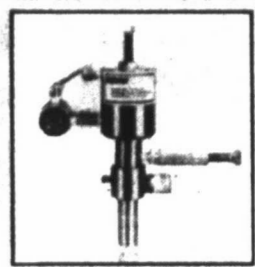


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THE Pampa

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004

NEWS

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LOCAL

PHS Class of 1984 plans 20th reunion

Pampa High School Class of 1984 will be having a 20th class reunion planning meeting at Braum's at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 29. The reunion is set for the weekend of July 9-10. Persons interested in helping, but who cannot attend the meeting on Sunday, can call Kay Lynn Eakin at 665-5970, Janice Miner at 669-1030, Lori Barker at 669-9641 or Laura Covalt at 669-3615.

DEATHS

Steve Larkin, 54, psycho-therapist.
William LaFoy 'Pa' Vise, 86, farmer and rancher.

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PPD '03 report: Fewer officers and more calls

By **MARILYN POWERS**
 STAFF WRITER

The workload increased and the number of staff decreased at Pampa Police Department in 2003, according to statistics in Chief Trevlyn Pitner's annual report to city commissioners Monday.

Pitner also presented the 2003 racial profiling report from the department, which is required to be presented to commissioners before March 1 each year.

"The number of calls have increased, even though the population has decreased," Pitner said of calls received at the police department. Possible factors in the

increase may include the economy, increased drug use and abuse, and the police force size, he said.

A five-year comparison of the number of a variety of police activities was presented to commissioners. Totals in five areas are as follows:

Calls for service: 22,500 in 1999; 25,976 in 2000; 26,980 in 2001; 26,103 in 2002; and 27,173 in 2003.

Incident reports: 2,196 in 1999; 2,431 in 2000; 2,754 in 2001; 2,948 in 2002; and 2,990 in 2003.

Collision reports: 282 in 1999; 300 in 2000; 504 in 2001; 451 in 2002; and 370 in 2003.

Citations issued: 3,000 in 2003.
 (See REPORT, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner explains slides used in his presentation of the police department's annual report at the city commissioners' meeting earlier this week.

Sparling: Constable job always comes first

By **MARILYN POWERS**
 STAFF WRITER

Frank W. Sparling Sr. has been Precinct 4 constable in Gray County for more than seven years, and wants to continue to serve county residents by being re-elected.

"I just enjoy working with the public. I always have," he said.

"I want to represent the kids of McLean and the local area. I think that is one of the biggest things the constable in this precinct needs to do," Sparling said.

Sparling said he was instrumental in getting a K-9 unit from Wheeler County to make random walkthroughs in McLean schools.

"I worked hard for that. We have never found drugs in the McLean schools," he said. The K-9 unit can

check buildings and vehicles.

"I always wanted to work on the drug problem in McLean. I've done a lot of work on it. I've camped out on drug dealers' doorsteps until they've moved. One of them came across the street one time and asked me what I was doing. I told him," Sparling said.

He has lived in McLean for the past 24 years. He and his wife have seven children and four grandchildren. His wife has been a cook in McLean schools for the past eight years.

Sparling is a sponsor of McLean's Little League baseball program, and is a former Pee Wee football coach. His wife sponsors the Little Dribblers basketball program and also Project Graduation. Two sons are Little Dribblers coaches.

Sparling was a security guard in Santa Teresa, N.M., near El Paso, and

says he "worked closely with the Border Patrol and Department of Public Safety" from 1978 to 1980.

"My career started on the interstate. I've had to handle people high on drugs, and I have a lot of experience dealing with those type people," he said.

Sparling feels it is important to keep a constable in McLean, even though there are two deputies and two state troopers there.

"One deputy works Sunday to Wednesday, and the other works Wednesday through Saturday. Lots of times the DPS troopers are gone to their own schools or other activities. And McLean has no city marshal," he said. The deputies and troopers usually work days, and he usually works as constable in the evenings.

Sparling also owns an auto repair



(Courtesy photo)

Sarah Wheeley, right, accepts a "Best Actress in a Documentary" award from Pampa Learning Center Principal Richard Steele for her entertaining performance in a student-produced video of the alternative education program shown to the Pampa school board Thursday evening. Wheeley is a teen parent counselor at PLC.

Video adds bright note to PISD board meeting

By **DEE DEE LARAMORE**
 EDITOR

A student-produced video featuring Pampa Learning Center staff and students brightened up a routine school board meeting at Carver Center Thursday.

Each month, board members receive an in-depth look at campuses or special programs of Pampa Independent School District during the "Campus Spotlight."

Three PLC seniors — Erica Cochran, Sarai Sawyer and Benny Martinez — produced, directed, and acted in a video to give the board new insight in how the alternative education program works, introduce the staff and allow some of the students to tell how they've been helped by going to PLC.

Cochran and Sawyer narrated the entertaining piece filmed by Martinez using a teacher's video camera.

Afterwards, PLC principal Richard Steele explained that PLC produces more than 20 graduates and 10 or more students who earn a GED each year. He also explained how the

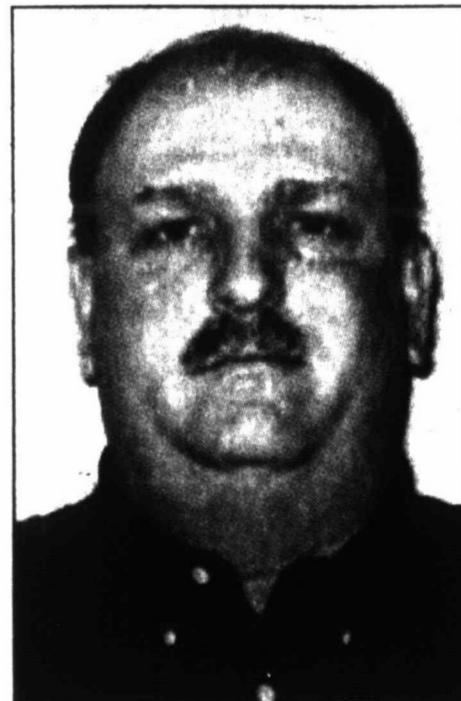
program assists teen parents with counseling and day care while they complete their education.

"I think we make a big contribution," Steele said.

And, in appreciation for her "performance" on the video, Steele presented Sarah Wheeley, the PLC's teen parent counselor, with a tongue-in-cheek award for "Best Actress in a Documentary."

Turning to more serious matters, the school board approved election order for the May 15 school board election. Place 7 and Place 6 on the board, presently held by Bill Jones and Joe Martinez, are up for election. The places on the ballot will be determined with a drawing at 10 a.m., March 16, at the PISD personnel office. Charles Buzzard has been appointed as the presiding election judge. The board also set 7:30 a.m., May 18, at Carver Center, as the time and place to canvass the vote following the election.

Other items approved during the meeting included bids for football uniforms, a resolution (See VIDEO, Page 3)



Frank Sparling

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

REPORT

1999; 3,247 in 2000; 4,023 in 2001; 3,009 in 2002; and 5,067 in 2003.

Arrests made: 673 in 1999; 748 in 2000; 822 in 2001; 931 in 2002; and 1,396 in 2003.

The 27,173 calls for service received in 2003 represented an average of 74.5 calls per day or 25 per shift.

The number of officers on the force has shown a steady decline over the past five years, ranging from 29 in 1999 to 27 in 2000, 26 in 2001, 25 in 2002 and 24 in 2003.

"If the number of calls increasing versus personnel decreasing continues, we will need to explore various options regarding our police services," Pitner said. Those options may include cutting services, increasing personnel or increasing computerized and wireless systems, he said.

Pampa Police Department's

24 sworn officers include the chief, three lieutenants, three sergeants and 17 police officers. One lieutenant heads the criminal investigation division and communications, one is responsible for special services, and one heads the patrol division.

There are two sworn reserve police officers, four civilian personnel and eight dispatchers in the department.

Pitner also reported on the city's animal control department, which is under the police chief's supervision.

Calls for service received by the animal control department rose from 3,808 in 2002 to 4,295 in 2003. Bites reported rose from 53 to 69, and number of animals picked up also rose, from 2,439 in 2002 to 3,030 in 2003.

About 80 percent of the animals picked up by animal control officers were dogs, Pitner said. Animals are kept at the

city's animal shelter for 72 hours and then euthanized if not reclaimed or adopted.

The animal control department consists of a supervisor, an officer, and a part-time shelter worker.

"The Pampa Police Department had no complaints of racial profiling filed against officers during 2003," Pitner said during his report.

The police department's racial profiling report for 2003 showed that 78.3 percent of the city's population was white, and this segment constituted 86.7 percent of the department's traffic stops, 87.8 percent of citations issued, 70.4 percent of traffic arrests and 81.9 percent of traffic searches.

Blacks made up 5.8 percent of the city's population in 2003, and accounted for 5.7 percent of traffic stops, 5.7 percent of citations issued, 11.3 percent of traffic arrests, and 11.1 percent of traffic searches. Hispanics accounted for 13 percent of the 2003 Pampa

population and were involved in 5.5 percent of traffic stops, 6 percent of citations issued, 16.9 percent of traffic arrests, and 6.5 percent of traffic searches for the year.

Native Americans, which were 0.9 percent of Pampans in 2003, were a factor in 0.02 percent of traffic stops, and were not reported in any citations, traffic arrests or traffic searches last year.

Asians were 0.4 percent of the total population last year and were involved in 0.1 percent of the year's traffic stops by police, and 0.001 percent of citations issued.

Asians were not involved in any traffic searches or arrests by the police department in 2003.

Other racial groups, accounting for 1.6 percent of Pampa's population, were a factor in 1.9 percent of traffic stops, 0.4 percent of citations, 1.4 percent of traffic arrests and 0.4 percent of traffic searches.

Dog attack investigation results forwarded to DA; two charges are possible

Pampa Police Department detectives have completed their investigation of a Pampa child's mauling by dogs, Chief Trevlyn Pitner said this morning.

Pitner said the case will now be forwarded to District Attorney Richard Roach's office for consideration of filing "Injury to a Child" charges against two adults. In this case, the charge would be a State Jail Felony, he said.

On Feb. 16, City of Pampa Animal Control Officers were dispatched to Pampa Regional Medical Center emergency room in regards to a serious dog bite. On arrival, it was discovered that 4-year-old Ashlynn Organ was being treated for numerous injuries resulting from a dog mauling. This was reported to have occurred in the backyard of 1117 Darby Street in Pampa.

Initial reports were that the young girl was playing, unsupervised, in the backyard where there were five Rottweiler dogs, according to a police press release, and at some point, one or more of the dogs attacked the young girl causing the injuries.

Owner of the residence, Janene Lucas, and the young girl's father, Steve Organ, were at the house at the time of the attack, police said. Lucas discovered the attack, intervened, and took the girl to the hospital, police said. After initial treatment, the girl was transferred to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

VIDEO

tion naming March 8-12 as Texas Public School Weeks, the 2003-2004 District Performance Goals and Objectives and the Textbook Selection Committee's recommendations for the 2004-2005 school year.

The board also approved revisions to the local policy that prohibits PISD employees from operating school district vehicles while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The previous policy did not prohibit the behavior in school-owned vehicles during off-hours.

At Board Member Charles Smith's recommendation, a provision is to be included which prohibits misuse or abuse of any authorized prescription medications or over-the-counter medications while an operator of, or a passenger in, any school-owned vehicle.

Board members accepted Business Manager Carol Field's recommendation to purchase liability insurance coverage for a total annual premium of \$118,983, an amount approximately the same as last year's. Deductibles have been raised from \$10,000 to \$25,000 each, school officials said.

Superintendent Barry Haenisch reported that all board members have met or exceeded the number of credit hours for continued education required by law.

The board also reviewed the Texas Association of School

Board's Localized Policies that have been revised to reflect changes in state law from the last legislative session.

A life-threatening illness policy, proposed by the PISD employee benefits committee, was presented to the board which identifies who is eligible and procedures for requesting the leave, plus ways that district employees can donate accumulated leave days to a fellow employee.

Carrie Johnson, president of the Pampa Classroom Teachers Association, said a PCTA member had suggested the revision last summer and the organization had been actively involved in forming the new policy.

While the PCTA would like to see the policy include spouses and a broader definition of dependent children, she said, "I think this is a step in the right direction. This is not a financial issue, this is about support and compassion."

Janet Abbe, a teacher at Pampa Middle School, added that she has a daughter, 19, who is her legal dependent and will be for the rest of her life.

Abbe said she'd like to see the wording changed so that parents who have "legally dependent" children older than age 18 would also be covered by the policy.

After a brief executive session, the board reconvened and voted to approve administrator contracts and the superintendent's evaluation and contract.

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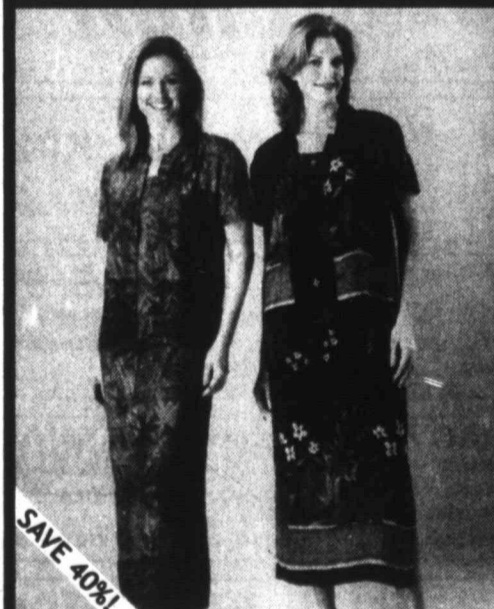
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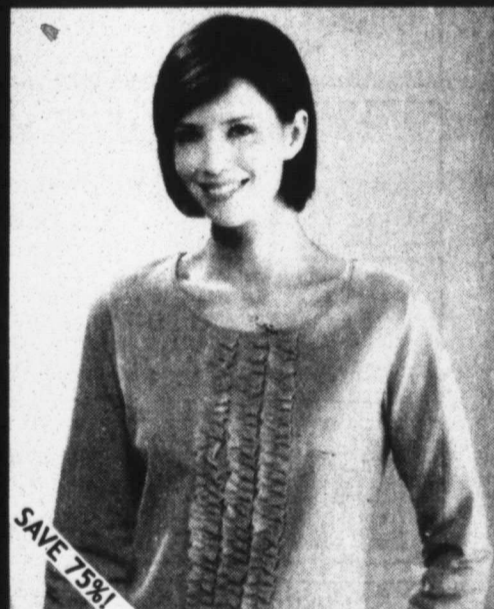
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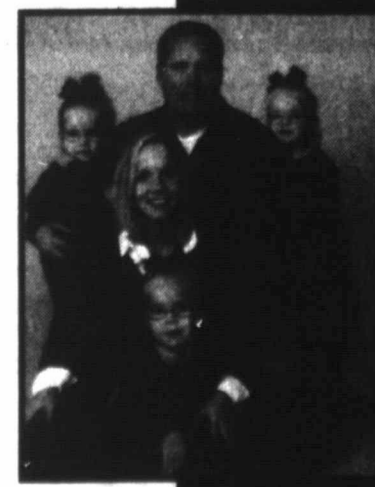
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RELIGION

Janet Jackson flap opens opportunity

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Evangelical Protestant broadcasters see something more in Janet Jackson's Super Bowl flash than exposed flesh and bad taste.

"People are hurting, both economically and morally, and as a broadcaster I feel we have a chance to offer them hope," Carol Jones Saint said last week during a break at the annual convention of National Religious Broadcasters, a trade association of 1,600 radio and TV stations, networks and program producers.

Saint's family has operated a Christian radio station in Erie, Pa., since 1948. She was among 6,000 media executives who attended the Charlotte extravaganza.

The convention offered such timely workshops as "FCC Indecency Regulations and the Broadcast of Four-Letter Words" and "Christian Response to Reality TV." And the organization formally called upon Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to crack down on offensive broadcasts.

"I think a lot of parents

viewed the Super Bowl half-time show as a real wake-up call," said Robert Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, America's largest Protestant denomination.

The denomination is parent of Fort Worth, Texas-based FamilyNet, a 24-hour cable network that reaches 31 million households. The Baptist network has just contracted to include Fox News Channel reports in programs it produces.

"A lot of people have said to me that they had no idea these kind of things were already being shown on MTV," he said, calling the national dialogue about indecency an opportunity for faith-based programmers though with no guarantee of success.

"We want to offer a new alternative," he said. "And we want it to be known we're not just for adults. We also want to reach the children. We really believe that how we look at things determines how we end up behaving."

The key is making all pro-

gramming compelling, he said: "We want to make it relevant."

"Our work is cut out for us" in trying to compete against secular programming that includes MTV and reality shows, said Freda Crews of Spartanburg, S.C., whose "Time For Hope" TV show is seen on about 125 stations around the country.

"My feeling is we shouldn't try to work against things like MTV," said Crews, who describes her show described it as a "faith-based mental health program. ... We need to offer young people an alternative."

Crews said she tried to keep her show relevant by addressing topics such as premarital sex, though "recently I had to turn down one guest because I considered (the material) just too graphic," she said. "I believe strongly that we need to offer more age-appropriate material."

The Rev. Franklin Graham, who runs the Samaritan's Purse world relief agency and succeeded his father as head of the Billy Graham Evangelistic

Association, addressed the Janet Jackson controversy during his convention appearance, giving matters a political twist:

"If this president is not elected, the floodgates of this garbage is going to be open because there won't be anyone to stand against it," Graham said in a speech that drew a standing ovation. Without mentioning names, he said the goal of "these people" is to show open sex on TV.

Graham closed by saying "shame on you" to broadcasters who avoid political stands.

Another speaker was the Rev. Pat Robertson, who received an award for boosting visits to Israel from Benny Elon, the nation's cabinet member responsible for tourism. The TV evangelist praised Israel's survival in the face of the "fanatical religion" of Muslim neighbors, saying Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was raised to finish Hitler's work.

After the Robertson tribute, Elon said that "not all of the Muslims are enemies. But there are many that have really forgotten morality."

A Night of Music



(Courtesy photo)

Members of Briarwood Church, 1800 W. Harvester, welcome the public to join them in a "Night of Music" featuring the North Fork Band, pictured, along with many other musical guests at 6 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 29. A nursery will be provided.

RELIGION IN BRIEF

More evangelical Protestants observing Lent and other liturgical traditions

DALLAS (AP) — The 40-day season of Lent, which began Ash Wednesday, was once observed only by Roman Catholics, the Eastern Orthodox and "high church" Protestants, but more evangelicals are noting the season with rituals and symbolism.

Some people "want to do more than just come in and listen to a sermon and go home," said Dennis Bratcher, whose Oklahoma City-based Christian Resource Institute Web site provides resources for churches that want to adopt liturgical worship.

Bratcher said many Protestants now find they have more in common with Catholics than with an increasingly secular culture and "we're becoming focused more on what unites us as Christians."

Bob Wenz, U.S. ministries director with the National Association of Evangelicals sees "a growing trend among evangelicals that is focusing more on the sensory aspects of worship rather than on the cognitive aspects."

The Rev. Gordon Atkinson, a moderate San Antonio Baptist who has followed the traditional church calendar in recent years, thinks "the very conservative, traditional Baptist churches have been pretty resistant" to such practices due to "anti-Catholic feeling."

Bahais say Iran released two longest-serving prisoners

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran has released two members of the Bahai faith who spent nearly 15 years in prison due to their beliefs, the U.S. Bahai information office said.

The office said Bihnam Mithaqi and Kayvan Khalajabadi were imprisoned in 1989 solely for associating with Bahai institutions, sentenced to death in 1991 by the Islamic Revolutionary Court but granted reduced sentences in 2001 after judicial review.

The Bahai office said more than 200 Iranian Bahais have been killed, hundreds imprisoned and thousands deprived of jobs or education because of their religion.

Kit Bigelow, external affairs director with U.S. Bahais' National Spiritual Assembly, said "the overall situation of the Bahais in Iran remains serious."

World Lutheran total just under 66 million

GENEVA (AP) — The world total of Lutherans reached just under 66 million at the end of 2003, a net increase of 570,000 since 2001, the Lutheran World Federation reported.

Lutheranism in Africa grew 9.3 percent in the two years for a new total of 13 million. The largest African Lutheran body, Ethiopia's Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, gained 673,730 members and now counts 4,033,413.

Churches in Europe have decreased by 640,467 members since 2001 and those in North America by 84,179 members.

St. Matthew's to host six-week study of Luke

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will host Father John Githiga of St. Cyprians Mission in Amarillo in a six-week informal Bible study and discussion on the Gospel according to Luke.

Father Githiga, who has a great passion for Bible discussion, has been a member or facilitator of groups since committing his life to Christ 46 years ago. He has taught New Testament for credit at West Texas A&M and until 2002 served as adjunct professor of New Testament Studies and Contemporary Religious Issues at WTA&M. He is presently Missioner and Priest in charge of the newly-formed St. Cyprians Mission in Amarillo.

He prefers discussion or conversational methods, believing that "the meeting of meanings" between teacher and student is the best learning process.

Father Githiga says he's particularly enthused about leading this study and discussion on Luke, which William Barclay calls "the loveliest book in the Bible."

J.C. Ryle, Anglican bishop, states, "Luke's Gospel has been called the most beautiful book ever written," said J.C. Ryle, Anglican bishop. "Luke writes as a physician interested in everything to do with human healing, as a Gentile interested in all the different sorts of people who make up the human race, as an evangelist

interested in all angles of commitment to Christ, and as a literary man interested in finding the best shape and wording for the story he has to tell."

The study is open to persons from all denominations. Wednesday church service begins at 10 a.m. with the discussions held immediately after for the six consecutive Wednesdays in Lent.

Also, St. Matthew's will host the annual Lenten Lunches and prayer meditations in conjunction with the Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Dr. Ed Cooley officiating. Lunches begin at noon each Wednesday with a meditation service and short homily given by a local speaker and will over by 1 p.m.

More than a unique 'American' Jesus

In The Pampa News, Friday, Feb. 13, there appeared an article saying, "Scholars find unique 'American' Jesus." Since I found the eternal Jesus more than 70 years ago, I took interest to read this article. However, I found nothing in it that thrilled me like finding the Jesus that Moses and the Prophets wrote about — the Jesus that the Holy Spirit descended upon when He came up from water baptism. (John 1:10) (Matt. 3:16)

I found the Jesus that you don't have to be commanded to love with all your heart. The Holy Spirit just gives you that kind of love.

I found the Jesus that John the Baptist said would baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. (Matt. 3:11) I also found Him that said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: But ye know him, for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you." (John 14:15)

In desperate seeking, I proved that promise to be true and received the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost.

I found the Jesus that the apostles saw ascend up into heaven. The Jesus that Stephen saw while he was being stoned to death for preaching that "this Jesus" is the Christ. The Bible says, "Stephen was full of the Holy Ghost when he looked up and said, 'Behold, I see the heavens open, and the Son of Man (Jesus) standing on the right



Minister's Musings

REV. ARCHIE COOPER, RET.
PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS

hand of God." (Acts 7:55-56)

I found the Jesus who is the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. (Rev. 22:16) Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." (Rev. 22: 12-13)

The Jesus that I found said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:44) Everybody that ever came to Jesus for forgiveness had to come while the Holy Spirit of God was drawing the person. While the Spirit of God was dealing with the person (without Christ), the person felt the load of sin and knew that a change had to take place. You can call it "feeling like a second class citizen" if you want to, but that's God's way of making a person know that they need forgiveness of sins. The Spirit then leads the person to the loving, sin-for-

giving Jesus. And He is more than "a unique American Jesus."

This same Jesus still prays to the Father to send the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, upon people who love Him and keep his commandments.

This is the Jesus that did the perfect will of his Father (John 14:31), Him who my grandfather Cooper found in the mid-1800s and preached the glorious truths of His saving grace for many years.

It was on Oct. 16, 1932, when I found the unique Jesus of the universe and the Holy Spirit bore witness that Jesus forgave my sins. It was then that I committed my love to Him for the service that he might lead me to render.

Friends, if the Holy Spirit witnessed to your spirit: that you were born into the family of God, then he expects you to do the service of God, for no man (including women) can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will love the

one and hate the other. (Luke 16:13) (Matt. 6:24)

When the Apostles saw this Jesus of the universe ascend into heaven, two men in white apparel appeared and assured them that this same Jesus would come again. (Acts 1:11)

While we, the believers in these days, have not seen this "Jesus of the universe" in person, yet the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16 NKJV)

Therefore, though we see Him not, yet believing and loving Him, we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. (1 Peter 1:8) If anyone does not love the Lord — a curse be on him. Come, O Lord! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. (1 Cor. 16: 22-23 NIV)

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FRIDAY, February 27, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Son's Friends Need Quick Course in Common Courtesy

DEAR ABBY: I have absolutely had it with some of my son's friends, and his girlfriend is no better.

I take my son and his friends places. The friends get into the car and never address me at all. It is like I'm invisible.

When the girlfriend calls, she asks for my son, but never asks me how I am doing or even says, "Hello, Mrs. Jones."

What is this world coming to? My children are not like that. People tell me how personable they are, and that they greet other adults courteously and with respect.

I have reached the point where I don't want my son to hang around with these kids, and I want the girlfriend gone.

Oh, by the way, the son I am talking about is a sophomore in high school. Any suggestions? -- SICK OF DISRESPECTFUL TEENS

DEAR SICK: Yes. Take the bull by the horns. The next time you're at the wheel and one of your son's friends gets into the car, say, "Hello, 'Johnny.' How are you?" Ask questions about school, sports, his parents. Break the silence and lighten the atmosphere. You're the adult -- make the first move.

As to the girlfriend -- it's possible that she hasn't been taught telephone manners. So be pleasant, and keep it light -- but let her know that the way to a young man's heart is not only through his stomach, but can also be through his mother, and that one way to impress his mother is to slow down for a moment and say, "Hello, 'Mrs. Jones.' How are you? May I please speak to your son?"

DEAR ABBY: I have a most embarrassing problem. My job requires me to make public appearances, and often I am "dressed to the nines." I admit, for dramatic purposes, I sometimes apply too much makeup. I have always been told I am beautiful, and I have even done some modeling.

Here's the dilemma: People think I am a man. Once I was cornered at a festival by an angry group of people who

had been fired up by one drunkard's insistence that I was a drag queen. (Abby, I have children and I am definitely female.)

The first few times it happened, I tried to brush it off and regain my composure -- once I stopped crying. But lately, it is getting ridiculous. I am mistaken for a cross-dresser even when I wear very little makeup. At 5-foot-7 and 120 pounds, I'm hardly manly. A week doesn't go by without this happening.

My boyfriend says I should blow it off -- that people are jealous. My self-confidence is in the cellar and I'm at my wit's end. I have struggled with severe depression my whole life, and this isn't helping. A lot of the time I'd like to cower somewhere, but my job won't let me. Help! -- CRYING IN PHOENIX

DEAR CRYING: It's difficult to give you an answer sight unseen, but let's analyze this. Drag queens are often known for their flawless makeup and their flamboyant manner of dress. Could this be a description of you? If the answer is "maybe" -- then it's time for a fashion and image makeover.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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

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The Pampa News Comics

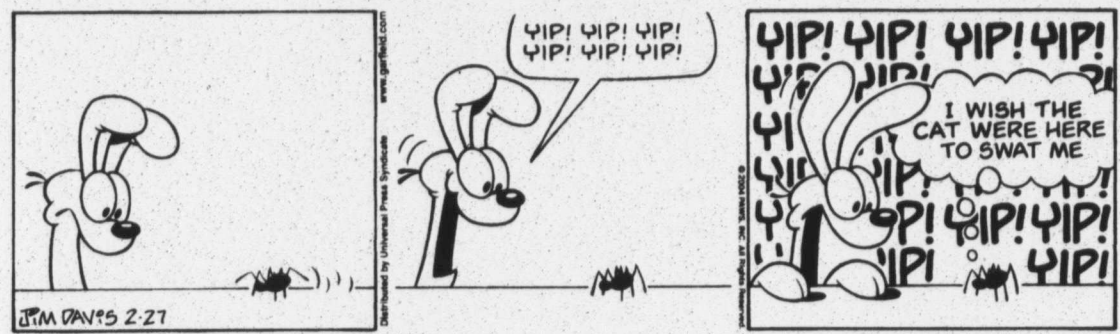
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

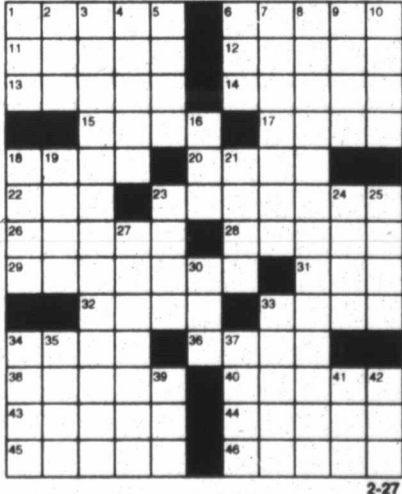
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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 - 15 Farm chunk
 - 17 Prom attendee
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 - 22 Everyone
 - 23 Turn to dust
 - 26 Deceive
 - 28 Take it easy
 - 29 Pep up
 - 31 Singer Sumac
 - 32 Noted Virginia family
 - 33 Smacker
 - 34 Rotisserie
 - 36 Singer Amos
 - 38 Spanish girls
 - 40 Alice's cat
 - 43 Smart
 - 44 Last letter
 - 45 Annoying
- DOWN**
- 1 Sparkler
 - 2 Clark's co-star in "Mogambo"
 - 3 They never meet
 - 4 Decree
 - 5 Ball gazer
 - 6 Supporter's vote
 - 7 Perfect example
 - 8 Factory sights
 - 9 Single
 - 10 Ness's agents
 - 16 Ring setting
 - 18 Hay unit
 - 19 Lena of film
 - 21 Rotate
 - 23 Place to put in
 - 24 Tibetan monk
 - 25 Final, e.g.
 - 27 Men's accessory
 - 30 Superlative suffix
 - 33 Battery, e.g.
 - 34 Cinch
 - 35 Carpet feature
 - 37 Skunk's weapon
 - 39 It's over
 - 41 Epoch
 - 42 Topper

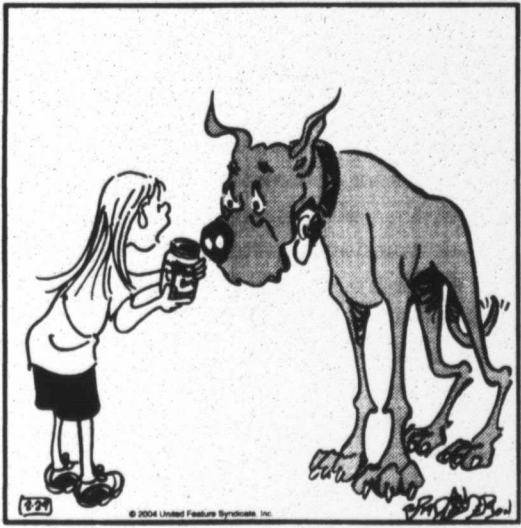


Yesterday's answer

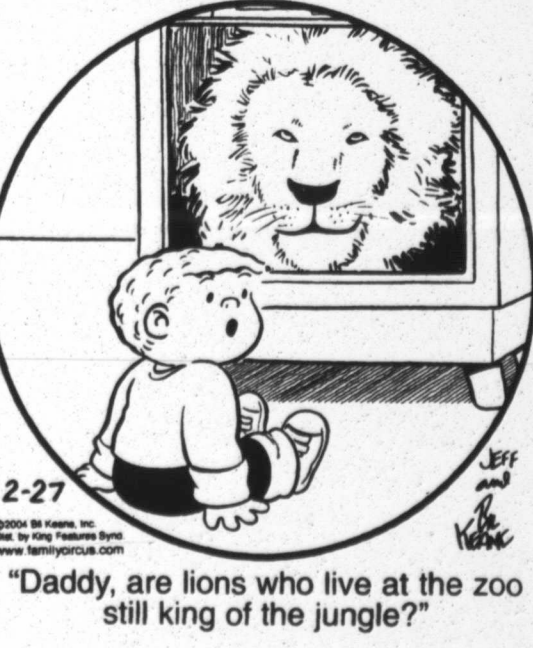
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SPORTS

Pampa captures season baseball opener

BORGER — Pampa opened the 2004 baseball season Thursday with a 6-2 win over Dumas at the Borger Invitational.

Pampa took an early lead by scoring four runs in the first inning on a pair of Dumas errors. The Harvesters never trailed after the first inning.

Tyler Doughty went the distance on the mound, striking out 9 and walking 3.

Boosters to meet

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

All baseball parents are urged to attend.

Defensively, the Harvesters committed only one error the entire game.

Doughty and Shea Brown led Pampa's 7-hit attack with 2 hits each. Nick Story and Tyson Hickman each had a double, and Dusty Lenderman added a single.

Three of Pampa's 6 runs were earned with Seth Foster, Story and Brown each recording an RBI.

PHS head coach Dennis Doughty was pleased with the win and praised the

team's defensive effort. However, he was concerned that 12 runners were left stranded on base.

The tournament continued today at the Frank Phillips baseball field in Borger.

Hickman was scheduled to start on the mound against Childress.

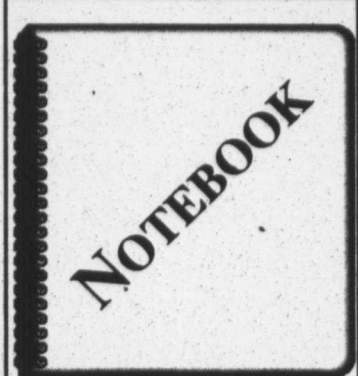
Play continues Saturday with Pampa meeting Borger at 11 a.m. at Frank Phillips

field. Lenderman is tentatively to start for the Harvesters.

Borger defeated Childress 18-6 on Thursday.

Texas High School Baseball Magazine has the Harvesters ranked No. 18 in Class 4A pre-season polls.

Pampa's home opener is at 4 p.m. Monday against Perryton.



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.

SOCCER

PAMPA — Pampa edged Randall 2-1 in District 3-4A boys' activity Thursday.

Canyon defeated Caprock 2-1 in other district play Thursday.

Randall won the girls' match 3-0.

BASKETBALL

CHILDRESS — Fort Elliott pulled away in the second quarter to defeat Valley 69-57 Thursday night in a Class 1A area round game.

Justin Bryant led the Cougars with 24 points while Junior Newman added 19.

Zack Ramsey was Valley's top scorer with 19 points.

Russell Lonberger chipped in 16 points for Fort Elliott.

KIDS CLUB

PAMPA — Pampa Kids & Youth Club is having roller hockey signups from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. March 2-3 at Baker Elementary School.

Another signup session is set for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. March 4-5 at Baker School.

The league is for both boys and girls ages K-12.

There will be a Skate-A-Round on March 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Baker School, located at Highway 60 and South Barnes Street (one block south of Taylor Mart).

Youngsters are urged to bring roller blades and any hockey gear.

For more information, call Joe at 669-1533 (daytime), Janet at 664-3813, or Anna at 669-1740. After 6 p.m., call Dean at 663-1917 or Janet at 669-1838.

Pretrial hearing held for Dotson

WACO, Texas (AP) — A former Baylor University basketball player charged with gunning down his roommate will go to trial in August.

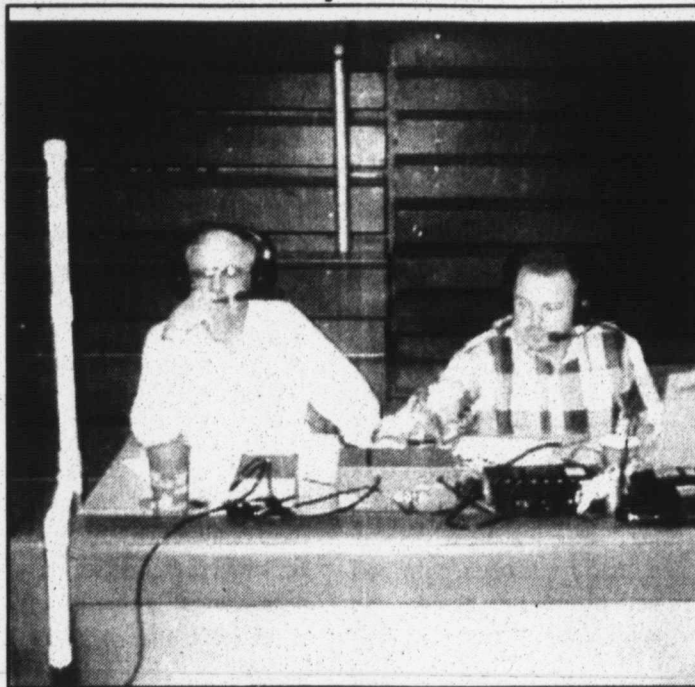
State District Judge George Allen on Friday set an Aug. 9 trial date for Carlton Dotson, 21, after defense attorneys said they need more time to review evidence.

Defense attorney Russ Hunt said he has reviewed "99 percent" of the 10-15 pounds of paperwork in the case, and is expected to receive even more evidence from prosecutors. The trial had been set for March.

Dotson is charged in the slaying of Patrick Dennehy, who had been missing about six weeks when his body was found July 25 in a field near a rock quarry south of Waco. The 21-year-old had been shot twice in the head, according to an autopsy.

Dotson, who was arrested July 21 in his home state of Maryland, has been jailed in Waco since October.

Baseball up next



(Photo by Ray Boring)

KGRO sports broadcasters Sam White (left) and Donny Hooper wrapped up the Harvester basketball season Monday night in Plainview when Pampa took on Andrews in bi-district play. The KGRO crew will now get ready for the 2004 high school baseball season. KGRO will provide coverage of the all the District 3-4A games, starting with Pampa vs. Randall on March 23. Hooper, who is in his 11th season as sports broadcaster, will throw out the first pitch at Pampa's home opener against Perryton at 4 p.m. Monday.

Two points for Steven

LEFORS — Neither team was going to the playoffs and there wasn't much to get excited about in the Pirates' gym on Jan. 27 as Lefors was on the way to a 73-35 defeat of Higgins in the next to last home game of the 2003-2004 season. But what happened at the end was worth sticking around for.

Steven Denton, a 5-foot, 4-inch freshman for Lefors, didn't get to play very much and he was the only player on the squad who hadn't scored a basket all season long.

"Steven doesn't have a lot of natural ability, but he tries real hard," said Lefors coach Joey Czubinski. "We were hoping to have a situation where he could get in and score some points, but so far it just hadn't developed."

With the clock ticking away, coach Czubinski inserted Steven into the lineup and

his teammates were bound and determined to get the little freshman into the scoring column.

They rebounded and fed the ball to Steven, but his shots just weren't falling. When the Higgins players sensed what was going on, they slacked off on defense to give Steven an open shot at the basket. They were even shagging the misses and passing back to Steven.

With just three seconds to go, Steven banged one home for the final points of the game.

"The whole gym just went crazy and I want to thank the Higgins team for being such good sports," Czubinski said. "It was one of those times in coaching when you feel good about what you're doing."

Those Lefors and Higgins athletes didn't make the playoffs, but they're still winners.

City softball signups for spring is here

The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be offering the following leagues for Spring Softball:

Mens Open
Open
Mens Church
Church

Mixed
Open
Mixed

Womens
Open
Mixed

Recreation Office, now located in City Hall, 200 West Foster, Room 204

Play will begin the week of March 29, 2004.

Roster forms, fact sheets and bylaws are available at the Recreation Office at City Hall Room 204 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Spring Softball Leagues, please contact the Recreation Office at 669-5740 during business hours.

Lewis pleads innocent to drug charges

ATLANTA (AP) — Star NFL running back Jamal Lewis pleaded innocent to federal drug charges that he tried to help a childhood friend buy cocaine in the summer of 2000.

The Baltimore football player, an Atlanta native,

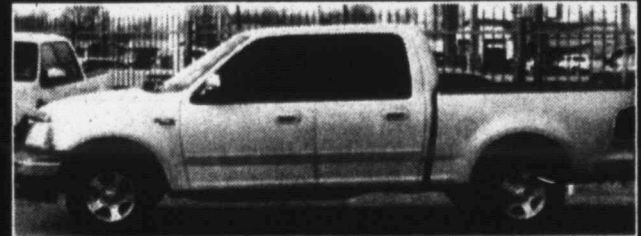
was released on \$500,000 bond on charges that he conspired to possess with the intent to distribute five kilograms of cocaine, during which he used a cell phone in violation of federal law.

If convicted of conspiracy, Lewis could face 10 years to life in prison.

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- 1995 Chevy Tahoe LT** 4x4, Black, Red Leather **\$7,995**
- 2000 Jeep Cherokee Larado** Silver, Tan Leather **\$14,900**
- 2001 Dodge Neon** 4-Dr, Red, Charcoal Cloth **\$6,995**



- 2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature** Pewter, Tan Leather **\$13,995**
- 1997 Lincoln Town Car Signature** Burgundy, Burgundy Leather **\$7,995**
- 2002 Ford Super Crew** Silver, Gray Cloth **\$16,900**
- 1992 Cadillac Deville** Cranberry, Red Leather **\$3,995**
- 1991 Cadillac Deville** White, Tan Leather **\$2,995**
- 1995 Cadillac STS** Pearl Metallic, Tan Leather **\$6,995**
- 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee Larado** Green, Black Cloth **\$10,995**
- 1998 GMC Jimmy SLS** Brown, Gray Cloth **\$8,995**

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821 W. Wilks - Pampa - 669-6062

SIMPLE SIMON'S PIZZA 669-7707 • Hwy. 60 West "Inside Taylor Mart"

CARRY OUT • DELIVERY

1 LARGE SUPREME PIZZA \$7.99	LARGE 1 TOPPING PIZZA \$5.99	STROMBOLI \$5.99
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Accepting Credit Cards Over The Phone - Visa, MasterCard, American Express & Discover

FEB 27 2004

1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **CONNIE R. LOCKHART**, Deceased, were issued on February 23, 2004, in Cause No. 9060, pending in the County Court of GRAY County, Texas, to: **SANDRA MALONEY**.
 All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
 c/o: David E. Holt
 Attorney at Law
 WATERS, HOLT & FIELDS
 P.O. Box 662
 Pampa, Texas 79066-0662
 DATED the 24th day of February, 2004.
 David E. Holt
 Attorney for Estate
 State Bar No.: 09916000
 WATERS, HOLT & FIELDS
 P.O. Box 662
 Pampa, Texas 79066-0662
 Telephone: (806)669-6881
 Facsimile: (806)669-0440
 E-6 Feb. 27, 2004

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found

LOST from the 1300 blk. of Mary Ellen. Blk. male cat with a white fleecollar. Call 665-3556.
FOUND male black Dachshund at Subway, Pampa. Call to identify, 848-2972 Skellytown.

CANADA DRUG SERVICE

SAVE up to 85%
 on prescriptions
NO FEES
 Serving thousands of Seniors!
FREE QUOTES
 806-358-2029
TOLL FREE 1-866-358-2029
 1944 Civic Circle-Wolflin Square

13 Bus. Opp.

A+ VENDING ROUTE
 40-80 \$ Makers w/ locations. \$9950. 20% dn. wac. 800-253-8922.

14b Appliance Repair

APPLIANCES Broke?
 Call Williams Appliance Service, 665-8894.

14d Carpentry

CUSTOM homes, additions, remodeling, residential / comm. Deaver Construction, 665-0447.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs. Mike Albus, 665-4774.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service. carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers, Inc. Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo.

SUPERIOR Quality Kensington replacement windows and doors. Guaranteed 30% fuel savings! Shawn Deaver Const. 662-2977 or 665-0354.

Taylor Ceramic Tile Works* Handicap Conversions Shower Installation Floor Tile & Regrouting Keith 665-0328 or lv. msg

14h Gen. Serv.

THE Floor Store, 2100A Perryton Parkway, Pampa. All types flooring avail. & Jerry's Installation, all types flooring installed. Restretching & repairs. 665-4455, 664-7959

14n Painting

INT./EXT. painting, mud tape. 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

Larry Baker Plumbing

Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

14u Roofing

ROOFING and Repair. Will try to match insurance adjustments. Also installing maintenance free siding to over hang and exposed areas. Pampan with over 30 yrs. exp. For prof. results 665-1055.

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE
 Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

FUN Valley Family Resort, South Fork, Colo. needs retirees & others with own RV for Summer employment. Office, housekeeping, cooks, maintenance & rv parks. Write Personnel, 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury, TX. 76049.

FUN Valley Family Resort, South Fork, Colo. needs students for Summer employment. Office, housekeeping, dining, rv, house wrangler, kitchen & other. Salary, room, board, bonus. Personnel, 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury, Tx. 76049.

TWO (2) Laundry Aids. One (1) Full Time One (1) Part Time Apply in Person Coronado Healthcare Ctr. 1504 W. Kentucky Ave. Pampa, TX. 79065

FULL Staff needed. Apply in person 2-5 p.m. Texas Rose Steakhouse. No Phone Calls.

21 Help Wanted

FAMILY SERVICE DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE OPENING

Memory Gardens Cemetery of Pampa will hire a family man or woman to assist families in making pre-arrangements in the Pampa area. This position requires an independent, competitive, and service oriented person. Full fringe benefits are available. On a national basis, persons working in this position have established an annual income of \$40,000 per year. If you have a sales personality and desire an above average income, call 806-669-7605.

Retail Sales Associate. Creative person needed in retail gift shop and greenhouse. Responsibilities include assisting customers, displaying merchandise, stock rotation, and cash register. Successful Applicant will be a self-starter, motivated to learn, present an uplifting attitude, work well with others, and demonstrate leadership skills. Position is 40 plus hours a week varying Monday through Saturday, some Sundays possible during busy season. Benefits include Group Insurance. Apply in person at West Texas Landscape, 120 S. Hobart.

50 Building Suppl.

White Building Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER

420 W. Foster 669-6881

60 Household

\$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty, QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. list \$550, sell \$236. Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. List \$400, sell \$208. Full size mattress set new, never used \$180. \$230 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, List \$750 sell \$399, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

NOW stocking a large collection of Harley Davidson Knives!! Chief Plastics, 1237 S. Barnes, Pampa, 665-6716 or toll free 800-649-6716.

21 Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED work-over rig operator. Apply 1211 N. Price Rd. Pampa

LABORER needed with plumbing and irrigation experience. Apply in person at West Texas Landscape, 120 S. Hobart.

NEED dependable person to watch my kids, in my home 6 a.m., take them to sch., pick them up, keep them 3-5:45. 669-7341.

NEEDING babysitter 2 to 4 nights a week in my home. References a must. 669-1259 or 440-1599.

HOSTESSES & Waitresses needed. Waitresses must be 18. Apply in person, Dyer's BBQ.

50 Building Suppl.

White Building Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER

420 W. Foster 669-6881

60 Household

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NOW stocking a large collection of Harley Davidson Knives!! Chief Plastics, 1237 S. Barnes, Pampa, 665-6716 or toll free 800-649-6716.

69 Misc.

BEAUTY shop equip., hide-a-bed, refrigerator, desks. Sat. only. 806-674-3832 or 580-338-6393.

69a Garage Sales

HOUSE Sold. Everything must go. Fri. & Sat. 8 to 5, 1024 Sierra.

MOVING SALE 915 FISHER SAT. 9-4 P.M.

77 Livest/Equip.

NEED pasture for 200-400 head of mother cows, year round. Call 806-423-1008.

45 yearling Black Angus bulls. Sires Rep. Basin Max 602C. Sleep Easy, GT Max. Schurr Top Supreme, Fame, Fly Traveler, 1680 Precision, Battle Cry. Low to moderate BW, thick and beefy. 80 hd of purebred angus hf being bred now to Sleep Easy and Northern Improvement. Deliver in Oct. after preg check and 31 shots. Contact Thomas Angus, Gordon Thomas, Reydon, Ok. 580-655-4318 or 580-497-7217.

95 Furn. Apts.

Beautifully furn. 1 bdr. starting at \$350. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 3&6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

DOGWOOD Apts. 1 bedroom, furnished. References & dep. required. 669-9817 or 669-2981.

EFFI. apt. \$300 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$24.50 day, \$100 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221.

EXTRA clean 1 bd. with appliances. Quiet neighborhood. Mature Renters Only! 665-8525

96 Unfurn. Apts.

CAPROCK Apartments Has incredible specials on 1, 2, & 3 bdrm. Starting at only \$290. 3-12 mo. lease available. * Pool * Laundry * Wash/dryer hook-ups * Club room * On-site management * SOFTENED WATER M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4 1601 W. Somerville 806-665-7149

95 Furn. Apts.

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts. 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3, 6 mo.-1yr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875. 1/2 Off Deposit Special.

LARGE 1 bedroom apt. carpeted, appliances, bills paid. \$350. 665-4842.

NICE 2 bdr. apt. Water/Gas paid. 417 E. 17th. Hud Approved. 669-7518 or 1 806-355-5049.

PAMPA MANOR SENIORS OR DISABLED ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE W/D CONNECTIONS 2700 N. HOBART 665-2828

99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop. OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

LOWEST Rents in City! Downtown locations-stores, warehouses, rec. facilities Call 665-4274!!

EXTRA nice brick rental house, 3 bdr., 2 ba., dbl. gar., sunroom, 2 storage buildings in back. \$750 a month rent and \$500 deposit. See at 1624 N. Christy. For more details call 1-806-878-2162.

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos Quality Sales 1300 N. Hobart 669-0433 Make your next car a Quality Car Doug Boyd Motor Co. "On The Spot Financing" 821 W. Wilks 669-6062 CULBERSON-STOWERS Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick GMC-Olds-Cadillac 805 N. Hobart 665-1665 1964 El Camino, body needs engine and transmission. \$300.00 firm. Call 806-434-1525. 96 Nissan Altima, 4 door, pw, ps, ac, cd, new tires, runs good, nice int., hail damage. \$2450. 665-5924

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95 Furn. Apts.

1 bdr. apt., furn. or unfurn. Starting at \$275. All utilities pd. Courtyard Apts., 1031 N. Sumner, 669-9712.

Beautifully furn. 1 bdr. starting at \$350. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 3&6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

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Middle school choral department to present musical 'Guys and Dolls'

The musical "Guys and Dolls" will open at 7:30 nightly, March 5-6, at Pampa Middle School Auditorium. The musical is being staged by the choral department at the middle school.

The well-known Broadway musical comedy is set in New York City. It features an unlikely romance between a pure heart missionary played by Sarah Smith and a slick Broadway gambler played by David Soto.

The show's second storyline involves Nathan Detroit played by Michael Fernuik and Miss Adelaide played by JaCee Villarreal who have been engaged for 14 years.

The public is invited to attend and enjoy the fun. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students over 10 years of age.



(Courtesy photo)

The Middle School Choral Department will present "Guys and Dolls" at 7:30 p.m. March 5-6 at the middle school auditorium. Above: Michael Fernuik as Nathan Detroit and JaCee Villarreal as Adelaide.

Mastermind of gas attack set to hang

TOKYO (AP) — Former doomsday cult guru Shoko Asahara was convicted and sentenced to hang Friday for masterminding the deadly 1995 nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway and other crimes that killed 27 people and alerted the world to the danger of high-tech terrorism.

Asahara, founder of the apocalyptic Aum Shinrikyo cult, also was found guilty of ordering his followers to produce and stockpile arsenals of conventional and chemical weapons, including the sarin gas used in the subway attack.

Asahara, 48, stood in silence as the sentence was read. Asahara is the 12th person sentenced to hang for the attacks, and the decision was widely expected.

Presiding Judge Shoji Ogawa, who led a four-judge panel, detailed Asahara's crimes before announcing the sentence, saying they expanded from individual murders to "indiscriminate terror attacks using chemical weapons."

"His crimes not only affected families and relatives of the victims but also threw our country and neighboring countries into extreme fear," Ogawa said. "They involved a series of extremely vicious acts that none of us had experienced before."

The former cult leader's attorneys immediately appealed, arguing that prosecutors had ignored testimony showing Asahara was not behind the crimes, said lead defense lawyer Osamu Watanabe. The move will set into motion further legal proceedings that some say could last another decade.

Watanabe added that the defense team would resign after filing the appeal.

The ruling was the climax of a nearly eight-year-long trial. His attorneys had argued that Asahara — whose real name is Chizuo Matsumoto — had lost control over his flock by the time of the March 20, 1995, subway attack that killed 12 and sickened thousands.

The attack sent the country into a panic as sickened, bleeding passengers stumbled from subway stations and shattered the image of Japan as a peaceful, largely crime-free country.

The prosecution, however, depended on testimony from former followers who said that Asahara had planned and ordered their murderous deeds.

Haiti: Rebels taking aim at capital; Aristide appeals for foreign intervention

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Rebels who have launched a bloody uprising took control of another town Friday, closing in on the capital as President Jean-Bertrand Aristide appealed for foreign peacekeepers and the country lurched toward chaos.

As Aristide's government appeared to be losing the confidence of the United States as well as France, the rebels drove police out and freed about 67 prisoners in Mireblais, about 25 miles southeast of Port-au-Prince, witnesses said. It was unclear whether the rebels were still in the town or were pushing toward the capital.

Haiti's third-largest city, Les Cayes, fell Thursday and is now in the control of the Base Resistance, an anti-government group allied with Haiti's opposition Democratic Platform but not tied to the rebels.

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin was holding talks Friday in Paris with leaders of Haiti's government on how to end the crisis.

De Villepin, who has called for Aristide's resignation and an international civilian force to back up an interim government, was meeting at the French Foreign Ministry with a delegation led by Haitian Foreign Minister Joseph Antonio.

Aristide supporters gathered outside the National Palace Friday morning to project Haiti's embattled leader.

Teenagers used bulldozers and forklifts to build barricades of wrecked cars, telephone poles, chairs, garbage and burning tires.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell questioned whether Aristide could continue to rule and came close to telling Aristide he should bow out before his term expires in February 2006.

"Whether or not he is able to effectively continue as president is something he will have to examine carefully in the interests of the Haitian people," Powell said Thursday.

Haiti's rebellion erupted Feb. 5 in western Gonaives, the fourth-largest city, and on Sunday the second largest, the northern port of Cap-Haitien, fell with little resistance.

Rebel leader Guy Philippe, speaking to an Associated Press reporter in Cap-Haitien on Thursday, said his forces were already converging on Port-au-Prince and would attack if Aristide did not resign.

"We're just going to take our positions and wait for the right time (to attack)," said Philippe, a former officer in the disbanded army who was Aristide's assistant police chief for northern Haiti. "They're awaiting the order."

About 80 people have been killed in the rebellion, which was launched by a street gang in Gonaives that says it was armed by Aristide to terrorize opponents.

Opportunity captures dusty sunset in blue martian sky

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Opportunity rover turned its panoramic gaze on the horizon and captured a dusty blue sunset at the end of its 20th day on Mars.

The six-wheeled robot snapped photographs not for the sake of beauty, but because scientists want to learn about the properties of dust in the atmosphere.

"It's pretty cool," pancam lead scientist Jim Bell said Thursday at NASA's Jet Propulsion Library as he showed a movie made from images recorded about three minutes apart.

A bluish tint and rapid dimming of the sun at the horizon were caused by dust scattering the sunlight, just as smog might do on Earth.

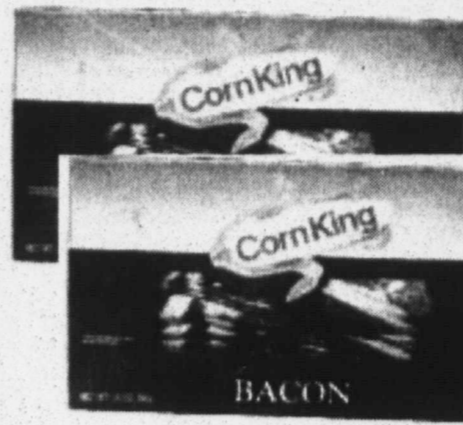
"Those of you who live in Los Angeles are very familiar with this effect," Bell said. "What's happening is the sun is sort of setting into the murky, dusty atmosphere of Mars."

Opportunity found twice as much dust in the atmosphere as was seen by NASA's Pathfinder spacecraft at another location on Mars in 1997. Pathfinder and two Viking spacecraft that landed in the 1970s also took sunset pictures.

Meanwhile on the other side of the planet, the twin rover Spirit was told to attempt to photograph dust devils spinning across the martian surface. The rover also will take a closer look in coming days at a rock dubbed "Humphrey."

THIS WEEKS SPECIALS AT FRANKS

SALE GOOD FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1



CORN KING BACON

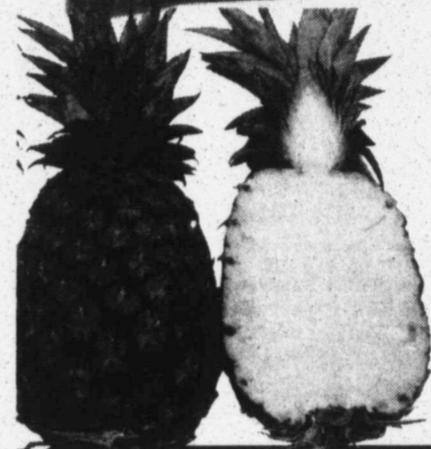
12 OZ. PACK

99¢ EACH



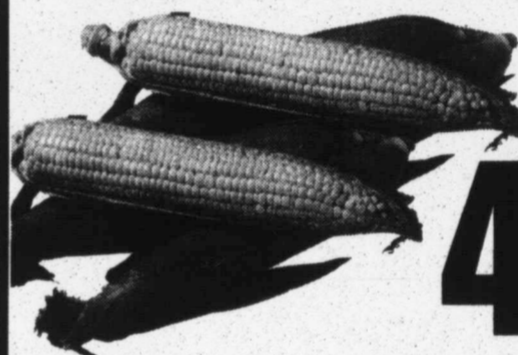
BONE IN PORK SIRLOIN ROAST

\$1.19 LB.



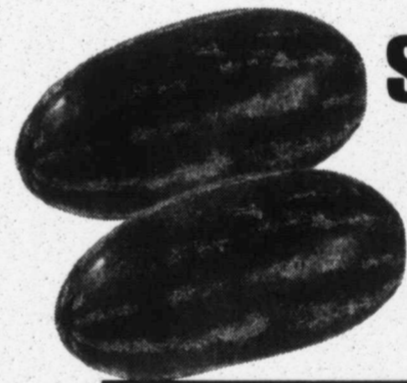
LARGE PINEAPPLE

99¢ EACH



YELLOW CORN

4 EARS \$1.00



SMALL WATERMELONS

2 FOR \$4.00



FUJI APPLES

5 LB. BAG

2 FOR \$5.00



SHURFINE SODA POPS

12 PK 12 OZ CANS

3 FOR \$5.00



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