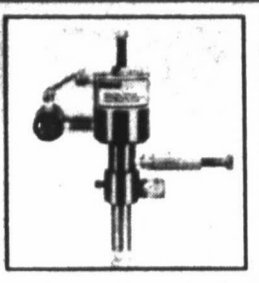


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Nader run creating division

By SAM HANANEL
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — For months, Democrats, long-time friends and former supporters of Ralph Nader have urged him not to make another run for president.

Now that the consumer advocate has formally declared his candidacy as an independent, many Democrats fear a repeat of the 2000 race, when Nader was blamed by some for taking just enough votes away from Al Gore to secure a razor-thin victory for George W. Bush.

Nader rejects the spoiler label as a "contemptuous" term used by those who want to deny voters a choice. Declaring Washington a "corporate-occupied territory," he has accused both Democrats and

Republicans of being dominated by corporate lobbyists who care little about the needs of ordinary Americans.

Nader, who turns 70 this week, was to lay out his campaign themes — including universal health care, campaign finance reform, fighting poverty and addressing environmental concerns — at a press conference Monday in Washington before campaigning in Texas later this week.

"It's a question between both parties flunking. One with a D-, the Republicans, one with a D+, the Democrats, and it's time to change the equation and bring millions of American people into the political arena," Nader said on NBC's "Meet the Press," where he made his announcement Sunday.

But even old friends like liberal Vermont Rep. Bernie Sanders, the only independent in the House, called Nader's decision "counterproductive," predicting "virtually the entire progressive movement is not going to be supportive of Nader."

Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe, who personally urged Nader not to run, called the decision "unfortunate."

"You know, he's had a whole distinguished career, fighting for working families, and I would hate to see part of his legacy being that he got us eight years of 'George Bush,'" McAuliffe said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Sanders and others also suggest that Nader will not pull close to the 2.7 percent of the vote he won in 2000 — when he ran on the Green Party ticket —

because he will have a difficult time getting on many state ballots without the backing of an established party or major financial resources.

Ballot access experts say an independent needs a total of about 700,000 signatures to get on the ballot in all 50 states, a prospect Nader likened to "climbing a cliff with a slippery rope."

But he is undaunted, saying he is confident he can collect more than the \$8 million he raised in 2000 using the same Internet fund-raising strategies that former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean employed before dropping out of the race. As always, he will rely on small contributions and refuse money from corporations and political action committees.

Packer's lawyers may file motion

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Attorneys for IBP, the world's largest beef packer, are expected to file a motion this week asking a federal judge to set aside a jury verdict that gives \$1.28 billion to cattlemen who sold cattle to the packer during an almost nine year period.

A jury in federal court here last week recommended that IBP, now Tyson Fresh Meats, pay \$1,281,690,000 to cattlemen who sold livestock to the packer in the cash market between Feb. 1, 1994, and Oct. 31, 2002.

IBP's lawyers claim that as a matter of law the cattlemen, the plaintiffs in the case, did not prove their accusations that the packer used captive supplies, cattle committed to IBP more than seven days prior to slaughter and without a negotiated price, to manipulate cattle prices in violation of federal law.

After IBP files its motion to set aside the jury's verdict, the cattlemen's attorneys have 10 days to reply. Then it's up to the judge to enter a judgment.

David Domina, one of the cattlemen's lawyers, however, is already planning on the injunctive phase of the case.

In addition to monetary damages (the cattlemen were seeking \$2 billion in the class-action lawsuit), the plaintiffs are asking the court to ban marketing agreements with feedyards that would give the packer their captive supplies of cattle.

(See IBP, Page 2)

WEATHER

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LOCAL

Fund set up at NBC Bank for 4-year-old

A fund has been set up at National Bank of Commerce for 4-year-old Ashlynn Organ, the victim of a recent dog attack. Donations may be sent to NBC Bank, Box 2750, Pampa, TX 79066-2750.

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Building topic of upcoming city meeting

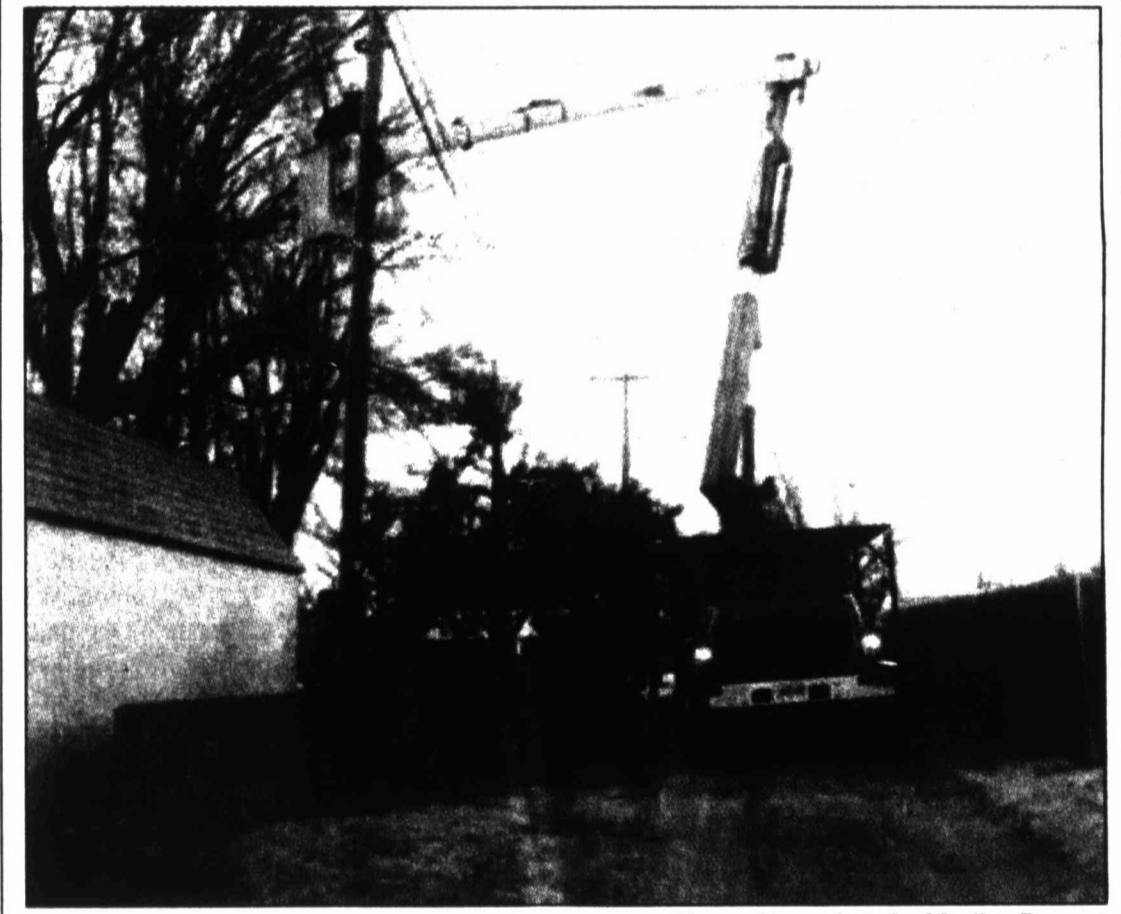
The U.S. Bus building will be discussed by the Pampa City Commission at its regular meeting Tuesday.

A pit in the building needs to be covered or filled at an estimated cost of \$5,000. City Manager Mitch Grant said the city is repairing the roof at a cost of \$3,500.

The city leased the building to McCarty-Hull for warehouse space, but will take back about 7,000 square feet of the building for a business incubator project being established in Pampa by West Texas A&M University.

The Pampa City Commission will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday on the second floor of City Hall.

Pruning trees



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

D.E. Ward gets a bird's-eye view as he trims high branches on a tree in the backyard of a house in the 2300 block of Mary Ellen. Jeremy Mercer keeps his feet on the ground while using a long-handled tool to reach lower branches on the tree. Both men are employed by Asplundh.

Former Gray County sheriff vying in constable's race

By MARILYN POWERS
 STAFF WRITER

Former Gray County Sheriff Randy Stubblefield is one of five candidates on the ballot for Precinct 4 constable in the March 9 primary elections.

"I want to serve the citizens of Gray County again. I have experience and training to offer," Stubblefield said.

He has 16 years of law enforcement experience and over 1,100 hours of continuing education training for peace officers. He has accumulated 51 college hours in criminal justice at West Texas A&M University, Frank Phillips College and Amarillo College.

Stubblefield served as Gray County sheriff for four years. He was a peace officer at Roberts County Sheriff's Department for two years, and at Pampa Police Department for three and one-half years. He was a commissioned criminal investigator for the 31st/223rd district attorney's office for four years.

"I reviewed cases and provided extra courtroom security for John Mann in an unpaid position," Stubblefield said of his work as criminal investigator for the former district attorney.

He is currently commissioned as a deputy sheriff for Donley County, where he has served for the past two and one-half years.

Stubblefield and his wife Donna, who is employed by National Oilwell of Pampa, have three children and two grandchildren. They live in Pampa, where Stubblefield grew up. He is a 1970 graduate of Pampa High School.

"I have experience with working within a budget and running an office by myself, which is what this office would entail," he said of the constable's office.

Stubblefield's goal if elected is to provide professional service to the citizens of Precinct 4.

"This, being a one-person office, is not a place to send someone with no job training or experience, to get on-the-job

training or learn as you go. There's too much liability that can fall back on the county due to improper procedure in civil process," he said.

One of Stubblefield's opponents in the election plans to resign immediately if elected, in order to begin the process of eliminating the office of Precinct 4 constable.

"This is a state constitution office, and to get it dropped, every voter in the state would have to vote on it."

"Constable duties include serving all civil papers from justice of the peace court, serving warrants, acting as bailiff in court, and criminal investigations. If the sheriff's department has to do this work, where's the savings if you have to add a deputy to do the constable's work?" Stubblefield said.

If constables serve civil papers, the fees are deposited in the county funds. If private individuals serve civil papers, which is legal, Stubblefield said, the county does not get those fees.



Randy P. Stubblefield

Also on the March 9 primary ballot for Precinct 4 constable are incumbent Frank W. Sparling Sr., Johnnie Max Carpenter, Marvin D. "M.D." Fletcher and Michael L. "Mike" Nicholson.

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Pols debating San Francisco's same-sex unions

By **KIM CURTIS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The same-sex marriages that have drawn nationwide attention are sparking fresh rhetorical battles among California politicians and enthusiastic celebrations among the newlyweds.

On Sunday, key elected officials used some of their strongest language yet to discuss whether newly elected San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom overstepped his authority by allowing the gay and lesbian unions, which critics say are against state law.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who wants the state to step in and stop the marriages, said in an interview on NBC on Sunday that Newsom's action could cause other local officials to flout the law.

"In San Francisco, it is license for marriage of same sex. Maybe the next thing is another city that hands out licenses for assault weapons and someone else hands out licenses for selling drugs, I mean you can't do that," Schwarzenegger said.

"We have to stay within the law," he said. "There's a state law that says specific things, and if you want to challenge those laws then you can go to the court."

Newsom, who appeared on CNN's "Late Edition," says the city is mounting precisely that kind of legal

challenge. San Francisco has sued the state, saying the gay marriage ban violates the equal protection clause of the California Constitution.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer, a Democrat who may run against Schwarzenegger in 2006, said he's prepared to defend the state against San Francisco's lawsuit.

"What the mayor and others are hoping is that courts will change the policy," he said. "I don't think it's going to happen. I wouldn't expect that result, but I have a healthy regard for their theories even though it is not the law. We are obligated to defend the law, not some wished-for change in policy."

At the same time, an estimated 2,000 people, many of them newly married couples, gathered at a downtown hotel Sunday to celebrate the weddings with a mass reception party.

The guests of honor at the event were Del Martin, 83, and Phyllis Lyon, 79, who have been together 51 years and are longtime leaders in the city's lesbian community. Martin and Lyon married on Feb. 12 in the first ceremony after Newsom's decision.

"We're going to be out there as a movement and as a vast, large, noisy movement," Lyon said at Sunday's celebration. "This issue has mobilized us, magnetized us and energized us."

Essays now being added to college entrance exams

By **STEVE GIEGERICH**
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Just a high school sophomore, Claudette Rogers is already anxious about a test that's more than a year away — the college entrance exam that will help determine her academic future.

She and her classmates have an extra reason to be. Rogers' class of 2006 will be the first to write a timed essay as part of the SAT, in addition to taking the traditional verbal and math sections.

The SAT's chief rival, the ACT, is making an essay an optional part of its exam, with both test-makers adding the writing section to tests taken in the spring of 2005.

"It's a bit nerve-racking because so much depends on it," said 16-year-old Rogers, who attends Hoover High School in Glendale, Calif. "And the fact they are changing it just increases the pressure."

To prepare for the "new" SAT, teachers, students and parents have been scrambling to sharpen writing skills, while college counselors are starting to hear from nervous parents — including Rogers' mother.

"It's much tougher for them than when I was in school," said Arlette Rogers, part of the high school class of 1974. More than two years before her daughter goes off to college, Rogers contacted a private counselor to discuss how her daughter needs to prepare for the "new" SAT.

Harriet Broder, an independent counselor in Maryland, said the anxiety season is just beginning. "You think parents are complaining now about the unfairness of the test?" she said. "When these kids have to write an essay — give me a break."

Usually, it's 11th graders who sign up with college preparatory services, because they generally take the SAT or ACT in the spring of junior year, prior to submitting college applications the following autumn. But that's changing.

"I'm getting a lot more panicked calls from 10th graders," Broder said.

Sophomores and juniors at Wells High School in Wells, Maine, are among those prepping by taking two preliminary entrance exams, the PSAT and SAT II subject test.

Wells guidance counselor Stephen Newton thinks the writing exercises on mandatory state exams will also help prepare students for the college tests.

Schwarzenegger: Foreign-born citizens should be able to run for president

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arnold Schwarzenegger, making his Sunday talk show debut as governor, said that he and other foreign-born citizens should be eligible to run for the White House and that President Bush can carry California in November if he does more to help the state.

The Austrian-born former bodybuilder, in the capital for his first meeting with fellow governors, said he has not thought about running for president in the future. The Constitution says only natural-born citizens of the United States are eligible for the country's highest office.

The Republican governor said anyone who has been a U.S. citizen for at least 20 years — as he has — should "absolutely" be able to seek

the presidency. A constitutional amendment proposed by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, would make that possible.

"There are so many people in this country that are now from overseas, that are immigrants, that are doing such a terrific job with their work, bringing businesses here, that there's no reason why not," said Schwarzenegger, who became a U.S. citizen in 1983.

"Look at the kind of contribution that people like Henry Kissinger have made, Madeleine Albright," he said, referring to two former secretaries of state who were born in Europe.

Schwarzenegger said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that he has been too busy with California's problems to contemplate a future run for the White House. "I have no idea, I haven't thought about that at all," he said.

Schwarzenegger reaffirmed his opposition to the gay marriages that are taking place in San Francisco. He said Mayor Gavin Newsom's refusal to obey the state's law against same-sex marriages could set a bad precedent.

On Friday, the governor said he had directed California's attorney general to take action to stop the marriages.

"In San Francisco it is license for marriage of same sex. Maybe the next thing is another city that hands out licenses for assault weapons and someone else hands out licenses for selling drugs, I mean you can't do that," Schwarzenegger said on NBC.

"We have to stay within the law. There's a state law that says specific things, and if you want to challenge those laws then you can go to the court," he said.

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DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Teen's Feelings of Depression May be Legacy From Mother

DEAR ABBY: My mother died when I was 7. I'm 13 now, and my father just told me Mom suffered from bad depression toward the end of her life. He also said that it would worry him a great deal if I had depression, too.

I'm afraid I do. I get sad easily and I have thought about suicide, but I don't know why. It could be the stress of my family life, but it can't still be about my mother's passing, can it? That was six years ago.

I actually scare myself sometimes, but I don't think my depression is bad enough to see someone about it.

What do you think? -- SCARED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SCARED: It's time to talk to your father. Depression can run in families. You also need to tell a professional exactly what you have told me. Please don't put it off. The sooner you get professional help, the sooner you will feel better.

DEAR ABBY: I am unemployed right now. I become extremely nervous when I fill out a job application because I have a bankruptcy on my record. Several potential employers have indicated they will check my credit rating as part of their standard background search. I was having terrible money problems when I filed bankruptcy a little over a year ago. But since then I have joined a 12-step group called Debtors Anonymous, and it is helping me a great deal. If I didn't have this bankruptcy on my credit report, I don't think I'd have any trouble at all getting a job.

How should I handle this at a job interview? -- RECOVERING DEBTOR

DEAR RECOVERING: Tell the truth. The way the economy has been, you won't be the only one with a bankruptcy showing up on your credit report. To admit that you had a problem and are doing something about it is nothing to be ashamed of.

DEAR ABBY: I was in the parking lot of a shopping center when I noticed an older woman two cars away yelling and hitting a little girl. The girl looked about 6 or 7.

I got into my car, pulled up next to them and called out, "Are you OK?" The little girl was crying and trying to straighten her scarf; the woman snapped back, "Yes, she's OK!"

This kind of behavior really bothers me. I frequently see adults slap, hit, pinch and berate their children -- even babies in strollers. These adults seem to be out of control, and everybody ignores them or looks away.

Sometimes I stare at the parent or walk slowly by to let them know that I know what they're doing. One time, I reported a mother who kept slapping and scolding her Down syndrome daughter. The girl was doing nothing wrong and kept repeating, "I'm your FRIEND." It turns out slapping is legal in Virginia where I live. And by the way, I live in one of the wealthiest counties in the nation.

What can I do to help some of these kids? Any suggestions would be appreciated. -- SAD AND DISGUSTED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SAD AND DISGUSTED: I checked with several state agencies and found out that although slapping may be legal in Virginia, the state policy is "open to interpretation." The Virginia Department of Social Services operates a 24-hour statewide, child-abuse-reporting hot line. If a report is deemed valid, a local agency will conduct an investigation. The in-state number is (800) 552-7096; from out of state, the number is (804) 786-8536.

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.

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

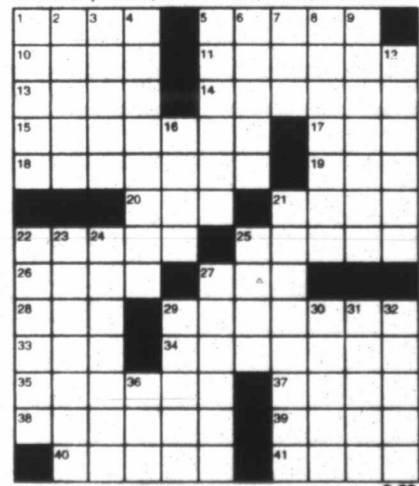
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 10 Opera solo
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 15 Sweet girl of song
 17 One of Frank's wives
 18 Acted the vamp
 19 Humor
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 21 Strong wind
 22 Laundry problem
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 27 Gloss spot
 28 Tycoon
 29 Gets on tape
 33 Hosp. VIPs
 34 Invites on a date
 35 Climbers' aids
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SPORTS

Harvesters meet Andrews tonight

PAMPA — Pampa meets Andrews at 7 tonight at Hutcherson Center in Plainview in a Class 4A boys bi-district matchup.

"Andrews has an offense that revolves around their three guards," said Pampa head coach Jeff Reed. They've got 6-6 and 6-3 kids inside, and they mostly set screens for the guards."

Andrews has a 23-5 record and beat Frenship twice and lost to Lubbock Estacado once in the District 4-3A race.

"We've watched Andrews on film and I feel we have a good chance of beating them. You can't always tell from watching a film, but I feel like we're better athletes. If we play like we did against Plainview we can win the game," coach Reed said. "If we play like we did against Caprock, the outcome might not be too good."

Kelvin Roberts (6-1 guard) is averaging around 20 points per game and point guard Tyler Haygood (5-7 senior) set a school record of 45 points when Andrews beat Kermit 70-64 last month.

"They have pretty much of a run and gun offense, but they're not quite as fast as Palo Duro. They have a lot of quickness on the perimeter," Reed added.

The Harvesters had a good workout Saturday and are ready to go, he said.

"I look for our seniors (Chance Bowers, Collin Bowers, Jed Martin Andy Rodgers) to step up like they have before," Reed said.

State meet getting closer for Pampa High's Parks

PAMPA — It's been a dozen years since Pampa won a state championship in wrestling.

Pampa junior Chad Chairez in 1992 defeated Anthony Mendez of El Paso Del Valle in

the 125-pound finals in Dallas.

This year, Pampa senior Kevin Parks will try and follow Chairez' path to the championship finals after taking fourth at the regional tournament in Amarillo.

"There's no easy matches at state. It's the 16 best guys in each weight class," said Pampa coach Josh Cadenhead. "Kevin's just going to wrestle them one at a time."

Parks, a heavyweight, goes to Austin for the state tournament Feb. 27-28. He takes an impressive 20-7 record into the meet.

The 285-pound Parks made an amazing comeback to advance past regionals.

After falling to Jose Cereceras of El Paso Fabens in the tournament opener, Parks rallied to win four consecutive matches to meet Cerenes once again in a wrestle-back. Parks won by a pin in the first period.

The top four in each weight class advance to state.

"Kevin's strength is his quickness. He moves real good for a heavy guy. A lot of big guys just go out there and do

belly flops on their opponent, but Kevin uses his quickness and strength."

Coach Cadenhead said. "He knows his way around the mat and being involved with both football and wrestling has helped in that area."

Parks was a two-way lineman for the Harvesters this past football season.

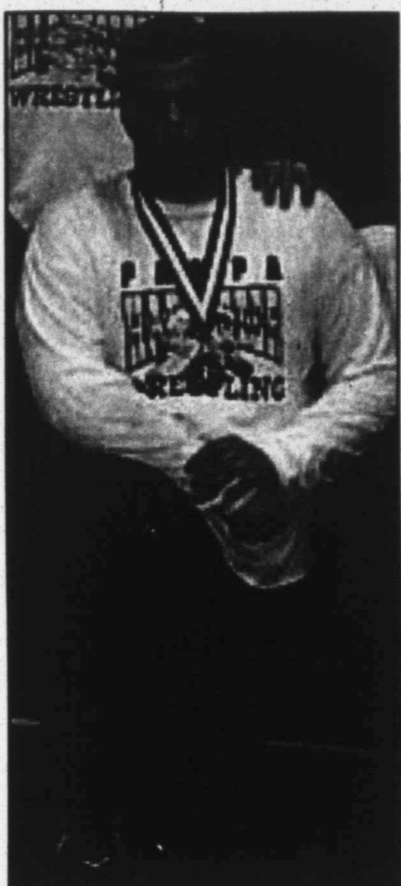
Parks isn't selfish about sharing his experience with his teammates.

"Kevin has been a leader on the team. He was always helping out the younger wrestlers," added Cadenhead.

John Burns (140-pound class) and Joel Palmateer (175-pound class) also represented Pampa at regionals. They failed to place, but each came away with a victory. Burns, a freshman, closed the season with a 21-16 record. Palmateer, a senior, was 13-12.

"I'm proud of all our guys. They had a good year," said Josh Cadenhead.

Pampa's three regional wrestlers collected enough points to place the Harvesters 28th in the 38-team field.



Pampa heavyweight Kevin Parks has been a team leader.

Lady Harvesters win Silver Division at Borger

BORGER — The 2004 Pampa Lady Harvester softball team were among sixteen area high schools participating in the sixth annual Borger Lady Bulldogs

Winter Classic held this past weekend at Agnes Howe Park in Borger.

Hosted by the Borger Lady Bulldog softball booster club, teams were placed into two brackets after games Friday determined the bracket pairings.

The Pampa girls led by 2nd year head coach Bobbi Gill and assistant Josh Blackmon also in his second season opened with losses to Canyon 8-1, and Vernon 1-0, as the Lady Harvesters couldn't get their bats going. In the Friday afternoon games Pampa was able to get some offensive production

and outlasted Caprock 8-5, and defeated River Road handily 18-3 in the nightcap. Freshman Cassy Tice and Freshman Stephanie McVay each recorded wins on Friday. Junior Teryn Garner had an inside park homer in Pampa's win over River Road.

With Pampa playing in the Silver Bracket on Saturday went against the Perryton Rangerettes, the Lady Harvesters scored six times in the second inning and coasted to a 9-1 victory to place the team in to the finals of the silver bracket. Tice picked up her second win for the tournament in the contest plus her inside the park homerun added 3 runs batted in.

Once again the Lady Harvesters would meet the Caprock girls for the second time in as many days.

Coach Gill of Pampa put the ball in Freshman pitcher Nicole Clark's hand for the biggest game in the young pitchers varsity career.

Clark responded with a complete game against a good hitting Lady Longhorns team. The Lady Harvester batters with 18 hits and a rally killing defense proved to much as the team came away with a 13-8 championship victory and the first place trophy.

Clark picked up her first win of the year and also racked up a triple and a single.

Sophomore rightfielder Callie Cobb led all hitters going 4 of 4 and 2 rbi, which included an inside park homerun and a bunt single.

Senior shortstop Stacey Johnson had a double, two singles driving in 3 runs,

Tice playing at catcher, went 3 of 4 and 3 rbi.

Senior centerfielder Abbi Covalt contributed 2 hits and a rbi, Junior 1st baseman Whitney Roden punched out 2 hits, Leftfielder Teryn Garner along with Sophomore second base Amy Youree each added singles to the total team effort.

The Lady Harvesters are now 4-3 for the season and are scheduled to open at home Tuesday against the 5A Amarillo High School's Lady Sandies.

Amarillo was also entered at Borger and defeated Randall High School 4-1 to win the Gold bracket consolation. Game time is set for a 4:30 opening pitch at the new Pampa Lady Harvester softball facility located on campus at the corner of Russell and Worrell.

PHS boys in command in soccer district

BORGER — Pampa continued to be in command in the District 3-4A boys' soccer race after a 4-1 Saturday over Borger.

The Harvesters are perfect in district with a 3-0 record. For the season, they improved to 5-9-0.

Four players scored Pampa goals, starting with a shot by Nick Robbins five minutes into the match. Jason Brown, Sammy Silva and Justin Jouett followed with goals. Silva's goal came on a penalty kick.

Three of the Pampa goals came in the first half.

In other district matches last weekend Caprock edged

Randall 2-1 and Palo Duro defeated Canyon 3-1.

Pampa dropped a 4-3 squeaker to Borger in the girls' match.

The Lady Harvesters are 0-3

Tech's Emmett sets Big 12 record

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — It was an odd night for Andre Emmett to set the Big 12 scoring record.

For one thing, Saturday's game was the first time in his senior season the he did not start for Texas Tech. For another, the accomplishment was not even announced to the home crowd when it happened.

And for yet another, Emmett was not made available to the media after he led the No. 21 Red Raiders past Texas A&M

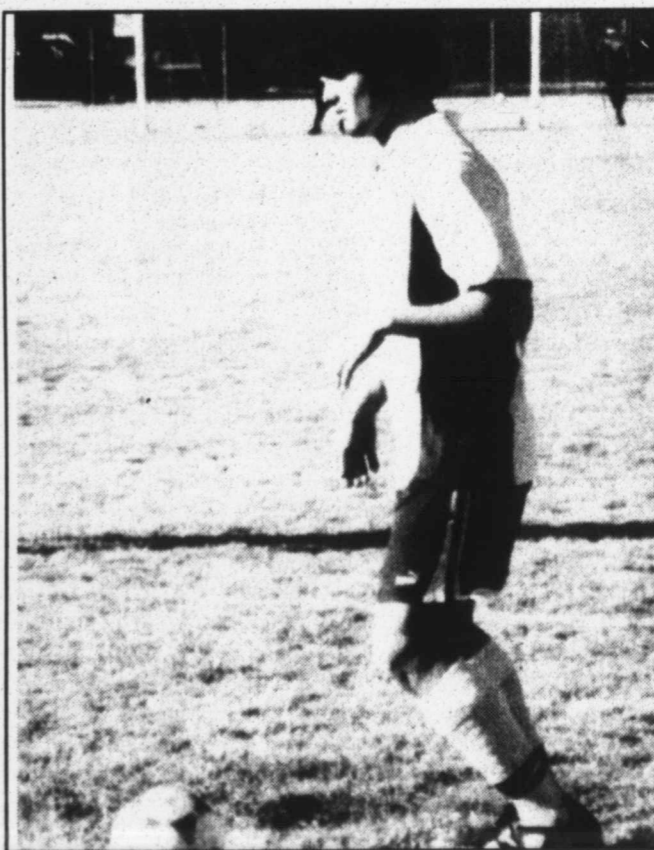
in district and 2-8-1 for the season. Borger is 1-2 in district.

Randall shut out Caprock 6-0 and Canyon edged Palo in other district games.

76-60 while making history.

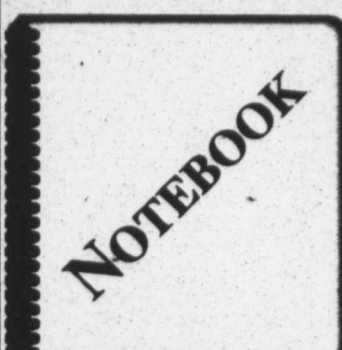
Unhappy with how his star senior had played in a loss to Colorado, Texas Tech coach Bob Knight kept him on the bench the first eight minutes. Needing just four points to surpass the record of 2,097 by former Kansas All-American Nick Collison, Emmett got the mark with a forceful dunk and finished with 18 points.

But even his teammates were surprised the crowd was not told of the record.



Jason Brown scored a goal in the win against Borger.

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BASKETBALL

AMARILLO — Fort Elliott upset top-ranked Hedley 64-48 in a Class 1A area girls matchup last weekend at Tascosa Activities Center.

Katie Donaldson led the Lady Cougars in scoring with 14 points.

Andrea Hathaway and Sarah Zybach followed with 11 points each.

Rebekah Howard had 24 points for Hedley.

Alicia Reis added 10 points for Fort Elliott.

FOOTBALL

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Buffalo wants to develop a young quarterback behind Drew Bledsoe and general manager Tom Donahoe thinks Drew Henson could be the right one.

But he still isn't sure. Neither is anyone else.

"He had a good workout, but you're trying to guess at his football ability," Donahoe said. "He hasn't played for three years. He looks like he can do it, but it's hard to get better playing football when you're playing baseball."

HOCKEY

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars acknowledge that their fans are a major reason for the team's surge at home — and in the Western Conference standings.

"The atmosphere here has been good," left wing Brenden Morrow said. "Our confidence level is high at home. When we're winning, it's easy to cheer."

Jere Lehtinen and Pierre Turgeon scored power-play goals, and Marty Turco stopped 14 shots for his 18th career shutout as the Stars extended their home unbeaten streak to eight games with a 4-0 victory over the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

Morrow and Mike Modano added goals for the Stars, 11-3-2 overall in their last 16 games overall to move four points behind first-place San Jose in the Pacific Division.

"Points are very valuable right now," Modano said. "We're getting contributions from all four lines. Early in the season, it was only a few guys. We're riding our depth."

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Chief U.N. nukes inspector seeks clues into black market

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — The chief United Nations nuclear inspector took his search for the key players in the atomic black market to Libya on Monday, where he is seeking to determine who supplied Moammar Gadhafi's government with technology to develop weapons of mass destruction. Mohamed ElBaradei began a two-day visit officially focused on monitoring the progress of dismantling Libya's illicit

nuclear program — a process that began in December when Gadhafi's government agreed to scrap its weapons effort. "He's going to take stock of what's happening and review the next steps," said Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency. But diplomats said ElBaradei would also be looking for new clues about the clandestine nuclear network that for decades

provide technology and equipment to Libya, North Korea and Iran. There was no official IAEA comment. But Fleming said information provided by Libya was crucial to identifying the network, its key players and their roles in getting equipment and expertise to nations willing to pay for the means to acquire nuclear arms. Since Libya revealed the extent of its efforts in December,

Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, has acknowledged heading the network described by ElBaradei as a "nuclear supermarket" with middlemen extending to five continents. Libya's openness on the illicit trade network helped the IAEA "understand the most serious case of proliferation in recent time," said Fleming. Khan and dozens of associates circumvented national

export controls in Europe, Asia and elsewhere to ship nuclear technology to Libya, which managed to hide experiments geared toward making weapons for nearly two decades. Among the most startling discoveries were engineers' drawings of a 1960s warhead of Chinese design apparently provided by those linked to Khan, who originally turned to China to develop Pakistan's country's nuclear weapons.

Iran, which has acknowledged hiding nearly two decades of nuclear activity but insists its programs are meant to produce power not weapons. North Korea denies any link to Khan, but U.S. intelligence and the Pakistani scientist's associates have said that it also received help in its nuclear weapons program from his network. A diplomat said the Libya revelations helped the agency link Iran's illicit program to the Khan operation. "Things that the IAEA was learning from Iran strongly implicated Pakistan but finding another country ordering from the same network exposed the whole workings and international connections of that network," including ties to Iran, said the diplomat, asking for anonymity.

Mid-East conflict to preoccupy world court

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The world court opened a hearing into the legality of Israel's West Bank separation barrier on Monday, a case that brings Israeli policies for the first time before an international tribunal. The 15 judges in black robes filed into the court to begin the three days of hearings. But much of the action will be outside the historic Peace Palace, where thousands of pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian activists planned to demonstrate. Raising tensions ahead of the hearing, a Palestinian suicide bomber killed eight passengers on a crowded Jerusalem bus on Sunday. Israeli officials said it was proof of why the fence is needed. The Palestinians were scheduled to open the case Monday, arguing against the barrier and in favor of the court's authority to render an opinion on its legality. Israel is challenging the court's jurisdiction and not participating in the hearings. The Palestinians have set high expectations for the case. They hope a ruling against Israel will lead to the removal of the barrier. The court, the United Nations' highest judicial body, was

asked by the General Assembly to issue an advisory opinion on the barrier. Although the court's decision is nonbinding, its rulings are influential. Israel has submitted written arguments claiming the court has no authority over the matter. It says the dispute should be resolved through negotiations, and that taking the matter to court will undermine the internationally backed "road map" peace plan. Israel also says the barrier is a response to Palestinian violence, pointing to Sunday's suicide bombing in Jerusalem as proof of the need for the structure. The Palestinians oppose the route of the barrier, which dips deep into the West Bank at points. They say that when completed, the barrier will make it impossible for the Palestinians to establish an independent state. In an interview on the eve of the hearing, Palestinian U.N. representative Nasser Al-Kidwa, chief of the Palestinian delegation to the court, recognized Israel's right to defend itself, but said the current route of the barrier goes far beyond self-defense. "It is a legitimate argument for any state to argue that they have to take certain measures to protect its citizens," Al-Kidwa said. "This is not the case with regard to the wall. If it was, Israel could have built this wall on its own territory."

Western Wireless to honor 'Cellular' heroes

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Western Wireless Corporation is seeking Cellular One® customer nominations for this year's VITA Wireless Samaritan awards, sponsored by Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Wireless Foundation. The VITA (Latin for "life") awards were established to recognize the outstanding public service and heroism of individuals who have used wireless phones to summon help in emergency situations. Past awards have been given to individuals responsible for saving lives, assisting in childbirth and apprehending criminals

while utilizing a cellular phone. "Since 1993, the VITA awards have recognized individuals who understand the importance of putting safety first, as well as the crucial role individuals and their wireless phones can play during an emergency," said Jerry Gallegos, vice president of marketing at Western Wireless Corp., operator of Cellular One. VITA Wireless Samaritan award-winners are chosen by a national panel of judges consisting of law enforcement and emergency response professionals. Winners are honored during a gala reception in Washington, D.C. Cellular One will provide its winning customers with

round-trip airfare to Washington to attend the gala and foot the bill for three days, two nights at a Washington hotel. To enter the VITA awards, submit your story, using 100 words or less, along with your name, mailing address, daytime phone number, cellular phone number and city and state in which the emergency occurred. Submissions may also be e-mailed to media@wwireless.com; faxed to (425) 586-8084; or submitted on-line at CellularOne.com. For complete rules and details, visit the "My Account" section at CellularOne.com. Deadline for entries is Feb. 26.

Playa lakes subject for award-winning touring exhibit

CLAUDE — A unique exhibit which illustrates the importance of playa lakes in the High Plains region opens Feb. 29 at Armstrong County Museum in Claude. The exhibit can be viewed through April 28 at the museum. An opening reception will be held from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 29. A traveling exhibit, "Playas ... Gems of the Plains" is a project of Northwest Texas Museum Association. Major funding has been provided by Amarillo Area Foundation, Don and Sybil Harrington

Foundation, Meadows Foundation and Playa Lakes Joint Venture. It opened earlier this year at the botanical gardens in Amarillo and will visit a total of 18 museums in five states during its three-year tour. The exhibit consists of 20 separate panels representing information on the function of playa lakes along with their history, geology, biology and ecology. Display boxes attached to the panels include games, models, artifacts and maps. As they walk through the exhibit, visitors will hear sounds unique to the playas. Playa lakes are depressions

in the landscape that are generally round and usually less than 30 acres with clay-lined basins that fill with water. The lakes are formed through a combination of natural processes, mostly involving wind and water. The region's climate and geology encourages formation of the lakes which help keep the Ogallala Aquifer — the major source of groundwater in the area and the largest groundwater system in North America — recharged. About 96 percent of the world's playas are found on

the High Plains with more than 20,000 in northwestern Texas alone. Playas can also be found in eastern New Mexico, southeastern Colorado, western Nebraska, southwestern Kansas and western Oklahoma. The exhibit has received awards from the Texas Association of Museums and from the American Association for State and Local History.

Canyon museum to pay tribute to 'little black dress'

CANYON — Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will open a new costume exhibit on Saturday, Feb. 28. The exhibit, entitled "Always in Style: The Essential Little Black Dress," will run through December and will include about 20 dresses along with related accessories taken from the museum's Clothing & Textile collection. Articles in the exhibit will range from elegant pieces designed by Traina-Norell, Patullo-Jo Copeland, Norman Norell and Geoffrey Beene to more affordable "off-the-rack" dresses. According to information provided by the museum, fashion designer Gabriella "Coco" Chanel is credited with introducing the little black dress in 1926, although a basic black dress was common even earlier. To

Chanel, elegance equaled simplicity. "All dresses in the exhibit were worn by women in the Panhandle-Plains or women who have a connection to the area," said Susan Denney, assistant curator of history at PPHM. "Each piece is special and wonderful."

Petite Miss Dance



(Courtesy photo) Jenna Munsell, daughter of Paul and Shauna Munsell, was crowned Petite Miss Dance of Dance Masters of America Chapter #35. Jenna will travel to New York this summer to compete for the title of Petite Miss Dance of America. Jenna is a student at the Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center and is trained and coached by Madeline Graves and Shauna Munsell.

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