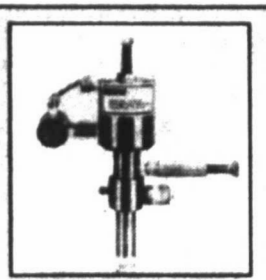


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# THE Pampa News

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004

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## LOCAL

### Lifeguard training set for March 8-13

Lifeguard training or recertification by the Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross begins March 8 through March 13. The class includes CPR for the Professional Rescuer. The class fee of \$85 includes materials. For more information, contact the local Red Cross office at 669-7121 or call toll free, 1-800-297-2270.

## DEATHS

**Ray Collins**, 75, businessman.  
**Dixie Hines Smith**, 63, school business manager.  
**Wilfred Lee "Cracker" Stubblefield**, 82, welder.

**Tree Planting Season Is Here**

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Johnnie Carpenter Chris Didway Don Fletcher James E. Lewis Chris Lockridge Mike Nicholson Frank Sparling Randy Stubblefield

## Constable hopefuls answer queries

By MARILYN POWERS  
 STAFF WRITER

County residents got a chance Monday night to ask questions of the candidates running for nine county and district offices a candidates' forum sponsored by the Top O' Texas Republican Women. Two candidates, Gerald Wright and Manny Holden, were unable to attend the forum. Wright is running for re-election as Precinct 3 commissioner. Holden is on the ballot in the Precinct 2 constable race.

All candidates in the March 9 primary are Republicans, and all but two of the races are uncontested. There are three candidates entered in the race for Precinct 2 constable, and

five running for Precinct 4 constable.

Following are questions asked by the audience, and answers given by the candidates. Some questions concerning the contested constables' races refer to at least one candidate's declaration to resign if elected in order to begin the process of doing away with the office.

**For incumbent Gray**

**County Sheriff Don Copeland:** "Why do you believe the post of constable is a benefit to Gray County?"

**Answer:** "I've heard this proposal (to eliminate the office of constable) for four or five years. Regardless of what you think, the constables do work and do take a load off the sheriff's department. If you do away with the constables, we're going to have to have

somebody to take up the slack. We're stretched to our limits today. We would have to have some help."

**For Christopher B. "Chris" Didway, candidate for Precinct 2 constable:** "What do you feel you can bring to this position to enhance the office of constable?"

**Answer:** "I'm dedicated in what I do and every task I take

on. I'm honest and loyal. I've worked around constables and been backed up on calls by constables, and I've seen the work they do. I don't know why you'd want to take away that extra protection. I want to be able to make Pampa as safe as we can."

**For Marvin D. "Don" Fletcher, candidate for Precinct 4 constable:** "Do you own a ranch outside McLean? Don't you think McLean should have the right to have this office (of constable)?"

**Answer:** "There are two Texas Department of Public Safety troopers and two deputies in McLean, and only 800 people in McLean. That's

(See QUERIES, Page 3)

## Early voting off to slow beginning

So far less than 50 voters have turned out for early voting in the March 9 primary election, election officials said this morning.

Early voting opened Monday, Gray County Clerk Susan Winborne said today, and since then only 37 Republicans and 11 Democrats have cast ballots.

Early voting continues through Friday, March 5.

Local voters can cast ballots at the courthouse from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Winborne said.

The election will take place on Tuesday, March 9.

## Former officer files lawsuit against city

Garcia seeks \$1 million, back pay, and reinstatement after rape charges dropped

By DAVID BOWSER  
 STAFF WRITER

A former Pampa police officer is suing the city for \$1 million, seeking reinstatement and retroactive pay.

Heron Erasmo Garcia Jr., 36, who now lives in Amarillo, was fired Feb. 25, 2002, after being charged with rape in connection with accusations of a 35-year-old Donley County woman. Those charges were dropped Feb. 12.

Garcia filed the lawsuit against the City of Pampa; former Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris, now of Stinnett; Pampa Police Lt. Stephanie Raymond and former Pampa Deputy Police Chief Terry Young, now of Marble Falls, late Wednesday, two years to the day after Garcia was fired.

According to court records, Garcia is accused of raping the Donley County woman Jan. 10, 2002, in a south Pampa motel while he was on duty.

Garcia was indicted by a Gray County grand jury on Feb. 8, 2002, on charges of aggravated sexual assault and official oppression.

According to District Attorney Rick Roach, the charges were dismissed because of insufficient evidence. Roach said in the motion to dismiss the charges that the complaining witness requested dismissal and signed an affidavit of non-prosecution.

The lawsuit filed Wednesday claims that Garcia was the target of arrest and prosecution without probable cause. Garcia claims some of his superiors wanted to get rid of him so others could be promoted within the department.

In the lawsuit filing, Garcia alleges other police officers committed felonious offenses without being disciplined, terminated or demoted.

The charges against him and his subsequent termination, Garcia said in his suit, have destroyed his life and career.

The lawsuit claims that there was no rape and that was known to officers at the time of Garcia's firing. It also claims the victim was the paramour and/or wife of a Pampa police officer

who conspired with the Pampa Police Department to prosecute Garcia.

Garcia's lawyer, Amarillo attorney John Mann, said the charges against the Pampa Police Department do not reflect the changes that have been made since Garcia was terminated.

"This in no way should be considered a black mark against the present administration of the police department," Mann said today. "The new police chief is the best thing that has happened to that police department in years."

The Pampa News was unable to reach City Manager Mitch Grant, City Attorney Don Lane or Mayor Lonny Robbins for comment by press time today.

Keeping that paper picked up is very labor intensive, Horst said.

"This machine allows us to mechanize it where it's not so labor intensive," he said.

More than 36 percent of the budgeted landfill revenues have come in, while 18 percent of budgeted expenses have been paid out. Landfill revenues are \$204,054 over expenses so far this year.

With landfill revenues being over budget, Horst said, it doesn't look like there will be any problem.

The general fund shows revenues through Jan. 31, at \$3,494,451 and expenses so far of \$2,572,372.

More than 43 percent of the budgeted revenue has come in while only 32 percent of the expected expenses have shown up.

"It's really encouraging, looking at the numbers as of the end of January," Horst said.

## Budget reflects drop in water revenues

By DAVID BOWSER  
 STAFF WRITER

With one third of the budget year gone, Pampa's financial director said the city is in good shape.

All the city's funds are in an acceptable range with the exception of water revenue.

"Water sales are still lagging," Horst said.

Part of the problem is the loss of population.

"We've lost a few connections since Sept. 30," Horst acknowledged, "and that's a contributing factor."

One manufacturing business has moved out.

"We just haven't sold the volume of water that we projected," Horst said.

The books show that about 25 percent of the revenue expected from the water and wastewater fund has been collected, but about 35 percent of the

Pampa's general fund shows revenues through Jan. 31 at \$3.49 million and expenses of \$2.57 million.

expected expenditures have been made for the year.

"All the rest of the funds are doing quite well," Horst said.

The golf course looks like it's in bad shape, he grinned, but that's because of the time of year.

"It's really not due to the season," Horst said. "Come April, May, that's when it really picks up. From April on is when the majority of the revenue is made."

While the golf course expenditures look high, Horst said that is because this is the time of year they perform their maintenance because it is a slow time of year for them.

About 16 percent of their expected

revenues have come in. Almost 40 percent of their expenses have been paid.

"It works out," Horst said.

He said the rest of the funds are about where he'd expect them to be at this time of the year.

"The rest of the funds are really looking quite well," Horst said.

New equipment at the landfill is paying off, he said. A machine called a Madvac is paying for itself in cutting labor costs.

MadVac is a large machine that operates like a giant vacuum cleaner, Horst said.

"When the wind blows," he said, "as it occasionally does in the panhandle, it blows paper all over."

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932 Terry Rd. ... \$51,800

1524 Williston ... \$23,500

300 Cuyler ... \$200,000

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1827 Fir Street ... \$80,500

2623 Seminole ... \$45,900

1914 N. Faulkner ... \$38,500



Sandra Schuneman

Sharon McKee

## ON RECORD

### SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests.

**Tuesday, Feb. 24**

Tommie Michelle Shoffner, 24, 1717 Garland, was arrested on two counts of assault causing bodily injury.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

Antonio Hernandez, 40, Pampa, was arrested for assault causing bodily injury.

Amy Dawn Struazz, 23, 416 Pitts, was arrested for Pampa Police Department for possession of a controlled substance.

Curtis Lynn Brewer, 41, Lefors, was arrested for Hall County for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Christy Blaylock, 28, McLean, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of a controlled substance over one gram and less than four grams.

Darren Lee Tooley, 42, Pueblo, Colo., was arrested for possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

Debra Lynn Rawls, 32, 323 Baer, was arrested for possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

Alan Broadbent, 41, 323 Baer, was arrested for possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

**Thursday, Feb. 26**

Joel Quisenberry, 20, 114 Warren, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia, no headlight, speeding and no seat belt.

### AMBULANCE

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

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

7:01 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Scott and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

1:43 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of North Christy and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

4:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

5:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Veterans Administration Medical Center, Amarillo.

### STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	3.55	KMI	60.68	+0.18
Milo	4.76	XCEL	17.32	-0.08
Corn	5.44	Kerr McGee	51.45	+0.54
Soybeans	8.58	Limited	20.17	-0.03
		Williams	9.21	NC
		MCD	28.17	+0.23
		XOM	42.57	-0.08
		Atmos	26.20	-0.13
		Pioneer Nat	31.50	+0.45
		JCP	29.85	+0.09
		COP	68.64	-0.14
		SLB	64.67	+0.21
		Tenneco	12.76	-0.28
		CVX	87.64	-0.205
		Wal-Mart	59.35	-0.53
		OKE	21.98	NC
		NS Grp	9.20	-0.05
		New York Gold	395.95	
		Silver	6.52	
		West Texas Crude	37.38	
		NOI	29.46	-0.02

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

OXY	44.38	-0.07
BP	48.86	+0.12
Clanese	40.21	-0.31
Cabot Corp	33.27	-0.63
Cabot Oil Gas	29.98	-0.27
Coca Cola	49.58	-0.07
VLO	58.22	+0.47
HAL	31.23	+0.09
Triad	34.73	-0.01
NOI	29.46	-0.02

### POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents.

**Sunday, Feb. 22**

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of East Craven. A rock was thrown through a window on a vehicle. Estimated damage was \$300.

**Monday, Feb. 23**

A welfare check was requested in the police department lobby. The report involved an unknown location.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

Theft by check was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred at The Cigarette Store, 1108 W. Alcock.

Disruption of class was reported at Pampa Middle School, 2401 N. Charles.

The Freedom Museum, 600 N. Hobart, reported theft of a United States flag, valued at \$60.

**Thursday, Feb. 26**

Assault was reported at Pampa Regional Medical Center. The incident occurred in the 1400 block of Hobart. No injuries were reported.

### ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

6:49 p.m. — A 2001 Honda Accord, driven by Kyle William Frances, 20, 1631 Dogwood, and a 1995 Nissan pickup, driven by Chad Brooks, 26, 2313 Comanche, collided in the intersection of Randy Matson Avenue and Duncan Street. Both drivers reported non-incapacitating injuries and were not transported by ambulance. Frances was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

### FIRE

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

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

6:56 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to minor hazardous material spill from a motor vehicle collision at Randy Matson and Duncan.

10:12 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to an investigation in the 1000 block of South Banks. A resident was concerned about a water heater. No problem was found.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

### Deadline for pageant entries approaching

Time is running out to

make entry in the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association's 2004 Miss Rodeo and Miss Rodeo Teen Queen pageants.

Entry forms, fees and pictures are due at the rodeo office, located in Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard, by Monday, March 1.

The pageants, to be staged June 3-5, are open to young ladies between the ages of 13 and 23. For more information, contact the rodeo office at 669-0434.

### MDA fund-raiser nets more than \$14,000

Some 20 people spent time behind bars recently during the annual local Muscular Dystrophy Association lock-up, hosted this year by Karen's Kitchen in Pampa.

In cash, checks and pledges, the "jailbirds" brought in more than \$14,786. MDA officials reported in a news release.

Money raised by this and other events go towards area programs and services for people fighting any of the 43 neuromuscular diseases that MDA covers.

**Phillie Steak Sandwich**  
Our Specialty ... layers of juicy grilled steak topped with grilled onions, bell peppers, mayonnaise and melted Swiss Cheese on an Italian Hoagie Roll

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with coupon  
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**Hoagies Deli**

Coronado Center 665-0292

**Crime Stoppers**  
669-2222

## OBITUARIES

### RAY COLLINS

1928-2004

DUMAS — Ray Collins, 75, died Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2004. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in First Street Church of Christ with Zeb Sailors, minister of Stinnett Church of Christ, officiating with the assistance of Art Lynch, minister of Dumas Church of Christ. Burial will be in Northlawn Memorial Gardens under the direction of Morrison Funeral Directors of Dumas.

Mr. Collins was born Feb. 2, 1928, at Mound Valley, Kan. He married Jackie Banker on July 20, 1946, at Hugoton, Kan. He worked for Continental Carbon for 20 years and owned-operated Collins Electric from 1970-1999.

He moved to Dumas in 1965 and was a member of First Street Church of Christ.

Mr. Collins was preceded in death by a son, Phillip; and a grandchild, Cindy.

Survivors include his wife, Jackie, of the home; two daughters, Neoma Turner of Pampa and Shiela Milligan of Dumas; a son, Shannon Collins of Dumas; two sisters, Dorothy Banker of Rolla, Kan., and Wilma McCord of Fairbury, Neb.; a brother, Ronald Collins of Fort Dodge, Kan.; and several grandchildren.

The family will be at 1417 Meredith in Dumas and requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

### DIXIE HINES SMITH

1940-2004

AMARILLO, Texas — Dixie Hines Smith, 63, of Amarillo, died Sunday, Feb. 22, 2004, of Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, 2004, at the First Methodist Church of Miami with the Rev. Steve Patterson, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Friona, and the Rev. Don Kinder, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Miami, officiating. Burial will be in Miami Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Smith was born May 7, 1940, in Borger. She was a 1958 graduate of Canadian High School. She had been a resident of Miami from 1942 until she moved to Amarillo in 2002.

She married Joe Smith on April 4, 1992, in Miami.

She was the business manager for the Miami Independent School District from 1975 until retiring in 2002. She was a member of the First Methodist Church of Miami.

Survivors include her husband, Joe Smith.

of the home;

three daughters,

Kathy Liedtke

and husband Doug,

and Charisse

Topper, all of

Amarillo, and

Karin Kohler

of Winslow,

Ariz.; one son,

Garrett Helton

and wife Dee Ann of

Guymon, Okla.; one

brother, Bill Hines

and wife Betty of

Vilas, Colo.; and eight

grandchildren, Tonya

Henson of Pampa,

Kassie Lemons,

Tanner Lemons,

Hope Bonner Smith,

and Tyson Liedtke,

all of Amarillo, Bea

Drinnon of Elk City,

Okla., and Seth Kohler

and Kari Kohler,

both of Winslow,

Ariz. She was preceded

in death by her parents,

Raburn and Ruby

Hines; and a son, Steve

Helton in 1986.

—Sign the on-line register book at

[www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



### WILFRED LEE 'CRACKER' STUBBLEFIELD

1921-2004

Wilfred Lee "Cracker" Stubblefield, 82, of Pampa, Texas, died Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2004, at Pampa. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27, 2004, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Childress, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery with graveside rites courtesy of Top O' Texas Masonic Lodge #1381 AF&AM. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Stubblefield was born March 16, 1921, at Pooleville, Okla., to Jesse Lee and Jennie Stubblefield. He was a 1940 graduate of Burk Burnett High School. He married Ethel Swinford on Oct. 8, 1946, in Vernon. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1954.

He worked as a driller for FWA Drilling Company for 24 years. He later owned and operated his own welding service, retiring in 1982.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany during World War II. He served as a guard at the Palace of Justice wars trials.

He was a member of the Top O' Texas Masonic Lodge #1381 AF&AM for 40 years, the El Paso Scottish Rite Consistory, was past patron of the Order of the Eastern Star #1064,

and a member

of the Church

of God.

Survivors

include his

wife, Ethel

Stubblefield,

of the home;

one daughter,

Janis Roberson

and husband

Jerry of

Plainview; one son,

Randy Stubblefield

and wife Donna of

Pampa; one sister,

Pauline

Varnier of

Burkburnett; eight

grandchildren,

Shelly Bragg of

Plano, Ty Stubblefield

and Mandy Cross,

both of Pampa,

Scott Shackelford

and Matt Shackelford,

both of

Plainview, Beth

Owen and Jill

Mason, both of

Amarillo, and

Jennifer Penrose

of San Antonio; and

five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded

in death by a sister,

Lorene English;

and a brother,

Newton Dempsey.

The family will be at

1711 Chestnut in

Pampa and requests

memorials be to

Texas Scottish Rite

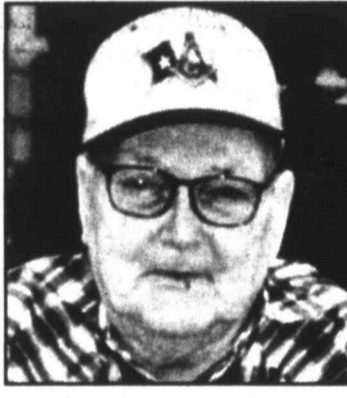
Hospital for Children,

P.O. Box 190567,

Dallas, TX 75219-0567.

—Sign the on-line register book at

[www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



## SERVICES TOMORROW

**CARTER, Delcia Adella 'Dee' Carter** — Graveside services, 3 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

**COLLINS, Ray** — 2 p.m., First Street Church of Christ, Dumas.

**STUBBLEFIELD, Wilfred Lee "Cracker"** — 10:30 a.m., Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

## WEATHER FOCUS

### PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for mostly sunny skies in the afternoon, highs in the upper 50s and south winds 10 to 20 mph. Tonight should fall on mostly clear skies with lows in the lower 30s and south winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday should see partly cloudy skies. Highs in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Saturday, mostly cloudy.

## City Briefs

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

**HEADQUARTERS FOR MILLER BOBCAT** welder outdoor grill replacement for sale-like new. \$1900.00 parts. Fireside Comfort, 530 firm. Phone 669-7612. W. Brown, Hwy. 60.

**SOAP SISTERS** hand-creams & lotions-pampering for dry Winter skin! Exclusively at Twice Is Nice.

**JULIE BARBEE** is back! For all you hair care needs, come by 2128 Christine or call 669-0111 for appt.

**OPENING IN March!** Patrick's Game Room, 310 W. Foster.

**HOUSE FOR Sale** to highest bidder. 665-0842, 8-5 p.m.

**WINTER CLEARANCE** continues-making room for Spring arrivals Twice Is Nice.

New

The new America front of Travis S Justice o

KOC

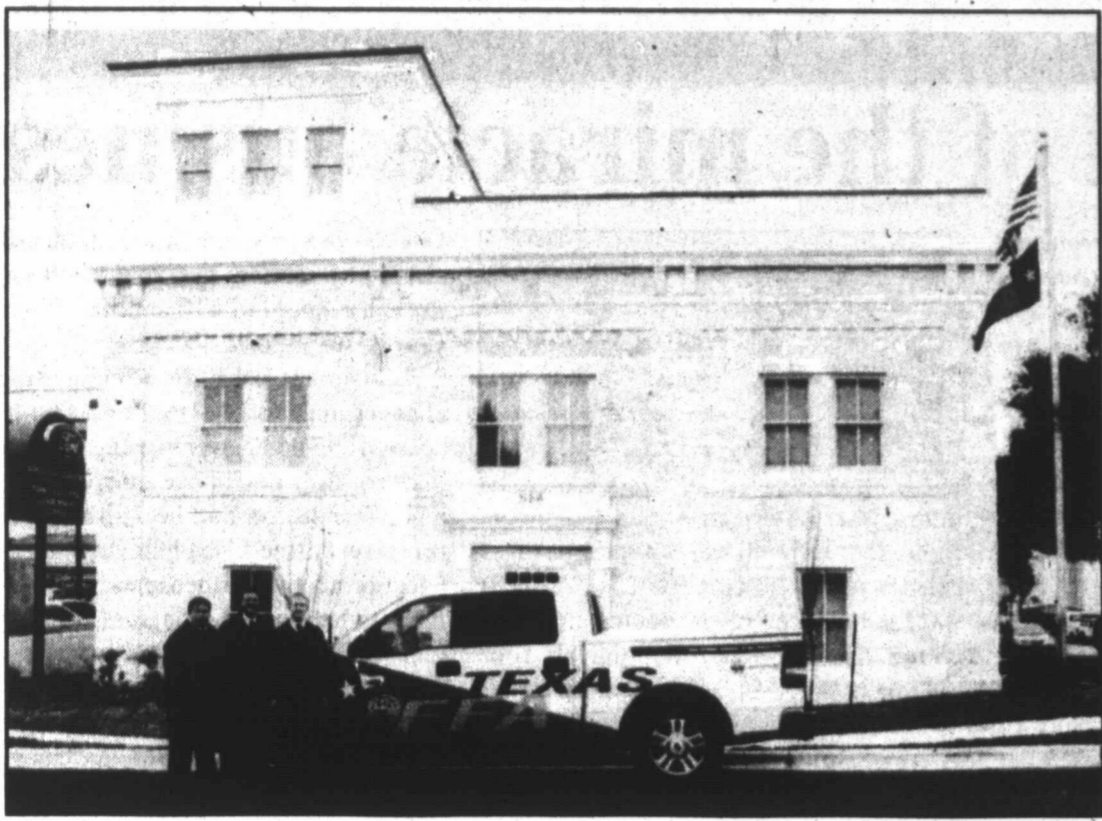
The local Columbus Sausage Dis Feb. 29, at The secret served Sunday over 130 years two present kept locked brought out Though pare the sa compared to Often seven

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## New state FFA building opens



(Courtesy photo)

The new Agricultural Education/Ford Texas FFA (Future Farmers of America) Leadership Center recently opened at 614 E. 12th St. in Austin. In front of the official Texas FFA Ford truck are state FFA officers: (left to right) Travis Sullivan of Natalia FFA; Tobin Redwine of Lazbuddie FFA; Jerod Justice of Athens FFA.

## KOC gearing up for Polish Sausage Dinner

The local Frank Keim Council of Knights of Columbus will host its 52nd annual Polish Sausage Dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 29, at its hall located at 318 N. Cuyler.

The secret recipe for the Polish sausage to be served Sunday was brought over from Poland over 130 years ago by the great-grandparents of two present council members. The recipes are kept locked up from year to year and are only brought out for the annual sausage fund-raiser.

Though the local KOC chapter doesn't prepare the sausage in-house, it is carefully prepared to the council's strictest instructions. Often several "taste-testings" are performed to

insure the sausage is the proper quality before it is served.

Polish sausage, Polish coleslaw, red beans, potato salad, barbecue sauce, apricots, tea/coffee and dessert will be served.

Take-out and bulk sales on all items are available.

Advance tickets are \$6 apiece. Tickets at the door will be \$7 for adults and \$3 for children between the ages of 6 and 12. Provided they eat in, children under 6 will eat at no charge.

For advance tickets, call 665-3786 or 669-0468. Proceeds from the dinner will go towards various charitable activities.

## QUERIES

more law enforcement per capita than here in Pampa. I sold my ranch in McLean one and one-half years ago."

**For incumbent constable candidates:** "How are constables compensated for vehicle expenses if they are compensated per mile?"

**Answer by Frank Sparling, incumbent Precinct 4 constable candidate:** "We're compensated 26 cents per mile. I drive a one-ton truck. I keep separate logs for personal and county use. I send the county log in every month."

**Answer by James Lewis, incumbent Precinct 1 and 3 constable candidate:** "I keep a separate vehicle for family use, and a vehicle I use only for constable work."

**Answer by Christian R. "Chris" Lockridge, incumbent Precinct 2 constable:** "I have a county vehicle. I did homework years ago and proved it is cheaper on the county to have a county vehicle."

**For Johnnie Carpenter, candidate for Precinct 4 constable:** "How can you prevent a conflict of interest with your wife as justice of the peace of Precinct 4?"

**Answer:** "There has been a conflict of interest before in a case. In that situation, the case was moved to Kurt Curfman (Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2). Should that occur again, I believe it would be handled the same way as before."

**For any and all constable candidates:** "What do constables do that the sheriff's department cannot do?"

**Answer by Randy Stubblefield, candidate for Precinct 4 constable:** "The constable is similar to the sheriff's department. They serve papers and investigate criminal activity. But they don't have the responsibility of the jail."

**Answer by Michael L. "Mike" Nicholson, candidate for Precinct 4 constable:** "The constable has the same rights and duties as the sheriff; he is just limited to his precinct within the county."

**Answer by Carpenter:** "The constable can arrest the sheriff."

**For all constable candidates:** "Are any of the candidates retired from all other work?"

**Answer:** Of the candidates attending, only Fletcher is retired.

**For all constable candidates:** "How much time will be devoted to the constable job when you're working elsewhere?"

**Answer by Nicholson:** "I will quit my current job as night watchman at McLean Feedyard if elected."

**Answer by Lockridge:** "I am currently doing it. You can do both. When you have to do things to help your family, you have to do two jobs. I devote at least eight hours a day to the county."

**Answer by Lewis:** "I don't have time to have a second

job. Serving papers and bailiff work takes up all your time. I represent two precincts, 1 and 3."

**Answer by Stubblefield:** "It is not a full-time paid position. It pays \$600 less a month than a deputy gets. If elected, I intend to devote as much time as possible to it, but I do plan to work a couple of days a week somewhere else."

**Answer by Carpenter:** "I work as a jailer and make a little bit less than the constable makes. I think I can make this a full-time job and can make it on this salary alone. My wife works, too, and that helps."

**Answer by Didway:** "I left the sheriff's department almost two years ago. I got a better job to support my family and provide retirement. To me, money is not the issue as constable. What I miss most is being involved in the community. It's really hard to make it on a deputy's pay. As a deputy, I worked two jobs. I don't believe anybody can live, just working as constable."

Early voting in the county and district primary election began Monday and continues through March 5. Early voters may cast their ballots in the non-jury room on the first floor of Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell. The election is scheduled for March 9, and winners will go on the November general election ballot. Those elected in November will take office in January 2005.

## House approves bill that gives unborn victims greater rights

By JIM ABRAMS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House moved to allow federal prosecutors to charge assailants with two separate crimes for injuring or killing a pregnant woman and her unborn child, brushing back arguments that conferring new rights to the fetus would undermine abortion rights.

Supporters of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act said Americans were solidly behind making an attack on a pregnant woman subject to two crimes.

Criminal law, House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said Thursday, "is an expression of society's values," and anything less than making a woman and the unborn child separate victims "does not resonate with society's sense of justice."

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said Republicans were opting for an election-year abortion issue instead of backing a less controversial approach that would make attacks on pregnant women a single, but more serious crime. "Real people are suffering real harm

while this House has played abortion politics instead of acting to punish truly barbaric crimes."

The act has the strong endorsement of the White House and was near the top of the election-year wish list for President Bush's conservative base.

Backers said the measure was needed to bring federal law in line with 29 states where those who attack pregnant women are charged with two crimes when the fetus is harmed, including murder when it dies.

One of those states is California, where Scott Peterson is on trial for the murder of his wife Laci and her unborn boy Conner. The bill has also been designated Laci and Conner's Law.

The Democratic-led opposition, however, says the real aim of the legislation is to undermine abortion rights by giving the unborn the same legal rights as the born. They charged that abortion politics was taking precedence over the need to protect abused women.

Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., said it would affect a woman's reproductive rights. It "is not about women and it is not about chil-

dren. It's about politics."

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., is offering an alternative that would increase penalties for attacks leading to the interruption of a pregnancy but would not confer separate legal rights to the fetus.

The White House, in a statement, said it opposed such an amendment but voiced strong support for the base bill.

The House passed similar bills in 1999 and 2001. The bill again faces an uphill fight in the Senate with its stronger abortion rights forces. The Senate did not take up the two previous House bills.

The legislation would apply only to attacks on women that qualify as federal offenses. Those would include such crimes as terrorist attacks, bank robberies, drug trafficking or assaults on federal land.

The sponsors of the bill, led by Rep. Melissa Hart, R-Pa., said they were not out to undermine abortion rights and their bill specifically precludes from prosecution those who perform legal abortions.

"This bill is not about the debate over the sanctity of human life. This bill is just about

justice," said Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind.

Groups on both sides of the abortion issue have weighed in heavily on the bill.

The National Right to Life Committee urged its supporters to lobby for the legislation and carried on its Web page a 2003 e-mail from Democratic presidential front-runner Sen. John Kerry voicing opposition to a Senate version.

NARAL Pro-Choice America said Congress must do more to protect pregnant women from violence but said the unborn victims bill was a "deceptive attempt to erode Roe v. Wade," the Supreme Court decision affirming a woman's right to end a pregnancy.

The legislation defines "unborn child" as "a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb."

It also states that an offense does not require proof that the assailant had knowledge that the victim was pregnant. Hart noted that murder is a leading cause of death among pregnant women and in many cases the attack is made with the intention to kill the unborn child.

## Sophisticated tests lead to officials upgrading avian flu strain

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Last week's outbreak of avian influenza in South Texas looked at first like a mild form of the disease, like those on the East Coast a few weeks earlier.

But just a couple of days later, the news had turned grim — the strain of bird flu found on a chicken farm in Gonzales County was "highly pathogenic," meaning it was both highly contagious and lethal to poultry.

That report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture quickly set many wheels in motion. A USDA command post was created in Gonzales and the search for more infected birds intensified, large chicken proces-

sors rushed to reassure their domestic consumers and foreign markets locked their doors to poultry shipments from America.

Just what happened between Friday and Monday to spur such a frenzy?

The answer is a government lab in Iowa simply did more sophisticated testing. And there's another round of results to come that will tell animal scientists even more about the Gonzales outbreak, the first highly pathogenic cases in the United States in two decades.

"There's no easy way to say whether its high-pathogenic or low-pathogenic until you do the

confirmatory testing," said Jim Rogers, a USDA spokesman in Washington.

State veterinarian Bob Hillman on Friday said that the Gonzales bird flu was a low-risk variety that would not cause much damage to chicken growers in the county, which is one of the major poultry areas in Texas.

Hillman didn't elaborate then on why he thought the avian flu was low-pathogenic, but he said Wednesday that his office made its judgment based on how many chickens on the infected farm were dying from the disease.

"While we did have a significant death loss in the birds," he said, "it was not an extremely

high death loss which would be typically characteristic of a high-pathogenic avian influenza virus."

Hillman said 250 to 300 broilers died before the disease was first diagnosed in a local lab, and on Saturday the remaining 6,600 birds on the farm were euthanized and buried.

At the same time, scientists were doing genetic tests on infected chickens at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

The second round of testing was routine because the strain of avian flu in Gonzales was known as H5N2, based on the proteins found in the virus.

The H5 and H7 subtypes can be either low-pathogenic or high-pathogenic, so genetic sequencing is used to gauge virulence. During the 1983-84 outbreak in Pennsylvania and Virginia, an H5N2 strain that was not treated morphed from low to high pathogenicity.

On Monday morning, Ron DeHaven, the USDA's chief veterinarian, announced that the initial low-risk determination was wrong — this bird flu was

indeed dangerous.

At the same time, he praised Texas officials for their fast action to kill all of the chickens on the Gonzales farm, just in case.

"By quickly identifying and depopulating this flock, they quickly and effectively reduced the chances for spread of infection, which both from an animal standpoint and any potential human health standpoint, that's very important," DeHaven said.

## Child rescued, mother dies as kidnapping standoff ends

VALLEY VIEW (AP) — Cierra Dawn Sasiain was back home Thursday, the day after her mother was killed in a standoff with law officers after kidnapping the 5-year-old at gunpoint from a North Texas daycare center.

Cooke County Sheriff Mike Compton said Crystal Dawn Pinkston fired at officers, who shot back and fatally wounded her. Authorities pulled Cierra from a window in the mobile home and she was not hurt.

Linda Anderson, spokeswoman for the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office, said an autopsy on Pinkston probably would be performed Thursday.

Cierra went to choir practice on Wednesday night at Southmont Baptist Church in Denton. Her mother had kidnapped her at gunpoint from the church's daycare center on Tuesday afternoon.

"She's doing very well — she wanted to get back in touch with the routine in her life," Larry

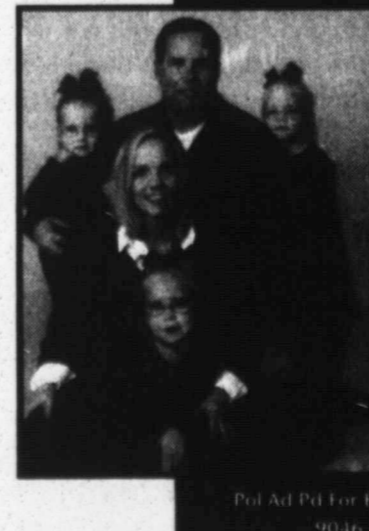
Reynolds, the church's pastor, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for a Thursday story.

Court documents showed Pinkston had supervised visits with her daughter every other Saturday for two hours. The girl lived with Pinkston's parents, Debi and Danny Blagg, who had told police on Sunday that Pinkston had been driving past the home. She had been prohibited from going near the home.

In April 2003, the child's father,

Anthony Sasiain, petitioned the court for custody, saying he was concerned about his daughter's well-being after Pinkston began dating a new boyfriend.

"I think she's just a mother that went over the edge — didn't have full custody of her daughter, they probably wouldn't let her see her daughter as frequently" as she wanted to ...," Bernadette Clancy of Denton told the Gainesville Daily Register in Thursday's editions.



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Dedicated And  
Competent Man  
Who Has Served  
As A Gray  
County Deputy

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# VIEWPOINTS

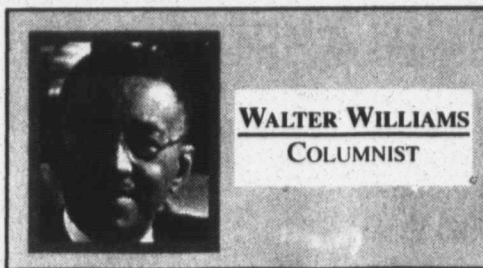
## Stay out of the miracle business

In Marcus Cook Connelly's spiritual play, "Green Pastures," God lamented to the Angel Gabriel, "Every time Ah passes a miracle, Ah has to pass fo' or five mo' to ketch up wid it," and adding, "Even bein God ain't no bed of roses." That's something our congressmen should think about when they set out to create miracles.

George Will wrote an insightful article in the Feb. 12 Washington Post titled, "Sweet and Sour Subsidies." He might have just as well titled it, "Shooting Ourselves in the Foot."

Chicago has been home to many of America's candy manufacturers, but today they've fallen on hard times. In 1970, employment by Chicago's candy manufacturers totaled 15,000, and now it's 8,000 and falling. Brach used to employ about 2,300 people; now most of its jobs are in Mexico. Ferrara Pan Candy has also moved much of its production to Mexico. Yes, wages are lower in Mexico, but wages aren't the only factor in candy manufacturers' flight from America. After all, Life Savers, which for 90 years manufactured in America, has moved to Canada, where wages are comparable to ours.

One of the ignored stories in the clamor and demagoguery over job losses, not only in the candy industry but in others as well, is the devastating impact of congressionally created "miracles" on our



WALTER WILLIAMS  
COLUMNIST

industries. American sugar producers fight tooth and nail to keep foreign sugar imports out of our country. They've spent \$722,000 in campaign contributions to both Democratic and Republican congressmen to enact sugar import tariffs and quotas.

As a result of their successful effort to get Congress to do their bidding, our domestic sugar prices are about three times higher than the world market price. While that's a miracle for the sugar industry and its employees, unfortunately, the miracle story doesn't end there. We all know that for every benefit there's a cost.

According to the Sugar Users' Association, an organization that represents companies who use sugar as an input, such as candy manufacturers, the protectionist miracle that Congress has created for the sugar industry has cost anywhere from 7,500 to 10,000 jobs in sugar-using industries due to higher sugar costs. Higher sugar costs make U.S. candy manufacturers less competitive in both domestic and world markets.

Life Savers became more competitive simply by moving to Canada -- it saved itself a whopping \$10 million dollars a year in sugar costs.

You might ask: "How come sugar's cheaper in Canada? Are they a free trade country?" The answer is a big fat no. It's just that they don't have much, if any, of a sugar industry, and hence there's little pressure on the Canadian Parliament to enact protectionist measures.

So what should Congress do? In the real world, when Congress enacts a miracle for one group of Americans, such as sugar producers, it creates a non-miracle for other Americans. Should Congress create a miracle for the sugar-using industry to offset the devastating effects of its miracle for sugar producers -- like keeping imported candy out of the United States? I don't know how that might work, but I'm betting they'll run into the same problem God explained so aptly to the Angel Gabriel when He said, "Every time Ah passes a miracle, Ah has to pass fo' or five mo' to ketch up wid it."

Surely, if Congress creates a miracle for candy manufacturers, that miracle is going to create a non-miracle for somebody else -- at least those who eat candy or own candy retail stores.

Here's my suggestion for Congress. Just remember God's lament: "Even bein God ain't no bed of roses," and get out of the miracle business.

**THE Pampa NEWS**  
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Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Pampa News*.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Take dog problem seriously

To the editor:  
 A few months ago the same dogs that mauled the little girl (on Feb. 16) were loose and attacked my sister's dog. The dog was hurt badly and taken to the vet. When my brother-in-law reported the incident to Animal Control, the man on duty said there was nothing they could do about it. My brother-in-law said, "Do they have to kill someone before you do anything about it?" Charges were also filed with the police department. These dogs were reported and apparently vicious. If they would have been taken to Animal Control then, they may never have attacked the little girl. How serious are dogs on the loose taken?

P. Hernandez  
 Pampa

### TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2004. There are 309 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:  
 On Feb. 26, 1993, a bomb built by a group of Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

- On this date:
- In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from the Island of Elba to begin his second conquest of France.
  - In 1848, the Second French Republic was proclaimed.
  - In 1919, Congress established Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.
  - In 1929, President Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton National Park.
  - In 1940, the United States Air Defense Command was created.

- In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.
- In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.
- In 1962, after becoming the first American to orbit the Earth, John Glenn told a joint meeting of Congress, "Exploration and the pursuit of knowledge have always paid dividends in the long run."
- In 1979, a total solar eclipse cast a moving shadow 175 miles wide from Oregon to North Dakota before moving into Canada.
- In 1987, the Tower Commission, which probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued its report, which rebuked President Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.
- Ten years ago: A jury in San Antonio acquitted 11 followers of David Koresh of murder, rejecting claims they'd ambushed federal agents; five were convicted of manslaughter.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

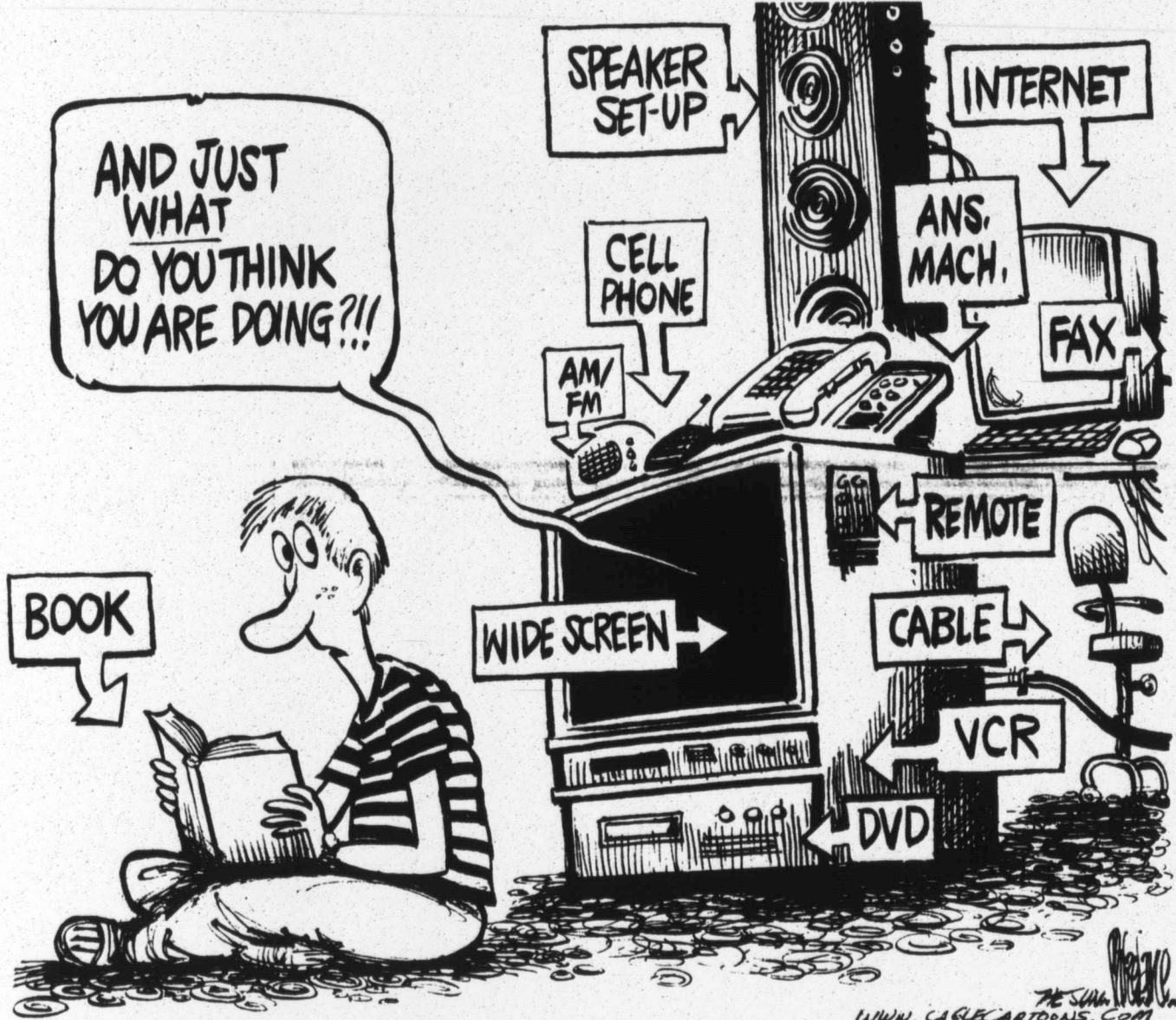
Letters must be **300 words or less**. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to *The Pampa News*, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.



## Environmental activists awakening

President Bush's recent State of the Union address has awakened environmental activists such as they haven't been for some time. They are concerned not by what he said but by the lack of public reaction to what he did not say.

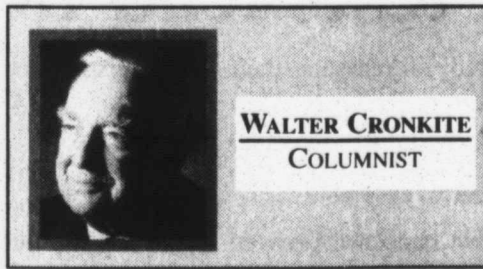
He spoke of the nation's problems and the dangers it faces, particularly in regard to national security, but he gave no indication that he recognizes the dangers of global warming that threaten not just this nation but the lives of all living things on the face of the Earth.

Surely it has been brought to his attention that scientists are increasingly alarmed over the rapidity with which the environment worldwide is being poisoned by the refuse of human endeavor. Climate change and the extinction of species are the focus of their deep concern, and they warn that there is no time to spare if we are to save planet Earth. Some say that unless we begin a major effort by the end of this century, further efforts will be too late.

However, it is not just Bush's failure to express any interest in this crisis that bothers the environmentalists; it is the fact that the news media has made little of the omission and there was no indication that the public in any way was aroused by it.

Now it could be, of course, that the environmentally conscious public simply did not expect more from President Bush than it got in his message. Perhaps there simply was no space for more despair in their reaction.

It must be noted that not only is the



WALTER CRONKITE  
COLUMNIST

Republican leadership not indicating any recognition of the crisis, but the issue has not gotten much attention from the candidates in the Democratic primary race.

Now, concerned environmentalists have been dealt another blow, as Ralph Nader made his announcement that he would again run for president, this time as an independent. Nader decades ago was an early and valiant leader in the environmental battle, but as he tried to explain his ill-conceived candidacy to Tim Russert on "Meet the Press" last Sunday, he gave the environment a mere passing reference in his list of the nation's problems.

The environmental issue might well gain importance in the general-election campaign. Judging from the Democratic candidates' brief statements during the primaries, it seems likely that the Democratic victor will at least promise to tackle the deterioration of the world's environment with the same priority, the same urgency that the scientists believe is necessary if humankind is to be saved from the destruction that they predict is imminent -- imminent, that is, in geologic time, perhaps a few centuries, more or less.

And this is one of the problems -- this

geologic time frame. Most of us humans have difficulty focusing on what we might be doing a decade hence, let alone a century away when we don't expect to be around anyway. The disappearance of a few species of insects or tumbleweeds hardly excites us, although to scientists they are more benchmarks of our deteriorating environment.

This slow death of our environment is a constant, ongoing threat. Every second of every minute of every day, our Earth is literally wearing out because of our mistreatment of it. Most of the more popular news media report on this piecemeal deterioration only when the environment suffers a dramatic blow -- a major oil spill, for instance, or when a dense smog threatens the health of an entire region.

The politicians seeking office, including the president seeking re-election, are unlikely to give the environment the attention it deserves unless the people demand it. And the people aren't going to demand it unless somebody brings the problem, and particularly its urgency, to their attention.

The media has a responsibility on its shoulders whose importance cannot be exaggerated: to give the story of our deteriorating environment the attention it needs in order to alert the population to action. That action would demand that governments -- city, state and national -- generate and enforce the laws that can at least begin the immense job of cleaning up our lands, our seas and our air so that living things, including humans, shall not perish from the Earth.

## China over

BY ELAINE ASSOCIATE

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# China says North Korea proposing overall stoppage of nuke activities

By ELAINE KURTENBACH  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP) — North Korea on Thursday proposed "the comprehensive stopping of nuclear activities," an offer presented during six-nation talks about its nuclear program that could signal major progress in its 16-month dispute with the United States.

The conditions of the offer were unclear, and a spokesman for the Chinese government said the details were still being discussed among the six governments meeting in Beijing.

The announcement came a day after South Korea offered the North a conditional compensation package that officials said included energy aid for the power-starved country.

The North had made a similar proposal through diplomatic channels in December. This version appeared to be the most significant breakthrough since the Washington-Pyongyang stalemate began in October 2002.

"The various parties wel-

comed the proposition from the North Korean side for the comprehensive stopping of nuclear activities," Chinese spokesman Liu Jianchao said at a briefing. "As for the details and specific arrangements for stopping the nuclear activities, it is still being discussed among the various parties."

Russia's top delegate said that a "gap" remained before the standoff could be solved fully. A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Beijing said he had no information about the proposal.

Participating in the long-anticipated talks, which began Wednesday, were the Koreans, the United States, China, Russia and Japan.

The United States wants an immediate dismantling of the North's nuclear program. Pyongyang has long demanded aid and security guarantees before it begins to do so.

Liu said China "agreed with North Korea's requirement for reasonable security guarantees and to give North Korea a nor-

mal development environment."

His comments came immediately after Alexander Losyukov, head of the Russian delegation and his country's deputy foreign minister, said North Korea showed "readiness" to abolish its nuclear weapons program.

Losyukov said the North would abolish its military atomic program but maintain a "peaceful" nuclear capability. Xinhua said. That's a major step but one somewhat less than what China described.

"North Korea is not ready to drop all its nuclear programs. It's not realistic to ask them to do it," Losyukov said. "North Korea is ready to drop its nuclear defense program, but some countries are not satisfied with that."

He said disagreements still endure between Washington and Pyongyang over exactly what will be eliminated. "A gap remains," Losyukov said. "We have certain doubts that it will be possible to remove it during this session of talks."

## Employees of the month



(Courtesy photo)

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Copeland were both elected Jordan/Baten Units "February 2004 Employees of the Month." Steve, maintenance office administrator, has worked for the Jordan Unit for 10 years. Officer Sue Copeland has worked for both units for 9 years. The Copelands plan on eventually retiring from TDCJ. They presently reside in Pampa and have three children and one grandchild. They are pictured with Assistant Warden Kay McCleary and Senior Warden Chris Bell.

## Jurors set to deliberate style maven's fate next week

NEW YORK (AP) — Martha Stewart's defense lawyers rested their case after less than an hour, calling as their lone witness a lawyer who took notes during a 2002 interview in which the government claims Stewart lied about the day she sold her stock in ImClone Systems.

The lawyers will deliver their closing arguments early next week, and 12 jurors should begin deciding the celebrity homemaker's fate by Wednesday morning.

U.S. District Judge Miriam

Goldman Cedarbaum set the schedule after Stewart's lawyers presented a defense that took less than an hour Wednesday. Stewart did not testify.

The only witness on Stewart's behalf was Steven Pearl, a lawyer who took notes in her Feb. 4, 2002, interview with federal prosecutors and securities regulators.

The government claims Stewart lied repeatedly that day, including saying she did not know whether there was a record that stockbroker Peter Bacanovic had left her a mes-

sage on Dec. 27, 2001, the day she sold ImClone stock.

But Pearl's scribbled notes show Stewart may have been responding instead to a question about what time Bacanovic called her that day.

Under cross-examination by prosecutors, Pearl admitted that his notes were incomplete and that there may have been a question about the message log he did not write down.

Referring to his notes and a memo he prepared after the interview, Pearl said: "Neither one is a verbatim transcript."

## Macedonian leader dies in crash

BITONJA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Macedonia's president, a moderate leader credited for helping to unite his ethnically divided country, was killed Thursday when his plane crashed in bad weather in mountainous southern Bosnia.

Boris Trajkovski, 47, was en route to an international investment conference in the western Bosnian city of Mostar, when his plane with six other officials and two pilots went down near the village of Bitonja shortly after 8 a.m. local time, officials said. There were no survivors.

Bosnian police said they found wreckage of the U.S.-made Beechcraft Super King Air 200 twin-engine turboprop near the village about 50 miles south of Sarajevo.

"We received confirmation from our patrols that they have found the wreckage of the Macedonian plane and that there are no survivors," Nedžad Vejzagic, spokesman for the Interior Ministry of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat federation, told The Associated Press.

By early afternoon, Bosnian President Dragan Covic told the Mostar conference participants that search teams had recovered four of the nine bodies.

"We today lost a friend ... our thoughts are with the families of the victims," Covic said as the gathering of about 2,000 participants observed a minute of silence. He called Trajkovski "irreplaceable."

A commission was to be formed in Bosnia to investigate the cause of the accident. Macedonia's government planned to convene an emergency session later in the day. Macedonia's state media aired only classical music and urgent news items after announcing the crash.

Macedonia's Defense Ministry said

security was beefed up along the country's borders and at key state and army institutions. Parliament speaker Ljubco Jordanovski would serve as acting president, officials said.

In Bosnia, an AP photographer near the scene said five teams of de-mining experts were headed to the crash site, suggesting the plane may have gone down in an area littered with land mines left over from Bosnia's devastating 1992-95 war.

Rain, heavy cloud cover and thick fog in the area had prompted Albania's prime minister, Fatos Nano, to cancel his own flight to the conference. Nano sent his condolences to the Macedonian government for its "tragic and painful loss."

Macedonia was to formally submit its application for eventual membership in the European Union on Thursday in Ireland, but canceled the presentation and called its delegation back from Dublin, officials said.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, described Trajkovski as having "contributed hugely to reconciliation in Macedonia" and as a strong supporter of Macedonia's ambition to become an EU member.

"Today should have been one of celebration for him," Ahern said in a statement. "I have conveyed my deep sympathy to Prime Minister (Branko) Cervenkovski on behalf of the European Union and the government and people of Ireland."

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer also expressed condolences in a statement, saying Trajkovski "demonstrated great leadership to preserve the unity of his country when it was under threat."

## Opening of movie 'Passion' draws crowds

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The opening of "The Passion of the Christ" drew everyone from conservative churchgoers to confrontational New Yorkers more than willing to roll out their soapboxes as screenings got under way.

But the gore — and in some cases, church rules — kept even the most devout Christians away.

In Salt Lake City, curiosity about the film among many Mormons was outweighed by

church teachings that discourage viewing R-rated movies.

"I don't think our Lord would want me to see an R-rated film about his son," said 20-year-old Shawn Watts, a Mormon missionary.

Watts said he was intrigued but would need permission from his bishop, since missionaries are not allowed to watch films or television under church protocol. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stresses family values and frowns upon

members seeing R-rated films.

Despite concerns about violence and accusations that Mel Gibson's film fuels anti-Semitism, "The Passion" made a bundle on its Ash Wednesday opening.

The movie took in an estimated \$15 million to \$20 million after just one day of release, remarkable for a religious-themed movie. It opened in more than 3,000 theaters — an unusually large release for a religious film with English subtitles to translate the Latin and Aramaic its characters speak.

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The Pampa News Comics

# DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

## Woman Attracted to Minister Prays the Feeling is Mutual

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a serious crush on the minister at church, and I suspect he has similar feelings for me. He is divorced and seems a little shy. Is there some code of ethics that a minister must follow about dating parishioners? I'm a Methodist. Please tell me what to do -- I'm crazy about him. -- CRAZY FOR THE REV-EREND

**DEAR CRAZY:** There are specific rules that prevent clergy from becoming romantically involved with their parishioners. Those who break them are considered predators.

If you are serious about the minister, the first thing you should do is find another congregation. After that, call him, explain why you left his flock, say a little prayer and invite him to dinner.

**DEAR ABBY:** When I send out dinner invitations, I ask the guests not to bring anything but themselves. But without fail, my husband's mother and sister call him to say they'll be bringing added dishes plus dessert.

My husband, "Nick," refuses to tell them it's not necessary. He says they don't mean to offend and that I am being petty.

But they never ask me what I'm preparing, and their food always conflicts with what I'm serving. This last time, Nick even asked me to change the menu to complement the food they were bringing! Afterward, they asked me to wash their serving dishes and return them in a couple of days.

I have attended other family functions where I've noticed these in-laws did not interfere with the meals being served. I can't help but take it personally. I am very offended. What should I do? -- TIRED OF BITING MY TONGUE IN PA.

**DEAR TIRED:** There is no rule of etiquette that demands a host serve food that is brought by the guests. (This goes for wine, too.) It is considered to be a gift to the host. The next time Nick's mother and sister bring food after having been asked not to, transfer it to your own containers and put it in the freezer. Put their dishes into a hot soapy sink, and present them to their owners at the door when they leave. Then you and Nick can enjoy their gift at a later time -- or dispose of it if you choose.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married 25 years. I'm in my early 40s and have three adorable children and a good life.

My problem is I cannot get my previous boyfriend out of my system. I long to see him, and when I do -- even a glimpse of him -- I feel the way I did when we were together years ago. I get nervous and tingly and jittery. I look for him wherever I go and dream of him often. It is always the same dream; we are getting married.

I have a good husband who doesn't drink or become abusive. We go to church, have a new house, two nice vehicles and just about everything I could want.

Do I need closure or do you think I still love him? I will always love him, I guess, even though I talked with him several years ago and he is completely different from when we dated. Do I need counseling or is this normal? -- WONDERING IN WISCONSIN

**DEAR WONDERING:** I suspect you are less in love with him than with the IDEA of him. He can do no wrong because it's all in your head -- the "perfect" love affair. If counseling will help you feel better, I won't discourage you. But I recommend that you also find a project or volunteer outlet on which to concentrate, because it appears you have too much time on your hands.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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

(EDITORS: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, [amcdermott\(at\)amuniversal.com](mailto:amcdermott(at)amuniversal.com))

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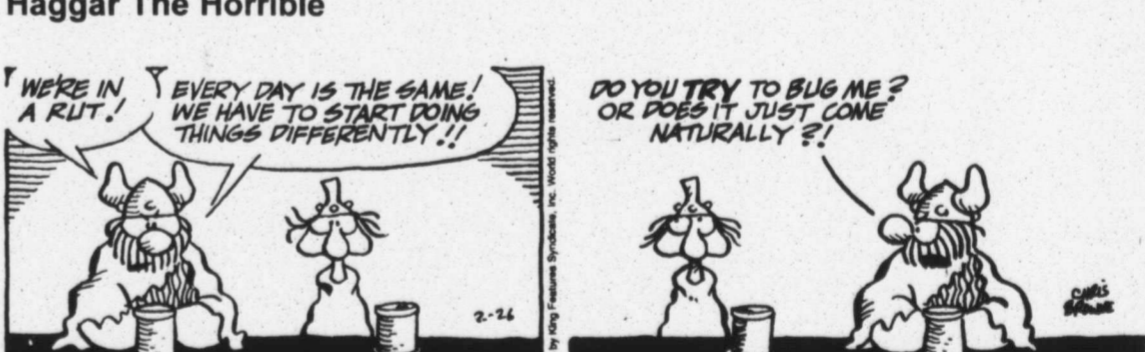
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# SPORTS

## Colorado, Baylor win wild overtime games

### Buffaloes come from 17 down to defeat Sooners

By The Associated Press

After blowing the 17-point lead they held midway through the second half, the Colorado Buffaloes rallied in overtime behind Antoine McGee to beat Oklahoma 94-87 Wednesday night, handing the Sooners their third straight loss.

McGee scored seven of his 10 points in the extra period for Colorado (16-8, 8-5 Big 12.) It was the Buffs' first victory over Oklahoma since Jan. 19, 2000.

David Harrison had 21 points and 15 rebounds for Colorado, with Blair Wilson adding 18 and Michel Morandais getting 14 before fouling out with 25 seconds to play in regulation time.

Jason Detrick had 35 points for Oklahoma (16-8, 6-7.)

In other Big 12 games Wednesday night, Matt Sayman scored eight of his 15 points in overtime as Baylor beat Texas A&M 67-61, and Jake Sullivan hit 24 points as Iowa State rallied in the second half for a 75-69 victory over Kansas State.

Colorado's win at Boulder

was its third in a row and left the Buffs tied with Missouri for fourth place in the conference, behind Oklahoma State and Texas, who share the lead at 11-2, and Kansas, 9-4.

The Buffaloes used a 15-3 run to take a 41-36 halftime lead, and after a 3-pointer and basket by Marcus Hall they had stretched it to 60-43 with 9:53 left to play. But the Sooners, with Detrick getting 21 of his points after the break, battled back.

"We knew they could come back and warned the team about Oklahoma being a battle-tested team," said Colorado coach Ricardo Patton said. "It didn't help us that we had some inopportune turnovers and took some ill-advised shots down the stretch."

Colorado led by one with 90 seconds to go, but Detrick stole a pass, was fouled, and made both free throws. After a basket by Detrick put the Sooners up 77-76 with nine seconds left, Colorado's Jayson Obazuaye drove the length of the court, got off a shot that missed but was fouled.

With two seconds on the

clock, Obazuaye made one of his two free throws to send the game into overtime.

In the extra period, McGee scored the first five points as Colorado pulled ahead 82-77 before the Sooners got two free throws from Detrick after 90 seconds. Oklahoma managed only four free throws over the next two minutes while McGee got another free throw and Wilson hit a 3-pointer.

Glenn Eddy sealed the win with a layup and free throw with 1:33 left.

**Baylor 67, Texas A&M 61, OT**

At College Station, Texas, Texas A&M missed three free throws in the final 30 seconds, allowing Baylor to send the game into overtime.

Sayman hit a jump shot as the shot clock expired and then following with a 3-pointer and three straight free throws to score the final eight points for the Bears.

A&M (7-17, 0-13 Big 12) led 57-55 when Antoine Wright was fouled with 23 seconds remaining in regulation. Wright missed the front end of a one-and-one.

Terrance Thomas threw up a wild shot in traffic for the Bears (8-18, 3-10) that banked off the glass and bounced off both sides of the

rim before dropping in. He also drew a foul, but missed the free throw.

Thomas said he felt blessed. "You practice trick shots, but you can't be prepared for that," he said.

Wright was fouled again for A&M with three seconds remaining but he missed both free throws this time, sending the game into overtime.

Baylor controlled the overtime, going on a 10-2 run to start and holding the Aggies to just four points.

Baylor had lost four in a row since beating A&M 72-64 at Waco. Harvey Thomas led the Bears with 17 points, and Terrance Thomas had 12.

Wright led Texas A&M with 18 points, but missed all three of his free throws down the stretch. The Aggies were up by eight points twice in the second half, but turnovers and poor defense allowed Baylor back into it each time. **Iowa State 75, Kansas State 69**

At Ames, Iowa, Kansas State led 33-28 at the half and 44-37 with 13:49 to play. The Wildcats (12-12, 4-9) frustrated the Cyclones for much of the game with their patient offense and sticky defense. But Sullivan got untracked in the second half when he made six of eight shots, including three 3-pointers,

and Iowa State (15-9, 6-7) outplayed the Wildcats down the stretch.

"He was the difference tonight," Kansas State's Jarrett Hart said of Sullivan. "The first half we limited his touches. The second half, he showed his senior leadership."

With Sullivan setting the pace, Iowa State shot 61 percent in the second half and 55.8 percent for the game. Kansas State had been holding opponents to 39.1 percent shooting.

Jeremiah Massey led Kansas State with 23 points and Tim Ellis scored 10.

Iowa State took its first lead since it was 2-0 when Sullivan sank two free throws to make it 57-55 with 6:39 remaining. A fadeaway jumper by Sullivan made it 65-61 and then, after Kansas State's Tim Ellis missed a wide open 3 from the right corner, walk-on player John Neal hit two straight 3-pointers for a 71-64 Iowa State lead.

"We had the game at the right tempo. We did a lot of things offensively that were the best of the year, quite frankly," Kansas State coach Jim Wooldridge said. "There's just a fine line there. About the five- or six-minute mark, it got away from us."

## NOTEBOOK

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS

PAMPA — The Special Olympics Basketball Tournament will be held Saturday at McNeely Fieldhouse.

Admission is free. There will be 23 area teams and 264 athletes-coaches participating in the tournament.

Three local teams in addition to the Pampa Lead-Up Team are entered in the tournament.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the public is invited to come and support all these athletes.

For more information, call Shelly Dyer at 669-4726.

### BASEBALL

PAMPA — There will be a Harvester Baseball Booster Club meeting Tuesday, starting at 7 p.m. in Ready Room in the athletic fieldhouse.

All baseball parents are urged to attend.

### FOOTBALL

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mike Williams hadn't given much thought to following in the footsteps of Maurice Clarett and turning pro until a lifelong pal called him early last week wondering why.

That began a process that ended Wednesday when Williams, an All-American wide receiver at Southern California, announced he was becoming the first underclassman to opt for the NFL draft since Clarett's court ruling earlier this month.

"You're out there with all those other guys. I don't understand why you don't consider coming out," Williams recalled his buddy telling him. "That just got the ball rolling. I'm going to take my opportunity to a door that was opened by someone else."

Williams, a big receiver at 6-foot-5 and 230 pounds, leaves with two years of eligibility remaining for the defending national champion Trojans.

"It was a very, very, very difficult decision," Williams said on a conference call from his home in Tampa, Fla. "This is my opportunity. A lot of great opportunities don't come along in life to do great things."

"A lifelong goal of mine is to play in the NFL. I've always had the dream of playing the game at the highest level. My love for the university alone was enough to stay."

Instead, Williams is expected to be selected high in the first round of April's draft rather than compete for the Heisman Trophy as a top player for the Trojans.

## Astros' Bagwell adjusts to his shoulder woes

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — If there was ever a signature Jeff Bagwell defensive play, it was his derring-do on bunt coverage.

He would charge the plate full-speed from first base, pounce on the deadened ball regardless of where it rolled, wheel around and fire to second, foiling the sacrifice attempt.

It was a play he executed plenty of times over a 13-season career. Those throws stopped coming once his right shoulder started hurting in 2001.

"The days of me spinning around in front of the plate and throwing off-balance to second are over," he said Wednesday after the Houston Astros' first day of full-squad workouts. "I can still spin around to third, though, and I can even do a 3-6-3 double play. If I can do those things, I'll be all right."

The villain is a balky right shoulder that has hindered Bagwell's ability to throw for the last three seasons. Surgery back then repaired a torn labrum but also revealed bone chips and arthritis and "whatever the heck else that's in there."

Fortunately for Bagwell and the Astros, the problem doesn't manifest itself in the batter's box so much. His .278 average was second-lowest in his career, but he still hit 39 homers and drove in 100 runs while playing in all but two games.

Bagwell admitted Wednesday that at one time, the shoulder caused him to consider a radical move.

"I've considered other things, like if it'd be better at times to be a DH and have the Astros trade me, for the ball-

club and for me," he said, adding that he quickly got over that and went on to play 160 games last season despite his limitations.

Bagwell has missed just seven games in the past three seasons playing with a right shoulder that hurts him not only when he throws a baseball, but when he does just about anything on or off the field.

"All I can tell you is there's not one point in the day I don't know there's not something wrong with my shoulder," said Bagwell, who is loathe to complain about such matters, having hid his shoulder injury for all of 2001 before then-manager Larry Dierker disclosed it after Bagwell made two errors in a crucial game near the end of the season.

"I've come to grips with it because I'm still a productive player."

Bagwell, 35, has no idea why his shoulder turned on him. He doesn't recall a specific moment when he might have gotten hurt, whether by throwing, diving or lifting weights.

He also has learned that no amount of physical therapy seems to help.

"It all depends on how I feel that day," Bagwell said.

The injury played a part in Bagwell's decision to retire after his current contract ends following the 2006 season. Until then, he said he intends to soldier through the discomfort and keep on slugging.

## Classic Champs



The Pampa Lady Harvesters gather around fallen teammate Jennie Rogers at the Lady Bulldog Winter Classic in Borger last weekend. Rogers holds the championship trophy the Lady Harvesters won in the Silver Division. Rogers, an all-district catcher was left paralyzed after an car accident last year. The Pampa senior is recuperating at home.

## A thrilling start at Match Play Championship

CARLSBAD, Calif. (AP) — Six matches had to go extra holes in a thrilling opening round at the Match Play Championship.

Tiger Woods is grateful his match was not among them.

"It was close," Woods said, finally allowing himself a smile after a 1-up victory.

Woods faced a first-round elimination for the second time in three years when he let John Rollins off the hook early, fell behind in the middle and found himself grinding to make pars just to stay in the game.

Rollins was 1 up and safely on

the green, but had a bad feeling as he looked across the fairway as

Woods stood over an 8-iron from 171 yards away.

"I told my caddie that he's due any minute to hit one of his towering shots that sit right by the flag," Rollins said. "He must have heard me. I know that's when he shines. That's what a champion does."

Indeed, Woods is the defending champion at the Accenture Match Play Championship.

And when his 8-iron plopped 18 inches behind the cup, hopped and spun slightly to within 2 feet for birdie, he evened the match. It came down to a battle of wedges on the par-5 18th, and Rollins blinked first.

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# Ravens' Jamal Lewis indicted on federal drug charges

ATLANTA (AP) — Jamal Lewis insists he did not try to help a childhood friend buy cocaine in the summer of 2000, an accusation that has the Baltimore Ravens running back facing federal drug charges.

Lewis' attorney said a cocaine buy wasn't discussed during a restaurant conversation more than three years ago involving Lewis, a boyhood friend and a woman who turned out to be a police informant.

That meeting and a prior cell phone conversation between Lewis and the informant are the focus of federal drug charges filed

Wednesday against the NFL star. No drugs were ever purchased, according to the indictment.

"Jamal Lewis wants everyone to know that he is not guilty, that he has not been involved in drugs," said Ed Garland, the running back's attorney. "He's extremely disappointed that this is happening."

Lewis, who had the second-highest rushing total in NFL history last season, planned to turn himself in Thursday, Garland said. Garland had planned a news conference Thursday morning, but he called it off shortly before it was to begin.

Lewis is charged with conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute five kilograms of cocaine and using a cell phone in the commission of the first count, U.S. Attorney William S. Duffey said. If convicted on the conspiracy count, Lewis could face 10 years to life in prison.

Ravens spokesman Chad Steele said the indictment came as a surprise to the team. "We had no clue," he said, adding that Lewis was in Florida on Wednesday.

In a statement the team said: "We believe in due process, and Jamal will have his day in court. There are two sides to every story. From

what we know of the charges, these seem out of character for the Jamal we know."

Ravens defensive end Anthony Weaver also said he was surprised.

"But I don't know about the facts. I know Jamal's character, and to me, he's always been a straightforward guy," Weaver said. "I just hope he finds the right people to help him get through this."

The NFL declined to comment.

The indictment came out of a drug investigation that has led to 30 convictions and helped dismantle a cocaine-trafficking ring in the city, Duffey said. He refused to say

whether Lewis was tied to that drug ring.

In an affidavit, FBI special agent Hoyt Mahaley said that an informant contacted Lewis on his cell phone on June 23, 2000, to discuss selling cocaine to Lewis' friend. The conversation was recorded, according to the agent.

"The cooperating source told Lewis that he/she was willing to sell the narcotics to Lewis' associates for a price that Lewis can tax," meaning the price could be marked up for a profit, Mahaley said in the affidavit.

"Lewis responded, 'Yeah,'" the agent said. Hours after the call, Lewis

and the friend, Angelo Jackson, met with the informant at an Atlanta restaurant, the affidavit said. There, Lewis and Jackson asked the informant how much cocaine the informant was capable of distributing, the affidavit alleges.

Jackson and the informant met again on July 12, 2000, at a gas station in suburban Atlanta, the affidavit said. During the meeting, they discussed drugs, but no purchase was made.

Lewis wasn't at the gas station. His attorney, however, said Lewis was at the restaurant, but not for the reason alleged in the indictment.

## Infamous foul ball getting explosive send-off

CHICAGO (AP) — This ball is going, going ... KABLAM!

In an event applying the gloss of Hollywood and P.T. Barnum to the "curse" of the Chicago Cubs, the foul ball that couldn't be caught in October's playoffs will be obliterated by a special-effects expert on live television Thursday night.

The ball-bashing, taking place with spring training just underway, is being done to bring some closure to one of the most painful losses in the Cubs' doleful history.

Grant DePorter, who helped buy the ball at a December auction for \$113,824 on behalf of Harry Caray's Restaurant Group, has lined up three hours of music, comedy and celebrity appearances leading up to the climactic event — everything short of Steve Bartman, the hapless fan who deflected the ball during Game 6 of the NL championship series.

The ball will be sent into oblivion by Michael Lantieri, an Oscar winner who wrecks things for a living and has worked on such movies as

"Jurassic Park" and "Back to the Future." Lantieri, a Cubs die-hard himself, would not reveal his exact demolition plans but admitted he has been blowing up a dozen balls a day in his California lab in preparation.

"That ball's gotta go," said DePorter, managing partner of the restaurant group, which organized the event as part of its annual tribute to Caray, the beloved Cubs broadcaster who died six years ago Thursday. "It's like the ring from 'The Lord of the Rings' and we're kind of like Frodo, trying to get it over with."

The ball figured in one of sports' biggest collapses. With the Cubs leading the Florida Marlins 3-0 on Oct. 14 and just five outs from their first World Series appearance since 1945, Bartman reached for the ball hit toward his front-row seat at Wrigley Field, knocking it out of reach of left fielder Moises Alou.

The Cubs then gave up a staggering eight-run rally to the Marlins, and squandered another lead in Game 7 the

next night.

The loose ball was snatched up by a Chicago lawyer and sold at auction.

Amid public misgivings about the way he was vilified for the wrenching loss, Bartman was invited to participate in the charity event in front of the downtown Harry Caray's restaurant. But the 26-year-old fan, who has refused all requests for interviews since issuing an apology in October, has no plans to attend.

"He issued a final statement, and that's pretty much the last thing he intended to say about it," said family friend Frank Murtha. "His whole intention was to return to his normal life."

The ball will get VIP treatment in its last hours, from a farewell trip to Wrigley and a last night on public display in a hotel suite to a final "dinner" of prime steak and lobster and even a massage.

Then comes the final reckoning. Among thousands of fan suggestions for the act: having NASA put the ball into orbit, dropping it off the Sears Tower and having Chicago native Bill Murray, in "Ghostbusters" gear, obliterate it.

DePorter promises only that "it will be destroyed in a way that there is a mess."

Practicing for the big moment, Lantieri has tortured baseballs in various ways, concluding that "they're harder than you'd expect to blow up."

### Canadian advances in playoffs

CHILDRESS — Canadian's Lady Wildcats advanced further into the playoffs with a 57-38 win over Anson Tuesday night in the Region 1-2A quarterfinals.

Shila Province led a balanced attack for Canadian with 14 points. Kali Looney and Carlee Culver added 11

## Winning Lady Hawks



The Lubbock Lady Hawks won the championship at the Bi-State Shootout in Elk City, Okla. this season. Point guard Kelsi James (front, left) is a point guard on the team and the granddaughter of Les and Patricia Howard of Pampa. Her parents are Richie and Karie James of Lubbock. Kelsi averaged 15.1 points a game for the 12-year-old AAU girls' basketball team this season. On the back row is coach Richie James, 1982 Pampa High graduate.

## Bryant says he'll look at Nuggets as Lakers win in Denver

By The Associated Press

Kobe Bryant will consider playing for the Denver Nuggets next season, and he gave them a tantalizing look at the talent they might get.

Bryant had 35 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds Wednesday night, and Kareem Rush's 3-pointer with 3.2 seconds left gave the Los Angeles Lakers a 112-111 victory over the Nuggets.

Bryant said he'll consider the Nuggets among various free-agent suitors.

"As I've been saying, at the end of the season I'm going to sit down and evaluate every option and break down every team, and Denver is one of them," Bryant said.

Nuggets general manager Kiki Vandeweghe had urged Denver fans to use their energy cheering for the Nuggets instead of directing negative comments toward Bryant, and Bryant heard fewer boos that he did in the Lakers' first visit to Denver.

"I appreciate that," Bryant said. "That's something that he didn't have to do, but he did it. It shows a lot of support on his part. It goes a long way with me."

Also Wednesday, Minnesota defeated New Jersey 81-68 to end the Nets' 14-game winning streak.

In other games, Golden State downed Memphis 99-92, Phoenix crushed New York 113-95, Milwaukee edged

Boston 106-104, Houston topped Cleveland 90-84, Utah edged Seattle 93-92 in overtime, New Orleans downed the Los Angeles Clippers 99-93, Detroit beat Chicago 107-88 and Washington defeated Toronto 76-74.

The Lakers, who trailed by as many as 13 points in the fourth quarter, pulled to 111-109 when Luke Walton stole the ball and hit a layup with 53 seconds remaining.

Denver's Andre Miller appeared to brush the rim with a shot that barely beat the shot clock, but the whistle blew for a violation. The officials huddled and ruled it an inadvertent whistle, resulting in a jump ball.

Shaquille O'Neal tipped the

ball to Payton, and Walton drove the lane and kicked the ball out to Rush for the clincher.

"I've knocked down that shot a thousand times in my life, but I haven't been in that position since college," Rush said.

Carmelo Anthony had 35 points for Denver, whose losing streak was stretched to a season-high four games.

**Timberwolves 81, Nets 68**

At Minneapolis, Troy Hudson made his first start of the season in place of the injured Sam Cassell and scored a season-high 29 points to hand Nets coach Lawrence Frank his first loss.

The Nets' winning streak was the longest in the NBA this

season.

Hudson and Fred Hoiberg scored Minnesota's first 20 points of the fourth quarter, and the Wolves used a 15-0 run to open a 75-58 lead.

**Warriors 99, Grizzlies 92**

At Memphis, Speedy Claxton scored a career-high 28 points and handed out seven assists as Golden State snapped Memphis' five-game winning streak.

It was a sloppy game with 29 turnovers and 62 fouls — 31 on each team. Four players fouled out, and Memphis coach Hubie Brown was ejected for two of the seven technical fouls.

Claxton, who had been struggling with a sprained right thumb, shot only 6-of-18 from

the field but was 16-of-18 from the line. James Posey led Memphis with 25 points and 10 rebounds.

**Suns 113, Knicks 95**

At Phoenix, the Suns snapped an eight-game losing streak and spoiled Stephon Marbury's return.

Joe Johnson scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half and Amare Stoudemire had 24 points and 14 rebounds as the Suns dominated the boards 58-26 and handed the Knicks their fourth straight loss.

**Bucks 106, Celtics 104**

At Boston, Walter McCarty's 3-pointer was waved off at the buzzer, the referees ruling it came too late as the Celtics lost their seventh in a row.

## Stars, Kings battle to 1-1 deadlock on third-period goal by Frolov

DALLAS (AP) — Alexander Frolov kept the Los Angeles Kings in the thick of the Western Conference playoff race.

He scored with 5:55 left in regulation to lift the Kings into a 1-1 tie with the Dallas Stars on Wednesday night. The Kings got a crucial point to stay ahead of eighth-place Nashville.

They've been able to do it despite injuries to key players such as Jason Allison, Adam Deadmarsh and Ziggy Palffy.

"Give a lot of credit to the young guys who are filling the spots of our regular players," Kings' defenseman Mattias Norstrom said. "You can never replace those guys, but we have young guys who have played pretty well for us."

With six minutes to play, the Stars held a 1-0 lead and Marty Turco seemed headed

for his second straight shutout before Frolov's 20th goal.

Frolov skated in alone on the right side and lifted the puck into the upper-right corner of the net from low in the right circle.

"Every point is huge, every game is a playoff game from here on in," Los Angeles coach Andy Murray said. "(Dallas) isn't an easy place to play so to get a point the way we did, coming back late, is pretty nice."

The Stars, unbeaten in their last nine home games (6-0-3), have 71 points, five behind first-place San Jose in the Pacific Division and just one ahead of the Kings.

Holding the lead with less than six minutes remaining, the Stars were in good shape to pick up two points. Dallas is 55-0-7 over its last 62 games when ahead after two periods, the longest current

streak in the league.

"We let two points slip away," Stars center Jason Amott said. "We should have won."

Turco, who stopped 26 shots, salvaged the tie with a tumbling save against Michael Cammalleri from close range with 1:02 remaining in regulation.

The Stars matched the New York Islanders for the NHL's longest current home streak.

Dallas is 11-3-3 in its last 17 games.

Cristobal Huet had 26 saves for the Kings in the final meeting between the teams this season. The season series finished 2-2-2.

"This game was indicative of the series," Stars defenseman Don Sweeney said. "We had an opportunity to put distance between us and we failed to do so."

Brenden Morrow gave Dallas the lead with his 19th midway in the second period, shooting from the high slot. The puck got past Huet with the help of traffic in front of

the net from Arnott and Bill Guerin.

Stars center Mike Modano missed the final two periods with a strained groin sustained in the first period. He's

day to day.

**Notes:** Former Stars LW Jon Sim was among the Kings' scratches. ... Dallas RW David Oliver was scratched due to a sore back.

NHL At A Glance										
All Times EST										
<b>EASTERN CONFERENCE</b>										
<b>Atlantic Division</b>										
	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA			
Philadelphia	15	11	5	82	185	146				
New Jersey	33	17	11	1	78	155	123			
N.Y. Islanders	29	22	9	2	69	174	153			
N.Y. Rangers	22	29	7	4	55	160	183			
Pittsburgh	12	42	5	4	33	129	244			
<b>Northeast Division</b>										
	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA			
Ottawa	34	16	8	5	81	208	138			
Toronto	34	18	9	3	80	182	162			
Boston	30	15	13	6	79	163	146			
Montreal	31	25	6	2	70	162	148			
Buffalo	28	28	6	1	63	163	167			
<b>Southeast Division</b>										
	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA			
Tampa Bay	33	17	7	5	78	180	143			
Florida	23	25	13	3	62	143	161			
Atlanta	24	32	6	2	56	172	200			
Carolina	20	27	12	3	55	120	153			
Washington	19	34	8	2	48	148	193			
<b>WESTERN CONFERENCE</b>										
<b>Central Division</b>										
	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA			
Detroit	35	17	9	2	81	202	147			
<b>Northwest Division</b>										
	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA			
Colorado	33	15	10	4	80	182	140			
Vancouver	33	19	7	4	77	182	148			
Calgary	31	23	5	3	70	149	138			
Edmonton	25	27	10	1	61	161	161			
Minnesota	21	23	16	2	60	139	139			
<b>Pacific Division</b>										
	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA			
San Jose	30	16	11	5	76	161	132			
Dallas	30	22	11	0	71	139	137			
Los Angeles	24	17	15	7	70	167	163			
Anaheim	22	25	9	8	61	140	166			
Phoenix	20	24	15	4	59	157	184			
Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.										
<b>Tuesday's Games</b>										
Montreal 4, Ottawa 2										
Boston 0, N.Y. Islanders 0, tie										
Philadelphia 3, Chicago 1										
Calgary 2, Colorado 0										
Vancouver 4, Detroit 2										

**Public Notice**

**AVISO PUBLICO**  
**PROBAR EL EQU**  
**PARA TABULAR**  
**TOMATICAMEN**

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**HAPPY BIRTH**  
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**1 Public Notice**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT**  
Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Primary Election held on March 9, 2004 will be tested on March 3, 2004 at 3:00p.m. at County Clerk's Office 205 N. Russell to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for a; offices and on all measures.  
Susan Winborne  
Signature of Officer  
E-4  
26 Feb, 2004

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Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo tabular automaticamente que se usara en la Eleccion Primaria General que se llevara a cabo el se probara el 3 de marzo de 2004 a las 3:00 p.m. en County Clerk's Office para determinar si el equipo contara con exactitud los votos para todos puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.  
Susan Winborne  
Firma del/Dela Oficial  
E-5  
26 Feb. 2004

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Friday, Feb. 27, 2004:

Roadblocks appear on your path quite suddenly, encouraging unusual growth and development. You will grow with stellar bursts and transform in ways that you might not even have considered in previous years. As a result, others' responses will change, forcing you to also rebalance some relationships. Work could become a source of creativity and energy. Money easily will be made in the second half of your birthday year. If you are single, you will meet many different people, though you might not want to settle down this year, as you are in this enormous period of growth. If you are attached, you find your home life sometimes stressful. Be willing to trust and share with your sweetie. Togetherness will be enhanced as a result. GEMINI can weigh you down.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Speak your mind and say what you feel. You don't be surprised by the reactions you get, and don't take another's response personally. Confusion runs amok in the late afternoon. Plans change. Get out of work ASAP! Listen to your instincts. Tonight: Out and about.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Expenses could be overwhelming, encouraging you to pull out of a commitment or adventure with friends. Even though you might startle others, take care of your interests. Bosses and authority figures in general are touchy right now. Your creativity runs unusually high. Tonight: Fun can be inexpensive.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You're all smiles -- finally -- though you will go through your paces right now. Unexpected professional

developments could put you behind schedule. Consider just how much you need to do and when you can scurry out the door. Last-minute requests come in. Tonight: Remember that it is the weekend.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ News could quickly put you out of sorts. You might feel best just closing your door and screening calls. Make it OK to vanish. Sometimes, by doing nothing, situations will work themselves out. Wishing might help. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Review a matter that is close to your heart. Someone pursues an unpredictable path. Use special caution with funds and a partnership. Your creativity surges in a new direction when you brainstorm with others. Gather with friends later in the day and at night. Tonight: Togetherness works.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You're in charge, whether you like it or not. Others differ with you and let you know it in no uncertain terms. Stay on top of work despite confusion, which in some strange manner revitalizes your energy. Regroup. Tonight: In the limelight.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Your ability to visualize more of what you want helps you get it. You have the surprising ability to see through the maze with your work and daily life. Don't make anything more complicated than necessary. Tonight: Split work and start the weekend, please.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Where you might have counted on your creativity to bypass a problem with finances and a partnership, your solutions will backfire. Know when to pull in the experts and say that you don't know. Let someone else problem-solve. Express your caring to a special person in your life. Tonight: Togetherness

works.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ You could be more aggravated than anything else when dealing with family and others in general. How you handle a situation could make or break you. Perhaps "hands off" a problem might work best, allowing everyone to look at his or her role in a situation. Tonight: Go along with another's ideas.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You might be hard-pressed to deal with the unexpected in your daily life. You could find that someone close is unpredictable and quite upsetting, or could it be that you are developing those patterns of behavior? Tonight: Go home, lock the door and relax.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You might be jolted by what a risk brings. Investigate what works for you, and refuse to veer off that course, even if you are tempted. The present situation triggers unusual creativity and mental energy. Tonight: Let go of problems and dance the night away.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You could get a sequence of jolts. But realistically, who triggered all this activity? Take responsibility and handle a situation with strength and direction. Cocoon if you feel the need. Who could blame you? Tonight: Follow Capricorn's message.

**BORN TODAY**  
Consumer advocate Ralph Nader (1934), actress Mary Frann (1943), actress Elizabeth Taylor (1932)  
\*\*\*  
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.  
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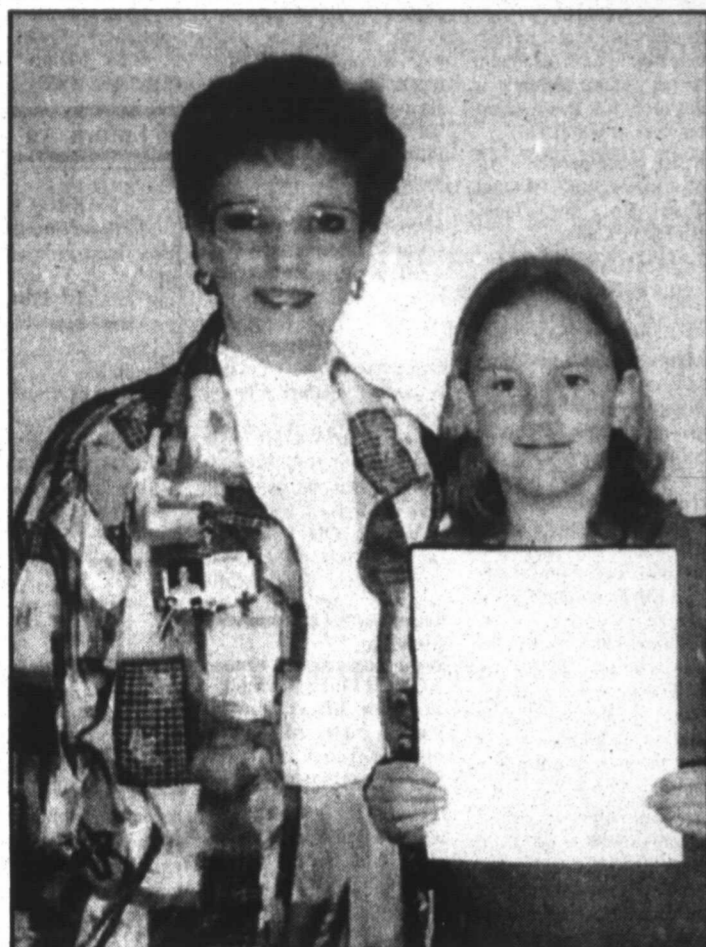
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P N W O M. — X A N J G E X W R N Y  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LET US SPARE WHERE WE MAY, SO THAT WE MAY SPEND WHERE WE SHOULD. — THOMAS FULLER**

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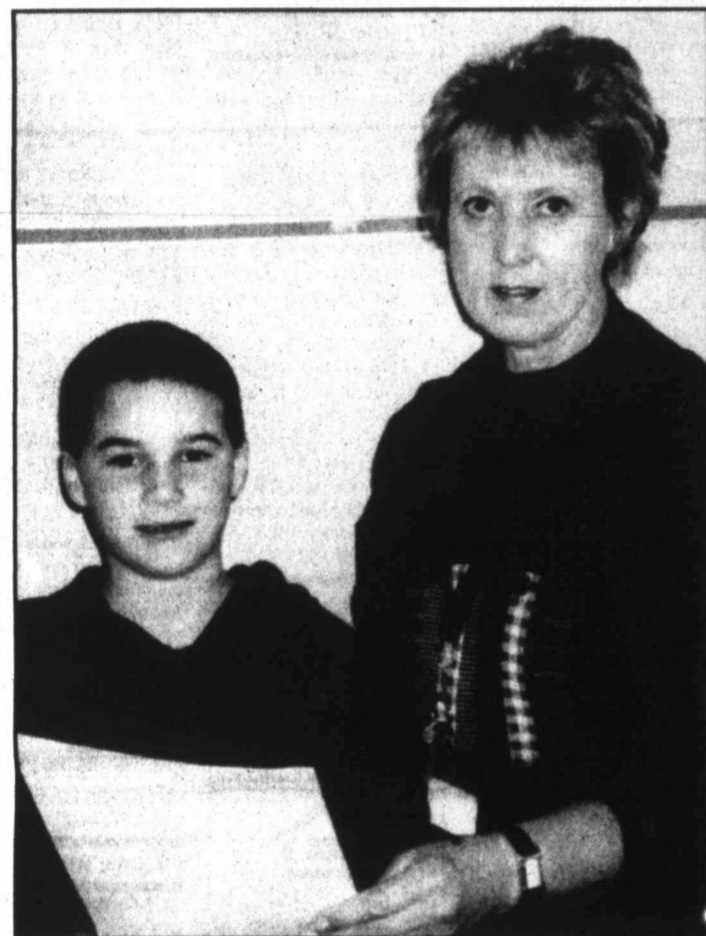


## DAR winners



(Courtesy photo)

Teacher Mary Lu Lane, left, congratulates Erica Blaine for winning at American history essay contest at Travis Elementary School sponsored by Las Pampas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and entitled "The Louisiana Purchase-Thomas Jefferson's Presidential Legacy."



(Courtesy photo)

Brenden Clay Rice, left, won an essay contest at Austin Elementary School recently. He is seen here with teacher Sandra Prater. The contest was sponsored by Las Pampas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

## Legislation on gunmaker immunity moving ahead

By JESSE J. HOLLAND  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the GOP-controlled Senate only days away from pushing through legislation to protect gunmakers and distributors from lawsuits, Democrats are trying add their own gun legislation to the package.

That would allow them to salvage something out of legislation many Democrats would rather not have passed. However, the bill providing for immunity from suits when a legally sold gun is subsequently used in a crime won the support of 75 senators in a test vote Wednesday and opponents acknowledge it has the backing to pass on the final vote next week.

So Democrats plan to push several of their gun bills as amendments to the gunmaker immunity legislation, hoping the bill's momentum will help carry their measures through as well.

"We all know this underlying bill has legs. That's why we want to get some amendments on there," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who plans to offer legislation Thursday requiring handguns to be equipped with child safety locks.

Before the final vote on Tuesday, Democrats also plan

to force votes on a proposal to require unlicensed sellers to check buyers' backgrounds and gun shows and to extend for 10 years the ban on assault weapons.

The bill's Republican supporters insist that any attempt to make changes would simply amount to an attempt to kill the bill. For example, the GOP-controlled House already has said it does not plan to approve an extension of the expiring assault weapons ban. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, a sponsor of the bill, said the amendments were an "attempt to divert legislation and delay final consideration."

The White House, which has indicated support for the assault weapons ban and the gun show measure, called on the Senate to pass the legislation without amendments.

"Any amendment that would delay enactment of the bill beyond this year is unacceptable," according to a White House statement released late Tuesday.

Democrats took that statement as an indication that President Bush was backing off his support for those two separate measures. "For the president to say he's for the assault weapons ban and act against it, that is a flip-flop if I've ever seen one," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

## House panel to hear from broadcast execs

By JONATHAN D. SALANT  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the eve of a House hearing on broadcast indecency, the nation's largest radio station chain suspended shock jock Howard Stern's show, saying it did not meet the company's newly revised programming standards.

Stern expressed a measure of frustration on his show Thursday, which is still being carried on stations owned by the rival radio network that distributes his show to major city markets nationwide.

"I'm not even sure I should talk about it," he said near the beginning of his show.

"I could blow my stack. ... I'm trying to be cryptic." he said later. "To tell you the truth, I don't know what's going on. I don't even know what's going on. ... They are so afraid of me and what this show represents. ..."

"The thing I just don't like about Clear Channel being forced to suspend me, it makes it seem like I did something wrong on Tuesday. ... They are being forced to say that I did something wrong. ... A caller called in and used the 'n' word, and I hung up on him. ... I'm so tired of this."

Stern's suspension Wednesday by Clear Channel Radio was the second time in two days that the company has acted against a disc jockey.

The company on Tuesday fired the DJ known as "Bubba the Love Sponge,"

whose show drew a record fine of \$755,000 from the Federal Communications Commission. The program aired in four Florida cities and included graphic discussions about sex and drugs "designed to pander to, titillate and shock listeners," the FCC said.

Clear Channel's announcement did not say how many of its 1,200 stations carried the Stern show, which is distributed by Viacom's Infinity Broadcasting and derives most of national audience from being carried by Infinity-owned stations. The Washington Post said the Stern show had been carried on six Clear Channel stations.

Under pressure from federal regulators and lawmakers, broadcasters are revisiting their indecency standards, delaying live broadcasts so they can delete offensive material and telling parents how to block specific programs.

Their actions previewed a House subcommittee hearing Thursday on indecency, the second this month. Scheduled to appear were executives from ABC, Fox, NBC, Pax and Clear Channel Communications.

The panel, the House Energy and Commerce telecommunications subcommittee, heard from Mel Karmazin, president of CBS and LPN parent Viacom Inc., two weeks earlier, just before voting to increase the maximum fine for indecency from \$27,500 to \$275,000.

In response to letters from FCC

Chairman Michael Powell, CBS and Fox outlined steps they were taking: Airing live programs on time delays, displaying ratings for programs on their Web sites, reviewing standards and practices, launching ad campaigns to let parents know about the V-chip, and reminding affiliate stations they may reject network programming viewed as unsuitable for their communities.

ABC and NBC have not yet responded. Powell's letters to the National Association of Broadcasters and the four major networks followed CBS' Super Bowl halftime show, which ended with Justin Timberlake exposing Janet Jackson's breast to 90 million viewers.

"True and lasting change will only be achieved if the broadcast community recommit to its public service roots and its tradition of abiding by community standards of decency," Powell wrote, urging a return to a voluntary code of conduct, which was dropped in 1982 under Reagan administration pressure.

Under FCC rules and federal law, radio stations and over-the-air television channels cannot air material that refers to sexual and excretory functions between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when children may be tuning in. The rules do not apply to cable and satellite channels and satellite radio.

Dr. Frank Wright, president of the National Religious Broadcasters, questioned how long the broadcasters' concern about indecency will last.

## Voluntary lists banning problem gamblers causing stir

Virginia Ormanian burned through most of her retirement savings playing slot machines in Detroit casinos last year — something she should not have been allowed to do.

The 49-year-old gambling addict had voluntarily banned herself in August 2002 from the casinos through a state program that was supposed to keep her out.

"I was counting on the casinos to honor their contract," Ormanian said. "I had to get my life back together."

Now Ormanian and Norma Astourian are suing the casinos

for breach of contract. They claim the gambling companies didn't enforce the rules of the "dissociated persons" list on which they placed themselves.

As gambling spreads across the country, a handful of states have created self-exclusion lists that bar people from entering casinos. Problem gamblers who have blacklisted themselves are supposed to forfeit jackpots and face arrest if caught inside.

The lists have raised questions in the gambling industry and given rise to studies about their effectiveness. They've

come under legal assault from gambling addicts who believe it's up to casinos to ensure they stop frittering away their money.

"It was a vehicle to allow the gambler to help himself. It's through the genius of our legal system that this has metamorphosed into a potential risk for casinos," said David O. Stewart, a Washington, D.C., lawyer, who has defended gambling companies in self-exclusion and similar lawsuits, and advises the American Gaming Association.

Missouri, Louisiana, Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey have self-exclusion lists with more than 8,600 names. Indiana has passed laws to enact a list.

Nevada, the nation's largest gambling state, doesn't fund a self-exclusion list, though casinos will bar patrons on request.

Carol O'Hare, executive director of the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling, said it would be a logistical nightmare in a state in which slot machines are also found in bars, gas stations and supermarkets.

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