in four chances.

The Astros took a 1-0 lead into the ninth behind Jeff Kent's second-inning homer and 6 1-3 strong innings by Ron Villone, who started the season in the Diamondbacks' organization.

"It goes back to familiarity,"

Arizona manager Bob Brenly said. "With the closer you know what to expect. Wagner isn't all of a sudden going to start throwing splits and changeups. Villone was mixing it up pretty good."

Villone was making his first start of the season after being called up from Triple-A New Orleans.

"It was all right. I kept us in the game and that's what I wanted to do," Villone said.

Kent's 11th homer increased his team leading RBI total to 50, one day after his RBI single in the eighth gave the Astros a 4-3 victory over Arizona.

Villone compiled a 3-1 record at New Orleans before he was recalled by the Astros. He held the Diamondbacks in check from the start, allowing five hits, walking two and striking out six in 6 1-3 innings.

Arizona starter Brandon Webb held Houston to three hits over six innings. He walked one and struck out five.

Notes: Rodrigo Rosario will become the Astros' 11th starting pitcher this season when he starts against the Texas Rangers on Saturday. Rosario replaced Roy Oswalt, who is on the 15-day disabled list with a groin injury.

Flashback

1966 — Pampa defeated Hereford 80-34 in a high school basketball opener.

George Bailey had 28 points to lead the Harvesters in scoring. Rick Foster followed with 17.

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Reading scores up for younger students, down among seniors

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's fourth-graders are getting better at reading, but its seniors are getting worse.

Fourth-graders in 2002 showed significant reading gains compared with 1998, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress — known as the nation's report card — released

Thursday. It is those younger students who are at the center of a national push to improve basic education.

But then comes the shift: eighth-graders showed no reading improvement over the four-year period, and 12th-graders showed declines at every level, from basic to advanced readers.

Overall, less than a third of fourth-graders (31 percent) and eighth-graders (33 percent) showed they could understand and analyze challenging material. That skill level, defined as proficient, is the focal point of the test. Among high-school seniors, 36 percent hit that mark, down from 40 percent in 1998.

The up-and-down results drew expectedly mixed reaction from education officials. They highlighted the gains in reading fundamentals, particularly among minorities, but could not ignore a 12th-grade drop-off that has ranged from math to science to reading in recent years.

"There are no scientific answers as to why our high school seniors have performed so poorly on this reading assessment, but we're still searching for solutions to these daunting challenges," Education Secretary Rod Paige said. "At the same time, we know what works to teach youngsters to read, and we know that all children can learn."

Among fourth-graders, black and Hispanic students narrowed the scoring gap between themselves and white students. However, the gap remains significant: 41 percent of white students read at a proficient level, up from 37 percent in 1998. That compares with 12 percent for blacks, up from 10 percent, and 15 percent for Hispanics, an increase from 13 percent.

The reading test is overseen by the independent National Assessment Governing Board and run by the National Center for Education Statistics, an arm of the Education Department. Results of the other topic tested in 2002, writing, are scheduled to be released in July.

The assessment is designed to measure skills students should possess in a given grade, with the goal being for all students to be above basic, which is partial mastery of key skills. In reality, typical performance in all three grades reached only basic achievement.

Whether the test's standards are fair is often debated. On their own tests, for example, many states define proficient in a way that equates with only the basic level nationally.

Student performance trends differ slightly when the numbers are compared with 1992, the year the current reading test began. Since then, fourth-grade achievement has essentially been flat, eighth-grade scores have climbed and 12th-grade results have declined overall.

The results released Thursday also include reading performances for most states in grades four and eight. The policy board did not establish a state-by-state breakdown for grade 12.

For example, eight states showed significant fourth-grade increases in the percentage of students reading at the challenging level: Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Washington. One state, Oklahoma, showed a significant decline.

The reading tests were the first to include special accommodations, such as extra testing time, for disabled and limited-English students in all test samples. But if the national test did not offer an accommodation typically provided in that state — reading a test aloud, for example — students could be excluded. Test officials say the impact should be "minimal."

House bill to repeal estate taxes facing uphill battle in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House passed legislation that would permanently abolish estate taxes, but the bill faces long odds against winning support in the Senate.

"I don't think they have the votes to repeal," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle. Democrats would have supply some votes if Republicans are to pass the bill in the narrowly divided Senate.

Republicans lobbying for passage agreed, observing that supporters do not have the 60 votes needed under Senate budget rules. This measure also passed the House last year only to die in the Senate.

"I think they'll end up with 56 votes on this," said Stephen Moore, president of the conservative Club for Growth. "The Senate is always the holdup on this."

Without a bill to permanently repeal the estate tax, it will disappear in 2010 only to reappear a year later. The anomaly is the result of a 2001 law that gradually reduced the tax rates on inherited estates and repealed the tax as of 2010. Senate rules designed to limit budget deficits forced lawmakers

to make the repeal expire in 2011.

The House voted 264-163 on Wednesday to make the repeal permanent.

Lawmakers turned back a Democratic attempt to retain the tax on the country's largest estates. They voted 239-188 to reject a Democratic alternative that raised the exemption beginning next year to \$3 million for each individual and \$6 million for married couples.

Republicans said the tax must be fully repealed to protect families who own small businesses and farms and prevent their heirs from liquidating their enterprises to pay their tax bills. They also pointed to the time and money spent on estate planning.

"The country was built on family businesses," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas. "Unless we permanently repeal the death tax, we can kiss our small businesses goodbye."

"Today's vote is a victory for fairness, job creation and certainty for family businesses, farmers and ranchers," President Bush said. "I urge the Senate to act on this important matter so that we

can eliminate this unfair tax once and for all."

Democrats charged that complete repeal of the tax benefits the country's wealthiest families at the expense of future generations.

Rep. Jerry Kleczka, D-Wis., said the bill's \$162 billion cost to the Treasury "will be put on the national debt of the country and paid back by our kids and grandkids."

Internal Revenue Service statistics show that 52,000 estates paid taxes totaling more than \$24 billion in 2000.

Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, said lawmakers might support a bill that eases the burden on family farms and businesses by increasing the amount of an estate exempt from taxes. In 2003, the first \$1 million is exempt from taxation, and that will rise to \$3.5 million in 2009.

But supporters rejected any notion of compromise.

"Any compromise is an increase in taxes," said Republican Jennifer Dunn, the Washington lawmaker who drafted the bill the House passed Wednesday.

Americans taking advantage of Canada's gay marriage law

DETROIT (AP) — Gay American couples are beginning to head for the border city of Windsor, Ontario, to take advantage of Ontario's court-ordered legalization of same-sex marriages.

By Tuesday, 12 gay couples had been granted marriage licenses in Windsor, the city licensing clerk told the Detroit Free Press. Three of the couples were American.

Suburban Detroit residents Jennifer Paty and Erin James are among those planning to head to Windsor, just across the river from Detroit, to seek a marriage license. They just need to do some paperwork required in Canada, certifying James' divorce 15 years ago.

"We've waited this long, we can wait a little while longer," Paty told The Detroit News.

An Ontario appeals court last week declared Canada's definition of marriage, as the union of a man and woman, invalid and changed it to a union between two people. The move prompted a conservative group in Michigan to urge the strengthening of Michigan law against same-sex marriages.

Hours after the decision, two Canadian men tied the knot in the country's first legal same-sex wedding. The ruling applies only in Ontario, but on Tuesday, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced that he would propose a bill to legalize gay marriage throughout the country. Currently, only Belgium and the Netherlands recognize same-sex marriages.

Among those who brought the suit against Canadian officials were an American couple living in Windsor, Hedy Halpern, a retired Ameritech worker from Dearborn, and Colleen Rogers, a nurse who works in Detroit.

In the United States, homosexual marriage lacks full legal recognition in all 50 states. Vermont recognizes civil unions that give homosexual couples the benefits and responsibilities of marriage but are separate from legal marriages.

After last week's decision in Ontario, the American Family Association of Michigan called for state lawmakers to add Michigan's existing "one man-one woman" marriage policy to the state constitution.

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