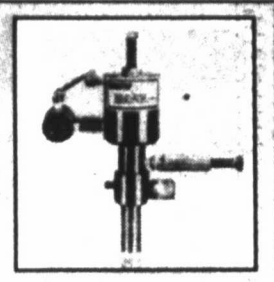


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City's surplus vehicles up for bids

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

The City of Pampa will begin accepting bids on surplus vehicles next week, but the humvee on their list is not going to be sold for now.

"We declared some surplus and we're going out for bids on them," said John Horst, Pampa's director of finance. "Mainly they're police vehicles."

A humvee was on the list, but it was stricken due to a lack of title.

The humvee was donated to Pampa several years ago by the Fritch police department. They had gotten it through a U.S. Government surplus sale. Unfortunately, it was in parts. Pampa reassembled it, but never used it. Horst said the city never got a title to the vehicle.

He said there had been quite a bit of interest in the humvee.

"We've had several calls on it," said Susan Crane, the city's purchasing agent.

Got your goat? Do you want one?

Bidders will have a chance Thursday morning to get Pampa's goat.

The city's animal control department is in possession of one adult male, white and tan, old wither goat.

That goat will be auctioned off to the highest bidder at 10 a.m. Thursday for cash at the Animal

Control Shelter in Hobart Street Park. The minimum bid is \$33.

Animal control officials this week described the goat as being less than well-mannered, suggesting that it would not make a good pet.

The city makes no statement or warranty as to the fitness of the animal.

Sometimes the city sends them to Amarillo for auction. Sometimes, Horst said, Borger has an auction.

"Sometimes we have one here in Pampa for things that have been declared surplus," he said.

The city is taking bids on:

- A white 1996 Chevrolet four-door sedan that runs good, has a good body and good interior. The air conditioning works. The tires are good. The speedometer works sometimes, and sometimes it doesn't, city officials said. They estimate

that it has about 112,000 miles on it.

- A 1983 Chevrolet ambulance frame. It runs good and has a good body although it needs paint in some places. The interior is fair. The tires are fair. The air conditioning does not work. It has 114,823 miles on it.

- A white 1996 Ford Crown Victoria with good body, good tires and fair interior. It uses oil and the engine knocks.

- A blue 1983 Ford extended van that was U.S. Government surplus. It has a fair body. The interior is fair to bad. There is some rust. It has good tires, but no air conditioning. The van has 83,132 miles on it. City officials say it runs well.

- A white 1988 Chevrolet four-door sedan with good body, fair tires and fair interior. It has 122,595 miles on it.

The city is also taking bids on a Varco Forms Burster, an office machine that perforates and separates continuous forms.

"It works well," Crane said. "We just don't use it anymore."

Horst said the humvee will probably be sold later.

February sales tax revenues increase

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

Pampa's financial future continued to brighten this month as sales tax revenues increased again.

"The city is 7.89 percent ahead of last fiscal year at this time," John Horst, director of finance for the City of Pampa, said this week.

The city collected \$163,431.62, compared with the \$133,489 that they expected.

Pampa budgeted \$956,354.52 through March, but for the fiscal year to date it has received \$1,109,268.95.

"We're over budget by almost 16 percent," Horst said. "We're over budget by \$153,000. That's for five months."

Pampa's fiscal year begins Oct. 1, but the sales tax revenue comes from the previous month. The March revenue comes from February's sales tax collections.

"If we keep this trend up, which I think we will for the

next three months anyway, we'll have a healthy overage," Horst said. "Maybe \$300,000."

Whether the city will come out that well or not, Horst is optimistic that there will be more money coming in through sales tax revenues than what the Pampa officials had expected and budgeted for.

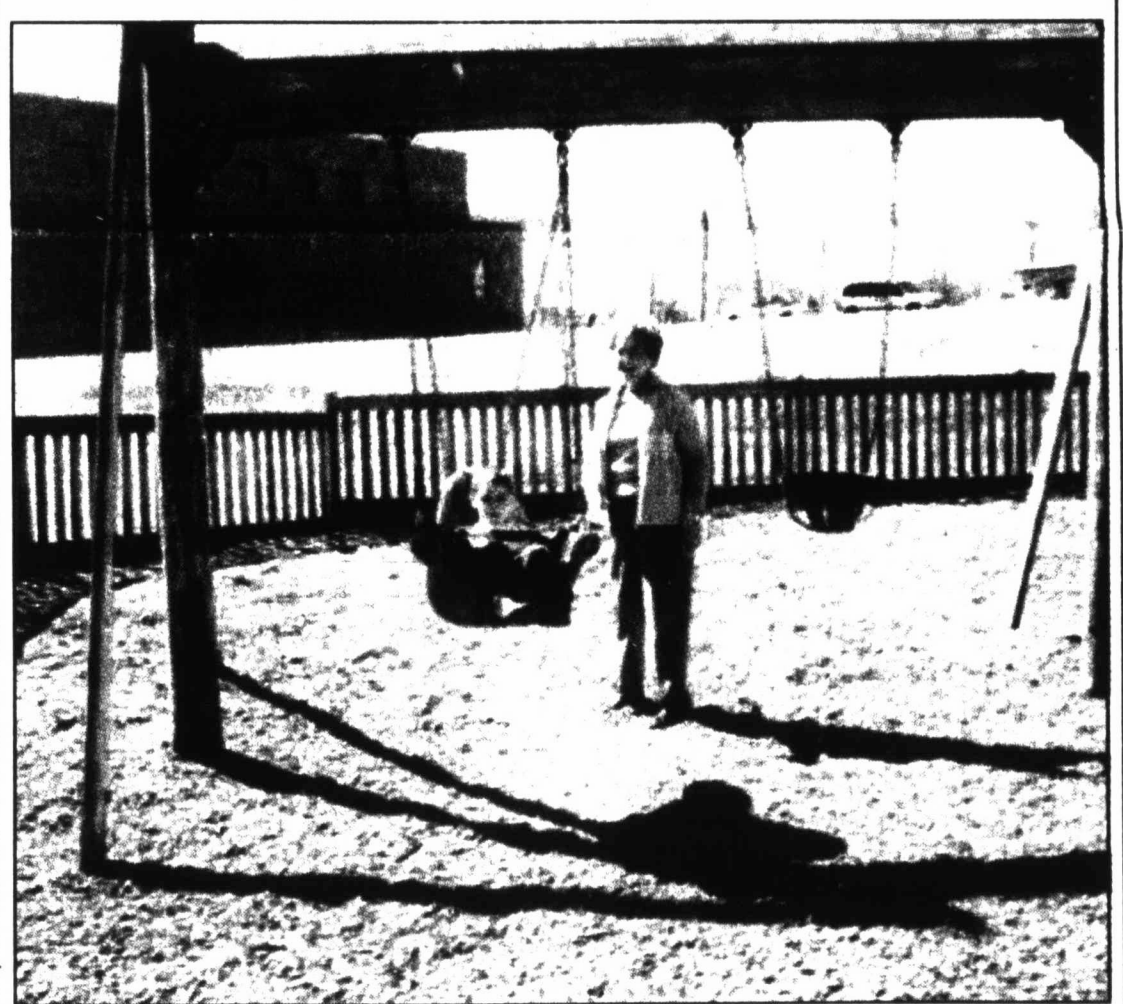
At the state level, Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller, said that state sale tax revenue in February totaled more than \$1.26 billion, up 6.2 percent compared to the same month last year.

There was a rise in local sales tax allocations of 8.3 percent, Strayhorn said.

"Texas' economic recovery is gaining momentum," Strayhorn said. "The latest economic data indicates that the Texas economy will outpace the nation through 2005."

"With construction going on in Pampa and the activity we're seeing, we know that's going to give us a boost over last year," Horst said.

Little swinger



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Trenton Welch, 4, son of Robin and Chris Welch of Groom, gets a push from his great-aunt, Peggy Beckham of Pampa, at the Super Playground this morning. Warm weather and spring break for area schools this week has area residents enjoying outdoor activities. Temperatures are expected to stay in the 70s throughout the week and into the weekend.

U.S., Iraqi forces hunt for insurgents, illegal weapons

By JIM KRANE
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. and Iraqi military forces launched a large operation Wednesday to weed out insurgents and seize illegal weapons, with troops, helicopters and armored vehicles raiding a suspected arms market in the capital.

Also Wednesday, the Iraqi Governing Council asked the United Nations for help putting together a new government, a council spokesman said.

The council requested that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan send back a U.N. team to help organize a government that will take over from the U.S.-led coalition June 30, council spokesman Hamid al-Kafaai told The Associated Press.

The letter sent by council president Mohammed Bahr al-Ulloum, a Shiite cleric, also requested technical assistance in preparation for a general election due by the end of January 2005.

Wednesday's raid on the suspected arms market came

during a week in which gunmen killed two Europeans and four American missionaries working on water projects. The six killings suggest the insurgents are going after civilians to undermine reconstruction efforts.

The operation that began Wednesday — called "Iron Promise" — was expected to involve thousands of U.S. troops from the Fort Hood, Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division, which has recently arrived in Iraq, and the outgoing Germany-based 1st Armored Division. Scores of

Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers were also involved.

About 250 troops from the armored division's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment as well as 250 Iraqi soldiers fanned out across the sprawling 20th Street Market, in the city's Al-Bayaa district, which sells everything from vegetables to used car parts.

In one car repair shop, U.S. troops found a pair of rocket-propelled grenade launchers and burlap sacks full of grenades. They arrested three men.

Some stores are suspected

of supplying weapons to the rebels, said the raid's commander, Lt. Col. Chuck Williams, 40, from Sterling, Va. He said the market assault was the start of a citywide crackdown on the guerrillas.

"There is a lot of pressure everywhere. It is all over town. The big things we are looking for is people moving weapons, IED (improvised explosive device) materials and explosives and ammunition. Our soldiers are looking to deter or discover this activity. We want to shut it off," he said.

(See IRAQ, Page 3)

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OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY J. HOWELL
1933-2004

WICHITA FALLS — Shirley J. Howell, 70, died on Saturday, March 13, 2004, in Wichita Falls.

Funeral services were to be at 3 p.m., today, March 17, 2004, in the chapel of Hampton Vaughan Crestview with Charlie Thomason officiating. Interment will follow at Crestview Memorial Park.

Mrs. Howell was born on March 31, 1933, in Pampa, to the late Eddie and Mary Ruth Kinnison Moore. She married Gene A. Howell on July 22, 1950, in Pampa. She was



an interior designer and owner of Interpretations by Shirley. She was a longtime member of Faith Village Church of Christ.

Survivors include her husband Gene; two daughters, Lesley Kephart and Christy Baker; and four grandchildren.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests as of 7 a.m. today.

Monday, March 15

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 900 block of East Browning. Method of entry was unknown. Nothing was reported taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 700 block of Hazel. Approximately \$6 in change and a lotto ticket were taken from an unlocked vehicle. Estimated loss was \$10.

A bicycle was reported found in the 2000 block of Williston.

Tuesday, March 16

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2100 block of North Nelson. Method of entry was unknown. Taken were a compact disc player with headphones, valued at

approximately \$20.

Theft was reported in the 600 block of Lowry. An evergreen tree was taken from a yard. Amount of loss is unknown.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 1100 block of South Wilcox.

James Darrin Biegler, 21, 1400 Somerville #4, was arrested at his residence for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, bond surrender on charges of assault causing bodily injury and furnishing alcohol to a minor, and capias pro fines for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

Sara Brady, 23, 123 N. Nelson, was arrested at 200 N. Nelson on capias pro fines for displaying expired registration, no insurance, failure to report change of address and expired motor vehicle inspection.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents as of 7 a.m. today.

Monday, March 15

11:52 a.m. - A 1997 Dodge pickup driven by Jess William Bennett, 83, 916 Wilcox, and a 1995 Pontiac Grand Am driven by Magan Ruth Broadbent, 17, 719 N. Zimmers, collided in the 200 block of North Hobart. No injuries were reported. Broadbent was cited for no driver's license.

Tuesday, March 16

12:35 a.m. - An unknown vehicle with unknown driver struck a parked 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier, owned by Stefanie Meagan McGahen, 711 N. Somerville, in a private parking lot at 1307 N. Hobart. The unknown vehicle then left the scene. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

5:40 p.m. - A 2000 Chevrolet Tracker, driven by Daniel Allen R. Gatlin, 16, 1024 Crane Rd., and a 2000 Ford Taurus, driven by Michelle Guerra Ramos, 25, 1205 Darby, collided in the 300 block of East Louisiana. No injuries were reported. Gatlin was cited for following too closely.

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday, March 16

5:01 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of Coffee and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

5:49 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.		KMI	63.20	+0.93
Wheat	3.41	XOM	42.27	+0.20
Milo	3.92	XCEL	17.99	+0.17
Corn	5.58	Kerr McGee	50.41	+0.02
Soybeans	9.13	Limited	19.33	+0.23
		Williams	9.49	-0.04
		MCD	28.63	-0.03
		Atmos	26.17	+0.21
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.		Pioneer Nat.	33.22	+0.29
OXY	45.72	JCP	32.83	+0.34
BP	49.43	COP	68.98	+0.42
CVX	39.00	SLB	65.13	+0.62
Wal-Mart	49.43	Tenneco	12.25	+0.01
Celanese	39.00	CVX	88.29	+0.61
Cabot Corp.	33.09	Wal-Mart	58.79	+0.95
Cabot Oil Gas	30.39	OKE	22.79	+0.10
Coca Cola	48.51	NS Grp	11.54	+0.24
VLO	56.17			
HAL	29.83	New York Gold	402.35	
Triad	32.30	Silver	7.16	
NOI	28.85	West Texas Crude	37.48	

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests as of 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 16

James Dowel Hayes, 45, 1144 Terrace, was arrested for public intoxication and open

container.

Eric Jerome Hmielewski, 33, Childress, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Saturday, part-

ly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows near 50. Monday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the lower 80s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the lower 50s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the lower 80s.

City Briefs

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TRASH & Treasure open til 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Primitives, furniture, collectibles & more. 1431 N. Hobart.

Racial profiling topic of town hall meeting March 20

The NAACP, LULAC, ACLU and Texas Criminal Justice Reform Coalition are cosponsoring a town hall meeting in Amarillo Saturday, March 20, to discuss racial profiling by police.

The meeting is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at the Ambassador Hotel, 3100 I-40 West, and is part of a 12-city tour by this coalition of civil rights organizations also known as the Coalition to End Racial Profiling.

Each event has served to teach commu-

nity members their rights with police and to tell their stories. It follows the release of a comprehensive report on racial profiling released by these same organizations last month. The report can be found at www.racialprofilingdatapoint.org.

Tip leads authorities to wife-killer on lam since 1971

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — An anonymous tip helped police locate a fugitive who walked away from a Pennsylvania prison in 1971 while serving time for his wife's slaying.

Allen D. Marshall Jr., 62, was captured Monday at his Houston home by U.S. marshals, authorities said. The arrest appears to solve the state's second-oldest prison escape case, officials said. Deputy U.S. Marshal Brad Reiff said he received a call a little over two weeks ago from a person who provided a Houston address for Marshall.

"They just made it clear they wanted to remain anonymous

and they had information on an escape," Reiff said.

Investigators believe Marshall spent about two decades in Mexico before settling in Texas in about 1994, where he was found this week living under his own name.

Marshall failed to return from a three-day furlough from the state prison at Camp Hill in November 1971. Marshall, then 27, was serving a five- to 10-year sentence for the June 12, 1969 beating death of his estranged wife, Barbara Carol Marshall, 22.

"It will be interesting when he gets back (for him) to tell us

what he's been doing all this time," Department of Corrections spokeswoman Sue McNaughton said.

Marshall waived extradition Tuesday at a federal court arraignment in Houston, but it was not immediately clear when he would be brought back to central Pennsylvania.

The couple had at least two children, a son and daughter who, in October 2002, gave prison officials a suburban Dallas address where they thought their father could be found.

The son had used the Internet to track him down, the daughter

told Trooper Gerald Allen of the state police barracks in Carlisle. Marshall told the children he wanted to get to know them again, according to arrest documents.

That lead proved futile, but Reiff forwarded the anonymous tip provided about two weeks ago to a fugitive tracking team.

On March 9, Allen obtained an arrest warrant. Five days later, Marshall was at home with two teenage sons when the knock came at noon.

"Apparently, he didn't try to deny who he was," said U.S. Marshal Michael Regan of the Harrisburg office.

CCPC to host open house, offers help for new students

Clarendon College-Pampa Center will host an open house for persons who would like help in filling out financial aid forms and degree planning on Thursday, March 25.

The open house is set for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Pampa Center, 1601 W. Kentucky.

"The staff at Pampa Center is excited about having this open house and being able to assist new students and parents with filling out their applications," said Joe Kyle Reeve, CCPC dean. "We will be having door prizes and refreshments for those attending the event."

Toni Bryant, financial aid director, will be available to answer questions about the financial aid application process.

"We will have people available and computers available to help people fill out their applications online at the college," Bryant said. "We will also have two \$100 dollar scholarships for door prizes to be given away that evening."

"Along with filling out applications, various faculty and students will be available to answer questions about classes and programs that are available at Clarendon College - Pampa

Center," said Jennifer Moore, academic advisor. "It is our intention to help anyone with their plans to go to college and at the same time show them what we have to offer here at the Pampa Center."

"With the recent increases in tuition at the major universities, students and parents need to make sure they are doing everything possible to maximize their scholarships and federal aid," Reeve said. "Clarendon College - Pampa Center is a very cost-effective way to obtain the first two years of any degree at any university."

"The staff at Pampa Center work very hard to make sure courses transfer to universities all over the country. We are by far more economical than the large four-year universities and we also have lower student-to-teacher ratios which help the student to transition into college coursework," he added.

For more information, call Clarendon College - Pampa Center at 665-8801. CCPC's regular office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Inadequate guard training leaves nuclear weapons plants vulnerable

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nuclear weapons plants have eliminated or reduced training for guards responsible for repelling terrorist attacks, leaving the government unable to guarantee the plants can be adequately defended, the Energy Department's internal watchdog said Tuesday.

One plant has reduced training hours by 40 percent, and some plants conduct tactical training only in classrooms, according to a report from the department's inspector general.

Some contractors fear that injuries among guards during training exercises could reduce bonus payments from the government, the report said. Guards typically receive 320 hours of training.

Only one of 10 plants surveyed, Hanford, Wash., trains guards in the basic use of a shotgun, according to the report. None of the plants teaches guards how to rappel down buildings or cliffs because of concerns that guards might be injured. The report noted that one guard died rappelling in 1995.

"Inconsistent training methods may increase the risk that the department's protective forces will not be able to safely respond to security incidents or will use excessive levels of force," said the report prepared by Inspector General Gregory H. Friedman's office.

It said changes in training weren't coordinated. At some plants training was deemed too dangerous; other plants continued to offer the same exercises. Investigators interviewed instructors who "could not understand how personnel at one site could deem a practice acceptable while others would refuse to administer the block of training using prescribed levels of force."

The National Nuclear Security Administration, which protects nuclear plants, acknowledged in a letter responding to the inspector general that training for guards has suffered because of overtime demands at weapons plants. It promised to review training to make sure it was adequate.

Energy Department spokeswoman Jeanne Lopatto said Tuesday the agency already has increased its budget request in fiscal 2005 for security and safeguards by more than \$150 million over this year, hired more security guards and set up a new office to oversee security training.

The criticisms were the latest leveled against the government's ability to protect nuclear facilities, long considered prime targets for espionage and terrorist attacks.

The inspector general complained in January that security guards who repelled four simulated terrorist attacks at the Y-12 weapons plant in Tennessee had been tipped in advance. The plant processes parts for nuclear weapons and maintains vast supplies of bomb-grade uranium.

That earlier report determined that at least two guards defending the mock attacks had been allowed to look at computer simulations one day before the attacks, and it also uncovered more evidence of cheating during mock attacks against U.S. nuclear plants over the past two decades.

The newest report said some of the nation's weapons plants aren't adequately training guards how to use handcuffs, fight hand-to-hand or defend against terrorists in vehicles. In some cases, mock fighting during exercises is performed in slow motion to avoid injuries.

"Defense tactics training should be as realistic as possible," the inspector general's report said. "Anything less may rob the trainee of the exposure to the levels of force, panic, and confusion that are usually present during an actual attack and increase the possibility of an inappropriate response in high stress situations."

At some weapons plants, for example, instructors used wooden mock-ups or removed windshields from the vehicles of mock terrorists for safety. But experts said that prevents guards from learning how glass affects gunfire or the visibility of a target inside.

The report said all 10 weapons plants surveyed have reduced guard training in at least two important areas.

The plants were the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Calif.; the Nevada Test Site near Nellis Air Force Base; the Oak Ridge Complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn.; the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site near Denver; the Hanford Site; Sandia National Laboratories in California; the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas; the Savannah River Site in South Carolina; the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico; and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

Zapatero pled

MADRID — Spain's new prime minister, Jose Luis Zapatero, has refused to pledge to pull out of Iraq, sharp break with the previous administration.

Zapatero's disapproval of the policies of the outgoing administration was said he had a challenger in the Nov. 14 election.

The Tribune said Zapatero was aligning himself with the peace, against the deaths for a dialogue between Kerry administration.

In the Wednesday radio, Zapatero "fighting bombs ... missiles, i defeat terror."

"Terrorism is the state of I think European national debate," he said.

Zapatero's occupation fiasco," he said. "I have been since the end of the invasion, Nations still."

The outgoing government Jose Maria Aznar, the war against Spanish terrorism, the invasion afterward.

"I'll explain which inc States, of ... what Zapatero said."

About respond if reconsider,

reconsider,

IRAC

A he exploded Wednesday soldier and personnel area, U.S. Jones said.

Brig. Dempsey, Armored, 1 tion would advantage bers of Baghdad Dempsey U.S. and disposal.

With his overhead, fighting Humvees to prevent ing. Troop store gear residents c and the m

"There to run and we have t could easil doing this just want know that said Maj. Hyde Park Dempsey spent two intelligenc raided: rel extremists Iraqi reb caches. I continue

Zapatero says he won't reconsider pledge to withdraw troops in Iraq

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Spain's new leader intensified his criticism of the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq on Wednesday, saying it was "turning into a fiasco."

Prime Minister-elect Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero also refused to reconsider his pledge to pull his 1,300 troops out of Iraq by June 30, in a sharp break with the Bush administration.

Zapatero had signaled his dislike of President Bush's policies during the Spanish election campaign when he said he hoped Democratic challenger John Kerry would win in November.

The International Herald Tribune recently quoted Zapatero as saying, "We're aligning ourselves with Kerry. Our allegiance will be for peace, against war, no more deaths for oil, and for a dialogue between the government of Spain and the new Kerry administration."

In the hourlong interview Wednesday on Onda Cero radio, Zapatero said that "fighting terrorism with bombs ... with Tomahawk missiles, isn't the way to defeat terrorism. ...

"Terrorism is combatted by the state of law. ... That's what I think Europe and the international community have to debate," he said.

Zapatero said the Iraq occupation "is turning into a fiasco," noting that "there have been almost more deaths since the end of the war" than during last year's U.S.-led invasion, and the United Nations still is not in control.

The outgoing conservative government of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar supported the war against the wishes of the majority of Spaniards. Spanish troops did not fight in the invasion but were sent in afterward.

"I'll explain to our allies, which include the United States, of course, and Britain ... what my position is," Zapatero said.

About how he might respond if Bush asked him to reconsider, Zapatero said, "I

will listen to Mr. Bush, but my position is very clear and very firm."

About 5,000 pro-Aznar demonstrators gathered outside the conservative Popular Party's headquarters in downtown Madrid, deriding Zapatero as "the president of al-Qaida." They dispersed about 30 minutes after the party's defeated candidate, Mariano Rajoy, appeared and applauded at a balcony.

In the interview, Zapatero also said he would better coordinate Spain's police agencies, which failed to prevent last week's Madrid train bombings that killed 201 people. Authorities knew the whereabouts and potential danger of a top suspect and his alleged links with al-Qaida.

He tried to reassure Spaniards that his government would relentlessly hunt down terrorists.

"They will not have a moment of rest," Zapatero said, adding that he would have a single director for both the Civil Guard and the National Police, which currently answer to two chiefs.

The Spanish government said a judge has imposed a secrecy order on the police investigation into the attacks, apparently to avoid compromising the hunt for suspects.

Interior Minister Angel Acebes insisted progress was being made, adding that investigators were still combing for clues, including from a videotape in which a purported al-Qaida spokesman claimed responsibility.

European and U.S. police and intelligence agencies are helping the inquiry — cooperation that is "not only necessary but absolutely indispensable," Acebes said at a news conference.

Jamal Zougam, a Moroccan phone salesman who was arrested two days after the bombings, is emerging as the key suspect. Spanish law enforcement agencies had been aware of his alleged links to al-Qaida since at least 2001, when they

searched his apartment.

Moroccan authorities, who considered Zougam a "very active terrorist," warned Spanish police in 2003 that he was returning to Spain, the Barcelona daily El Periodico reported.

Acebes said that to his knowledge, there was no arrest warrant for Zougam before March 11.

Police were interrogating two other Moroccans and two Indian men also arrested Saturday.

The daily El Pais reported that police also suspect that five other Moroccans, who were still at large, took direct part in the train bombings.

Authorities increasingly suspect an al-Qaida-linked cell carried out the bombings.

Police believe the two Indians were involved in the sale of cell phones or prepaid phone cards used to detonate the string of bombs, according to Spanish media.

El Pais reported Wednesday that the fingerprints of one of the Indians, Vinay Kohly, matches one found at the scene of a 2001 killing in Madrid.

Police investigating the killing of Indian shop owner Kamal Karamchan Dad in his electronics shop found the fingerprint on tape that was used to bind the victim's hands and feet. He was asphyxiated with a plastic bag during an apparent robbery.

The fingerprint did not match any database until Kohly's prints were run after his arrest Saturday, El Pais said.

Zougam has already been identified in court documents as a follower of Imad Yarkas, the alleged leader of Spain's al-Qaida cell who is jailed on suspicion he helped plan the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Also Wednesday an Algerian who in January allegedly threatened mass bloodshed in the Spanish capital was brought under tight security to a Madrid court to determine if he knew of the attack beforehand.

Congress seeks answers on air passenger screening program

By LESLIE MILLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Transportation Security Administration said Wednesday it will order airlines to turn over passengers' personal records in the next couple of months to test a computerized passenger screening program that could keep dangerous people off airlines.

Some members of Congress, though, said the project is so flawed that it will ultimately be canceled.

David Stone, acting TSA administrator, also said preliminary version of a consolidated watch list will be online by March 31 for government agencies to access.

Stone, testifying before a House aviation subcommittee, said the agency intends to hire a privacy officer this month and to set up two oversight committees for the prescreening project — one to deal with privacy issues, one for technology.

The Computer-Assisted Passenger Prescreening System, or CAPPS II, would rank all air passengers according to the likelihood of their being terrorists. Some say the project would violate privacy rights, while others are concerned it would cost the private sector too much money.

Congress last year ordered the General Accounting Office, its investigative arm, to report on whether CAPPS II safeguards passenger privacy. The auditors reported last month that the government hasn't adequately addressed security and privacy concerns.

U.S. airlines are refusing to voluntarily turn over passenger data to the government so it can test the system. They echo their customers' concerns about government snooping and the possibility that people will be wrongly labeled as terrorists.

The Air Transport Association, the trade group for major airlines, has come up with seven "privacy principles" that it says the government should follow in implementing CAPPS II.

The guidelines seek to ensure the TSA collects only personal information pertaining to aviation security, stores it securely and gets rid of it as soon as travel is completed. The airlines also said that passengers must be allowed to access their personal information and correct any errors.

The TSA says it agrees that privacy must be protected. A privacy officer, Nuala O'Connor Kelly, has been hired to make sure federal privacy law is upheld. The agency won't hold on to passengers' records, except for people who might be terrorists. The TSA also says it has established a way for passengers to redress inaccurate information, though that remains to be tested.

The Business Travel Coalition, a group that wants to lower the cost of business travel, said in a statement that business would be disrupted if travelers were inadvertently snared by the system.

The group also said that CAPPSS II would burden corporations and travel agencies with higher costs.

"Firms in the travel industry distribution business face unknowable costs at this time to reconfigure their systems in accordance with the requirements of a CAPPSS II," the coalition said.

The passenger screening program would check information such as a name, address and birth date against commercial and government databases. Each passenger would be given one of three color-coded ratings.

Suspected terrorists and violent criminals would be designated as red and forbidden to fly. Passengers who raise questions would be classified as yellow and would receive extra security screening. The vast majority would be designated green and allowed through routine screening.

On the Net:

Transportation Security Administration: <http://www.tsa.gov>

Air Transport Association: <http://www.airtransport.org>

Business Travel Coalition: <http://btweb.biz>

Greenspan: Banking system ready for expansion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. banking system weathered the last recession well and is now in good shape to provide the credit needed for an expanding economy, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Wednesday.

Greenspan told a convention of the Independent Community Bankers of America that problems banks experienced from bad loans in the last recession were mild compared to previous downturns. As a result, he said, the banking industry was "strong and well-positioned to meet customer needs for credit and other financial services."

Speaking by satellite to the bankers' meeting in San Diego, Greenspan said that over the past three years the banking industry has enjoyed an extended string of high and

often record quarterly earnings and a robust growth in assets.

He said that problem loans have been declining and the size and number of bank failures over the last few years has been "exceptionally small."

Greenspan said that while the demand on banks to make business loans has been weak since the recession and the past two years of sluggish economic growth, banks have continued to benefit from strong demand for household loans reflecting the booming housing market.

Greenspan predicted that the period of weak demand for business loans should be coming to an end.

"As economic activity continues to grow and businesses become more confident about their customers' demands, business loan demand should increase," Greenspan said.

He predicted that both large and small banks will need to look beyond their core depositor base to fund rising loan demands, and he also forecast that the trend toward mergers of both large and small banks would continue in coming years.

He said the spate of banking mergers the country has witnessed have been driven by a variety of factors from the relaxation of government restrictions on interstate banking to increased global competition in the financial services industry.

He said while the biggest bank mergers grab public attention, roughly 90 percent of all bank mergers over the past decade involved banks with less than \$1 billion in assets being acquired. In three-fourths of the mergers, the bank being acquired had less than \$250 million in assets, he said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

IRAQ

A homemade bomb exploded in central Baghdad Wednesday, wounding a U.S. soldier and two Iraqi security personnel as they patrolled the area, U.S. Army Col. Peter Jones said.

Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of 1st Armored, had said the operation would be timed to take advantage of the huge numbers of U.S. troops in Baghdad at the moment. Dempsey has some 45,000 U.S. and Iraqi forces at his disposal.

With helicopters hovering overhead, forces in Bradley fighting vehicles and Humvees circled the market to prevent rebels from escaping. Troops then went store to store searching for weapons and guerrilla suspects. Few residents criticized the search, and the mood was relaxed.

"There are so many places to run and hide. That's why we have to lock it down. We could easily spend a few days doing this. But we basically just want the bad guys to know that we are still here," said Maj. Gregg Softy, 38, of Hyde Park, N.Y.

Dempsey said his unit spent two months gathering intelligence on targets to be raided: religious and political extremists, foreign fighters, Iraqi rebels and weapons caches. The operation will continue for the next few

days, the military said. Also Wednesday, insurgents used dynamite to attack an overpass on the main highway leading from Baghdad to Jordan, causing it to partly collapse and block one side of the road, witnesses said.

The highway is regularly used by U.S. military convoys and allows them to avoid the adjacent service road that runs through Fallujah and Ramadi, two cities in the so-called Sunni Triangle.

In the northern city of Mosul, an Iraqi soldier was killed and three wounded

when an explosive device blew up next to their vehicle as they were escorting an oil tanker truck, a Mosul police officer said. Three suspects were arrested.

A U.S. Bradley fighting vehicle overturned in central Iraq on Wednesday, killing one 1st Infantry Division soldier and injuring two, a U.S. official said.

Late Tuesday, unidentified assailants fired mortars that smashed into a house in south Baghdad, killing two Iraqi children, local residents said.

THE Pampa NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, Texas
Telephone: 806-669-2525
1-800-687-3348 • Fax: 669-2520
Email: doodee@pan-tex.net

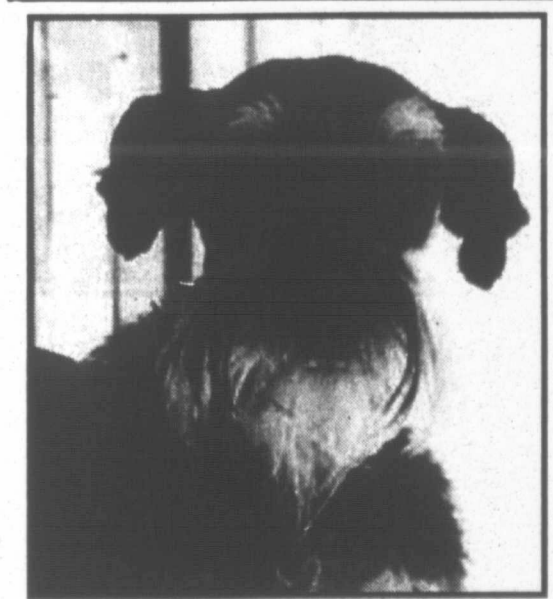
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Pet of the Week



Fritz is a black & silver Schnauzer. He's a young adult male that is sweet and playful. Fritz is ready for a loving family ... come by today!

Also... come see our latest arrival. "Dufus" is a 1 year old black, long haired, male, neutered and declawed house cat. He's never been around children but he's a very sweet cat.

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For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.
NEW HOURS Monday-Friday 9-6, Office Open To The Public 5-6pm, Closed Weekends & Holidays.
LOST YOUR PET? Call the Animal Shelter first! Leave a detailed message with your phone number. We hold stray animals for 72 hours only. So PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!

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DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Man's Perfect Pedigree is Marred by Table Manners

DEAR ABBY: I've been seeing "Matt," a 31-year-old investment banker, for a couple of months. He's caring, kind, intelligent and successful -- a wonderful person. After prep school, he went to an Ivy League college. All things considered, he is everything I have been looking for in a mate.

Then we went out to dinner and I watched him eat. Abby, Matt has the worst table manners I have ever seen. He holds his fork like a caveman and slurps his food.

My parents and grandparents taught me proper etiquette. I was brought up to believe that the way you conduct yourself, especially at the table, is a reflection of your upbringing.

Call me shallow, but Matt's bad table manners are close to being a deal-breaker for me. I don't know what to do. Frankly, I don't want to be the one to teach him table manners. Should I con him into an etiquette class -- or is that too sneaky? -- **DATING A CAVE-MAN**

DEAR DATING: Con him? Speak up and tell this man exactly what you have told me! You'll be doing him a tremendous favor. People are judged in business -- as they are socially -- by the manners they do (or do not) display. Better he should hear it from you. And if you locate an etiquette class, offer to attend with him. Don't sacrifice an otherwise perfect relationship over a flaw that is fixable.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 11 years. My father passed away this past December. Because of this, my mother, who lives next door, has been sleeping at our house at night. This is causing my husband to become resentful. He says he no longer has any privacy.

Mother helps out by taking the kids to and from school every day. She would like to start staying at her own

house at night again, but it is still difficult for her. What should I do? -- **LOST DAD, MAY LOSE HUSBAND**

DEAR LOST: Encourage your mother to start sleeping at home. Ease the transition by having your older children sleep at her house for a few weeks. If she's still afraid to sleep alone, suggest she adopt a pet. The sooner she asserts her independence, the better she will feel. You'll be doing both your mother and your husband a favor.

DEAR ABBY: Lately, my aunt, "Brenda," has been overly strict with my cousin, "Emily." She won't let Emily talk on the phone, go to movies -- you get the idea. Once, because Emily lost the padlock for her gym locker, she was grounded for three weeks, lost her phone and computer privileges, and had to take all of her pictures out of her locker.

My family knows this is wrong, but everyone's afraid to say anything. Is there anything I can do to help Emily? -- **CONCERNED COUSIN IN WISCONSIN**

DEAR CONCERNED COUSIN: The punishment should fit the crime, and it appears that Emily's mother has gone way overboard. The problem with trying to keep a child a virtual prisoner is that most of them will rebel sooner or later. It would be a kindness if you would ask the other adults in your family to speak to your Aunt Brenda. She needs to learn more effective parenting techniques.

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY IRISH READERS:

"May the most you wish for be the least you get."

"May the best times you've ever had be the worst you will ever see."

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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The Pampa News Comics

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Fancy

1 "Oleanna" marble playwright

6 Matador's foe

10 Wise saying

11 Dyeing spot

12 Pacific nation

13 Singer Patsy

14 Eye part

15 Conductor André

16 Butterfly catcher

17 Smile center

18 Terminus

19 Activity at the mirror

22 Certain

23 Movie pooch

26 Enjoying oneself

29 Resort for the pampered

32 Tavern

33 Injure

34 Fancy home

36 Helen's mother

37 Islands greeting

38 "Forget it!"

39 Mortise partner

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Yesterday's answer

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Marmaduke



"You don't have to think of my new running shoes as a challenge."

The Family Circus



"We wouldn't get dessert."

Flo & Friends



For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

FOOTBALL

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Davis wishes to play following the season. He reached before the receiver's contract was free agent.

The Eagles' round draft pick from Baltimore ended Brandon Staley's San Francisco career. He got back to the pick they selected for Owens.

Owens, who has played seasons in San Francisco, will become a free agent in 2003. But his contract with the Philadelphia Eagles is voiding the contract's deadline.

The 49ers' four-time Pro Bowl player to the Ravens in 2004, after Owens was traded to a contract with the Philadelphia Eagles.

IRVING, TEXAS — Quarterback Matt Ryan signed a contract with the Dallas Cowboys, but his transition to football is still in progress.

Henson's contract with the Dallas Cowboys was submitted to the NFL Council for review. The Cowboys' Houston Texans' round pick exchange for Henson is worth \$3.5 million.

become a free agent after four seasons with the Dallas Cowboys. He'll make \$10 million a year and will play in the NFL.

The Texas Rangers' Henson in his last season with Houston, will be traded to the Dallas Cowboys. David Carr planned to leave the former Dallas Cowboys player who spent his last season playing in New York.

zation.

BASKETBALL — WASHINGTON — Craig Ehler's days after being traded to the Houston Rockets.

That was standard for Ehler since succeeding coach John Thompson. The Hoyas' appearance in the playoffs and they've won their own name each season.

The Hoyas' nine games losing streak in 1972, the season of Thompson's arrival. Esherrick's 103-74 record in Boston College's round of the tournament last year history not reach the

SPORTS

Optimist baseball gears up for spring and summer

Almost 300 players signed up for Optimist Baseball this summer.

Babe Ruth League President Kevin Davis said 280 registered during last week's sign-up.

Late registration will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. next week, March 22-24, at the Optimist Club. Tryouts for new players and players moving to a Cal Ripken League or the Babe

Ruth League at the same time.

"The girls had a good turnout, too," Davis said. "We had 88 players register for T-ball, which is for players five and six years old."

He said 53 signed up for the Pitching Machine League for seven and eight year old players. For the nine to ten year olds, 59 filled out forms for the Cal Ripken League.

"We are very pleased to have 52 players in the 11 to 12 Cal Ripken League," Davis said.

He said that indicated an interest in playing.

"We are expecting to add two Pampa teams in that league this year," Davis said. "We already have about 10 people express an interest in coaching in that league."

Davis said 28 players registered for the Babe

Ruth League for players 13 to 15 years old.

"I have been in contact with representatives of the Clarendon baseball program," Davis said. "They had one team in our Babe Ruth League last year and are anticipating having two this year. I have also been told that Miami will be fielding teams in both the T-ball League and the Pitching Machine League as well as a girl's softball team."

Davis said the leagues need more adult help in coaching, umpiring and serving as league officials.

"We hope to get some more volunteers next week," he said. Practice is scheduled to start in most leagues the week of March 29, with games beginning as early as the middle of April.

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way Agency.

NOTEBOOK

FOOTBALL

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Terrell Owens got his wish to play for the Eagles, following a settlement reached before an arbitrator could rule on the star receiver's case to become a free agent.

The Eagles sent a fifth-round draft pick to Baltimore and defensive end Brandon Whiting to San Francisco. The Ravens got back the second-round pick they sent to the 49ers for Owens.

Owens, who spent eight seasons with San Francisco, was supposed to become a free agent March 3. But his agent, David Joseph, failed to file papers voiding the final years of his contract by a Feb. 21 deadline.

The 49ers then dealt the four-time Pro Bowl receiver to the Ravens on March 4, after Owens had agreed to a contract with the Eagles.

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Quarterback Drew Henson signed an eight-year contract with the Dallas Cowboys, the latest step in his transition from baseball to football.

Henson's agent, Tom Condon of IMG Football, said the contract will be submitted Wednesday to the NFL Management Council for its approval.

The Cowboys gave the Houston Texans a third-round pick in 2005 in exchange for Henson.

Henson is guaranteed \$3.5 million and can become a free agent after four seasons if he or the Cowboys void the final four seasons of the deal. He'll make the rookie minimum of \$238,000 this season and can raise his annual base salary based on playing time.

The Texans selected Henson in the sixth round of last year's draft. Houston, which already has David Carr at quarterback, planned all along to deal the former Michigan starter who spent three full seasons playing baseball in the New York Yankees' organization.

BASKETBALL

WASHINGTON (AP) — Craig Esherick was fired days after boasting he would return despite a 13-15 season, the Hoyas' worst in 31 years.

That was hardly the standard Esherick had set since succeeding Hall of Fame coach John Thompson in 1999. The Hoyas have made just once NCAA tournament appearance since — in 2001 — and they've barely qualified for their own conference tournament each of the last two seasons.

The Hoyas lost their last nine games, their longest losing streak since 1971-72, the season before the Thompson era began. Esherick finished with a 103-74 record and lost to Boston College in the opening round of the Big East tournament last week, the first time in the tournament's 25-year history Georgetown did not reach the quarterfinals.



(Courtesy photo)

Krysten Miller holds her championship trophy after winning the novice state wrestling championship at the state tournament in Houston. For another picture see page 6.

Wrestlers do well at championship meet

One Pampa wrestler won his third state championship. Three others won their first.

Zachary Bradley won his third state championship as the Pampa Takedown Club competed in the state tournament this month.

Steven Botello won his first state title. Krysten Miller, who took second in rookie competition last year, won the novice state title this year. She also took second in the open state championship.

Jason Martinez took the state championship in his division this year.

"The kids did a fantastic job this year," said Rick Urquart, one of the club's coaches. "They have spent hundreds of hours practicing and competing to be ready for the state competition."

Wrestlers with the Pampa Takedown Club competed at the state tournament March 5 and 6 in Houston.

"We are very proud of the way the kids went into the tournament," Urquart said. "We worked out extremely tough at the end of the season to prepare for the state finals, and it paid off big for the wrestlers."

Urquart said the feeder program is starting to show up in the Pampa school programs.

"What we as coaches try to do is give the kids a solid foundation to build on so Coach Cadenhead can fine tune their skills in the middle school and high school programs."

Krysten Miller was named champion for Division One 60 pound category of the Novice State Championship for first and second year wrestlers.

Jason Martinez won the championship for Division Three 110 pounds in the Rookie State Finals for first year wrestlers.

Carleton Patton placed second in

Division One 38 pounds. Brantley Swires was fifth in Division One 50 pounds.

Zachary Bradley was the champion in Division Two 115 pounds of the open tournament, which includes all wrestlers in the state. Steven Botello was champion of Division Three 95 pounds. Carleton Patton was second in Division One 38 pounds. Krysten Miller was second in Division One 60 pounds. Zack Burnett was sixth in Division Two 93 pounds. Jason Martinez was sixth in Division Three 110 pounds. Brantley Swires was seventh in Division One 50 pounds. Cody Schiffman was seventh in Division Four 80 pounds.

"Coach Carlos Regalado and Coach Mike Bradley said all these kids wrestled like champions," Urquart said.

Urquart said the club's wrestlers are improving every year.

"The businessmen and women of Pampa have seen to it by donations that these kids can see dreams can come true," Urquart said.

He said that without the help of the Pampa business community none of this would have been possible.

"Wrestling affords kids of all sizes to go out and prove their skills," Urquart said. "Many of these athletes would not be able to compete in other sports due to their size, but wrestling affords an athlete of smaller physical size to compete on an equal playing field."

Urquart said that's why the coaches dedicate their time and effort to the kids.

"We believe that all the kids should have the opportunity to showcase their talents," he said. "This year is proof positive that our kids will make the most of that opportunity."

Texas counting on experience and depth

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Longhorns are ready for another run to the Final Four. And why not? The team is loaded with experience and a bench that goes 11 players deep.

The tournament is the last chance for seniors Brandon Mouton, Royal Ivey, Brian Boddicker and James Thomas, keys to Texas' success in the past several seasons.

Add freshman forward P.J. Tucker and the late-season emergence of junior center Jason Klotz, and the

Longhorns boast a team that believes it can compete with anyone in the ultra-intense atmosphere of the NCAA tournament.

The third-seeded Longhorns (23-7) meet Princeton (20-7) in a first-round game Thursday in Denver.

"With the depth we have," Boddicker said, "I think we have all the ingredients to win a national championship."

The Longhorns faced questions early this season over whether they would fall back to the pack in the Big 12 after guard T.J. Ford left for the

NBA following his sophomore season.

The fall wasn't far at all. The Longhorns spent much of the season ranked in or around the Top 10 and finished second in the Big 12 in the regular season and the conference tournament.

Mouton leads the team in scoring at 13.4 points — in one four-game stretch he averaged more than 20 points — and Tucker's arrival pushed Thomas out of the starting lineup. The freshman ranks second on the team in points (See Texas, p. 6)

Globetrotters end season four and four

The Pampa Globetrotters are entered in the Bluebonnet Classic Tournament in Amarillo the weekend of March 26 through 28.

The Bluebonnet Classic is an AAU tournament.

Jeff Skinner with the Globetrotters said the Trotters will play in several more AAU Tournaments over the next month or two.

The Pampa Globetrotters finished their regular season Friday in Amarillo with a 4-and-4 record.

Pampa defeated the Infernos 60 to 22.

Skinner said Pampa started slowly in the first half, leading 21 to 9, but finished strong to

come away with the win.

Hayden Skinner led the team in scoring with 13 points.

Alex Clendening was next with 12 points, followed by Heath Skinner with 11. Casey Trimble made 9 points. Matt Smith had 7. Blake Sieck, 5, and Thomas Fraser had 2.

In the last game, Pampa was defeated by the Dumas Eighth Grade team 35-26.

The Globetrotters led at the half 16-14, but they went cold from the field in the second half, Skinner said.

Blake Sieck led Pampa in scoring with 10 points, followed by Matt Smith and Alex Clendening with 4 points each.

Prior throws off mound; Reyes could miss Mets' opener

By The Associated Press

Mark Prior gave the Chicago Cubs some encouraging news when he threw off a mound for the first time in two weeks.

Prior was sidelined by an inflamed right Achilles tendon. He threw 25 to 30 pitches Tuesday, the Cubs' off day, general manager Jim Hendry said in Mesa, Ariz. The session was closed to reporters, but Hendry said Prior had "no discomfort" and that things "went exactly as we had hoped."

The right-hander tentatively is scheduled to start Chicago's third game of the season, April 8 at Cincinnati, but it's unclear if he'll be ready in time. He's slated to play catch Wednesday and throw from a mound Thursday.

The New York Mets, meanwhile, learned second baseman Jose Reyes might miss opening day after injuring his right hamstring again while stealing a base during a spring training game Sunday.

Tests revealed a Grade 1 strain, the least severe.

"I've had a lot of trouble with that leg," Reyes said in Port St. Lucie, Fla. "I don't know why, we have to figure it out."

It's the third time in a year the fleet-footed Reyes has pulled his right hamstring. General manager Jim Duquette said the team will speak with doctors, conditioning coaches and trainers about his workout program.

Reyes, 20, said he paid particular attention to strengthening his legs when he worked out during the offseason. He missed three weeks with the same injury last May, and five games in July when he tweaked the hamstring.

Considered one of the top prospects in baseball, Reyes was impressive as a rookie last year after being called up from the minors in midseason. He hit .307 with five homers, 32 RBIs and 13 steals in 274 at-bats before his season ended Aug. 31 due to a severely sprained left ankle.

Reyes also made fine plays

at shortstop, but was shifted to second base in the offseason after Kaz Matsui came over from Japan and joined the Mets.

"Right now, opening day is questionable, but we're going to deal with it on a week-by-week basis," Duquette said. "Individuals heal differently and a lot of it will depend on how he rehabs and how quickly he heals."

Reyes and Matsui have not played in the field together in a spring training game. Matsui, who had been sidelined by a cut on his finger, made his debut at shortstop Monday against Los Angeles.

Another shortstop, Barry Larkin, said he might reconsider his decision to retire after this season.

Larkin, who turns 40 next month, has played with Cincinnati since 1986 and talked with the Reds about joining their front office in 2005.

"My wife asks me that all the time, surprisingly, if I have a productive year and stay healthy, will I come back?" Larkin said Tuesday. "If the kids want to see me play and the Reds really want me back, I could play another year."

In exhibition games:

Marlins 10, Orioles 2

At Jupiter, Fla., Hee Seop Choi hit a three-run homer off Rodrigo Lopez in the first inning and made two nice plays in the field. Choi is hitting .467 (7-for-15) in his last seven games with three home runs and seven RBIs.

Javy Lopez hit his first home run of the spring and drove in both of Baltimore's runs.

Twins 5, Blue Jays 4
At Fort Myers, Fla., AL Cy Young Award winner Roy Halladay allowed one run in four innings for Toronto. Twins ace Brad Radke matched Halladay, allowing one run and two hits in four innings.

Tigers 11, Cardinals 6
At Lakeland, Fla., St. Louis right-hander Jason Marquis has a sore elbow and didn't make his scheduled start.

(See Spring Training, p. 6)

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Philly guy through and through

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Nobody becomes a hero in a tough town such as Philly by keeping his mouth shut all the time.

That's never been Phil Martelli's problem.

On Sunday, the Saint Joseph's basketball coach was in the bandbox gym on campus, watching the NCAA tournament selection show and savoring the improbable 27-1 regular-season run that lifted the Hawks to a No. 1 seeding.

Then, CBS analyst Billy Packer came on and started chipping away at their perch.

"I don't think St. Joseph's can beat Oklahoma State, Texas and Pittsburgh," Packer said.

Interviewed moments later on the same show, Martelli seethed.

Suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune might have worked for Hamlet, but it doesn't fly with Philly guys — and Martelli is one of those through and through.

He grew up there, played his high school and college ball there, served his long, low-paying coaching apprenticeship there, then landed the only job he ever wanted and never thought about going anywhere else. His recruiting budget would fold inside North Carolina's 10 times, and his office is the size of a phone booth.

"For a non-Philadelphia person to come here," Martelli told one of his hometown papers, "they'd be worrying about the office. Or they'd worry about the field house. I don't have enough energy to use it in a negative way. Enjoy what you do have."

But that hasn't been easy.

St. Joe's beat Gonzaga and Boston College, beat local rivals Villanova and La Salle, beat every one of the first 27 teams on their schedule and the only thing they accumulated faster than wins were skeptics.

Some argued the Hawks' pressure defense would collapse against a skillful backcourt, while others said that they lacked size and strength to battle tough teams under the basket.

Martelli resuscitated the Hawks' struggling program, but lately he's learned that staying on top is every bit as tough as getting there. In late January, en route to a 114-63 demolition of St. Bonaventure, a Bonnies fan yelled at Martelli for clamping on full-court pressure when St. Joe's was already ahead by 25 points. He wheeled toward the stands and yelled back, "Shut up, you nitwit!"

That was before learning the woman he screamed at was a school librarian. Martelli had the good sense to follow that up with a handwritten letter of apology soon after. But as the scrape with Packer proved, it hasn't diminished his appetite for competitive give-and-take.

So maybe it should come as no surprise that his closest pal is another Philly guy, Geno Auriemma, the wildly successful and every-bit-as-combative coach of the Connecticut women's basketball dynasty.

And it should also come as no surprise that as St. Joe's kept ascending toward the perfect season, Martelli rang up Auriemma, whose UConn teams had turned the trick more than once, for some tips on how to deal with the added attention.

Sorenstam aims at grand slam in her 11th season

By BOB BAUM
AP Sports Writer

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. (AP) — Even after 10 years, 48 LPGA tournament victories and six major championships, Annika Sorenstam seems far from ready to ease up on the game she dominates.

"The key is to obviously like what you do," she said as she prepared for her season debut Thursday at the Safeway International.

"I still have some goals I want to achieve, and as long as I have that, I can stay motivated."

Sorenstam's biggest goal is a grand slam — a sweep of the LPGA's four majors in the same season.

"It's very hard to do," she said. "Nobody else has done it, so I think that says it all. But I

like to set goals, I like to motivate myself. If you believe in your mind, I think you can do it."

Last year, Sorenstam won two majors, finished second in one and fourth in another.

This week's tournament at Superstition Mountain Golf Club is a warmup for next week's Kraft Nabisco Championship, the season's first major.

Sorenstam isn't the only golfer in this week's field with high goals. Nobody aims higher than 14-year-old Michelle Wie, playing in the first of six LPGA events she plans to enter this year.

Wie calls Sorenstam "a great player," but the ninth-grader's heroes are men — Tiger Woods and Ernie Els.

Wie hopes to someday play on both the PGA and LPGA tours, and even tee it up at the Masters.

"These are really long-term goals," Wie said, "and that's what makes me work harder."

Sorenstam cannot fathom the talent that Wie exhibits.

"I started playing golf when I was 12," Sorenstam said. "I can't even relate."

Sorenstam's season debut is in many ways overshadowed by the presence of Wie, the 6-footer with the bright smile and powerhouse swing that routinely sends drives 300 yards or more.

The ninth-grader from Hawaii has seen the spotlight grow brighter with her near miss against the men at the PGA's Sony Open in January, where she fell one shot shy of making the cut.

Sorenstam, who played well but missed the cut in last year's PGA Colonial, marveled at Wie's performance.

"I mean, I'm impressed," Sorenstam said. "I had a chance to play in a PGA event and it was really tough, so my hat's off to her. I think she did incredible."

Those who have toiled for years on the women's tour might be expected to harbor some resentment toward this kid from Hawaii. Not Sorenstam.

"On the contrary, I think she's good for the game," Sorenstam said. "I think it's great to have her here. She's a great asset. She's fun to watch. She's young. She's powerful. She's the next generation."

The current generation, though, is far from finished. Sorenstam is not ready to hang up her cleats at age 33. She has talked about someday starting a family, but not this year.

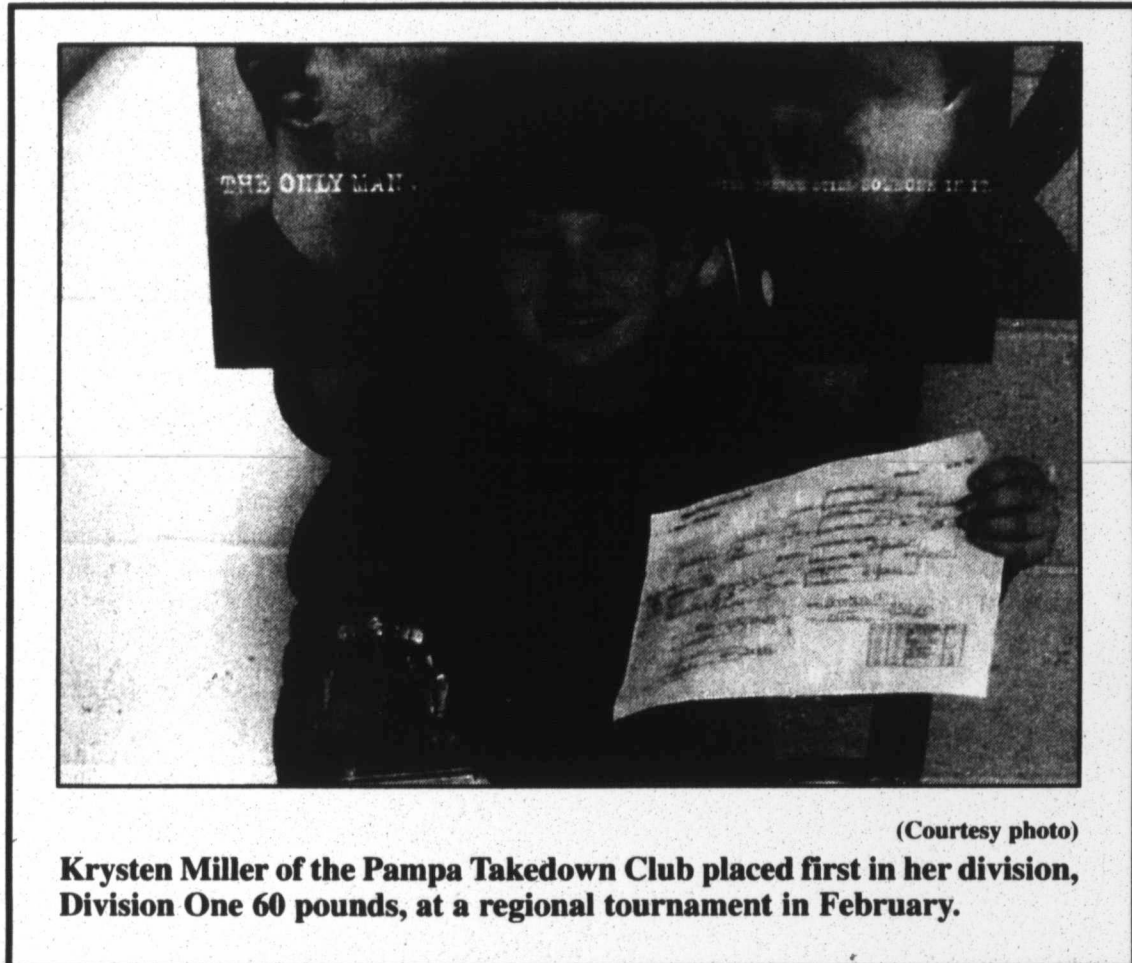
"Right now, I enjoy what I

do," Sorenstam said, "and I still feel motivated to practice and get better, and I still have some goals. I think time will tell where my future will go. ... This is not a farewell tour by any means."

Maybe Sorenstam will ease away from the tour about the time Wie joins it full time.

LPGA rules prohibit anyone under 18 from playing as a regular on the tour, although Wie could petition for an exemption, perhaps in three years. In the meantime, her potential seems beyond anything anyone has seen in golf, except perhaps from Woods.

"I guess I am a little bit different," Wie said. "I mean, how many 14-year-olds are like 6 feet tall? But I'm glad I'm different. I love being unique. Being different is cool."



Krysten Miller of the Pampa Takedown Club placed first in her division, Division One 60 pounds, at a regional tournament in February.

Spring Training

Detroit starter Mike Maroth gave up two runs and four hits in three innings.

Mets 6, Astros 3

At Port St. Lucie, Fla., Mets right-hander Aaron Heilman got another chance to make his bid for the fifth spot in the rotation. He gave up a run in the first inning and a two-run homer to Brad Ausmus in the fifth, but retired 11 straight in between.

Padres 9, Mariners 6

At Peoria, Ariz., Joel Pineiro struggled against San Diego again, and the Padres got a three-run triple from Ryan Klesko. Sean Burroughs hit his first home run of the spring, and Tagg Bozied had an inside-the-park homer for the Padres.

Rockies 12, Diamondbacks 4

At Tucson, Ariz., Todd Helton hit his fourth homer of the spring and Shawn Estes pitched five scoreless innings for Colorado. Jeromy Burnitz and Charles Johnson also homered for the Rockies.

Royals 12, Rangers 7

At Surprise, Ariz., Kenny Rogers allowed 11 of 20 batters to reach base. He gave up 10 hits in 3 1-3 innings and walked one, allowing seven runs, six earned.

Kansas City's Chris George gave up a home

run to Hank Blalock, then retired his final seven batters.

Giants 9, Brewers 2

At Phoenix, Ray Durham hit a leadoff homer and Brett Tomko pitched four innings for San Francisco. Milwaukee center fielder Scott Podsednik, who missed more than a week with a bruised right knee, returned to the lineup and doubled twice.

Angels 9, White Sox 7

At Tempe, Ariz., Bartolo Colon and Esteban Loaiza, the top two starters for the White Sox last season, were on opposite sides this time.

Colon, who signed a \$51 million, four-year contract with the Angels during the offseason, allowed six hits and three runs in 3 1-3 innings.

Loaiza, a 21-game winner who finished second in AL Cy Young Award balloting, gave up seven hits and three runs in five innings while striking out six.

Reds 5, Red Sox 4

At Sarasota, Fla., Jose Acevedo made a strong bid for a spot in Cincinnati's rotation, pitching five solid innings.

Ada returned to the starting lineup and went 1-for-2 with a sacrifice fly. He had missed six games with an infected finger. Danny Graves worked a perfect inning for the win.

Texas

(10.7) and leads in rebounding with 6.8 a game.

While Texas has missed Ford's presence at point guard, the Longhorns have countered with a rotating lineup that wears opponents down with sheer numbers.

The Longhorns have 11 players averaging at least 12 minutes. Only Mouton and Ivey average more than 25 minutes a game.

Ivey started the season at the point and still handles the ball late in close games. Still, the Longhorns have not found a way to match Ford's playmaking skill and sense of timing in the offense.

"The word for our team this year would be consistency," said coach Rick Barnes, who has guided the Longhorns to the NCAA tournament in each of his six years at Texas.

"That's what it comes down to. Guys have picked up the slack."

Texas has a wealth of players who have made big shots down the stretch to win games. Boddicker, Ivey and Mouton hit late shots to force overtime in wins over Providence, Texas Tech and Missouri.

Ivey hit the game-winner in the final seconds against Nebraska, and Tucker made the final shot at the buzzer to beat Providence on the road.

"Guys on this team have been there, done that," Klotz said. "They know how to win."

All this experience and depth didn't prevent a late-season skid.

The Longhorns lost three of their last five games, although two of those came in tight contests against Big 12 season and tournament champion Oklahoma State.

The Longhorns finished badly last season, too, getting knocked out of the Big 12 tournament in the quarterfinals before winning four straight in the NCAA tournament.

Now's the time for all that experience to kick in, Boddicker said.

"This," he said, "is a whole new season."

TCU 6, Oklahoma 3

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — J.J. Estrada went 2-for-3 and drove in three runs to lead TCU to a 6-3 victory over Oklahoma on Tuesday night.

The Horned Frogs (12-8) took a 3-0 lead in the first inning in a unusual series of plays. After Oklahoma starter Charles Benoit walked Chad Huffman to load the bases with no outs, Shelby Ford scored when Oklahoma catcher Matt Bose missed tagging home plate on what would have been a double play to end the inning. The Sooners thought he was out and ran off the field, and Huffman scrambled to home plate for the second run. Estrada then singled

to score Chris Neuman.

Oklahoma (11-7) scored twice in the third inning on back-to-back doubles.

But TCU put the game out of reach by scoring three times in the bottom of the inning. Estrada hit a two-run single and Bo Cogbill stole home.

Benoit (0-1) took the loss, allowing three earned runs on one hit before he was pulled without getting anyone out.

Eugene Espineli (2-1) got the win pitching two scoreless innings with two walks and three strikeouts. Robbie Findlay got his third save of the season with three strikeouts in the final inning.

Texas 5, San Antonio 0

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — J.D. Reininger went 2-for-3 with three RBIs and five Texas pitchers combined for a shutout as the Longhorns defeated Texas-San Antonio 5-0 Tuesday night.

Reininger got the Longhorns (24-2) going with an RBI single that scored Taylor Teagarden in the first inning. Texas added two runs in the fifth on a two-run single by Michael Hollimon. Reininger got his third homer

of the year in the ninth for the final 5-0 margin.

The victory extended Texas' win streak to 13 games, the most since the Longhorns won 13 in a row in 1996.

Starter Tyler McCulloch (3-0) got the victory for Texas as he struck out five and gave up two hits over four innings. Texas-San Antonio starter Klau Boehme (3-2) took the loss for the Roadrunners (9-8).

New Mexico 4, Texas Tech 1

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Cooper Eddy allowed only one run on four hits and struck out five in seven innings as New Mexico defeated Texas Tech 4-1 on Tuesday night.

The Red Raiders (13-6) broke open the scoreless game in the seventh inning when Josh Haney doubled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Cody Fuller.

New Mexico (3-12-1) rallied with three runs in the bot-

tom of the seventh. Matt Young hit a two-run triple to left center and scored on a single by Garrick Haymore.

Sean Murray doubled to left and scored on a double by Jay Russell in the eighth for the final New Mexico run.

Eddy (2-2) got the victory and Joe Salas got the save. Reliever Barrett Pfler (0-1) took the loss for Texas Tech. He gave up two earned runs on three hits in the seventh.

Houston 3, Rice 2

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston took advantage of some wild throws in the third inning to score all of its runs in a 3-2 victory over Rice Tuesday night.

Patrick Breen singled and scored on a throwing error after Matt Farrington's double. Farrington scored on a wild pitch, and the Cougars (7-12) got their final run on an RBI single by Patrick Gaylord.

Rice (14-5) came back with two runs in the top of the

fourth on a two-run double by Travis Reagan.

The Owls saw a ninth-inning rally fall flat as they stranded two runners when Paul Janish flied out to center field.

Starter Garrett Mock (1-4) gave up six hits and struck out three in seven innings. Brandon Roznovsky got his third save of the year. Josh Baker (3-1) took the loss. He gave up three earned runs and five hits while striking out five in six innings.

Campbellsville, Ky. 67, Lubbock Christian 54

JACKSON, Tenn. (AP) — Tiffany Roaden scored 19 points in leading Campbellsville of Kentucky to a 67-54 opening-round victory over Lubbock Christian in the NAIA Division I tournament Wednesday.

Campbellsville (23-8) advances to Friday's second round.

Lubbock Christian (16-14) led only once in its first-ever

trip to the national tournament, and that was when Cari Bigham scored the first points of the game on a pair of free throws.

Campbellsville forced 10 turnovers, and Lubbock Christian shot only 27 percent (19-of-66) for the game. Miranda Ray's two free throws at 12:11 gave Campbellsville its biggest lead at 57-34.

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Norman's Medieval Fair offers glimpse of living history

NORMAN, Okla. — The 28th annual Medieval Fair, set for April 2, 3, and 4, offers a glimpse of what life was like in the Middle Ages.

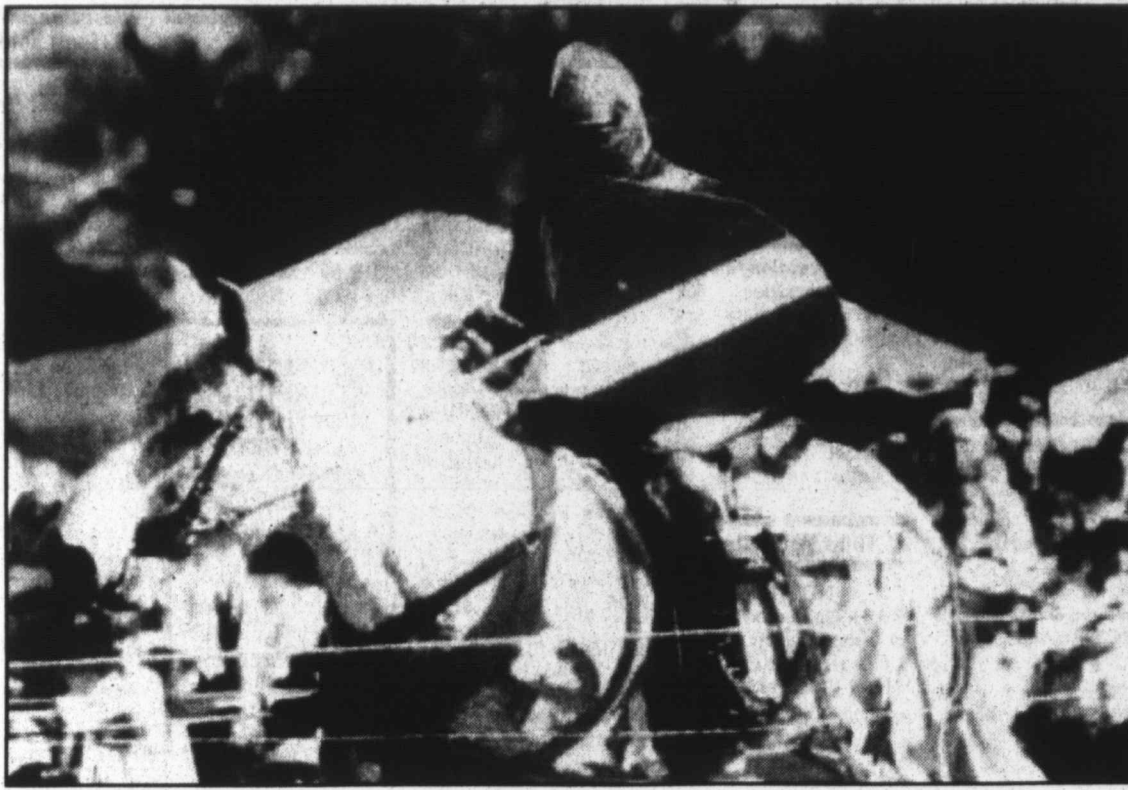
The fair will be held at Reaves Park, located on Jenkins Avenue north of Highway 9 East and one block north of Lloyd Noble Center in Norman. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day.

This living history fair features more than 200 art and craft booths, food concessions, games, educational exhibits, craft demonstrations and a vast array of entertainment. Brightly costumed performers entertaining in the true style of the Middle Ages include minstrels, jugglers, dancers, and armored knights in combat.

Entertainment includes Donal Hinely playing a glass harmonica, the Bilge Pumps, a sea shanty minstrel group; Classen School of Advanced Studies Harp Ensemble; Scottish Rogues, Smee & Blogg (singing executioners), Owain Phye (vocalist for The New World Renaissance Band), jugglers, Highland bagpipes and dancing, armored combat, dancers, Norman Community Choral Society, and Knameless Knights Comedy Duo.

Highlights of the Fair include jousting tournaments presented by the Arthurian Order of Avalon with knights on horseback, scheduled for 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day, and a Human Chess Game scheduled for 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. each day. Stage Door Theatrical Co. will present a fairytale play "Happily Ever After." A Medieval wedding is scheduled for 2 p.m. in Minstrel Circle on Saturday, April 3.

Performances are continuous on the Unicorn and Gryphon stages, Gypsy Camp and on the "streets" of the Fair. Games for all ages include camel and elephant rides a hand-cranked Medieval flying swing carousel, ceramic painting, wax hands, face-painting, sand art and a carousel-driven by llamas, zebras and ponies. Craft demonstrations of blacksmithing, chainmaille making, soap making, woodworking, coin pressing and armor-



(Courtesy photo)

A knight participates in a jousting tournament during the annual Medieval Fair in Norman, Okla.

making will be presented.

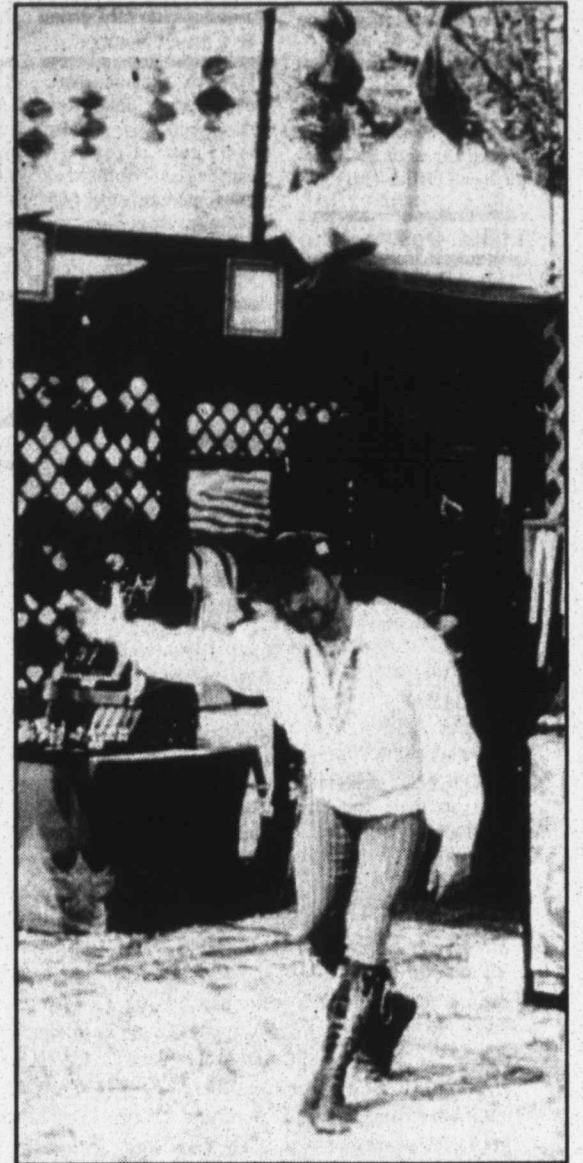
Educational exhibits and presentations about life in the Middle Ages and Scottish heritage will be offered. The Fair's Royal Court will greet visitors along with other street characters such as a falconer, beggar, gypsies, King Arthur, mermaids and strolling minstrels. Demonstrations and activities will be presented by the Society for Creative Anachronism, the Arthurian Order of Avalon, Mummer's Guild, The Realm, Highland Way, and the Oklahoma School of Stage Combat.

The public is invited to enter the costume contest scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, and Sunday, April 4, at the Gryphon Stage. Prizes will be awarded to the best costumes in man, woman and child categories.

Food concessions offer homemade fruit and

chicken salad crepes, German bratwurst and knatwurst with specialty sauces, Asian pan fry noodles, fried rice, veggie rolls and beef or chicken on a stick, Mediterranean cuisine, Indian tacos, funnel cakes, cinnamon roasted almonds, roasted corn and smoked turkey legs. Handcrafted root beer, sarsaparilla and cream soda will be available as well.

Free parking is available at Lloyd Noble Center on Jenkins Avenue, located one block south of Reaves Park. Parking for vehicles with handicap permits will be available on the park grounds. Visitors coming from outside Norman are advised to take I-35 to Highway 9 East, then north on Jenkins Ave. People bringing their dogs are advised that the leash and pooper scoop laws will be enforced on the park grounds.



(Courtesy photo)

A vendor dressed in period costume invites fairgoers into his shop.

Journey to an age of kings, queens and knights in shining armor at the 28th annual Medieval Fair, one of Oklahoma's most unique family events. Admission is free. For more information on the Medieval Fair, call the Norman Convention and Visitors Bureau at 366-8095 or 1-800-767-7260.

Las Vegas authorities arrest suspect in Ohio highway shootings

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The man suspected in two dozen sniper shootings that have terrorized motorists along Ohio highways was arrested at a Las Vegas motel early Wednesday, authorities said.

Charles A. McCoy Jr., 28, was taken into custody near the Stardust casino two days after he was named as a suspect in the Columbus-area shootings, said Las Vegas police Lt. Christopher Van Cleef.

"We got him in custody without incident," Van Cleef said.

Police were told of McCoy's

whereabouts by a person who recognized him from media reports, Van Cleef said. Las Vegas police said they staked out McCoy's motel and arrested him after he identified himself.

"He wasn't armed, but we haven't been in the motel room or his vehicle yet," Van Cleef said. He said police have impounded a 1999 Geo Metro that McCoy was driving.

Police had said McCoy had a history of mental illness and was believed to be armed, with "suicidal or homicidal tendencies." His family refuted that

description, calling McCoy troubled but peaceful.

"I knew it would happen without incident because he was a very passive individual," McCoy's sister Amy Walton said on NBC's "Today" show. "This came as a great shock to our family."

When asked what she would say to her brother, Walton said, "We can't wait to talk to you. Everything will be OK."

Conrad Malsom, 60, of Las Vegas said he told authorities he met McCoy at the Stardust casino late Tuesday. He said he offered McCoy a slice of pizza

but recognized the disheveled-looking man with a darkening beard from photographs in newspapers.

"In my heart and mind, I knew this was the man the police in Ohio were looking for," Malsom told The Associated Press.

He said McCoy told him his name was "Mike." When he left the casino, Malsom found "bizarre writing" on a 8 1/2 by 14-inch sports betting sheet the man left behind.

"There was writing — it filled the whole sheet — about 30 lines," Malsom said.

"Each line started with 'You' or 'You are' but you can't read it, you can't read any of it," he said of the illegible scribble. He said he turned the sheet over to authorities.

FBI special agent Todd Palmer said McCoy is being processed in the agency's office and likely will be transferred to the U.S. attorney's office.

"They'll be in communication with the Columbus U.S. attorney," Palmer said.

Authorities said McCoy had been questioned about the shootings, but not charged.

The 24 shootings around

several highways on the southern outskirts of Columbus pierced homes and a school, dented school buses, flattened tires and shattered windshields. They began in May.

The shootings prompted commuters to take detours and schools to cancel classes or hold recess indoors. Police increased patrols and offered a \$60,000 reward. The state installed cameras on poles along Interstate 270.


The only person struck, Gail Knisley, 62, was killed as a friend drove her to a doctor's appointment Nov. 25.

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